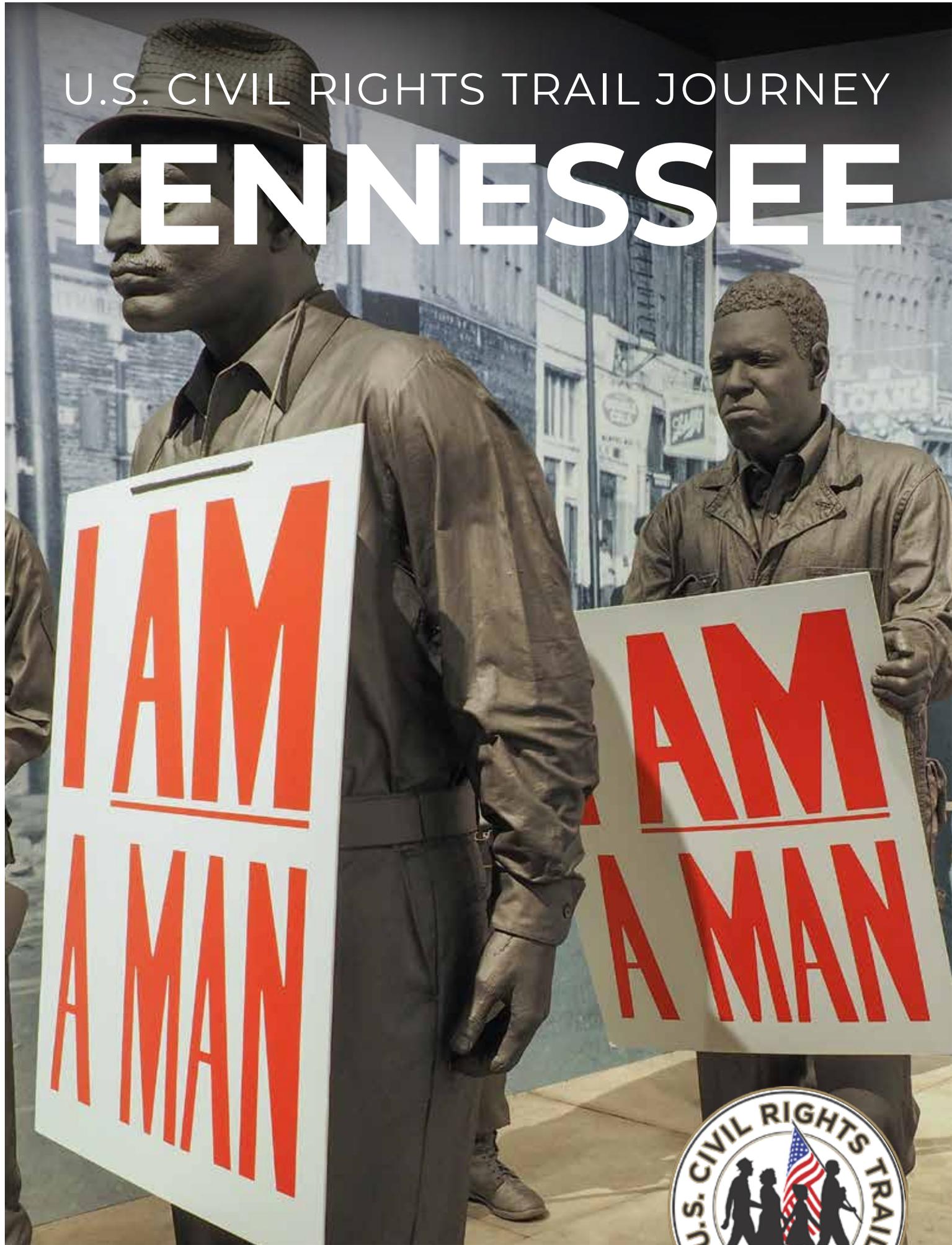
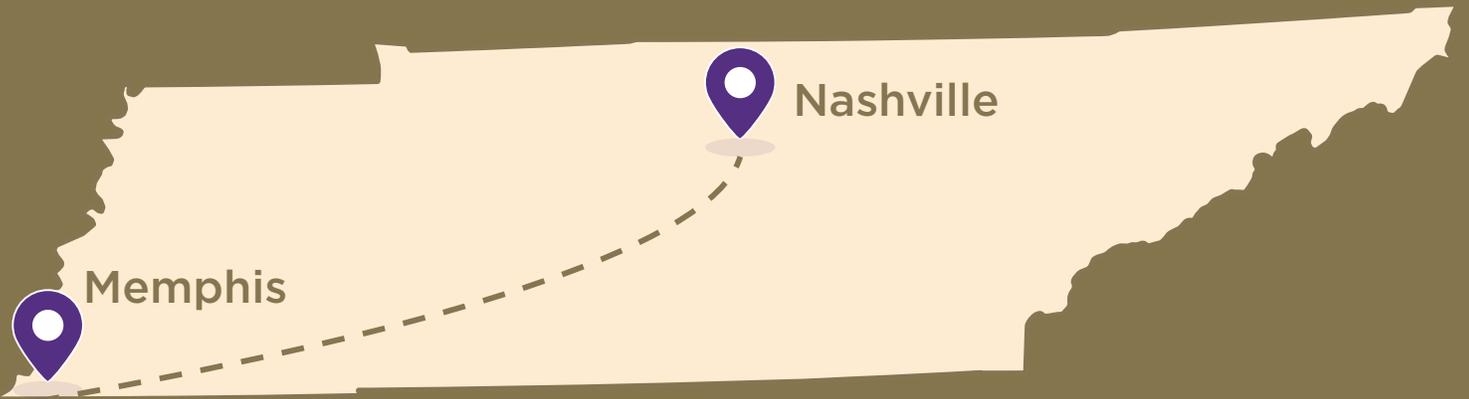


U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL JOURNEY

TENNESSEE





Nashville - Memphis (3 hrs. 7 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 Memphis, Tennessee.



Mason Temple Church of God in Christ
Memphis, TN

DAY 1 – MEMPHIS

Clayborn Temple > Mason Temple Church of God

Clayborn Temple

Start your civil rights history journey at Clayborn Temple. Named after African Methodist Episcopal Church Bishop Jim Clayborn, Clayborn Temple was an important hub for organizational meetings for the Civil Rights Movement in the region and served as a popular place for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to visit and give speeches. Clayborn Temple was also instrumental in the sanitation workers' strike and was the starting point for the solidarity march beginning February 1968. Protestors marched from the church to City Hall carrying signs that read "I AM A MAN."



Clayborn Temple
Memphis, TN

Mason Temple Church of God in Christ

This is the site where Dr. King delivered his prophetic "Mountaintop" speech on the eve of his assassination – April 3, 1968. On that night, 3,000 people demanded to hear Dr. King as he came to Memphis to support the 1,300 striking sanitation workers who met regularly at this church. Unfair working conditions and poor pay led to the strike and the response of a court injunction that banned further protests. Dr. King hoped their march would overturn the court order. To inspire the people, Dr. King famously said, "...And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the promised land."



Beale Street Historic District
Memphis, TN

DAY 2 – MEMPHIS TO NASHVILLE

National Civil Rights Museum > WDIA Radio Station > Beale Street Historic District

Begin your second day in Memphis at the National Civil Rights Museum. This will be the first of three stops in Memphis before you hit the road for Nashville.

National Civil Rights Museum

See artifacts and learn the history of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement and human rights movements worldwide at the National Civil Rights Museum. The museum has memorialized the balcony of the Lorraine Motel, where Dr. King was murdered, and also preserved Room 306 where he stayed the night before his assassination. A history of civil rights struggles dating from 1619 to 2000 is shared through videos, text, images and multimedia elements. The museum is open every day except Tuesday.



National Civil Rights Museum
Memphis, TN

radio personalities and brought awareness to a relatively new market of listeners. The station's influence and popularity reached 10 percent of the Black population in the U.S. Music legends such as B.B. King and Rufus Thomas got their start by working at WDIA.

Beale Street Historic District

Created in 1841, Beale Street is one of the most iconic streets in America. It began as a thriving area for commerce, musicians and Black-owned businesses and was home to Ida B. Wells' anti-segregationist newspaper. Four sites in the Beale Street Historic District are particularly significant to the Civil Rights Movement: Historical Daisy Theatre, Randle Catron Interpretive Center, Withers Collection Museum & Gallery, First Baptist Church (Beale Street) and Robert R. Church Park.



WDIA Radio Station
Memphis, TN

WDIA Radio Station

WDIA was the first radio station in the country programmed entirely for the African-American community. The station went on the air on June 7, 1947, and featured African-American

DAY 3 – NASHVILLE

Civil Rights Room > Clark Memorial United Methodist Church > Witness Walls > Fisk University > Griggs Hall

Your tour of Nashville starts in the Civil Rights Room in the Nashville Public Library.

Civil Rights Room at the Nashville Public Library

Step inside the immaculate Nashville Public Library and climb the marble stairs to the second floor where you'll find the Civil Rights Room, a space for exploration of the civil rights collection that includes black-and-white photographs of the events surrounding Nashville during the 1950s and 1960s. A symbolic lunch counter can be found along with the "Ten Rules of Conduct" protestors adhered to during their peaceful sit-ins, and also a timeline of local and national events. You can even see the intersection of Church Street and Seventh Avenue North through the library's large windows where nonviolent protests against segregated lunch counters occurred. The room is open to the public during regular library hours.



*Civil Rights Room at the Nashville Public Library
Nashville, TN*

Clark Memorial United Methodist Church

Make your way to 14th Avenue North in downtown Nashville to see Clark Memorial United Methodist Church, which served as a meeting site for many civil rights efforts. James Lawson hosted nonviolent protest workshops in 1958 at the church, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. held the Southern Christian Leadership Conference annual meeting there in 1961.



*Witness Walls
Nashville, TN*

Witness Walls

After the home of Z. Alexander Looby, a lawyer for civil rights cases, was bombed, students and others marched to the Davidson County Courthouse where they met with Mayor Ben West who conceded that segregation was immoral and that the city's lunch counters should be desegregated. Located next to the courthouse, *Witness Walls*, created by artist Walter Hood, tells the stories of the events and the people who made civil rights history in Nashville. School desegregation, marches, meetings, Freedom Rides, lunch counter sit-ins and economic boycotts are represented on the concrete walls. *Witness Walls* was dedicated in 2017 and is a project of the Metro Nashville Arts Commission's Percent for Public Art Program.

Fisk University

Fisk University is the oldest university in Nashville and the first African-American university to receive accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Fisk University students were instrumental in many of the sit-in demonstrations throughout Nashville. You can learn about the university's history and some of its famous alumni including Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Thurgood Marshall (the first African-American justice of the U.S. Supreme Court) and U.S. Rep. John Lewis. You can also visit the extensive art collection in the Carl Van Vechten Gallery.

Griggs Hall

Griggs Hall was the first building constructed on the campus of American Baptist College, a seminary for Black students. It became the center for nonviolent training and activity in the area, especially the Nashville sit-in program.

This concludes your U.S. Civil Rights Trail journey in Tennessee.