



MEJDI TOURS

MEJDI Tours Scheduled Departure

Tour: **Civil Rights Legacy Series: Music & Civil Rights - Memphis & Nashville**

Dates: September 2-5, 2021; April 7-10, 2022

Included: 3 nights' accommodation at the following hotels or similar (double occupancy): Hampton Inn & Suites Memphis Beale Street, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Downtown Nashville
1 expert guide for 4 days
Walking tours on days 1 & 4
Private coach transportation on 2 & 3
Meals listed in itinerary: 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers¹
US-based customer service representatives

Not included: Airfare
Arrival/departure airport transfers
Travel insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
Single Supplement - \$375
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
Gratuities
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

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

Overview:

From African American spirituals to gospel to folk to blues to uniting and inspiring activists in their pursuit of justice and freedom, music has always been deeply intertwined with the heart of the Civil Rights Movement and the quest for social justice across the U.S. Trace the Civil Rights Movement from slavery to the rise of Jim Crow and the seminal events of the late 20th century that inspired people around the world to stand up for equality. Discuss how music played a role and how these milestones and the lessons behind them can be applied to today. Take in live music performances in the "Home of the Blues & Birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll" and "Music City." Sit down with local artists and discuss how music shapes

¹ Subject to confirmation based on availability

and preserves identity and spurs social change. Meet with a local black musician in Nashville and discuss the complexities of young black artists getting started in a historically white industry, the tumultuous relationship between the country music industry and the current racial reckoning taking place in the United States today, and where the industry is going in the future. Explore how local communities continue to grapple with the difficult lessons of the past and how the younger generation is tackling issues around race and the pursuit of social justice.

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival - Memphis, Tennessee

Arrive in Memphis, Tennessee and transfer to your hotel (on own). Meet your expert guide in the lobby of your hotel and walk to the **National Civil Rights Museum**, located at the Lorraine Motel, the assassination site of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Trace the Civil Rights Movement from the beginning of the resistance during slavery, through the Civil War and Reconstruction, to the rise of Jim Crow, and the seminal events of the late 20th century that inspired people around the world to stand up for equality. Discuss how these milestones and the lessons behind them can be applied to today. This evening, head out on foot to explore **Beale Street**, the iconic music and entertainment mecca of Memphis and enjoy a **welcome dinner**.

Overnight: Hampton Inn & Suites Memphis Beale Street (D)

Day 2: Memphis

This morning, further explore the city known as the “Home of the Blues & Birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll” and discover how music played a role in black history from slavery, through the civil rights movement of the 50's and 60's and into today. **See the modest Beale Street home of W. C. Handy**, the self-declared “Father of Blues” who changed the course of popular music by integrating blues into ragtime and **Sun Studio**, whose owner, Sam Phillips, was among the first producers to hire African American artists, and who launched Elvis's career. **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.** Over lunch, meet with locals in Memphis. **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. This evening at your hotel, **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. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening.

Overnight: Hampton Inn & Suites Memphis Beale Street (B, L)

Day 3: Nashville

Depart early this morning for Nashville (3 hour drive) with stops en route. Upon arrival, set off on a tour of **Nashville's Civil Rights Trail with a former Freedom Rider** of the Freedom Rides of 1961. See **Fisk University**, the first African-American institution to receive accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Learn about the Fisk Jubilee Singers and their historic tour that preserved the rich heritage of the Negro Spiritual and discuss how Fisk continues to nurture individual talent in musicians today. Visit the **Civil Rights Room at the Nashville Public Library** and learn the story of the Nashville sit-in movement. See the **Davidson County Courthouse**, where students confronted Nashville's mayor to protest segregation, and the Witness Walls, inspired by these people and events. After lunch, take a **guided tour of the Country Music Hall of Fame** and trace the story of country music from its pre-commercial roots in the nineteenth century through its popularity today. Tonight, join the group for a **farewell dinner and live music performance by a local black musician, followed by a discussion on the complexities young black artists face while getting started in a historically white industry, the tumultuous relationship between the country music industry and the current racial reckoning taking place in the United States today**, and where the industry is headed in the future. **Discuss how music shapes and preserves identity and spurs social change.**

Overnight: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Downtown Nashville (B, L, D)

Day 4: Nashville & Departure

This morning, visit the **National Museum of African American Music**, dedicated to preserving and celebrating the many music genres created, influenced, and inspired by African Americans. For lunch, take a **tasting tour**, and visit quirky and quaint neighborhoods and stop at local eateries to sample local dishes. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure or transfer to the airport (on own) and depart for home. *(B, L)*