



**ATLANTA**  
**Convention & Visitors Bureau**

**Atlanta Celebrates the Dream**  
*-The city remembers Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.-*

**ATLANTA (Dec. 19, 2008)** – Atlanta, the birthplace of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and a city rich in history, will commemorate the civil rights leader on Jan. 19, 2009, the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the national holiday in King’s honor. Area attractions are hosting special events in celebration and appreciation of the holiday weekend.

***Holiday Activities***

The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change will host special events in celebration and appreciation of the civil rights icon during King Week Celebration (Jan. 15-19). The theme of the week of activities is "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off," with events centered on Dr. King’s teachings and principles. For more information, visit [www.thekingcenter.org](http://www.thekingcenter.org).

Marking its 17th year, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, featuring the Morehouse and Spelman College Glee Clubs, will also pay tribute on Jan. 15. The King Celebration begins at 8 p.m. and takes place at the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel on the Morehouse College campus. To purchase tickets, visit [www.atlantasymphony.org](http://www.atlantasymphony.org).

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Summit, Jan. 15-19, is a conference exploring the teachings of Dr. King and the ways ordinary citizens can make a difference in the world. The four-day conference, co-sponsored by Hands On Atlanta, concludes with diverse community service projects throughout Atlanta in honor of Dr. King. For more information, call 404.979.2800 or visit [www.handsonatlanta.org](http://www.handsonatlanta.org).

Jan. 16 will mark “The Annual State of Georgia Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance Program” at the State Capitol, North Wing. The program starts at 10 a.m. and is open to the public. For more information, contact the Georgia Martin Luther King, Jr. King Holiday Commission at 404.463.7780.

The Annual Salute to Greatness Awards Dinner, the King Center’s primary fundraiser, will be held on Jan. 17 at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta beginning at 5:30 p.m. One of the King Center’s highest honors, the Salute to Greatness Award recognizes national and/or international individuals and corporations that exemplify excellence in their leadership and have demonstrated a commitment to social responsibility in the spirit of Dr. King. Tickets are \$200. For more information, call 404.526.8911.

On Jan. 18 from 3-5 p.m., there will be a book signing with Dr. Christine King Farris and Elder Bernice A. King at The King Center Auditorium. For more information, call 526-8944.

On Jan. 19, Ebenezer Baptist Church will host “The Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Commemorative Service” at 10 a.m. in the New Horizon Sanctuary. The service is the spiritual hallmark of the holiday observance and features tributes to the life and legacy of Dr. King from national and international leaders. For more information, call 404-526-8911 or visit [www.thekingcenter.org](http://www.thekingcenter.org).

On Jan. 20, the day after the nation celebrates the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Dr. King, Barack Obama will be inaugurated as the first black president of the United States. From 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., the Sweet Auburn Historic District will host Atlanta's official inauguration celebration. The day will feature speakers from the Civil Rights era, live music, entertainment and a special holographic presentation. A guest artist and choirs will perform throughout the day.

### ***Year-Round Remembrance***

The [Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site](#), located in the Sweet Auburn district, is open year-round and free to the public. Stand in the footsteps of civil rights leaders at the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame, tour Dr. King's birth home and visit the gravesite of Dr. King and his wife, Coretta. You can also [download](#) a 45-minute podcast walking tour of the neighborhood, commentated by civil rights activist Andrew Young. Freedom Hall, the King Center's exhibition facility and visitor center, houses many exhibits year-round, including "Courage to Lead." Dubbed "Sweet Auburn" by early civil rights leader John Wesley Dobbs because of the opportunities it afforded African-Americans even under strict segregation laws, the community is the center of Atlanta's African-American history. For more information on the national historic site, visit [www.nps.gov/malu](http://www.nps.gov/malu).

To learn more about activities and hotel packages, visit [Atlanta.net](#).

Established in 1913, Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau is a private, nonprofit organization created to favorably impact the Atlanta economy through conventions and tourism.

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