

NPCATRAVEL



The Travel Program of the National Parks Conservation Association

SEPT. 9-16, 2022

On the Road to Freedom

Understanding Civil Rights Through Our National Parks and Heritage Areas

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

I AM A MAN EXHIBIT
National Civil Rights Museum





On the Road to Freedom

Understanding Civil Rights Through our National Parks and Heritage Areas

AVAILABLE DATES: September 9-16, 2022 | Min/Max: 10/16

Length of Tour: 8 days/7 nights

NPCA Member Price: \$4,650 per person double occupancy; \$980 single supplement

Deposit: \$750 per person

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Easy



Activity Level: Please note this tour will cover emotionally charged events in American history. This tour includes sightseeing in cities, museums and listening to speakers. Travelers should be prepared to sit, stand and walk for up to two hours at one time. Travelers will walk for short distances on even terrain with some stairs. The weather could be hot and humid with possible rain.

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

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

Inclusions: Lodging, meals as noted in the itinerary (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner), ground transportation throughout the itinerary, all activities, tips and entry fees.

Exclusions: Airfare to trip start and back from trip end, luggage charges, alcoholic drinks, travel insurance, items of a purely personal nature and any items not listed in Inclusions.

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 1960's.

Throughout this transformative NPCA small-group tour, we'll make our way from Birmingham to Memphis, immersing ourselves in the extraordinary stories and culture of this defining period in America's history. You'll leave this exceptional journey with a deeper connection to the untold stories of the fight for civil rights and NPCA's crucial role in expanding cultural resource protections to help preserve these significant stories and places.



HIGHLIGHTS



- Explore national park sites and heritage areas commemorating this important chapter in US history
- Meet with foot soldiers and listen to their extraordinary stories of survival, bravery and their fight for justice
- Embark on a journey through the Mississippi Delta and find out first-hand why NPCA is prioritizing necessary protections for the region's abundance of civil rights history
- Experience an exclusive talk and tour at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice as you witness and reflect on the complex stories of America's civil rights era

FOR THE HANGED AND BEATEN.
FOR THE SHOT, DROWNED, AND BURNED.
FOR THE TORTURED, TORMENTED, AND TERRORIZED.
FOR THOSE ABANDONED BY THE RULE OF LAW.
WE WILL REMEMBER.
WITH HOPE BECAUSE HOPELESSNESS IS THE ENEMY OF JUSTICE.
WITH COURAGE BECAUSE PEACE REQUIRES BRAVERY.
WITH PERSISTENCE BECAUSE JUSTICE IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE.
WITH FAITH BECAUSE WE SHALL OVERCOME.

ITINERARY

DAY SEPT 9: Arrivals to Birmingham

1 Arrive to Birmingham, Alabama and make your 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 SEPT 10: Birmingham to Montgomery

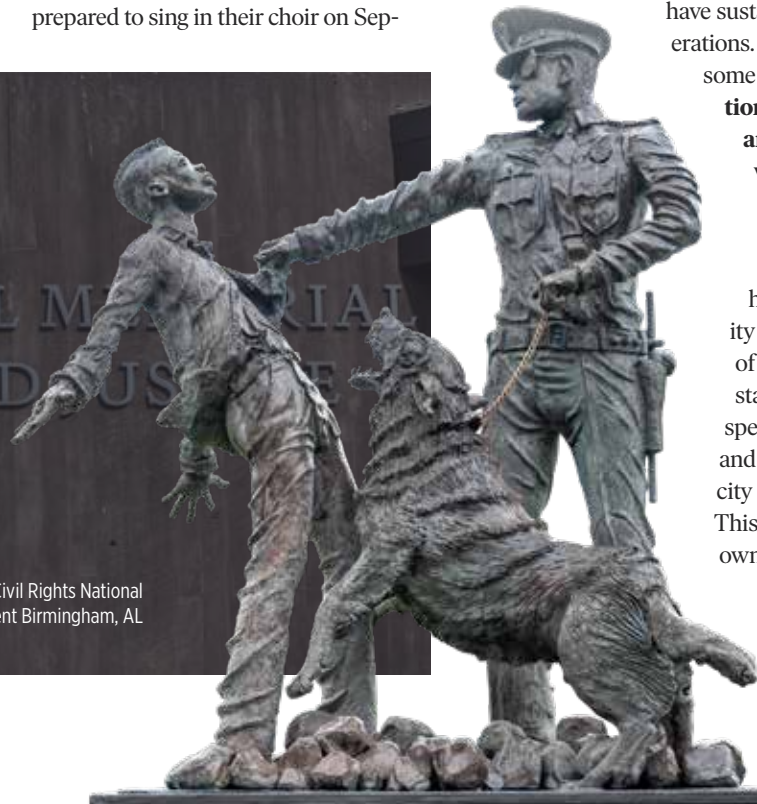
2 Visit **Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument**, a national park site that NPCA helped establish in 2017. An NPCA expert will guide you through NPCA's journey to preserve the monumental histories of the people and places during this chapter of the civil rights movement. We will explore the **Birmingham 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." The group will then 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 Sep-



Rev. Carolyn McKinstry, © Howard Wolfe

NATIONAL MONUMENT
PEACE AND JUSTICE

Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument Birmingham, AL



tember 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)*

DAY SEPT 11: Montgomery

3 This day is dedicated to exploring important educational sites in Montgomery, Alabama. You'll also get the chance to learn about NPCA's current efforts to establish the **Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area**. This key heritage area will help connect people to the unforgettable stories of individuals in the Alabama Black Belt who risked and lost their lives during the civil rights era. After breakfast, the group will depart for the **Dexter Parsonage Museum**, the home of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., which was bombed on January 30, 1956, before continuing 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 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 SEPT 12: Montgomery to Jackson

4 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 U.S. 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. Take a moment on this day to hear about the ongoing endeavors from NPCA and partners to protect irreplaceable natural and cultural resources in the Alabama corridor. *The Westin Jackson Hotel (B, L, D)*



Historic Marker at Medgar Evers Home in Jackson, MS

DAY SEPT 13: 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



Civil Rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965



Scenes from the march to commemorate Bloody Sunday, 55 years later, Selma, AL

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**, an NPCA success story and where the Confederacy surrendered to Union forces in a significant battle in 1863. In 2014, after years of campaigning, NPCA found victory in their fight to advance Vicksburg National Military Park and include 10,000 acres of critical historic battlefield land. This evening, enjoy a private blues performance with local musician **Bluesman McKinney**. *The Westin Jackson Hotel (B, L, D)*



DAY 6 SEPT 14: Jackson to Clarksdale
 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 Courthouse**, 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 7 SEPT 15: Clarksdale to Memphis
 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 slavery 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 8 SEPT 16: Memphis Departures
 Say a bittersweet farewell to the group and depart from Memphis after breakfast. **(B)**

Please note: This itinerary is subject to change based on weather conditions and park closures related to COVID-19.

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 through USI Affinity at 1-800-937-1387 or at <http://my.travelinsure.com/npc>; email confirmation packets will include additional details.

Activity Level: Our trips are appropriate for people in good health with overall good mobility. Travelers should be comfortable participating in at least three hours of physical activity per day, which include walking or standing for extended periods (sometimes on uneven terrain) and climbing stairs. Any physical conditions requiring special attention, diet or treatment should be reported when booking to determine what accommodations can be made.

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 liability 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.

National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN

LODGING

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



Elyton Hotel (Birmingham, AL): 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 (Montgomery, AL): 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 (Jackson, MS): 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 (Clarksdale, MS): 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 (Memphis, TN): 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.

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

June 9, 2022	Until 90 days prior to trip start	89-60 days prior	59-30 days prior	Less than 30 days prior
Final payment is due	Deposit is 100% refundable	Refund less 30% of trip cost per person	Refund less 50% of trip cost per person	No refund

COVID19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Each of our travel partners have developed robust safety protocols to protect the health of our guests, staff and the communities we visit. **At this time, proof of vaccination is required to participate in this trip.** All tour staff and partners associated with the trip, including drivers, guides, NPCA staff and speakers will be fully vaccinated. 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. Please contact us for details.



Why Travel with NPCA?

EXCELLENT VALUE

Our tours offer NPCA members the opportunity for behind-the-scenes access and unique insights because of our intimate relationship with the national parks. A small portion of your trip cost supports NPCA's mission to protect the parks for present and future generations.

EXPERT TRIP LEADERS

Every trip will be led by at least one NPCA expert, as well as tour operators who provide professionally managed tours in and around our national parks. Your trip leaders, guest lecturers and savvy NPCA staff will give you insights into the flora, fauna and history of each destination, leading lively discussions, and answering your questions.

ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS TOUR

NPCA partners with tour operators that support cultural and natural heritage, maximizing the economic benefits in the trip destinations and establishing guidelines for managing environmental impacts. Our goal is to ensure your travel will have a positive impact on the parks so that your children and their children can enjoy them in perpetuity.

CONVENIENT TRAVEL

Everything is included in your tour, such as meals, accommodations, snacks, expert speakers, transportation at the destination and all activities (unless otherwise stated). With NPCA, you can explore the parks without the hassle of planning or the frustration of crowds.

SMALL-SIZED GROUPS

Group size on each of our trips is limited to no more than 18 people to maximize your interactions with the experts, enhance wildlife viewing and boost educational opportunities throughout your experience. Enjoy stimulating conversations with other like-minded NPCA members and supporters from around the country.

SAFETY AND FLEXIBILITY

Your health and safety is our top priority. We have worked with each of our travel partners to develop safety measures for our trips in response to the global pandemic. As conditions and guidelines continue to evolve, our travel partners are committed to easing concerns and creating flexible options for rescheduling travel.

NPCA EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION

Our custom-designed itineraries are designed to give NPCA members exclusive experiences that highlight NPCA's important contributions to park protection and provide special behind-the-scenes access to National Park Service staff, NPCA partners and other local specialists. Our goal is to offer the best itineraries in adventure and educational travel in the places we know best: America's national parks.

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. NPCA trips are an exclusive NPCA member benefit. 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.