

Celebrating Black History

Baton Rouge is the beautiful, diverse city it is today because of its deep roots in Black history and culture. Home to many leaders, artists, authors, filmmakers, chefs, inventors, and more, the city tells a story of a difficult past to a powerful present for the African American community. Today, exploring Black history in Baton Rouge reveals not only a legacy of struggle against oppression but also one of creativity, achievement, and enduring contributions to the Capital City's heritage.

Explore More

Discover local Black-owned businesses and restaurants, as well as festivals and events celebrating Black culture by scanning the QR code.

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Baton Rouge Black History Trail







Visit Baton Rouge

1 1953 Bus Boycott Marker

Louisiana's Old State Capitol
100 North Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70801

The first Civil Rights bus boycott in the nation was held in Baton Rouge by several local Black leaders who formed the United Defense League (UDL) to protest bus segregation. The peaceful protest inspired similar models used in the Montgomery Bus Boycotts and by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

2 A.Z. Young Park

800 Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801

A.Z. Young Park honors the first, and longest march at 105 miles, in the Civil Rights Movement. Led by Civil Rights Activist A.Z. Young, the Bogalusa to Baton Rouge march was referred to as the "105-mile gauntlet," and ended at the steps of Louisiana's State Capitol.

3 Baton Rouge African American Museum

805 Saint Louis Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

The Baton Rouge African American Museum was founded in 2001 by the late Sadie Roberts-Joseph, a pillar in the local Black community. She founded the museum to expand knowledge of African American history through engaging exhibits and community engagement. It's recommended to call the museum to schedule a visitation at (225) 244-9474.

4 City-Brooks Park

1515 Dalrymple Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

The Brooks Pool officially opened in 1949 and served as a popular social spot for the Black community when the only other community pool in Baton Rouge was segregated. Though the pool is gone, the park where it stood exists as a unified community for all to enjoy.

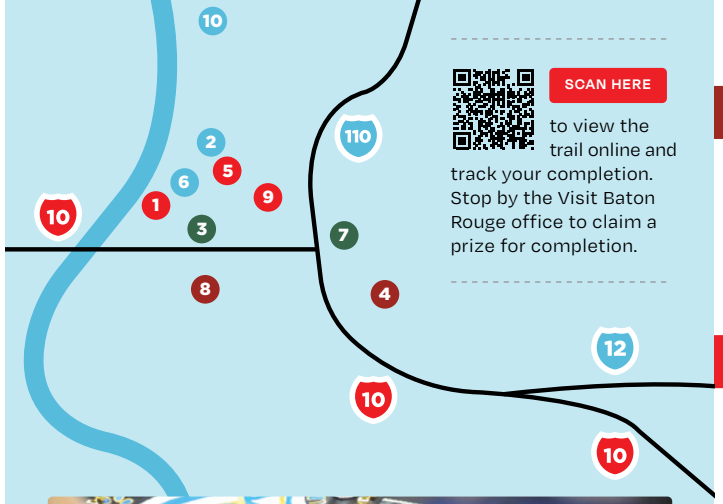
5 Capitol Park Museum

660 N. Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801

This dynamic museum invites visitors to delve into the rich tapestry of the Louisiana's history, culture, and natural wonders. Explore fascinating exhibits that celebrate Louisiana's diverse heritage, from the soulful rhythms of jazz to the festive frenzy of Mardi Gras.







SCAN HERE to view the trail online and track your completion. Stop by the Visit Baton Rouge office to claim a prize for completion.





6 Kress Building

445 Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801

On March 28, 1960, seven students from Southern University staged sit-in at the Kress Building to push for integration of the lunch counter. Several sit-ins followed across Baton Rouge in the days after, marking the beginning of what would be known as the Baton Rouge Sit-Ins—an important event in the city's Civil Rights Movement.

7 Lincoln Theater

1305 Myrtle Walk Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

In the 1950s and '60s, the Lincoln Theater was one of the few movie and concert halls that catered to Black residents and didn't restrict them to a segregated balcony in the back. The theater closed in the 1980s but is undergoing renovations and anticipates opening soon to welcome artists back to its stage.

8 BREC's Magnolia Mound

Museum & Historic Site
2161 Nicholson Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Built in 1791, this museum and historic home tells the complex story of its French Creole history and the community of enslaved residents.

9 Mt. Zion First Baptist Church

356 T. J. Jemison Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Serving as a place of worship since 1858, this historic church was a meeting spot for the nation's first Civil Rights bus boycott in 1953. It has hosted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as other state and national dignitaries and leaders.

10 Southern University and A&M College

801 Harding Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70807

Southern University was founded in 1880 to expand educational access for African American students in Louisiana. Over the years, it has grown to include world-class programs and become the nation's largest Historically Black College & Universities system in the U.S. Located on campus, the SU Museum of Art houses an impressive collection of artworks, sculptures, and artifacts created by African American artists and other artists of African descent.