

The Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement

IN MONTGOMERY, TUSKEGEE, SELMA & BIRMINGHAM



ALABAMA
CIVIL RIGHTS TOURISM ASSOCIATION

HIGHLIGHTS & INCLUDED FEATURES

Montgomery

- State of Alabama Archives Museum, Rosa Parks Museum, Freedom Rider's Museum, Centennial Hill, Southern Poverty Law Center's Civil Rights Memorial Center, walking tour through historic Court Square and Riverfront.
- Conversation with **Retired Supreme Court Associate Judge Mark Kennedy** and **Mr. Thomas Rains**, Executive Director of the Judge Frank Johnson, Jr. Institute.
- Meet the **Harris** family and visit the Harris home, that sheltered Freedom Riders in 1961.
- Visit the Equal Justice Initiative's **Legacy Museum: From Slavery to Incarceration, and National Memorial for Peace and Justice** – institutions that tell the rich and moving stories of the Civil Rights Movement and of America's history of racial inequality.
- Enjoy a private, traditional southern soul food dinner at Montgomery's historic **Bricklayer's Hall** and learn the importance of the songs that united activists of the movement, in an uplifting celebration of music.

Selma

- Visit the Lowndes Interpretative Center for a visual history of the Selma to Montgomery Marches for Voting Rights.
- Visit Selma in the company of foot soldier and activist **T. Dianne Harris** and enjoy a private lunch hosted at Tabernacle Baptist Church, where activist **Joanne Bland** shares her story as the youngest person to be jailed in the Voting Rights activism.
- Retrace the footsteps of the 1965 march as you traverse the landmark Edmund Pettus Bridge on foot.

Tuskegee

- In Tuskegee, visit the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site and Museum, the campus of Tuskegee University and National Historic Site George Washington Carver Museum.

Birmingham

- Historian and educator **Dr. Martha Bouyer** guides you through civil rights history including the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Kelly Ingram Square and Bethel Baptist Church.
- **Dr. Rev. Carolyn Maull McKinstry** speaks about surviving the 16th St. Baptist Church bombing and how it changed the course of her life.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Availability: January – June

CUSTOM TRIP PRICE

Based on final itinerary inclusions, group size, hotel room occupancy, ratio of free host trips.

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s reshaped the history of the United States and the world– leaving a legacy that is both vibrant and inspiring, but also fragile. In Alabama, the cities of Montgomery, Birmingham, and Selma were home to some of the great turning points of the multi-year effort. It was in these places that the Movement's national leadership took shape and tens of thousands of people came together to advance the cause of justice against remarkable odds and violent resistance.

Go beyond the headlines to take a deep dive into history, learning directly from the actual activists and foot soldiers of the struggle whose vivid and compelling stories bring a history of unforgettable tragedy, triumphs and continuing struggles to life.

DAY-BY-DAY SCHEDULE

Independent arrivals to Montgomery, AL

Day 1 MONTGOMERY, AL

Begin at the Alabama State Archives, with a guided visit of the Archives Museum, where interactive and three-dimensional exhibits provide a complete, illustrated historical background of Alabama, including the natural geography and its impact on the state's development and economy. Examine the concept of civil rights, in the context of all of Alabama's peoples. The key highlights of Montgomery's, and Alabama's history sets the stage and creates a context for the rest of your visits.

Our bus, like those in earlier days, heads to the former Greyhound station – now the Freedom Rides Museum. In 1961 groups of volunteers made history by challenging the practice of segregated travel through the South. They called themselves Freedom Riders as they crossed racial barriers in depots and onboard buses. The 1961 Freedom Riders did not begin or end their journey in Montgomery, Alabama, but their arrival changed the city and the nation.

We'll head to a convenient buffet cafeteria near the State Capitol building, where you can purchase what you choose for lunch, from a hearty traditional southern meat & three, sandwiches and salads.

Proceed by motorcoach to the Centennial Hill neighborhood, and South Jackson St – traditionally, the African-American neighborhood that is the location of the Dexter Parsonage, the Ben Moore Hotel, the Maulden Brother's barber shop and the Harris House.

We are welcomed for an exclusive private visit inside the Harris Home, by **Valda Harris Montgomery** and her family. This house, originally constructed at the turn of the century, was the home of Dr. Richard H. Harris Jr. and his family. The house illustrates the differences in social life during segregation, when African Americans were not permitted to enter restaurants and entertainment venues, so much of the community's social life was centered in private homes. In May 1961, Dr. Harris opened this home to 33 Freedom Riders challenging interstate bus segregation who were harassed and attacked at the Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station upon arrival. In the days following the attack, Harris' home served as a

haven for the Freedom Riders while martial law was declared in the area. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, James Farmer, John Lewis, Diane Nash, and other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement met at the Harris House to develop a strategy for continuing the rides. On May 24, the Freedom Riders were escorted from the Harris House by the National Guard to the Greyhound Bus Station to continue their mission to Jackson, Mississippi. The house today is still owned and occupied by the Harris family.

Walk through the history-rich area of the heart of Montgomery – the Court Square-Dexter Avenue Business District, where human beings were auctioned off during the slave trade, Rosa Parks was arrested, and the telegram calling for the strike on Fort Sumter was issued to trigger the Civil War. The walking tour ends at the hotel.

Enjoy an included private buffet dinner in the hotel restaurant. (D)

Accommodations: *Embassy Suites by Hilton Montgomery Hotel & Conference Center*

Day 2 TUSKEGEE

After breakfast, we drive east to the town of Tuskegee.

We begin with visit to the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, to learn the history of the African-Americans who trained here in a system set up for them to fail. Their success, despite the odds, as World War II pilots, paved the way for the integration of the U.S. military, federal government, and the nation overall. Gain insight into their challenges and the accomplishments celebrated through stories of some of America's most important citizens.

Continue to the campus of Tuskegee University, where we'll drive through and stop at key sites to learn its important history as the first Black college to be designated as a Registered National Historic Landmark and the only Black college to be designated a National Historic Site. The institution, founded in 1881, is the offspring of two American giants—Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver. We'll stop in at the National Parks Visitor Center to view the exhibits detailing George Washington Carver's many inventions and innovations.

Lunch is included in the university dining hall cafeteria, with a selection of hot dishes, soup, sandwiches, pizza, salad bar, desserts and beverages. Depart for the return drive to Montgomery.

Visit the Rosa Parks Museum. Here, interactive audio-visual exhibits describe Jim Crow and the social and political setting leading up to Rosa Park's refusal to give up her seat, then detail the Bus Boycott, how it operated, and its results. After a guided tour of the museum, we have an exclusive presentation and discussion in the museum's auditorium. **Retired Supreme Court Associate Judge Mark Kennedy**, son-in-law to former Alabama Governor George Wallace discusses the Wallace political agenda and how he came to reconciliation later in life. **Mr. Thomas Rains**, Executive Director of the Judge Frank Johnson, Jr. Institute discusses involvement of the federal court system during the Modern Civil Rights era and how Judge Johnson, Dr. King, Mrs. Parks and others helped change the world.

Return to the hotel. Dinner this evening is at leisure on your own. (B,L)

Accommodations: *Embassy Suites by Hilton Montgomery Hotel & Conference Center*

Day 3 SELMA

After breakfast, drive to Selma, Alabama.

Our first stop will be at the National Park's Lowndes Interpretive Center. Here, through an audio-visual presentation and exhibits, we'll visualize the details of the struggles that culminated in the 54 mile-march from Selma to Montgomery for voting rights.

We continue to Selma, where we'll be joined by **Dianne Harris**, Selma native and former foot soldier in the Voting Rights march. She'll be our guide through the history and events that took place in Selma. On a drive through Selma's neighborhoods, we'll see First Baptist Church—originally referenced as the First "Colored" Baptist Church that was host to the Dallas County Voters League, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and mass meetings. We'll drive by Brown Chapel, the headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference during the 1965 Voting Rights Campaign.

Next we head to Tabernacle Baptist Church. Begun in 1884, its members were active in the Dallas County Voters League that invited Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Selma in 1964. During an intimate lunch in the church community hall, we'll be joined by Selma native **Joanne Bland**. Bland was the youngest person to have been jailed during any civil rights demonstration during that period. History comes to life through her personal account.

As we depart Selma, we'll traverse the landmark Edmund Pettus Bridge on foot, retracing the footsteps of voting rights marchers. Crossing the bridge, the weight of history is tangible. Place yourself in the scene marchers found awaiting them on the other side of the bridge on "Bloody Sunday" and acknowledge the fear and courage they had. The late civil rights icon and Georgia congressman John Lewis was there, and described the law enforcement presence that day as a "sea of blue." He was beaten so badly that he suffered a broken skull.

Our bus retraces the route of the 54-mile march from Selma to Montgomery, and returns to the hotel. Dinner is on your own this evening. (B,L)

Accommodations: *Embassy Suites by Hilton Montgomery Hotel & Conference Center*

Day 4 MONTGOMERY

After breakfast, we'll walk along the Riverfront where slaves were disembarked and walked to the auction warehouses to the newly expanded Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration for our reserved, timed entrance. The museum is situated on a site in Montgomery steps away from the rail station where tens of thousands of Black people were trafficked during the 19th century and sold at auction into bondage. The self-guided visit through immersive and interactive audio-visual exhibits is at your own pace. When you are ready, lunch is on your own at the museum's Pannie George restaurant, or you may wish to try the famous Chris' Hot Dogs, a favorite of many celebrities since 1917. Optional boxed lunch can be included.

This afternoon, we'll meet at the hotel and depart by motorcoach for a visit to the Southern Poverty Law Center's Civil Rights Memorial Center, where we'll meet an SPLC staff member in the center's classroom for a guided discussion on how our experiences and meetings have impacted us personally.

Drive to the powerful National Memorial for Peace and Justice. Created as a somber and meaningful place for people to gather and reflect on America's history of racial inequality, the site memorializes the legacy of enslaved Black people terrorized by lynching.

From here, we'll head over to historic Bricklayer's Hall. Built in 1954 by the local African American bricklayers' union, it stands within the Centennial Hill neighborhood, a historically Black neighborhood in Montgomery. From February 1956 until 1960, the Bricklayers Hall housed the headquarters of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA). The MIA formed on December 5, 1955, four days after activist Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to move from her seat in a racially segregated bus. We'll enjoy a private, casual dinner of traditional southern soul food.

After dinner, learn the importance of the songs that united activists of the movement and join in singing the songs of the civil rights movement with local musicians. (B,D)

Accommodations: Embassy Suites by Hilton Montgomery Hotel & Conference Center

Day 5 BIRMINGHAM

After an early breakfast, we'll drive to Birmingham, to delve into the city's civil rights history. Upon arrival, we'll meet our guide, historian and educator **Dr. Martha Bouyer**. We'll walk through Kelly Ingram Park, and visit inside the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and an element of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument. The Institute promotes a comprehensive understanding of the civil rights movement in Birmingham.

We'll have a driving tour around the city's historically significant sites including Vulcan Park viewpoint, Birmingham Jail, Dynamite Hill, Linn Park, Phillips High School.

Arrive at Historic Bethel Baptist Church. The church was at the forefront of the church-led civil rights movement of the 1950s, using nonviolent mass techniques to affect social change. Find out how the congregation was crucial to the success of the 1961 Freedom Rides. Bethel, led by Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth from 1953-1961, was bombed repeatedly between 1956 and 1962. We'll have lunch in the church community room, where we'll be joined by **Rev. Dr. Carolyn McKinstry**. She lived while four of her friends were killed when a bomb exploded at the 16th Street Baptist Church on Sunday morning, September 15, 1963. Dr. McKinstry is the author of "While the World Watched: A Birmingham Bombing Survivor Comes of Age during the Civil Rights Movement." Carolyn relates her personal story and how it guided the course of her life. Return to Montgomery, or depart on a late afternoon flight from Birmingham.

Dinner is on your own this evening.

Day 6 INDEPENDENT DEPARTURES FROM MONTGOMERY

Please note: This proposed itinerary is the property of the ACRTA and may not be duplicated or distributed without written permission. Reservations are subject to the Terms & Conditions of the ACRTA. This itinerary is provided as preliminary information, and is subject to local conditions on the day of operation.

<p>INCLUSIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Five nights accommodations as per itinerary. ✓ Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner). ✓ Purified Potable water for you to refill your own water bottle; iced tea, coffee/tea with all meals. ✓ Exclusive Inside Access Education and speaker fees. ✓ Expertly guided sightseeing, transportation and entrance fees for all included visits. ✓ Local Tour Manager/Civil Rights Guide from the Alabama Civil Rights Tourism Association. ✓ Taxes, service, and portorage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers. ✓ Personal protective materials including masks and hand sanitizer. ✓ Gratuities to Tour Manager. 	<p>EXCLUSIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airfare • Transportation to the start and from the end of the trip • Meals not specified • Alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions • Personal items and expenses • Airport transfers other than for those detailed in the itinerary • Excess baggage • Trip insurance • Any other items not specifically mentioned as included
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