

# Travel



## FEARLESS TRAVELER

*In Memphis,  
Commemorating  
The Dream*

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A few drops of blood still stain the second-floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis where Martin Luther King Jr. fell when he was struck by an assassin's bullet. They have been carefully preserved as the dramatic and tearful climax to a superb new museum, the National Civil Rights Museum, which will be formally dedicated Thursday.

The museum, a 10-year, \$10 million project, incorporates a large portion of the old motel where King was slain April 4, 1968. Since then, the motel has become a place of pilgrimage for many mourners. The museum is a tribute both to King and to the multitudes of other Americans of all races who contributed—some also with their lives—to the civil rights movement.

Despite its somber conclusion, the museum's central theme—the black struggle for equal rights—is generally upbeat. The civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s was a fundamental turning point in the nation's history, finally achieving for the black minority the constitutional rights promised when the Civil War brought slavery to an end more than a century and a quarter ago.

In several fascinating exhibits, the museum recalls great civil rights victories over often imposing odds. One is the 1955-56 Montgomery bus boycott in Alabama, which first brought King to national attention.

The boycott was sparked when Rosa Parks, a Montgomery seamstress, was arrested after she refused to give up her seat to a white passenger. For 381 days, the city's black citizens, led by King—who had gone to Montgomery as a pastor—walked to work and school or found other means of transportation.

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