

# SELMA REMEMBRANCE WALK

## Martin Luther King Five Days

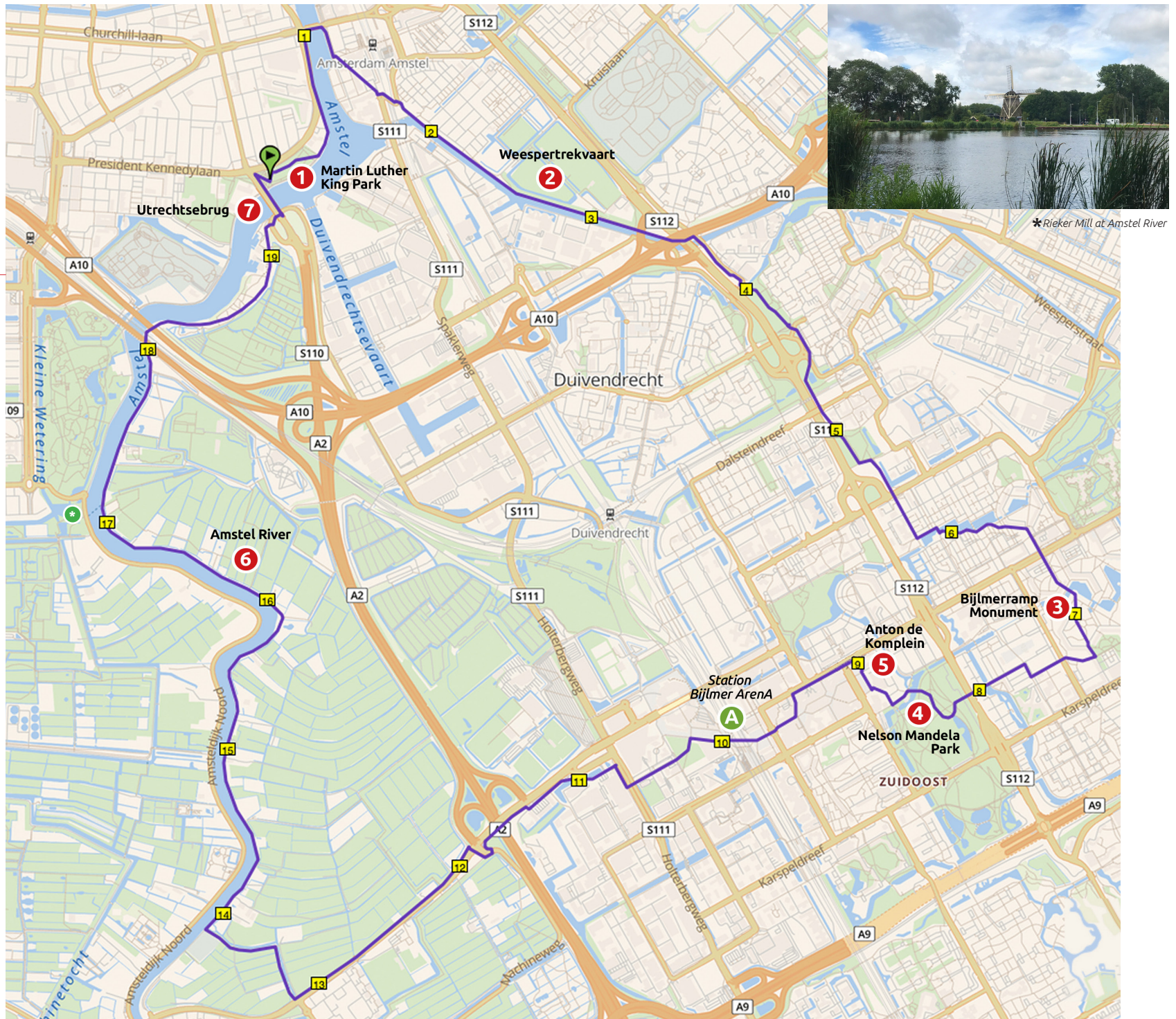
### Walk Southeast

12.5 miles

- Few restaurants & bars, bring water
- 4 parks
- Visit: CBK Southeast

Alternative starting point:  
A - Station Bijlmer Arena

- Martin Luther King Park >
- Berlagebrug >
- Weespertrekvaart >
- Rozenburglaan >
- Reigerpad >
- Kelbergenpad >
- Strandvlietpad >
- Passtukkenpad >
- Nellesteinpad >
- Kraaiennestpad >
- Kormelinkweg >
- Kolfschotenstraat >
- Nelson Mandela Park -  
Nelson Mandela Monument  
to be unveiled on July 18, 2020 >
- Anton de Komplein, CBK Zuidoost >
- statue Anton de Kom >
- Bijlmerdreef >
- (A) Station Bijlmer Arena >
- ArenaPark >
- De Entree >
- Holterbergweg >
- Burgemeester Stramanweg >
- Weidepad >
- Molenpad >
- Binnenweg, Ouderkerkdijk - Amstel >
- Utrechtsebrug -  
as a symbol for the Edmund Pettus Bridge >
- Martin Luther King Park



\* Rieker Mill at Amstel River

On [www.mk50.nl](http://www.mk50.nl) find more info and the other four walks that together are exactly the same distance as the March from Selma to Montgomery: 54 miles.

To remember the march from Selma to Montgomery, March 21 - 25, 1965. Project by artist Airco Caravan

# SELMA REMEMBRANCE WALK

## Martin Luther King Five Days

### Walk Southeast



Martin Luther King Park, Amsterdam

#### 1. Martin Luther King Park

The park was named after Martin Luther King, Jr. to honor him after his assassination on April 4, 1968. Walk north-east along Amstel river, cross the Berlage Bridge, past Amstel Station and follow the Weespertrekvaart.



In the background the infamous 'Bijlmerbajes' jail, being deconstructed (summer 2019).

#### 2. Weespertrekvaart

Weespertrekvaart is an old barge canal, that connects Amstel river to the Vecht river in the city of Weesp. The canal was laid in 1639, using several other existing waterways: the canal ring of the Watergraafsmeer polder (laid in 1629), the canal ring of the Bijlmermeer polder (laid in 1626), and the small rivers Gaasp and Small Weesp. Go southeast through Diemen-Zuid.



'The tree that saw it all', on October 4, 1992. Photo: Maurits Vink

#### 3. Monument Bijmer Crash

Southeast, Bijlmer, Bims: the most colorful neighborhood of Amsterdam. Many Amsterdammers of Surinamese and Caribbean descent, Ghanaians and more than 130 other nationalities live here. In the 60's this was a new residential area with gigantic apartment blocks and a lot of green, a concept that didn't work out very well. Monument Bijlmer Air Crash around the 'tree that saw it all' by Herman and Akelei Hertzberger, commemorates the cargo Boeing 747 that crashed onto the Groeneveen and Kruitberg apartment buildings, on October 4, 1992, causing 43 deaths. Walk south on Nellesteipad and right via Kraaiennestpad (Kormelinkweg, Kortvoort, Kolfshotenstraat) to the Nelson Mandela Park.



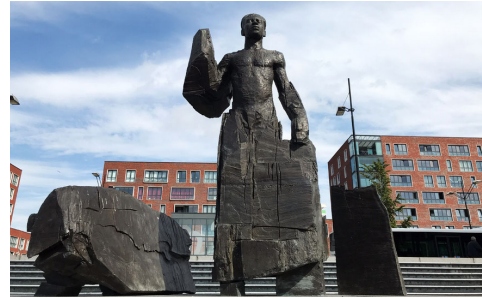
The entry gates are a design by park architect Francine Houben

#### 4. Nelson Mandelapark

To honor Nelson Mandela, the Bijlmer Park was renamed after him in 2014. The park was built in 1969 and measures 106 acres. In the park stands the Madiba memorial RONA BOTHA (we the people), by South-African artist Mahau Modiksakeng, thanks to the project coordination of CBK Zuidoost. It's a group of 5 bronze faces, based on the faces of inhabitants from the neighborhood. On the pedestal the explanation of Ubuntu: 'We are only human through the humanity of others'. Every summer the famous Kwaku Summer Festival takes place in the Nelson Mandela Park. Walk through the park, and go north (right) to Anton de Komplein.



Nelson Mandela memorial RONA BOTHA, by Mahau Modisakeng (2021)



Statue of Anton de Kom by Jikke van Loon (2004)

#### 5. Anton de Kom Square

Anton de Kom is a hero in Surinam. He was an anti-colonial writer, he wrote *We Slaves of Surinam* (1934, the new edition in 2020 became a bestseller) and he was in the resistance during WWII in the Netherlands. He died in a German concentration camp. A statue to honor him is standing on top of the steps at the Anton de Kom Square. He lived in a house on Reestraat 6, that you pass when hiking the 'Walk Center'. Visit the exhibition at CBK Zuidoost, Center of Visual Arts Southeast, Anton de Komplein 120, where small and large, great art is for rent and for sale. It's the only art institution that has inclusiveness in their DNA. A great place to rest, have a tea and go to the toilet. Walk southwest via (A) Station Bijlmer ArenA, follow the Burgemeester Stramanweg, right Weidepad, left Molenpad to Amstel River.



Windmill the Swan (1638)



Amstel River, mansion Amstelrust (1724)

#### 6. Along Amstel River

During the beautiful 3 mile walk along the Amstel River (Binnenweg and Oudekerkerdijk), you can listen to a podcast or a speech by Martin Luther King, find them on the Videos & Podcasts page. You will pass the Swan windmill, built in 1638. In the year of 1700 there were 44 mansions along the Amstel River. Nowadays there are only 3 of them left: Oostermeer, Wester-Amstel and Amstelrust. Go underneath the Utrechtsebrug and take the stairs on the right to get onto the Utrecht Bridge.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on March 21, 1965. - New York Times

#### 7. Utrechtsebrug

When walking over the Utrechtsebrug (1954), we think of the Edmund Pettus Bridge. This bridge in Selma, crossing the Alabama River, was the scene of Bloody Sunday on March 7, 1965. State troopers attacked the peaceful marchers with billy clubs and tear gas. After another attempt that also failed, two weeks later the marchers could start at last, this time they were protected by the army. They started on the first day in a group of 3.200 people, on the last day they were 25.000-strong. Salient detail: Edmund Pettus (1821-1907) was an important leader, a grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan. And this bridge became the national symbol of the civil rights movement. Go right to the Martin Luther King Park. ●