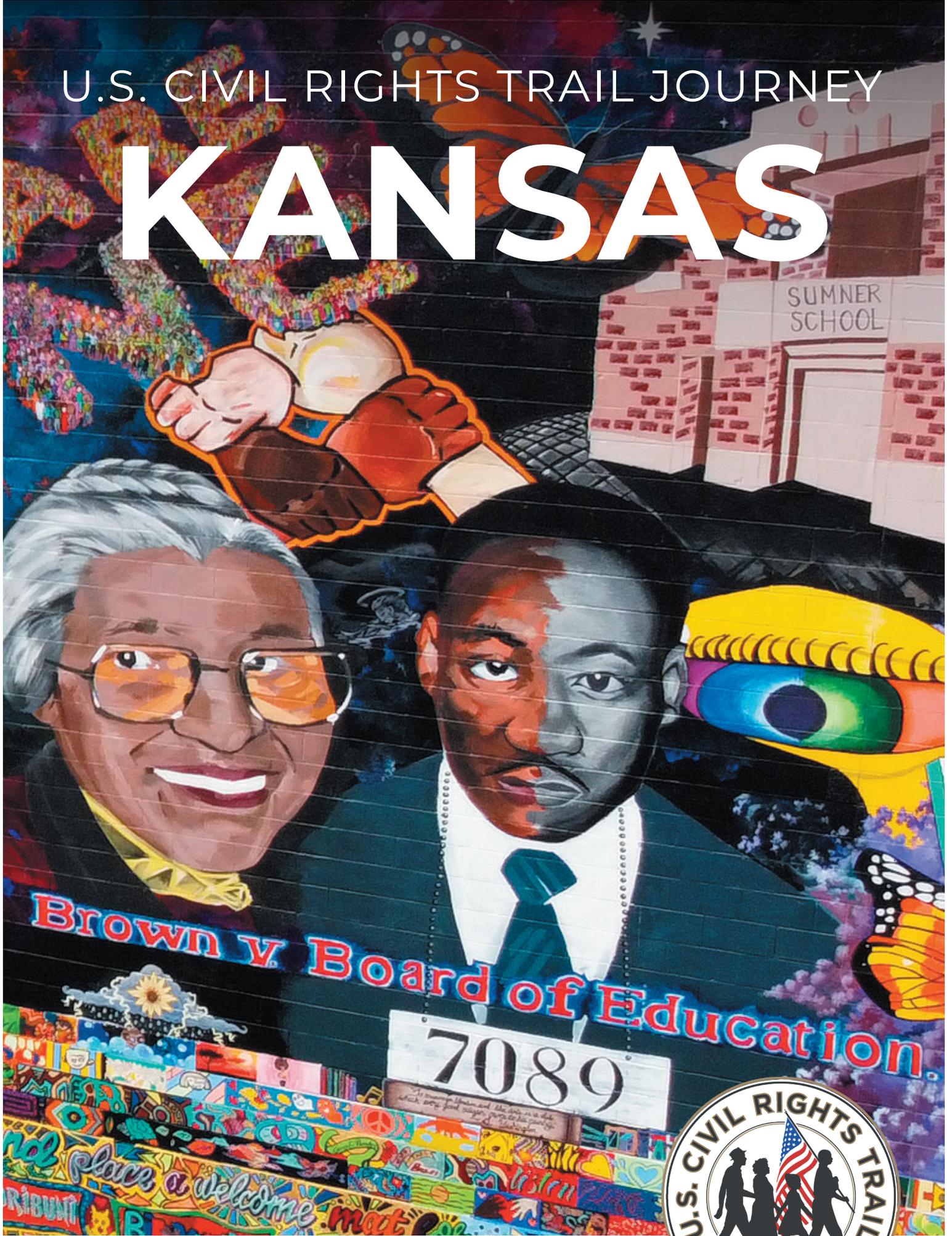


U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL JOURNEY

KANSAS





Topeka to Wamego (42 mins.)
Topeka to Nicodemus (3 hrs. 40 mins.)
Topeka to Wichita (2 hrs. 5 mins.)
Topeka to Kansas City (55 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 Topeka, Kansas.



Kansas Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas

DAY 1 – TOPEKA

Kansas Capitol Building > Constitution Hall > Monroe Elementary School/Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site

Kansas offers a wealth of important sites to visit for travelers who want to learn more about the struggle for civil rights. Many can be found in Topeka, home to the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case. Begin your journey at the Kansas Capitol Building.

Kansas Capitol Building

Walk through the historic, hallowed halls of this copper-domed architectural gem where you may have the opportunity to explore the two legislative chambers. Also of note are the murals that decorate the halls of the building, including the infamous second-floor depiction of abolitionist John Brown in John Stuart Curry's *Tragic Prelude*. On the third floor of the building, you'll find the stunning *Brown v. Board of Education* mural created in 2018 by Michael Young.

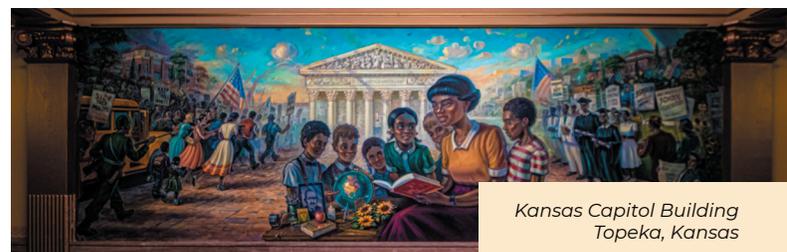
Constitution Hall

Constitution Hall was the location where delegates from around the Kansas Territory banned slavery in the Topeka Constitution for statehood. Kansas was eventually granted entrance into the Union as a free state on Jan. 29, 1861.

Monroe Elementary School/Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site

This site was one of four segregated elementary schools for black children in Topeka. The restored school was purchased by the National Park Service and reopened in 2004 housing the *Brown v. Board of Education* National Historic Site and civil rights interpretive center.

Brown v. Board of Education combined five cases heard before the United States Supreme Court on May 17, 1954. With this historic ruling, the justices struck down the earlier *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision that legally sanctioned segregation through its "separate but equal" clause. With the *Brown* case, the court determined that segregating schools created a fundamentally unequal situation. This decision ended legal segregation of schools. Take a moment to also see the *Brown v. Board of Education* mural across the street.



Kansas Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas

DAY 2 – TOPEKA

*Equality House > The Ritchie House >
The Charles Curtis House Museum*

Start your second day at the amazing Equality House.

Equality House

The world-famous Equality House is the resource center for all human rights initiatives for the Planting Peace organization. The home, painted in the vibrant colors of the Pride flag (whose creator was also a Kansan), is a symbol of compassion, peace and positive change. The enduring struggle for freedom and equality for all has been a recurring theme in American history, and Kansans have been a humble voice in it all.



*Equality House
Topeka, Kansas*

The Ritchie House

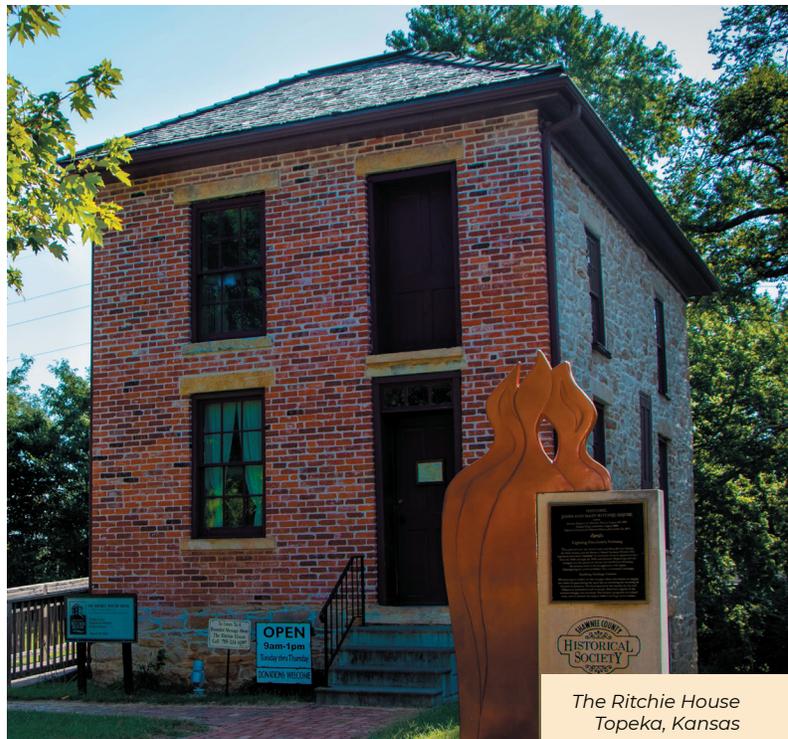
This brick structure, which many believe to be the oldest home in Topeka, was built by avid abolitionists John and Mary Ritchie and served as a station along the Underground Railroad in the 1850s and 1860s. Today, it serves as a museum that helps detail the part Kansas played as a destination and a route along the Underground Railroad.



*The Charles Curtis House Museum
Topeka, Kansas*

The Charles Curtis House Museum

Charles Curtis was the first person of color elected to the office of U.S. Vice President. Curtis was a biracial man whose mother was of Kansa, Osage and Potawatomi descent. The museum houses period décor, unique architecture and memorabilia outlining Curtis's political career.



*The Ritchie House
Topeka, Kansas*



In this hall you will see scenes from some of the critical confrontations of the Civil Rights movement. These are moments in which activists determined to change their world mastered the courage to face their fears and stand up for what was right. Enter and bear witness to their courage.

This all comprises a full experience. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult. All exhibits are subject to change without notice.

*Brown v. Board of Education
National Historic Site
Topeka, Kansas*

DAY 3 – TOPEKA

Other Kansas Civil Rights Destinations To Consider

Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie, Wamego

Only 4% of the world's tallgrass prairies remain, and many of the acres still in existence are in Kansas. But Mount Mitchell isn't just a pretty prairie. It served as an important Underground Railroad route that transported freedom seekers northward. Two and a half miles of walking trails provide access to the park's remarkably diverse plant and wildlife communities while allowing visitors to see remnants of the old trail that was used by the westernmost route of the Underground Railroad.

Nicodemus

The story of the community of Nicodemus tells of the involvement of formerly enslaved African-Americans in America's westward expansion. Nicodemus was founded by former slaves who left Kentucky during Reconstruction to find their freedom in the "promised land" on the plains of Kansas. This small town in northwestern Kansas is the only black settlement west of the Mississippi River still in existence. The walking tour of the town takes you to five historic buildings that represent the pillars of the African-American community: church, self-government, education, home and business.

Wichita

The nation's first successful student-led sit-in of the Civil Rights Movement occurred in July 1958 at the Dockum Drug Store in Wichita. The importance of the event was not recognized at the time and is only now starting to get some of the attention it deserves. The Dockum Drug Store, no longer in existence, was at the corner of Douglas and Broadway, where the Ambassador Hotel now stands. Also be sure to check out The Kansas African American Museum for expertly created exhibits highlighting the African-American experience in Kansas and the historical marker honoring Hattie McDaniel, the native Kansan who became the first black Academy Award winner. This marker is located where her childhood home once stood.

Kansas City

Kansas City is home of the former town of Quindaro, an important stop on the Underground Railroad. You can learn more about this fascinating history at the settlement ruins, overlook and the Quindaro Underground Railroad Museum. The museum houses archaeological ruins of the Underground Railroad that serve as a monument to racial harmony and to freedom. The displays have cultural and historical significance for descendants of Native Americans who once owned and occupied the site, for African Americans whose ancestors once looked to Quindaro as a gateway to freedom, and for descendants of Euro-Americans who saw the need to found a free state port of entry and fight slavery. At the museum, you can also see plaques and monuments reflecting the history of Western University, the first school for African Americans west of the Mississippi River.

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