



MEJDI TOURS

Tour: **The Struggle Towards Equality: The Civil Rights Movement Past & Present**
Custom Tour from Birmingham to Charleston for Fran Park Center

Dates: **Main Tour:** April 15-21, 2021
(Optional Savannah Extension: April 21-23, 2021)

Included: 6 nights' accommodation (Main Tour) as per itinerary
Meals as listed in the itinerary (D=Dinner, L=Lunch, B=Breakfast)
1 expert guide throughout
Private bus transportation, including group arrival and departure airport transfers
Meals as per itinerary
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers
Customary tips for drivers, guides, and hotel staff

Not included: Airfare
Travel insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
Single Supplement - \$700 (Main Tour)
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
Individual airport transfers outside of the group transfer
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

Pricing: **Main Tour:**
30+ Paying Participants - \$3,150
25-29 Paying Participants - \$3,420
20-24 Paying Participants - \$3,750
15-19 Paying Participants - \$4,375
10-14 Paying Participants - \$5,635

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: Thursday, April 15, 2021 - Arrival - Birmingham, Alabama

Arrive into Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport in Birmingham, Alabama this afternoon. Meet your guide 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 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, meet with your expert guide for an introduction into the history of the civil rights movement and its legacy in our nation today before joining the group for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Elyton Hote (or similar), Birmingham (D)

Day 2: Friday, April 16, 2021 – Selma to Montgomery

This morning, travel south to Selma (1.5 hour drive) across 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, and the Slavery & Civil War Museum. See the Old Depot Museum, home of collections ranging from prehistoric Native American history to the Civil War, continuing through the Depression and the historic path of the Civil Rights Movement, and illustrating how a site that was once home to a Confederate foundry became a critical repository for the preservation and interpretation of key documents, artifacts, and photographs related to Bloody Sunday and its aftermath. For lunch, enjoy some southern “comfort food” and live music at a local historic restaurant, followed by a Q&A with the musician to learn how the influence of Mississippi Delta blues and the sounds of Appalachian Folk Music blend with native Jazz sounds to form a unique style of music in Alabama and to discuss the role of music in the American civil rights movement. See the Old Live Oak Cemetery, where America’s first black congressman, Benjamin Sterling Turner, is buried. 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. Stop at the Selma-to-Montgomery Trail Interpretive Center at White Hall to learn more about the marchers and the trials they encountered before transferring to your hotel to check in.

Overnight: Renaissance Montgomery (or similar) (B, L)

Day 3: Saturday, April 17, 2021 – 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. 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. 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. 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. 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: The Burgess Hotel (or similar), Buckhead (B, L)

Day 4: Sunday, April 18, 2021 - Atlanta

Attend a worship service this morning 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. Sit down with the pastor for a discussion on the role of the church in the civil rights movement. 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 an expert on Dr. King and ethical leadership from his alma mater, Boston University. Visit 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.

Overnight: The Burgess Hotel (or similar), Buckhead (B, L)

Day 5: Monday, April 19, 2021 - Atlanta to Augusta

This morning, 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. Continue on to

Redcliffe Plantation Historic Site, for a private guided tour of the former estate of James Henry Hammond, cotton planter and politician, three generations of his descendants, and the numerous African-American families who worked at the site as slaves and later as free men and women. Explore the experiences of the enslaved, discuss the institution of slavery, and reflect on the historical experiences and impact of the white and black families who lived and worked on the plantation, as you tour the mansion, slave quarters, and idyllic magnolia-lined lane. Then, settle into your historic inn, carefully restored from an original 1836 home and experience the beauty and hospitality of the “Old South,” with a night of reflection and relaxation.

Overnight: Partridge Inn (or similar), Augusta (B, L)

Day 6: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 - 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. Make a quick stop for lunch (on own). Upon arrival, set off on a tour of historic Charleston, exploring 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, 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 from slavery to modern day in Charleston and how communities in the south and nation-wide can build bridges toward racial empathy and understanding. For lunch, explore Charleston’s culinary landmarks on a local tasting tour. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure before meeting up with the group for a farewell dinner at an historic Charleston restaurant.

Overnight: The Vendue (or similar), Charleston (B, D)

Day 7: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 - Departure from Charleston

After breakfast this morning, meet with a director from the Center for the Study of Slavery at the College of Charleston, former speaker from the Charleston Forum, 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 transferring to the airport for your flight home, or depart for your optional Savannah extension.

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