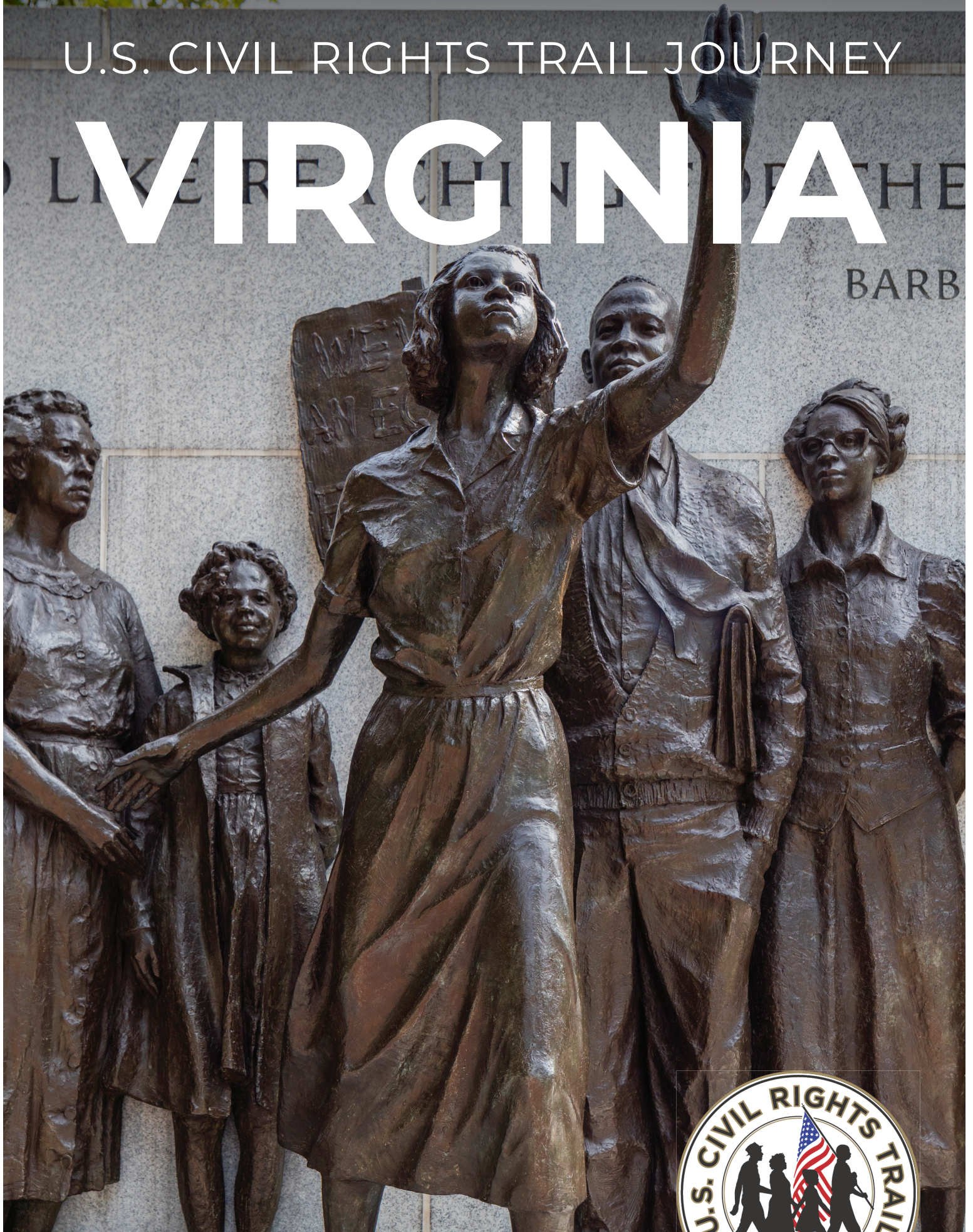


U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL JOURNEY

VIRGINIA





Danville - Farmville (1 hr. 43 mins.)
Farmville - Richmond (1 hr. 17 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 Danville, Virginia.

DAY 1 – DANVILLE

Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History

During the summer of 1963, Danville, Virginia, was the site of some of the most violent episodes of the Civil Rights Movement. The conflict actually began in 1960 with a sit-in at the Danville Public Library, housed in a mansion that had hosted remnants of the Confederate government as its leaders fled Richmond at the end of the Civil War. The sit-in became particularly historic because Danville officials chose to close the library rather than allow Black visitors. Other demonstrations for racial equality and job opportunities followed and were met with strong resistance.

The library is now the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History, where an exhibit titled “The Movement” depicts the local struggle for equality. It features testimonies of the protest participants (including incidents of police brutality), as well as testimonies of civil rights leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who visited Danville.



*Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History
Danville, VA*



DAY 1 – FARMVILLE

Robert Russa Moton Museum

On your arrival, head to the Robert Russa Moton Museum. A National Historic Landmark, the school-turned-museum commemorates the “Birthplace of the Student Civil Rights Movement.”

While the fight for desegregation was heating up in the late 1950s and early '60s, the country saw plenty of protests and counter protests, as well as walkouts, sit-ins and boycotts. But earlier than that, in 1951, one such event was especially powerful because it was led by two students: 16-year-old Barbara Johns and John Arthur Stokes. They rallied a group of students and organized a walkout of all-Black Robert Russa Moton High School in protest of the school's poor conditions. The NAACP then teamed up with the students and worked to integrate the schools of Prince Edward County. The lawsuit filed against the school board of Prince Edward County was later incorporated into *Brown v. Board of Education*, making Farmville a key destination to learn about school integration and the overturning of *Plessy v. Ferguson*.



Robert Russa Moton Museum
Farmville, VA



DAY 2 – RICHMOND

Virginia Civil Rights Memorial > Black History Museum & Cultural Center > Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Continue your travels, heading east to Richmond. Here, you'll find several sites to explore and chart the course of the Civil Rights Movement in Virginia.

Virginia Civil Rights Memorial

Visit the state Capitol, where the memorial is located, and pay homage to Barbara Johns and other students who participated in the 1951 walkout at Moton High School.

Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia

This museum celebrates the rich culture and moving histories of African-Americans in Virginia and their contributions to the state and to the nation.

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

The museum is open 365 days a year and its grounds are the permanent home of "Rumors of War," a 27-foot statue by artist Kehinde Wiley.



*Black History Museum & Cultural Center
Richmond, VA*



*Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Richmond, VA*



*Virginia Civil Rights Memorial
Richmond, VA*

DAY 3 – RICHMOND

*Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site >
Richmond Historical Markers*

Make your first stop of the day at the home of Maggie L. Walker.

Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site

Maggie Lena Mitchell Walker was born in Richmond in July of 1864 to Elizabeth Draper, a formerly enslaved woman. Walker grew to become the first woman to serve as president of a bank in the United States and was a dedicated civil rights activist and member of the NAACP board. The Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site includes Walker's home, which contains many of its original furnishings and offers visitors a glimpse into the life of this extraordinary woman.

Richmond Historical Markers

Take a drive around the city to explore the various historical markers honoring those who fought tirelessly to bring justice and equality to all.

Former Thalhimers Department Store – Broad Street between Sixth and Seventh streets

On Feb. 20, 1960, Virginia Union University students entered Thalhimers Department Store and were refused service at the whites-only lunch counter. In protest, they stayed until the business closed for the day. They were ultimately arrested, but their convictions were overturned in 1963 – a momentous victory for the Civil Rights Movement.



*Maggie L. Walker Memorial
Richmond, VA*

Lewis F. Powell Jr. United States Courthouse

Oliver Hill and Spottswood Robinson were civil rights attorneys in the *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County* case. This case was one of five that were consolidated into *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Dorothy Height Historical Marker – 1400 Hull Street

This historical marker recognizes Richmond-born activist and trailblazer Dorothy Height. Height was a paramount advocate for both civil and women's rights and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004.

***This concludes your U.S. Civil Rights Trail
journey in Virginia***



*Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site
Richmond, VA*