

ALABAMA CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL



DEXTER AVENUE KING MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE CANDIDATE



Albert Cesare

“Our work is not finished,” President Barack Obama at the Edmund Pettus Bridge on the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Movement

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.

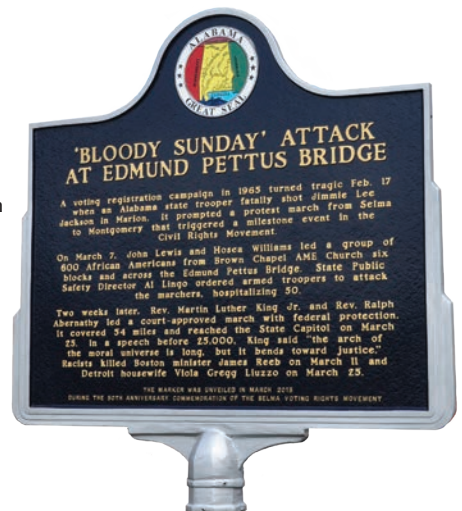
Historic events transformed ordinary citizens such as Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Fred Shuttlesworth, Ralph Abernathy, Fred Gray and others into legends for the ages. Churches where leaders planned these protests are today recognized by the UNESCO World Heritage Site program. Visit Bethel Baptist and 16th Street Baptist in 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.



PARAMOUNT STUDIOS

Left: “Selma,” the award-winning film about the voting rights movement, received an Academy Award Best Picture nomination. Actor David Oyelowo portrays King. See an additional photo on page 7.



MARION SELMA



Edmund Pettus Bridge

ART MERIPOL

The march that helped win passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 may have been from Selma to Montgomery, but the story actually began in Marion, Ala.

It was the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson in this small West Alabama town that created the spark that ignited one of the civil rights movement's most important events.

During a peaceful protest on Feb. 18, 1965 state law enforcement officers beat the demonstrators. Jackson, a Vietnam veteran and a deacon at Marion's St. James Baptist Church, was shot to death when a state trooper attacked his



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

mother and he tried to defend her. Another state trooper James Bonard Fowler shot him, saying later he thought Jackson was armed. The anger the incident generated helped lead to the Selma to Montgomery March just weeks after Jackson's death.

On March 7, 1965, Rev. Hosea Williams and John Lewis stepped from the pulpit of Brown Chapel Church and led 600 marchers toward Montgomery. After just six blocks, Sheriff Jimmy Clark's mounted deputies and state troopers, dispatched by Gov. George Wallace, attacked the group with nightsticks and tear gas as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge, injuring dozens. America was shocked by the brutal images of what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

Two weeks later, religious leaders from throughout the country joined Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the march. Alabama National Guardsmen and Army troops protected the court-ordered limit of 300 marchers as they walked along U.S. Hwy. 80 during the day and slept in the fields at night. They covered the 54 miles between Selma and Montgomery's State Capitol in four days.

Viola Liuzzo, a 39-year-old white mother of five from Detroit, was shot while shuttling marchers back to Selma. Her death outraged moderates, and President Lyndon Johnson was emboldened to push the stalled Voting Rights Bill through Congress. www.selmaalabama.com

After the 1965 Voting Rights Act was signed into law on Aug. 6, some 7,000 blacks registered to vote in Dallas County and defeated the segregationist sheriff who led the "Bloody Sunday" attack on marchers.



BROWN CHAPEL AME CHURCH

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



Above: Oprah Winfrey, dressed as civil rights activist Annie Lee Cooper, visits with “Selma” director Ava DuVernay, and actor David Oyelowo.

EDMUND PETTUS BRIDGE

Today visitors can walk across one of the most recognized symbols of the Civil Rights Movement. Black leaders and others return each March for the Bridge Crossing Jubilee. National political leaders, including Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Jimmy Carter, George W. Bush and Joe Biden, have participated. **U.S. Highway 80 at Water Avenue. 334-875-7241.**



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



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.

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 and movie based upon it, including the Old



Courthouse Museum in which much of the story took place.

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

www.monroecountymuseum.org



THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INTERPRETIVE CENTER

In 1965 several African-American tenant farmer families in Lowndes County were evicted from their homes by white landowners for attempting to register and vote. A Tent City was established at the location of the Lowndes Interpretive Center as a temporary home for the evicted families.

Twenty miles east of Selma in White Hall, is the midpoint of the National Historic Voting Rights Trail. **7002 U.S. Highway 80 W.** (between mile markers 105 and 106) in Lowndes County. **334-877-1983. Open Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. www.nps.gov/semo**



MONTGOMERY



The city that had been known as the “Cradle of the Confederacy” has the dual distinction of being the “Birthplace of Civil Rights.”

Shortly after marrying his college sweetheart in Marion, Alabama in 1954, 24-year-old Martin Luther King Jr. preached his first sermon at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, a block from the Alabama State Capitol where Southern secessionists had formed the Confederacy in 1861.



Martin Luther King

In 1955, the year after King arrived, 42-year-old seamstress Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to relinquish her seat on a city bus to whites as required by city ordinance. Black ministers and lawyers, who had been waiting for a test case on the constitutionality of the law, recruited the reluctant young minister to lead a boycott of city buses. King’s stirring oratory galvanized the black community and made him the

spokesman for the fledgling movement. Some 50,000 black people refused to ride the city’s buses for 381 days until the U.S. Supreme Court struck down laws segregating public transportation.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott was the first major victory in the modern Civil Rights Movement. Dr. King became the acknowledged leader of the movement. His increased responsibilities prompted him to resign from church duties after four years. Meanwhile, Mrs. Parks and her husband moved north to establish an educational program for young people.

Federal authorities provided protection for civil rights demonstrators for the first time after Freedom Riders, black and white college students riding buses to protest the lack of enforcement of desegregation rulings, were attacked in Montgomery in 1961. King’s nonviolent leadership was recognized with the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize.



STEPHEN POFF

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/



STEPHEN POFF



TOMMY CAULFIELD

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. After you read the names of the martyrs and a timeline of landmark events etched on its black granite table, walk up the entrance at mid-block to enter the Civil Rights Memorial Center and learn the stories of the martyrs.

The “Here I Stand” exhibit chronicles important events that occurred downtown during the Civil Rights Movement. A short film in the 60-seat auditorium provides an overview of the movement. Visitors can sign a pledge to work for justice on the Wall of Tolerance.

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



ART MERIPOL



LEE SENTELL

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 Nov. 19, 1959. 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



ROBIN McDONALD

Rev. Cromwell Handy - Dexter Avenue King Memorial Church

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 to 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





ROBIN McDONALD

FREEDOM RIDES MUSEUM AND FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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 “Freedom Rides.” The white and black participants rode interstate buses from Washington through the Deep South on Mother’s Day weekend in 1961 to protest laws integrating interstate transportation not being followed. The riders were savagely beaten upon arrival in Birmingham and Montgomery as police stood by and watched. A bus outside Anniston was set afire with terrified passengers inside.

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 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. In 1968, Abernathy was just steps away from King when the civil rights leader was assassinated on a motel balcony in Memphis.

Today the Greyhound bus station, adjacent to the Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse where many of the country’s key civil rights decisions were handed down, is a museum that commemorates the Freedom Rides. The building is owned by the federal government and leased to the Alabama Historical Commission.

Freedom Rides Museum:
210 South Court Street. 334-414-8647 or 334-242-3184.
Open Tues.- Sat. Noon to 3 p.m.
www.freedomridemuseum.org

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



16th Street Baptist Church

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 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.

Because many whites moved to Birmingham's affluent suburbs, blacks dominated local government and elected Richard Arrington the city's first black mayor in 1979. As a way to heal past divisions over race, Arrington encouraged turning former battlefields into shrines that are now visited by tourists from around the world.

www.birminghamal.org

This stained glass window was a gift from the people of Wales





Interior of 16th Street Baptist Church

ART MERIPOL

16TH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

The church suffered the deadliest moment of the civil rights era. Days after a six-year court battle ended in favor of integrating Birmingham schools, and climaxing four months of demonstrations by



blacks, Klansmen retaliated. On Sept. 15, 1963, they bombed the church, killing four girls in the basement who were preparing for Sunday worship.



Photos on display in the basement show the damage of the dynamite blast. Look up in the balcony for a stained-glass depiction of a black

crucified Christ and the words “You do it unto me.”
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



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.



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.

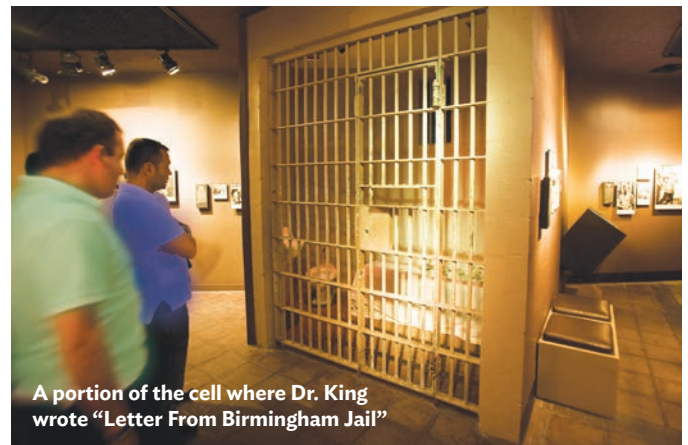
Look for the original door from the jail cell where King wrote “Letter From Birmingham Jail” that urged white religious bystanders to become active in the movement. Visitors can see “white” and “colored” drinking fountains and a 1950s lunch counter that symbolized segregation in public places.

A replica of a Greyhound bus that was torched



near Anniston, because black and white riders challenged the state’s segregation laws, is also displayed. A statue of Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth honors the leader of Birmingham’s demonstrations.

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.bcric.org**



A portion of the cell where Dr. King wrote “Letter From Birmingham Jail”



GREG BERTHMAN

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.**



Ronald McDowell's sculpture depicts a police dog menacing a teenager.



BIRMINGHAM JAIL HISTORIC MARKER

While King was jailed during the Birmingham marches in April 1963, he wrote "Letter from Birmingham Jail" that explains the need for the Civil Rights Movement. On the 50th anniversary, Birmingham Mayor William Bell, King's daughter Elder Bernice King, and Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley unveiled a historic marker placed by the Leadership Birmingham Class 2012 and the Alabama Tourism Department. **417 Sixth Avenue S.**



TUSKEGEE

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) on **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



STEPHEN POFF

TUSKEGEE ARMEN 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



ADDITIONAL SITES SCOTTSBORO BOYS MUSEUM

This museum chronicles the first landmark civil rights cases during the 1930s. Nine black teenagers who hopped aboard a freight at Chattanooga in 1931 were arrested 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. 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 of the month from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and by appointment for groups of five or more. 256-609-4202.
www.scottsboroboysmuseum.org

ANNISTON CIVIL RIGHTS & HERITAGE TRAIL

Freedom Rider Murals depict the Greyhound and Trailways buses that were attacked by the Ku Klux Klan on Mothers’ Day 1961. The buses carried passengers testing the Supreme Court decision that desegregated travel facilities in the U.S.

Murals: **1031 Gurnee Avenue, and 901 Noble Street.**
A historic marker is located at the site of the bus burning on Old Birmingham Highway. Contact Spirit of Anniston,
256-236-3422.



ALABAMA CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL APP

Walk in the footsteps of the Civil Rights Movement by exploring the people, places and events that brought Alabama into the international spotlight and changed the course of history. **Official and Free.**

TOURISM INFORMATION SOURCES

State:

Alabama State Parks Division

800-252-7275, 334-242-3334
www.alapark.com

Alabama Tourism Department

334-242-4169
www.alabama.travel

Birmingham

Greater Birmingham CVB

800-458-8085, 205-458-8000
www.birminghamal.org

Camden

Wilcox Area COC

334-682-4929, 334-456-1055
www.wilcoxareachamber.com

Carrollton

Pickens Co. Tourism Association

205-367-2186

Eutaw

Eutaw Area COC

205-372-9769
www.eutawchamber.com

Gee's Bend

Black Belt Community Based Tourism Network

334-526-0819

Marion

Perry County COC

334-683-9622
www.perrycountyalabamachamber.com

Montgomery

Montgomery Area Visitor Center

800-240-9452, 334-262-0013
www.visitmontgomery.com

Selma

Selma-Dallas County Tourism

800-45-SELMA (457-3562), 334-875-7241
www.SelmaAlabama.com

Tuskegee

Tuskegee Area COC

334-727-6619, 334-727-0092
www.tuskegeeachamber.org

Union Springs

Tourism Council of Bullock County

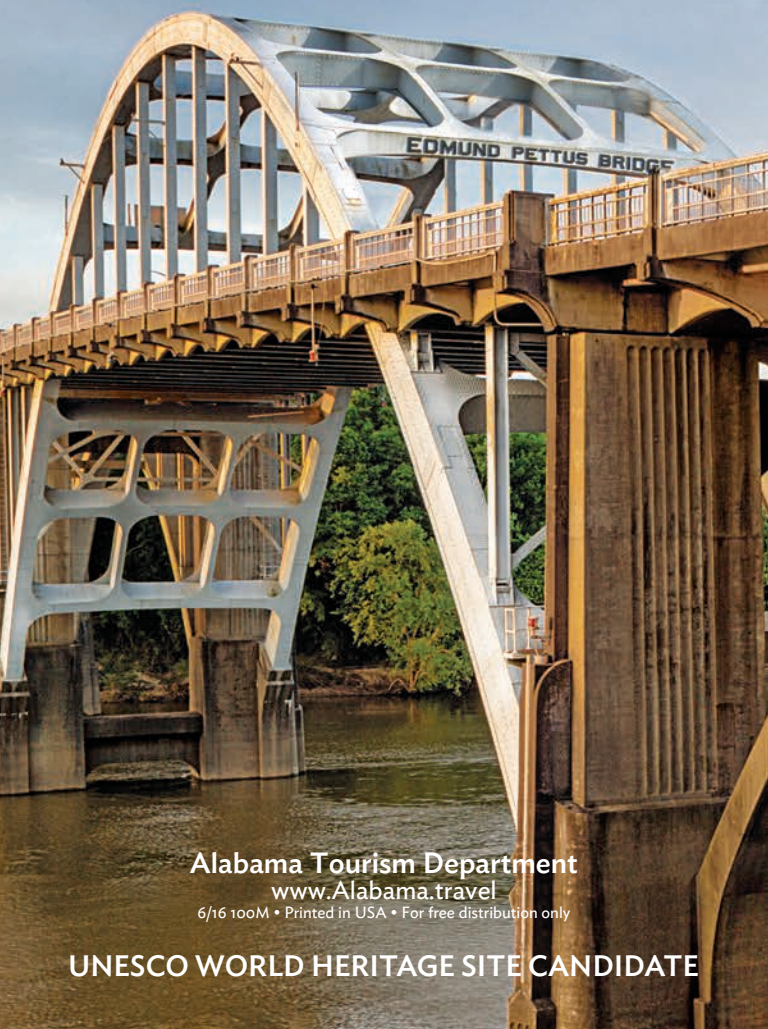
334-738-TOUR
www.unionspringsalabama.com

WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Historic black Baptist churches and other sites, such as the Edmund Pettus Bridge, have been recognized by the UNESCO World Heritage Site program. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s church on Dexter Avenue in Montgomery, 16th Street Baptist and Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth's Bethel Baptist in Birmingham were placed on the tentative list in 2007. These and additional Alabama sites were named in 2014 to the UNESCO "Memory of the World Register."



ALABAMA CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL



Alabama Tourism Department
www.Alabama.travel

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UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE CANDIDATE