ALABAMA CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL



What happened here changed the world.



President Barack Obama observes the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday at the Edmund

Courageous Alabamians Launch th

A century after the American Civil War ended slavery, local "Jim Crow" laws in the South discriminated against African-Americans in education, housing, transportation, voting, jobs and even routine shopping. To force white politicians to change the punitive laws, many African Americans took to the streets in the 1960s in deliberate, non-violent confrontations to demand social justice. Hundreds were injured and several dozen lost their lives.

Cities such as Montgomery, Birmingham and Selma became the anvils on which civil rights victories were hammered. Historic events transformed ordinary citizens such as Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Fred Shuttlesworth, Ralph Abernathy, Fred Gray and others into legends for the ages. Churches where leaders planned these protests are today under consideration by UNESCO for World Heritage Site status. Visit Bethel Baptist and 16th Street Baptist in

Right: *A sculpture at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute of a black teenager outside of a segregated drugstore illustrates the isolation of African Americans during the Jim Crow era.*



lmund Pettus Bridge in Selma in 2015.

the U.S. Civil Rights Movement

Birmingham, and Dexter Avenue Baptist in Montgomery. Travel the Alabama Civil Rights Trail where thousands risked their lives to reshape America. Their bravery and courage inspired suppressed minorities as far away as South Africa, Poland and China to confront their oppressors.



MONTGOMERY



The Alabama State Capitol is a block from Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Churc

Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr.

A pair of significant events a century apart in downtown Montgomery reshaped American history. Jefferson Davis was sworn in as president of the Confederacy at the State Capitol in 1861, and Martin Luther King Jr. launched the Civil Rights Movement at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in 1955 after Rosa Parks stayed seated on a city bus.



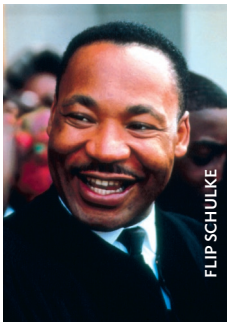
Stamp issued 2013

Because Mrs. Parks was arrested and fined $10 for not yielding her seat to whites coming on board, the city's black pastors recruited the 25-year-old King to lead a long-planned boycott of city buses. King's stirring message of nonviolent resistance galvanized the black community and made him the spokesman for the fledgling campaign. For 381 days, some 40,000 black women and men refused to ride buses and found other means of travel. The U.S. Supreme Court struck down laws segregating public transportation as unconstitutional, which was a major victory for blacks..



Church where the Civil Rights Movement began.

Jr. Challenge Segregation in 1955



Martin Luther King Jr.

While the modest Mrs. Parks became a heroine to blacks across the nation, because of threats, she and husband Raymond moved to Detroit.

The success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott made King in demand for speeches nationwide. His increased responsibilities prompted him to resign from his Montgomery church in 1960. He and wife Coretta Scott King moved to Atlanta where he became the leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Visitors today can tour the State Capitol to see the restored chambers where the Alabama delegates voted to secede from the United States in 1861 and organized the Confederate States of America. Just a block away, guests can enter the church basement where 50 black pastors picked King whose leadership over the next 13 years improved the quality of life for millions of African Americans.



Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church

DEXTER AVENUE KING MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

The 1883 church is a World Heritage Site nominee because of its status as the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement. It is the only church where Martin Luther King Jr. served as senior pastor, from Sept. 1, 1954 until he resigned in 1960. For tours, enter through the ground-level doors to the basement where Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, NAACP activist E.D. Nixon, King and others decided to organize a bus boycott following the arrest of Mrs. Rosa Parks in 1955. A large mural depicts the struggles of the movement and landmark moments in King's life. Tourists are warmly invited to worship with the congregation on Sunday mornings at 10:30.

454 Dexter Avenue, a block west of the State Capitol.
334-263-3970. Tours hourly from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. except for noon. Groups should schedule at least a week ahead.
www.dexterkingmemorial.org

Below: *Rev. Cromwell Handy - Dexter Avenue King Memorial Church*





Dexter Parsonage Museum

DEXTER PARSONAGE MUSEUM



Rev. Martin and Mrs. Coretta Scott King lived in the Dexter church parsonage a few blocks southeast of the church from September 1954 until November 1959 when they moved to Atlanta so he could join his father as co-pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church. Mrs. King and their baby, Yolanda, were home when a bomb damaged the front porch one night during the boycott. The minister quickly arrived and quelled angry neighbors demanding revenge.

303 S. Jackson Street, south of Monroe Street.
334-261-3270. Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. All tours on the hour. Group tours by appointment.
www.dexterkingmemorial.org

Living Room at the Dexter Parsonage Museum





An original city bus at the Rosa Parks Museum

ROSA PARKS MUSEUM & CHILDREN'S ANNEX



Multimedia presentations, period photography, an interactive bus that takes children into the past and several dioramas bring to life both the times and the story of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The museum also features a vintage municipal bus – featured in the movie *"The Long Walk Home"* – like the one in which Parks rode.

252 Montgomery Street. 334-241-8615. Mon.-Sat.
www.troy.edu/rosaparks/museum/

Rosa Parks Museum







The Civil Rights Memorial

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL CENTER

The Civil Rights Memorial designed by international artist Maya Lin, who designed Washington's Vietnam Memorial, is a block south of the church where Martin Luther King Jr. was pastor. The Southern Poverty Law Center memorial honors 40 individuals who sacrificed their lives during the Civil Rights Movement and encourages visitors to reflect on the struggle for equality.

400 Washington Avenue at South Hull Street.
334-956-8439. Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.,
Sat., 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. *www.splcenter.org*



National Memorial for Peace and Justice

THE EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

The Equal Justice Initiative, the Montgomery-based non-profit organization that challenges racial injustice and mass incarceration of blacks, sponsors two memorials that spotlight the history of lynching during post-Civil War Reconstruction and Jim Crow eras. The six-acre National Memorial for Peace and Justice honors the 4,000 blacks who were murdered by white terrorists in the South. Suspended steel columns list the names of victims by county. The Legacy Museum on Coosa Street displays horrific photos of the publicized hangings which often drew crowds of spectators. Advance ticket purchases recommended at EJI.org. Closed Tuesdays.

Museum at 115 Coosa St., 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Memorial at 417 Caroline St., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
334-269-1803



Freedom Rides Museum - Montgomery

FREEDOM RIDES MUSEUM AND FIRST BAPTIST

Five years after the Montgomery Bus Boycott and two years before pastors Martin Luther King Jr. and Fred Shuttlesworth led marches in Birmingham, future congressman John Lewis organized the controversial Freedom Rides. The racially mixed group of college students rode interstate buses from Washington through the Deep South in 1961 to test whether communities were complying with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision that banned segregated seating. When passengers arrived at bus terminals in Birmingham and Montgomery they were savagely beaten by white supremesits. Lewis was among those attacked. The same day, terrorists set fire to a Greyhound bus outside of Anniston with panicked passengers trapped inside. Only the intervention of an armed undercover agent aboard the bus saved the students' lives.

Dr. King flew to Montgomery to address wounded passengers who had taken sanctuary in Rev. Ralph Abernathy's First Baptist Church. While King spoke, some 3,000 hostile whites surrounded the church and threatened those inside even though it was heavily guarded by federal marshals. King phoned U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy who then called Alabama



First Baptist Church - Ripley Street

ST CHURCH

Gov. John Patterson. Patterson ordered police and National Guardsmen to disperse the crowds. Months later, at King's urging, Abernathy accepted leadership in a major Atlanta church.

The Montgomery Greyhound terminal was adjacent to the U.S. Federal Building and Courthouse where many of the country's key civil rights court decisions were handed down. Today the bus station houses the state-owned Freedom Rides Museum that commemorates the courageous college students who risked their lives to dismantle racial discrimination.

Freedom Rides Museum:
210 South Court Street. 334-414-8647 or 334-242-3184.
Open Tues.- Fri. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday tours available for groups of 10 or more by appointment.
www.freedomridesmuseum.org

First Baptist Church:
347 N. Ripley Street. 334-264-6921.
www.firstbaptistchurchmontgomery.com.

BIRMINGHAM

Sticks of dynamite that Klansmen hid under a window near the rear of the church explod

Birmingham Civil Rights Neighborh

During the first half of the 20th century, blacks could not use the same public toilets or water fountains as whites, try on clothes in most department stores or visit city parks. Those who complained were often harassed or beaten by thugs linked to the police.

Local minister Fred Shuttlesworth delivered fiery sermons aimed at dismantling the city's segregation ordinances. He invited Dr. King to join mass marches in April 1963 because King's oratory attracted national media coverage. Police menaced demonstrators gathered in Kelly



Plaque honors martyred girls



ART MERIPOL

exploded during Sunday School.

orhood Now A National Monument

Ingram Park with police dogs and blistering fire hoses, followed by mass arrests that packed the city jail. Downtown stores suffered economically from the protests, and city leaders agreed to end their discrimination. But about three months later, weeks after King's "I Have A Dream" speech, racists bombed a prominent Birmingham black church active in the movement and killed four girls. The deaths prompted many reluctant whites to finally oppose the brutality directed against blacks. Years later, three white men long suspected of planting the bomb were convicted and sent to prison.

As a result of the 1963 Birmingham campaign, the U.S. Congress passed and President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It banned segregation in public places, provided for the integration of schools and outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin. It is considered one of the crowning legislative achievements of the civil rights movement.

www.inbirmingham.com



Tourists are invited to 16th Street Baptist Church for Sunday services at 11 a.m.

Four Girls Die When Racists Dynar

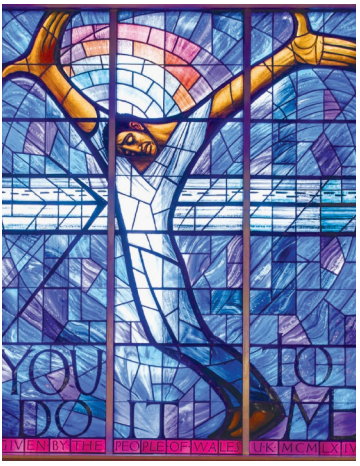
During the Birmingham campaign to dismantle segregation in the spring of 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was headquartered at the Gaston Motel a block from 16th Street Baptist Church. He held mass strategy sessions at the large church which was also a staging ground for marches and protests. In May, police and firemen infamously attacked peaceful black demonstrators, including children who skipped school, with snarling German shepherd dogs and powerful water cannons in Kelly Ingram Park in front of the church. Days after a six-year court battle that ended with a federal order desegregating Birmingham schools, and climaxing four months of demonstrations, Klansmen retaliated with the deadliest attack of the Civil Rights Era. On Sunday morning, Sept. 15, they blasted the church with 19 sticks of dynamite, killing four girls in the basement preparing for a Youth Sunday program.

John Petts, an artist in Wales, created a stained-glass window funded by readers of Cardiff's Western Mail. A black crucified Christ superimposed over an abstract cross is flanked by the words "You Do It To Me" from Matthew 25:40. The figure's right hand pushes away injustice while its left hand is open,



...namite Birmingham Church in 1963

offering forgiveness. Today, the church is a National Historic Landmark. Kelly Ingram Park, the church and the unrestored Gaston Motel form the centerpiece of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument. To begin a tour, enter the basement and see photos of the damage from the dynamite blast of 1963. Pay special attention to the memorial plaque with the photos of the four slain girls.



The Wales Window

1530 Sixth Avenue N. 205-251-9402. Donations welcomed. Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-1 p.m. by appointment and during church Sunday services. www.16thstreetbaptist.org

The door to the cell where Dr. King wrote "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE

One of the finest museums in the country is part history lesson, part audience participation and part demonstration of how the city has evolved since the 1960s. Photos, videos, audio recordings and exhibits put visitors inside the integration movement.

Look for the original door from the jail cell where King wrote





Original Key to the Cell door.

"Letter from Birmingham Jail" that urged white religious bystanders to become active in the movement. Visitors can see "white" and "colored" drinking fountains and a 1950s lunch counter that symbolized segregation in public places.

520 16th Street, adjacent to 16th Street Baptist Church and Kelly Ingram Park. 205-328-9696. Admission charged (except Sundays). Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun., 1-5 p.m. www.bcri.org

Left: *A replica of the Greyhound bus that racists torched outside Anniston with terrorized college-age Freedom Riders aboard in May, 1961 is displayed inside the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. The Anniston bus station where the bus was first attacked is now the Freedom Rides National Monument.*

Right: *The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.*



A statue of Dr. King faces the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church

KELLY INGRAM PARK

Blacks gathered in the public park in the spring of 1963 to march four blocks to City Hall to oppose racial discrimination. Walk through the now peaceful park to see artists' interpretations. The Freedom Walk sculptures include two children seen through jail bars, a trio of praying ministers, and an image of a dog menacing a young man. A statue of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., faces the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

Bordered by 16th and 17th streets and Fifth and Sixth avenues.



The Freedom Walk in Kelly Ingram Park





Historic Bethel Baptist Church

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Under the leadership of Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth, Bethel Baptist Church served as a staging ground for civil rights activities. It was headquarters for the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (1956-1961), which focused on non-violent protest against segregated accommodations, transportation, schools and employment discrimination. Built in 1926, the church in north Birmingham was bombed three times between 1956 and 1962. The congregation later moved to a new sanctuary a block away.

33rd Street at 29th Avenue N. 205-322-5360.
Open by appointment.

MARION - SELMA



Visitors to Selma can walk across the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge where voting-righ

Voting Rights Violence Moves Pres

The march that helped win passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 may have been from Selma to Montgomery, but the story began in nearby Marion with the death of 26-year-old Baptist deacon Jimmie Lee Jackson.

During a protest march in Marion on Feb. 18, 1965, state law enforcement officers assaulted peaceful demonstrators and reporters covering a nighttime march. White state trooper James Bonard Fowler shot Jackson, a Vietnam war veteran



Jonathan Jarvis, director of the National Park Service, and District Attorney Michael Jackson in Marion at the Perry County Courthouse.



g-rights marchers were attacked in 1965.

esident, Congress to Act in 1965

who was trying to shield his mother. The anger generated by the death led to the Selma march, as depicted in the Oscar-winning film "Selma."

On March 7, John Lewis and the Rev. Hosea Williams led 600 marchers toward the State Capitol to confront Gov. George Wallace. After just six blocks, Dallas County Sheriff Jimmy Clark's mounted deputies and state troopers attacked the peaceful group with nightsticks and tear gas as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge, injuring dozens. The televised brutal images of what became known as Bloody Sunday stunned Americans.

After U.S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. approved Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s request for federal protection for a march, federal troopers escorted 300 marchers across 54 miles in four days. Some 25,000 in front of the State Capitol heard King deliver the memorable line "How long, not long, because the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

The related violent deaths of the Rev. James Reeb and Detroit housewife Viola Liuzzo galvanized President Lyndon Johnson to push the stalled Voting Rights Bill through Congress. Later, 7,000 blacks registered to vote in Dallas County and defeated for re-election the sheriff who had led the Bloody Sunday attack.



BROWN CHAPEL AME CHURCH

410 Martin Luther King Jr. Street. 334-874-7897.
www.brownchapelamechurch.com



Selma Interpretive Center

SELMA/NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INTERPRETIVE CENTER

serves as an introduction to the National Historic Trail and offers brochures, videos, exhibits and a small bookstore.
2 Broad Street, at the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

334-872-0509. www.nps.gov/semo



Safe House Museum

GREENSBORO/ SAFE HOUSE BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM

The house provided a safe haven for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., from Ku Klux Klansmen during the civil rights era.

518 Martin Luther King Drive.
334-624-2030 or 334-624-4228.



Interior of Brown Chapel AME Church in Selma



MONROEVILLE

The most famous fictional town in the Civil Rights Movement was probably Maycomb, Ala., the setting of Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "Go Set A Watchman." In Monroeville, where Lee and her friend Truman Capote grew up, you can see many of the settings from the book.

Old Courthouse Museum Hours Tue.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 251-575-7433.



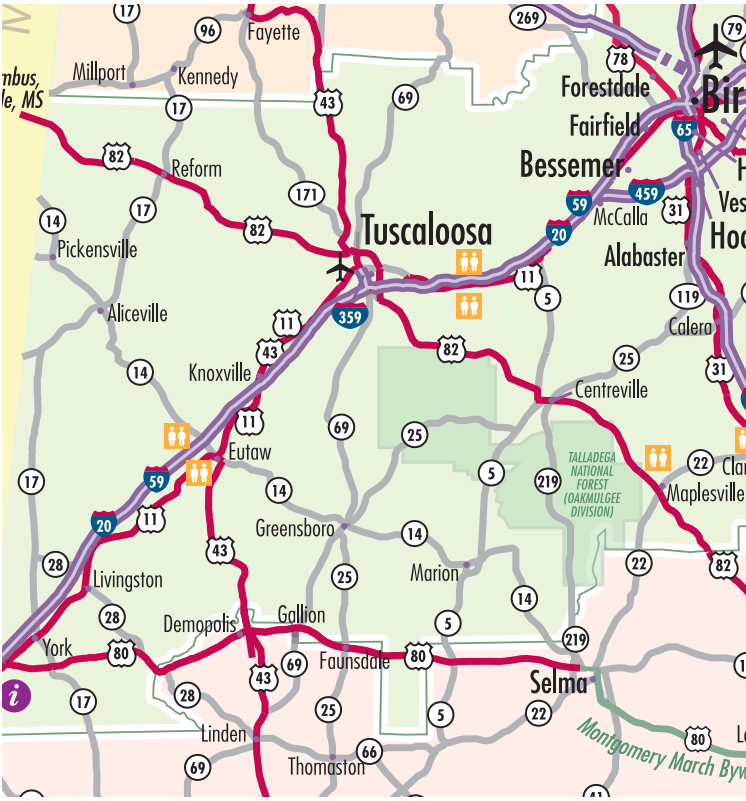
Tourists watch an amateur play based on the "Mockingbird" novel that is staged each spring at the historic Monroeville courthouse. www.tokillamockingbird.com



THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INTERPRETIVE CEN

The National Park Service operates a major interpretive center that e
the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965. Exhibits and videos chronic
Marion that led to the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson which precipitate
the three attempts to confront Gov. George Wallace at the State Capi
risked their lives to gain the right to vote when he spoke on the 50th

Twenty miles east of Selma in White Hall is the midpoint of the National Historic Votin
Lowndes County. 334-877-1983. Open Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. www.nps.gov/semo





CENTER

hat explains the campaign that led to passage of
ronicle the story of the nighttime demonstration in
pitated the historic march from Selma to Montgomery. See photos of
Capitol. President Barack Obama paid tribute to foot soldiers who
50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

Voting Rights Trail. 7002 U.S. Highway 80 W. (between mile markers 105 and 106) in
semo





Carver Museum

Dr. George Washington Carver's agricultural experiments made **Tuskegee Institute** the best-known black college in America. The Carver Museum is maintained by the National Park Service, which also operates Moton Field, home to the legendary Tuskegee Airmen. The pilots gained fame during World War II for their bravery and flying expertise. Their flying skills equaled those of whites – defying racial stereotypes – which helped lead to the decision to desegregate the American military in 1946.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Booker T. Washington, the founder of Tuskegee Institute, was one of the most prominent black Americans of the early 20th century. The university campus offers various highlights.

The National Park Service manages Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site (Carver Museum and The Oaks.)

Tuskegee University campus.
334-727-6390. www.nps.gov/tuin

The Carver Museum features National Park Service exhibits that spotlight the legacy of black scientist George Washington Carver at Tuskegee Institute. His research on

peanuts, sweet potatoes and other crops revolutionized Southern agriculture.

Tuskegee University campus. 334-727-3200.

The Oaks is the elegant 1899 home of Tuskegee Institute president Booker T. Washington, designed by black architect Robert Taylor and built by students.

Tuskegee University campus. 334-727-3200.

TUSKEGEE HISTORY CENTER

Legendary civil rights attorney Fred Gray, who represented both Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, established the Tuskegee History Center. See how it all unfolded – from the covert civil rights activities of Booker T. Washington and the infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Study to a movement that integrated schools, city halls and America's political landscape. Also view exhibits that tell the region's dynamic multicultural story, including Native, European and African-American history. Located just minutes off I-85 exit 38, the downtown facility is the official visitor center for Tuskegee and Macon County.

104 S. Elm Street. 334-724-0800. www.tuskegeecenter.org



Tuskegee History Center



Tuskegee Airmen Museum

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Moton Field, built between 1941-1943, was the site of primary flight training for African-American military pilot candidates in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II.

The Army Air Corps hosted what was called a "military experiment" to see if African-Americans had the mental and physical abilities as well as the courage to serve in leadership positions and to operate and maintain complicated military aircraft.

The success of this "experiment" became legendary and has been immortalized by the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site at Moton Field. In 2007 the Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor that can be bestowed upon American citizens.

1616 Chappie James Avenue. Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
334-724-0922. www.nps.gov/tuai

The original hangar is open to visitors





Anniston murals depict scenes from the Freedom Rides

FREEDOM RIDERS NATIONAL MONUMENT IN ANNISTON

Murals in downtown Anniston depict Freedom Riders aboard Greyhound and Trailways buses that were attacked by the Ku Klux Klan on Mothers' Day in 1961. In 2017, President Obama proclaimed the Freedom Riders National Monument.

1330 Quintard Ave.
Contact Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center, 256-237-3536.

ASHLAND HONORS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE BLACK

A statue of Clay County native Hugo Black, who served on the U.S. Supreme Court from 1937 to 1971, is two blocks south of the Courthouse. *Time* magazine in 2015 named Black one of the court's 10 most important justices.



A Statue of Justice Hugo Black



TALLADEGA COLLEGE MURALS

African American artist Hale Woodruff's acclaimed murals portraying the Amistad mutiny and its aftermath, as well as the founding of Alabama's first historically black college, Talladega College, have been displayed at major museums, including the Smithsonian National African American Museum of History and Culture.

Savery Library, 627 W. Battle St. 256-362-2909. www.Talladega.edu.

SCOTTSBORO BOYS MUSEUM

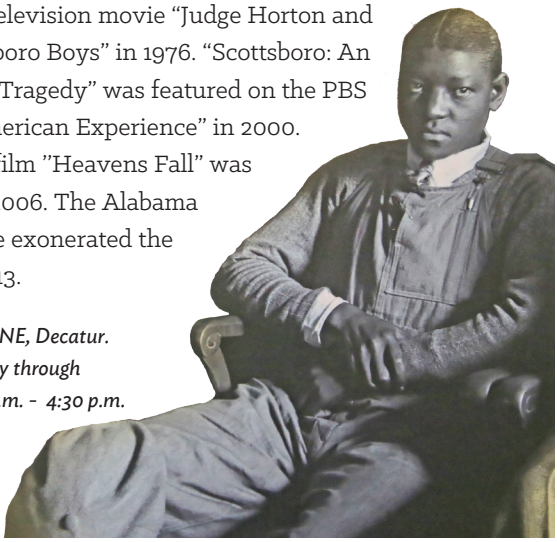
This museum in a former church chronicles the first landmark civil rights cases during the 1930s. Nine black teenagers who hopped aboard a freight at Chattanooga in 1931 were arrested without cause near Scottsboro. They were charged with raping two young white girls who also hitched a ride on the train. During several controversial trials in Decatur and Scottsboro, which drew international outrage, the all-white juries found them guilty and sentenced eight to death.One girl recanted her accusation. The U.S. Supreme Court voided their convictions, ruling for the first time that all defendants have a right to trial "by a jury of their peers," and returned the cases to Alabama for retrial.



428 W. Willow Street. Open the second and third Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and by appointment for groups of five or more. 256-609-4202. www.scottsboroboysmuseum.org

MORGAN COUNTY ARCHIVES

Archival photos and the witness chair from the Morgan County Courthouse where "Scottsboro Boy" Haywood Patterson was retried in 1933 are exhibited at the Morgan County Archives. The racist miscarriage of justice was the basis for the two-part television movie "Judge Horton and the Scottsboro Boys" in 1976. "Scottsboro: An American Tragedy" was featured on the PBS series "American Experience" in 2000. A feature film "Heavens Fall" was filmed in 2006. The Alabama Legislature exonerated the nine in 2013.



624 Bank St. NE, Decatur. Open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, Tenn.

U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL

More than 100 landmarks on the U.S. Civil Rights Trail are scattered from Topeka, Kan., through Alabama, to Washington, DC. The churches, schools, courthouses and museums chronicle where heroic activists gained equal access to public education, public accommodations and voting rights. Fifteen National Park Service sites, including several National Monuments, are featured.

U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL™

www.civilrightstrail.com

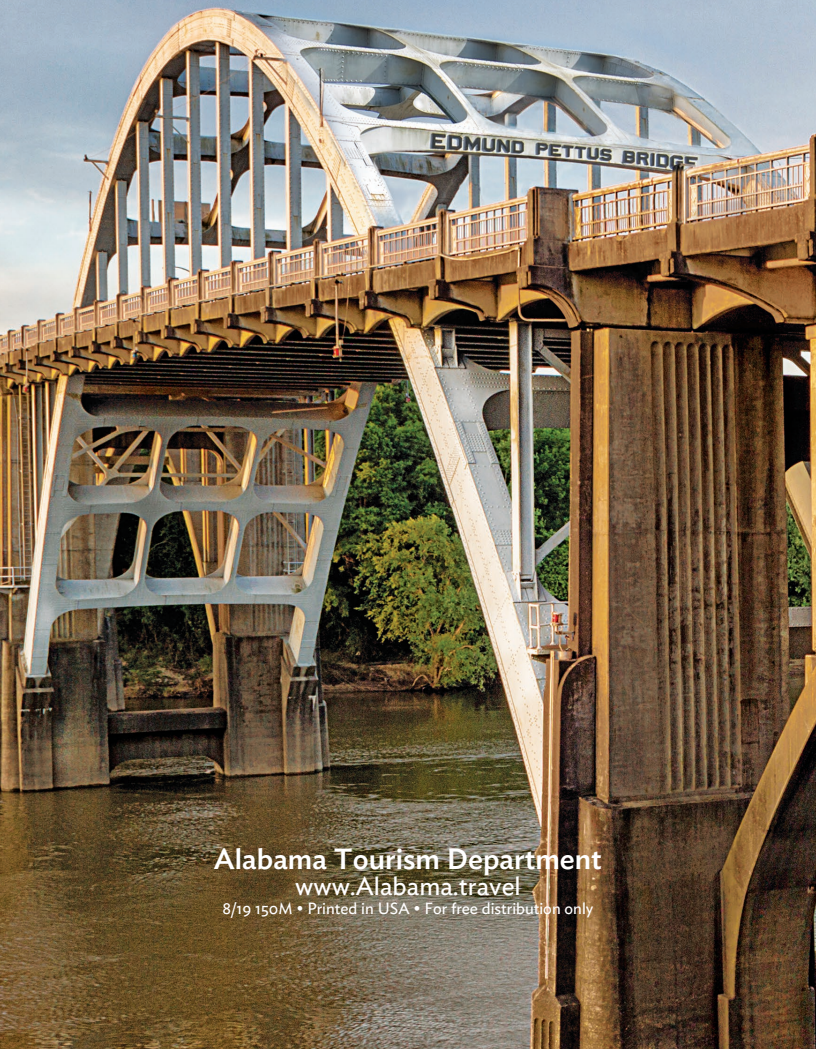


Little Rock Central High School, Little Rock, Ark.



International Civil Rights Center & Museum, Greensboro, N.C.

ALABAMA CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL



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