



Civil Rights—A Journey to Freedom

April 23 - 27, 2022*

\$2,995*

The Alabama cities of Montgomery, Birmingham, and Selma birthed the national leadership of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s, when tens of thousands of people came together to advance the cause of justice against remarkable odds and fierce resistance. In partnership with the non-profit Alabama Civil Rights Tourism Association and in support of local businesses and communities, we invite you to experience the people, places, and events igniting change and defining a pivotal period for America that continues today. Dive deeper beyond history's headlines to the newsmakers, learning from actual foot soldiers of the struggle whose vivid and compelling stories bring a history of unforgettable tragedy and irrepressible triumph to life.

Highlights & Inclusions

- Journey through the Deep South accompanied by an Orbridge Travel Director to gain an enhanced understanding of the historic and continued struggle for racial equality in the United States.
- Visit prominent locations integral to the Civil Rights Movement many have only read about in books, including Kelly Ingram Park in Birmingham and the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma.
- Retrace the footsteps and learn more of central figures, including Dr. King, Rosa Parks, and Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth.
- Treasure the opportunity to hear first-hand the powerful accounts of foot soldiers' struggles and triumphs with interactive discussions.
- Meet quiltmakers from Gee's Bend to discuss their art.
- Join choir members for a musical program that outlines the origins of Negro spirituals and how these songs were integrated into the first independent black churches and how choirs supported Dr. King on his trips around the U.S. Afterward, enjoy a delicious dinner with the group.
- Visit the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice—two institutions that have taken diverse and complementary approaches to telling the rich and moving stories of the Civil Rights Movement and of America's history of racial inequality.
- Gather together at Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church.
- Celebrate the accomplishments of pioneering African-American aviators at the Tuskegee Airmen Historic Site.
- Delight in a farewell lunch accompanied by true southern hospitality at the private restored antebellum home of Ms. Sandy Taylor, the retired Superintendent of the National Park Services Tuskegee Site.

Itinerary

- Day 1:** Arrive in Birmingham, AL
- Day 2:** Birmingham
- Day 3:** Birmingham / Montgomery
- Day 4:** Montgomery / Selma / Montgomery
- Day 5:** Montgomery / Tuskegee / Birmingham / Depart Birmingham

What's Included

- 4 nights accommodations
- A welcome reception, 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 1 dinner
- Full guiding services of an Orbridge Travel Director
- All activities as described in the program itinerary, including admission
- Private deluxe motor coach with air conditioning and comfortable seating
- Gratuities to Orbridge Travel Director, local guides, drivers, and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times

*Special group rate; limited offer. Rate is per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Airfare not included.

All program details, dates, and pricing are subject to change.

Civil Rights—A Journey to Freedom

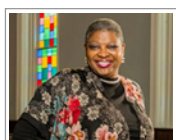
Guest Speakers

Dr. Martha Bouyer – Civil Rights Featured Speaker



Dr. Martha Bouyer will lead guests to explore sites of the Civil Rights Movement, including the Birmingham Jail, Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, Linn Park, Phillips High School, Freedom Riders attack site, and the Black Business District. Learn why Dr. King chose to come to Birmingham and how important mass meetings were for the movement by visiting the historic Bethel Baptist Church and Shuttlesworth parsonage bombing site.

Wanda Battle – Civil Rights Featured Speaker



Join Ms. Wanda Battle and friends for a night of special music. Wanda is the tourism director of Dexter-King Baptist Church. She, along with a host of others from the choirs at Dexter, Brick-A-Day, and others, will have dinner with guests. Enjoy a musical program where she outlines the origins of Negro Spirituals, how these songs were integrated into the first independent black churches, and how choirs supported Dr. King on his visits around the United States.

Peggy Wallace Kennedy – Civil Rights Featured Speaker



Peggy Wallace Kennedy is the daughter of the late George C. Wallace, the former governor of Alabama who became known as one of America's most ardent segregationists.

A native of Clayton, Alabama, Kennedy graduated from Troy University in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science degree in special education. She taught in Alabama's public schools, raised two sons, and also spent years supporting her husband's political career as an Alabama Supreme Court Justice.

Kennedy has been widely hailed as the "symbol of racial reconciliation" (*Washington Post*). In the summer of 1963, though, she was just a young girl watching her father stand in a schoolhouse door as he tried to block two African-American students from entering the University of Alabama. This man, former governor of Alabama and presidential candidate George Wallace, was notorious for his hateful rhetoric and his political stunts. But he was also a larger-than-life father to young Peggy, who was taught to smile, sit straight, and not speak up as her father took to the political stage. At the end of his life, Wallace came to renounce his views, although he could never attempt to fully repair the damage he caused. But Peggy, after her own political awakening, has dedicated her life to spreading the new Wallace message—one of peace and compassion.

Dianne Harris – Civil Rights Featured Speaker



When Dianne Harris was 15 years old, she walked off the Alabama Lutheran campus with a group of 14 other students to join the student arm of the Civil Rights Movement in Selma. The year was 1965. It was the first time Dianne had openly disobeyed any authority at school.

Although Dianne will be the first to tell you that disobedience is never a good decision without due cause, she is happy she made the decision to leave campus that year. For about a week, Dianne and the other Alabama Lutheran students participated in nightly meetings at the historic Brown Chapel AME and daily marches. As a result, she was arrested twice and stuck in the arm with a cattle prod.

Today Dianne remains active in the Selma community. She has received the Congressional Foot Soldier Medal and Certificate, as well as numerous other medals and awards for her ongoing fight for racial equality. She is a passionate public speaker, appearing on *NBC Today* in 2015, and is often interviewed by newspapers, magazines and other media outlets for her unending vigil for justice. She remembers her involvement in the movement like it was yesterday. She particularly remembers listening to Martin Luther King, Jr. and the events of Bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama.

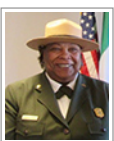
Joyce O’Neal – Civil Rights Featured Speaker



Joyce O’Neal, a Selma native and lifelong pursuer of equality through her career in social work, is a faithful member of Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Selma. She was baptized there as an infant and has been an active member ever since. She remembers attending mass meetings at the church with her family in the 1960s. Hear her tell of her experiences during the marches in Selma and the events of Bloody Sunday.

Mrs. O’Neal has been awarded with several honors, including: Outstanding Service Rendered to the Youth Motivation Task Force at Stillman College (2000), Outstanding Lay Person of the Biennial (2007-2009), Foot Soldier’s Recognition at the U.S. Capitol (2016), Permanent Member of the Senior Citizens’ Hall of Fame (2017), and the Alabama Social Work Hall of Fame (2017). Mrs. O’Neal was also the first African-American elected to the Alabama State Personnel Board (2006 and 2010).

Sandy Taylor – Civil Rights Featured Speaker



Sandy Taylor, the retired Superintendent of the National Park Services Tuskegee Site, will host a celebratory farewell lunch at her private, restored antebellum home. Lunch will feature recipes from Tuskegee scientist George Washington Carver and include locally grown ingredients.



With optional Muscle Shoals post-tour

\$1,295*

As a finale to your time discovering Alabama, consider exploring The Shoals—the quad cities of Florence, Muscle Shoals, Sheffield, and Tuscumbia—rich in musical and cultural history and noted for having a magnetic feel and incredible connection with water. Learn how landscape influences life and life reflects landscape.

Tour studios where some of the greatest hit records were recorded by legends, including Aretha Franklin, the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Rod Stewart, Etta James, Paul Simon, Linda Ronstadt, Clarence Carter, Willie Nelson, Steve Winwood, and Little Richard. Learn about the influential and talented "Swampers," the nickname of the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section providing the country-funk magic heard on popular cuts as Aretha Franklin's "Respect," Bob Seger's "Old Time Rock and Roll," and Wilson Pickett's "Mustang Sally."

At the Alabama Music Hall of Fame—a must-visit for music fans—check out the exhibits and personal memorabilia of inductees Nat King Cole, Hank Williams, Percy Sledge, Jim Nabors, and many more.

Honor the "Father of the Blues," W.C. Handy, by touring his home and museum that features the world's most complete collection of Handy's personal papers and artifacts. Creator of beloved songs including "St. Louis Blues" and "Beale Street Blues," this musical prodigy was influenced by sounds found in the natural world here, listening to Cypress Creek and visualizing birdcalls as notes on a scale.

Stop by inspirational *Ivy Green*, the birthplace of one of history's most remarkable women, Helen Keller. Stricken with a severe illness at the tender age of 19 months, she was completely deaf, mute, and blind. Communicating with the world through gestures, fittingly, the first word she learned here in the Shoals was "water." Touch the actual well pump where Keller, at age seven, made her breakthrough. See mementos, including Keller's Braille typewriter, and discover her amazing life of trials and triumphs dedicated to improving the conditions of blind and deaf around the world.

What's Included

- 2 nights accommodations at The Stricklin Hotel with a Southern-style breakfast each morning
- Admission and fees for included activities
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Private transportation
- Airport transfers for guests departing during the suggested times

*Post-tour rate is per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Airfare not included. All post-tour details, dates, and pricing are subject to change.