

U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL JOURNEY

ARKANSAS





Little Rock

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 Little Rock, Arkansas.



*Little Rock Central High School Historic Site
Little Rock, AR*

DAY 1 – LITTLE ROCK

*Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site >
Little Rock Nine Memorial at the State Capitol*

Begin your journey along the U.S. Civil Rights Trail in Little Rock, the capital of Arkansas.

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site

Your course begins at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, home to the Little Rock School Crisis of 1957. That fall, while students were returning to the all-white Little Rock Central High School, nine new African-American faces were to be among them. Gov. Orval Faubus, in a direct challenge to the federal desegregation law, called in the state National Guard to block the way. By the time the Little Rock Nine arrived on campus, more than 1,000 angry white protesters had flocked to the scene. Photographs of the clash between Gov. Faubus and the Little Rock Nine placed Little Rock Central High School at the center of the nation's ongoing struggle to integrate public educational facilities. Learn more about the history of this site by booking a guided tour on the National Park Service's website.

Little Rock Nine Memorial at the State Capitol

Your course continues to the state Capitol to pay your respects at the Little Rock Nine Memorial. It features bronze sculptures of the nine students, along with plaques bearing quotations from each of them. Installed in 2005, the statues face the governor's office as a constant reminder of the struggle that took place.



*Little Rock Nine Memorial
Little Rock, AR*

DAY 2 – LITTLE ROCK

*Daisy Bates House >
Mosaic Templars Cultural Center*

Your exploration of Little Rock continues with a visit to the Daisy Bates House.

Daisy Bates House

Tours of the house are not available, but travelers are welcome to drive by and view this historic home. Daisy Bates, president of the Arkansas chapter of the NAACP, served as a liaison between the local school board and the Little Rock Nine. She arranged a multiracial group of ministers to escort the nine students into school on the morning of Sept. 4, 1957. Bates's house functioned as a meeting place and organizational post for students and their parents. The house and property quickly became targets of anti-integration violence.



*Mosaic Templars Cultural Center
Little Rock, AR*

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

The next stop on the trail is the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center. This center was established in 2001 with the mission to collect, preserve, interpret and celebrate Arkansas' African-American history, culture and community from 1870 to the present, and to inform and educate the public about the achievements of African-Americans. The center offers self-guided tours and guided tours for groups of 10 or more.



*Daisy Bates House
Little Rock, AR*



Clinton Presidential Center
Little Rock, AR

DAY 3 – LITTLE ROCK

Clinton Presidential Center > Civil Rights Heritage Trail

Your U.S. Civil Rights Trail journey in Arkansas continues with a visit to the Clinton Presidential Center.

Clinton Presidential Center

The Presidential Library of Bill Clinton resides within the William J. Clinton Presidential Center and Park. It is located on a 30-acre city park in the River Market District of downtown Little Rock. The complex includes the Clinton Presidential Library, the offices of the Clinton Foundation, and the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service. The library features exhibits that chronicle Clinton's presidency, including replicas of the Oval Office and Cabinet Room.



Clinton Presidential Center
Little Rock, AR



Arkansas Civil Rights Heritage Trail
Little Rock, AR

Arkansas Civil Rights Heritage Trail Marker

The Arkansas Civil Rights Heritage Trail is an ever-growing collection of sites in Little Rock that were significant to the Civil Rights Movement. Created by the Anderson Institute on Race and Ethnicity at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the trail starts just outside the Old State House and will eventually stretch all the way to the Clinton Presidential Center.

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