

Atlanta is the birthplace of Martin Luther King Jr. and was a major organizing center of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement.



# Smithsonian

## STUDENT TRAVEL



# ATLANTA: AN AFRICAN AMERICAN NARRATIVE

## Options

- Round-trip transportation
- Air-conditioned motorcoach on tour
- 2 nights hotel accommodations (4 nights on the 5-day tour)
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time Smithsonian Student Travel Tour Director throughout your stay
- Sightseeing tour led by a licensed local guide
- Visits to special attractions as per itinerary
- Overnight security
- Educational materials developed by the Smithsonian
- Medical and accident coverage
- Travel ID Badges and student backpacks
- Smithsonian Membership

- Downtown hotel (private groups only)
- Extended stay
- Lunches
- Gratuities
- Opportunity to earn credit for group leaders and students

## DAY 1: ATLANTA

**Welcome to Atlanta** • Welcome to Atlanta, the capital of Georgia. Atlanta was founded in 1837 as the end of the Western & Atlantic railroad line.

**Guided sightseeing of Atlanta** • Guided sightseeing takes you to the State Capitol Building, whose 75-foot gold-leaf-covered dome is modeled after the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. Head to Centennial Olympic Park, created for the 1996 Olympic Games. This 21-acre park boasts sprawling lawns, rock gardens, pools and fountains, including that of the five Olympic rings. Continue down Peachtree Street, the 37-mile stretch that is Atlanta's main street.

**Underground Atlanta** • Explore the six subterranean blocks of Atlanta's downtown retail, restaurant and entertainment complex. The restored Victorian storefronts you'll see underground were once the center of Atlanta's original downtown area—above ground! In the 1920s, the city constructed concrete viaducts to elevate the street system one level in order to permit better traffic flow. Merchants moved their operations to the second floor, leaving behind a vacant city beneath the streets. In 1968, the district was declared a historic site and opened one year later as an entertainment complex.

## DAY 2: ATLANTA

**Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and Center for Nonviolent Social Change** • At the National Historic Site, visit the former home of Martin Luther King Jr. in the Sweet Auburn section known as the center of black Atlanta. King was born in this two-story Victorian home on Auburn Avenue in 1929. Just down the street is the Ebenezer Baptist Church, where both King's father and grandfather once preached. Martin Luther King Jr. would follow their lead; he became assistant pastor in 1960. You'll also visit the Center for Nonviolent Social Change. This memorial and educational center functions as a non-governmental arm of the United Nations, striving to reduce violence not only between countries but also within our own communities. You will see the world's largest collection of civil rights books and materials, including the 87-volume collection of Mahatma Gandhi's writing and speeches. Pass through Freedom Hall, featuring King's Bible and clerical robe, and pay tribute to the man himself in Freedom Plaza, his final resting place. The marble crypt is surrounded by a reflecting pool, the water symbolizing life-giving properties.

**APEX Museum** • Explore the APEX, which stands for African American Panoramic Experience. The museum showcases the work of African American artists around the world through colorful paintings, exhibitions, masks and videos. There are also replicas of an old-fashioned barber shop, drugstore and trolley car like those once found along Sweet Auburn Avenue, where the museum resides.

**CNN studio tour** • Go behind the scenes of the 24-hour news station that brings the latest events and information to a billion people all over the world. See the control room and the exhibit area, featuring 100 top news clips from the past two decades and the special effects area. Learn how weather maps are created behind the TV anchor; and lastly, learn about the other networks within the CNN group, including TNT and the Cartoon Network.

**Free time in Atlanta** • During your free time, choose to visit the Georgia Aquarium, the world's largest aquarium. The Georgia Aquarium boasts more than eight million gallons of fresh and marine water and more aquatic life than any other aquarium. Visitors can find four whale sharks, the largest fish in the world, and a variety of other marine life including leopard whipsnakes, comb jellyfish and zebra shark pups.

## DAY 3: ATLANTA ★ HOME

**Atlanta Cyclorama** • Visit the Atlanta Cyclorama & Civil War Museum. Marvel at the 360-degree cylindrical oil painting of the July 22, 1864, Battle of Atlanta, which took 11 European artists nearly two years to complete. The museum here features other Civil War paintings and memorabilia.

**Atlanta Botanical Garden** • Discover all of the themed plant collections at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Start in the Tropical Rotunda, where you can view a natural forest canopy and over 100 species from the world's tropical regions. Cacti in all shapes and sizes greet you in the Desert House. Learn about the medicinal benefits of plants in the Orangerie. You'll even find box turtles and dart frogs roaming among the exhibits!

**Departure** • Your tour director assists you with your departure.

## ★5-DAY TOUR★

### DAY 3: ATLANTA (CONTINUED) ★ MONTGOMERY

**Tuskegee Institute National Historic Park** • Tuskegee Normal School was established by the state of Alabama, influenced by a former slave and a former slave owner to educate newly freed people and their children, offering hope for African Americans to reach their goal of societal acceptance. The school officially opened on July 4, 1881, in the African American Methodist Episcopal Zion Church under the auspices of religion, commemorating the independence of a nation and the freedom of a forgotten people. Booker T. Washington became its first principal at the age of 26. He later hired individuals such as George W. Carver and Robert Taylor to help lead the institute to its world-renowned status. The Tuskegee Institute National Historic Park is located on the campus of Tuskegee University.

**Transfer to Montgomery** • Continue on to Montgomery.

**Rosa Parks Museum and Library** • In 1955, a 42-year-old African American seamstress refused to give up her seat on a public bus to a white man, which would prove to be a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement. Rosa Parks helped spark the Montgomery Bus Boycott and thus redirected the course of history. The Rosa Parks Museum contains six distinct areas that tell the story of early civil rights pioneers. Artifacts include a replica of the bus on which Parks made her historic stand, as well as original historic documents of that era.

**Walking tour of Montgomery** • Get acquainted with Montgomery, where the most successful civil rights activity took place in 1955 and 1956. The city was adopted as Alabama's capital city long before, however, in 1846, when its proximity to Atlanta and Birmingham made it a natural political center. The city is home to the world's only monument to those who lost their lives during the Civil Rights Movement, the striking black-granite Civil Rights Memorial, designed by Maya Lin, who also designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Rosa Parks Museum and Library, as well as Martin Luther King Jr.'s former home, can also be found here.

**Transfer to Birmingham** • Continue to Birmingham, a major site in the Civil Rights Movement.

## DAY 4: BIRMINGHAM

**Guided sightseeing of Birmingham** • Discover Alabama's largest city and an important battleground in the fight for civil rights. Birmingham was one of the country's most segregated cities. African American men and women began to stage protests at lunch counters and churches to fight for equality. In May 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. staged a march here that was met with policemen and dogs and resulted in King's three-day solitary confinement, during which time he wrote his famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail," which advocated non-violent resistance to unjust laws. September 1963 saw the bombing of a Baptist church by the Ku Klux Klan, killing four young girls, shocking the nation and igniting the Civil Rights Movement. During your tour, see Kelly Ingram Park, an assembly point for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) participants in sit-ins, boycotts and marches designed to end segregation in Birmingham. Police used nightsticks, high-pressure fire hoses and dogs to attack the non-violent protesters. After masses of adults were jailed, the SCLC encouraged children to protest—and some 1,000 of them were also arrested. Fearing race riots and lost revenue, businesses made a pact with the SCLC that was enforced by President Kennedy's dispatch of 3,000 army troops. The newly elected mayor then repealed the Jim Crow laws, and the desegregation process began. Your sightseeing tour also includes a visit to a 16th-century Baptist church.

**Southern soul food lunch** • Indulge in traditional Southern cooking at La Vas restaurant for lunch.

**Guided visit to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute** • The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute is dedicated to those who fought for racial equality during the 1950s and 1960s. Its exhibits depict the quality of life for whites and blacks at that time, the Montgomery bus boycott, the struggle for the right of African Americans to vote, and local and national achievements on the way to racial justice.

**Transfer to Atlanta** • Return to Atlanta.

## DAY 5: ATLANTA ★ HOME

**Atlanta Botanical Garden** • Discover all of the themed plant collections at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Start in the Tropical Rotunda, where you can view a natural forest canopy and over 100 species from the world's tropical regions. Cacti in all shapes and sizes greet you in the Desert House. Learn about the medicinal benefits of plants in the Orangerie. You'll even find box turtles and dart frogs roaming among the exhibits!

**Margaret Mitchell House and Museum** • Author of *Gone With the Wind*, Margaret Mitchell was born in Atlanta in 1900 and lived there her entire life. You can visit the house where she lived and wrote her famous book. You'll also learn how the movie was made.

**Departure** • Your tour director assists you with your departure.

**Itinerary subject to change. For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.**



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