



**Women Driving Change:  
Montgomery Civil Rights Field Study**

**Overview**

During your customized program, explore the role of women in the Civil Rights Movement by exploring significant events in one city, including Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Freedom Rides. While the history of the Civil Rights movement focuses on the male leaders, over fifty percent of the activists were women and young people. Hear the story from the children, relatives and subject matter experts of the phenomenal women who led, fed and fueled the Montgomery bus boycott and took in the Freedom Riders. Participants will trace the footsteps of these historical giants through tours and visits to heritage sites. Additionally, participants will come away with the ability to interpret social change from a more critical perspective and see themselves as part of it. Visits to the Equity and Justice Institute's Legacy Museum and Memorial aid in understanding of how racial and social justice battles from the past connect to contemporary issues of inequality experienced by many groups today.

**Accommodations**

Shared accommodations at downtown Montgomery hotel or vacation rental.

**Dining**

Eating is a big part of traveling as we experience the culture through our most primal senses of smell and taste. While traveling with Nobis Project, you will experience an array of favorite foods of the region. Participants eat all meals together. Participants have breakfast provided at the hotel. Most days bag lunches are provided. Dinner is a time to unwind and discuss the day's events and will include opportunities to sample the favorite local home-style dishes together at the hotel meeting room.

**Airport / Train Information**

Participants are responsible for their own transportation for the duration of the program. The closest airports are Montgomery Regional Airport (MGM), Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport (BHM), and Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (ATL).

**Suggested Reading**

- [The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks](#) by Jeanne Theoharris
- [Claudette Colvin Twice Toward Justice](#) by Phillip Hoose

DAY ONE	
3:00 pm	Arrive and Check-in to Accommodations
4:00 pm	Welcome (Hopes & Fears, Creating a Safe Space, Safety Overview) Introduction to Nobis Big Ideas Nobis Big Ideas Activity
5:30 pm	Welcome Dinner
7:00 pm	Group Reflection
8:00 pm	Evening Activity – Movie / Games
DAY TWO	
8:00 am	Breakfast at Accommodations
8:30 am	Big Ideas Activity
9:30 am	Walk to Museum
10:00 am	<b>The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration</b> This museum is built on the site of a former warehouse where enslaved Black people were imprisoned, and is located midway between an historic slave market and the main river dock and train station where tens of thousands of enslaved people were trafficked during the height of the domestic slave trade. Montgomery's proximity to the fertile Black Belt region, where slave-owners amassed large enslaved populations to work the rich soil, elevated Montgomery's prominence in domestic trafficking, and by 1860, Montgomery was the capital of the domestic slave trade in Alabama, one of the two largest slave-owning states in America.
12:00 pm	Walk to Riverfront
12:15 pm	Lunch on Riverfront
1:00 pm	Walk to Museum
1:30 pm	<b>Social Justice and The Civil Rights Movement</b> Join us on an education journey as we learn more about the leaders of Civil Rights and the path that continues for racial equity and social justice. This experience is both educational and reflective. We examine the historical events of the Civil Rights Movement, contemporary leaders from today and consider what the pathway looks like for justice work.
3:00 pm	Free Time
4:30 pm	<b>Introduction to Service-Learning Project</b>
5:30 pm	Group Reflection
6:30 pm	Dinner at Accommodations
8:00 pm	Evening Activity – Movie / Games
DAY TWO	
8:00 am	Breakfast at Accommodations
9:00 am	Big Ideas Activity
9:45 am	Walk to Rosa Parks Bus Stop and Museum
10:00 am	<b>Rosa Parks Museum and Rosa Parks Bus Stop</b> Troy University's Rosa Parks Museum is an active memorial to the life of civil rights icon Rosa Parks and the lessons of the Montgomery Bus Boycott that brought racial integration to transportation and international attention to civil rights. Located in downtown Montgomery, Alabama at the site where Mrs. Parks was arrested, it is the nation's only museum dedicated to Rosa Parks. The museum's collection contains a number of historically significant artifacts including the original fingerprint arrest record of Mrs. Parks, a 1950s-era Montgomery city bus, original works of art including statuary and quilts, court documents and police reports, as well as a restored 1955 station wagon (known as a "rolling church") used to transport protesters.
11:30 am	Walk to Park for Lunch
12:00 pm	Lunch in Park
1:00 pm	Walk to Alabama State University
1:30 pm	<b>Alabama State University - Meet with the Archivist or Historian</b> Originally established In 1887 by the State of Alabama as the Alabama Colored People's University. The institution originally operated for two years solely on tuition fees, voluntary service and donations until, by act of the Legislature in 1889, the state resumed its support. ASU staff and students made significant contributions to the history of the state and nation, especially with their involvement in the Civil Rights

	Movement. The Montgomery Bus Boycott, the first direct action campaign of the modern Civil Rights Movement, awakened a new consciousness within the university and the community responded to the call for participants.
3:00 pm	<b>Service-Learning Project</b>
4:30 pm	Walk to Accomodations
5:30 pm	Group Reflection
6:30 pm	Dinner
8:00 pm	Evening Activity – Movie / Games
<b>DAY THREE</b>	
8:00 am	Breakfast at Accomodations
9:00 am	Big Ideas Activity
10:00 am	Walk to Museum
10:30 am	<p><b>Freedom Rides Museum</b></p> <p>In 1961 groups of volunteers made history by challenging the practice of segregated travel through the South. They called themselves Freedom Riders as they crossed racial barriers in depots and onboard buses. The 1961 Freedom Riders did not begin or end their journey in Montgomery, Alabama, but their arrival changed the city and our nation.</p> <p>Freedom Riders, black and white, male and female, none of them older than 22, stepped off a bus at the Montgomery Greyhound Station on May 20, 1961. They were prepared to meet mob violence with non-violence and courage. They prepared farewell letters and wills. Their goal was to help end racial segregation in public transportation. And they did.</p>
11:30 am	Walk to Dr. Richard Harris House
12:15 pm	Catered Lunch at Harris House
1:15 pm	<p><b>Dr. Richard Harris House</b></p> <p>This house, originally constructed at the turn of the century, was the home of Dr. Richard H. Harris Jr. and his family. In May 1961, Dr. Harris opened this home to 33 Freedom Riders challenging interstate bus segregation who were harassed and attacked at the Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station upon arrival. In the days following the attack, Harris’ home served as a haven for the Freedom Riders while martial law was declared in the area. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, James Farmer, John Lewis, Diane Nash, and other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement met at the Harris House to develop a strategy for continuing the rides.</p>
2:30 pm	Walk to Accomodations
3:15 pm	Service-Learning Project
4:30 pm	Free Time
5:30 pm	Group Reflection
6:30 pm	Dinner at Accommodations
8:00 pm	Evening Activity – Movie / Games
<b>DAY FOUR</b>	
8:00 am	Breakfast at Accommodations
9:00 am	Walk to Centennial Hill Neighborhood
10:00 am	<p><b>Centennial Hill Nieighborhood Tour</b></p> <p>A middle class black neighborhood that was home to Dr. King and a bevy of other Civil Rights leaders during the Montgomery Bus Boycott.</p> <p><b>Georgia Gilmore Home and Historical Marker</b></p> <p>Gilmore was ardent in her efforts to raise funds for the Movement and organized “Club From Nowhere” whose members baked pies and cakes for sale to both black and white customers. Opening her home to all, she tirelessly cooked meals for participants including Dr. Martin Luther King and Dr. Ralph Abernathy. Her culinary skills continued to aid the cause of justice as she actively worked to encourage civil rights for the remainder of her life.</p>
12:00 pm	Lunch at Neighborhood Cafe
1:00 pm	<p><b>Dexter Avenue Baptist Church Parsonage</b></p> <p>The restored parsonage of Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church appears as it did when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his family resided here during Dr. King’s pastorate from 1954-1960. The parsonage was bombed several times during the fight for civil rights, but fortunately no one was injured.</p>

2:00 pm	Walk to Accomodations
3:00 pm	<b>Service-Learning Project</b>
5:00 pm	Group Reflection
6:00 pm	Closing Dinner
8:00 pm	Evening Activity – Movie / Games
<b>DAY FIVE</b>	
8:00 am	Breakfast at Accommodations
9:00 am	Check-out of Accomodations
9:15 am	Walk to Memorial
10:00 am	<p><b>National Memorial for Peace and Justice</b>  The nation’s first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved Black people, people terrorized by lynching, African Americans humiliated by racial segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence.</p>
12:00 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm	Final Group Reflection