



## **Black Land Matters:** *A Gullah-Geechee Field Study* *Savannah, Ga & The Lowcountry*

### **Overview**

During this six-day program, explore the historical systems and contemporary policies that impact Black land ownership with a specific focus on the Gullah-Geechee descendants of Sapelo Island and Savannah, Georgia. The Gullah-Geechee people are descendants of formerly enslaved people from the West Coast of Africa, captured because of their agricultural knowledge of rice. Their culture is distinctive and found only in the Lowcountry of the Southeast. Through cultural immersion, learn how different communities and heritage organizations have worked to preserve Black land ownership in the Lowcountry, historically and today. Focusing on the themes of race, slavery, and Black land ownership, this program considers the impact of Field Order 15 (40 acres and a mule), reparations, banking inequity, gentrification, redlining, and heirs property law on the development of community values and culture by looking at two different experiences: the urban environment of Savannah and the rural Gullah-Geechee culture on Sapelo Island. During this program learn how to establish reciprocal partnerships with similar organizations back in your home community for future collaboration within the classroom. Receive a professional development certificate for training in creating a culturally responsive classroom, and using the Nobis Global Action Method to guide students in completing culturally focused service-learning projects.

### **Trip Highlights**

- Trace the history the African-American experience and land ownership in the Lowcountry from slavery to present day.
- Visit historical sites such as the Savannah slave market, secret schools, First African Baptist Church (the oldest Black church in the US), a Geechee community on Sapelo Island.
- Hear from Gullah-Geechee descendants about the value and struggle of land ownership within their community from emancipation to today.
- Learn how to develop reciprocal service-learning partnerships between your classroom and museums or heritage sites.
- Explore creative ways to empower your students to document projects.

### **Accommodations**

Shared accommodations at two vacation rentals on the same block in Savannah Historic District.

### **Dining**

Eating is a big part of traveling as we experience the culture through our most primal senses of smell and taste. While traveling with Nobis World, you will experience an array of favorite foods of the Lowcountry. Participants eat all meals together. Participants prepare their own breakfasts with provided foods in the kitchen of each vacation rental accommodation. Most days participants prepare their own bag lunch of sandwich and fresh fruit. Dinner is a time to unwind and discuss the day's events and will include opportunities to sample the favorite local home-style dishes.

### **Airport Information**

Participants are responsible for their own transportation for the duration of the program. The closest airport, Savannah/Hilton Head International (SAV) is 20 minutes from the accommodations. Atlanta (ATL) airport is a 4-hour drive and Jacksonville (JAX) is a 2-hour drive.

### **Suggested Reading**

- [God, Dr. Buzzard, & the Bolito Man](#) by Cornelia Walker Bailey
- [Daughters of the Dust](#) by Julie Dash
- [Mama Day](#) by Gloria Naylor

DAY ONE – MONDAY	
2:00 pm	Lunch – Settle In
3:00 pm	Welcome, Safety Instructions
3:15 pm	Introductions – Creating a Safe Space
3:45 pm	Nobis Ideas Overview
4:00 pm	Big Ideas Activity - Story of My Name
4:15 pm	Big Ideas Activity – ZOOM!
5:00 pm	Check-in to Accommodations
6:00 pm	Welcome Dinner
6:30 pm	Group Reflection – Learn and Model S.O.S. Method
	Optional Evening Activities: watch movie at house, walk into town, ice cream excursion
DAY TWO – TUESDAY	
6:00 am	Breakfast
6:45 am	Depart for Sapelo Island
8:30 am	Ferry
9:00 am	<b>Sapelo Island Tour</b> Take a journey on Sapelo Island led by a direct descendant of enslaved Africans brought to Sapelo in the early 1800s to work the plantation. Explore Native American shell mounds, visit the tabby ruins of the slave cabins an old French plantation, walk along the Nannygoat Beach, and see the newly-restored Sapelo Lighthouse. Experience Sapelo’s unique local culture and history with an insider's perspective that only a native of Sapelo can give.
Noon	Catered lunch on Island
1:00 pm	<b>Community Member Demonstration</b>
2:30 pm	Ferry
3:00 pm	Return to Savannah
4:00 pm	Free Time
6:00 pm	Dinner
6:30 pm	Big Ideas Activity – Dominant Narrative
7:00 pm	Group Reflection
	Optional Evening Activities
DAY THREE – WEDNESDAY	
8:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	Preparing for Service-Learning: Interview 101
9:30 am	Walk to Wright Square
10:00 am	<b>Slavery in Savannah Walking Tour</b> Experience a walk-through Savannah's History along the forgotten footpaths of the city. Learn the complete story of Savannah's antebellum years and threads together the story of how intricately the city and its citizens were involved in the institution of slavery.
12:30 pm	Lunch at Accommodations
1:00 pm	Travel to Studio Visit
1:30 pm	<b>African Blacksmithing Tradition Demonstration – Service-Learning Project</b> During the demonstration, a local Gullah artist shares about the history of blacksmithing within African and African American culture and shows how different things are made with tools of times past. He uses a coal forge to heat the metal and hammer it out on an anvil.
4:00 pm	Free Time
6:00 pm	Cooking Lesson - Appetizer demo of cornbread/hush puppies served with whipped cane syrup butter, and explanation of ingredients
6:30 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Group Reflection
	Optional Evening Activities
DAY FOUR – THURSDAY	
9:00 am	Breakfast / Pack Bagged Lunch
10:00 am	Walk to Davenport House

10:30 am	<p><b>Davenport House Museum Tour</b></p> <p>The 1820 Federal-style dwelling was built by artisan Isaiah Davenport for his growing household, which included his wife, ten children, and twelve enslaved workers. It was his family home until his death in 1827 when his wife, Sarah Clark Davenport, converted it into a boarding house. She lived in the residence until 1840 when she sold it to the Baynard family of South Carolina. The house remained in their hands for the next 109 years. Threatened with demolition in 1955, a group of community-spirited citizens joined forces to purchase the Davenport House. This was the first act of the Historic Savannah Foundation, which has gone on to save hundreds of buildings in the historic city.</p>
12:00 pm	Bag Lunch in Davenport House Courtyard
12:30 pm	Free Time / Group Game in Forsyth / Beach
3:30 pm	Service-Learning Project
5:30 pm	Group Reflection
6:30 pm	Dinner with Davenport House Junior Interpreters
<b>DAY FIVE – FRIDAY</b>	
8:00 am	Breakfast at Accommodations
9:00 am	Big Ideas Activity – Power/Privilege Cards
10:00 am	Service-Learning Project
Noon	Lunch at Accommodations
12:30 pm	Service-Learning Project
1:30 pm	<p><b>African American History Tour</b></p> <p>An informative journey where one can learn about the contributions of Africans in the creation of the colony of Georgia, the State of Georgia, and the City of Savannah; the “first Underground Railroad”; secret schools; spiritual and cultural highlights of Africans in Savannah.</p>
3:30 pm	Free Time
5:30 pm	Group Reflection
6:00 pm	Dinner - BBQ, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Mac & Cheese
6:30pm	Presentation of Service Project
7:30 pm	Farewell Dessert Excursion
<b>DAY SIX – SATURDAY</b>	
8:00 am	Breakfast at Accommodations / Pack Bagged Lunch
9:00 am	Check-out
9:30 am	Depart for Pin Point
10:00 am	<p><b>Pin Point Heritage Museum Tour</b></p> <p>For nearly one hundred years, Pin Point was isolated and self-sustained, a Gullah-Geechee enclave founded by first-generation freedmen where life was deeply connected to the water. Today, the factory has been reopened as Pin Point Heritage Museum, celebrating the life, work, and history of this Gullah-Geechee community that calls Pin Point home.</p>
Noon	Lunch
1:00 pm	Closing Circle