ROCK OUT IN ROCKET CITY ● FLAVORS THAT PULL YOU IN ● STELLAR ACCOMMODATIONS

Huntsville, Alabama

Gravitate Here.

OFFICIAL DESTINATION GUIDE TO HUNTSVILLE/ MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA



Two-Time #1 Best Small Airport in the U.S.

HUNTSVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT | *NEWSWEEK*

TOP 10 BEST PLACES TO LIVE IN THE U.S.
U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

#1 BEST CHOCOLATE SHOP IN THE U.S.
PIZZELLE'S CONFECTIONS | *USA TODAY*

VISIT THE THOMAS DAMBO TROLL IN THE HUNTSVILLE BOTANICAL GARDEN

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Cover Photo: Pathfinder Shuttle Stack/Brent Boyd

Now That You've Touched Down in Rocket City...


U.S. SPACE & ROCKET CENTER®

YOU ARE GO FOR LAUNCH!

By opening up this destination guide, you've just taken one small step toward learning all there is to do in Huntsville—and one giant leap toward planning your perfect trip.

To stay in the loop on what's happening in Huntsville year-round, follow us on social media:

@VisitHuntsvilleAL
HuntsvilleCVB
@Go2HuntsvilleAL
HuntsvilleCVB
VisitHuntsvilleAL
huntsville.org/blog

Visit **huntsville.org** to sign up for our bimonthly newsletter.

And be sure to stop by our remodeled Visitor Center downtown to get expert itinerary advice from our friendly staff or from our high-tech digital kiosk!

HUNTSVILLE/MADISON COUNTY VISITOR CENTER® AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

500 Church Street NW
Suite One
Huntsville, AL 35801
256.551.2230
800.SPACE.4.U

HUNTSVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (HSV) VISITOR CENTER

Located in the HSV
baggage claim area
1000 Glenn Hearn Blvd. SW
Huntsville, AL 35824
256.772.9470

Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. and Sunday, noon–5 p.m.*

** Hours are subject to change. Visitor Centers are closed on Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.*



WELCOME TO HUNTSVILLE

Discover the wonders of Huntsville and Madison County! Enjoy our attractions, rich history, welcoming hotels and delicious restaurants. For the latest information, visit our website or stop by our friendly Visitor Centers for personalized insights. We can't wait to welcome you!

Jennifer Moore,
President & CEO
Huntsville/Madison County
Convention & Visitors Bureau



YEAR OF ALABAMA TRAILS

Join the celebration of Alabama Trails this year. Explore stunning hikes, bike rides and paddling adventures in Huntsville. Discover more at huntsville.org.

HUNTSVILLE HAPPENINGS


MARRIOTT AUTOGRAPH TRILOGY

HUNTSVILLE SAYS STAY A WHILE

The latest additions to lodging are underway! The Marriott Autograph Trilogy will be joining the list of accommodations Huntsville has to offer, complete with views of Big Spring International Park, a rooftop bar and restaurant, plus the largest Starbucks in Alabama. What's more? The Hotel Indigo Huntsville-MidCity location will be ready soon to accept your reservation, with its opening currently slated for the first half of 2025.

SOUTH STAR PLANS ITS RETURN

The South Star Festival is looking forward to its second Huntsville celebration. In the past, this event in John Hunt Park has featured all your favorite musicians, so keep your ear out and your eye on the festival's website for details on dates and which stars will take the stage this go-round.

A TROLL TAKES THE BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Huntsville Botanical Garden is now home to the long-awaited Thomas Dambo Troll. Named Mama Zelda, this new, permanent (and awe-inspiring) addition to the garden arrived in April 2025. Learn more about the gentle giant and her surrounding garden on pages 8 and 9.


MAMA ZELDA

MOUTHWATERING ADDITIONS TO MIDCITY

Take a bite out of Huntsville when you fill your plate at one of the MidCity District's up-and-coming eateries. Tupelo Honey Southern Kitchen and Bar is one of the many new spots offering a relaxed environment and comforting cuisine that you'll just have to try for yourself.

PROGRESS TAKES OFF

We're proud to say that the Huntsville International Airport (HSV) has been named the No. 1 Best Small Airport in the United States by *Newsweek* two years in a row—for 2024 and 2025. And it's only getting better! Improvements are underway, including the concourse restroom renovation and expansion project, which will replace mid-concourse restrooms with ADA-compliant, functional and sustainable facilities. The expansion will add a family restroom, a companion care room and a lactation suite. Additionally, HSV recently launched a new direct flight to New York City (LGA) with Delta.

Bottom Photo: Brent Boyd

FANTASY PLAYHOUSE MAKES A MOVE

The fan-favorite Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater & Academy has purchased Merrimack Hall, a 24,534-square-foot facility with a 300-seat, accessible theater, offering classrooms, a preschool suite, costume shop, catering kitchen, offices and more. This will allow for expanded programming, improved accessibility and enhanced performing arts and STE(A)M training. Relocation is planned for late spring of 2025.

HEAR THAT? SIGNALS IS NOW OPEN

Explore the evolution of communication and information technology at SIGNALS - Museum of Information Explosion! This recently opened museum captivates visitors with its dynamic blend of past and future innovation and opens the door to themed activities.

So, now that we've shared these new and noteworthy adventures, we'd like to formally invite you to come and experience the ever-growing excitement for yourself.



SIGNALS - MUSEUM OF INFORMATION EXPLOSION



Check Out Our Blog

Interested in keeping up with all things Huntsville? Our blog brings you the latest happenings.

Stay up to date on culinary creations when you check out **New and Coming Soon Restaurants in Huntsville and Madison.**

Go on outdoor adventures after reading **9 Places to Get Your Hike On in the Huntsville/Madison County Area.**

Or tag along with our team as they detail notable no-cost pastimes in **The Best Free Things to Do in Huntsville, AL.**

For more ways to explore and learn, get stories delivered straight to your inbox by visiting huntsville.org and signing up for our bimonthly Visit Huntsville newsletter.

A History Written in the Stars

EXPERIENCE THE PLACE THAT HELPED POWER HUMANITY TO THE MOON AND BEYOND.


PATHFINDER SHUTTLE STACK

The story of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center® isn't just about artifacts and exhibits, it's a tale of ambition, innovation and a vision that reached beyond the sky.

It all began in 1945 when Dr. Wernher von Braun and his team of rocket scientists arrived in the United States from Germany under a military contract to develop ballistic rockets. Initially stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, they soon discovered a more promising location—Huntsville, Alabama. After inspecting our area's Redstone Arsenal facilities, which had been utilized during World War II, von Braun and his team recognized its potential. A guided missile center was proposed, and on March 21, 1950, the von Braun rocket team officially moved to Huntsville. There, they combined forces with U.S. rocketry specialists, setting the stage for groundbreaking advancements in space exploration.

This team developed some of the country's first rockets and satellites, culminating in their crowning achievement: the Saturn V rocket. This colossal engineering marvel powered the Apollo missions, sending American astronauts to the moon and securing the United States' leadership in the space race.

Dr. von Braun and his visionary team didn't just build rockets, they transformed Huntsville from the "Watercress Capital of the World" into a thriving hub of technology and innovation. Today, Huntsville is home to the second-largest research park in the United States, Cummings Research Park, and the Space Center, a beacon of scientific discovery and education.

NOT THE SAME OLD SPACE CENTER

When you think of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, the towering Pathfinder shuttle might be the first image that comes to mind. But if that's where your memory ends, it's time for a return trip—because the

Photos: U.S. Space & Rocket Center





INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION SIMULATION



CAMPS FOR ALL AGES AND INTERESTS

Pathfinder is just the beginning of what's been refreshed and reimagined and is ready to inspire a new generation of space enthusiasts and explorers.

The restored Pathfinder, standing tall and gleaming with a renewed vibrance, serves as the anchor of the Space Center's latest transformation. This iconic shuttle, a full-scale model of the space shuttle, has undergone meticulous restoration, breathing new life into a symbol that has long captured the imaginations of visitors from around the world. But don't be fooled—there's much more than a fresh coat of paint happening around here.

As you wander through the grounds, you'll notice the completely revamped Rocket Park. This outdoor exhibit space now features a dynamic layout that showcases the evolution of rocket technology. It's not just a display—it's an immersive journey through the milestones of aerospace achievement.

While we're on the topic of superior displays, we would be remiss not to mention the INTUITIVE® Planetarium. This ultra-modern digital dome theater invites observers to experience interstellar phenomena and fuel their passion for the extraterrestrial.

Step into the future with the Space Camp Operations Center—aka SPOC. This state-of-the-art facility is designed to elevate the Space Camp® experience, offering cutting-edge training environments that mirror the harrowing challenges of real space missions. Since its launch in 1982, Space Camp has captivated young explorers from across the nation, and around the world, inspiring countless young minds to reach for the stars.



CAMPERS AT SPACE CAMP®

And speaking of our very own Space Camp—did you know that multiple alumni have gone on to become astronauts, with some already having ventured into space and others set to launch in the future? Space Camp continues to be a nostalgic nod to the program's rich history and a compelling reason to revisit Huntsville, whether you're a camp alum reliving your glory days or a first-timer eager to join the ranks of future explorers.

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

Last year alone, 695,000 curious visitors discovered firsthand that this isn't just a museum—it's a dynamic launchpad for quality STEM education. Guests from every state in the U.S. and 64 foreign nations made the journey, proving that the appeal of space exploration knows no borders.

Among these visitors, 61,000 were students on school trips, and 26,000 participated in Space Camp programs designed to ignite young minds with the spirit of discovery. The Space Center stands as living proof of the belief that science centers and museums are critical to STEM education.

Looking ahead, 2025 promises to be a landmark year, as the Space Center plans to relocate its stealth aircraft in honor of the Year of Aviation. This move will not only highlight the center's commitment to celebrating aeronautical



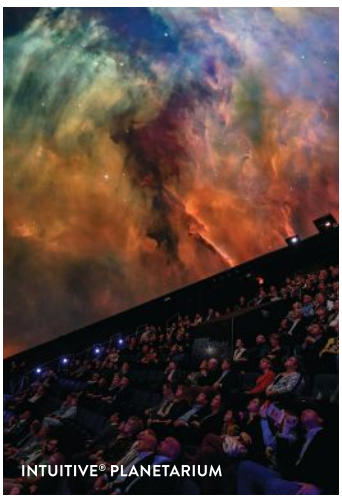
advancements but also provide a fresh perspective on the intersection of space and aviation history.

And let's not forget what started it all—the Space Center's role as the official visitor center for NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. Here, history and future coexist, with interactive exhibits, IMAX films and an extensive collection of rockets and space artifacts, including a legendary Saturn V.

So whether you're coming back to relive cherished memories or visiting for the first time, the U.S. Space & Rocket Center is ready to surprise, inspire and remind you that the sky is not the limit—it's just the beginning.



SATURN V ROCKET AND APOLLO 16 COMMAND MODULE



INTUITIVE® PLANETARIUM



MULTI-AXIS TRAINER

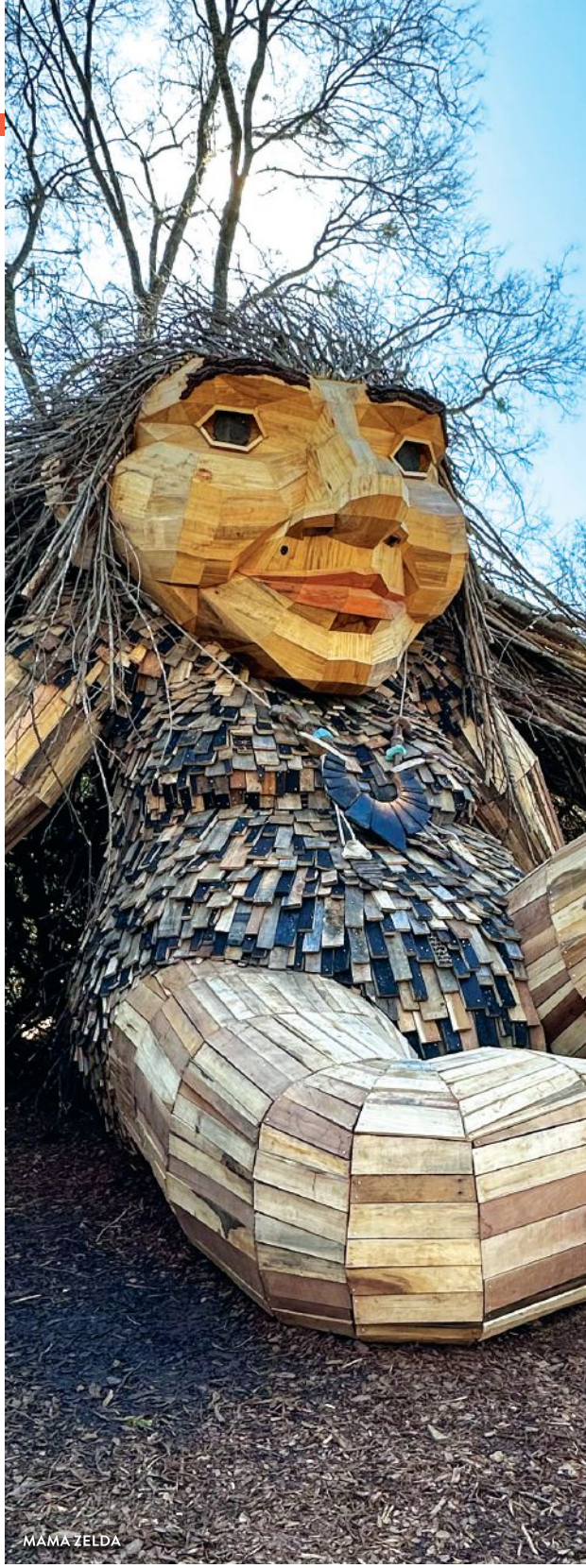
Myth to Masterpiece: A Troll Takes ROOT at Huntsville Botanical Garden

THE BOTANICAL GARDEN UNVEILS THE LATEST ADDITION TO ITS LANDSCAPE: THE MOTHER EARTH TROLL GARDEN AND ITS MAMMOTH MATRON.

Cradled in the core of the Huntsville Botanical Garden, an enchanting new member of the arcadia patiently awaits the arrival of visitors from all walks of life. Fairy-tale enthusiasts and fans of the fantastical will be transported to a realm of whimsy and wonder when they set foot in the Mother Earth Troll Garden. Upon entering the garden, guests will be greeted by a 20-foot-tall troll named Mama Zelda, crafted by artist and activist Thomas Dambo.

Dambo is a world-renowned artist, best known for his remarkable ability to bridge the gap between fantasy and reality, and has done so seamlessly with what he calls his magical troll universe. This universe, passionately created from upcycled debris, is a testament to his career, which is driven by his desire to invent new purposes for discarded items. Specializing in large-scale sculptures, this environmental activist has decorated the earth with over 140 of his different magical troll masterpieces, tucked across 17 countries worldwide.

Not only are these sculptures an astounding display of Dambo's craftsmanship, but they feel fresh out of a true storybook collection. Each of his trolls receives a name, a personal history and a poem that reflects its individual connection to the environment. These trolls



MAMA ZELDA

are storytellers created from repurposed materials, which symbolize their role as nature's guardians.

The design project began in February 2024, with Dambo's team from Denmark working alongside local staff and volunteers from the Huntsville Botanical Garden. Our community has also pitched in, contributing trees and rocks to the garden, further emphasizing themes of sustainability and renewal, aligning with Dambo and the garden's shared ecological vision. All of this comes together to promise an immersive experience that fosters creativity, conservation and connection with the environment.

Unlike some of Dambo's other exhibits, Mama Zelda is a permanent resident of the Huntsville Botanical Garden and a cornerstone of the garden's Master Site Plan. Mama Zelda, enveloped within a living maze of various plant materials, represents a dynamic collaboration of both art and ecology. The maze, which has been designed to grow and evolve over time, features interactive elements, like crawl-through tunnels, a throne, a swing and other hidden spaces, inviting visitors to embark on an immersive experience with nature again and again.



HUNTSVILLE BOTANICAL GARDEN



HUNTSVILLE BOTANICAL GARDEN



PURDY BUTTERFLY HOUSE

While you're journeying throughout the Huntsville Botanical Garden, pay a visit to the Wicks Family Garden, too. This vibrant two-acre haven both delights the soul and stirs the senses. Wander through a labyrinth of towering sunflowers, uncover the mysteries of a prehistoric past with its dinosaur installations and explore a pollywog bog. Don't miss the Purdy Butterfly House or the Space Station node located on-site, which is a nod to Huntsville's dedicated pursuit of reaching for the stars.

Each area of the Huntsville Botanical Garden is designed to be an interconnected experience, offering educational opportunities and unmatched tranquility to each guest who steps into the arboretum. It boasts bountiful collections of flora throughout the venue and encourages guests to wander through living galleries, with each section revealing new layers of botanical artistry. And that artistry now includes Mama Zelda, resting in lotus pose and waiting for you to discover her and hear her story.


WEEDEN HOUSE MUSEUM

Down-to-Earth Attractions

HUNTSVILLE'S ATTRACTIONS INVITE YOU TO LEARN ABOUT OUR HISTORY AND TO CELEBRATE NATURE AND THE ARTS.

ARTFUL ESCAPES: FROM GALLERIES TO GARDENS

Calling all art enthusiasts and families seeking creative fun—you're in for colorful adventures throughout Huntsville! Our city is brimming with inspiring spots where art and culture come to life. We take educational experiences that are both family-friendly and fun seriously. First stop: the **H.C. Blake Art & History Center**, home to the **Huntsville Revisited Museum**. With Huntsville Revisited's founder, William Hampton, honored with an esteemed Cultural Tourism Award by the Green Book Institute, this gem showcases exhibits that celebrate Huntsville's rich African American heritage alongside local art that sparks conversations and fuels creativity. Not far from there, the **Weeden House Museum and Garden** offers an artistic oasis. Once home to poet and painter Maria Howard Weeden, this charming museum lets you step into the world where she created true-to-life paintings and beautiful poetry. The property's tranquil green space adds an extra layer of inspiration. And we wouldn't let you leave without a piece of art to showcase. Head to **Harrison Brothers Gallery** to peruse works by local makers and area artists.

HUNTSVILLE'S STEM PLAYGROUND

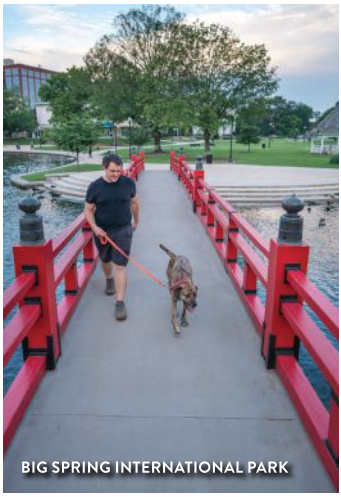
STEM lovers and curious families, get ready for endless adventures in Huntsville, where learning is anything but boring. First up, the **EarlyWorks Children's Museum** is a hands-on



BURRITT ON THE MOUNTAIN



HARRISON BROTHERS HARDWARE



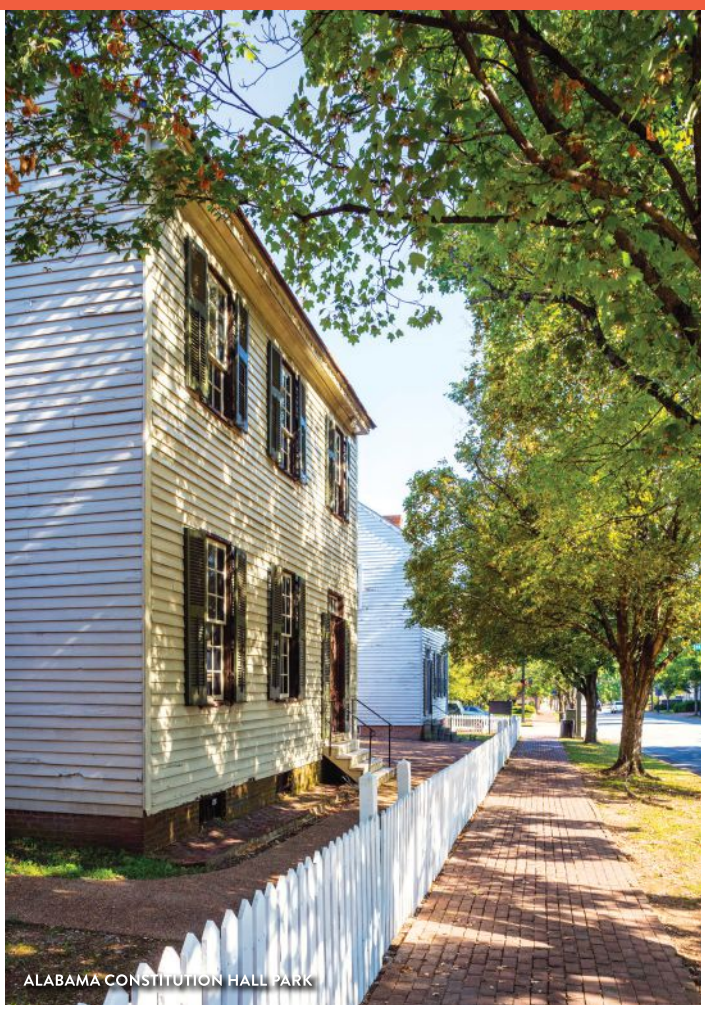
BIG SPRING INTERNATIONAL PARK

wonderland where kids can touch, play and dive into the worlds of science, technology and more. Here, in this giant playground for young minds, curiosity is always encouraged. Step outside, and **Big Spring International Park** becomes your family's next educational playground, offering nature-filled exploration, outdoor fun and even a chance to learn about its global connections—all in one vast and beautiful space.

Burritt on the Mountain is the place to be for a mix of sweeping views and living history. Take part in interactive workshops, all while soaking up that fresh mountain air. And don't miss **Harrison Brothers Hardware**, where shopping local meets a lesson in commerce and craftsmanship, making it a perfect stop for families who want to explore the past while picking up some cool, handmade treasures to bring back home.

WHERE WORK MEETS PLAY

For business-leisure travelers looking to blend a little business with a whole lot of pleasure, Huntsville is the perfect balance of historic charm and modern flair. After a convention or in between meetings, take a leisurely stroll through the **Twickenham Historic District**, where grand homes and tree-lined streets whisk you away to a quieter, more elegant time. It's a great way to relax and reflect while soaking up the city's


ALABAMA CONSTITUTION HALL PARK


NORTH ALABAMA RAILROAD MUSEUM


SCENETHAT TOURS

rich past. Just around the corner, the **Old Town District** offers a delightful mix of early 20th-century homes, giving you a peek into Huntsville's eclectic style. And not too far away, the **Five Points** area invites you to wander its quirky shops, local eateries and artsy vibe—ideal for fun, low-key exploration. Want more opportunities to roam the city? Join a seasonal **free walking tour** for insider insights into our city's story. Or for a tech-savvy twist, check out the **Digital Huntsville History Tour**, a self-guided journey through the city's landmarks. This is a convenient way to squeeze in a quick history lesson between calls or sessions. **Scenethat Tours** and **Avalon Tours** are easy adds to the itinerary. As is the **Rocket City Civil Rights Driving Tour**, which takes you on a powerful trip through Huntsville's pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement, with historical sites offering moments of pause.

MID-LIFE ADVENTURES

Huntsville provides a rich tapestry of attractions perfect for middle-aged couples seeking a blend of culture and meaningful experiences to enjoy together. Step back in time at **Alabama Constitution Hall Park**, where you can wander through preserved buildings that take you straight to 1819, offering an enchanting and educational look into Alabama's early days. Next, don't miss **The Historic Lowry House**. With its stunning architecture and deep ties to the

Bottom Right Photo: Corrine Emiston



SEASONAL WALKING TOURS



HUNTSVILLE MADISON COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL



OLD TOWN DISTRICT

Underground Railroad, it has a personal and heartfelt connection to history. For a bit of nostalgia, the **North Alabama Railroad Museum** offers an exciting rail ride through time, featuring vintage locomotives and scenic treks that'll spark plenty of conversation and curiosity. The **U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum** is another must-see, where military artifacts tell the tales of American heroes. This museum offers space for reflection and honoring the past, side by side. Finally, enjoy a peaceful stroll through the **Huntsville Madison County Veterans Memorial** park, a serene spot where you can take in the monuments honoring veterans and share quiet, introspective moments in a setting of deep respect and tranquility.

HEAD TO HUNTSVILLE

Are you ready to dive into Huntsville's rich history and bold future without breaking the bank? Visit our website to access one of our **Passport Coupons**, your ticket to discounted adventures, all conveniently stored on your phone. Prefer the charm of paper? Head to the downtown Visitor Center, where you'll find handy coupons and must-know details about the city's top spots. Whether you're a digital explorer or a brochure buff, Huntsville's got you covered!

Scan here for more exciting attractions.

Snap a Selfie

EXPLORE ALL THE BEST SPOTS TO SNAP, SHARE AND SHOW OFF HUNTSVILLE.


"COSMIC CHRIST"


COVERED BRIDGE AT THE GREEN MOUNTAIN NATURE PRESERVE


"THIS GIRL CAN" MURAL

Instagram-worthy spots throughout Madison County are abundant and iconic. Everyone will know you're in Rocket City when you post a photo in front of the "**Cosmic Christ**" mosaic, aka Eggbeater Jesus, at the First Baptist Church or the locomotives at the **Historic Huntsville Depot**. Speaking of history, journey through time with picture-perfect moments at the **U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum** and the **10th Cavalry Buffalo Soldier's Memorial**. For our nature lovers, the famous **Japanese Friendship Bridge** at Big Spring International Park and the **covered bridge at the Green Mountain Nature Preserve** are ideal spots for a walk and a photo op.

Make your way through Madison County by mural, stopping at some of the most notable spots in and around Huntsville. Downtown, snap a photo at the **Koi Fish Mural**, based on the fish swimming in Big Spring International Park, and at the nearby "**Celestial Symphony**," which was inspired by a solar system. While downtown, don't miss the 19th Amendment mural, "**This Girl Can**," located on Washington Street. Still looking for your good side? "**March of the Monarch**" in Madison and the "**Little Richard**" artwork in the MidCity District provide all the best angles. Another staple local creation is Jahni Moore's piece, "**Space is Our Place**," located at Campus No. 805, which is sure to make your next selfie "out of this world."

Scan here for more murals.

Shoot (and Score) for the Stars



HUNTSVILLE'S GOT GAME

If you're looking to meet hometown heroes, we've got a few stepping up to the plate. Say hello to our Minor League Baseball team, the **Rocket City Trash Pandas**, based at Toyota Field, and the **Huntsville City Football Club**—an MLS Next Pro League affiliate team—based at Wicks Family Field at Joe Davis Stadium. Both host thrilling games, special events, giveaways and theme nights, like the Trash Pandas' Ladies Night and the HCFC's Star Wars™ Night, all right here in Huntsville.

Keep cheering on the home team at a **Huntsville Havoc** hockey game. This SPHL team brings fierce competition to the Von Braun Center with more theme nights and the ultimate FanZone experience.

For more fast-paced fun, race over to the **Huntsville Speedway**. This legendary quarter-mile track has hosted icons like Richard Petty, the Allison brothers and Dale Earnhardt. From its dirt-track origins to becoming the South's fastest asphalt oval, the speedway remains a hub for motorsport action. Not ready to slow down? Keep rolling at the **Rocket City Roller Derby League**, held at the NSS Conference Center.




TOYOTA FIELD IN TOWN MADISON



ROCKET CITY TRASH PANDAS


WICKS FAMILY FIELD AT JOE DAVIS STADIUM

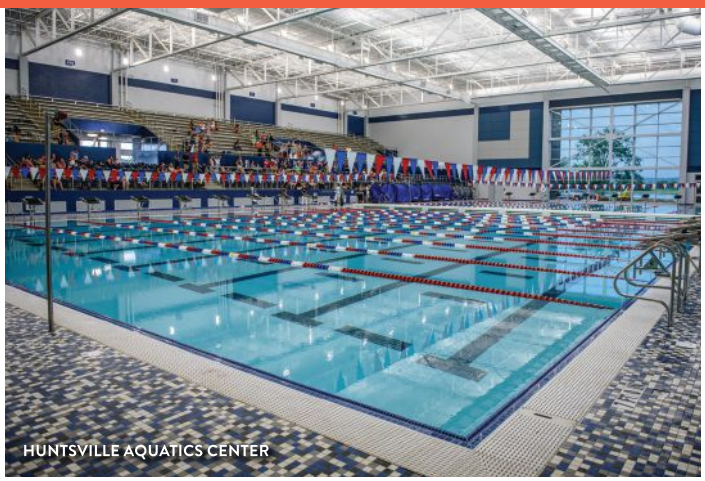
We're not done yet, as more iconic spectacles await. **The University of Alabama in Huntsville** Chargers and the **Alabama A&M University** Bulldogs make sure of that. Catch NCAA games like baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, track and field and more.

GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

Huntsville is also a playground for those who want to take part, offering an incredible range of activities to get your heart pumping and cater to your competitive spirit. Golfers can tee off at two courses: **Sunset Landing Golf Course**, a spot with wide fairways and beautiful scenery, or the renowned **Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Hampton Cove**, featuring championship-level play. If you prefer a laid-back spin around the greens, disc golf is the way to go. **Brahan Spring Park**, **Monte Sano State Park** and **Indian Creek Disc Golf Course** offer scenic courses for players of all skill levels. Plus **Get-A-Way Skatepark** is at the top of every skateboarder's must-do list.

Speaking of activities for all ages, **Dublin Memorial Park** offers pickleball courts for a family-friendly game or two, and with its 2024 groundbreaking, the **John Hunt Park Recreation Center** has covered courts underway. Tennis fanatics will want to hang out at the **Huntsville Tennis Center**, which provides pristine courts for both clinics and competitive play.

When it comes to cooling off, the **Huntsville Aquatics Center** is the city's premier spot for recreational swimming and competitions, featuring state-of-the-art facilities. For sand


HUNTSVILLE AQUATICS CENTER


ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL


SAND VOLLEYBALL COMPLEX


HUNTSVILLE ICE SPORTS CENTER

and serves, head to the **Sand Volleyball Complex**, where volleyball devotees can dig, set and spike their way to victory. Waterfront fun is also found at **Forrest Paddle Boarding** and at **Kayak Bass Fishing** at Ditto Landing Marina, where anglers can paddle to the perfect catch along the Tennessee River.

While making a splash is always exciting, Huntsville also caters to the ice-loving crowd. Lace up your skates at the Von Braun Center's **Propst Arena** or at the **Huntsville Ice Sports Center**, where hockey players can practice their slap shots or play in local leagues. Displaying a different kind of balance and skill, gymnastics enthusiasts can flip and tumble at the **Huntsville Gymnastics Center** or **The Matrix Gym**.

If you prefer to keep your feet planted on the ground, then you'll love the soccer facilities at **Merrimack Soccer Complex** and **John Hunt Park**, which host everything from friendly games to full-scale tournaments. For those who prefer baseball or softball, the **Metro Kiwanis Sportsplex** is a fantastic venue with well-maintained fields.

And to those who love the rhythm of their own feet pounding the trail, the **John Hunt Park Cross Country Course** offers picturesque, well-designed loops for runners across all ages and abilities. Whether you're training for your next race or just out for a jog, this park is a runner's dream.

Huntsville Hikes, Bikes and Paddles



BLEVINS GAP NATURE PRESERVE

Why settle for scrolling past stunning nature shots on Instagram during the Year of Alabama Trails when Huntsville offers an outdoor playground ready to explore? From panoramic mountain views to creekside trails to more than 60 miles of navigable rivers, this is your chance to turn digital daydreams into real-world adventures. The best part? All but one of these locations are dog-friendly and ready to welcome Fido along for the fun.

The **Land Trust of North Alabama** is your gateway to pristine landscapes and riveting hikes in North Alabama. Traveling the Trust is an extremely eco-friendly way to explore the very best of Huntsville's great outdoors. With its **Blevins Gap Nature Preserve** and **Wade Mountain Nature Preserve**, you can lose yourself in endless views as you embark on easily accessible trails. Not to mention **Bethel Spring Nature Preserve**, which is home to one of Madison County's largest waterfalls—a must-see!

For a more relaxed pace, Huntsville's greenways offer natural charm in every step. **Aldridge Creek**, **Big Cove Creek** and **Indian Creek** are

perfect for peaceful walks, jogs or even leisurely bike rides with a side of nature therapy.

No visit to Huntsville is complete without a trip to **Big Spring International Park**. Here, visitors will find koi fish splashing through a pond, plus the famous red bridge and cherry blossom trees gifted from Japan. Another picturesque place you can't miss is the **Madison County Nature Trail**. The trail, free and open from sunrise to sunset, invites visitors to enjoy picnic spots, stunning views, an outdoor classroom and a mix of wildlife and plants.

Outdoor enthusiasts can also find their happy place at **Monte Sano State Park**. Perched on Monte Sano Mountain, the park's 2,140 acres boast 14 cottages, hiking trails, a Japanese garden, a planetarium, picnic spots and both primitive and RV campsites. Meanwhile, the **Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary** offers visitors a peaceful place to observe nature and is home to a myriad of diverse wildlife. To respect the wildlife, and the preserve's rules, please leave your pup at home when visiting this sanctuary.

For those drawn to the water, **Ditto Landing Marina**, home to Kayak Bass Fishing, is a launching point. Sitting right along the Tennessee River at the south end of Huntsville, this marina is surrounded by lush greenery and peaceful mountain foothills.


MONTE SANO STATE PARK


KAYAK BASS FISHING


DITTO LANDING

Whether you're a seasoned outdoor explorer or just looking for a weekend escape, Huntsville's parks, preserves and trails promise unforgettable experiences. It's time to lace up your boots, grab your kayak or pack a picnic, because nature's playground is waiting for you. Adventure doesn't knock twice, so start planning your trip now and discover why Huntsville is the ultimate destination for nature lovers.

Scan here for more outdoor activities.



HUNTSVILLE MUSEUM OF ART

Huntsville Takes a Bow

ROCKET CITY'S ARTS SCENE WILL HAVE YOU CALLING FOR AN ENCORE.

STRIKE A CHORD

The **Huntsville Symphony Orchestra** is a pinnacle of musical artistry, captivating audiences with its symphonies, dynamic concertos and intricate performances. From timeless classical compositions to innovative contemporary works, the orchestra brings the transformative power of live music to life. Similarly, **Opera Huntsville** showcases the grandeur of the human voice, blending stunning vocal performances with dramatic storytelling. Through beloved operatic classics, their productions have resonated with audiences since 2018.

CENTER STAGE STARS

If you thought New York was the only place to experience Tony-level talent, guess again! **Broadway Theatre League** brings world-class performances, like "Les Misérables" and "Mamma Mia," to Rocket City. The **Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater and Academy** invites youthful talent to the stage and nurtures creativity through captivating, family-friendly shows. **Theatre Huntsville** offers a rich variety of performances, serving as a pillar of the Madison arts community. For 31 years, **Independent Musical Productions** has flourished with its masterful musical renditions, blending powerful vocals with local flair. Adding grace and elegance to Huntsville's cultural repertoire, the **Huntsville Ballet** mesmerizes audiences with its breathtaking productions, such as "Swan Lake" and "The Nutcracker."

FROM CANVAS TO COMMUNITY

While temporarily closed until summer of 2025, the **Huntsville Museum of Art** stands as a beacon of inspiration, showcasing an



HUNTSVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



LOWE MILL ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



HUNTSVILLE BALLET COMPANY

extraordinary collection of artwork that spans a variety of mediums, styles and cultures. From thought-provoking contemporary exhibits to timeless masterpieces, the museum invites visitors to immerse themselves in the depth of visual art. Complementing this is the **Madison Arts Alliance**, an organization dedicated to fostering artistic expression and building a community around creativity. Through local art showcases and collaborative events, the MAA brings artists and art lovers together in a celebration of talent and imagination. Together, these galleries enrich the cultural fabric of Huntsville and Madison County, building a lasting hub for artistic exploration and appreciation.

A BIT OF EVERYTHING

Some spaces offer more than meets the eye. After all, art has many mediums, so why can't the venues? **Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment** invites visitors to experience both physical and auditory creations inside their studios and at their Concerts on the Dock series. **Arts Huntsville** is a champion of local creations, also promoting its educational Creative Launchpad and its events, such as the favorite Panoply Arts Festival, which is held annually in April. Both centers weave a rich tapestry of artistic collaboration, cementing Huntsville as a home for art of all kinds.

Scan here for more arts and culture.



THE ORION AMPHITHEATER

Rock Out in Rocket City

SING ALONG TO SONIC BOOM–WORTHY SOUNDS ACROSS HUNTSVILLE AND MADISON COUNTY.

VON BRAUN TAKES CENTER STAGE

Huntsville is a place where music isn't just heard, it's lived out differently every time you listen. With so many venues to visit, you're never far from a stellar concert. Rock out to all your favorite bands at **Mars Music Hall**, or experience the state-of-the-art lighting and sound at **Propst Arena**, engineered to elevate your soundscape exploration. For more showstoppers, **Mark C. Smith Concert Hall** is a premier venue for Broadway shows, ballet performances, symphonies and concerts. The colossal, centrally located **Von Braun Center** is home to all of these venues, and its musical events can be heard across the city.

LOCAL TALENT STICKS THE LANDING

Our area is turning up the volume on all things music, becoming the ultimate launchpad for rising stars. Every venue has its own vibe—one night you're listening to covers and original tunes from local artists at **Stovehouse**, the next you're singing along at **The Camp at MidCity. Concerts on the Dock** by Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment always bring the heat each summer and showcase hometown talent to Huntsville and Madison County.

Photo: Josh Weichman



STOVEHOUSE

SHINE BRIGHT AT SOUTH STAR

South Star Festival is a melting pot of music that brings artists of various genres together for one of Huntsville's largest jam sessions. In the past, this festival hosted performances throughout each day, food vendors, merch stands and shade tents for cooling off between acts, so stay tuned!

THE ORION AND JEFF & BLUES IN PERFECT HARMONY

The Orion Amphitheater and **Jeff & Blues** make the ideal duo for music lovers exploring Huntsville. While The Orion, an 8,000-capacity venue, showcases Huntsville's musical legacy with its top-tier performances, Jeff & Blues offers a more intimate experience, serving up live music, cold drinks and a Southern-inspired menu. Whether you're catching a show at The Orion or relaxing with a classic cocktail in the vintage-inspired scene that is Jeff & Blues, both spots deliver great company and a lively musical atmosphere.

STARS UNDER THE STARS

Tune in for free top talent at outdoor events like **Jazz in the Park** and **Concerts in the Park** each summer at Big Spring International Park. For a late-night vibe, check out **805 After Five** on the third Thursday of each month. Follow the sounds of **Summer Concert Series** in Madison. And don't miss the **City Lights & Stars Concert Series** at Burritt on the Mountain or **Huntsville Music Month**—a sensational September tradition that brings music to life locally.

Top Right Photo: Dokk Savage



A THRIVING LIVE MUSIC SCENE

With incredible venues, a welcoming atmosphere for artists and a supportive community, it's no wonder Huntsville is becoming a must-visit city for anyone looking to experience live performances.

September is particularly exciting, as it's Huntsville Music Month. **Launchpad Music Festival** helps kick things off, and **Women in Music Week** is another exciting component.

Whether you're a fan of rock, jazz, folk or something else entirely, there's a show waiting for you in Rocket City. Find one at huntsvillemusic.com/calendar.

Matt Mandrella,
Music Officer
City of Huntsville

Scan here for Huntsville Music Month events.

EVENTS CALENDAR

HUNTSVILLE KNOWS HOW TO THROW A PARTY, AND WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN IN THE FUN.

















SPRING

GUIDED HISTORY TOURS
APRIL
Learn our area's history with guided walking tours.
huntsville.org/events/tours/guided-history-tours

HUNTSVILLE COMIC & POP CULTURE EXPO
APRIL
Geek out over Alabama's ultimate geek expo, featuring cosplay and gaming.
hsvexpo.com

PANOPLY ARTS FESTIVAL
APRIL
Attend Huntsville's premier festival for art, music and creative activities.
artshuntsville.org/event/panoply

CAMP TO AMP FESTIVAL
MAY
MidCity District hosts a free event celebrating community, arts and music.
midcitydistrict.com/camptoamp

BIG OL' BALLPARK FAIR
MAY
Get ready for rides and Rocket City Trash Pandas' baseball games.
milb.com/rocket-city

CIGAR BOX GUITAR FESTIVAL
MAY–JUNE
This multi-day event is the world's longest-running CBG Festival.
cigarboxguitarfestival.com

SUMMER

CONCERTS IN THE PARK
JUNE–AUGUST
Hear local music at free concerts every Monday from June to August.
artshuntsville.org/event/concerts-in-the-park

WATER LANTERN FESTIVAL
JUNE
A community event and lantern display, this is a celebration of life.
waterlanternfestival.com

HUNTSVILLECON
JUNE
This ultimate pop culture convention is for fandoms of all kinds.
huntsvillecon.com

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
JUNE
Kick off the Fourth of July early with food, fireworks and family fun.
dittolanding.org/events

ROCKET CITY TRASH PANDAS VS. KNOXVILLE SMOKIES
JULY
Hometown heroes take on the Smokies for a grand slam Independence Week.
milb.com/rocket-city

STAR SPANGLED CELEBRATION
JULY
Don't miss this explosive evening of food trucks, music and fireworks.
madisonal.gov/calendar

TENNESSEE VALLEY HUNTING & FISHING EXPO
JULY
Take part in North Alabama's largest hunting and fishing event.
tvhfe.com

CULINARY MONTH + HUNTSVILLE RESTAURANT WEEK
AUGUST
Indulge in a month of delicious dishes, classes and events.
huntsville.org/events/restaurant-week

FALL

REDSTONE ARSENAL OKTOBERFEST
SEPTEMBER
This German tradition includes brews and brats with a twist.
redstone.armymwr.com

HUNTSVILLE GHOST WALK
SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER
Huntsville's haunted history is ready to be explored.
huntsvilleghostwalk.com

FESTIFALL AT THE GARDEN
SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER
Celebrate fall with a Scarecrow Trail, seasonal sale and events.
hsvbg.org/visit/events

MONTE SANO ART FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER
See the works of over 100 creators, plus entertainment and art with a view.
artshuntsville.org/event/monte-sano-arts-festival

HUNTSVILLE HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER
Check out history-themed events and go on free walking tours.
huntsville.org/events/huntsville-history-month

MADISON STREET FESTIVAL
OCTOBER
Fall in love with fun, food, art, entertainment and a can't-miss parade.
madisonstreetfestival.org

ROCKET CITY PRIDEFEST
OCTOBER
Celebrate LGBTQIA+ history together.
rocketcitypride.com

WINTER

GALAXY OF LIGHTS
NOVEMBER–DECEMBER
The Huntsville Botanical Garden offers lit-up paths and animated scenes.
hsvbg.org/visit/exhibits/galaxy-of-lights

TINSEL TRAIL
NOVEMBER–DECEMBER
Festive fun and Christmas trees decorate Big Spring International Park.
tinseltrail.com

SKATING IN THE PARK
NOVEMBER–JANUARY
Glide into winter fun behind the Huntsville Museum of Art.
hsvmuseum.org/events/skating-in-the-park

CHRISTMAS ON THE RIVER
DECEMBER
A Christmas Card Trail, movies, model trains, Santa and decorated boats line the Tennessee River.
dittolanding.org/events

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER
These festivities are full of cheer.
burrittonthemountain.com/holiday-traditions-at-burritt

Scan here for year-round events.

Spree-Worthy Shopping

HUNTSVILLE AND MADISON COUNTY ARE NORTH ALABAMA'S ULTIMATE SHOPPING PLAYGROUNDS — SO WHY NOT MAKE THEM YOURS, TOO?



BRIDGE STREET TOWN CENTRE

WHERE FASHION MEETS FUN

From boutiques to specialty shops that exude European-inspired elegance and an on-site Apple Store, there's something for everyone at **Bridge Street Town Centre**. Visit **Parkway Place Mall** to pick up the latest fashions. For more walkable ways to revamp your style, stroll the streets of **The Village of Providence** and **Valley Bend at Jones Farm**. Shop local at **Clinton Row**, home to over three dozen independently owned stores in one location, and **Stovehouse**, an eclectic market for treasure hunting.

HUNTSVILLE'S HIDDEN GEMS

We know—the feeling of coming home with a unique outfit or conversation piece for your living room is unbeatable. For looks you won't see anywhere else, visit **Filthy Gorgeous on Main** and **Shoe Fly**. If you're the host or hostess with the mostest, shop **Sweet Pineapple** and **The Cottage Collective** for decor and gift ideas that will ensure guests deem you the toast of the party. Curious collectors will love global goods from **Travel Patterns** and rare vintage toys from **Harrison Brothers Hardware**.

CURIO CORNERS YOU CAN'T MISS

While Huntsville boasts contemporary stores, there are also one-of-a-kind finds. Step back in time at **Rivenbark and Roper Antiques** and **Madison Station Antiques**. Artisan goods can be found at **University Pickers**, where you can browse a kaleidoscope of choices. Next, stop by **Railroad Station Antiques**, which carries decor and is home to **Shaver's Book Store**. For avid readers, **The Snail on the Wall** bookstore also offers a carefully curated collection of books.



GREEN STREET FARMERS MARKET

A TASTE OF LOCAL CULTURE

(Farm) fresh and fancy free—that's the saying, right? Huntsville's farmers markets provide everything from seasonal fruits and veggies to beautiful blooms. Whether you're craving organic meats, fresh baked bread or flavorful jams, there's plenty to snack on. It's the perfect spot to grab a bite and take home a slice of the community.

PUT YOUR RECORDS ON

Whether you're in search of the latest radio hits or vintage tunes, Huntsville hits the high notes when it comes to record shops. For major music enthusiasts, we recommend following our Spin the Vinyl Trail and checking out **Vertical House Records**, **Black Rose Records** and **Maxwell's Music**.



VERTICAL HOUSE RECORDS

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

After your trip to Huntsville, you'll want something to remember us by. Take home handmade creations from **Burritt on the Mountain** or space gear from the **U.S. Space & Rocket Center Gift Shop**. Shop the **Garden Gift Shop** at the Huntsville Botanical Garden, and find chic souvenirs at the **Huntsville Museum of Art**.



THE HUNTSVILLE FLEA

THROWBACK THREADS

Vintage shopping is the perfect way to give life to old-school looks and classic threads. That's why Huntsville is proud to be the home of a thriving thrifting community and hosts **The Huntsville Flea**—a locally loved annual flea market with a variety of vendors and their handpicked collections. Be sure to check event dates to make sure your visit lines up with the market. You can also shop at local businesses like **One Man's Vintage** and bring home cult-favorite pieces from the '80s, '90s and Y2K. To discover more vintage finds, check out huntsville.org/blog/list/post/a-vintage-shoppers-guide-to-huntsville-alabama.

Scan here for more vintage shops.

What's Old Is New



AN OLD FACTORY

Once home to the century-old Martin Stamping and Stove Factory, **Stovehouse** has been transformed from an industrial powerhouse into Huntsville's ultimate destination for dining, entertainment, shopping and leisure. Originally constructed circa 1928, you'll catch glimpses of remnants of its industrial roots, like historic trusswork, tanks and tumblers near the Leisure Lawn stage, plus a vintage compressor. And you won't be able to miss Stovehouse's live music, event center, wide array of eats, and its popular Gas Light Alley—a charming strip of woman-owned retail shops.

AN OLD SCHOOL

Class is officially in session at **Campus No. 805**—so get ready to learn how we have fun around here! Once a school site, today, the campus is made up of the Stone Event Center, which has been repurposed into multi-use facilities, the S.R. Butler Green Park, and the developed, 16,000-square-foot Student Union. Home to craft breweries, restaurants, bars, entertainment and more, and situated within an Arts & Entertainment District, patrons can purchase a drink to-go as they take a stroll around campus. As a proud part of Huntsville's urban revival, Campus No. 805 is at the heart of the city's transformation, offering a place to gather.

AN OLD MALL

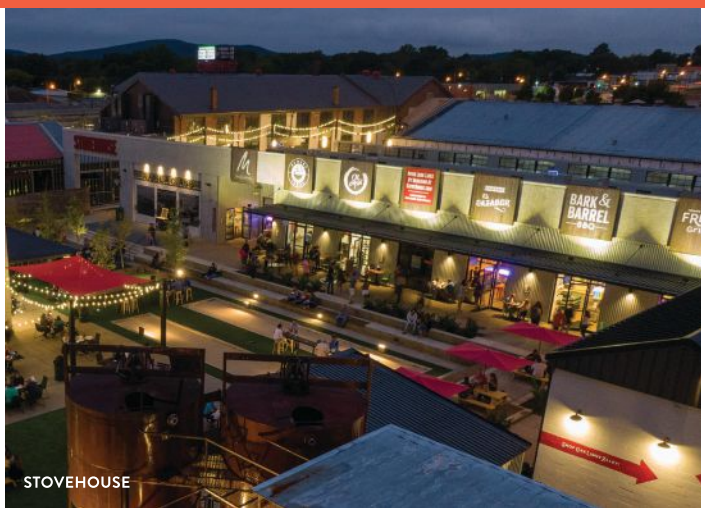
Reimagined from the days this land played host to a mall, **MidCity District** now serves the community in a multitude of ways. The Market at MidCity offers fresh produce and unique local goods, while The Camp pairs quality food and drinks with live music. Greenroom Coffee Shop and Tamarind Island Grille provide cozy spots for coffee and island-inspired cuisine here, too. With a packed calendar of events and The Orion Amphitheater hosting top-tier performances, MidCity is the place to be for a mix of lively fun and local flavor.

AN OLD MILL

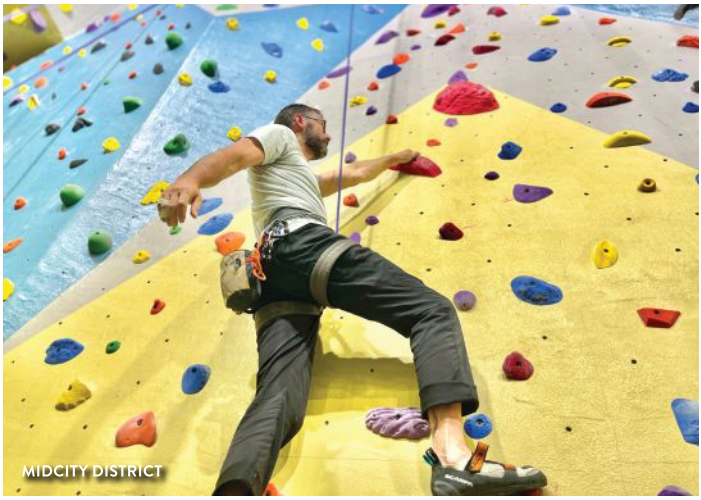
Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment was once a bustling textile mill, but today it provides over 150 studio spaces and a place for 200 artists and makers to create. The mill was thoughtfully redesigned to bring imagination and artistry to life in the Huntsville community, and it has. To complement the venues, you'll find that concerts, markets and a celebration of small businesses are held throughout the year—so be sure to spend some time looking for something new in this old mill, which is open to the public Wednesday through Saturday.

AN OLD CHARM, A NEW STANDARD

The **Village of Providence** is known for setting a new neighborhood standard in Huntsville, combining timeless Southern charm with modern quality. Beyond each front porch, the village comes alive with award-winning restaurants, stylish boutiques and local businesses that cater to visitors' and residents' every need. Whether it's grabbing dinner at a cozy eatery, browsing a fashionable shop or running errands at professional offices, everything is just a leisurely stroll away.



STOVEHOUSE


MIDCITY DISTRICT

GOOD OLD-FASHIONED FUN

Around every corner in Huntsville and Madison County, something exciting awaits. Our **five entertainment districts**—S.R. Butler Green & Stovehouse, MidCity District, Village of Providence, Quigley and Bridge Street Town Centre—offer a vivacious mix of nightlife, where every visit leads to memorable moments and stories you'll love retelling. From cozy cocktail lounges to lively music venues, there's always something new waiting to be discovered. Come see for yourself!

Scan here for more nightlife hangouts.

You'll Be Drawn to Our Dining


REVIVALIST


COMMERCE KITCHEN

HUNTSVILLE ISN'T JUST ABOUT ROCKET SCIENCE — IT'S ALSO A CULINARY POWERHOUSE WITH AN EXPERIMENTAL DINING SCENE THAT'S AS DIVERSE AS IT IS DELECTABLE.

Whether you're a foodie seeking out the next big taste or a loyal fan of hole-in-the-wall gems, Huntsville serves up a rich menu of options that are hard to resist—so why would you?



For recommendations on how to dine around the world in Huntsville, follow **@thekulturekat**

For classic Southern-style dishes, try **Main Street Cafe** in historic downtown Madison. **Nitro Tales** in the Providence district is a unique coffee/cocktail bar with Japanese-inspired, tapas-style cuisine. In Huntsville's MidCity District, **Kamado Ramen** serves bold, flavorful ramen in a vibrant, modern setting.



YOSHI SUSHI FUSION



The city's culinary legacy is deeply rooted in Southern hospitality, but it's far from one-note. Here, you'll find everything from upscale global cuisine (French-style pastries, Brazilian fare and saltimbocca, anyone?) to the beloved local institutions where family recipes reign supreme. The latter are the spots where you'll find rich, smoky barbecue that's been perfected over generations, buttery biscuits so fluffy they seem to defy gravity and fried green tomatoes with just the right amount of crunch. Together, these culinary contrasts create a plate full of flavors that honor tradition while embracing cutting-edge ideas. Huntsville doesn't stop at comfort food—it's a crossroads of flavors where ingenuity and tradition intertwine with every bite.

For those who live to explore the culinary arts, events like Huntsville Restaurant Week and Culinary Month in August showcase the city's gastronomic creativity and homegrown flavors. These events invite diners to experience specialty menus, collaborations and exclusive bites from local chefs who are passionate about putting Huntsville on the food map.

And let's not forget Huntsville's bustling brewing scene, which has a history as rich as a stout ale. Craft breweries here have turned hops into high art, offering everything from crisp, refreshing pilsners to funky brews that pair well with the myriad of cuisine options across Madison County. Grab a flight and taste the innovation bubbling up across the city—each sip is a testament to Huntsville's craft beer renaissance.

In Huntsville, the dining experience is more than just a meal; it's a celebration of culture, history and the joy of coming together over good food. Whether you're sampling artisanal creations or discovering a hidden diner that feels like a well-kept secret, each bite is a story waiting to be told.

Huntsville has excellent women-owned restaurants. I highly recommend **Vujee Vegan**, which offers a 100% soulful, plant-based menu, **Angel's Island Coffee**, which boasts the best espresso in town, and **Mi Delicioso Guanajuato**, a Latino-owned restaurant serving traditional Mexican and Puerto Rican dishes.



For a variety of restaurant recommendations, follow **@huntsvilleandbeyond**

FLAVORS THAT PULL YOU IN



DOMAINE SOUTH
@ DOMAINESOUTHHSV



GOOD COMPANY CAFE
@ GOODCOMPANYCAFE_



Photo: Brent Boyd

VINTAGE CIGAR LOUNGE
@ VINTAGE_CIGAR_LOUNGE

SEA SALT URBAN OYSTER BAR
@ SEASALTHSV



BIG SPOON CREAMERY
@ BIGSPOONCREAMERY





TAMARIND ISLAND GRILLE





For recommendations on one-of-a-kind eats, follow **@_thatskenny**

Here are a few Black-owned spots I love to visit. For date night, **116 Noble** is a favorite and hosts an amazing supper club for dinner. **Lux Brŭ** is perfect for a coffee date and has a great lunch menu. For brunch with the girls, I love **Superhero Chefs**. They offer fantastic options for kids and the whole family, making it a great spot for everyone to enjoy.





HOUND AND HARVEST
@ HOUNDANDHARVEST

BAD DADDY'S BURGER BAR
FACEBOOK.COM/BADDADDYSBURGERBAR





PIZZELLE'S CONFECTIONS
@ PIZZELLESCONFECTIONS



FLAVORS THAT PULL YOU IN



For exciting culinary events, follow **@rocketcitydietitian**

As a local foodie, I love taking guests to **Domaine South** for an elevated meal, wine and charcuterie. **Catacomb 435** is my go-to for a unique underground speakeasy for craft cocktails. **The Moon Bakeshop** is the place for specialty lattes, sweet and savory pastries, and custom cakes.

To learn from even more local experts, visit our blog by scanning below.

EVENTS TO DINE FOR

FARM-TO-TABLE FARE

The **Oakwood Farms Market** is a year-round favorite, offering fresh produce, plus a vegetarian bistro and wellness products. Check out its seasonally changing hours, then grab your tote bag (and head for its juice bar).

COINCIDE WITH CULINARY TALENT

Why not plan your trip to coincide with **Black Restaurant Week**? This annual June event celebrates Black-owned restaurants and chefs by showcasing their delicious dishes, drinks and culinary talent.

A MONTH OF MEALS

From mouthwatering tastings to epic food truck rallies, our local foodies are always cooking up something special, and that's especially true during August's **Culinary Month**. So keep your forks ready and calendars open—your guide to all the delicious happenings can be found at huntsville.org/events/restaurant-week/rocket-city-dish-pass. Want easy access to all the best bites in town? Sign up for the **Rocket City Dish Pass** and get the inside scoop on exclusive discounts, special menus and can't-miss events during Huntsville Restaurant Week and Culinary Month. Keep checking back, because the next big feast could be right around the corner!

MORE THAN SEVEN DAYS OF DELICIOUS

Lucky for us all, **Huntsville Restaurant Week** spans across ten days during Culinary Month. Indulge in exclusive menus and deals from some of the city's top restaurants.

SMOKIN' HOT SUMMER

In its 25th year, **WhistleStop BBQ Festival** is a staple North Alabama tradition, where you get to eat the most mouthwatering barbecue around in the MidCity District.

SCENIC SIPS

Burritt on the Mountain's massive overlook, The View, offers (as its name implies) stunning views of Huntsville. Enjoy said views at Burritt's events like **Cocktails at The View**, where Wednesday evening drinks are served at sunset from April–October.

BREWSKIS AT VON BRAUN

The **Von Brewski Beer Festival**, held in February at the Von Braun Center, combines brews, brats and beats with pretzel necklaces (but you'll have to attend to see what those are all about).

BRATS IN THE BIERGARTEN

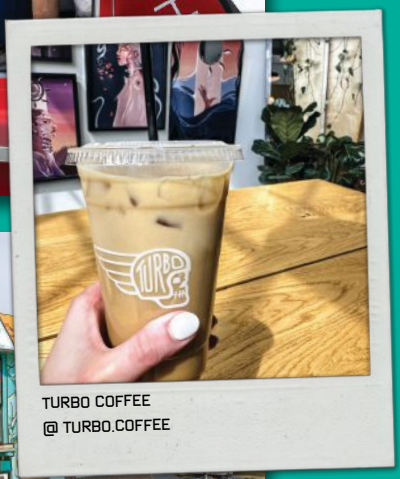
Speaking of beer and brats, **Biergarten** at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center brings German cuisine and swing music back to Rocket City under the iconic Saturn V moon rocket from May–October.

THE BBQ BRAWL

Experience the Kansas City Barbecue Society-sanctioned **Railyard Barbeque Brawl & Music Festival** in Madison. This is a must-attend fall event filled with mouthwatering barbecue and unforgettable tunes. Activities for all ages range from the BBQ competition to multiple musical artist performances and plenty of kids' activities. Bring the whole family (and the dog, too) for a full day of fun.



ICEWORKS SHAVED ICE
@ ICEWORKSHSV



TURBO COFFEE
@ TURBO.COFFEE



TRAVELIN' TOM'S COFFEE TRUCK



SOUTHERN WAGYU
MEAT MARKET

PHAT SAMMY'S
DOWNTOWN HUNTSVILLE
CRAFT COCKTAIL TRAIL

Tasty Trucks and Trails

Discover vibrant flavors and experiences that make Huntsville a destination for foodies, adventurers and history lovers alike.

Food trucks take on-the-go dining to a new level—and here in Huntsville, we take savoring street food seriously. That's why weekly food truck and trailer rallies are held on first and third Friday evenings from May to October, weather permitting. Whether you're attending a festival or looking for a bite to eat in your free time, be on the lookout for plant-based palate pleasers from the **Hippea Camper.** Mouthwatering meats are served fresh at **Southern Wagyu**, and for a smoky way to indulge, check out **Badd Newz BBQ**. Add a kick to your cuisine and visit **Fire and Spice**, or curb your caffeine craving with a specialty brew from **Sparrow Coffee Company**.

Coffee lovers, you'll also want to fuel up on our **Craft Coffee Trail** for even more flavorful ways to boost your energy. For 21+ friends, we recommend sipping local ales and spirits along the **Craft Cocktail Trail** and the **Craft Beer Trail**. If you're looking for activities around town, the **Lucky Duck Scavenger Hunt®** and **Downtown Huntsville Secret Art Trail** are the perfect ways to explore the city. History buffs will appreciate the significance of the **Foundations of Faith Trail** as they tour places of worship that are overflowing with Madison County's spiritual ancestry.

Out of This World Meetings

STRETCHING ITS WINGS TO EMBRACE THOSE NEAR AND FAR WHO ARE SEEKING SPACE FOR COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION, HUNTSVILLE IS READY TO BE THE HOME OF YOUR NEXT MEETING, WITH NUMEROUS VENUES AVAILABLE.

The Von Braun Center stands as the cornerstone of our city's venues, embodying versatility and excellence for the last 50 years.

Nestled in the heart of downtown Huntsville, this premier venue has served as a hub for local, regional and national events. With over 170,000 square feet of gathering spaces, exhibit halls and entertainment areas, it's no surprise that the Von Braun Center—more commonly known as the VBC—is the crown jewel of our event venues and the perfect space for your event.

The center's state-of-the-art facilities are each thoughtfully equipped to ensure quality and comfort for every party. The adaptable venue can successfully meet the needs of receptions, small group sessions, conferences, concerts and many other large conventions. In addition to its multi-functional design, the



VON BRAUN CENTER'S PROPST ARENA

VBC offers on-site catering, a covered parking garage complete with over 500 spaces and a view of Big Spring International Park. Just around the corner, guests can stay at lodging options that feel like home, explore an eclectic culinary scene and stroll through shops downtown.

What truly sets the VBC apart, however, is its team of seasoned professionals. With a commitment to excellence and a knack for precision, the staff goes above and beyond to orchestrate outstanding events and provide top-tier service.











Speaking of a staff that will go above and beyond for you: The team at the Huntsville/ Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau serves as your premier resource for planning and booking your meeting in Rocket City, no matter the venue. From accommodations and transportation to special offers and expertly crafted itineraries, our professional staff provides tools and guidance to ensure your event is both seamless and memorable.

Our website also offers resources, including brochures, detailed travel tips and exclusive discounts to help you make the most of your stay. You can also download this destination guide, connect with us on social media and access our Meeting Planner Guide, which covers everything in one place.

Ready to book your next event? Download the Meeting Planner Guide today!

Scan here for the Meeting Planner Guide.

Gather With Your Crew


DAVIDSON CENTER AT THE U.S. SPACE & ROCKET CENTER®

SO MANY WAYS TO EXPLORE

Huntsville is home to endless places to stop and play together. When your group rolls into town, our team is ready to assist you in finding accommodations for the whole crew. Large or small—your party is our priority. Choose from out-of-this-world adventures, gardens worth roaming for an hour or two and unique spaces you won't find anywhere else.

IT'S FIELD TRIP TIME

Huntsville turns field trips into adventures that stick around long after the bus ride home. At **Burritt on the Mountain** and the **Weeden House**, history comes to life with hands-on experiences that make learning feel more like exploring. The **U.S. Space & Rocket Center** is where curiosity blasts off (literally), offering students the chance to view rockets, artifacts and exhibits that inspire future astronauts and engineers. For a dose of creativity, the **Huntsville Museum of Art** showcases collections that spark imagination and invite students to see the world as their canvas. While the museum is temporarily closed for an upgrade, it'll be welcoming art lovers into its doors again in summer of 2025. Explore the flora and fauna at the **Huntsville Botanical Garden**, home to the Purdy Butterfly House and a collection of beautiful gardens.

HUNTSVILLE HAS GAME, AND WE'RE READY TO PLAY

The **Huntsville Tennis Center** serves up pristine courts, while the **Custom Archery Center** hits the mark for precision sports enthusiasts. For aquatic athletes, the **Huntsville Aquatics Center** is a splash-worthy venue perfect for record-breaking cannonballs. If your gathering requires a chill factor, the **Huntsville Ice Sports Center** offers slick surfaces for hockey and skating. And the **Agribition Center** provides a versatile space that can accommodate everything from rodeos to robotics. For additional score-worthy athletic spaces, flip back to pages 15–17.

CHOOSE A REUNION LOCATION EVERYONE WILL ENJOY

No matter the size, we've got space for your entire family. Stovehouse supplies visitors with two venues that never disappoint. **The Electric Belle** brings reunions from ordinary to unforgettable. The airy, high-ceilinged space with festive lighting and a 30-foot bar is perfect for toasts and tales. For indoor and outdoor settings, **The Royal** is ideal for gatherings of all kinds. With plenty of room





STOVEHOUSE

for everyone to mingle, the venue offers a private fenced patio and special VIP suites.

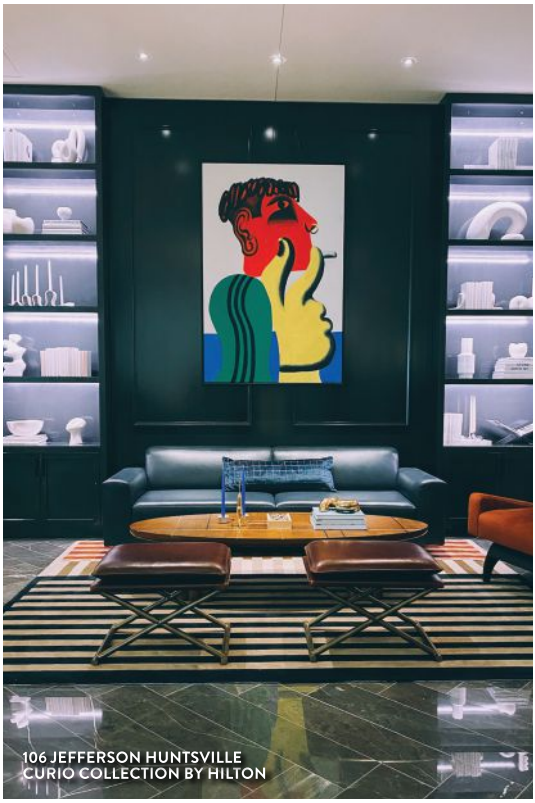
A WEDDING DESTINATION TO LOVE AND CHERISH

Every venue tells a story—yours just happens to be the next chapter. **The Venue at Oak Place** blends modern sophistication with wooded allure, creating a canvas for weddings as unique as the couples themselves. For those drawn to history, **The Roundhouse** at the Historic Huntsville Depot delivers with its striking architecture and charm, and the **Lumberyard** offers several venues and settings in a single location, including a historic dining car. If your love grows in the great outdoors, the **Huntsville Botanical Garden** is a living masterpiece, setting the stage for intimate vows fresh out of a fairytale.

OUR MISSION IS TO SERVE YOU

Time to plan your group gathering? The Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau is excited to assist. Our extraordinary team is patiently awaiting your group's arrival and is ready to make your meeting or event a success.

Scan here to download our Group Tour Guide.



106 JEFFERSON HUNTSVILLE CURIO COLLECTION BY HILTON





HYATT PLACE HUNTSVILLE / RESEARCH PARK / REDSTONE

Stellar Accommodations

When it comes to resting your head in Huntsville and Madison County, the options are as varied as our city's charming corners—and they're growing by the day. Whether you're here for a quick weekend escape or planning to settle in for a longer stay, we know there's a spot around town that will make you feel welcome and right at home.

With exciting new accommodations that offer all the modern amenities you'd expect, Huntsville is an increasingly comfortable and luxurious destination. From sleek, contemporary rooms with downtown views to stylish boutique hotels that exude Southern hospitality, Huntsville has elevated its welcoming amenities to cater to each and every taste. If you're looking for a longer stay, extended-stay hotels provide all the comforts of home, with plenty of space and kitchenettes for when you want to cook up a storm (or simply reheat leftovers from that local restaurant you can't stop thinking about).



THE WESTIN HUNTSVILLE POOL

But Huntsville isn't just for the high-rise-hotel crowd. If you prefer to keep it casual, there are plenty of motels and budget-friendly options where you can kick back and relax without breaking the bank. For the adventurous guests who like to sleep under the stars, the area's campgrounds and RV parks will put you in touch with nature while offering the modern conveniences you need. You'll find scenic spots that feel like an oasis just outside the city's hustle and bustle, whether you're pitching a tent or parking an RV.

Offering comfort, convenience and character, Huntsville's lodging options ensure you'll find the ideal place to rest after a day of exploring the city's robust culinary scene, historic sites or even the nearby hiking trails. With a variety of accommodations—new and established—Huntsville ensures you'll never have to choose between style and comfort.

The city's inviting spirit is seamlessly woven into each lodging experience, ensuring that wherever you stay, you'll feel like a local from the moment you walk through the door. Our blend of Southern warmth and modern amenities makes Huntsville the kind of place you'll never want to leave. After all, in this city, it's not just about where you stay—it's about feeling like you belong.

Scan here for accommodation listings.

The 411

What should you pack for your Huntsville visit? It all depends on when you will be visiting. Add Huntsville, Alabama, to your favorite weather app and check out the forecast.

Follow our local news channels and remain weather aware during your stay.

WAAY (ABC), WAFF (NBC), WHNT (CBS), WHDF (CW) and WZDX (Fox)



Spring
Mar. | Apr. | May
74° / 51°

Summer
June | July | Aug.
90° / 70°

Fall
Sept. | Oct. | Nov.
75° / 52°

Winter
Dec. | Jan. | Feb.
55° / 35°

Average Highs and Lows—
Temperature source: weather.gov



Time Zone
Central



Emergency
911

How to find us:

HUNTSVILLE IS LOCATED IN NORTH ALABAMA AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE BY PLANE OR VEHICLE.

Atlanta, GA	3.5 hrs		1 hr
Chicago, IL	9 hrs		2 hrs
Columbus, OH	7.75 hrs		3.5 hrs
Dallas, TX	10.25 hrs		1.75 hrs
Denver, CO	18.5 hrs		2.75 hrs
Houston, TX	11.75 hrs		2 hrs
Louisville, KY	4.5 hrs		3 hrs
Memphis, TN	3.75 hrs		3 hrs
New Orleans, LA	6.5 hrs		3 hrs
New York City, NY	14.5 hrs		2.75 hrs
Orlando, FL	9.5 hrs		2 hrs
Washington, D.C.	11.25 hrs		2 hrs

Indicates direct flights.
Additional direct flights are available for Charlotte, NC; Detroit, MI; Las Vegas, NV; Los Angeles, CA; Miami, FL; and Tampa, FL.

HUNTSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
(non-emergency)
256.722.7100

MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT
(non-emergency)
256.772.5685

MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
(non-emergency)
256.722.7181

ALABAMA POISON INFORMATION CENTER
800.222.1222

HUNTSVILLE HOSPITAL
101 Sivley Road
256.265.1000

CRESTWOOD MEDICAL CENTER
1 Hospital Drive SW
256.429.4000

MADISON HOSPITAL
8375 Highway 72 W
256.265.2012



How to get around:

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
The City of Huntsville public transit system provides convenient, fixed-route service. Paratransit service for those with disabilities is also available Monday through Saturday. See the schedules and route maps at huntsvilleal.gov/residents/streets/public-transportation.

CYCLING
You can easily explore with an electric bike rental from Rocket City eBikes or pedal your way with downtown's Blue Bikes, a bike share program.

CAR RENTALS
Make your Rocket City adventure all it can be by reserving a set of wheels at any of these helpful vendors: Avis, Budget, Dollar, Thrifty, Enterprise, Hertz, National or Alamo.

TAXIS
Heavily populated areas typically have cabs waiting to give you a lift to your next destination.

UBER & LYFT
Rideshare services are available for those needing transportation at any time.

PARKING APP
Make parking at a metered location easy with the Passport Parking app. Learn more at passportparking.com.

HUNTSVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
Huntsville's airport (HSV) is a quick drive from downtown and offers nonstop service for popular destinations and hubs. Airport features include a connected Four Points by Sheraton hotel, on-site dining and car rental outlets. Airlines include American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Breeze Airways and United Airlines. Learn more at 256.772.9395 and flyhuntsville.com. Look for our Visitor Center in the baggage claim area, where we are waiting to assist you.

More information and helpful links are available at huntsville.org/visitor-info/transportation.

Accessibility Information

For translation needs, our team at Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau can connect you with American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters and foreign language services.

Cove Universal Playground, Kid's Space, Kid's Kingdom and the Von Braun Center are accommodating and welcoming spaces for those with disabilities or sensory sensitivities.

Wheelchair lifts are available on Orbit Huntsville Transit shuttles, and ADA Paratransit vehicles are available by reservation. For more on local accessibility, visit huntsville.org/visitor-info/accessibility, and read Taylor Burton's writings on our blog.

Consider huntsville.org/visitor-info command central. You'll find quick links to brochures, itineraries, public transportation information and special offers—like our Passport coupons and the Rocket City Kids Pass.

And be sure to keep us in your orbit by signing up for our bimonthly newsletter at huntsville.org.

Huntsville, Alabama
Gravitate Here.

OFFICIAL DESTINATION GUIDE

President & CEO **Jennifer Moore**
Executive Vice President **Charles Winters**
Communications Manager **Brent Boyd**
Graphic Design Manager **Leah Hall**

All images in this guide are courtesy of the Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau unless otherwise noted.
Ask for a free copy of this guide via phone or website or download it at huntsville.org.

It's the Law



ALCOHOL
Madison County is "wet," meaning alcohol sales are allowed throughout the county seven days a week. Alabama's legal drinking age is 21. Drink responsibly and use a designated driver. Official entertainment districts allow for drinks, in designated cups, to be taken outside.



DRIVING
Alabama's hands-free laws prohibit text messaging or holding a cell phone for all drivers. Alabama's seat belt law requires all front-seat passengers to wear a seat belt. Obey posted speed limits.



MOTORCYCLES/BICYCLES
When riding a motorcycle in Alabama, either as a driver or passenger, you must wear protective headgear that is designed specifically for motorcycle riders and passengers. Be aware of posted bike lanes and cyclists on the roads.



CHILD CAR SEATS
Alabama law requires children of certain ages and sizes to be seated in appropriate child car seats. Learn more about seat requirements at alea.gov/dps.

COMPASSMEDIA

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NAVIGATE

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Visitor Center (Exit 19)
2 Von Braun Center / Propst Arena Convention Center / Mars Music Hall / Mark C. Smith Concert Hall / Playhouse
3 Big Spring International Park
4 City Hall
5 Huntsville Museum of Art
6 Bicentennial Park
7 EarlyWorks Children's Museum
8 Alabama Constitution Hall Park
9 Harrison Brothers Hardware
10 Weeden House Museum
11 Historic Huntsville Depot
12 Huntsville Veterans Memorial Park
13 Huntsville Metro Black Chamber of Commerce / NAACP Office
14 Huntsville/Madison County Chamber
15 Orbit Shuttle Station
16 Lydia Gold Skatepark
17 City of Huntsville Dogspot
18 Maple Hill Cemetery
19 Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment
20 Greene Street Market & Store
21 Madison County Courthouse
22 SIGNALS – Museum of Information Explosion
23 Clinton Row Shopping & Retail
24 Railroad Station Antiques / Rivenbark & Roper
25 Star Market
26 Twickenham Square / Publix
27 Lumberyard

A Embassy Suites Hotel
B AC Hotel
C Homewood Suites
D 106 Jefferson
E Hampton Inn & Suites Huntsville Downtown
F SpringHill Suites

Hotels
Points of Interest
Green Spaces
Parking
One-Way Streets
Quigley Arts & Entertainment District





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NAVIGATE

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Madison City Hall
2 Toyota Field
3 Madison Chamber of Commerce
4 Village of Providence
5 Oakwood University
6 MidCity District / The Orion Amphitheater
7 Cummings Research Park West / Jackson Center
8 Bridge Street Town Centre
9 Calhoun Community College
10 U.S. Space & Rocket Center
11 University of Alabama in Huntsville
12 Huntsville Botanical Garden
13 Metro Kiwanis Sportsplex
14 Merrimack Hall
15 Campus No. 805
16 Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment
17 Parkway Place Mall
18 Huntsville Aquatics Center
19 John Hunt Park / Joe Davis Stadium Huntsville Ice Sports Center / Jaycee Community Building / U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum / Kids' Space / Get-A-Way Skatepark / Championship Soccer Fields
20 Huntsville Tennis Center / Huntsville Running Park / Beach Volleyball Courts / Mountain Bike Trail / JHP Disc Golf
21 Maple Hill Cemetery
22 Lincoln Mill District / Historic Lowry House
23 Huntsville Dragway
24 Colonial Golf Course
25 Alabama A&M University / State Black Archives Museum
26 North Alabama Railroad Museum
27 Monte Sano State Park
28 Burritt on the Mountain
29 Madison County Lake
30 RTJ Golf Trail at Hampton Cove
31 Hays Nature Preserve
32 Stovehouse
33 Town Madison
34 Ditto Landing Marina & Campground
35 Huntsville Speedway
36 Clift Farm
37 H.C. Blake Art & History Center / Huntsville Revisited



I-565 EXITS

7 County Line Road
8 Huntsville International Airport (HSV)
9 Madison / Madison Historic District
10 Town Madison Boulevard / Toyota Field
13 Madison Boulevard / Toyota Field
14 Redstone Arsenal / NASA
15 Huntsville Botanical Garden / U.S. Space & Rocket Center / UAH / Sparkman Drive
17 Governors Drive
19 Downtown Huntsville / Visitor Center / Von Braun Center / Historic Districts / Alabama A&M / Memorial Parkway, US 231 / Governors Drive, US 431
20 Oakwood Avenue

LAND TRUST OF NORTH ALABAMA

1 Monte Sano Nature Preserve
2 Chapman Mountain Nature Preserve
3 Wade Mountain Nature Preserve
4 Rainbow Mountain Nature Preserve
5 Blevins Gap Nature Preserve
6 Green Mountain Nature Preserve
7 Bethel Spring Nature Preserve
8 Harvest Square Nature Preserve
9 Hickory Cove Nature Preserve



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