

CIVIL RIGHTS EXPERIENCE

Our Mission: Tzedek America transforms lives, strengthens Jewish identity, and changes the world through immersive social impact-oriented experiences.

*pictured above - Harmonizing History: Students immersed in the soulful rhythms of a Memphis blues band, discovering the powerful connection between the heartrending melodies of blues music and the resilience of the civil rights movement.



Welcome to Tzedek America!

Tzedek America provides genuinely immersive and customizable experiences for our clients. Our programs are tailored to fit the unique needs and preferences of each group we work with. Our immersive experience philosophy focuses on engaging all of the senses to create an unforgettable journey that incorporates each destination's sights, tastes, and sounds. We curate fun and educational experiences and ensure that every aspect of the trip is carefully planned and executed.

Our Educators and Experts

Tzedek America's team of highly trained and experienced educators collaborates with local experts, storytellers, and activists to share their knowledge, insights, and lived experiences with you. When you choose Tzedek America, you are choosing a team of professionals who are dedicated to providing the highest quality immersive experiences for your participants.

A Transformational Experience

Tzedek America's Civil Rights Experience is an immersive educational trip to the American South that delves deep into the rich tapestry of the civil rights movement. This extraordinary expedition allows participants to walk in the footsteps of trailblazing activists, witness historical landmarks that have shaped the course of equality and justice, and engage with the region's living history.

As we explore the intersections of past and present, participants will not only gain insights into the history of the movement but also connect its relevance to contemporary discussions on social change. Join us in unraveling the legacy of courage, unity, and progress as we embark on this unforgettable expedition through time and values.

Core Concepts

The goal of the Civil Rights Movement was to fulfill the promises of equality as stated in the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

The Civil Rights Movement forced the US Government to uphold the law concerning Black Americans and marginalized groups, which caused dynamic changes in American culture, politics, and jurisprudence.

In the 1950s and 1960s, significant progress was made in the areas of black American protection, voting rights, equal housing, and desegregation.

TEAM TZEDEK AMERICA



AVRAM MANDELL



RABBI ADRIANNE



PASTOR RONDELL



RANDALL FRIED



ELANA BEAME



GAVRIELLE DONES

Essential Questions

How did the Civil Rights Movement inspire other marginalized groups?

How did the Civil Rights Movement help us move forward as a country?

What were some of the major successes of the Civil Rights Movement?

What is the Jewish obligation to further the work of the Civil Rights Movement?

Judaic Context

Judaism teaches respect for the fundamental rights of others as each person's duty to God: "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor" (Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 31a).

The Torah teaches, that equality is based on the concept that all of God's children are "created in the image of God" (Genesis 1:27).

The Talmud teaches that "the very purpose of the Torah is to promote peace and justice in the world" (Talmud, Berakhot 5a). Similarly, the Civil Rights Movement focused on advocating for civil rights and equality for African Americans.

"From the standpoint of the Torah, there can be no distinction between one human being and another based on race or color. Any discrimination shown to a human being on account of the color of his or her skin constitutes loathsome barbarity." (R. Ahron Soloveichik's Logic of the Heart, Logic of the Mind)

Setting the Tone

Morning meetings are essential to our itinerary as they create a space for everyone to gather their thoughts, connect with one another, and ground themselves in the purpose of the trip. This is especially important given the weight and gravity of the experiences we will be exploring. Our morning meetings establish a respectful and open-minded environment for the day ahead, enable us to approach each site with sensitivity and a desire to learn.



Debriefing

Debriefing allows participants to process and learn from each other in a safe and structured space. The Tzedek America team will provide resources and tools to enable your staff to facilitate reflection on what was learned and how it can be applied to daily life, deepening participants' appreciation and understanding of their experience.



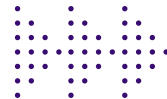
Creating Balance

While educational and impactful experiences are the focus of our civil rights trip, it's equally important to provide an opportunity for participants to relax and decompress from the emotional intensity of the trip. This is the time for friendships to be forged, conversations to continue, and memories to be made. Participants experience the local culture by tasting delicious Southern cuisine, trying new activities, or exploring a new city together. These experiences help create a sense of community and camaraderie that will last long after the trip has ended.



SAMPLE ITINERARY*

*actual itinerary will depend on your arrival and departure times and locations, specific food, religious, and accessibility needs, and speakers and locations' availability.



Day 1: Memphis, TN

As we walk the historic streets of Memphis and visit the sites that once bore witness to pivotal moments in the civil rights movement, such as the Lorraine Motel where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood and the National Civil Rights Museum that now stands in his honor, we find ourselves immersed in the echoes of the past. The soulful rhythms of Beale Street intertwine with the narratives of brave activists and leaders who challenged systemic oppression. From the haunting beauty of the Slave Haven Underground Railroad Museum to the vibrant cultural tapestry of the city, this experience is a powerful reminder of the progress made and the work that still remains on the path towards a more inclusive and just society.



Days 2 & 3: Birmingham, AL

In Birmingham, Alabama, history and culture combine to create a unique experience. Here, we will explore the city's rich civil rights history and other landmarks, including a visit to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, the 16th St. Baptist Church, and Kelly Ingram Park. Before heading to Historic Bethel Church, participants will have free time to explore the vibrant 5 Points South neighborhood. Unwind, enjoy the provided snacks, and refill your emotional cup as you explore Vulcan Park or Sloss Furnaces during our free afternoon. At Beth El Synagogue, participants will learn about the Jewish experience during the civil rights movement and enjoy a delicious dinner. Finally, we'll make a pit stop at the iconic Piggly Wiggly for some shopping before heading to Montgomery, where we'll rest up for another exciting day ahead.



Days 3 & 4: Montgomery & Selma, AL

Embark on a journey through history and human rights in Montgomery, Alabama. We will visit the EJI Legacy Museum, where participants will explore the museum's exhibits and learn about the legacy of slavery, racial injustice, and its ongoing impact on American society. Participants will have the chance to debrief and process their learnings before heading off to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, where you'll witness the sobering reality of America's history of racial violence and lynchings.

After this intense and thought-provoking experience, take a break and enjoy lunch at the National Memorial before walking to the EJI Auditorium, where you'll be inspired and motivated by the words of an influential speaker who will shed light on the current and ongoing struggle for civil rights and social justice in America.

In addition to visiting the National Memorial which highlights the hundreds of racially motivated murders that took place in the South, we will personalize and concretize this experience by also visiting a specific lynching memorial in a smaller town. This allows participants to connect with one individual who was lynched and learn about their life, their family and their community.

Next, we will head to the heart of Alabama's civil rights history, Selma, where you'll experience a personalized guided tour that will provide a unique perspective on the historic events that took place here. In Selma, you'll gain a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by those who fought for their right to vote and how their efforts continue to shape our society today. We will make our way to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where you'll have the opportunity to walk across the span that played a pivotal role in the struggle for civil rights. This unique experience will be followed by a delicious dinner and fun nighttime activity, where you can decompress and process after a powerful and meaningful day.

Alternative Day 1 or 5: Atlanta, GA

Atlanta is the perfect place to begin or conclude our civil rights journey as it was at the forefront of the movement for racial equality. Home to many influential civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King Jr., it was also the site of significant protests and demonstrations. Additionally, Atlanta is home to several important civil rights landmarks, such as the Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Martin Luther King Jr. served as a pastor, and the Center for Civil and Human Rights.

Fees & More

Fee per participant: \$1850 (all-inclusive landed cost - flights not included)

Minimum Participation: 20

3 & 4 day options available - sample itineraries available upon request

We are fully equipped to accommodate all forms of Shabbat and Kashrut observance

Our trips are designed to embrace and celebrate diversity, ensuring an inclusive experience for all participants.

*Actual itinerary will depend on your arrival and departure times and locations, specific food, religious, and accessibility needs, and speakers and locations' availability.



WE LOOK FORWARD TO LEARNING WITH YOU!



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