



The Long Road Toward Justice and Beloved Community: A Civil Rights Pilgrimage

Itinerary

Nashville→Atlanta→Birmingham→Montgomery→Selma→Nashville
(Sites listed in each city are subject to change)

Nashville, TN: We will begin our pilgrimage in Nashville where students were at the forefront of the nonviolent protest movement. We will visit an art installation at the downtown public square called the Witness Walls, created to honor the events and peoples who fought for racial equality in Nashville. We will see the site of the first lunch counter sit-in at Woolworths on 5th Ave (5th Ave was recently renamed to Rep. John Lewis Way in honor of the long-time civil rights leader and congressman). We will also spend time exploring the Civil Rights Room in the Nashville Public Library, which illuminates the city's role in the movement. We will finish our day with a time of orientation and worship at The Upper Room Chapel. We will be spending the night at the Courtyard by Marriott - Vanderbilt/West End.

Atlanta, GA: We depart Nashville and journey by motorcoach to Atlanta. In Atlanta, we will have the privilege of spending time in conversation with Rev. Dr. Luther Smith, who will offer insights about Howard Thurman's influence on the Civil Rights Movement. Luther's scholarship on Thurman's life and spirituality are shaped by his personal relationship with Thurman, who was one of Luther's mentors. While in Atlanta, we will also visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Park to gain a deeper understanding of Dr. King's life, legacy, and vision. We will stay one night at the Springhill Suites - Atlanta Downtown.

Birmingham, AL (a.k.a. Bombingham): Our travel from Atlanta takes us first to Birmingham along a historic segment of the Freedom Riders journey. Birmingham highlights the struggle for integration and the power of students in the movement. We will explore the 16th Street Baptist Church, where a bombing killed four young girls on Youth Sunday. Steps away is Kelly Ingram Park, where incredible sculptures depict violent attacks on demonstrators—some of them children—that took place on that site. We will also see Bethel Baptist Church, which was pastored by Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, a prominent leader in the movement. A local historian will guide and enrich our brief time in Birmingham.

Montgomery, AL: We continue from Birmingham to Montgomery where an entire day will be devoted to immersion in the Equal Justice Initiative's (EJI) Legacy Museum and National Peace and Justice

Memorial. Bryan Stevenson, activist and founder of EJI, and his team have done powerful work bearing witness to the history of oppression of a people group from slavery, lynching, segregation, to mass incarceration. Another full day will include exploring Montgomery with a local guide, hearing stories, and seeing many historical sites and markers such as the Riverwalk, Artesia Fountain, Rosa Parks Statue, Freedom Rides Museum, Civil Rights Memorial, Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church and the parsonage that was bombed. We will also spend time at the Harris House, a safe house where Freedom Riders were sheltered after being attacked in Montgomery. We will be staying in Montgomery for three nights at the Drury Inn—Montgomery on Eastern Blvd.

Selma, AL: Upon leaving Montgomery, we journey to Selma to learn more about the struggle for voting rights. We will traverse the national historic march route and stop at the “Tent City” site along the way. We will hear from a Selma native and civil rights activist, who marched on Bloody Sunday. We will walk across the historical Edmund Pettus Bridge imagining the strength and fortitude of these non-violent protesters and visit the adjacent park. If time allows, we will visit the National Voting Rights Museum. From Selma, we will travel on to Nashville to close our pilgrimage with worship and reflection at The Upper Room Chapel. We will spend our final night at the Courtyard by Marriott - Vanderbilt/West End, before saying our goodbyes and departing on Saturday morning.

Arrival and Departure: Plan to arrive in Nashville by Noon Central Time on Sunday, November 5. Book flights into Nashville International Airport (BNA). Departures on Saturday, November 11 can be scheduled for any time.



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