Travel along the Mississippi River from Memphis to New Orleans learning about the history of the Delta Blues and the Civil Rights Movement. Follow in the footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. Explore the natural beauty of the Ozarks and the history of the Little Rock Nine in Arkansas. Attend Shabbat services in one of the oldest synagogues in the United States in Charleston, South Carolina. Take a backstage tour of the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee. Hike the Appalachian Trail in Asheville, North Carolina. Learn about Jewish immigration in Galveston, Texas. Get to know the legacy of Jewish social justice in Jackson, Mississippi. Visit the Breman Jewish Heritage Museum in Atlanta, Georgia. Volunteer at a non-profit organization advancing literacy in the Mississippi Delta.

Based in Jackson, Mississippi, the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) supports, connects, and celebrates Jewish life in the American South. We serve as an ambassador for southern Jewish communities, welcoming visiting groups from across the country. Travel with us for authentic, nuanced, meaningful experiences of the Jewish South.
PARTNERING WITH THE ISJL

Based on initial conversations about the focus and interests of your group, we will use our network in the region to create a **custom Southern Jewish Heritage Tour itinerary**. The ISJL works as a trip consultant, allowing you to **play an active role in planning your own experience**.

**The ISJL will:**
- Facilitate a conversation with trip leaders and participants about learning goals, the needs and desires of participants, and an ideal budget to best **customize the trip**.
- Develop a **custom itinerary for your group** and handle all of the logistics, including:
  - Arranging **tours, speakers, museum visits, and congregation visits** for your group.
  - Arranging **hotels, transportation, and restaurant reservations and payments**.
  - Arranging a **Shabbat experience**.
- Collect **sign-ups, deposits, and payments** from trip participants.
- Lead **pre-trip orientation and community-building sessions** for your group via Zoom.
- Provide a **guide on the ground** for an experience that is part storytelling, part activity-based, and all engaging. Ask us about our staff members’ expertise and passion for southern Jewish history!

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 itinerary for your group of congregants, seniors, teens, family members, or college students**. Using our contacts in the region, we can plan a variety of themed trips, including alternative breaks and service learning projects.

**Ready to learn more? Get in touch:**
heritage@isjl.org
601.362.6357
www.ISJL.org
I'm Shabbat observant. What does that mean for my tour?

We can and do plan tours for groups who observe a variety of Jewish practices, whether that means including time for daily prayer, avoiding scheduling activities on Saturdays, or just creating meaningful Jewish experiences no matter where you are.

Be honest—how hard is it to keep kosher in the Deep South?

It can be difficult! With a few exceptions, there is little to no certified kosher food available in many of our tour destinations. We are able to provide kosher-style or vegetarian food on every trip, but keeping strictly kosher isn't possible everywhere. Talk to us about how to make our trips work for your group.

These itineraries look great, but I had something else in mind.

Great! We can develop tours anywhere in our thirteen state southern region, emphasizing the themes, stories, and activities that matter most to your group. No two trips are the same!

What does the planning process look like?

We'll have some initial conversations about your group, then provide you with a sample itinerary and budget that meets your unique needs. Then, we'll begin scheduling your tour activities—from hotels and restaurants to museum visits and service-learning projects. We'll collect sign-ups, deposits, and payments from tour participants, so the only thing you have to do is pack your bags!

What if there's a last-minute cancellation?

We handle cancellations on a case-by-case basis—if the last year has taught us anything, it’s that we have to expect the unexpected. In the event of a cancellation, we will generally be able to refund your tour cost, minus the initial non-refundable deposit.

Where's the best fried chicken in Mississippi?

You'll have to visit us to find out!
MISSISSIPPI HISTORY FROM NEW ORLEANS TO MEMPHIS

Day 1-2: New Orleans | Tour Jewish New Orleans with a local expert | Meet the leaders of the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience | Visit Whitney Plantation, one of the few sites that tells the story of slavery from the perspective of enslaved people | Learn the artistic story of the South at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art | Dance the night away at Preservation Hall.

Day 3: Natchez | Engage with the legacy of slavery at Melrose Plantation | Visit historic Temple B’nai Israel, home to the oldest Jewish congregation in Mississippi.

Day 4: Jackson | Celebrate Mississippi’s artists at the Mississippi Museum of Art | Engage with the past at the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum | Reflect on the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement at the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Historic Site and Beth Israel Congregation.

Day 5-6: Mississippi Delta | Contemplate the changing geography of the Delta at the Delta Center for Culture and Learning | Learn about small-town Jewish life at Hebrew Union Temple, on the banks of the Mississippi River | Sing the blues at the B. B. King Museum | Enjoy lunch with Indianola’s Jewish mayor | Experience Civil Rights history at the Emmett Till Interpretive Center | Visit a traditional synagogue in Greenwood.

Day 7-8: Memphis | Consider the work still underway at the Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope | Reflect on Dr. King’s legacy at the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel | Sing along to the hits of the 1960s at the Stax Museum | Follow in the footsteps (and dance moves) of Elvis Presley at Graceland | Bar-hop on historic Beale Street.

ISJL tour planning includes wraparound trip planning services, connections with local communities, guides on the ground, resources/reading materials, and support before and during the trip.
CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE IN GEORGIA AND ALABAMA

Day 1: Atlanta | Visit Dr. King’s burial site at the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change | Reflect on the Jewish past at the Breman Jewish Heritage Museum.

Day 2: Birmingham | Join the struggle at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute | Honor the memory of the four girls killed in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church | Learn about efforts to interpret the Birmingham Jewish community’s connection to the Civil Rights Movement.

Day 3: Selma | Celebrate democracy at the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute | Begin a pilgrimage at Brown Chapel AME Church | Follow in the footsteps of activists on the Edmund Pettus Bridge | Enter historic Temple Mishkan Israel | Drive the route from Selma to Montgomery taken by the foot soldiers in 1965.

Day 4: Montgomery | Confront racial violence in America at the Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice | View a 1955 Montgomery city bus at the Rosa Parks Library and Museum | Consider the impact of the Civil Rights Movement at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

ISJL tour planning includes wraparound trip planning services, connections with local communities, guides on the ground, resources/reading materials, and support before and during the trip.

Understand the role Jews played in the Civil Rights Movement, and consider the work still underway to repair our world.
JEWS AND COUNTRY MUSIC IN TENNESSEE

Day 1-2: Nashville | Attend a screening and panel discussion at the Nashville Jewish Film Festival | Chat with members of Nashville's vibrant Jewish community | Go behind the scenes of the “Mother Church of Country Music” | Get to know Nashville's visual arts scene | Tour the Country Music Hall of Fame and the National Museum of African American Music | Get a taste of Tennessee whiskey | Catch a show at the Grand Ole Opry or the Ryman Auditorium.

Day 3-4: Memphis | Be called to action at the Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope | Reflect on Dr. King’s legacy at the National Civil Rights Museum | Sing along to the hits of the 1960s at the Stax Museum | Follow in the footsteps (and dance moves) of Elvis Presley at Graceland | Meet with historians at the Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South | Bar-hop on historic Beale Street.

ISJL tour planning includes wraparound trip planning services, connections with local communities, guides on the ground, resources/reading materials, and support before and during the trip.
COLONIAL HISTORY AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURES IN THE CAROLINAS AND GEORGIA

Day 1: Asheville | Consider 19th century economic history at the Biltmore Estate | Understand the legacy of Black Mountain College artists at the Asheville Art Museum | Visit a congregation tucked away in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Day 2: Blue Ridge Mountains | Hike an iconic landscape guided by a veteran Appalachian Trail through-hiker | Enjoy a picnic lunch with 360-degree views of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Day 3: Charlotte | Consider contemporary southern identities at the Levine Museum of the New South | Take a tour of the hub of Charlotte's Jewish community | Feel the adrenaline on a guided rafting adventure at the U.S. National Whitewater Center.

Day 4: Columbia | Get to know the public historians spearheading the Columbia Jewish Heritage Initiative | Contemplate Reconstruction and presidential history at the Woodrow Wilson Family Home.

Day 5-6: Charleston | Learn about Jewish heritage in the city that was once the largest Jewish community in the U.S. | Spend time exploring the Jewish Heritage Collection at the College of Charleston | Take a tour of one of the oldest synagogues in the United States | Reckon with the legacy of slavery at the Old Slave Mart Museum.

Day 7: Savannah | Take a walking tour of Jewish Savannah | Explore historic Bonaventure Cemetery | Go on a lunchtime food crawl of Savannah's hidden culinary gems | Visit the site of the first Black Sunday school in North America | View the oldest Torah scrolls in the United States.

ISJL tour planning includes wraparound trip planning services, connections with local communities, guides on the ground, resources/reading materials, and support before and during the trip.

Get a taste of farm-to-table delicacies in the Carolinas' gourmet food scene.

Experience early American Jewish life.

Explore the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains.

Ask us about converting this trip into a long weekend in Charleston and Savannah!
MUSIC, ART, AND THE OZARKS IN OKLAHOMA AND ARKANSAS

**Day 1: Tulsa** | Learn about the impact of the Dust Bowl at the Woody Guthrie Center | Appreciate the legacy of Jewish art and artists at the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art | Enjoy contemporary art and learn about the history of Oklahoma’s oil and gas industry at the Philbrook Museum | Listen to one of the most iconic Jewish musical artists of all time at the Bob Dylan Center (opening summer 2022).

**Day 2: Bentonville** | Understand the cultural impact of 20th century entrepreneurship at the Walmart Museum | Spend time with the northwest Arkansas Jewish community | Wander through a Frank Lloyd Wright house and view groundbreaking works of art at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

**Day 3: The Ozarks** | Go underground at Blanchard Springs Caverns | Hike through the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests | Paddle the scenic Mulberry River.

**Day 4: Little Rock** | Walk in the footsteps of the Little Rock Nine at Central High School | Visit a full-size replica of the Oval Office at the Clinton Presidential Library | Catch a show at the Arkansas Repertory Theatre | Connect with the Jewish community in Arkansas’ capital.

**Day 5: Hot Springs** | Hike through the United States’ only urban national park, ending with sweeping views of the countryside | Meander through stunning native plants at Garvan Woodland Gardens | Take a relaxing step into history at Hot Springs’ historic bathhouses.

**ISJL tour planning** includes wraparound trip planning services, connections with local communities, guides on the ground, resources/reading materials, and support before and during the trip.

---

**Explore the history** of the Dust Bowl.

**Marvel at the birthplace** of Walmart and the Jewish community it created.

**Walk in the footsteps of giants** at Little Rock Central High School.

**Ask us why this trip is an ISJL staff favorite!**
JEWISH IMMIGRATION AND CONTINUITY IN TEXAS

Day 1-2: Austin | Consider the legacy of the War on Poverty at the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library | Go for a swim in Barton Springs Pool | Visit a historic synagogue that was moved to the Austin JCC in 2015 | Build up your craft beer credibility by sampling sips at Austin's best breweries | Catch a screening at the Austin Jewish Film Festival.

Day 3: Houston | Take a bus tour of Jewish Houston | Spend time in contemplation at the Rothko Chapel, featuring 14 Mark Rothko murals | Nosh on blintzes and brisket at Kenny & Ziggy’s, Houston’s Jewish deli | Revel in diverse cultural practices at the National Funeral Museum | Enjoy a hearty meal with many generations of Houston Jews.

Day 4: Galveston | Celebrate the vibrancy of contemporary Jewish life at local congregations | Understand the realities of life in the oil industry at the Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig Museum | Walk in Victorian footsteps at the Moody Mansion | Learn about Galveston's history as a hub for immigrants.

Day 5: Beaumont | Get to know the east Texas oil economy at the Texas Energy Museum | Take an early 20th-century etiquette class at the McFaddin-Ward House | Watch a reenactment of the pivotal discovery of oil at Spindletop | Learn the history of Jews and oil at Temple Emanuel.

ISJL tour planning includes wraparound trip planning services, connections with local communities, guides on the ground, resources/reading materials, and support before and during the trip.

Sample all the craft beer Austin has to offer.

Enjoy classic Jewish deli food at Kenny & Ziggy’s—a Houston institution.

Get to know the Texas oil economy along the Gulf coast.
ALTERNATIVE BREAKS WITH THE ISJL

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.

Working with local service providers on projects that confront community challenges of poverty, food inequity, education injustice, and systemic racism, students will learn about the strategies used to advance justice and equity in Mississippi and across the country.

You will have experiences and conversations in Mississippi that most Americans won’t have in their home communities. Participants will confront questions of regional distinctiveness 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.

ISJL alternative break experiences are available throughout our thirteen-state region!
**ALTERNATIVE BREAK IN THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA**

**Before the trip** | Orientation with ISJL staff members.

**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 a local non-profit organization | Enjoy dinner at Adath Israel Congregation in Cleveland, Mississippi.

**Day 3: Indianola** | Sing the blues at the B. B. King Museum | Eat lunch with Indianola's Jewish mayor | Spend the afternoon volunteering with Delta locals.

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

**Day 5: Jackson, Greenville** | Learn about public history at the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum | Learn about regenerative urban farming in Jackson | 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** includes wraparound trip planning services, connections with local communities, guides on the ground, resources/reading materials, 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 us to learn more about our engaging Alternative Break curriculum!
Goldring/Woldenberg
Institute of Southern Jewish Life

ON THE ROAD. ONLINE.

No matter your needs, the ISJL can help you experience the Jewish South.

Get in touch:
heritage@isjl.org
601.362.6357
www.ISJL.org