

National Museum of African American History & Culture

Washington, D.C.

More than 6 million visitors have passed through the doors of the Smithsonian Institution's newest museum since it opened in September 2016. The architecturally stunning museum aims to tell "America's story through the African American lens" with over 85,000 square feet of exhibition space. It features exhibits that explore a variety of topics such as civil rights, slavery, and segregation, as well as community, religion, family and the arts.

Motown Museum

Detroit, Michigan

Berry Gordy founded Motown Records in 1959 and forever changed American music. The Motown Museum greets visitors with artifacts, photos, and memorabilia dedicated to the genre and the era. Guests can stand in Studio A, where some of the greatest music in Motown history was created, including hits by Stevie Wonder, the Jackson 5, and Marvin Gaye.

Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park

Atlanta, Georgia

There are many historic sites that pay tribute to civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., but none more comprehensively than a preserved district in Atlanta, the center of black life in early 20th century Atlanta, that includes his birthplace, childhood church, and final resting place, as well as a rose garden and a bronze monument built in his honor.

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute

Birmingham, Alabama

In the modern Civil Rights movement, few cities carry more symbolic weight than Birmingham. The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute was among the first in the nation to preserve the history and narratives of the people who fought on both sides. It offers numerous exhibits on the heroes, tragedies, and milestones of the civil rights era. Visitors can see the cell that held the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. when he wrote the historic Letter from Birmingham Jail in 1963.

Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists

Boston, Massachusetts

Visitors here can explore the worldwide African diaspora through the visual arts. Paintings, sculptures, decorative arts, photography, and graphics make up just some of the exhibitions at the museum. Current exhibits include paintings by David Gaither and "Inmate Ingenuity," a collection of intricate containers made completely from folded and woven cigarette cartons and paper by people held in U.S. prisons.