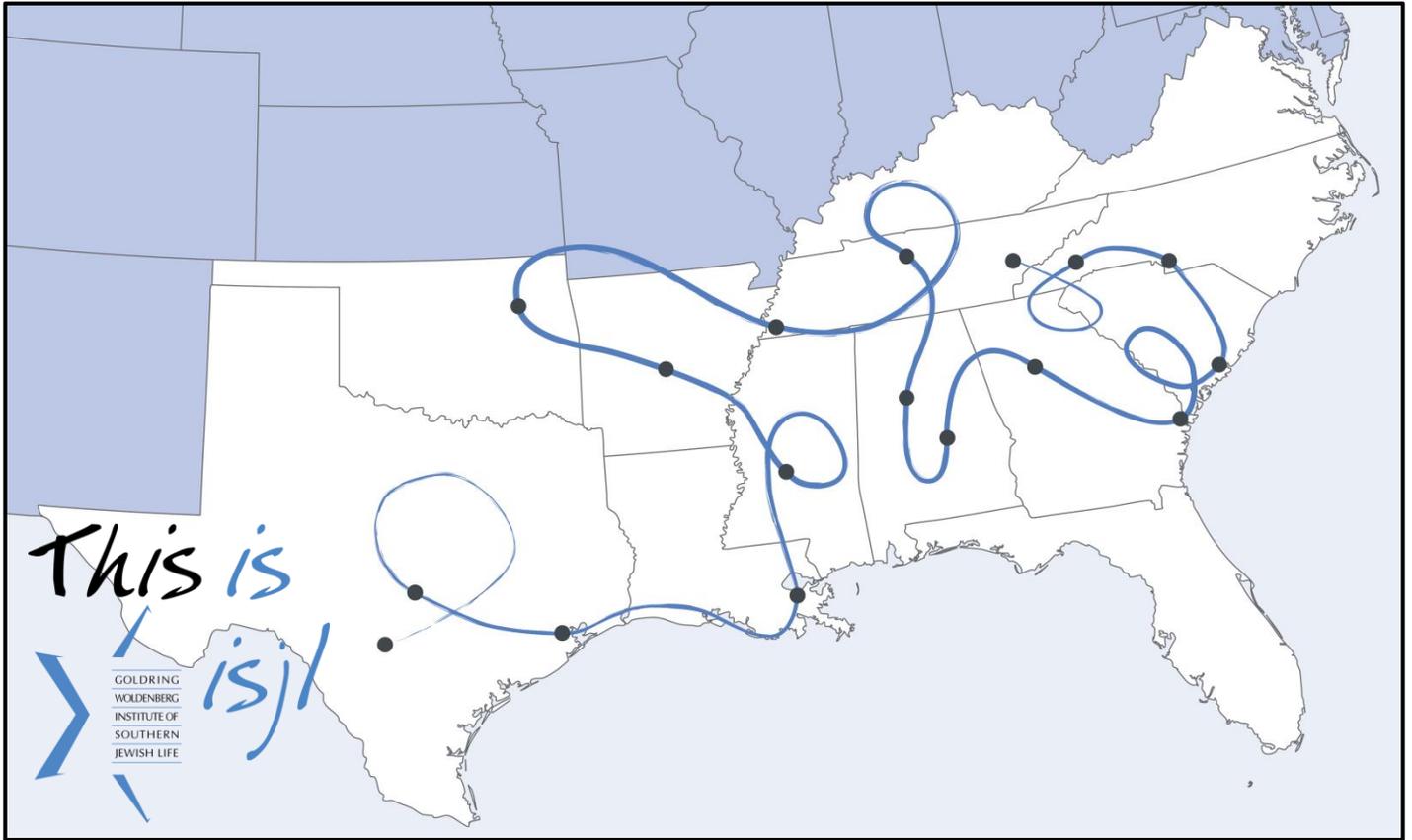


GOLDRING/WOLDENBERG INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN JEWISH LIFE

SERVICE LEARNING AND ALTERNATIVE BREAKS



FIND YOURSELF IN THE JEWISH SOUTH.



Spend a week in Mississippi learning about the Deep South's distinct and complex history. Visit historic **Civil Rights sites**, spend time with **southern Jewish congregations**, and engage with the local community in **meaningful service**.

Inspired by the legacy of Jewish volunteers who came to Mississippi during **Freedom Summer** in 1964, we invite participants to spend a week in Mississippi with an understanding of the shoulders they are standing on. Many individuals who spent time in Mississippi during the Civil Rights movement look back on their time here as a formative experience. We hope that students will leave with similar memories.

Working with **local service providers** on projects that confront **community challenges of poverty, food inequity, education injustice, and institutional racism**, students will learn about the unique strengths and strategies used to promote social change in Mississippi.

We believe that being in Mississippi provides the opportunity to have conversations that you wouldn't normally have in your home community. Participants will confront questions of regional distinctiveness and what they can learn about themselves by recognizing the **diversity of the American and Jewish population**. The goal is for students to not only learn about Mississippi, past and present Jewish communities, and the role of social justice in the state, but to **make connections to their own lives that will inspire positive social change in their home communities**.

PARTNERING WITH THE ISJL

The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) works as a trip consultant, allowing you to play an active role in planning your own experience. Based on initial conversations about the focus and interests of your group, we will use our network in the region to create a custom Alternative Break itinerary.

The ISJL will:

- Develop an itinerary and be available for assistance during trip planning for a \$1,000 service fee.
- Provide introductions to local service partners; the ISJL will not make final arrangements for the time and scope of service projects.
- Provide a comprehensive curriculum for service learning lessons to be facilitated by the group leader.
- Lead a one-hour virtual orientation at least three weeks before the trip.

Group leaders will:

- Be responsible for all travel, hotel, and restaurant reservations and payments.
- Finalize bus itineraries.
- Be in contact with communities hosting Shabbat to discuss worship style and other logistics.
- Donate to the local congregations visited as a way to help support vibrant southern Jewish communities.

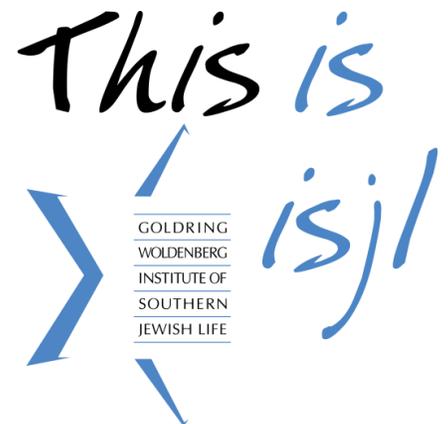
Want to travel beyond the Mississippi Delta? We can build a variety of trips through different southern states, emphasizing southern Jewish life, Civil Rights history, and southern culture. Let our staff create a custom service learning itinerary for your group. We will use our resources and expertise to design a meaningful trip that combines service learning, Jewish values, and southern heritage.

Get in touch to learn more about pricing for ISJL tour planning services!

Ready to learn more? Get in touch:

Nora Katz
ISJL Director of Heritage and Interpretation

nkatz@isjl.org
601.362.6357
www.isjl.org





ALTERNATIVE BREAK IN THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA

Before the trip | Orientation with ISJL Director of Heritage and Interpretation.

Day 1: Memphis | Reflect on Dr. King's legacy at the National Civil Rights Museum and Lorraine Motel | Learn about oral history at the Center for Southern Folklore | Understand the challenges of contemporary activism at the Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope.

Day 2: Cleveland, Mound Bayou, Shaw | Contemplate the unique geography of the Delta at the Delta Center for Culture and Learning | Understand the African American experience after the Civil War in Mound Bayou | Work on literacy initiatives at Delta Hands for Hope | Enjoy dinner at Adath Israel Congregation in Cleveland, MS.

Day 3: Indianola, Shaw | Sing the blues at the B. B. King Museum | Eat lunch with Mayor Steve Rosenthal | Volunteer at Delta Hands for Hope.

Day 4: Jackson | Serve at the ISJL's Literacy Achievement Bonanza at Jackson State University | Consider the importance of Freedom Summer on a Jackson Civil Rights tour, including visits to the Council of Federated Organizations and the Medgar Evers Home Museum.

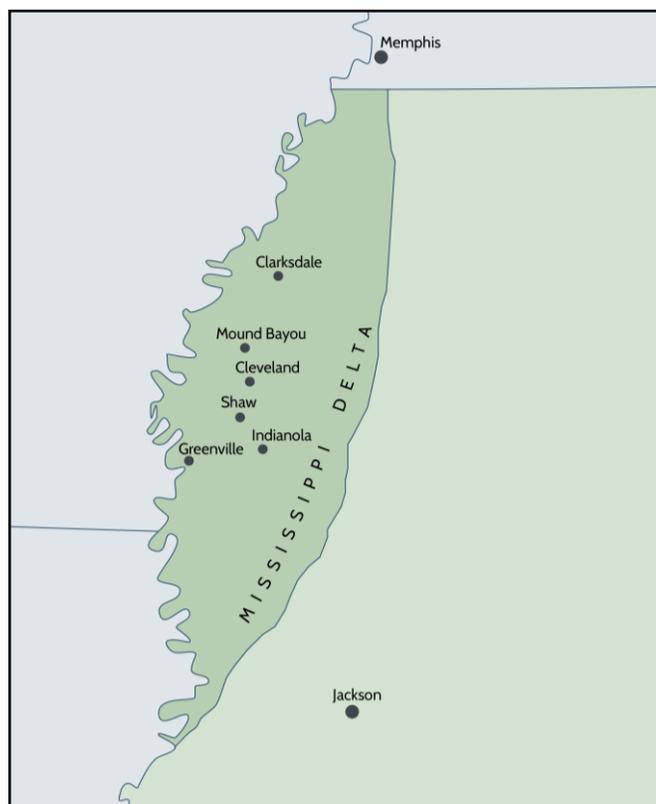
Day 5: Jackson, Shaw, Greenville | Learn about public history at the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum | Serve at Mississippians Engaged in Greener Agriculture | Celebrate the musical heritage of Mississippi at the Highway 61 Blues Museum | Lead Shabbat services at Hebrew Union Congregation.

Day 6: Clarksdale | Explore the Mississippi River on a handmade canoe | Dance late into the night at Red's Juke Joint and the Ground Zero Blues Club.

ISJL tour planning services include a comprehensive college-level curriculum, connections with local communities, and support before and during the trip.

Ask big questions during pre-trip lessons and seminars along the way. *What does it mean to be southern and Jewish? What does Jewish social justice look like? What are the roots of economic inequality?*

Engage with Jewish social justice through service at literacy organizations, sustainable farming cooperatives, and public health initiatives.



Email Nora Katz at nkatz@isjl.org to learn more about our engaging Alternative Break curriculum!

CURRICULUM SNAPSHOT

Lesson One: Legacy of Jewish Volunteers in Mississippi - *What is the legacy of Freedom Summer? What does service learning mean?* Before your plane lands, spend time with the ISJL Director of Heritage and Interpretation reflecting on the meaning of service learning, setting goals for a week of meaningful service, and discussing the legacy of Jewish volunteers in Mississippi.

Lesson Two: Journeys and Tours - *What does it mean to take a pilgrimage? What does "home" mean for us?* Break the ice with conversations about the nature of travel, consider the impact of tourism, and set personal goals for the trip.

Lesson Three: Southern Jewish Identity - *What does it mean to be southern and Jewish?* Get to know the realities of southern Jewish life through the words of a native Mississippian raised in an Orthodox Jewish household, consider the unique qualities of southern Jewish foodways, and reflect on the differences between small-town and big-city Jewish life.

Lesson Four: Public History and Collective Memory - *What is collective memory? What is the role of community engagement in museum spaces?* Ask big questions about the role history plays in our everyday lives, consider the ways in which southern heritage is deployed in contemporary debates, and gain an appreciation for museums.

Lesson Five: Southern Jews and Civil Rights - *What does Jewish social justice look like? What were the social, economic, and political circumstances that caused Jews to take the positions they did?* Work toward a deeper understanding of the complicated role of southern Jews in the Civil Rights Movement, reflect on cultures of white supremacy, and gain insights into the Jewish obligation to repair the world - *tikkun olam*.

Lesson Six: Inequity in Mississippi - *What are the roots of economic inequality? What makes studying social justice in Mississippi unique?* Learn about the origins of contemporary social welfare policy, consider the legacy of slavery and oppression, and face privilege head-on.

Lesson Seven: Reflection and Commitment - *What have we learned in Mississippi? How can we apply our experiences in our home communities?* Take the opportunity to reflect on a week of impactful service, community engagement, and meaningful conversations. Make concrete plans to implement the lessons learned in Mississippi at home.

Interest piqued? Get in touch:

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