



The Academy for spiritual Formation®

THE UPPER ROOM

The Long Road Toward Justice and Beloved Community: A Civil Rights Pilgrimage

Itinerary

Birmingham→Montgomery→Selma→Birmingham

(Sites listed in each city are subject to change)

Birmingham, AL (a.k.a. Bombingham): We will begin our pilgrimage in Birmingham. Birmingham highlights the struggle for integration and the power of students in the movement. We will explore the 16th Street Baptist Church, where a bombing killed four young girls on Youth Sunday. Steps away is Kelly Ingram Park, where incredible sculptures depict violent attacks on demonstrators—some of them children—that took place on that site. We will also see Bethel Baptist Church, which was pastored by Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, a prominent leader in the movement. A local historian will guide and enrich our brief time in Birmingham. We will stay our first two nights at the Drury Inn—Birmingham Lakeshore Drive.

Montgomery, AL: We continue from Birmingham to Montgomery where an entire day will be devoted to immersion in the Equal Justice Initiative's (EJI) Legacy Museum and National Peace and Justice Memorial. Bryan Stevenson, activist and founder of EJI, and his team have done powerful work bearing witness to the history of oppression of a people group from slavery, lynching, segregation, to mass incarceration. Another full day will include exploring Montgomery with a local guide, hearing stories, and seeing many historical sites and markers such as the Riverwalk, Artesia Fountain, Rosa Parks Statue, Freedom Rides Museum, Civil Rights Memorial, Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church and the parsonage that was bombed. We will also spend time at the Dr. Richard Harris House, a safe house where Freedom Riders were sheltered after being attacked in Montgomery. We will be staying in Montgomery for three nights at the Drury Inn—Montgomery on Eastern Blvd.

Selma, AL: We will take a day trip from Montgomery to Selma to learn more about the struggle for voting rights. We will traverse the national historic march route and stop at the "Tent City" site along the way. We will hear from a Selma native and civil rights activist, who marched on Bloody Sunday. We will walk across the historical Edmund Pettus Bridge imagining the strength and fortitude of these non-violent protesters and visit the adjacent park. We will return to Montgomery to see EJI's new Freedom Monument Sculpture Park before returning to our hotel for our final evening together and closing worship.

Arrival and Departure: Book flights into Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport (BHM). Plan to arrive at the Drury Inn—Birmingham Lakeshore Drive between 3 and 5:30 PM Central Time on Monday, February 23. The hotel address is 160 State Farm Parkway, Birmingham, AL 35209 and 12 miles from the airport. Saturday, February 28, we will checkout of the Montgomery hotel and plan to arrive at the Birmingham airport by 11 AM Central Time. Schedule return flights accordingly.