



MEJDI TOURS

MEJDI Tours Scheduled Departure

Tour: **Civil Rights Legacy Series: The Struggle Towards Equality from Slavery to Present Day**

Dates: **December 1-5, 2021; March 2-6, 2022**

Included: 4 nights' accommodation at the following hotels or similar (double occupancy): Elliott House Inn Charleston, River Street Inn Savannah
1 expert guide for 5 days
Public transportation/walking tours on days 1 & 5
Private coach transportation on 2-4
Meals listed in itinerary: 4 breakfasts (B), 3 lunches (L), 2 dinners (D)
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers¹
US-based customer service representatives

Not included: Airfare
Arrival/departure airport transfers
Travel insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
Single Supplement - \$400
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
Gratuities
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

Pricing: 10+ Paying Participants - \$1,995

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.

¹ Subject to confirmation based on availability

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival - Charleston, South Carolina

Arrive in Charleston, South Carolina and transfer to your hotel (on own). 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, 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 civil rights from slavery to today before joining the group for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Elliott House Inn, Charleston (D)

Day 2: 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 McLeod Plantation Historic Site and 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 McLeod 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. Study the cultivation and importance of sea island cotton and gain insight into the plantation's strategic importance during the Civil War and the role of the free black Massachusetts 55th Volunteer Infantry in emancipating enslaved people. Examine the influence of the Freedmen's Bureau at McLeod Plantation and throughout the South and trace the emergence of the Gullah Geechee people, descendants of enslaved Africans, and their Culture in the Lowcountry. 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 in the Gullah Geechee culture. Enjoy an evening at leisure to explore Charleston on your own.

Overnight: Elliott House Inn, Charleston (B, L)

Day 3: Charleston, Beaufort, & Savannah, Georgia

This morning, transfer to Beaufort (1.5 hour drive) and learn about the integral role the town and surrounding lowcountry played in the Reconstruction Era of 1861-1900, the period in which the nation struggled to integrate millions of newly freed African Americans into social, political, economic, and labor systems. 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 his 1843 home (outside only), his grave, and the monument dedicated to him. Visit the Reconstruction Era National Monument and the Penn Center, a former school

for freed slaves, now a cultural center and museum of African-American history. Continue on to Savannah, Georgia (1 hour drive) and check into your hotel in the historic district. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening and time to explore historic Savannah.

Overnight: River Street Inn, Savannah (B, L)

Day 4: Savannah

This morning, set out on a walking tour of historic Savannah, learn about its Antebellum years, and explore the complex web of the institution of slavery and how deeply woven it was around Savannah and its citizens. Visit the First African Baptist Church, home to the oldest black congregation in North America, whose first congregants were slaves who worked the fields during the day and constructed the church by night. Visit the Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters, a historic home turned museum, housing one of the oldest and most well-preserved slave quarters in the American South. Tour the home and explore the complex relationships that existed between the most and least powerful people in Savannah in the early 19th century and how these constructs in power are reflected in society today. Enjoy lunch on your own, then meet your coach and driver and head out to the beautiful and historic Bonaventure Cemetery, whose African-American section is one of the city's most important Black heritage sites, featuring the graves of enslaved people and many of Savannah's most historically significant African Americans. Then, transfer to the Pin Point Heritage Museum, located in an old oyster and crab factory, and experience firsthand the Gullah Geechee culture of Savannah and the surrounding lowcountry. This evening, meet the group for a farewell dinner and live music in historic Savannah.

Overnight: River Street Inn, Savannah (B, D)

Day 5: Savannah

This morning, trace the progress of the struggle toward equality for people of color living in Savannah from abolition forward. Meet with a representative from the Coastal Heritage Society and tour the Frogtown Tenements, part of the Savannah History Museum and the last remaining residential structures from the diverse and underserved neighborhood of Frogtown. Hear the stories of black and other minority families that inhabited Frogtown from the end of the Civil War through the mid 20th century and learn about the Coastal Heritage Society's efforts to preserve these structures and their stories. Learn about Frogtown, West Broad Street, and Cuyler-Brownsville, predominantly African-American neighborhoods, founded in the wake of the Civil War as a direct response to the persecution the newly freed black community faced. Trace the ebbs and flows of black neighborhoods and black-owned businesses in Savannah during the Reconstruction Era, into the mid-20th century, and still today. Visit the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum and peruse interactive exhibits capturing the struggles of Savannah's fight for civil rights, from slavery through present day. Meet the group for a farewell lunch at a local restaurant before departing for the airport (on own) and flying home today.

(B, L)

