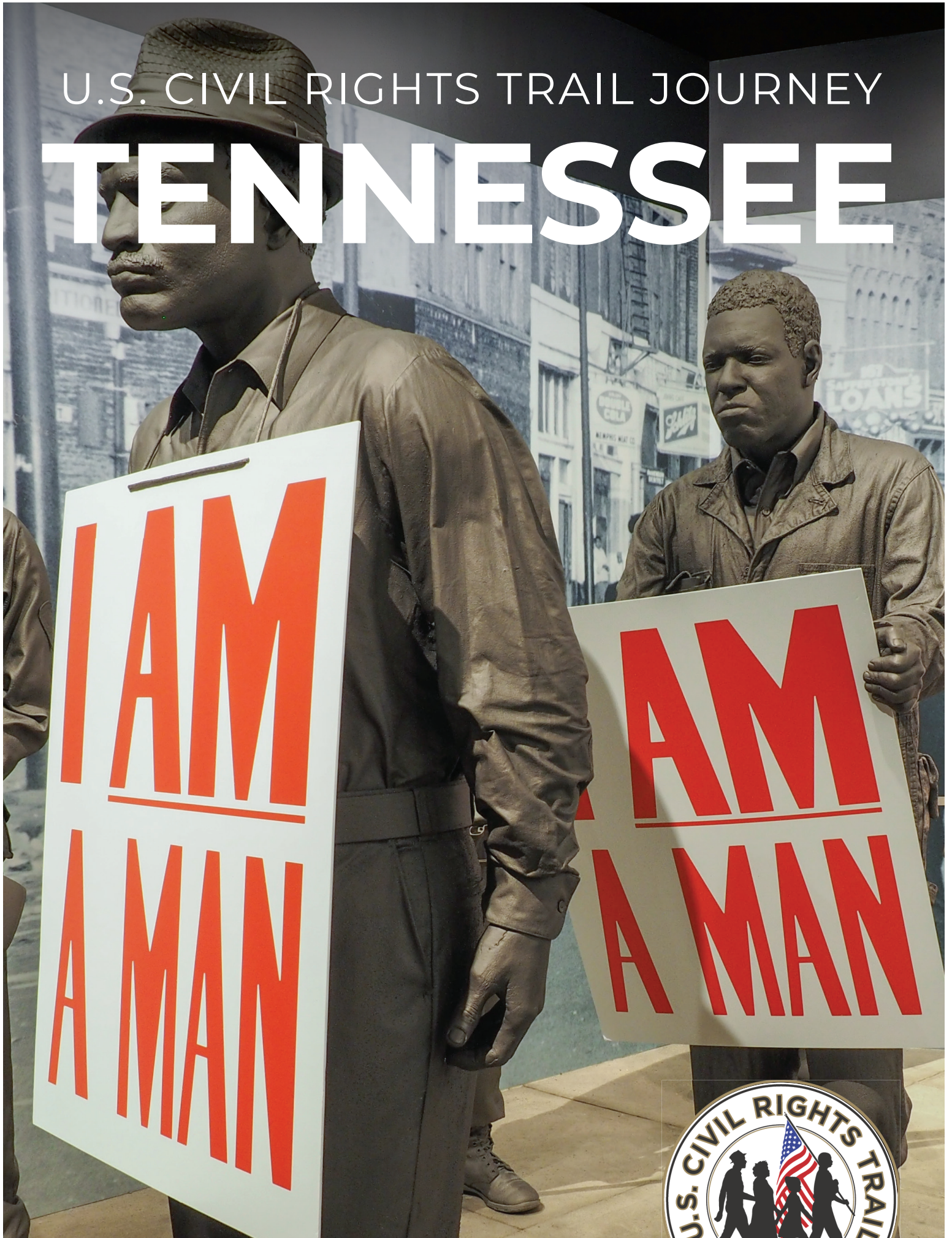
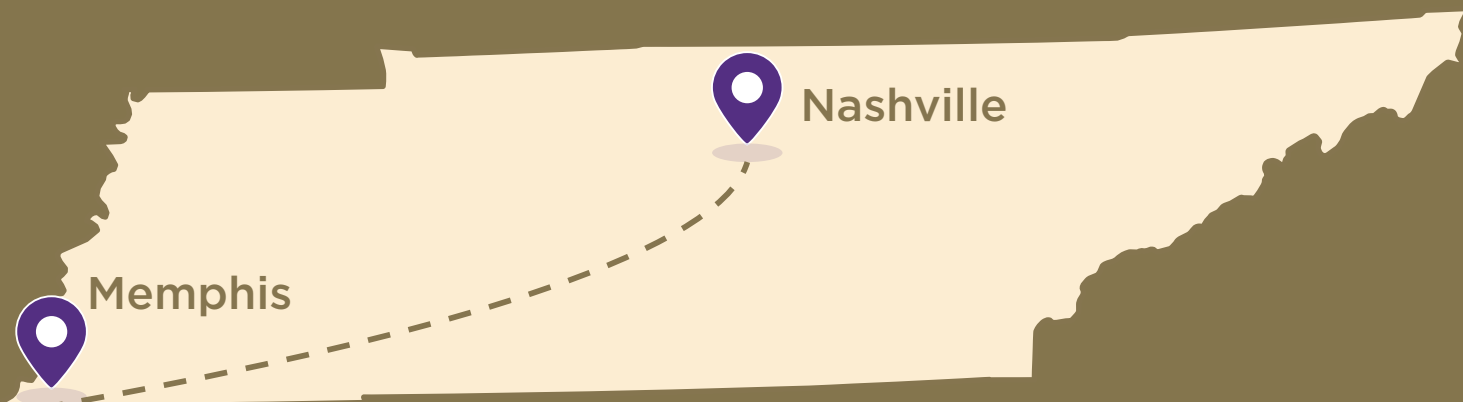


U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL JOURNEY

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.



Beale Street Historic District
Memphis, TN

DAY 1 – MEMPHIS

WDIA Radio Station > Beale Street Historic District > Clayborn Temple

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 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

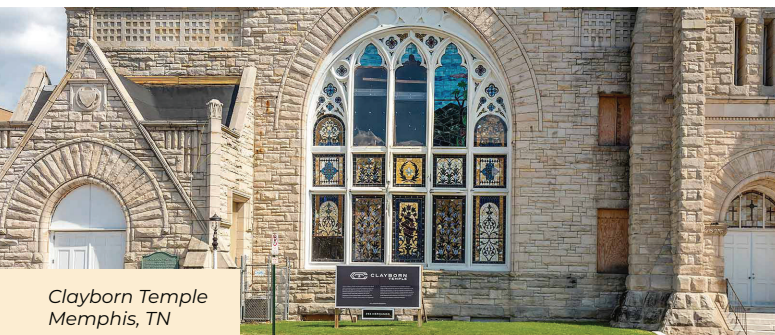
Created in 1841, Beale Street is one of the most iconic streets in America. It began as a thriving area for commerce, musicians and Black-owned businesses and was home to Ida B. Wells' anti-segregationist newspaper. Four sites in the Beale Street Historic District are particularly significant to the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

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."



WDIA Radio Station
Memphis, TN



Clayborn Temple
Memphis, TN



National Civil Rights Museum
Memphis, TN



Mason Temple Church of God in Christ
Memphis, TN

DAY 2 – MEMPHIS TO NASHVILLE

National Civil Rights Museum > Mason Temple Church of God in Christ > Stax Museum

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.

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.”

Stax Museum of American Soul Music

The Stax Museum of American Soul Music is both an international tourist destination and a

community museum that hosts more than 40 free programs each year. These offerings are targeted to local neighborhoods, the general public and young people.

The museum is located on the former site of Stax Records where, from 1960-1974, the tiny movie-theater-turned-recording-studio in South Memphis produced a string of hits that stir souls today. Jim Stewart and Estelle Axton, a brother and sister duo, purchased the old Capitol Theatre on McLemore Avenue to relocate their recording equipment. Unbeknownst to them, they would soon be part of a worldwide sensation dubbed American soul music. Many of the artists and musicians who recorded at Stax were from surrounding neighborhoods, local churches and schools. In a time when racial tension was high, this studio never saw race but rather focused on producing its own unique sound that would be heard around the world.

With permanent exhibits such as the interior of a circa-1906 A.M.E. Mississippi Delta church and Isaac Hayes’ 1972 gold-trimmed Cadillac Eldorado, the museum tells the story of Stax Records and the role of American soul music in the Civil Rights Movement. Through other exhibits and thousands of fascinating artifacts, the Stax Museum highlights artists such as Otis Redding, the Staple Singers, Sam & Dave, Rufus and Carla Thomas, Johnnie Taylor, Al Green, Aretha Franklin, Ike & Tina Turner, Albert King, Booker T. & the M.G.’s, and hundreds of others. Their stories tell of Black and white artists working together to create music during an era of egregious segregation and heated racism in Memphis.

DAY 3 – NASHVILLE

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

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

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.

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.

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
Nashville, TN



Clark Memorial United Methodist Church
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.



Witness Walls
Nashville, TN

DAY 4 – NASHVILLE

Civil Rights Room at the Nashville Public Library > National Museum of African American Music

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



Civil Rights Room at the Nashville Public Library
Nashville, TN

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.

National Museum of African American Music

The National Museum of African American Music (NMAAM) in downtown Nashville is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the many music genres created, influenced and inspired by African Americans. The museum features galleries based on various time periods in music history, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in a specific era and become part of the musical experience. The



"One Nation Under a Groove" gallery focuses on key musical influences that took place after World War II. This gallery emphasizes the impact of radio, Black music executives and growth from R&B through disco, pop and video.

The museum, which opened in January 2021, uses state-of-the-art technology and interactive exhibits that include floor-to-ceiling video projection, interactive digital experiences, gospel singing instruction from Dr. Bobby Jones, a psychedelic disco dance lesson chamber, a rap battle studio, and chip bracelets so visitors can take home their own curated playlists and interactivity from the experience. Educational programs spotlight achievements in and influences of African American music. The robust NMAAM education department teaches the community and visitors with programming and events for all ages.



National Museum of African American Music
Nashville, TN

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