

NORTH ALABAMA™

WHERE THE LAKES MEET THE MOUNTAINS



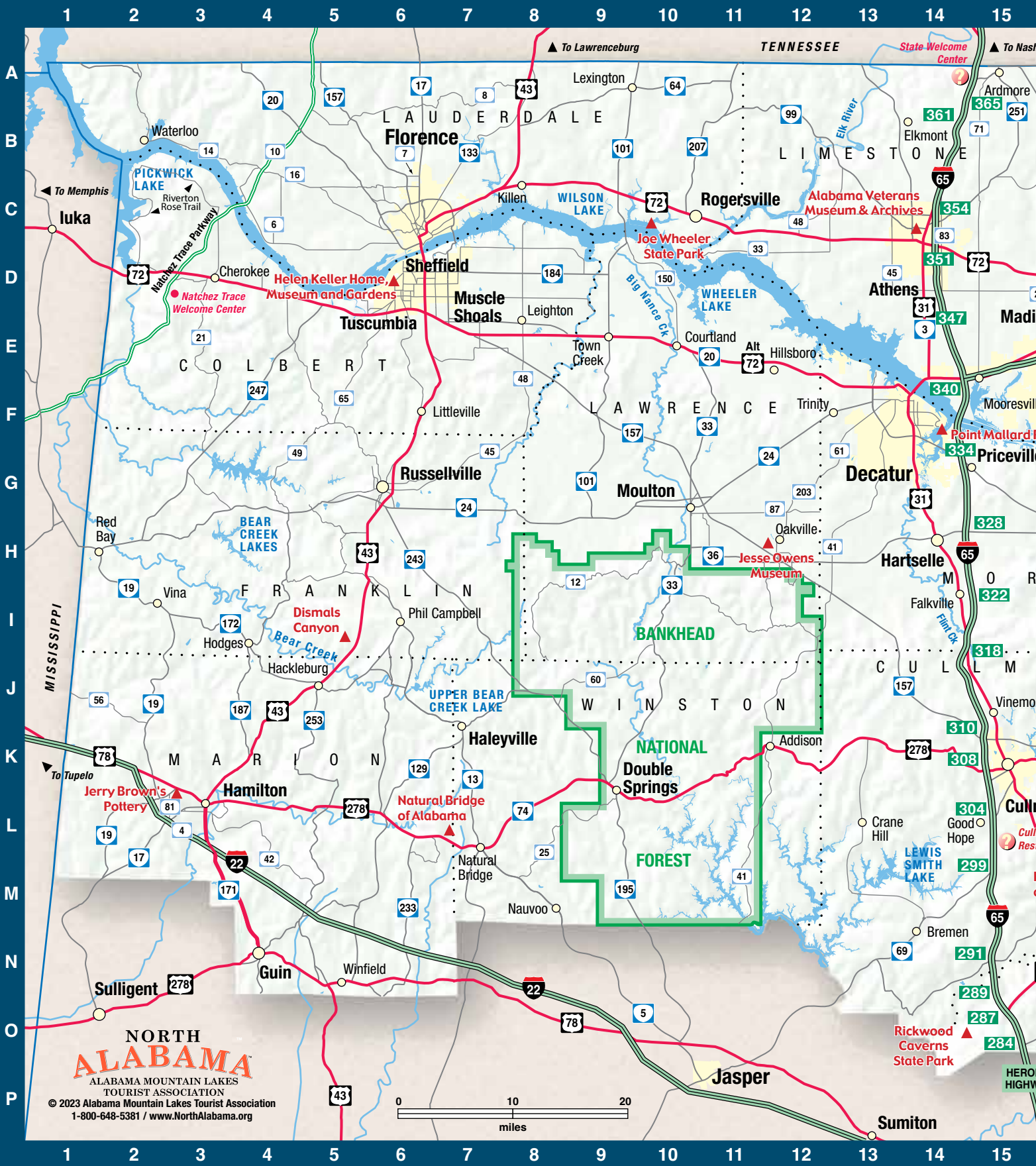
800.648.5381 • www.NorthAlabama.org

ALABAMA MOUNTAIN LAKES TOURIST ASSOCIATION

North Alabama: Where the Lakes Meet the Mountains

800.648.5381 • www.NorthAlabama.org

Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association



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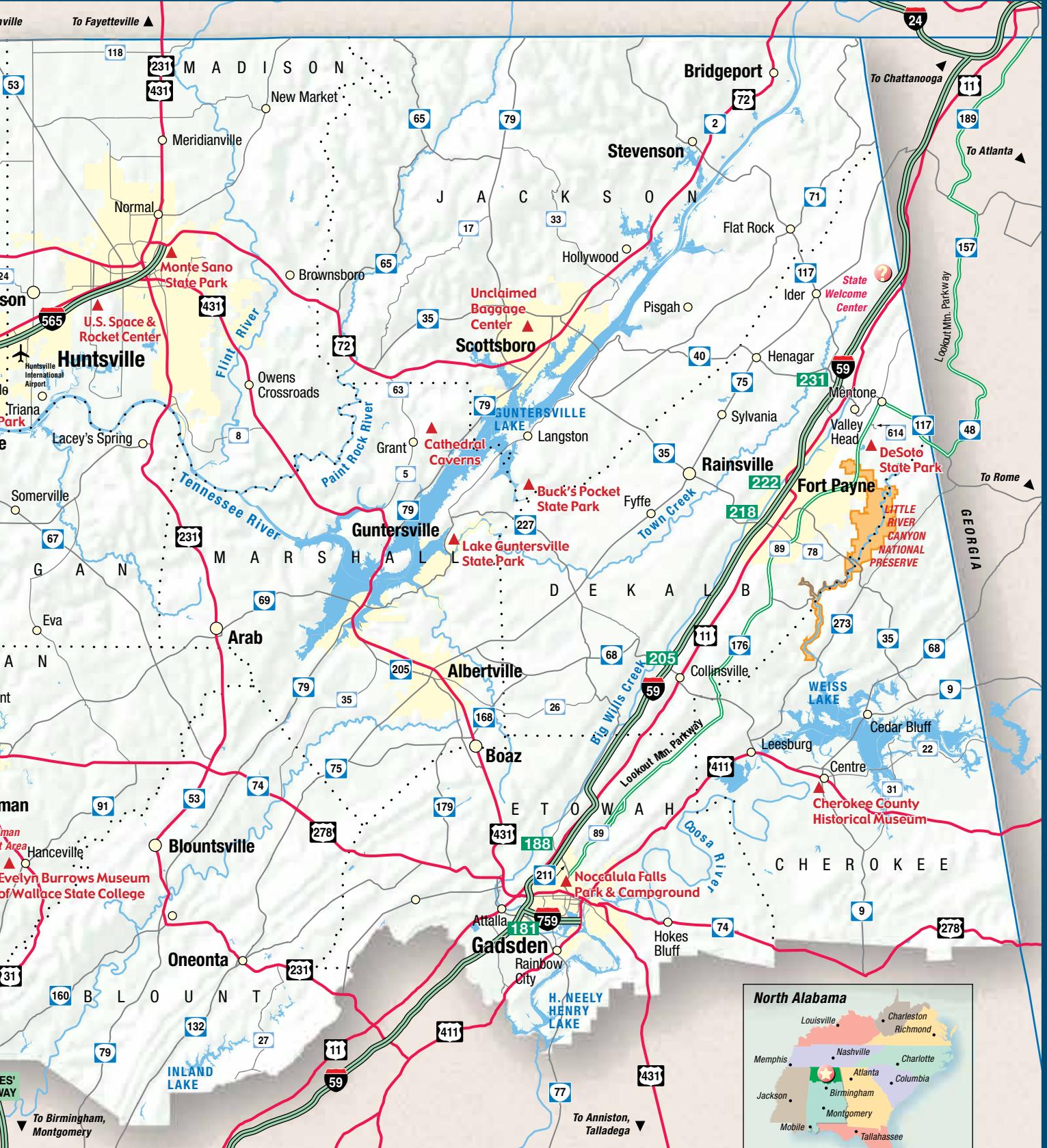


YouTube



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ABOUT NORTH ALABAMA • TOUR BOOKING



Appalachia's Southern Foothills

North Alabama marks the southern foothills of the Appalachian Mountain Range, with rocky peaks boldly cut by the rushing waters of the Tennessee River. It is a region of unsurpassed beauty and is renowned for its wooded bluffs and serene nature areas.

North Alabama boasts of many assets of interest to the traveler -- beautiful landscapes, sparkling lakes, abundant flora and fauna, internationally-acclaimed music and food, a rich and compelling history, and a vibrant array of unexpected destinations.

North Alabama offers five of the most visited attractions in the State of Alabama -- the U.S. Space & Rocket Center and Huntsville Botanical Garden, both in Huntsville; Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge in Decatur; Noccalula Falls Park, Gadsden; and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail with courses in Muscle Shoals, Huntsville and Glencoe.

Here you will also discover America's southern-most snow skiing slopes at Cloudmont Ski Resort and the deepest gorge east of the Mississippi River at Little River Canyon in Ft. Payne.

Plan a visit to North Alabama today and discover a dash of the unexpected! We look forward to providing you with an exciting adventure.

Booking This Tour

Your tour coordinator will be Karen Beasley, Director of Marketing & Communications of the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association.

Tours are based on flying into Huntsville International Airport but are easily customized for motorcoach tours through any part of our amazing region.

To book or customize these tours, contact:

Karen Beasley

**Director of Marketing & Communications
Alabama Mountain Lakes
Tourist Association**

**Telephone: 800-648-5381 or
256-350-3500**

E-mail: Karen@NorthAlabama.org



Karen Beasley
Director of Marketing & Communications
Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association

DID YOU KNOW?

- Five of Alabama's most visited attractions are in North Alabama: U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Huntsville; courses on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail; Huntsville Botanical Garden; Noccalula Falls Park, Gadsden; and the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Decatur.
- The deepest gorge in the U.S. east of the Rockies is Little River Canyon near Fort Payne in North Alabama.
- William Gibson's famous play "The Miracle Worker" was written about Tuscumbia's Helen Keller and her teacher Anne Sullivan.
- World famous Blues composer W. C. Handy was born in a log cabin in Florence.
- Olympic champion Jesse Owens came from Oakville, AL.
- John Pratt of Centre, AL patented the typewriter in 1866.
- Alabama workers built the first rocket to put humans on the moon at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville.
- A skeleton of a pre-historic man was found in Russell Cave near Bridgeport, AL.
- A national forest, a national wilderness area, and seven state parks are located in North Alabama.

Nearby

Distances are from AMLA regional boundaries.

Atlanta, Ga. 106 miles
Birmingham, Ala. 25 miles
Chattanooga, Tenn. 28 miles
Jackson, Miss. 275 miles
Little Rock, Ark. 265 miles
Louisville, Ky. 260 miles
Memphis, Tenn. 89 miles
Mobile, Ala. 290 miles
Montgomery, Ala. 120 miles
Nashville, Tenn. 76 miles
Tuscaloosa, Ala. 85 miles

North Alabama Road Network

Interstates:
I-65, I-565, I-59, I-22

U.S. Highways:
11, 31, 43, 72, 78, 231, 278 & 431

Scenic:
Natchez Trace Parkway
Lookout Mountain Parkway



Tours of Alabama's Majestic Appalachian Mountains!

Trails of Alabama's Majestic Appalachian Mountains



NORTH ALABAMA WATERFALL TRAIL

Featuring 27 magical waterfalls to be discovered across the region, from Noccallula Falls in Gadsden and Coldwater Falls in Tuscombua, to DeSoto Falls near Fort Payne.

(800) 648-5381 • www.NorthAlabama.org



Brochure
Download
Available

2 North Alabama
Regional Map



NORTH ALABAMA MURAL TRAIL

Discover North Alabama's heritage, beauty, and love of the arts through more than 145 murals across 16 counties.

(800) 648-5381 • www.NorthAlabama.org



Brochure
Download
Available

6 Miracles & Music
Tour 1



NORTH ALABAMA AGRICULTURE TRAIL

Highlights the businesses, farms that has an agriculturally-related product for sale or is an educational, entertainment, historical, cultural, or recreational activity.

(800) 648-5381 • www.NorthAlabama.org



Brochure
Download
Available

10 Golf Excursion
Tour 3



NORTH ALABAMA TRAIN DEPOTS TRAIL

This heritage trail will help guide you down the steel rails to the significant depots, museums, festivals, eateries, and small-scale train rides available today.

(800) 648-5381 • www.NorthAlabama.org



Brochure
Download
Available

12 Whooping Cranes
and Bald Eagles
Tour 4



NORTH ALABAMA BBQ TRAIL

Barbecue is something of a religion down in these parts. Twenty-three purveyors of this southern art form have banded together to create the North Alabama Barbecue Trail.

(800) 648-5381 • www.NorthAlabama.org



Brochure
Download
Available

16 Hot Air Balloons
and Spaceships
Tour 6



HALLELUJAH TRAIL OF SACRED PLACES

The Trail is composed of 32 churches that are at least 100 years old, stand on their original sites, and are still holding services today.

(800) 648-5381 • www.NorthAlabama.org



Brochure
Download
Available

18 History & Heritage
Tour 7



NORTH ALABAMA CRAFT BEER TRAIL

Spotlights six micro-breweries and events spread throughout the Appalachian foothills of the region. Each individual beer brand is one of a kind.

www.NorthAlabama.org



Brochure
Download
Available



NORTH ALABAMA BIRDING TRAIL

Trail includes a total of 51 diverse birding sites that are compiled from recommendations from wildlife biologists, bird enthusiasts, and conservation organizations.

(334) 242-3465 • to <https://alabamabirdingtrails.com/trails/north-alabama/>



Brochure
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NORTH ALABAMA WINE TRAIL

We are fortunate to have six family operated wineries offering their own unique blends of wine that reflect their family heritage and the flavor characteristics of the south.

(800) 648-5381 • www.NorthAlabama.org



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BOOKING & INFORMATION • 256.350.3500 • karen@NORTHALABAMA.ORG

TOUR 1 • MIRACLES AND MUSIC

TOUR TIMELINE: ANY SEASON

(Please note, depending on when flight arrives at Huntsville International Airport, optional afternoon and evening receptions or destination stops may be added.)

Day 1 – Arrival and travel to Florence, AL

Day 2 – Alabama Music Hall of Fame
FAME Recording Studios tour
Muscle Shoals Sound Studio tour
Lunch at Rattlesnake Saloon
Helen Keller Home, Gardens and Museum

Day 3 – Dismals Canyon
Red Bay Museum
Travel to Huntsville
Orion Amphitheater

Day 4 – U. S. Space & Rocket Center
EarlyWorks
Huntsville Botanical Garden

Day 5 – Unclaimed Baggage Center
Departure

Destinations

Alabama Music Hall of Fame

The outstanding achievements and the music of Alabamians are presented in this state museum. “Father of the Blues” W.C. Handy, “Father of Rock and Roll” Sam Phillips and Percy Sledge (“When a Man Loves a Woman”), all Shoals natives, are among the prestigious inductees. You’ll hear rocking rhythms and soul touching melodies as you admire the vast memorabilia from the lives and careers of more than 1,000 stars, representing all styles of America’s music.

FAME Recording Studios

FAME, established in 1959, was the first successful, professional recording studio in Alabama. Arthur Alexander’s 1961 hit, “You Better Move On,” cut here, launched the famous Muscle Shoals sound. The internationally acclaimed documentary, Muscle Shoals released in 2013, told the story of FAME and its founder, Rick Hall.

Muscle Shoals Sound Studio

Established in 1969 by a group of former FAME session musicians, this was the location where the Rolling Stones, Cher, Bob Segar, Rod Stewart, Paul Simon, Art Garfunkle, and many others created some of the most popular hits of the 1970’s. The rhythm section was eventually immortalized as “The Swampers” by Lynyrd Skynyrd in the lyrics to “Sweet Home Alabama.”

Rattlesnake Saloon

Old-fashioned saloon feel, with swinging doors, a large porch that hosts live music and hitching post. Built into a massive rock outcropping. Sandwiches, wings, and more. Seasonal hours.

Helen Keller Home, Gardens and Museum

The dramatic life and times of Helen Keller are preserved at her birthplace and childhood home, Ivy Green. The plantation home and birthplace cottage, dating back to the 1820’s are listed on the National Historic Register of Historic Places. Original furnishings of the Keller family decorate the home and museum, highlighted by hundreds of Miss Keller’s personal mementos, books, and gifts from her lifetime of travel and lectures for the betterment of the world’s blind and deaf-blind.



FAME Recording Studios



Alabama Music Hall of Fame



Muscle Shoals Sound Studio



The Orion Amphitheater

Dismals Canyon

A National Natural Landmark and one of the finest examples of ecological and geological features composing our nation's natural history. Pristine wilderness, romantic cabins, secluded campsites, hiking, swimming, canoeing, wildflowers, a country store, and more.

Red Bay Museum

The museum showcases various displays of artifacts of Red Bay's past and also a display of items donated by Tammy Wynette and family and friends of Tammy.

The Orion Amphitheater & Apollo Park

The Orion Amphitheater marks a new chapter in the Southeast's unparalleled musical history. This 8,000 capacity destination venue was built by the people of Huntsville, for the people of Huntsville. Located in the bustling MidCity District, The Orion and surrounding Apollo Park are utilized year-round for concerts, community events, and more. The Dome and Jeff & Blues, both located adjacent to the Amphitheater in Apollo South, offer multi-purpose spaces that encourage diverse programming. The campus has no shortage of variety in their refreshments, boasting over a dozen bars with unique offerings and regularly hosting local food trucks.

EarlyWorks, Huntsville

The EarlyWorks Family of Museums include the Alabama Constitution Village, the Huntsville Depot and Museum, and EarlyWorks Children's History Museum. These three museums in the heart of historic downtown Huntsville will take you on a journey back in time. Experience history as it comes to life.

U. S. Space & Rocket Center

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama is a museum operated by the government of Alabama, showcasing rockets, achievements, and artifacts of the U.S. space program. Astronaut Owen Garriott described the place as, "a great way to learn about space in a town that has embraced the space program from the very beginning." Opened in 1970, just after the second manned mission to the lunar surface, the center not only showcases Apollo Program hardware but also houses interactive science exhibits, Space Shuttle and Army rocketry and aircraft. With more than 1,500 permanent rocketry and space exploration artifacts, as well as many rotating rocketry and space-related exhibits, the center occupies land carved out of Redstone Arsenal adjacent to Huntsville Botanical Garden.

Huntsville Botanical Garden

The Huntsville Botanical Garden is a 112-acre (453,000 m) botanical garden. The garden is typically a top five paid tourist attraction in Alabama, receiving more than 300,000 visitors annually. The garden includes a seasonal butterfly house, and aquatic, annual, daylily, fern, herb, perennial, rose, and wildflower gardens, as well as a nature path and collection of Flowering Dogwood trees. Specific sections of the garden are as follows: Nature center, Biblical garden, Central Corridor, Daylily Garden, Dogwood Trail, Fern Glade, Herb Garden Nature Trail, and Vegetable Garden.

Unclaimed Baggage Center

Home of lost treasures from around the world! As seen on The Today Show, Fox & Friends, and Southern Living.



Helen Keller Gardens



Red Bay Museum



Unclaimed Baggage Center



Dismals Canyon

TOUR 2 • CANYONS, CAVES & WATERFALLS

TOUR TIMELINE: ANY SEASON

(Please note, depending on when flight arrives at Huntsville International Airport, optional afternoon and evening receptions or destination stops may be added.)

Day 1 – Arrival and travel to Lake Guntersville State Park

Day 2 – Cathedral Caverns State Park

Lake Guntersville lake tour to Bat Cave

Jules J. Berta Winery

Day 3 – Morning travel to Gadsden and hotel check-in

Noccalula Falls Park

Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts

Tigers for Tomorrow

Day 4 – Morning travel to DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne

Driving tour of Little River Canyon & Waterfalls

Little River Canyon Center

Fort Payne Depot Museum

Orbix Hot Glass

Day 5 – Stevenson Railroad Depot Museum

Russell Cave National Monument

Meal at Goose Pond Colony, Scottsboro

Shopping at Unclaimed Baggage Center, Scottsboro

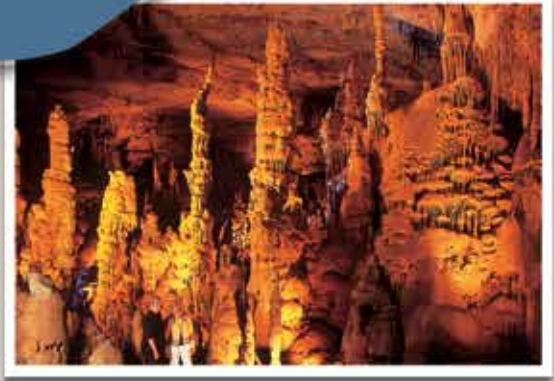
Afternoon travel to Huntsville

Day 6 – U. S. Space & Rocket Center

Huntsville Botanical Garden

Huntsville Museum of Art

Day 7 – Departure



Cathedral Caverns State Park



Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge

Destinations

Cathedral Caverns State Park

The first thing you notice about Cathedral Caverns is the massive entrance. The huge opening measures 126 feet wide and 25 feet high. Inside the cavern, you will find Big Rock Canyon, Mystery River and some of the most beautiful formations Mother Nature has ever created. Among them, you will see Stalagmite Mountain, The Frozen Waterfall, and Goliath, a huge stalagmite column that reaches the ceiling of the cave some 45 feet above! Human habitation can be traced back 8,000 years.

Lake Guntersville State Park & Lodge

A 6,000-acre park located along the shore of Lake Guntersville, offering swimming, boating, tennis, 18-hole golf course, hiking, Nature Center, cottages, chalets, and campground. The lodge, chalets, motel, and convention center are situated on a 500-foot bluff overlooking Lake Guntersville.

Jules J. Berta Winery

Jules J. Berta Vineyards are located atop Sand Mountain in Albertville, Alabama. The vineyards are five acres of vines on a 22 acre farm, and mostly consist of Chardonnay, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and other varietals. They have fruit wines and muscadine wines from fruit grown by local Alabama farmers.

Noccalula Falls Park

Ninety-foot waterfall with canyon, nature trails, botanical garden with more than 25,000 azaleas, a pioneer village, a war memorial, gift shop, children's playground, and campground.

Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts

Cultural arts facility with three art galleries, Imagination Place Children's Hands-on Museum, 72 foot working model railroad and Gadsden Community School of the Arts.

Tigers for Tomorrow

Looking for a unique experience? Take a trip to Untamed Mountain. Tigers for Tomorrow is a wild animal park and environmental education center that's home to over 80 large predators, including tigers, leopards, cougars, wolves, bears and more. Children can interact with barnyard animals at our contact yard.



Tigers For Tomorrow



Little River Canyon Center

DeSoto State Park

Lodge, cabins, motel, full service restaurant, campground, primitive camping, nature center, hiking and biking trails, Olympic-size pool, canoeing, boating, and fishing areas. Located atop Lookout Mountain near Little River Canyon National Preserve and near DeSoto Falls day use area.

Little River Canyon Center

The Little River Canyon Center is a partnership between Jacksonville State University and Little River Canyon National Preserve. The Center provides visitors with information, educational and recreational opportunities, and an impressive HD film about Little River Canyon.

Fort Payne Depot Museum

Museum features exhibits typical of the lifestyles of the late 1800s and the early 1900s. The museum features Native American pottery, basketry, tools, and clothing. Old Fort Payne Depot was built by the Alabama Great Southern Railroad in 1891.

Orbix Hot Glass

Owned by artist Cal Breed, Orbix Hot Glass creates unique handmade functional art glass and sculpture. Orbix studio and gallery is located on Lookout Mountain in Alabama.

Stevenson Railroad Depot Museum

An important Civil War railroad junction. The station now houses a collection of military, agricultural, Indian artifacts, railroad, and other local memorabilia. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Russell Cave National Monument

For hundreds of generations, Russell Cave provided shelter for Southeastern Tribes of Indians. Today, visitors can learn about the national significance of this archeological site and enjoy the quiet setting of this National Park Service unit.

Goose Pond Colony

A municipal park resting on a 368-acre peninsula offering golf, camping, cottages, lodge, restaurant, picnicking, pool, nature trails, marina with boat launch (fuel for boats and tackle shop), and amphitheater.

Unclaimed Baggage Center

You've seen it on *Oprah*, *Good Morning America*, and *Late Show with David Letterman*. Now experience for yourself the wonder that is Unclaimed Baggage. Find lost luggage treasures and shop around the sprawling 50,000 square foot store in Scottsboro. It's a guaranteed good time for any and every shopper.

U. S. Space & Rocket Center

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama is a museum operated by the government of Alabama, showcasing rockets, achievements, and artifacts of the U.S. space program. Opened in 1970, just after the second manned mission to the lunar surface, the center not only showcases Apollo Program hardware but also houses interactive science exhibits, Space Shuttle and Army rocketry and aircraft. With more than 1,500 permanent rocketry and space exploration artifacts, as well as many rotating rocketry and space-related exhibits.

Huntsville Botanical Garden

The Huntsville Botanical Garden is a 112-acre (453,000 m) botanical garden. The garden is typically a top five paid tourist attraction in Alabama, receiving more than 300,000 visitors annually. The garden includes a seasonal butterfly house, and aquatic, annual, daylily, fern, herb, perennial, rose, and wildflower gardens, as well as a nature path and collection of Flowering Dogwood trees. Specific sections of the garden are as follows: Nature center, Biblical garden, Central Corridor, Daylily Garden, Dogwood Trail, Fern Glade, Herb Garden Nature Trail, and Vegetable Garden.

Huntsville Museum of Art

Named as one of the state's "Top 10" destinations by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel, the Huntsville Museum of Art is gaining a reputation throughout the South for bringing high-caliber touring exhibitions to the region. The nationally accredited Museum fills its fourteen galleries with a variety of exhibitions throughout the year, including prestigious traveling exhibits and the work of nationally and regionally acclaimed artists.



Orbix Hot Glass



Unclaimed Baggage Center



U. S. Space & Rocket Center



Huntsville Botanical Garden

TOUR 3 • GOLF EXCURSION

TOUR TIMELINE: ANY SEASON

(Please note, depending on when flight arrives at Huntsville International Airport, optional afternoon and evening receptions or destination stops may be added.)

Day 1 – Arrival and travel to Marriott Shoals

Day 2 – Robert Trent Jones Trail at The Shoals

Optional:

Helen Keller Home, Gardens & Museum

FAME Recording Studios

Muscle Shoals Sound Studio

Alabama Music Hall of Fame

Afternoon travel to Decatur

Day 3 – Point Mallard Golf Course

Optional:

Old State Bank Museum

Cook Museum of Natural Science

Carnegie Visual Art Center

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

Afternoon travel to Gadsden

Day 4 – Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Silver Lake

Optional:

Noccalula Falls Park

Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts

Tigers for Tomorrow

Afternoon travel to Huntsville

Day 5 – Robert Trent Jones Trail at Hampton Cove

Optional:

U. S. Space & Rocket Center

Huntsville Museum of Art

Huntsville Botanical Gardens

Day 6 – Departure

Destinations

Blackberry Trail

The 18-hole “Blackberry Trail” course at the Blackberry Trail Golf Course facility in Florence, Alabama features 6,851 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 72.

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at The Shoals

The Fighting Joe course at The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at the Shoals is the first Trail course to break 8,000 yards, measuring some 8,072 from the black tees.

Helen Keller Home, Gardens and Museum

The dramatic life and times of Helen Keller are preserved at her birthplace and childhood home, Ivy Green. The plantation home and birthplace cottage, dating back to the 1820’s are listed on the National Historic Register of Historic Places. Original furnishings of the Keller family decorate the home and museum, highlighted by hundreds of Miss Keller’s personal treasures.

FAME Recording Studios

FAME, established in 1959, was the first successful, professional recording studio in Alabama. Arthur Alexander’s 1961 hit, “You Better Move On,” cut here, launched the famous Muscle Shoals sound. The internationally acclaimed documentary, Muscle Shoals released in 2013, told the story of FAME and its founder, Rick Hall.

Muscle Shoals Sound Studio

Established in 1969 by a group of former FAME session musicians, this was the location where the Rolling Stones, Cher, Bob Segar, Rod Stewart, Paul Simon, Art Garfunkle, and many others created some of the most popular hits of the 1970’s. The rhythm section was eventually immortalized as “The Swampers” by Lynyrd Skynyrd in the lyrics to “Sweet Home Alabama.”

Alabama Music Hall of Fame

The outstanding achievements and the music of Alabamians are presented in this state museum. “Father of the Blues” W.C. Handy, “Father of Rock and Roll” Sam Phillips and Percy Sledge (“When a Man Loves a Woman”), all Shoals natives, are among the prestigious inductees. You’ll hear rocking rhythms and soul



Point Mallard Golf Course, Decatur



Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Hampton Cove



Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Silver Lake



Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at The Shoals

touching melodies as you admire the vast memorabilia from the lives and careers of more than 1,000 stars, representing all styles of America's music.

Point Mallard Park

Championship golf course, 18 holes, 7,064 yards, par 72, Tif Dwarf Bermuda greens, chipping green, putting green, driving range, clubhouse, showers, pro shop, golf lessons, and snack bar.

Old State Bank

The Old State Bank was one of three banks authorized by The Alabama General Assembly in 1832. Few structures can boast as varied a past as the Bank. Since its construction, the building has weathered two depressions and a Civil War, and has served as a hospital, guardhouse, bank, and dance hall. Named to the National Register of Historical Places in 1972, the Classic Revival architecture of the Bank is symbolic of the period in which it was built.

Cook Museum of Natural Science

Many natural wonders are in one of the South's finest museums of its type. The site provides an assortment of exotic insects, mounted birds, animals, minerals, seashells, and coral in over 2,000 exhibits. It's home to wildlife common to the Tennessee Valley, 50 species of insects, animals and water life. Protected and endangered species including displays of a bald eagle and golden eagle.

Carnegie Visual Arts Center

Completed in September of 1904, the Carnegie Library of Decatur was one of the 2,509 libraries built by the millionaire philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Today it serves as an art museum and education facility, located two blocks from historic Bank Street.

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

Offers wildlife displays, orientation video, wildlife observation building, hiking trails, and the opportunity to view a live red-tailed hawk. Many recreational opportunities, including hunting & fishing.

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Silver Lakes

Silver Lakes, which is beautifully nestled in the Appalachian Mountains, has three championship courses, a 9-hole course, and public course.

Noccalula Falls Park

Ninety-foot waterfall with canyon, nature trails, botanical garden with more than 25,000 azaleas, a pioneer village, a war memorial, gift shop, children's playground, and campground.

Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts

Cultural arts facility featuring three art galleries, Imagination Place Children's Hands-on Museum, 72 foot working model railroad, and Gadsden Community School of the Arts.

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Hampton Cove

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Hampton Cove offers 54-holes of rolling terrain and challenging golf shots. The Highlands course is a traditional Scottish-Links design, while the River course features water on 16 of 18 holes and is the only trail with no bunkers. A Par 3 short course is perfect for golfers of all skill levels.

U. S. Space & Rocket Center

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama is a museum operated by the government of Alabama, showcasing rockets, achievements, and artifacts of the U.S. space program. With more than 1,500 permanent rocketry and space exploration artifacts, as well as many rotating rocketry and space-related exhibits, the center occupies land carved out of Redstone Arsenal.

Huntsville Museum of Art

The Huntsville Botanical Garden is a 112-acre (453,000 m) botanical garden. The garden is typically a top five top paid tourist attraction in Alabama, receiving more than 300,000 visitors annually. The garden includes a seasonal butterfly house, and aquatic, annual, daylily, fern, herb, perennial, rose, and wildflower gardens, as well as a nature path and collection of Flowering Dogwood trees. Specific sections of the garden include a: Nature center, Biblical garden, Central Corridor, and Vegetable Garden.

Huntsville Botanical Garden

The Huntsville Botanical Garden is a 112-acre (453,000 m) botanical garden. The garden is typically a top five paid tourist attraction in Alabama, receiving more than 300,000 visitors annually. The garden includes a seasonal butterfly house, and wildflower gardens.



Alabama Music Hall of Fame



Carnegie Visual Arts Center



Huntsville Museum of Art



Noccalula Falls Park

TOUR 4 • WHOOPING CRANES & BALD EAGLES

TOUR TIMELINE: JANUARY

(Please note, depending on when flight arrives at Huntsville International Airport, optional afternoon and evening receptions or destination stops may be added.)

Day 1 – Arrival and travel to Decatur hotel

Day 2 – (Saturday) Festival of the Cranes at Wheeler Wildlife National Refuge

Day 3 – (Sunday) Festival of the Cranes at Wheeler Wildlife National Refuge

Cook Museum of Natural Science

Evening travel to Lake Guntersville State Park

Optional Day 3 events

Eagle Awareness Weekends

Guided tours to bald eagle nesting grounds

Evening fireside Cider Social

Day 4 – Cathedral Caverns State Park

Wills Creek Winery

Guntersville Museum & Cultural Center

Maraella Winery

Evening travel to Huntsville

Day 5 – U. S. Space & Rocket Center

Huntsville Botanical Garden

EarlyWorks Museum Complex

Day 6 – Departure

Destinations

Festival of the Cranes

Held at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, the two-day event is typically held the second weekend in January in Decatur, Alabama. View thousands of Sandhill cranes along with several Whooping cranes, ducks, geese, raptors and perhaps a bald eagle from the comfort of the heated building at Wheeler NWR in Alabama. There are bleachers and spotting scopes available along with volunteers and staff standing by to answer all your questions. Events include special speakers, films, live raptors, and children's activities.

Cook Museum of Natural History

Many natural wonders are in one of the South's finest museums of its type. The site provides an assortment of exotic insects, mounted birds, animals, minerals, seashells, and coral in over 2,000 exhibits. It is also home to wildlife common to the Tennessee Valley, 50 species of insects, animals and water life. Protected and endangered species including displays of a bald eagle and golden eagle. The facility also offers a 64-seat auditorium used to show natural science films.

Lake Guntersville State Park & Lodge

A 6,000-acre park located along the shore of Lake Guntersville, offering swimming, boating, tennis, 18-hole golf course, hiking, Nature Center, cottages, chalets, and campground. The lodge, chalets, motel, and convention center are situated on a 500-foot bluff overlooking Lake Guntersville.

Eagle Awareness Weekends

Eagle Awareness Weekends at Lake Guntersville State Park, typically held in January and February, was started as an activity for people of all ages to experience the joy of watching eagles and other birds in their natural habitat and as a way of educating the public about the importance of protecting the area's wildlife. The weekend events feature live bird demonstrations, programs provided by notable speakers, guided safaris for viewing eagles and other creatures in their natural habitat and plenty of photo opportunities for those with camera in hand.



Wills Creek Winery



Eagle Awareness Weekends



Festival of the Cranes



Early Works Museum

Cathedral Caverns State Park

The first thing you notice about Cathedral Caverns is the massive entrance. The huge opening measures 126 feet wide and 25 feet high. Inside the cavern, you will find Big Rock Canyon, Mystery River and some of the most beautiful formations Mother Nature has ever created. Among them, you will see Stalagmite Mountain, The Frozen Waterfall, and Goliath, a huge stalagmite column that reaches the ceiling of the cave some 45 feet above! Human habitation can be traced back 8,000 years.

Wills Creek Winery

Discover a tranquil world nestled in the Appalachian foothills of the Duck Springs Valley. Enjoy wine tastings from over 20 varieties of wine. Relax on the deck or the newly enclosed and heated/AC room overlooking the vineyard and duck pond with wine by the glass or bottles, cheese and salami platters, available on Saturday. Brunch is served Sunday 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Call the winery for the menu of the day. Winery tasting room and gift shop, home winemaker's corner and much more.

Maraella Winery

The vineyards include estate grown and bottled Cabernet Sauvignon allowing visitors a choice between classic viniferous varietals and traditional Alabama fruit wines. Wine novelties and local handmade art fill their gift shop.

Guntersville Museum & Cultural Center

Located in a historic armory, the Guntersville Museum offers history and culture of the region with artifacts, gems and minerals, art, and local flavor.

U. S. Space & Rocket Center

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama is a museum operated by the government of Alabama, showcasing rockets, achievements, and artifacts of the U.S. space program. Astronaut Owen Garriott described the place as, "a great way to learn about space in a town that has embraced the space program from the very beginning." Opened in 1970, just after the second manned mission to the lunar surface, the center not only showcases Apollo Program hardware but also houses interactive science exhibits, Space Shuttle and Army rocketry and aircraft. With more than 1,500 permanent rocketry and space exploration artifacts, as well as many rotating rocketry and space-related exhibits, the center occupies land carved out of Redstone Arsenal adjacent to Huntsville Botanical Garden.

Huntsville Botanical Garden

The Huntsville Botanical Garden is a 112-acre (453,000 m) botanical garden. The garden is fifth on the list of Alabama's top paid tourist attractions, receiving more than 300,000 visitors annually. The garden includes a seasonal butterfly house, and aquatic, annual, daylily, fern, herb, perennial, rose, and wildflower gardens, as well as a nature path and collection of Flowering Dogwood trees. Specific sections of the garden are as follows: Nature center, Biblical garden, Central Corridor, Daylily Garden, Dogwood Trail, Fern Glade, Herb Garden Nature Trail, and Vegetable Garden.

EarlyWorks, Huntsville

Your incredible adventure awaits at the South's largest hands-on history museum complex! The EarlyWorks Family of Museums include the Alabama Constitution Village, the Huntsville Depot and Museum, and EarlyWorks Children's History Museum. These three museums in the heart of historic downtown Huntsville will take you on a journey back in time. Experience history as it comes to life in unique settings such as a 46-foot keel boat, an 1860's era depot, and the cabinet shop where delegates met to discuss and draft the constitution for statehood in 1819.



Cathedral Caverns State Park



Lake Guntersville State Park



Saturn V Hall at U.S. Space & Rocket Center



Huntsville Botanical Garden

TOUR 5 • HEROES & HEROINES

TOUR TIMELINE: ANY SEASON

(Please note, depending on when flight arrives at Huntsville International Airport, optional afternoon and evening receptions or destination stops may be added.)

- Day 1** – Arrival at Huntsville International Airport
Depart for Marriott Shoals
- Day 2** – Helen Keller Home, Gardens & Museum
Coon Dog Cemetery
LaGrange College Park Site
General Joe Wheeler Home & Museum
Overnight in Decatur
- Day 3** – Oakville Indian Mounds
Jesse Owens Memorial Park & Museum
Old State Bank Museum
Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center
- Day 4** – Morning Departure for Cullman
Cullman County Museum
Ave Maria Grotto
- Day 5** – Rickwood Caverns State Park
Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Evening departure for Huntsville
- Day 6** – U. S. Space & Rocket Center
Alabama Constitution Hall Park
Huntsville Botanical Garden
- Day 7** – Departure

Destinations

Helen Keller Home, Gardens and Museum

The dramatic life and times of Helen Keller are preserved at her birthplace and childhood home, Ivy Green. The plantation home and birthplace cottage, dating back to the 1820's are listed on the National Historic Register of Historic Places. Original furnishings of the Keller family decorate the home and museum, highlighted by hundreds of Miss Keller's personal mementos, books, and gifts from her lifetime of travel and lectures for the betterment of the world's blind and deaf-blind.

LaGrange College Site Park

Alabama's first chartered college, which quickly became known as "The West Point of the South" following its establishment in 1830. Pioneer Village, antebellum cemetery, picnic area.

The General Joe Wheeler Home

Pond Spring was home to Fighting Joseph Wheeler, former Major General of Cavalry of the Confederate western army. Wheeler was a U.S. Congressman following the Civil War. "Fightin' Joe" Wheeler became a national symbol for reunification and reconciliation following the Civil War and throughout the latter half of the 19th Century.

Oakville Indian Mounds Education Center

Features the largest 2,000-year-old Woodland Indian Mound in Alabama, early settler cemetery, Black Warriors Path, 8,000 sq. ft. 122 acre park with 20 acre fishing pond, and walking paths.

Jesse Owens Museum

The 20-acre park, near Jesse Owens' birthplace, honors the track great who captured four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The park both educates and entertains with a museum, broad jump pit, life-size bronze statue, 1936 torch replica, Olympic Gold Medal Tree, home replica, playground, ball fields, picnic pavilions, gift shop, and visitor's center.



Oakville Indian Mounds Educational Center



Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament



Jesse Owens Museum



Helen Keller Home

Old State Bank

The Old State Bank was one of three banks authorized by The Alabama General Assembly in 1832. Few structures can boast as varied a past as the Bank. Since its construction, the building has weathered two depressions and a Civil War, and has served as a hospital, guardhouse, bank, and dance hall. Named to the National Register of Historical Places in 1972, the Classic Revival architecture of the Bank is symbolic of the period in which it was built.

Coon Dog Cemetery

More than 300 coon dogs have been laid to rest in the scenic "Freedom Hills." Unique headstones and epitaphs pay tribute to man's best friend. "Troop" was the first dog buried here in 1937.

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

Offers wildlife displays, orientation video, wildlife observation building, hiking trails, and the opportunity to view a live red-tailed hawk. Many recreational opportunities, including hunting & fishing.

Cullman County Museum

Located within a replica of Cullman's founder's home, the museum has something for all ages and interests. From Native American presentations to the Main Street Displays which focus on Cullman's German heritage, there are many interactive displays of interest to the young and the young at heart.

Ave Maria Grotto

Known throughout the world as "Jerusalem in Miniature," the Ave Maria Grotto is a beautifully landscaped, four-acre park designed to provide a natural setting for the 125 miniature reproductions of some of the most famous historic buildings and shrines of the world. The masterpieces of stone and concrete are the lifetime work of Brother Joseph Zoettl, a Benedictine monk of St. Bernard Abbey. Begun as a hobby, with various materials he could find and infinite patience and a remarkable sense of symmetry and proportion, Brother Joseph re-created some of the greatest edifices of all time. Listed on the National Register of Historic Sites.

Rickwood Caverns State Park

Miracle mile of underground caverns! The park has 260 million-year-old limestone formations, blind cave fish, underground pool, an Olympic-size swimming pool, meeting rooms, picnic area, picnic shelters, hiking trails, playground, campground, and gift shop where visitors can pan for gemstones.

Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Poor Clare Nuns of Perpetual Adorations keep a constant prayer vigil at the Shrine, inviting people from all walks of life and faiths to see what the Lord has accomplished here. The Shrine grounds consist of: Cloistered Monastery, Upper and Lower church, near life sized Nativity scene, Lourdes Grotto, John Paul II Eucharistic Center, and the Castle which houses the Gift Shop of El Nino, conference rooms, and downstairs dining area.

EarlyWorks Museum Complex

Three museums—one incredible adventure. Choose to visit all three or just one of the museums.

EarlyWorks -- the South's largest hands-on-history museum.

Alabama Constitution Hall Park -- Alabama's birthplace -- 1819.

Historic Huntsville Depot -- Discover graffiti written by actual Civil War soldiers.

U. S. Space & Rocket Center

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Huntsville Botanical Garden

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Cullman County Museum



Ave Maria Grotto



Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge



LaGrange College Site Park

TOUR 6 • HOT AIR BALLOONS & SPACESHIPS

TOUR TIMELINE: LATE MAY

(Please note, depending on when flight arrives at Huntsville International Airport, optional afternoon and evening receptions or destination stops may be added.)

Day 1 – Arrival and travel to Decatur hotel

Day 2 – Old State Bank Museum
Carnegie Visual Art Center
Cook Museum of Natural Science

Day 3 – Alabama Jubilee Hot-Air Balloon Races (early morning and evening)
Big Bob Gibson Bar-B-Q
Morgan Price Candy Company
Alabama Jubilee Balloon Glow

Day 4 – Rickwood Caverns
Ave Maria Grotto
Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Day 5 – Oakville Indian Mounds
Jesse Owens Memorial Park & Museum
Evening travel to Huntsville
Meal at Huntsville Botanical Gardens

Day 6 – U. S. Space & Rocket Center
Burritt Museum

Day 7 – Departure

Destinations

Old State Bank

The Old State Bank was one of three banks authorized by The Alabama General Assembly in 1832. Few structures can boast as varied a past as the Bank. Since its construction, the building has weathered two depressions and a Civil War, and has served as a hospital, guardhouse, bank, and dance hall. Named to the National Register of Historical Places in 1972, the Classic Revival architecture of the Bank is symbolic of the period in which it was built. The building is decorated with antique pieces from the Federal and Empire period.

Carnegie Visual Arts Center

Completed in September of 1904, the Carnegie Library of Decatur was one of the 2,509 libraries built by the millionaire philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Today it serves as an art museum and education facility, located two blocks from historic Bank Street.

Cook Museum of Natural Science

Many natural wonders are in one of the South's finest museums of its type. The site provides an assortment of exotic insects, mounted birds, animals, minerals, seashells, and coral in over 2,000 exhibits. It also includes wildlife common to the Tennessee Valley, 50 species of insects, animals and water life. Protected and endangered species including displays of a bald eagle and golden eagle. The facility also offers a 64-seat auditorium used to show natural science films.

Alabama Jubilee Hot-Air Balloon Classic

The Alabama Jubilee Hot Air Balloon Classic is the largest balloon race in Alabama. Features 60 balloons from around the country flying over the Memorial Day weekend. Alabama Jubilee also features: food & merchandise vendors, live music, arts & crafts show, classic car show, and tractor show.

Morgan Price Candy Company

Nostalgic for "old-fashioned" quality and service, Morgan Price started making candy, using old family recipes, for special friends years ago. Today, the candy is always made by hand in small batches to give you the best quality possible. A quaint shop that abounds with seasonal treats and scores of baskets, ribbons and novelty containers, the friendly employees are helpful in finding the right gift or treat for you.



Jesse Owens Statue



Cook Museum of Natural Science



Alabama Jubilee Hot-Air Balloon Classic



Morgan Price Candy Company

Rickwood Caverns State Park

Miracle mile of underground caverns! The park has 260 million-year-old limestone formations, blind cave fish, underground pool, an Olympic-size swimming pool, meeting rooms, picnic area, picnic shelters, hiking trails, playground, campground, and gift shop where visitors can pan for gemstones.

Ave Maria Grotto

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Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Poor Clare Nuns of Perpetual Adorations keep a constant prayer vigil at the Shrine, inviting people from all walks of life and faiths to see what the Lord has accomplished here. Church groups, schools, or families are more than welcome to visit or plan a pilgrimage. The Shrine grounds consists of: Cloistered Monastery, Upper and Lower church, near life sized Nativity scene, Lourdes Grotto, John Paul II Eucharistic Center, and the Castle which houses the Gift Shop of El Nino, conference rooms, and downstairs dining area. The Shrine’s daily schedule includes the Nuns’ Conventual Mass at 7 a.m.; Confessions after 7 a.m. Mass; and Holy Rosary & Angelus w/the Nuns at 11:40 a.m.

Oakville Indian Mounds Educational Center

Features the largest 2,000-year-old Woodland Indian Mound in Alabama, early settler cemetery, Black Warriors Path, 8,000 sq. ft. 122-acre park with 20 acre fishing pond, and walking paths. Cherokee Council House, gift shop, picnic shelters.

Jesse Owens Museum

The 20-acre park, near Jesse Owens’ birthplace, honors the track great who captured four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The park both educates and entertains with a museum, broad jump pit, life-size bronze statue, 1936 torch replica, Olympic Gold Medal Tree, home replica, playground, ball fields, picnic pavilions, gift shop, and visitor’s center.

Huntsville Botanical Garden

The Huntsville Botanical Garden is a 112-acre (453,000 m) botanical garden. The garden is typically a top five paid tourist attraction in Alabama, receiving more than 300,000 visitors annually. The garden includes a seasonal butterfly house, and aquatic, annual, daylily, fern, herb, perennial, rose, and wildflower gardens, as well as a nature path and collection of Flowering Dogwood trees. Specific sections of the garden are as follows: Nature center, Biblical garden, Central Corridor, Daylily Garden, Dogwood Trail, Fern Glade, Herb Garden Nature Trail, and Vegetable Garden.

U. S. Space & Rocket Center

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Burritt on the Mountain

Perched on a mountaintop, is the former home of Dr. William Henry Burritt. 19th century farmsteads with daily living history activities and a large nature preserve traversed by trails.



Burritt on the Mountain Home



Rickwood Caverns State Park



Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament



Big Bob Gibson Bar-B-Q

TOUR 7 • HISTORY & HERITAGE

TOUR TIMELINE: ANY SEASON

(Please note, depending on when flight arrives at Huntsville International Airport, optional afternoon and evening receptions or destination stops may be added.)

- Day 1** – Arrival and travel to Athens hotel
- Day 2** – Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives
Houston Memorial Library & Museum
Sacred Way Sanctuary
Coon Dog Cemetery
Overnight Shoals area hotel
- Day 3** – Helen Keller Home, Gardens & Museum
FAME Recording Studios
Muscle Shoals Sound Studio
Alabama Music Hall of Fame
Overnight in the Shoals
- Day 4** – LaGrange College Park Site
General Joe Wheeler Plantation
Oakville Indian Mounds Park and Museum
Jesse Owens Memorial Park & Museum
Overnight in Cullman hotel
- Day 5** – Cullman County Museum
Ave Maria Grotto
Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Evening travel to Huntsville
Meal at Huntsville Botanical Gardens
- Day 6** – U. S. Space & Rocket Center
Burritt on the Mountain
- Day 7** – Departure

Destinations

Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives

The Alabama Veterans Museum and Archives, located in the 100 year old L&N Freight Depot, has over 2,000 artifacts, medals, uniforms and wartime equipment on display from the Revolutionary War until present day. There are also over 1,000 books and 200 videos in their library.

Houston Memorial Library & Museum

Home of two-time Alabama Governor and U.S. Senator George S. Houston. Public library and museum with 35,000 rare and new books, many in large print. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sacred Way Sanctuary

Sacred Way Sanctuary's Interpretive Center and Museum offers a journey through the history of the horse in the Americas and its relationship with the Native Peoples. The Interpretive Center has been designed in conjunction with the Governing Council of Traditional Knowledge Bearers and Scholars in order to provide a more up-to-date, complete, and accurate history, and to ensure that all items are cared for in a sacred manner and respectfully displayed. The Governing Council of Traditional Native Elders and Scholars from the United States and Canada ensure the information we present, the Interpretive Center, and horse husbandry techniques are all culturally, historically, and spiritually accurate and in line with traditional protocols.

Helen Keller Home, Gardens and Museum

The dramatic life and times of Helen Keller are preserved at her birthplace and childhood home, Ivy Green. The plantation home and birthplace cottage, dating back to the 1820's are listed on the National Historic Register of Historic Places. Original furnishings of the Keller family decorate the home and museum, highlighted by hundreds of Miss Keller's personal mementos, books, and gifts from her lifetime of travel and lectures for the betterment of the world's blind and deaf-blind.

FAME Recording Studios

FAME, established in 1959, was the first successful, professional recording studio in Alabama. Arthur



Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives



Fame Recording Studios soundboard



Sacred Way Sanctuary



Huntsville Botanical Gardens

Alexander's 1961 hit, "You Better Move On," cut here, launched the famous Muscle Shoals sound. The internationally acclaimed documentary, Muscle Shoals released in 2013, told the story of FAME and its founder, Rick Hall.

Muscle Shoals Sound Studio

Established in 1969 by a group of former FAME session musicians, this was the location where the Rolling Stones, Cher, Bob Segar, Rod Stewart, Paul Simon, Art Garfunkle, and many others created some of the most popular hits of the 1970's. The rhythm section was eventually immortalized as "The Swampers" by Lynyrd Skynyrd in the lyrics to "Sweet Home Alabama."

Alabama Music Hall of Fame

The outstanding achievements and the music of Alabamians are presented in this state museum. "Father of the Blues" W.C. Handy, "Father of Rock and Roll" Sam Phillips and Percy Sledge ("When a Man Loves a Woman"), all Shoals natives, are among the prestigious inductees. You'll hear rocking rhythms and soul touching melodies as you admire the vast memorabilia from the lives and careers of more than 1,000 stars, representing all styles of America's music.

Oakville Indian Mounds Park and Museum

The Oakville Indian Mounds Education Center is a park and museum site encompassing 122 acres of woodlands, meadows, and a large lake. The Cherokee Council House Museum contains more than 20,000 artifacts on display.

Jesse Owens Museum

The 20-acre park, near Jesse Owens' birthplace, honors the track great who captured four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The park both educates and entertains with a museum, broad jump pit, life-size bronze statue, 1936 torch replica, Olympic Gold Medal Tree, home replica, playground, ball fields, picnic pavilions, gift shop, and visitor's center.

LaGrange College Site Park

Alabama's first chartered college, which quickly became known as "The West Point of the South" following its establishment in 1830. Pioneer Village, antebellum cemetery, picnic area.

The General Joe Wheeler Home

Pond Spring was home to Fighting Joseph Wheeler, former Major General of Cavalry of the Confederate western army. Wheeler was a U.S. Congressman following the Civil War. "Fightin' Joe" Wheeler became a national symbol for reunification and reconciliation following the Civil War and throughout the latter half of the 19th Century.

Cullman County Museum

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Alabama Music Hall of Fame



U.S. Space & Rocket Center



Gen. Joe Wheeler Plantation



Burritt on the Mountain



U.S. SPACE & ROCKET CENTER
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

NORTH ALABAMA

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