

U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL JOURNEY

# LOUISIANA







Baton Rouge

Bogalusa

New Orleans

*New Orleans - Bogalusa  
(1 hr. 22 mins.)*

*New Orleans - Baton Rouge  
(1 hr. 17 mins.)*

*The U.S. Civil Rights Trail spans 14 states, features more than 100 sites and highlights the country's civil rights story. Your journey along the trail begins in New Orleans, Louisiana.*



## WILLIAM FRANTZ PUBLIC SCHOOL

*William Frantz Elementary School  
New Orleans, LA*

## DAY 1 – NEW ORLEANS

*William Frantz Elementary School > McDonogh 19 Elementary School > New Zion Baptist Church*

When you combine the flair and flavor of Louisiana with a rich civil rights heritage, you are sure to create an unforgettable and enlightening travel experience. Begin your journey at William Frantz Elementary School.

### **William Frantz Elementary School**

On Nov. 14, 1960, 6-year-old Ruby Bridges became the first Black student to attend previously all-white William Frantz Elementary School. Today, a statue of Ruby stands in the school's courtyard, and classroom 2306 has been restored to the way it would have looked when she attended the school.

### **McDonogh 19 Elementary School**

On the same day Ruby Bridges entered William Franz Elementary, three 6-year-old girls entered McDonogh 19 in the Ninth Ward. Leona Tate, Tessie Prevost and Gail Etienne were escorted into the school surrounded by federal marshals and their parents. Not allowed to play outside, the girls had recess indoors, ate under staircases and had the windows covered at all times for their safety.



*New Zion Baptist Church  
New Orleans, LA*

### **New Zion Baptist Church**

After lunch, continue your Louisiana civil rights tour at New Zion Baptist Church, the site of many important meetings of the Civil Rights Movement, including the founding of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which was headquartered in Atlanta.





Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA

# DAY 2 – NEW ORLEANS TO BOGALUSA

*United States Court of Appeals Building > Canal Street > A.Z. Young House > Robert “Bob” Hicks House > Greater Ebenezer Baptist Church*

Start your second day in New Orleans at the United States Court of Appeals Building.

### United States Court of Appeals Building

The building is a National Historic Landmark for the role its judges played in handing down decisions in favor of school integration.



United States Court of Appeals Building  
New Orleans, LA

### Canal Street

In 1960, Canal Street became the frontline for civil rights protests in the city. Sit-ins at lunch counters at Woolworth’s on the corner of Canal and Rampart streets were followed by a second sit-in Sept. 17 at the McCrory’s lunch counter at 1005 Canal Street. It took two more years of protests before the lunch counters were opened to all.

**To get to Bogalusa, leave New Orleans via the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway – the world’s longest bridge over a body of water.**

### A.Z. Young House

At 1112 Young Brothers Road, you can visit the home of A.Z. Young who led the 10-day, 105-mile march from Bogalusa to the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge where he presented a list of grievances to Gov. John McKeithen. This march was instrumental in gaining better hiring practices in Louisiana.

### Robert “Bob” Hicks House

The house at 924 East Robert “Bob” Hicks Street served as a gathering place for civil rights activists and as the headquarters for the Bogalusa Deacons for Defense and Justice chapter. The Deacons for Defense was an armed African-American self-defense group that protected civil rights activists and their families.

### Greater Ebenezer Baptist Church

Located on 1104 Poplas Street, the church was the only one in the Bogalusa community that permitted grassroots meetings. As news media described, “Freedom Songs at the Ebenezer Baptist Church inspired unity, and heroic leaders articulated to overflowed audiences.”

## DAY 3 – BATON ROUGE

*Mount Zion Baptist Church and the Baton Rouge Bus Boycott > Old State Capitol > Memorial Stadium > Southern University > Louisiana State Capitol*

Depart New Orleans and make your way to Baton Rouge. Your first stop will be Mount Zion Baptist Church, the site of the Baton Rouge Boycott.

### **Mount Zion Baptist Church and the Baton Rouge Bus Boycott**

The Rev. T.J. Jemison, pastor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, organized the Baton Rouge Bus Boycott in 1953. It was a landmark civil rights action that served as a model for the now internationally known 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott. It also inspired residents to mobilize around other issues, such as securing the right to vote.

Car-pool sites included the Old State Capitol (in downtown Baton Rouge) where people gathered under the Bicentennial Oak to wait for free rides. During the boycott, **Memorial Stadium** was a protest site and staging area for crowds too large for local churches and schools. The bus boycott lasted only a few days but was a huge stride toward progress in Louisiana.



*Southern University  
Baton Rouge, LA*

### **Southern University**

Denver Smith and Leonard Brown, two Southern University students, were killed taking part in a peaceful, unarmed protest by African-American students. They had gathered at the university's administration building to protest against administration officials and their policies. In 2017, the Academic Affairs Committee of the Southern University System board voted to award Brown and Smith posthumous degrees.

### **Louisiana State Capitol**

The Capitol was the site of many protests, marches and civil rights speeches. Across the street from the Capitol is A.Z. Young Park, named in honor of the activist who worked for racial equality. After his death, Young was the first African-American to lie in state at the Louisiana State Capitol.

***This concludes your U.S. Civil Rights Trail journey in Louisiana.***



*Louisiana State Capitol  
Baton Rouge, LA*