



MEJDI TOURS

Group Contract

Tour: **The Struggle Towards Equality: The Civil Rights Movement Past & Present**

Included: 6 nights' accommodation as per itinerary or similar
1 expert guide throughout
Private bus transportation
Meals as per itinerary
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers¹
US-based customer service representative

Not included: Airfare
Arrival/departure airport transfers
Travel insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
Single Supplement
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
Gratuities
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

Overview:

The “deep south” plays a leading part in the history of race relations in the United States. Many here take great pride in a unique heritage marked by “southern hospitality” and industriousness. Yet, so many of the region’s contributions to American prosperity were achieved through slavery or despite legal frameworks for segregation persisting into the 1960’s. As local communities grapple with difficult lessons of the past, many issues around race remain unresolved. The struggle for Civil Rights was staged across the south, but the pursuit of justice continues across the country.

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival in Birmingham, Alabama

Arrive in Birmingham, Alabama and transfer to your hotel (on own). Meet your expert guide in the lobby of your hotel and set the stage for your civil rights legacy tour with a visit to the **Birmingham Civil Rights Institute**, an interpretive museum that depicts the struggles of the American Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s. Explore the story

¹ Subject to confirmation based on availability

of a persecuted people and their ongoing movement toward justice and equality. Across the street, visit the historic **16th Street Baptist Church**, bombed by Klansmen in 1963. Stroll through **Kelly Ingram Park** where sculptures depict the reality of the police dogs and fire hoses that were turned on demonstrators who gathered here to protest segregation laws. Stroll **historic 4th Avenue North**, site of the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame. This evening at your hotel, **meet civil rights family activist, Ms. Lisa McNair**, whose older sister, Denise McNair, was slain by Klansmen in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing before joining the group for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Elyton Hotel, Birmingham (D)

Day 2: Selma to Montgomery

This morning, travel south to **Selma** (1.5 hour drive). **Tour Selma with a Civil Rights Movement veteran**, stopping at the **Selma-to-Montgomery Trail Interpretive Center** to learn more about the marchers and the trials they encountered. Cross the **Edmund Pettus Bridge**, where the civil rights march began in 1965 and where law enforcement personnel confronted voting rights marchers on Bloody Sunday. These marches and other protests around the state eventually led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Visit the **Brown Chapel AME Church**, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. launched the voting rights march. Tour the **National Voting Rights Museum & Institute**, the cornerstone of the contemporary struggle for voting rights and human dignity. After lunch, continue on to Montgomery (1 hour drive) following the Selma-to-Montgomery Trail. En route, stop at the **Viola Liuzzo historic marker**, where white housewife and mother of five, Viola Liuzzo, was shot and killed by four Klansmen while giving black marchers a ride back to Selma following the Selma-to-Montgomery march. Upon arrival in Montgomery, visit the **Freedom Rides Museum**, dedicated to the 1961 Freedom Rides, before transferring to your hotel to check in. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening.

Overnight: Renaissance Montgomery (B, L)

Day 3: Montgomery to Atlanta, Georgia

This morning, visit the **Legacy Museum**, built on the site of a former warehouse where black slaves were imprisoned, and explore the legacy of black America from slavery to modern-day mass incarceration. Visit the **National Memorial for Peace and Justice**, known as the “Lynching Memorial,” the nation’s first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved black people, the terror of lynching, African Americans humiliated by racial segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color who continue to be burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence. Visit the **Southern Poverty Law Center**, a non-profit organization that monitors the activities of domestic hate groups and other extremists groups around the country, publishes investigative reports, trains law enforcement officers, and shares key intelligence and analysis to the media and public and the **Civil Rights Memorial**, dedicated to those killed in the struggle for the equal and integrated treatment of all people, regardless of race, during the 1954-1968 civil rights movement. See the **Alabama State Capitol** (outside only), the birthplace of the Confederacy and the final stop along the Selma-to-Montgomery march. Stop at the **Rosa Parks Museum**, an active memorial to the life of civil rights icon Rosa Parks, housing information, exhibits, and artifacts from the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott. Then, travel to

Atlanta (2.5 hour drive) with a **discussion on peaceful activism and the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King** en route. Upon arrival in Atlanta, settle into your hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure.

Overnight: Hotel Colee, Atlanta Buckhead (B, L)

Day 4: Atlanta

Visit **Ebenezer Baptist Church**, where Dr. King delivered his first sermon in 1947 and served as associate minister and later co-pastor with his father. Visit the **Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site**, consisting of Dr. King's boyhood home, a museum that chronicles the American civil rights movement, and a firehouse displaying an exhibit on the desegregation of the Atlanta Fire Department. Stop at the **King Center** (The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change), pay your respects to Dr. King's legacy, and learn how his legacy continues today. Over lunch, **sit down with a representative from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference**, and learn about their role in several historic civil rights activities including the March on Washington, the Selma Voting Rights Campaign, and the March to Montgomery as well as their modern day mission to educate youth and adults in the areas of personal responsibility, leadership potential, and community service to ensure economic justice and civil rights and to eradicate racism wherever it exists. This afternoon, visit the **National Center for Civil and Human Rights**, a museum that connects the American civil rights movement to today's global human rights movements, from women's rights to immigration to child labor to LGBTQ+ issues. Permanent exhibits include a timeline about the civil rights movement, Dr. King's personal papers, and a lunch counter similar to the ones where black students staged sit-ins demanding to be served food alongside whites. This evening, **enjoy a dinner of authentic southern-style BBQ**.

Overnight: Hotel Colee, Atlanta Buckhead (B, L, D)

Day 5: Atlanta to Augusta

This morning at your hotel, **meet with a former freedom rider** for a harrowing first-hand account of the Freedom Rides of 1961 that challenged the practice of segregated travel through the South. Then, set off through the scenic Oconee National Forest toward **Augusta** (2.25 hour drive). Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, followed by a visit to the Lucy Craft Laney Museum, a small local home turned museum, displaying the legacy of a prominent African-American educator and founder of the first African American school in Augusta. Then, tour Augusta with a Civil Rights Historian and Associate Professor of history from Augusta University.

Overnight: Crowne Plaza North, Augusta (B, L)

Day 6: Augusta to Charleston, South Carolina

Arise early this morning and continue on to Charleston (3 hour drive), stopping en route in **Orangeburg**, the center of South Carolina's desegregation movement from 1950 to 1972, and site of the Orangeburg massacre, a civil rights protest at South Carolina State University (SC State) in 1968 that turned deadly when highway patrolmen opened fire on 200 black student protestors, killing three and wounding 28. Compare and contrast the legacy of civil rights protests from the 60s and 70s with current events today. Upon arrival, enjoy lunch on

your own and some **time at leisure at the Historic Charleston City Market**. Then, explore the history of African Americans from slavery to modern day at the **Old Slave Mart Museum**, a converted slave auction gallery that tells the story of Charleston's role in the domestic inter-state slave trade from 1856 to 1863, and **Gadsden's Wharf**, the first destination for an estimated 100,000 enslaved Africans during the peak of the international slave trade. **Meet with a director from the International African American Museum**, currently being constructed at Gadsden's Wharf, for a discussion on race relations in Charleston and how communities in the south and nation-wide can build bridges toward racial empathy and understanding. This evening at your hotel, **enjoy a farewell dinner followed by live music, storytelling, and discussion about low country spirituals and the role of music in the Civil Rights movement from slavery to present day.**

Overnight: Mills House, Charleston (B, L, D)

Day 7: Departure from Charleston

After breakfast this morning, **meet with a director from the Center for the Study of Slavery at the College of Charleston** and examine the impact of slavery and race-related issues in Charleston and the surrounding region. Then, **visit the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission** and **try your hand in African sweetgrass basket making**, while learning about the importance of memory and the preservation of traditions for the Gullah Geechee people, descendants of enslaved Africans throughout the lower Atlantic coast. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure for beach time or explore Charleston on your own before departing for home today. *(B)*