



MEJDI TOURS

MEJDI Tours Scheduled Departure

- Tour:** **Civil Rights Legacy: The Struggle Towards Equality from Slavery to Present Day**
- Dates:** **May 1 - May 11, 2022**
- Included:** 10 nights' accommodation at the following hotels or similar (double occupancy): The Mills House, Charleston, The Burgess, Atlanta, Renaissance Montgomery, Elyton Hotel Birmingham, The Peabody Memphis (or similar)
1 expert guide for 10 days
Private minibus + driver
Individual arrival & departure airport transfers, regardless of arrival date
Internal airfare (one-way comfort+; Charleston-Atlanta)
Meals listed in the itinerary: 10 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 9 dinners
Soft drinks, Beer & house wine at included meals
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers
Bottled water on tours & transfers
Gratuities
US-based customer service representatives
- Not included:** Arrival/departure airfare
Pre-trip hotel nights (available upon request)
Travel insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
Single Supplement - \$1,700
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
- Pricing:** 14+ Paying Participants - \$6,725
12-13 Paying Participants - \$7,125
10-11 Paying Participants - \$7,600

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: Sunday, May 1, 2022 - Arrival in Charleston, South Carolina

Arrive in Charleston, South Carolina and transfer to your hotel. Meet your expert guide in the lobby of your hotel and set off on a **walking tour of historic Charleston** to set the stage for your exploration of Civil Rights in the deep south. Explore the history of African Americans from slavery to modern day, including 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. Walk through Ravenel Waterfront Park, past the **Robert Smalls Memorial**, and hear the story of Robert Smalls, a Beaufort slave who, during the Civil War, stole a Confederate ship in Charleston and turned it over to the Union, achieving his (and others’) freedom, then went on to become a U.S. Congressman. See **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 civil rights from slavery to today before joining the group for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. *Overnight: The Mills House, Charleston (D)*

Day 2: Monday, May 2, 2022 - 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, **tour the Magnolia Plantation & Gardens**, one of the oldest plantations in the south, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Explore the lives of people who, though nearly erased from history, shaped Charleston’s complex past and the nation’s future. Tour the homes and compare the Drayton family home with those built for enslaved families. Learn about the daily life of the men, women, and children who lived and worked here before and after slavery. Explore this often overlooked narrative and honor and remember the men, women, and children who designed, planted, and worked in the gardens, built and maintained nearby bridges, and labored in the house and the rice fields while enslaved. Then, trace the emergence of the Gullah Geechee people, descendants of enslaved Africans, and their culture in the Lowcountry with a **visit to the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission**. **Try your hand in African sweetgrass basket making**, while learning about the importance of memory and the preservation of traditions in the Gullah Geechee culture. This evening, enjoy stunning views of historic Charleston from the water on a **private sunset sail in Charleston Harbor**.

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

Day 3: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 - Charleston to Atlanta, Georgia

Enjoy a morning at leisure, then set off on a **walking brunch tour of Charleston's Upper King Street district**, an energetic neighborhood showcasing culinary innovation, experimental design, and boutique shopping. Sample local specialties from edgy and innovative trailblazers in Charleston's culinary scene. This afternoon, transfer to the airport and fly to Atlanta, Georgia. Upon arrival in Atlanta, transfer to your hotel and check in. This evening over dinner, **meet 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.

Overnight: The Burgess, Atlanta (B, L, D)

Day 4: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 - Atlanta

This morning, **meet with a pastor at 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. After lunch on your own, **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. Later at your hotel, **enjoy dinner and an evening of song and discussion by an original member of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee's (SNCC) Freedom Singers of 1962.**

Overnight: The Burgess, Atlanta (B, D)

Day 5: Thursday, May 5, 2022 - Atlanta

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, **visit Morehouse College, a historically black male liberal arts college, for a discussion with faculty** on black contribution in America and hear the incredible achievements of some of the most notable "Morehouse Men." Enjoy lunch followed by a **director-guided visit to Zucot, a black-owned art gallery** that promotes original works of art by living African American artists. Later this afternoon, **visit the Carter Center** and learn about the organization's work to prevent and resolve conflicts, enhance freedom and democracy, improve health, and alleviate human suffering. Then, **enjoy dinner and an evening with local leaders about the state of Georgia politics.**

Overnight: The Burgess, Atlanta (B, L, D)

Day 6: Friday, May 6, 2022 - Atlanta to Montgomery, Alabama

This morning, travel to Montgomery (2.5 hour drive). **Tour 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. After lunch, **tour 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. This evening, enjoy a **privately catered "Welcome to the South" dinner** with a local cook, mom, and business owner who grew up in Montgomery. Enjoy southern comfort food and local specialties and hear personal stories of local culture and community.

Overnight: Renaissance Montgomery (B, L, D)

Day 7: Saturday, May 7, 2022 - Montgomery - Selma - Birmingham

This morning, stop at the **Dexter Avenue Baptist Church**, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. served as pastor during the early days of the Civil Rights Movement. See the **Alabama State Capitol**, the birthplace of the Confederacy and the final stop along the Selma-to-Montgomery march. Visit 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. Here, meet with a representative from 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. Depart for Selma (1 hour drive) following in reverse the Selma-to-Montgomery Trail. **In Selma, sit down for lunch with a movement veteran** and hear a first-hand personal account of the history of Selma's involvement in the Voting Rights Struggle. This afternoon, **explore Selma with an active Civil Rights Movement veteran** who was the youngest person to have been jailed during the civil rights movement. **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. **See the Selma Interpretive Center**, which marks the beginning of the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, **R.B. Hudson High School**, the first public high school for African American's in Selma, the **Dallas County Courthouse**, site of the voter's rights protests of 1965, and the **Selma Walton Theater**, former vaudeville playhouse now owned and operated by the All Things Are Possible Community Development Corporation (ATAP CDC) whose goal is to develop, evaluate, and disseminate programs that stimulate economic growth and promote economic stability. **Visit the National Voting Rights Museum & Institute**, the cornerstone of the contemporary struggle for voting rights and human dignity and other key sites on Selma's historic journey toward civil rights and explore how a city that was once home to a Confederate foundry became a critical repository for the preservation and interpretation of Bloody Sunday and its aftermath. See the **Old Live Oak Cemetery**, where America's first

black congressman, Benjamin Sterling Turner, is buried. Continue on to Birmingham (1.5 hour drive) and get settled into your hotel.

Overnight: Elyton Hotel, Birmingham (B, L)

Day 8: Sunday, May 8, 2022 - Birmingham

Set off this morning on an exploration of the **Civil Rights District of Birmingham**. Explore the story of a persecuted people and their ongoing movement toward justice and equality. 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, and attend a jazz “jam session” of musicians* at the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame**, a non-profit that strives to illuminate the musical contributions of jazz musicians, teachers, and community leaders through stories of personal achievement and perpetuate the heritage of jazz music as a legitimate, original, and distinctive art form indigenous to America. Enjoy some time at leisure then, over dinner at your hotel, **hear real-life stories about the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing and life in the city during the Jim Crow laws from a local Civil Rights Movement veteran.**

Overnight: Elyton Hotel, Birmingham (B, D)

Day 9: Monday, May 9, 2022 - Birmingham to Memphis, Tennessee

This morning, depart for Memphis, Tennessee (~3.5 hours). En route, stop in Tupelo, Mississippi for lunch and hear about the **Tupelo Civil Rights and African American Heritage trail**, seven markers that tell the stories of the Tupelo black community and its people who stood against injustice and fought for equality during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. After lunch, continue on to Memphis and **visit the Stax Museum of American Soul Music** in Soulsville, the former site of Stax Records, and home to some of the greatest musical talent in the world. Tour the museum with the wife of late Stax house band member and American soul and R&B musician, Wayne Jackson. Trace half a century of talent, hustle, and soul and learn how Stax Music Academy and The Soulsville Charter School, through the work of the Soulsville Foundation, continue to contribute to the creative spirit of the local community. Then, transfer to your hotel and get settled in. This evening, head out on foot to explore **Beale Street**, the iconic music and entertainment mecca of Memphis and enjoy dinner and some **live music**.

Overnight: The Peabody Memphis (B, L, D)

Day 10: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 - Memphis

This morning, visit the **National Civil Rights Museum**, located at the Lorraine Motel, the assassination site of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Explore the **Black Power exhibit**, and trace the rise and fall of the Black Power movement, one of the most influential, yet often misunderstood movements in the civil rights struggle, into the modern Black Lives Matter movement, and discuss these movements as a continuation of the civil rights movement rather than stand alone or new radical concepts. Over lunch, **meet with a former white supremacist, Neo-Nazi, and KKK leader turned human rights activist and a Black Lives Matter activist for a dual-narrative discussion** on the legacy of the civil rights

movement and how it applies to the current racial conflict in the United States, how we can better understand the “other,” and what we can do to work towards reconciliation. This afternoon, **enjoy a privately-guided tour of Graceland**, the place Elvis called home. Explore the mansion and Elvis’s private jets, walk the gardens and learn about the place Elvis called home. Discuss the rock n’ roll legend’s contribution to music, his integration of traditionally black or white sounds, and the controversy surrounding him on both sides of the racial divide. This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner and a **live performance* by artists from the Hattiloo Theatre**, a performing arts venue dedicated to supporting African American playwrights and actors, through education and internship programs, **followed by a Q&A with the artists** on how performing art shapes and preserves identity and spurs social change.

Overnight: The Peabody Memphis (B, L, D)

Day 11: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 - Departure

Transfer to the airport for your flight home today. *(B)*

**Performances are currently virtual due to Covid, so this is TBD pending Covid safety & regulations. But, we might be able to confirm a private, outdoor performance.*