

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL EVENT

**HBOB Battle of the Bands &
The Legacy of the Civil Rights
Movement in Montgomery & Selma**

FEBRUARY 17-21, 2023





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Experience the excitement of the nation’s premier marching band showcase, 2023 Honda Battle of the Bands. The lively sounds of horns and drums, the twirling dance teams and high-stepping drum majors will surely bring you to your feet, with six of the country’s best Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) marching bands in one of the largest celebrations of Black culture and musical excellence. Come to Montgomery, where Alabama State University is the venue for the six participating bands. Elected by fans, the 2023 participants are Alabama State University Mighty Marching Hornets, Langston University Marching Pride, Morgan State University Magnificent Marching Machine, Savannah State University Powerhouse of the South, Virginia State University Trojan Explosion and one of the country’s elite bands, the Texas Southern University Ocean of Soul.

While in Montgomery, delve into civil rights history. The cities of Montgomery and Selma were home to some of the great turning points of the multi-year effort to advance the cause of justice against remarkable odds and violent resistance.

With special experiences, speakers and visits, go beyond the headlines to hear the personal stories of 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

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TRIP PRICE

\$1,199 per person in a double room

\$1,599 per person in a single room

PRICE INCLUDES

- Four nights accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Ice tea and coffee/tea with all meals
- Exclusive Inside Access Experiences
- Expertly guided sightseeing, transportation and entrance fees for all included visits
- Local Tour Manager/Guide from the Alabama Civil Rights Tourism Association
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED

airfare; transportation to/from the hotel; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

REGISTER ONLINE

www.civilrightstours.org/hbob

HIGHLIGHTS & INCLUDED FEATURES

- **Four nights at the** Embassy Suites by Hilton Montgomery Hotel & Conference Center
- **Entrance Ticket for General Admission** and **roundtrip transportation** to the **February 18, 2023 Honda Battle of the Bands** at Alabama State University Hornets Stadium.
- In **Montgomery**, visit the **Rosa Parks Museum and 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.
- At a special dinner event, hear the personal testimony of **JoAnne Bland**, who was arrested 13 times by the age of 11 for her participation as an activist for voting rights. Enjoy a private music performance and join in singing the songs that unified and gave voice to the civil rights movement.
- Visit **Selma** and meet foot soldier and activist **T. Dianne Harris** and enjoy a **private lunch** hosted at **Tabernacle Baptist Church**, whose members invited Dr. Martin Luther King to Selma in 1964. Retrace the footsteps of the 1965 march as you **traverse the landmark Edmund Pettus Bridge** on foot.
- Included Meals: 4 Breakfasts; 2 Lunch Boxes; 1 Dinner

Day-By-Day Schedule

Please note that the itinerary is provided as preliminary information, and is subject to local conditions on the day of operation.

Day 1: Friday, February 17 ARRIVE MONTGOMERY, AL

Independent arrivals to Montgomery, AL. Check in for the tour at the Alabama Civil Rights Tourism hospitality desk from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Check in at the hotel available from 4:00 p.m. At 5:00 p.m.: Meet your tour host for an orientation walk around the center of downtown Montgomery, with suggestions for dinner on your own. Enjoy the hotel's complimentary evening reception and the many dining choices within walking distance of the hotel.

Accommodations: Embassy Suites by Hilton Montgomery Hotel & Conference Center

Day 2: Saturday, February 18 BATTLE OF THE BANDS

After breakfast in the hotel, pick up your box lunch and transfer to ASU stadium for the Honda Battle of the Bands. Your transfer time will be advised upon arrival in Montgomery.

For the first time since 2020, the Honda Battle of the Bands will be a live event. Join us as we take in the sights and sounds of one of the greatest exhibitions of marching band performances in the world! Since 2003, the Honda Battle of the Bands has celebrated, supported and recognized the excellence of Black college marching bands and highlights the unique academic experience offered by Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).



After the event, return transportation from the stadium to the hotel is provided. Dinner is on your own this evening (B,L)

Accommodations: Embassy Suites by Hilton Montgomery Hotel & Conference Center

Day 3: Sunday, February 19 MONTGOMERY, AL

After breakfast at leisure in the hotel, we'll walk to the newly expanded The 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. A box lunch is included for you to enjoy at your leisure today.

Use the Legacy Museum's complimentary shuttle to transfer 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.

This evening a special dinner event is included in the hotel. Our featured speaker is JoAnne Bland. A resident of Selma, she began her participation in the Voting Rights Movement at an early age. Already a foot soldier and activist, she was arrested thirteen times by the time she was eleven years old; the youngest person to be jailed in the demonstrations for equal right. We'll also learn how music played a role in the civil rights movement. Join in singing the songs that unified, uplifted and gave voice to the movement. (B,L,D)

Accommodations: Embassy Suites by Hilton Montgomery Hotel & Conference Center

Day 4: Monday, February 20 MONTGOMERY, AL

After breakfast, at 8:45 a.m., we walk 2 blocks to 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.

Next we'll meet our motorcoach and depart to 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



Edmund Pettus Bridge

(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'll 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. The church, and foot soldier Dr. Verdell Lett Dawson host us for lunch in the church community hall.

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. A sense of history sweeps over you, as you picture 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.

Reboarding our motorcoach, we'll retrace the route of the 54-mile march from Selma to Montgomery.

The evening is at leisure. Enjoy the hotel's complimentary evening reception and the many dining choices within walking distance of the hotel. (B,D)

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

Day 5: Tuesday, February 21 DEPARTURES

Breakfast is included. Check out of hotel rooms by 11:00 a.m. (B)

ACCOMMODATIONS



MONTGOMERY EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON MONTGOMERY HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

300 Tallapoosa Street, Montgomery, Alabama, 36104

Situated in the heart of Montgomery's Entertainment District, the hotel is a five-minute walk from the Legacy Museum, the Montgomery Performing Arts Center, and Riverwalk Stadium, home of the Montgomery Biscuits. The all-suite hotel standard rooms feature either two double beds or a king-sized bed; separate living room. Wi-Fi access is included. Hotel Amenities include made-to-order breakfast, Complimentary evening reception, Non-smoking rooms, Digital Key, On-site restaurant, Indoor pool, Fitness center, Business center.