

Cornell **CAU**
Education Vacations



THE DELTA'S AMERICA

HISTORY, ENVIRONMENT, & COMMUNITY FROM
NEW ORLEANS TO MEMPHIS ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Aboard the paddle-wheeled *American Splendor*

March 5–13, 2024

Featuring history professor **Ed Baptist**
and special guest lecturer **Doris Kearns Goodwin**

Dear CAU Friends,

Join us for a deep dive into U.S. history and culture from Pre-Civil War times to the present day aboard the 185-berth *American Splendor*, a riverboat built in 2016 in the classic paddle-wheeler style, on a voyage up the Mississippi River from New Orleans to Memphis.

Begin in New Orleans, exploring the distinctive architecture of the French Quarter, the gorgeous homes of the Garden District, and the renowned National WWII Museum. Then cruise upriver on the *American Splendor*, visiting the sugar plantations, Creole cottages, and lush landscapes of Bayou country; the city of Natchez, Mississippi, whose architectural grandeur reflects the prosperous Steamboat Era of the early 1800s; and Vicksburg, where a 47-day Civil War battle raged before control of the Mississippi River was taken by the North. Conclude in Memphis, exploring historic Beale Street to the rhythm of the Blues.

The *American Splendor* offers modern amenities among surroundings of 19th-century riverboat opulence, including lovely cabins--most featuring private balconies--in the style of a bygone era, fine cuisine, and lively performances by onboard musicians.

What makes this Mississippi River experience stand apart is the incredibly rich educational program, beginning with **a keynote address in New Orleans by presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Doris Kearns Goodwin**. She will discuss her Lincoln Prize-winning book *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*. Throughout the trip, travelers will also enjoy panel discussions and opportunities for direct engagement with an outstanding lineup of lecturers, including historian and study leader **John Meffert**.

This unique journey along one of North America's great waterways is expected to sell out. We encourage you to visit cau.cornell.edu or call (607) 255-6260 for more information, or to register directly please contact Criterion Travel by phone at **(888) 328-2089** or email res@critteriontravel.com.

Warmly,

CAU (Cornell's Adult University)
Alumni Affairs

This is a shared departure with peer universities. CAU's group will enjoy several exclusive elements as well as the opportunity to connect and learn with alumni, family, and friends from other esteemed institutions.

THIS PHOTO: LOUISIANA STATE CAPITOL
ON THE COVER: THE PATH TO OAK ALLEY PLANTATION.
BACK COVER: BEALE STREET IN MEMPHIS

Study Leaders



**Ed Baptist,
Professor of History**

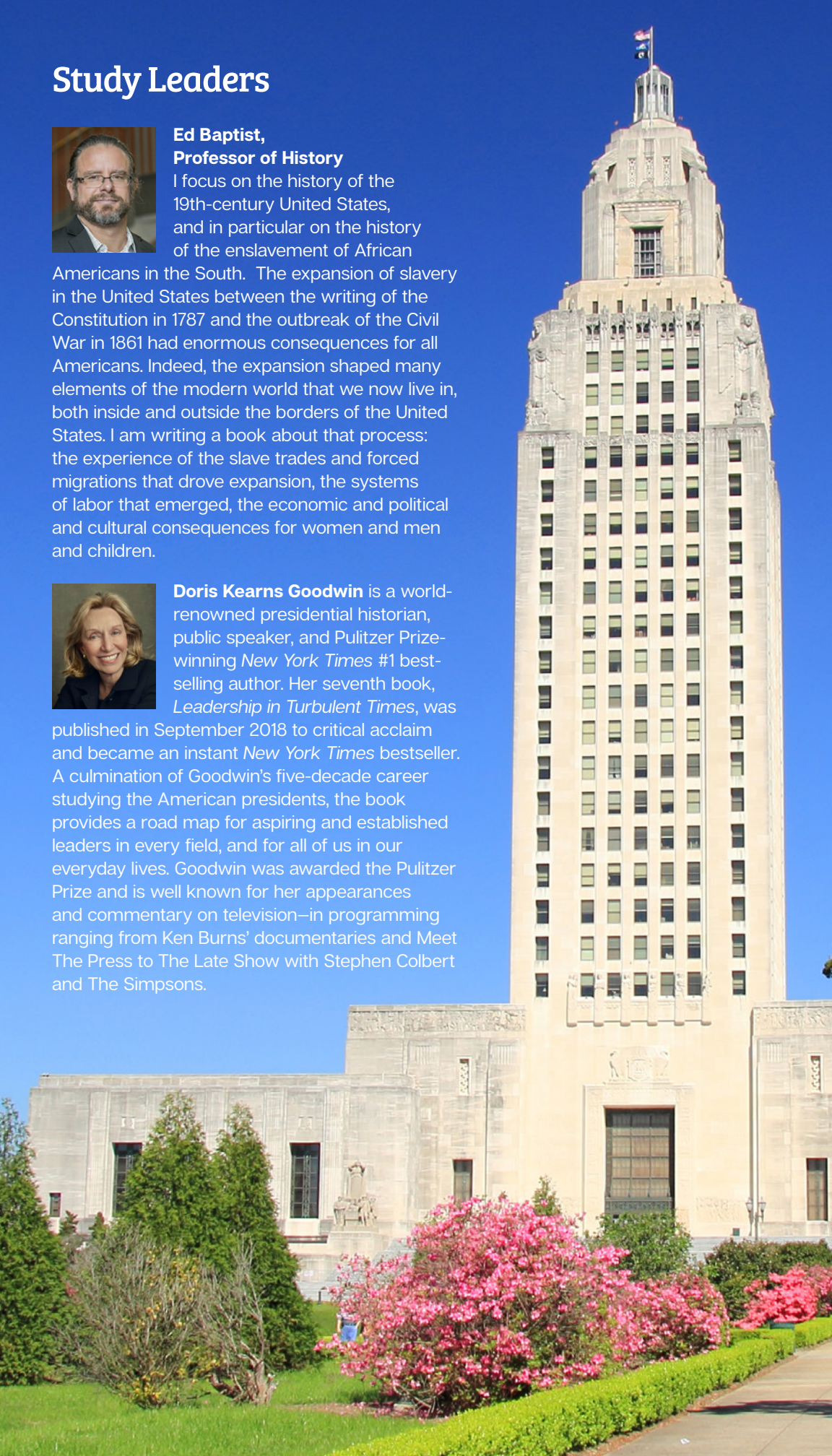
I focus on the history of the 19th-century United States, and in particular on the history of the enslavement of African

Americans in the South. The expansion of slavery in the United States between the writing of the Constitution in 1787 and the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 had enormous consequences for all Americans. Indeed, the expansion shaped many elements of the modern world that we now live in, both inside and outside the borders of the United States. I am writing a book about that process: the experience of the slave trades and forced migrations that drove expansion, the systems of labor that emerged, the economic and political and cultural consequences for women and men and children.



Doris Kearns Goodwin is a world-renowned presidential historian, public speaker, and Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* #1 best-selling author. Her seventh book, *Leadership in Turbulent Times*, was

published in September 2018 to critical acclaim and became an instant *New York Times* bestseller. A culmination of Goodwin's five-decade career studying the American presidents, the book provides a road map for aspiring and established leaders in every field, and for all of us in our everyday lives. Goodwin was awarded the Pulitzer Prize and is well known for her appearances and commentary on television—in programming ranging from Ken Burns' documentaries and Meet The Press to The Late Show with Stephen Colbert and The Simpsons.





NEW ORLEANS' GARDEN DISTRICT



STANTON HALL IN NATCHEZ



LOUISIANA'S OLD STATE CAPITOL



ELVIS STATUE IN MEMPHIS

Itinerary

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

New Orleans, Louisiana

Arrive in New Orleans and check into the centrally-located InterContinental New Orleans, just blocks away from the French Quarter and the bustling Riverwalk. This evening, meet fellow travelers at a festive welcome reception and dinner featuring a keynote address by Presidential Historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning Author, Doris Kearns Goodwin.

INTERCONTINENTAL NEW ORLEANS (R,D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

New Orleans

After a morning lecture, spend the day exploring New Orleans, including the distinctive architecture of the famous French Quarter and the extravagantly styled and landscaped homes of the Garden District, plus the highly acclaimed National World War II Museum. Board the American Splendor in the afternoon to begin the journey up the mighty Mississippi River. *AMERICAN SPLENDOR (B,L,D)*

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Oak Alley, Laura, and Whitney Plantations

Explore historic Oak Alley, a grand Greek Revival plantation home famous for its namesake double row of 18th-century canopy oak trees lining the approaching path. Nearby Laura Plantation, a restored Creole plantation, is a fascinating contrast

to Oak Alley, offering further insight into the stories and culture of this area's inhabitants and boasting twelve buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, including slave quarters. The Whitney Plantation, the only plantation museum in Louisiana with a focus on slavery, features historic buildings, museum exhibits, modern memorials, and first-person slave narratives that give a voice to enslaved people who worked and lived in Louisiana.

AMERICAN SPLENDOR (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

Baton Rouge

Arrive in Baton Rouge, a busy port town and Louisiana's state capital. Take walking tours of the character-filled neighborhoods near the city center, marveling at the rich art and architecture along the route, including the Old State Capitol and its unexpected stained glass. For those that feel adventurous, board a small boat for a guided tour through the ecologically rich Louisiana Bayou for a chance to glimpse the local waterfowl and other Bayou residents. *AMERICAN SPLENDOR (B,L,D)*

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

St. Francisville

Spend the day in the once-thriving cotton port of St. Francisville to learn about the town's rich legacy. Explore the magnificent mansions and plantation homes of the Historic District, including the Rosedown



VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK



SLAVE CABIN AT LAURA PLANTATION

Estate and Garden, one of the few privately maintained formal gardens of the 19th century; Myrtles Plantation, reputed to be one of the most haunted homes in America; and the Oakley Plantation, the home of John James Audubon.

AMERICAN SPLENDOR (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Natchez, Mississippi

Natchez suffered little destruction during the Civil War and as a result, is home to one of the largest concentrations of restored pre-Civil War properties in the United States. Visit three of these historic homes: Longwood, with a unique octagonal design; Rosalie, which served as Union headquarters during the Civil War; and Stanton Hall, constructed in 1851 and regarded as one of the most opulent mansions of its day. Then learn about the African American experience in Natchez with visits to the Forks in the Road historic site and the Natchez Museum of African American Culture. Also enjoy free time to explore central Natchez, including the option to have lunch ashore.

AMERICAN SPLENDOR (B,L,D)

MONDAY, MARCH 11

Vicksburg

Vicksburg was one of the keys to victory in the Civil War. General Grant's successful 47-day siege in the summer of 1863 brought control of the Mississippi River

into Union hands. Visit the National Military Park, considered to be the best-preserved battlefield in the United States; the ironclad gunboat *Cairo*; and the Lower Mississippi River Museum, with exhibits on ancient Vicksburg and an aquarium featuring local fish species. There will also be time to explore historic downtown Vicksburg independently. AMERICAN SPLENDOR (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

Cruising the Mississippi

During a full day of cruising, relax on deck and enjoy the passing scenery and the varied river traffic along with the continued lecture program.

AMERICAN SPLENDOR (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

Memphis, Tennessee / Home

Upon arrival in Memphis, disembark for tours touching on the city's diverse heritage, including the Stax Museum of American Soul Music or a discussion about the Civil Rights Movement in Memphis with Rhodes College professor Dr. Charles McKinney. After lunch on iconic Beale Street, transfer to the airport for afternoon flights home. (B,L)

American Splendor



American Splendor allows guests to experience the nostalgia of classic paddlewheeler travel while enjoying modern comfort and amenities. Recently renovated, *American Splendor* features serene color palettes, luxurious textiles and linens, new furniture and carpets, and updated artwork and flourishes. From the staterooms and suites to the lounges and dining rooms, the new décor pays homage to the legendary Mississippi River. On board, guests can relax in a casual ambiance while admiring panoramic views of the passing scenery. Each spacious stateroom is outward-facing, allowing commanding views of the riverside landscape, and includes all of the amenities you expect from a fine hotel. These staterooms also offer a sitting area, desk, and full-size bathrooms, and most feature floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors with a private balcony. With only 180 guests, fellow travelers will quickly become new friends.

Program Rates (per person)

CATEGORY		DOUBLE
A	STANDARD STATEROOM Main Deck; Opening window; 290 sq. ft.	\$7,990
B	PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE Deck 2; 245 sq. ft. plus balcony	\$8,490
C	PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE Deck 3; 245 sq. ft. plus balcony	\$8,990
D	PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE Deck 4; 245 sq. ft. plus balcony	\$9,490
E	PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE Deck 5; 265 sq. ft. plus balcony	\$9,990
F	OWNER'S SUITE Decks 3/4/5; 375 sq. ft. plus private balcony	\$11,490
CATEGORY		SINGLE
S	PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE (single) Decks 2/3/4; 185 sq. ft. plus balcony	\$8,990



General Information

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including 8 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 8 dinners, one hotel night in New Orleans, and **7 nights aboard *American Splendor*** • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • **Keynote address by Doris Kearns Goodwin** • Motorcoach transfer to airport for all participants on group departure day • **All gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel for all group activities** • Entrance fees and port charges • Welcome reception and dinner with drinks included • **Daily cocktail hour and nightly entertainment aboard *American Splendor*** • Filtered water on motorcoaches • Comprehensive packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour managers throughout the program

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

Airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT

We consider this to be a moderately active program, with considerable walking at some destinations. Daily activities can involve up to two miles of walking, unaided, over varied terrain (e.g., uneven walkways, steep and sandy trails, dirt streets and paths in some locations). Participants must be physically fit, in good health, and capable of undertaking this level of activity without assistance from tour staff. In March, the weather is generally mild and comfortable, with high temperatures usually in the mid-70s, and rain is always a possibility. The *American Splendor* has been chartered for this departure

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details will be advised prior to departure.

While Cornell is pleased to facilitate travel opportunities for its alumni and friends with tour operators that specialize in high-quality educational travel, please be aware that Cornell does not conduct, manage, or operate these travel experiences, or act as an agent for travelers interested in tours. Tour operators and travelers are responsible for making their own safety decisions concerning this travel, and, as a facilitator between travelers and the tour operators with whom travelers make arrangements for completing travel, Cornell's role and liability are strictly limited. Specific tour operator and national health and safety protocols will apply to each trip, and travelers should review all protocols and trip terms and conditions, including terms and conditions regarding cancellations, refunds, health and safety, and insurance prior to making a reservation. Cornell is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses, expenses, damages, or injuries resulting from travel.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

Airfare • Passport/ visa expenses • Medical expenses, immunizations, and COVID-19 testing if required at the time of travel • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Airport transfers upon arrival • Private airport transfers upon departure • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

GROUP SIZE

This program can accommodate 92 participants, including travelers from Carleton College, the Commonwealth Club of California, Cornell's Adult University, Dartmouth Alumni Travel, Harvard Alumni Travel, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia.

Complete Terms and Conditions including a Statement of Responsibility will be made available at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. To register using a credit card, please call (888) 328-2089 or email res@criteriontravel.com. Final payment deadline is November 6, 2023. For those who register after November 6, 2023, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. For cancellations after final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. NOTE: Neither Cornell University nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of non-refundable tickets.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Cornell University and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Cornell University and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

California Seller of Travel Program
CST #2088800-40

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For more information or to reserve by phone, please call: **(888) 328-2089** or (650) 328-2089; or by email: **res@criteriontravel.com**. You may also complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel, to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005.

PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$_____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to **Criterion Travel**), to reserve _____ place(s) on *The Delta's America*.

I/we understand that final payment is due November 6, 2023, 120 days prior to departure. After November 6, 2023: full payment is due at registration.

NAME #1 (AS ON PASSPORT)	DATE OF BIRTH
NAME #2 (AS ON PASSPORT)	DATE OF BIRTH
STREET ADDRESS	
CITY / STATE	ZIP / POSTAL CODE
MOBILE PHONE	
EMAIL	

SINGLE TRAVELERS

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations.
☐ I plan to share accommodations with

☐ I'd like to know about roommates.
I am a ☐ Non-smoker ☐ Smoker.

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of November 6, 2023, I will pay the single rate.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference:

1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Bed Preference (not guaranteed): ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

I/we have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE	DATE
SIGNATURE	DATE

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