Trip Overview

Signed in 1956, the Federal Aid Highway Act changed the face of our nation forever. Over the following thirty-five years the way we travel, trade, and interact with the land shifted drastically as the highway system neared completion. But something else happened, too: the small towns, their traditions, and everything bypassed by these major roads drifted out of the vision and minds of travelers. It’s time to get off of those highways.

Whether you call California, Japan, or the mid-Atlantic home, this is the opportunity to find out what you’ve been missing—and the details of what you see, where you go, and how you get there are yours to decide. On this program you will explore the southeastern United States by van and by foot, but the experience begins long before you leave campus. Following the participant-driven leadership model set by expeditions to the Baltic Sea, Tahoe, and Ethiopia before it, this year’s Expedition Institute is a collaboration between the Office of Experiential Education and the Office of Intercultural Advancement. Participants will work together to select everything from roads, restaurants and campgrounds to themes and locations to form the basis of a two week road trip. Once you’ve set an outline, you will work to create a budget that fits those goals and the needs of the group.

Whether you’re interested in experiencing the cuisine and art of Louisiana’s bayou; the people, music and traditions of modern Appalachia; or the history of the Sea Islands’ Gullah culture, this is your chance to discover an America off the beaten path.

General Schedule of Trip

February: Open house for all prospective participants, trip signups open immediately after

March: Final group determined, first meetings and research to begin determining routes and destinations

April: Route and structure finalized, pricing determined based on participant decisions

May 19 - May 31st: Explore the back roads of the Southeast United States.

GRAB Facilitators

This program will be facilitated by Jill Baltz and one other facilitator from the Office of Experiential Education. A dominant forward, Jill played four years of soccer during her time at Gettysburg College, and recently led a backpacking trip to Cumberland Island, Georgia.

Jillian Baltz, ’15
Baltji01@gettysburg.edu
Payment: The price of this trip will depend on group consensus—there is no pre-determined price, though a likely target after subsidization is around $600. Participants and facilitators will work together to come to a decision on the trip’s budget and to minimize costs in order to best meet the goals of the group. If you have questions or concerns regarding the price, email grab@gettysburg.edu, Baltji01@gettysburg.edu, or stop by the office for more information.

Registration: Registration online at www.gettysburg.edu/grab will open in February. A $150 non-refundable deposit is due at time of registration to secure a place on the trip of your choice. We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, e-checks or cash. The final payment will be required 60 days prior the trip departure date. To register, please fill out the online form or call John Regentin at 717.337.6319 to register over the phone/or to receive a fax.

Not Included in the Price: Hospitalization, meals determined by group to be kept separate, individual evacuation costs, insurance, souvenirs, or other personal expenses incurred outside the scope of the trip.

The Activity: This program will depend on a mix of driving, walking, and backpacking in order to see a variety of locations. The split will depend heavily on decisions made by the group, and this program will be as active as the group designs it to be, but driving long distances is inevitable.

Group Size: The trip consists of two GRAB staff members from the Office of Experiential Education and up to ten participants from the Gettysburg College community; all students are welcome.

Transportation: All ground transportation for the duration of the trip will be arranged and provided.

Accommodations: Participants on this trip will sleep primarily in campgrounds with the possibility of nights spent in undeveloped sites, hostels, and hotels. Regardless of the selected route, most nights will likely be spent in a sleeping bag and tent.

Meals: Meals, like almost everything else on this trip, will be decided on by the group. These will be a combination of restaurants, roadside vendors, and meals prepared on camping stoves. The exact composition will be determined by the groups’ chosen route and budget.

Weather: Weather will vary enormously depending on the selected route, so we will have to be prepared for anything. Cold nights, hot days, rain, snow, and everything in between could be in the cards for this one.

Physical Preparation: You do not need to be a top notch athlete to participate on this program, but preparation will make the trip more enjoyable. Light exercise 3-5 days a week is a great way to ensure you’ll be prepared for whatever the group selects. No prior experience hiking is required, and all backcountry skills and expectations will be covered during the trip and pre-trip meetings.

Health and Medical & Release of Liability: We require each participant to fill out medical/liability forms for Gettysburg College and for any contracted services who request similar documentation. We can provide information on short term insurance that covers baggage, accident/life, and trip cancellation which is required for our international programs. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Cancellation of Trips: We reserve the right to cancel trips due to lack of participants, State Department warnings, or natural occurrences that may be potentially hazardous. If you cancel the trip 60 days or more from the departure date, you will receive a full refund minus the $150 deposit. If cancellation occurs 45 -60 days prior to the departure date a 50% refund is available. If cancellation occurs 21 - 45 days prior to the trip a 25% refund will be available. There will be no refunds for cancellations made within 21 days of the expedition.