



## Follow the North Star Cincinnati and the Underground Railroad

Cincinnati played a major role in the history of the Underground Railroad as an estimated 60,000 slaves fled the South and were “conducted” by a network of abolitionist supporters across the brief expanse of the Ohio River to escape slavery. Neither underground nor a railroad, the Underground Railroad was a network of safe houses and hiding places established around 1780 under Quaker auspices. The movement to abolish slavery in the United States was kept alive by both free and bound African Americans and white Northerners sympathetic to those bound by slavery. One of the first free “stations” of the North that slaves encountered, mostly under the cover of night and guided by the North Star, Cincinnati and the surround area has many historical sites with significance to the Underground Railroad.

### One to Two Day Itinerary

#### Day One

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Enjoy a hearty breakfast at the hotel.

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

On our way to the Freedom Center, we’ll going to cruise through **Spring Grove Cemetery**, one of the largest cemeteries in the nation. This cemetery contains the gravesites of many historical figures, including legendary abolitionist Levi Coffin, whose headstone features a tribute to his role in the Underground Railroad.

Tour the historical **home of Harriett Beecher Stowe**, who wrote Uncle Tom’s Cabin. The legend goes that when Abraham Lincoln met Harriett Beecher Stowe, he said to her, “So you’re the little lady who started this great big war.” The home was restored in 1978 by the Citizen’s Committee on Youth and includes a museum, gift shop and cultural center featuring a display of period furniture, African-American literature and artwork.

10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

The **National Underground Railroad Freedom Center** opened in August of 2004, three connected buildings dedicated to courage, cooperation, and perseverance, sits majestically on the banks of the Ohio River in downtown Cincinnati. The Freedom Center honors the historic struggle for freedom and contains many artifacts from the Underground Railroad, including an authentic slave pen as one of its centerpiece exhibits. Other “take-You-There Exhibits” include a crate like the one that Henry “Box” Brown sipped himself to freedom in, and Freedom Today, which allows you to examine whether seeing the price of freedom changes how you view today and tomorrow.

12:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Enjoy lunch of famous barbecued pork loin-backs while overlooking the Ohio River at **Montgomery Inn Boathouse**.

3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Continue to **Ripley, Ohio**, where you can climb the “Stairway to Liberty” (weather permitting) to the **Rankin House**, the home of abolitionist Rev. John Rankin. The house was built in 1828. Visitors can climb the refurbished steps of the stairway that slaves once used to reach the hilltop home and safety.

**Parker House** was home to John Parker, who purchased his freedom for \$1,800 and settled in Ripley in 1845. He became legendary for his trips across the Ohio River to help escaping slaves. Parker also recruited for the 27<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Infantry, a black regiment.

6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Return to hotel to relax and get ready for dinner at.....

8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Enjoy dinner at the **White House Inn**, a 50 year old Victorian farmhouse. You’ll find four fireplaces, country and herb gardens, two outdoor patio areas, and a gorgeous gazebo, a Tavern featuring a breathtaking two-story stone fireplace, and a loft. Their heartland fare menu will be a treat to all.

## Day Two

7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Enjoy a nourishing breakfast at the hotel.

10:00 a.m. – 12noon

Enjoy a short trip to **Springboro, Ohio**. Springboro’s Quaker influence has been credited as the driving force for the village’s participation in the Underground Railroad. Abolitionist hung quilts in the windows to signal slaves to bypass or to come in for safety. Visit the **Null Log House**, built in 1799

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Enjoy lunch at the oldest inn in Ohio, the **Golden Lamb**. Take a self-guided tour. Some famous Golden Tour. Some famous Golden Lamb guests include Charles Dickens, Mark Twain along with 12 U.S. presidents.

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

While in **Lebanon**, take a step back to America’s small town past. Today Lebanon’s historic downtown is home to more than 50 antique and specialty shops. USA Today called Lebanon one of the “Ten Great Places to Browse for Antiques. Stroll brick sidewalks and enjoy their shops and restaurants.

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Return to hotel to relax before having dinner.

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Have dinner at **The Iron Horse Inn**. This handsome, square, two-story brick building was built as early as 1853, and before 1856. In 1856 it was known as Bracker Tavern. Before the prohibition law of 1918, it was known as a typical saloon. With the advent of prohibition it became more of a restaurant serving full meals in the front, with slot machines and liquor in the back room. Overnight guests in the village lockup were served breakfast by the tavern. This became so well known and desirable by the local hobos that it was noted that if they were recent guests of the village, they were not locked up. This fine restaurant serves American fare along the railroad tracks in Glendale near the CH&D railroad depot (1880) which now serves as a museum and gift shop. [www.ironhorseinn.com](http://www.ironhorseinn.com)

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