

TENNESSEE

CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL



EMBARK ON A JOURNEY OF MEANINGFUL DISCOVERY AND MEMORIES, WHERE THE PAST WILL ENRICH THE PRESENT AND INSPIRE THE FUTURE.



TENNESSEE HAS 15 STOPS that tell the stories of the brave people who, through peaceful protests and legal action, fought to secure their American Civil Rights.

The trail connects and commemorates the events, people, places, and stories that defined the Movement. Through immersive and educational travel experiences, experience the stories that shifted the course of history for our nation.



MEMPHIS

- Beale Street Historic District
- Clayborn Temple/I AM A MAN Plaza
- Mason Temple
- National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel
- WDIA Radio
- Stax Museum of American Soul Music
- Withers Collection Museum

NASHVILLE

- Civil Rights Room at the Nashville Public Library
- Clark Memorial United Methodist Church
- Davidson County Courthouse and the Witness Walls
- Fisk University
- National Museum of African American Music
- Griggs Hall, American Baptist College
- Woolworth Theatre

CLINTON

- Clinton 12 Statue at Green McAdoo Cultural Center



BEALE STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Beale Street, Memphis

Created in 1841, Beale Street is one of the most iconic streets in America. It began as a thriving area for commerce, musicians, Black-owned businesses and was home to Ida B. Wells' anti-segregationist newspaper. Four locations are significant to the Civil Rights Movement: Historical Daisy Theatre/Randle Catron Interpretive Center, Withers Collection Museum & Gallery, First Baptist Beale Street Church and Robert R. Church Park.



CLAYBORN TEMPLE/I AM A MAN PLAZA

294 Hernando Street, Memphis

Clayborn Temple is a historic site that became the headquarters for the Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike in 1968. Nearly 1,000 sanitation workers marched daily from the church to City Hall carrying signs declaring, "I AM A MAN." Tours are available by appointment. Located next to Clayborn, the "I AM A MAN" Plaza features a sculpture alongside a wall of names of those who participated in the 1968 Memphis Sanitation strikes.



MASON TEMPLE

930 Mason Street, Memphis

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his prophetic "Mountaintop" speech on April 3, 1968, on what would be the eve of his assassination. On that night, thousands filled the sanctuary to hear Dr. King as he came to Memphis to support the striking sanitation workers. To inspire the people, he famously said he had "been to the mountaintop" and had "seen the Promised Land." These prophetic statements were part of Dr. King's last speech.



NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL

452 Mulberry Street, Memphis

See artifacts and learn the history of the Civil Rights Movement and human rights movements worldwide. The museum has memorialized the balcony of the Lorraine Motel, where Dr. King lost his life, and also preserved Room 306 where Dr. King stayed the night before his assassination. History dating from 1619 to 2000 is shared through videos, text, images and multimedia elements.



WDIA RADIO

2650 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Memphis

WDIA Radio is the first radio station in the country programmed entirely for the African American community. The station featured African American radio personalities and brought awareness to a new market of listeners. WDIA radio reached 10% of the African American population in the U.S. gaining influence and popularity. Visit the historic building (not in use) with the WDIA neon marquee and the original entrance in downtown Memphis.



STAX MUSEUM OF AMERICAN SOUL MUSIC

926 East McLemore Avenue, Memphis

Located on the original site of the Stax Records studio in Memphis, Tennessee, the Stax Museum pays special tribute to the artists who recorded there, as well as other American soul legends. Stax Records created a Black brand of Southern soul music as an integrated company during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. Visit the exhibits with fascinating artifacts telling the story of Stax Records and American soul music.



WITHERS COLLECTION MUSEUM

333 Beale Street, Memphis

Ernest C. Withers, a native Memphian, was an internationally acclaimed photographer recognized for his iconic photographs in Memphis and the broader South during the Civil Rights Movement. Through the power of photographs and stories, the Withers Collection Museum & Gallery honors Ernest Withers and tells the moving story of Memphis and American history in the Civil Rights Movement.



CIVIL RIGHTS ROOM AT THE NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

615 Church Street, Nashville

The materials exhibited here capture a time when thousands of African American citizens in Nashville sparked a nonviolent challenge to racial segregation in the city and across the South. The room archives stories with oral histories and first-hand photographs, but also provides a current voice and venue for open dialogue and discovery. Visitors are invited to schedule a guided experience of the space or enjoy a self-led tour.



CLARK MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1014 14th Avenue North, Nashville

Travel to 14th Avenue North in downtown Nashville to discover the church that served as a meeting site for many civil rights efforts. James Lawson hosted nonviolent protest workshops in 1958 at the church and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had the Southern Christian Leadership Conference annual meeting there in 1961.



DAVIDSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND THE WITNESS WALLS

1 Public Square, Nashville

In April of 1960, after the bombing of the home of Z. Alexander Looby, 2,500 protestors marched to the Courthouse. There, they met Mayor Ben West, who conceded that segregation was immoral and the city's lunch counters should be desegregated. To the Courthouse, the Witness Walls tell stories of the events and people who made history. Walk among the walls to see school desegregation, marches, Freedom Rides and more.



FISK UNIVERSITY

1000 17th Avenue North, Nashville

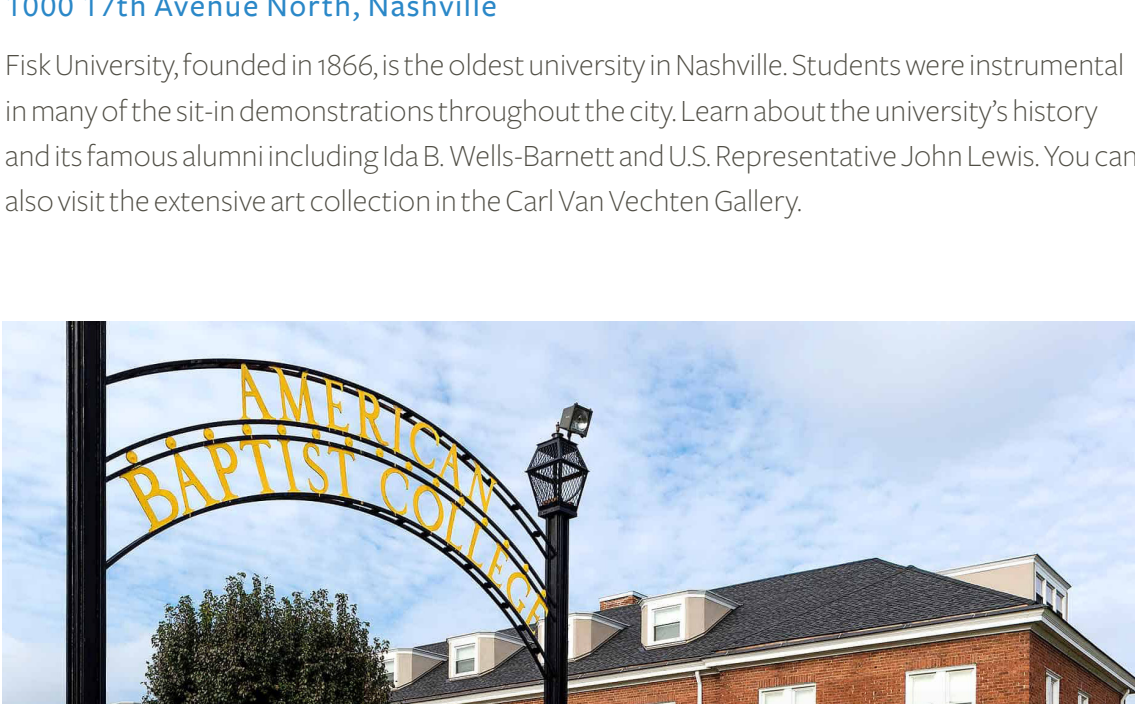
Fisk University, founded in 1866, is the oldest university in Nashville. Students were instrumental in many of the sit-in demonstrations throughout the city. Learn about the university's history and its famous alumni including Ida B. Wells-Barnett and U.S. Representative John Lewis. You can also visit the extensive art collection in the Carl Van Vechten Gallery.



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC

501 Broadway, Nashville

This is the only museum of its kind in the world that celebrates African American contributions to over 50 genres and subgenres of music. Experience the story of the American Soundtrack through integrating history and interactive technology for the Rivers of Rhythm Pathway from the last century. Check out the showcase of American music artistry from Southern religious to hip-hop and R&B.



GRIGGS HALL, AMERICAN BAPTIST COLLEGE

1800 Baptist World Center Drive, Nashville

Griggs Hall, the first building constructed on the campus of American Baptist College was a seminary for Black students. It became the center for non-violent training and activity in the Nashville area, especially the Nashville sit-in program. Griggs Hall was restored in 2015 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Tours are available by appointment.



WOOLWORTH THEATRE

221 5th Avenue North, Nashville

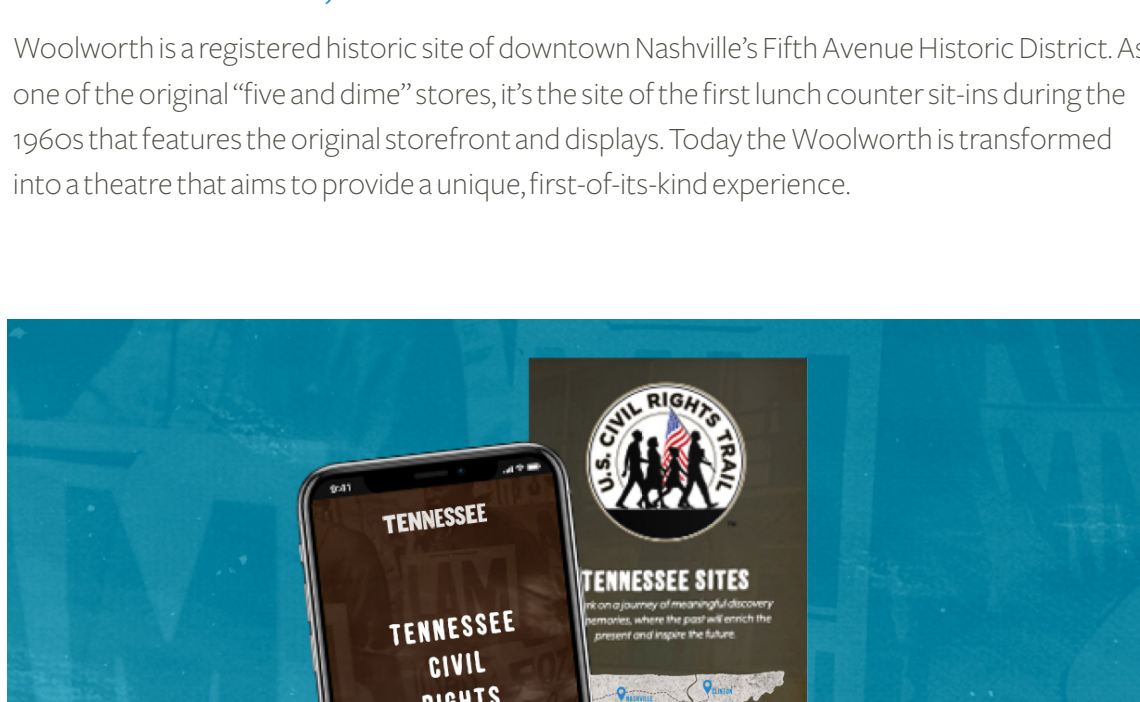
Woolworth is a registered historic site of downtown Nashville's Fifth Avenue Historic District. As one of the original "five and dime" stores, it's the site of the first lunch counter sit-ins during the 1960s that features the original storefront and displays. Today the Woolworth is transformed into a theatre that aims to provide a unique, first-of-its-kind experience.



CLINTON 12 STATUE, GREEN MCADOO CULTURAL CENTER

101 School Street, Clinton

Learn the stories of the Clinton 12, the 12 Black students who, in August 1956, courageously integrated a public high school in the segregated South for the first time. Step inside a 1950s classroom and see what life was like under "Jim Crow" laws. Follow the chronological story of the school's desegregation with life-size photographs and narratives. Twelve bronzed statues stand in front of the center, which is free and open to the public.



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