



Birmingham - Selma (1 hr. 40 mins.) Selma - Montgomery (52 mins.) Montgomery - Tuskegee (30 mins.)



# **DAY 1 – BIRMINGHAM**

Kelly Ingram Park > Birmingham Civil Rights Institute > 16th Street Baptist Church

Birmingham, a city whose name is almost synonymous with the Civil Rights Movement, was the site of much bloodshed and strife as civil rights leaders faced strong opposition and the attempted destruction of their churches and meeting places. Having struggled to shed the stigma of violence and injustice, Birmingham today is home to several memorials and one of the country's premier civil rights museums. A visit to this city offers a sobering and reflective experience for anyone interested in this important era of American history.

#### Kelly Ingram Park

In Birmingham, your civil rights journey begins at Kelly Ingram Park. This improved public park contains emotionally powerful sculptures depicting the civil rights struggle and is also the site where the Southern Christian Leadership Conference held the Children's Marches.





### Birmingham Civil Rights Institute

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) is a modern museum that serves as a connection to the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument, a collection of sites important to the Civil Rights Movement. Visitors to the BCRI can experience a rendition of a segregated city in the 1950s, as well as examine a replica of a Freedom Riders bus and even the actual jail cell door from behind which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. penned his famous "Letter From Birmingham Jail."

# Sixteenth Street Baptist Church

Sixteenth Street Baptist Church served as a meeting place for the organization of marches and other civil rights activities. In 1963, the church was bombed, resulting in the deaths of four young Black girls: Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Denise McNair and Carole Robertson. This event galvanized the federal government to take action on civil rights legislation.



# DAY 2 - SELMA

Selma Interpretive Center > Edmund Pettus Bridge > Lowndes Interpretive Center

Today, you will head south to Selma. This small town captured the attention of the entire nation and became the center of a decisive shift in the American conscience. The nexus of the voting rights campaign of the 1960s, Selma was the starting point for three marches in support of African-Americans' right to vote. These marches were crucial to the eventual passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

### Selma Interpretive Center

This welcome center, located at the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge, marks the beginning of the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. Visitors can pick up materials about the trail, explore the bookstore and learn the story of the movement through featured exhibits.



From Selma, you will follow in the footsteps of civil rights foot soldiers along U.S. Highway 80, better known as the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. Drive along the same 54-mile route activists took March 21-25, 1965, including crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

# **Edmund Pettus Bridge**

The Edmund Pettus Bridge, now a National Historic Landmark, was the site of the brutal Bloody Sunday beatings of civil rights marchers during the first march for voting rights. After Bloody Sunday, protestors were granted the right to continue marching, and two more marches for voting rights followed.

## **Lowndes Interpretive Center**

Located about halfway along the Selma-to-Montgomery trail is the Lowndes Interpretive Center. This National Park Service site is dedicated to those who peacefully marched from Selma to Montgomery to gain the right to vote. The center serves as a repository of information for the unfortunate and significant events that occurred in Lowndes County during the march.

The museum houses exhibits on the death of seminarian Jonathan Daniels; the slaying of Viola Liuzzo, a white woman who assisted marchers by transporting them to Selma; and the establishment of "Tent City," which housed families dislodged by white landowners in Lowndes County.

# **DAY 3 - MONTGOMERY**

Rosa Parks Museum > Civil Rights Memorial > Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church

With 10 sites along the trail, the capital of Alabama represents an important place in the fight for voting rights, with the Alabama State Capitol building having served as the end point of the third march for voting rights from Selma. But there's much more to Montgomery's significance than what occurred at the iconic Capitol.



# Rosa Parks Arrest Historical Marker and Statue, and Rosa Parks Museum

First, arrive at the corner where Rosa Parks was arrested and see the Rosa Parks statue next to the Court Square Fountain at the bottom of Dexter Avenue. Then head over to the Rosa Parks Museum on Troy University's campus in downtown Montgomery. The museum offers a unique retelling of the infamous day that led to a movement that would change the world.

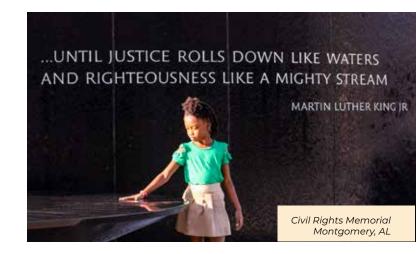
## Civil Rights Memorial

This memorial is a moving tribute to those who died in the civil rights struggle between 1954 and 1968. Visitors can also pledge to work for tolerance and fight against hate at the Wall of Tolerance. The memorial is located on an open plaza accessible to visitors 24 hours a day, every day of the week.



# Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church

No visitor should leave Montgomery without a tour experience at Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. Located just around the corner from the Civil Rights Memorial, this is where Dr. King served as pastor during the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955-1956.





# DAY 4 - MONTGOMERY & TUSKEGEE

National Memorial for Peace and Justice > Legacy Museum > Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site



# National Memorial for Peace and Justice

The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, the first memorial of its kind, recognizes the thousands of lynchings that occurred across the U.S., many of which were undocumented.

### Legacy Museum

Next, visit the Legacy Museum. Located on the site where enslaved people were once warehoused and sold, the museum offers the opportunity to reflect on the history of racial injustice in our nation and its effects on our society today.

About 30 minutes outside of Montgomery is Tuskegee, where you can check out the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site.

# Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site

Learn about the Tuskegee Airmen who formed the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps and fought in World War II as the first African-American military aviators in the nation's history.

# Freedom Riders National Monument

If you have time at the end of your trip, the Freedom Riders National Monument is well worth a visit. It is located in downtown Anniston, about 2 hours north of Tuskegee, and is the site of the 1961 bus burning and the former Greyhound bus station.

# This concludes your U.S. Civil Rights Trail journey in Alabama.

