



## **Underground Railroad Itinerary** **People of Courage, People of Hope,** **Seekers of Justice**

“...Albany, a city, which from its location on the banks of the Hudson, was the constant resort of fugitive slaves when traveling in the direction of the North Star...” C. S. Brown

In the 30 years before the Civil War thousands of fugitives from slavery passed through Albany on their way to freedom in New York State and Canada. Albany, as a transportation hub, was a regular transit point for the Underground Railroad. Local activists held a key role in the Underground Railroad Network. By examining the stories, and touring the streets where fugitives traveled, a full day of learning about the Underground Railroad can be accomplished with a close look at the Capital City’s role in the network for freedom.

### **Customized Tours**

The sample itinerary below provides a framework into which the tour can be presented. Customized tours are available by request and can focus on particular aspects of the many features described below.

### **Suggested Itinerary**

**Orientation:** your day will begin by meeting Paul and Mary Liz Stewart, who are the founders of the Underground Railroad History Project. Their goal is to share what stories they have learned that honor the memory of fugitives and local abolitionists who opposed the federally sanctioned institution of slavery during the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s. Paul and Mary Liz will orient you to Albany by providing a lecture at the Albany Visitors Center. Here you will have the opportunity to listen to a presentation on Albany in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. With the rise of the Erie Canal, development of industry, and immigration this background information will provide a context for the story of the Underground Railroad and Albany’s role in assisting fugitives from slavery.

**Tour:** After your group’s orientation at the Visitors Center, you will then board your coach for a driving tour of locations, sites, and neighborhoods where Underground Railroad activity took place. These historical places will be highlighted with pictures and examples of artifacts of the period. Sites on the tour may include such places as Israel African Methodist Episcopal Church, which was dedicated in 1854.

524 Broadway, the New York State Women Veterans Memorial, and various other downtown locations that played a key role in the Underground Railroad will also be included in the tour. Paul and Mary Liz will be your guides to the Underground Railroad locations and provide narration and details about the sites you visit.

**Lunch:** A lunch for your group will be held after the morning tour. Here your group can dine at one of Albany’s many restaurants and eateries, while engaging in discussion with each other, as well as Paul and Mary Liz, or just relaxing. Locations can be customized depending on the groups’ particular itinerary and dining preferences.

**Driving or Walking Tour:** the afternoon will include a driving tour (or walking tour, depending on your group’s preference) of different areas pertinent to the Underground Railroad and its participants. At this time Paul and Mary Liz will discuss important figures such as Stephen Myers, Abigail and Lydia Mott, Abel Brown, and others. The Stewarts will discuss these key figures and their roles, particularly along with other stories that will be told of more than 50 identified fugitives who passed through Albany on the road to freedom.

**Concluding Presentation:** the program will conclude with a detailed analysis of the people, places, and events of the Underground Railroad, Albany, and the overall time period, which will be presented by Paul and Mary Liz. The Stewarts will also be available to answer any questions that members of the group may have.

### **Contact For Tour Information and Group**

#### **Reservations:**

**Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region, Inc.**

**Mary Liz and Paul Stewart**

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