

U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL JOURNEY LOUISIANA



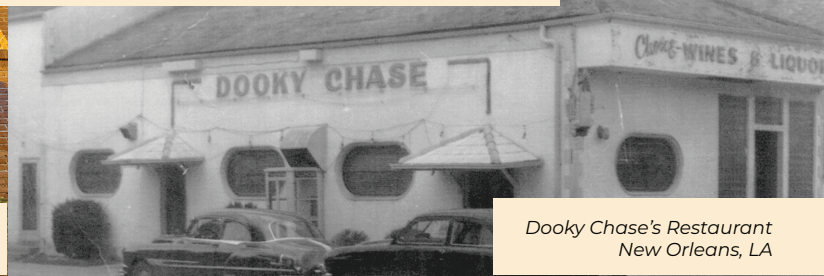


New Orleans - Bogalusa (1 hr. 22 mins.)
Bogalusa - Baton Rouge (1 hr. 37 mins.)
Baton Rouge - Lafayette (56 mins.)
Lafayette - Alexandria-Pineville
(1 hr. 19 mins.)

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 Elementary School
New Orleans, LA



Dooky Chase's Restaurant
New Orleans, LA

DAY 1 – NEW ORLEANS

William Frantz Elementary School > McDonogh 19 Elementary School > New Zion Baptist Church > Dooky Chase's Restaurant

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

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. Dooky Chase's Restaurant opened its doors for business in 1941. What was initially a sandwich shop and lottery ticket outlet in 1939 blossomed into a thriving bar and later a family restaurant in Tremé. Founded by

Dooky Chase's Restaurant

Emily and Dooky Chase Sr., Dooky Chase's Restaurant soon became the meeting place for music and entertainment, civil rights, and culture in New Orleans.

In 1946, Edgar Dooky Chase Jr. married Leah Lange Chase. Through the vision of Leah Chase, the barroom and sandwich shop grew into a sit-down restaurant wrapped within a cultural environment of African American art and Creole cooking.

Before the United States Supreme Court reversed its 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson decision, Dooky Chase's Restaurant had become the hot spot for discussing issues of civil and economic rights in the African American community. At the time, it was illegal for white and Black people to sit together. But Leah Chase opened the doors to her restaurant and invited activists into the upstairs dining room.

From those strategy sessions, planned and scheduled activities propelled civil rights and protests in the courts and onto the streets of New Orleans. In the 1960s, Martin Luther King Jr. and others would join these local leaders for strategy sessions and dialogue over meals in the upstairs meeting room at Dooky's.

Leah Chase said, "Food builds big bridges. If you can eat with someone, you can learn from them, and when you learn from someone, you can make big changes. We changed the course of America in this restaurant over bowls of gumbo. We can talk to each other and relate to each other when we eat together."



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 Poplar 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.



*Louisiana State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA*

DAY 4 – LAFAYETTE-ALEXANDRIA

Pillars of Progress Memorial at ULL > Louisiana Military Maneuvers Museum at Camp Beauregard

For the final leg of your journey, you'll depart Baton Rouge and head west to Lafayette, and then north to Alexandria.

Louisiana Military Maneuvers Museum at Camp Beauregard

Housed in a replica World War II barracks, the Louisiana Military Maneuvers Museum pays tribute to service members and civilians of Louisiana, with portions of the collections dating back to Colonial Louisiana.

Exhibits also explain the Louisiana Military Maneuvers. In 1940 and 1941, the U.S. Army came to the realization that it was short on manpower and in need of modernization, resulting in the implementation of a new strategy. The country mobilized the National Guard, conducted the first peacetime draft and selected several training sites. Louisiana was among the chosen sites due to its vast amount of available land, and more than 472,000 soldiers were trained in maneuvers there.

Brought into existence on April 1, 1942, at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, the 761st Tank Battalion trained during the Louisiana Maneuvers. The battalion was an experimental unit, just like the Tuskegee Airman of Alabama, and was attached to many commands in Europe. Eight infantry divisions used this armored unit for direct support. As part of Gen. George Patton's Third Army, the group's fighting ability became legendary and it acquired the nickname "Patton's Panthers."

By showing its prowess, this unit and others proved that the Army did not need segregated units. On July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981 desegregating the United States Army.



*Louisiana Military Maneuvers Museum at Camp Beauregard
Baton Rouge, LA*

Pillars of Progress Memorial at ULL

On September 15, 1953, before the landmark court case of Brown v. Board of Education, Clara Dell Constantine, Martha Jane Conway, Charles Vincent Singleton and Shirley Taylor attempted to enroll at Southwestern Louisiana Institute (SLI), now known as the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. They were denied, due to their race. On their behalf, attorney Thurgood Marshall, a future appointee to the U.S. Supreme Court, and attorney and civil rights pioneer A.P. Tureaud filed a class-action complaint in U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana on January 4, 1954, seeking admission to the all-white school.

A panel of three judges ruled in favor of the plaintiffs. On July 16, 1954, the court issued a judgment that permanently prohibited SLI from refusing to admit students on the basis of race or color. Six days after the lawsuit was won, John Harold Taylor became the first student to enroll. That fall, 80 Black students registered for classes, including the four plaintiffs in Constantine v. SLI. Trying times lay ahead. Desegregation was accomplished without the violence that would come later when other Southern schools admitted Black students for the first time.

To mark this milestone's 50th anniversary, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette dedicated its Pillars of Progress Memorial in 2004. The memorial pays tribute to SLI's first Black students, and the names of each appear on four pillars that represent the principles of courage, faith, knowledge and justice. One of the memorial's accompanying plaques lauds the students as "four who would change Southwestern forever," who "would bravely blaze a path for others to follow."

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