



# MEJDI TOURS

## USA SouthWest - A Civil Rights Journey

(Scheduled Group Departure)

### Dates & Pricing:

February 27 - March 3, 2026 (\$2,275 per person, + \$580 single room supplement)

Extension to Memphis available for those interested (March 3-4)

March 5-9, 2027 (\$2,385 per person, + \$610 single room supplement)

Extension to Memphis available for those interested (March 9-10)

### Included:

- 4 nights' accommodation at hotels per itinerary<sup>1</sup>
- 1 MEJDI guide for five days private touring<sup>2</sup>
- 5 days of private transportation per itinerary
- 3 lunches per itinerary
- Entrances, activity fees, and speaker honoraria per itinerary
- Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

### Not included:

- Airfare
- Travel insurance
- Single supplement costs
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Gratuities for guide and drivers
- Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

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<sup>1</sup> Or similar; King Room, double occupancy, breakfast included indicated as [B] in itinerary

<sup>2</sup> Experienced city and/or site guides from MEJDI's network



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## Overview

Journey through the American South on a powerful and reflective exploration of the **Civil Rights Movement—past and present**. This five-day, multi-city tour invites travelers into the heart of historic struggle and modern-day activism, from **Atlanta's Sweet Auburn** to the streets of **Selma** and **Birmingham**. Walk across the **Edmund Pettus Bridge**, stand in sacred spaces like the **16th Street Baptist Church** and **Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church**, and hear directly from those who lived through the movement and continue to fight for justice today.

Through immersive site visits, interfaith perspectives, and MEJDI's signature socially conscious lens, this journey doesn't just recount history—it amplifies lived experiences, celebrates resilience, and fosters deeper understanding of race, faith, and freedom in America.

## "MEJDI Exclusive" Socially Conscious Experiences:

We design our itineraries to immerse you in these cultures. So you don't just visit new places; you become part of them. These human experiences and how we treat the people you meet are what sets MEJDI apart.

- Walk in the **footsteps of Civil Rights leaders** and visit **Atlanta's oldest synagogue** to explore the **Black-Jewish alliance** in the movement for justice, including reflection on the 1958 bombing.
- Engage with **young entrepreneurs** preserving the legacy of this historic planning site for the movement while driving local Black business development today.
- Hear firsthand from **individuals who marched and organized in the 1960s**, providing living testimony to the courage and costs of activism.
- Honor Black cultural resistance and creativity through **music, cuisine**, and shared reflection on the journey.



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## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Atlanta, Sweet Auburn - Friday, February 27** **[Guide, Transportation]**

*Pre-stay accommodations available on Thursday, February 26 for additional cost.*

*Tour begins in the lobby of your Atlanta hotel at 12pm. Boxed lunch provided.*

Meet your guide for introductions and a quick lunch sourced from an Atlanta-born, black-owned vegan eatery. The journey begins with a contemporary perspective on a curated visit to the **Zucot Gallery**, where African American art offers a powerful lens on culture, identity, and social justice. Continue into Atlanta's historic **Sweet Auburn** neighborhood, walking in the footsteps of Civil Rights leaders, visiting the **King Center** to learn more about the remarkable Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, and seeing the inside of the original **Ebenezer Baptist Church**. Peak at the nearby Beltline for a glimpse of current development trends in the city, then head towards **The Temple**, Atlanta's oldest Jewish congregation. Hear about its historic role in the civil rights movement and the 1958 bombing that underscored the fight against bigotry and injustice.

*Interested travelers may remain at The Temple for Friday evening services (return transportation on own); others will return to their accommodations downtown.*

*Optional, recommended: walk to the Centennial Olympic Park for the Fountain of Rings show at 6:30pm or 9:00pm.*

*Overnight: Candler Hotel, Atlanta [L]*

### **Day 2: Montgomery: Legacy & Heroes - Saturday, February 28** **[Guide, Transportation]**

Depart Atlanta in the morning and head south, making a **brief stop at the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site** to learn about the legacy of the first African American military pilots and their impact during World War II. Continue on to **Montgomery**, where you'll begin with a visit to the **Rosa Parks Museum** to explore the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the courage of ordinary citizens in the civil rights movement. In the afternoon, delve into the nation's racial history at the unparalleled **EJI Legacy Museum**, which traces the legacy of slavery, racial terror, segregation, and mass incarceration. Conclude the day with a reflective visit to the **SPLC Civil Rights Memorial**, honoring the lives lost in the pursuit of justice and equality.



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*Evening at leisure in Montgomery or optional performance at Davis Theater (cost not included, depends on schedule of events).*

*Overnight: Staybridge Suites - Montgomery Downtown [B]*

## **Day 3: Road to Selma - Sunday, March 1** **[Guide, Transportation]**

Begin the day at the powerful **EJI National Memorial for Peace and Justice**, which honors the victims of racial terror through a visceral outdoor installation. Join Sunday morning worship services (*optional\**) at the **Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church** and take a short **boat ride** (*time permitting*) to **EJI's Freedom Monument Sculpture Park**, connecting stories of slavery and resistance to the Montgomery riverfront. Depart Montgomery, making a brief stop at the **Viola Liuzzo Memorial**, honoring the white civil rights activist murdered after the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery march. Reach Selma to view the historic **Brown Chapel AME Church** from the outside and walk together across the iconic **Edmund Pettus Bridge**, a symbol of courage and sacrifice in the fight for voting rights. Reach **Birmingham** for an evening at leisure.

*\*Travelers may opt instead for an informal tour exploring downtown Montgomery sites such as the State Capitol, the First Capital of the Confederacy, the campus of the HBCU Alabama State University, and others.*

*Overnight: Redmont Hotel, Birmingham [B, L]*

## **Day 4: Birmingham: Paths to Justice - Monday, March 2** **[Guide, Transportation]**

Spend the morning exploring downtown Birmingham, beginning with a walk through **Kelly Ingram Park**, where powerful sculptures depict scenes of protest and police violence during Birmingham's civil rights struggle. Pass the nearby **16th Street Baptist Church**, site of the tragic 1963 bombing that galvanized the nation, and discuss the resonance of King's Letter from a Birmingham Jail. Make a coffee stop at the newly restored **AG Gaston Motel**, where young entrepreneurs have established a business carrying on the spirit of this historic site where movement leaders planned key actions. Meet with members of the **Civil Rights Foot Soldiers**, who share firsthand experiences of marching and activism during the 1960s. After lunch on your own at the vibrant Pizitz Food Hall, tour the **Historic Bethel Baptist Church of Collegeville**, once led by Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, a major figure in the Birmingham Campaign. Conclude the day with a **community dialogue** featuring a local leader working on issues like housing discrimination,



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education and/or Black business development in Birmingham today.

*Overnight: Redmont Hotel, Birmingham [B]*

## **Day 5: Reflection & Conclusion - Tuesday, March 3** **[Guide, Transportation]**

Visit one of Birmingham's synagogues for the **Temple Beth El Civil Rights Experience**, a reckoning around the community's role in local civil rights history and ongoing commitment to racial justice. End your visit on a lighter, but powerful note at the **Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame**, celebrating the state's rich musical legacy and its connections to Black cultural expression and resistance. Enjoy a classic soul food lunch together as a group at **Gabriella's**, with time for reflection and closing conversation.

*Transfer to the airport for your late afternoon departing flights.*

*Post-stay accommodations available on Tuesday, March 3, for an additional cost.*

*Overnight: N/A [B, L]*