

## USA – American Civil Rights Tour

### Day 1 London To Atlanta

Fly to Atlanta. You will be met on arrival by your guide and transferred to your hotel.

### Day 2 Atlanta, Georgia

We will have this morning to enjoy a **guided tour** of the city, including Georgia State Capitol Building and Centennial Olympic Park. In the afternoon we will see sites associated with Martin Luther King and the American Civil Rights Movement, including:

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site** – visit the King Center site and Dr. King's grave, the King birth home and Ebenezer Baptist Church, where he preached. The surrounding historic "Sweet Auburn" District, centered around Auburn Avenue, was the thriving center of black enterprise in Atlanta from the 1890s through the 1940s. Auburn Avenue is the birthplace of Dr. King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; home to landmark churches as well as many noted black-owned businesses.
- **African-American Panoramic Experience (APEX) Museum** – This museum showcases artistic and historic exhibitions of Atlanta's African-American heritage, including a model of Georgia's first black-owned drugstore. Local history on video is shown daily in the museum's vintage trolley theatre.
- **Atlanta History Center** – Visitors explore "Gone With The Wind" and the Civil War, civil rights and more at the museum, then tour two historic homes.

### Day 3 Atlanta – Tuskegee - Montgomery

This morning we drive to the **Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site**.

- Tuskegee Normal School was influenced by a former slave and a former slave owner to educate newly freed people and their children. The Normal school, later Institute, became a beacon of hope for African Americans to reach their goal of acceptance. Booker T. Washington became the first principal of a newly formed school at the age of twenty-six. He later hired individuals like George W. Carver and Robert Taylor to help lead the institute to its world-renowned status. Today, the legacy of Washington, Carver and many others has been preserved in the **Historic Campus District of Tuskegee University** where original buildings constructed by the students, from bricks made in the Institute brickyard still stand. Exhibits, interpretive programs and two introductory films on George Washington Carver and Booker T. Washington are available upon request.
- The outstanding performance of the over 15,000 men and women who shared the "Tuskegee Experience" from 1942-1946, is immortalized at the **Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site**. The all-Black squadrons of Tuskegee Airmen were highly decorated World War II combat veterans and forerunners of the modern day Civil Rights Movement.

We continue to Montgomery, where we will see the State Capitol, restored to its 1850s appearance. Late 2005 was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic Montgomery Bus Boycott, and we will learn more about this historic action with visits to:

- **Civil Rights Memorial Center** – the center will provide visitors with in-depth information about the people and events it honours. The exhibits will spotlight Civil Rights Movement martyrs, alongside a short film about the Memorial's creation. The visitor experience will close at the Wall of Tolerance, a testament to the ongoing tolerance movement in America.
- **Rosa Parks Museum** - Rosa Louise Parks was nationally recognized as the "mother of the modern day civil rights movement" in America. Her refusal to surrender her seat to a white male passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama bus, December 1, 1955, triggered a wave of protest December 5, 1955 that reverberated throughout the United States. Her quiet courageous act changed America, its view of black people and redirected the course of history.
- The initial Civil Rights activity in Montgomery relating to the Montgomery Bus boycott in the 1950s was orchestrated by Martin Luther King from his office in the **King Memorial Dexter Avenue Baptist Church**.
- **The Civil Rights Memorial Center** honours the memory and achievements of those who lost their lives during the Civil Rights Movement with state-of-the-art exhibits and in-depth information about Civil Rights Movement martyrs.

#### **Day 4 Montgomery - Selma - Birmingham**

Today is an early start and we drive towards Selma we will visit:

- **The Marchers Memorial and Interpretive Center** is a powerful museum. The introductory film is excellent and the museum is very interactive and accounts the history of the area from the early twentieth century struggle for voting rights to the 1965 protests and marches.
- The historic **Brown Chapel AME church** was the location for most, if not all, of the mass meetings over the course of 1965. It was the only church to willingly defy a court injunction against more than three black citizens gathering in any place. Brown Chapel seats approximately 1000 and was host to luminaries of the Civil Rights Movement.
- **The National Voting Rights Museum & Institute** offers a pictorial history of voting rights struggle. Displays offer an exceptional record of events and participants that made Civil Rights history.

We then travel north to Birmingham, a centre of civil rights action in the past. In Birmingham we will visit:

- **Birmingham Civil Rights Institute** – the BCRI's Permanent Exhibitions comprise a self-directed journey through the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s on to the human rights struggles of today. A replica of the Freedom Riders' bus helps tell the story and the Institute offers tours for schools.
- On Sunday morning, September 15, 1963, the Ku Klux Klan bombed the **Sixteenth Street Baptist Church** in Birmingham, Alabama, killing four girls.

This murderous act shocked the nation and galvanized the civil rights movement.

**Day 5 Birmingham - Atlanta , Fly To UK**

There will be time to visit sites in Birmingham or upon driving back to Atlanta before transferring to Atlanta's International Airport for the flight back to the UK.

**Day 6 Arrive UK**

Your flight arrives back in the UK early this morning.