

Birmingham Civil Rights District



Miles College



Birmingham Civil Rights District



HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES TOUR

Alabama is home to more Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) than any other state—and there's no better place to begin your journey than right here in Birmingham. Known for its rich civil rights history and vibrant culture, Birmingham serves as the perfect home base for exploring several of the state's distinguished HBCUs. While you're here, be sure to support and experience some of the city's incredible Black-owned businesses along the way.

Day 1: History, Culture & Miles College

STAY AT THE BLACK-OWNED HAMPTON INN & SUITES BIRMINGHAM EAST IRONDALE

BREAKFAST AT A LOCALLY OWNED BLACK RESTAURANT

Grab some coffee and pastries at Grounds in Downtown

CAMPUS TOUR OF MILES COLLEGE (FAIRFIELD)

Founded in 1898, Miles is a private four-year liberal arts college affiliated with the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. With approximately 1,500-1,700 students, it offers a diverse and international faculty, many of whom are from African and Asian countries. The school is community-focused and known for student engagement and activism.

LUNCH AT BURNING TREE SMOKEHOUSE

Must try the Brisket Taco or Brisket & Gravy.

VISIT BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS DISTRICT

Birmingham's Civil Rights District is designated a National Monument, recognizing its pivotal role in the fight for racial equality in America.

16th Street Baptist Church is a historic landmark of the Civil Rights Movement and a powerful symbol of resilience. In 1963, it was the site of a tragic bombing that killed four young girls, sparking national outrage and accelerating the fight for racial justice in America.

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute is an interactive museum and cultural center that chronicles the struggles and triumphs of the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham and beyond.

Through powerful exhibits and firsthand accounts, it offers a compelling look at the fight for justice and the ongoing pursuit of human rights.

Kelly Ingram Park is a historic landmark in downtown Birmingham that served as a central site for civil rights demonstrations; today, visitors can explore its powerful sculptures and stories through a self-guided cell phone tour that brings the park's history to life.

A.G. Gaston Motel, now part of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument, served as a strategic meeting place for civil rights leaders during the 1963 Birmingham Campaign and stands today as a preserved symbol of the movement's leadership and courage.

DINNER AT EAGLES RESTAURANT, A FAMILY-OWNED RESTAURANT FROM THE 1950S.

This itinerary includes only a limited number of Historically Black Colleges and Universities located near the Birmingham area.

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950 22nd Street North, Suite 550, Birmingham, Alabama 35203



BIRMINGHAM

Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute



Magic City Classic Football



16th Street Baptist Church & Kelly Ingram Park



Day 2: Innovation, Music & Science

BREAKFAST AT THE ALICIA'S COFFEE IN THE A.G. GASTON MOTEL.

DEPART BIRMINGHAM FOR HUNTSVILLE (1.5 HOURS)

CAMPUS TOUR OF OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1896 by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Oakwood is the only Adventist-operated HBCU. Explore the music and theology departments. This expansive campus spans roughly 1,185 acres.

CAMPUS TOUR OF ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY

Established in 1875, Alabama A&M is a public, land-grant institution based on the scenic "Hill" in Normal, just outside downtown Huntsville. As a member of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund it serves approximately 6,000 students and offers a wide array of programs – including robust degrees in engineering, business, agriculture, education, and many more. A&M is also a part of the Alabama Space Grant Consortium.

OPTIONAL: STOP AT THE U.S. SPACE & ROCKET CENTER

RETURN TO BIRMINGHAM

DINNER AT MICHAEL'S RESTAURANT NEAR REGION FIELD

Try go to the Negro Southern League Museum before dinner if you can!

DESSERT AT K & J'S ELEGANT PASTRIES

If you have an early dinner.

Day 3: Legacy & Leadership

BREAKFAST AT YO' MAMA'S

Must try the chicken & waffles.

DEPART BIRMINGHAM FOR MONTGOMERY (1.5 HOURS)

CAMPUS TOUR OF ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY (ASU)

Founded in 1867 by nine formerly enslaved leaders as the Lincoln Normal School of Marion, Alabama State is one of the oldest HBCUs. Today, with approximately 5,400 students, ASU offers nearly 50 degree programs across eight colleges.

VISIT MONTGOMERY CIVIL RIGHTS SITES

The Rosa Parks Museum honors the legacy of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott through immersive exhibits that highlight her pivotal role in igniting the modern Civil Rights Movement.

Dexter Avenue Baptist Church is a historic church where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. served as pastor and helped launch the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a defining moment in the Civil Rights Movement.

The Legacy Museum & National Memorial for Peace

powerfully confronts America's history of racial injustice, from slavery to mass incarceration, through immersive exhibits and a moving memorial to victims.

RETURN TO BIRMINGHAM

DINNER AT JAKE'S SOULFOOD CAFE HOOVER

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