

NPCATRAVEL



The Travel Program of the National Parks Conservation Association

OCT. 1-8, 2021

On the Road to Freedom

Understanding Civil Rights Through Our
National Parks and Heritage Areas

REFLECTING
*National
Memorial
for Peace
and Justice*

LEARN
ABOUT

A DECADE OF
CIVIL RIGHTS
HISTORY IN THE
DEEP SOUTH

REMARKABLE
STORIES FROM
1960S CIVIL RIGHTS
ACTIVISTS

HOW NPCA IS EXPANDING
CULTURAL RESOURCE
PROTECTIONS





HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore national park sites and heritage areas commemorating this important chapter in US history
- Meet with a survivor of the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham
- Experience the history you were never told through a tour at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice
- Spend time in the Mississippi Delta learning about NPCA's work in the region

On the Road to Freedom:

Understanding Civil Rights Through Our National Parks and Heritage Areas

 **Activity level: Easy (Please note that this tour will cover emotionally-charged events in American history)**

AVAILABLE DATES: October 1-8, 2021 | Min/Max: 10/16

8 days/7 nights | NPCA Member Price: \$4,460 per person; double occupancy \$980 Single Supplement

Deposit: \$750 per person due at registration

Arrive/Depart: Arrivals to Birmingham, Alabama; Departures from Memphis, Tennessee

Reservations: Please contact Jared Dial, NPCA's Travel Program Manager, at 1.800.628.7275 or email the Travel Program at travel@npca.org.

Inclusions: Accommodations as noted in the itinerary, meals as noted (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner), all gratuities, ground transportation, sightseeing and excursions as listed, and guest speakers.

Exclusions: Airfare to Birmingham, Alabama/from Memphis, Tennessee, luggage charges, alcohol and personal expenses.

Join NPCA experts on this remarkable journey through some of the most significant sites associated with American civil rights. Along the way, we will have a unique opportunity to meet with NPCA partners, local historians and even some of the faithful activists known as foot soldiers who actively played a role in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Learn firsthand about NPCA's role in expanding cultural resource protections to help preserve the story of civil rights. Our program begins in Birmingham, Alabama, site of widespread bombings and race-based violence in the 1960s and a major protest movement. Then we head to Montgomery, headquarters of Bryan Stevenson's Equal Justice Initiative, which has been conducting extensive research into the history of racial injustice. En route to Jackson, Mississippi, we will stop at the Lowndes Interpretive Center, which focuses on the march from Selma to Montgomery, and the Selma Interpretive Center, which marks the beginning of the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. Both sites are run by the National Park Service. In Jackson we will visit the home of Medgar Evers, the field secretary for the NAACP in Mississippi, as well as the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and Vicksburg National Military Park. Our program includes a day in the Mississippi Delta exploring Mound Bayou, a town founded in 1887 by former slaves, with a vision that was revolutionary for its time, and the town of Sumner where the trial of Emmett Till took place. We end in Memphis where we explore the National Civil Rights Museum, which guides visitors through five centuries of Civil Rights history. Throughout the program we will experience some of the cultural elements, such as food and music, that defined the period.



ITINERARY

DAY Arrivals to Birmingham

1 The group will arrive to **Birmingham, Alabama** and make their way to the **Elyton Hotel**, which was built in 1906 during Birmingham's golden era when it was one of the country's great industrial and manufacturing centers. We will have a welcome reception, dinner and special speaking program to kick off the trip at the hotel. *Elyton Hotel (D)*



DAY 2 Birmingham to Montgomery
 Visit **Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument**, a national park site that NPCA helped establish in 2017. We will explore the **Birmingham Civil Rights Institute**, an interactive museum that tells the story of the civil rights movement and features the actual jail cell door behind which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. penned his famous “Letter From Birmingham Jail.” Meet with **Rev. Carolyn McKinstry** at the **16th Street Baptist Church**. At age 14, Carolyn was inside the 16th Street Baptist Church when a bomb killed four young girls as they prepared to sing in their choir on September 15, 1963. Pass by the historic **Kelly Ingram Park**, site of civil rights rallies, demonstrations, and confrontations in the 1960s, on the way to the **A.G. Gaston Motel**, which stood at the center of several significant chapters of the civil rights movement. The motel and institute will become the new **Freedom Center**, an educational hub that will focus on the civil rights and other cultural topics. The group will then head to **Montgomery, Alabama. Renaissance Montgomery Hotel (B, L, D)**



(L) Lowndes County Visitor Center; (R) RevCarolyn McKinstry, © Howard Wolfe



DAY 3 Montgomery
 This day is dedicated to exploring important educational sites in **Montgomery, Alabama**. After breakfast, the group will depart for the **Dexter Parsonage Museum**, the home of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, which was bombed on January 30, 1956. Continue on to the newly opened **Legacy Museum**. Created by the **Equal Justice Initiative (EJI)**, the museum aims to tell the history of racial inequality and economic injustice in the United States. For more than a decade, EJI has been conducting extensive research into the history of racial injustice and the narratives that have sustained injustice across

We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING
Maya Lin Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery

generations. After lunch we will spend some time reflecting at the **National Memorial for Peace and Justice**, conceived with the hope of creating a sober, meaningful site where people can gather and reflect on America’s history of racial inequality and the ongoing history of lynching in America. EJI staff members will provide a special briefing for the group and then we will explore the city at leisure in the evening. This evening, dinner is on your own. **Renaissance Montgomery Hotel (B, L)**

DAY 4 Montgomery to Jackson
 Depart for **Selma, Alabama**, and stop at the **Lowndes Interpretive Center** to see exhibits highlighting the historic march from Selma to Montgomery. Head to the **Selma Interpretive Center**, run by the National Park Service, and meet with foot soldier **Joanne Bland** who, at 11 years old in 1965, was the youngest person to have been jailed during any civil rights demonstration during that period. Walk across the **Edmund Pettus Bridge** where, beginning on March 21, 1965, marchers walked for five days to Montgomery, camping during the night in the fields of farmers sympathetic to their cause. Stop outside the **Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church**, site of Malcolm X’s address in support of voting rights and Dr. King’s eulogy for Jimmie Lee Jackson. After lunch, head to **Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument**. Medgar Evers, the field secretary for the NAACP in Mississippi, was assassinated in his driveway in 1963. **The Westin Jackson Hotel (B, L, D)**



DAY Jackson

5 Start the day at the **Mississippi Civil Rights Museum**, which features a series of galleries on the history of the civil rights movement, featuring the stories of Emmett Till, Medgar Evers and many others. From there, drive to the **COFO Civil Rights Education Center** to meet with a historian whose expertise is on the modern civil rights movement and the African American experience. We'll have the opportunity to meet with **Hezekiah Watkins**, the state's youngest Freedom Rider, who was arrested at age 13 and will share his extraordinary story with the group. We'll stop at **Farish Street**, the thriving center of African American life in Jackson during the Jim Crow era. Stop to sample a "pig ear" or smoked sausage sandwich before heading to **Vicksburg National Military Park**, where the Confederacy surrendered to Union forces in a significant battle in 1863. This evening, enjoy a private blues performance with local musician **Bluesman McKinney**. *The Westin Jackson Hotel (B, L, D)*

DAY Jackson to Clarksdale

6 Depart Jackson this morning and head north through the flatlands of the **Mississippi Delta**. Stop first in **Cleveland** and meet with **Dr. Rolando Herts**, director of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning and executive director of the **Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area**. Continue through multiple small towns along the **Mississippi Freedom Trail** and have a private catered lunch at the **Museum of the Mississippi Delta**. That afternoon, we will head to the **Emmett Till Interpretive Center and Sumner Court House**, which tell the story of the brutal murder of Emmett Till and point a way toward racial healing. Specifically, the center uses arts and storytelling to help process past pain. Experience a private program highlighting how NPCA is working with partners such as the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area and the Emmett Till Interpretive Center to commemorate the life and legacy of Emmett Till and the larger civil rights stories throughout the Mississippi Delta. Afterwards, the group will settle in **Clarksdale** for an uplifting evening of dinner and music. *Travelers Hotel (B, L, D)*

DAY Clarksdale to Memphis

7 Drive to **Memphis, Tennessee**, and head to the **Lorraine Motel**, now the home of the **National Civil Rights Museum** and site of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968. We will get to explore this interactive museum that guides us through five centuries of history, from slave resistance to the numerous protests of the American civil rights movement. Enjoy lunch at **Four Ways Restaurant**, located in **Soulsville**, before heading to the **Stax Museum of American Soul Music**, which provides insight into the civil rights story within the Memphis music scene. Here, we will meet with **Jeff Kollath**, the executive director of the museum. Check in to the **Hu Hotel**, a boutique hotel located in downtown Memphis within walking distance of **Beale Street**. The group will meet for a final debrief and thoughtful reflection of the trip experience before enjoying a farewell dinner. *Hu Hotel (B, L, D)*

DAY Memphis Departures

8 Say a bittersweet farewell to the group and depart from Memphis after breakfast. *(B)*

Travel Insurance: *To protect yourself from the loss of deposit and cancellation fees, you are encouraged to purchase travel insurance. If you need assistance, NPCA recommends contacting Travel Insurance Services; confirmation packets will include details.*

Traveler Responsibility: *Travelers are responsible for choosing an NPCA trip consistent with their ability, fitness, and overall health. All travelers are required to complete and return their registration form, personal information form, flight form and waiver before being allowed to participate in a trip. Travelers also are responsible for reading and understanding all pre-departure materials and bringing appropriate clothing and gear.*

Trip Cancellation Policy: *Cancellation notice must be submitted in writing and is effective upon date of receipt.*

Until 90 days prior to trip start	90-60 days prior	60-31 days prior	30 days prior
Deposit is 100% refundable	Refund less 30% of trip cost per person	Refund less 50% of trip cost per person	No refund

LODGING

Find comfort and relaxation in each of the hotel properties we carefully selected for your NPCA trip.



Elyton Hotel: *Graced with rich artistic roots and an unsurpassed address, this Four Diamond hotel invites you to experience modern indulgences at the intersection of urbane intelligence and uncommon cultivation. The hotel enjoys an unrivaled heritage and is home to the former iconic Empire Building, one of the South's best-known architectural landmarks.*



Renaissance Montgomery Hotel: *Savor a luxury stay at this four-star hotel situated in an unbeatable location in the historic downtown of Montgomery, Alabama. Offering breathtaking views of the city, the accommodations create functional and stylish retreats sure to make you feel extra special.*



The Westin Jackson Hotel: *Find the right balance of inspiration and wellness in the heart of Mississippi's capital city at The Westin Jackson. With an ideal location in the heart of downtown, this brand-new, exquisitely designed hotel is pioneering hospitality here in Jackson, celebrating the city's rich history and legendary artistry.*



Travelers Hotel: *The story of the Travelers Hotel begins in the early 1920s, when it was a bare-bones overnight stop-over for railroad workers who found themselves in Clarksdale. Today, the Travelers Hotel is equal parts hotel and community hub—a comfortable, eclectic, and modern tribute to the Mississippi Delta and its artistic traditions.*



Hu Hotel: *Stylish, singular, forward thinking, a little quirky and colorful, Hu is Memphis' new standard for Southern hospitality. Rooted in our city's great past and with a twinkle in its eye towards a bright new future, see how the Hu Hotel is doing Memphis different.*

COVID19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

NPCA is always committed to providing high quality tours that ensure the well-being and safety of our members and supporters. Each of our travel partners have developed robust safety protocols to protect the health of our guests, staff, and the communities we visit. As conditions and guidelines continue to evolve, our travel partners are committed to easing concerns and creating flexible options for those interested in rescheduling or booking new travel. NPCA advises all individuals to follow the guidance of public health experts at the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization in protecting themselves and their communities from the coronavirus. Specific guidelines such as health screenings and social distancing will be determined based on the trip's date of departure and group size. Please contact us for details.



Why Travel with NPCA?

SAFETY AND FLEXIBILITY

Your health and safety is our top priority. NPCA has worked with each of our travel partners to develop safety measures for our 2021 trips in response to the global pandemic.

EXPERT TRIP LEADERS

Every trip will be led by an NPCA staff expert and naturalist guide. We are teaming up with experienced tour operators to give you exclusive insights into your national parks.

SMALL-SIZED GROUPS

Group size on each of our land trips is limited to no more than 16 people to maximize your interactions with experts, enhance wildlife viewing and boost educational opportunities throughout your experience.

CONVENIENT TRAVEL

Everything is included in your tour, including meals, accommodations, snacks, interpretive guides, special speakers, transportation within the destination and all activities (unless otherwise stated).

ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS

NPCA partners with tour operators that support cultural and natural heritage, maximize the economic benefits in the destinations we operate in and establish guidelines for managing environmental impacts.

EXCELLENT VALUE

Our tours offer members the opportunity to explore the parks without the hassle of planning or the frustrations of crowds. We handle the logistics, so you don't have to.

NPCA EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION

Starting in 2021, we will offer a handful of unique tours designed to give you exclusive experiences within the parks and special behind-the-scenes access to National Park Service staff, NPCA partners, and other local specialists. Our goal is to offer NPCA members the best itineraries in adventure and educational travel in the places we know best: America's national parks. Our custom-designed itineraries highlight NPCA's important contributions to park protection while delivering outstanding interpretive hikes and sight-seeing in national parks around the country.

NPCA is the only independent, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advocacy on behalf of the National Park System. We are 100% privately funded and we rely on donations from individuals like you. One traveler per group must be an active NPCA member to participate in an NPCA trip. An annual membership starts at \$15 per person. Please make dues payable to NPCA by check or credit card at npca.org.