



# MEJDI TOURS

## MEJDI Tours Scheduled Departure

- Tour:** The American Dual Narrative Series: Blue/Red Divide in Detroit
- Included:** 3 nights' accommodation at the following hotels or similar (double occupancy): Hotel Indigo Detroit Downtown  
1 conservative guide for 4 days  
1 liberal guide for 4 days  
Private coach transportation on days 1 & 3  
Public transportation on days 2 & 4  
Group arrival airport transfer  
Meals listed in the itinerary: 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners  
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers<sup>1</sup>  
US-based customer service representatives
- Not included:** Airfare  
Departure airport transfer  
Travel insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**  
Single Supplement-\$350  
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary  
Gratuities  
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
- Pricing<sup>2</sup>:** 10+ Paying Participants - \$1,995 Per Person  
*without accommodation (day touring only)* - \$1,700 Per Person

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to confirmation based on availability

<sup>2</sup> Subject to change based on confirmation. This quote is valid for 2 weeks.

## Overview:

The term swing state (or battleground state) has historically referred to any state in American politics that could be won by either the Democratic or Republican presidential candidate. On this tour, we'll take an in-depth look behind the curtain of American politics in one of the nation's most highly controversial swing states, Michigan. Explore Michigan's largest and most populous city in dual narrative, with two guides – one conservative and one liberal, and unpack controversial issues on both sides of the aisle. Trace the history of the auto industry with a historian and learn how politics shapes big business and vice versa. Study the various political landscapes of the Great Lakes State, the idea of political “bubbles,” and the discrepancies between urban and rural politics across the state. Explore key economic, cultural, and political issues that divide conservative and liberal voters in Michigan. Examine the effects of cyclical gentrification on some of the city's most diverse neighborhoods, and discuss the role of diversity in politics. Explore how civil planning plays a role in the health and well-being of the city's residents. a Volunteer with a non-profit that works to empower urban communities by using agriculture as a platform to promote education, sustainability, and community while simultaneously reducing socioeconomic disparity. Visit a gun range, learn about gun education and safety, and discuss controversial issues surrounding gun control. Meet with an organization that strives to provide equal education opportunities for Detroit's youth.

## Itinerary:

### Day 1: Arrival - Dearborn, River Rouge, & Downtown Detroit, Michigan

Arrive into Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, meet your guides, and set the stage for your exploration into the politics of Michigan with a **visit to the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation**. Experience the strides of America's most industrious inventors, from the Wright brothers to Henry Ford, while fully immersing yourself in their stories. Learn about the history of the auto industry in Michigan, the birth of labor unions in Detroit, and explore how big business influences the state's politics and vice versa. Experience eye-opening encounters and immerse yourself in some of modern manufacturing's most progressive concepts on a **tour of the Ford Rouge Factory**. Continue to your hotel and, en route, drive past steel and iron works factories, including Zug Island, a heavily industrialized island at the confluence of the Rouge and Detroit rivers. Nicknamed the “dirtiest square mile in Michigan,” hear how the island came to be, explore its historically negative side effects on the environment as well as the health and well-being of nearby residents, and learn about possible plans for the future of the site as several major producers shut down coal-fire plants and explore alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, and natural gas. Join the group over dinner at your hotel this evening for a **talk with a local historian about the rise and decline of industry in Detroit, the city's rise as the center of the Black Power movement in the 1960s, the concept of “White Flight,” and the race riots of 1967**. Explore how race plays a role in the division of politics in Michigan, specifically between urban and suburban neighborhoods.

*Overnight: Hotel Indigo Detroit Downtown (D)*

## **Day 2: Midtown, Downtown, & Riverfront**

This morning, hop on the **QLine**, a 6.6-mile circulating streetcar loop and transfer to the Detroit Historical Museum. **Learn about the Detroit Historical Society's Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward Project**, an ongoing effort to engage the Detroit community in meaningful commemoration of the tumultuous summer of 1967. Get back on the QLine toward Downtown, and discuss the impact of the streetcar line on Detroit and its residents since its opening in 2017 as well as the regional and local collaboration on the project between private businesses, philanthropic organizations, and local, state, and federal governments. **Ride the People Mover**, a 2.94-mile elevated train that circulates downtown. Discuss how endemic issues with public transportation in Detroit have led to disparities in the city's infrastructure and inaccessibility between the city and its surrounding suburbs, and how this subpar infrastructure has historically contributed to homelessness, water issues, and disparities in health, wealth, and education. Walk along the **Detroit RiverWalk**, a 3.5 mile span of parks, plazas, pavilions, pathways, and open green spaces and the first phase of the Detroit waterfront transformation project. Discuss the ongoing clean-up and regeneration of the notoriously polluted Detroit River and waterfront and the gentrification of waterfront neighborhoods. Unpack controversy over green space revitalization and explore whether it helps promote equitable planning or hinders racial reconciliation in a historically black community. **Meet with a representative from the Secretary of State Office**, and hear about recent voter initiatives for underserved communities in and around Detroit. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening.

*Overnight: Hotel Indigo Detroit Downtown (B, L)*

## **Day 3: Urban Farming & Green Spaces, Eastern Market & Eastpointe**

**Spend the morning volunteering with the Michigan Urban Farming Initiative**, a non-profit that works to empower urban communities by using agriculture as a platform to promote education, sustainability, and community while simultaneously reducing socioeconomic disparity. Learn how Detroit is using urban farming and green spaces as a means to feed families as well as beautify the city. Transfer to the **Eastern Market**, and enjoy free time for lunch and to peruse local vendors at one of the oldest farmer's markets in the world, dedicated to increasing access to healthy food and nurturing and accelerating the growth of the food industry. Then transfer to the suburbs and visit the **Michigan Military Technical & Historical Society**. Hear stories of Michigan veterans and see equipment, weapons, uniforms, and other artifacts that contributed to this country's defense of freedom. Next, visit a **firearms range and training center**. Learn to safely and responsibly handle a firearm, practice in the range, and discuss perspectives surrounding firearm education and safety, hunter's safety, personal protection, and the controversial issue of gun violence in the U.S. today. Return to the city for a **farewell dinner and live music** this evening.

*Overnight: Hotel Indigo Detroit Downtown (B, D)*

## **Day 4: Arts & Education**

This morning, **meet with an organization that strives to provide equal education opportunities for families across Detroit**. Then, **meet with a director at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA)**, one of the largest and most impressive art collections in the

country, and discuss how, as part of the City of Detroit's bankruptcy settlement in 2014, ownership of the museum was transferred to Detroit Institute of Arts, Inc., returning the museum to its status as an independent non-profit for the first time since 1919. Enjoy some time to explore the museum on your own, then meet the group for a final **farewell lunch** before transferring to the airport (on own) for your flight home today. *(B, L)*