



SAMPLE FLY-DRIVE ITINERARY

ETC's Annual Conference | January 28-31, 2019

For those self-driving to Montgomery from Atlanta, the State Office of Tourism for Alabama has provided the following sample itinerary.

Please also check out the Pre-Conference Seminar on Wheels (SOW) (fully hosted day trips based out of Montgomery) which visits some sites noted below, plus more! Traveling with colleagues on the ETC SOW, in the company of expert guides and with highly personalized visits, makes this 2019 SOW an exceptional learning experience and delivers specific information for creating your own traveler tours on the UNESCO Civil Rights Heritage Trail.

CIVIL RIGHTS LANDMARKS IN GEORGIA AND ALABAMA

A fly-drive itinerary of America's major civil rights landmarks that begins with the birthplace of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Atlanta and concludes with the place of his assassination in Memphis also covers Alabama and Mississippi, scenes of many of the movements' most dramatic events. (Mississippi and Memphis under development.)

Atlanta

After arriving at the nation's busiest airport in Atlanta, head for the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park adjacent to the Ebenezer Baptist Church where two generations of the King family were pastors. Tour the birth home, the church and a major National Park Service visitor center. King's grandfather purchased the Queen Anne-style Birth and Boyhood Home at 501 Auburn Ave. for \$3,500 in 1909. The Sweet Auburn neighborhood was one of the most prominent black communities in the South at the time. The house was erected in 1895 and is restored with period pieces. In 1941, the Kings moved to a brick house three blocks away and kept the Auburn Avenue house as a rental. The only way to enter the birthplace and childhood home is by guided tours, and tour availability is limited to 15 people per hour. Tickets are distributed at 9 a.m. You may photograph the exterior of the house any time from the street. The Visitor Center offers exhibits about King's life and work, along with stories from the civil rights era. A statue of Mahatma Gandhi, whose non-violent philosophy for India's independence from Great Britain, greatly influenced King. Next door is a National Park Service bookstore.

Listen to the booming voice of Dr. King inside the sanctuary of the nearby Ebenezer Baptist Church at 407 Auburn Ave. The younger King lived in Montgomery from 1954 until 1960 when the demands on his time as leader of the movement forced him to leave the Montgomery pulpit. He returned to Atlanta as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to attack segregation in major Southern cities. He served as co-pastor in his father's church. Weeks after her husband was murdered in 1968 at age 39, Coretta Scott King founded the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change. It is the official living memorial to develop a family of leaders who personify the philosophy of Dr. King in their own lives and apply the philosophy of nonviolence to the problems and issues of a changing world. Dr. and Mrs. King are interred in simple white tombs surrounded by a reflecting pool on the grounds of the center.



The Center for Civil and Human Rights, 100 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd., is in the center of Atlanta's major tourist destinations, the Georgia Aquarium, the World of Coca-Cola and Centennial Olympic Park. It's best known for displaying some of King's 13,000 papers on a rotating basis. It was envisioned by civil rights pioneers Andrew Young and John Lewis and the spouses of Joseph Lowery and Ralph David Abernathy as a museum dedicated to the achievements of the movement and the broader worldwide human rights movement in the present time. When the \$68 million center opened in 2014, the New York Times proclaimed that the first floor interactive gallery "Rolls Down Like Water: the American Civil Rights Movement," gets the most attention. It "follows the doctrines of a museum of experience rather than a museum of objects." A display chronicles the segregation ordinances of various cities and states from the Jim Crow era of the 1950s and 1960s. There are interactive experiences. You can sit at a mock lunch counter like sit-in protesters wearing headphones that evoke the tumult they faced: taunts, knocks felt from vibrating stools and insults. In addition to temporary exhibitions, the museum houses three permanent exhibitions which the average visitor can experience in about 75 minutes.

Anniston

Head west on I-20 to Anniston, Ala., scene of dramatic attacks on a busload of Freedom Riders on Mother's Day 1961 to visit two locations of the Freedom Riders National Monument. A 1960 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Boynton v. Virginia* required interstate bus terminals to integrate. The case stemmed from the 1957 arrest of Selma native Bruce Boynton who refused to move from a white section of a Richmond bus station café while en route to visit his parents at Christmas. A year after the high court ruling and acting against the wishes of the Kennedy Administration and Martin Luther King Jr., a group college students, including future congressman John Lewis vowed to test compliance of the decision. Traveling from Washington through the South to New Orleans, they were beaten by mobs, most notably in Alabama, in Anniston, Birmingham and Montgomery. See the murals at the downtown bus station at 1029 Gurney Ave., where a racist mob punctured tires on a bus carrying students. The bus driver raced west out of town with dozens of cars in pursuit. The tires went flat 5 miles out of town at 4992 Old Birmingham Hwy., where the mob firebombed the crippled bus with terrorized passengers trapped inside. Only the actions of a white undercover officer with a pistol who threatened to kill the attackers unless they allowed people to flee the bus kept people from being burned alive. The National Park Service is developing interpretive exhibits at both locations to detail the attacks that shocked the nation and the world.

Tip: The upscale bouquet Hotel Finial, featuring an imposing Queen Anne landmark house, is an ideal choice for your headquarters. 1600 Quintard. Extend your visit to see the Anniston Museum of Natural History and the Berman Museum of World History.

Birmingham

Travel west on I-20 for an hour to Birmingham, where two of the most dramatic events occurred in 1963, including the deadliest attack during the movement.

During the segregation era, racist city ordinances prevented blacks from entering city parks, drinking out of "white" water fountains, trying on clothes before purchasing, living in "white" neighborhoods and were paid less than their white counterparts. In May, 1963, Dr. King was recruited by activist Birmingham pastor Fred Shuttlesworth to lead a boycott of department stores at the height of the important Easter shopping season. Both were arrested, along with thousands of school children.



The iconic scenes of police using snarling dogs and firehoses against school children occurred in Kelly Ingram Park in front of the 16th Street Baptist Church, a meeting place for activists. While incarcerated for several days, King drafted a 7,000-word response to white pastors who publicly urged him to restrain his activities. His "Letter from Birmingham Jail" articulated the rationale behind the movement. The impact of the shopping boycott was immediate and store owners agreed to hire blacks staff and make other accommodations.

On a Sunday morning four months later, Sept. 15, after a local federal judge ordered city schools integrated and two weeks after King's "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, Ku Klux Klansmen used sticks of dynamite to bomb the 16th Street Baptist Church. The blast killed four girls in the basement preparing for Youth Sunday. Two other black youths were randomly killed on city streets that afternoon. Tour the church and see the sanctuary rocked by the blast and look for the Wales Window donated for the restoration that features a black crucified Christ rejecting racism and offering forgiveness.

Across the street is the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, the most emotionally charged of America's major civil rights museums. Videos and artifacts demonstrate the ugly impact of racial segregation in the 1960s. Side by side exhibits of white and black classrooms show the disparity in education. A police department tank used by Public Safety Commissioner Bull Conner during the demonstrations in 1963 is displayed. The last area of the tour overlooks the church across the street that was bombed. The damaged cross-shaped church sign and a wall clock stopped at 10:22 a.m. document the blast. The church anchors the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument, proclaimed by President Barack Obama, and is on the tentative list as a future UNESCO World Heritage Site. A series of sculptures in Kelly Ingram Park, named for a World War I sailor from Birmingham, interpret the emotions of the civil rights period.

Tip: Two period hotels are convenient to destinations: the Redmond Hotel, where singer Hank Williams spent his last night alive in late 1952, at 2101 Fifth Ave. North, and the Tutwiler Hotel at 2021 Park Place, between 20th and (Richard Arrington) 21th St.

Montgomery

Montgomery, the Alabama state capital where Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. gained fame, is 95 minutes south on I-65.

Start at the historic Dexter Avenue Baptist Church where the civil rights movement began after the arrest of Rosa Park on Dec. 1, 1955. First, notice the State Capitol, a block away, where the Confederate government was formed in 1861, and a statue of Confederate president Jefferson Davis looks down Dexter in the direction of the red brick church. It was in front of that statue in 1965 where Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his "How long? Not long!" address at the conclusion of the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March. Tours of the church begin in the basement where the first meeting of 50 black pastors met after the arrest of the seamstress who refused to yield her seat on a city bus in 1955. (The church is on the tentative list as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.)

A block behind the church at 400 Washington Ave. is the Civil Rights Memorial where water constantly flows over the names of 41 martyrs killed during the movement, ending with Dr. King in 1968. Sculptor Maya Lin, best known for the Vietnam Memorial Wall, created the iconic memorial for the Southern



Poverty Law Center in 1989. Enter the Civil Rights Memorial Center, housed in the original home of the SPLC, and sign your name to the Wall of Tolerance.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott lasted from Dec. 5, 1955 until the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregated seating was unconstitutional on Dec. 20, 1956. An intersection four blocks down the street from Dexter church at the Court Square fountain is worth noting. The Winter Building on the left housed the telegraph office in 1861 when Jeff Davis's government sent a message to fire on Fort Sumter in the Charleston Harbor, effectively launching the Civil War. Directly across the street is the bus stop where Rosa Parks stepped aboard the Cleveland Avenue bus, an action that would trigger the Civil Rights Movement.

Mrs. Parks rode for two blocks to the bus stop at the Empire Theater at 252 Montgomery St. When more whites boarded, blacks were required by city ordinance to yield their seats. When the driver threatened arrest if she didn't move, she calmly said, "You may do that." She was arrested. Thousands of blacks gathered at a local church to plan a strategy. A new pastor at Dexter church, Martin Luther King Jr., reluctantly agreed to lead the effort. The city government refused their modest requests: to be treated with respect, hire blacks drivers and allow first-come seating. Thousands boycotted and found alternative ways to travel to and from work for more than a year. Their lawsuit against segregated seating being unconstitutional was supported by Montgomery federal judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. and eventually affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court. The Rosa Parks Museum and Library documents her arrest and the historic boycott. The restored 1950s municipal bus that was featured in the Whoopi Goldberg movie "The Long Walk Home" is on display.

Freedom Riders Museum/Historic Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station at 210 S. Court St. commemorates the assault on the racially mixed student group testing compliance of the Boynton v. Virginia decision that desegregated interstate bus terminals. After Freedom Riders were attacked on May 20, 1961 at two bus stations in Birmingham, the law enforcement protection promised later that day for Montgomery by Gov. John Patterson did not materialize and local thugs assaulted the group arriving at the station unabated. Some victims fled behind the station for the safety of the federal courthouse and post office. It was in the federal courtroom in 1956 that Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. had supported the lawsuit overturning the conviction of Rosa Parks later confirmed by the Supreme Court. In 1965, after the "Bloody Sunday" attack on voting-rights marchers, Johnson approved Dr. King's request for federal protection for a Selma to Montgomery march which unfolded without incident.

Dexter Parsonage Museum opens a window onto the home life of Rev. and Mr. King where they lived from 1954 until 1960 while he served as pastor of the nearby church. Most of the furniture was used by the King family. See the vinyl kitchen table where King prayed for affirmation that his leadership was on the correct course. The concrete front porch shows an indentation where a bomb blast occurred during the bus boycott. The house is at 303 S. Jackson St.

The Equal Justice Initiative, a Montgomery-based law firm that challenges questionable death row convictions, operates a \$20 million privately funded museum and memorial spotlighting the history of lynching in the South. Admission to the Legacy Museum, which covers 11,000-square feet at 115 Coosa St., is by advanced purchased timed tickets. At 417 Caroline St., the six-acre National Memorial and Peace and Justice, known informally as the lynching memorial, dramatizes the 4,300 documented lynchings of African-Americans, but strangely none the 1,500 whites that EJI counted. The memorial



includes 805 hanging steel rectangles that represent the counties in the U.S. where lynchings occurred. Time magazine named founder Bryan Stevenson one of the "Time 100" most influential people in 2015.

Selma

Visitors may walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge that became an internationally recognized symbol of racial repression in 1965 when state and local lawmen attacked and beat 600 passive voting-rights demonstrators on what became known as "Bloody Sunday." The attempted march across the Alabama River to the State Capitol in Montgomery to confront Gov. George Wallace was the result of a state trooper killing unarmed marcher Jimmie Lee Jackson in nearby Marion several weeks earlier. The outcry over the unprovoked attack and Dr. King's "How Long?" speech in front of the State Capitol several weeks later prompted President Lyndon Johnson to push the 1965 Voting Rights Act through Congress. During the 50th anniversary of the Selma attack President Barack Obama, who wrote his own speech, praised the courage of the original marchers and urged listeners to follow their example. "For everywhere in this country, there are first steps to be taken, and new ground to cover, and bridges to be crossed. And it is you, the young and fearless at heart, the most diverse and educated generation in our history, who the nation is waiting to follow." A National Park Service visitors center is at 2 Broad St. at the foot of the bridge. A nearby city welcome center sells souvenirs. The bridge is a National Historic Landmark.

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Directory: E:\Conferences\ETC2019\Programming
Template: C:\Users\b dubb_000\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.
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Title:
Subject:
Author: Bethany Morris
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 7/17/2018 11:41:00 AM
Change Number: 1
Last Saved On: 7/17/2018 11:57:00 AM
Last Saved By: Bethany Morris
Total Editing Time: 16 Minutes
Last Printed On: 7/17/2018 11:57:00 AM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 5
Number of Words: 2,358 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 13,445 (approx.)