



Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Multi-City Tour including Huntsville, Alabama Sample Itinerary

ROUTE 1: Start Tour in Nashville; continue to Memphis—Nashville to Memphis approx. 3.5 hours by coach

From Memphis, continue to Florence/Muscle Shoals for recording studios/music history, Helen Keller's birthplace—Ivy Green, and dinner at the **Rattlesnake Saloon** which is a wild west-style saloon IN A CAVE---about 2 hours--1 night

From Muscle Shoals, continue to Huntsville stopping at Fighting General Joe Wheeler's home, Pond Springs—about 2 hours. See suggested activities below.

After Huntsville, continue to Chattanooga stopping at Unclaimed Baggage in Scottsboro or Birmingham stopping at Ave Maria Grotto or the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament--- either 2 hours away

OR

ROUTE 2: Nashville to Huntsville via Tullahoma, TN for George Dickel, Lynchburg for Jack Daniel Distillery, and Kelso, TN for Pritchard's Distillery and/or Franklin, TN for Civil War sites Carton Plantation, Carter House

After Huntsville, on to Chattanooga via Scottsboro for Unclaimed Baggage; then Birmingham; then Muscle Shoals and Memphis.

History is rarely more fun than when you cram two centuries into a few days in the Rocket City. We'll take you from the first steps toward Alabama becoming a state to the first steps on Mars, with detours for some awesome art, beautiful botanical gardens, and, of course, some fantastic food.

Day 1:

12-3:00 p.m.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST SPACE MUSEUM—U.S. Space & Rocket Center Huntsville, **THE BIRTHPLACE** of the U.S. space program, is the Rocket City, so where better to start your tour of the city than here! Whether you're exploring the past, present and future of the U.S. space program, touring **NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center**, viewing experiments occurring real-time on the **International Space Station** or experiencing a show in the **Intuitive Planetarium**, you're sure to have an out of this world experience! Retired NASA employee docents are onsite. Visit online at www.rocketcenter.com

3:15-5:15 p.m.

LARGEST PRIVATELY OWNED ARTS FACILITY in the Southeast—Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment With approximately **200 working**

artists, small businesses, restaurants, and live performance venues, this huge historic textile mill is now a rising home for music, art, and culture. Visitors are encouraged to enter the studios and speak with artists to learn about their work processes, inspirations, and to purchase work. Groups can also participate in a wide range of art inspired activities taught by the artists themselves including chocolate making, screen printing, and painting. www.lowemill.net OPEN: Wed-Sat, only.

5:30-6:30 p.m. Once you've returned to Earth and indulged at Lowe Mill, it's time to check into your hotel. Enjoy some rest and relaxation before your next adventure!

7 p.m.
Huntsville. Dinner on your own at **Stovehouse, Campus 805** or **downtown**

Day 2: Begin your day with breakfast at the hotel and prepare for an early start of day two of your Huntsville adventure.

8:15 -9:15 a.m. **THE PAST PRESERVED FOR THE FUTURE-- Twickenham Historic District** Learn more about Huntsville's history while listening to intriguing stories--factual, legend, lore and scandalous!-- told about the early merchants, bankers and attorneys who built the fashionable brick homes in the **Twickenham Historic District**, Alabama's largest district of antebellum homes. (Step-on guide or themed walking tours)

9:30-10:30 a.m. **THE HISTORIC WEEDEN HOUSE MUSEUM**
After admiring the outside of so many beautiful historic homes, you'll wish you could go inside one. Your wish is granted at the **Weeden House**. Built in 1819 and located in the Twickenham Historic District, this house was home to the 19th century poet and artist, Maria Howard Weeden, and today is preserved much as it was around the time of the Civil War when she lived there. Visit online at www.weedenhousemuseum.com

10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. **HUNTSVILLE MUSEUM OF ART** and lunch at **Pane e Vino**
How better to follow up a visit to the home of one of Huntsville's most notable artists than with a visit to the **Huntsville Museum of Art**? The nationally accredited museum fills its 16 galleries with a variety of exhibitions throughout the year, including prestigious traveling exhibits and the work of nationally and regionally acclaimed artists. The museum's own permanent collection, including the Sellars Collection---the largest collection of art by American women, forms the basis for several exhibitions each year. Docent lead tours are available to enhance your group's experience. Outside and surrounding the museum, are pieces of public art that are part of our city-wide, ever-expanding **SPACES, Sculpture Trail**.

Before you leave, you'll want to check out **Pane e Vino**, which is located on the first floor of the museum and offers indoor and outdoor seating overlooking the lagoon in **Big Spring International Park**. If you prefer more options for your group, enjoy a "**scatter lunch**" around the square or the restaurants coming soon at City Centre.

1:00-2:00 p.m. **ALABAMA'S BIRTHPLACE-- Alabama Constitution Hall Park**

Now that you've got a sense of what life is like in Huntsville, your next stop will let you experience what life was like here 200 years ago! **Alabama Constitution Hall Park** dates back to 1819 and is the actual site where forty-four delegates gathered to forge the way for Alabama's statehood. Become a part of Alabama's history as villagers dressed in period clothing take you through eight reconstructed Federal style buildings. Visit online at www.earlyworks.com

2:15-3:30 p.m.

THE OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY OPERATING HARDWARE STORE IN ALABAMA—Harrison Brothers Hardware

From the Village, you'll stroll around the corner to **Harrison Brothers**. Founded in 1879, Harrison Brothers is more than a glimpse of old Huntsville, it is a shopper's delight. Whether you are searching for a uniquely Huntsville souvenir or just browsing, Harrison Brothers is the place to visit. Visit online at www.harrisonbrothershardware.com

Before you leave the courthouse square, stroll around for a moment to enjoy more pieces of public art from the **SPACES Sculpture Trail** or hunt for a duck in the **Lucky Duck Scavenger Hunt**. When you're done, it's time to head to the Huntsville Botanical Garden.

3:45-5 p.m.

WHAT'S GROWING ON? Huntsville Botanical Garden

For the last big stop of the day, savor the serenity of the Botanical Garden. Enjoy the visitor welcome center whose design is reminiscent of a historic Southern mansion and the serene Nature Center, the largest seasonal butterfly house in the nation. The Dogwood Cafe serves delicious lunches and snacks and the Gift Shoppe is always filled with eclectic items. Galaxy of Lights, one of American Bus Association's Top Events, is open nightly from Thanksgiving through New Year's and several major festivals such as Huntsville Blooms, Green U, Scarecrow Trail plus many more, prove that at the **Huntsville Botanical Garden** – there's always something growing on! Golf cart tours are available upon request. Visit online at www.hsvbg.org

5:30-6:30 p.m.

After a packed day, return to the hotel for some rest and relaxation before dinner.

7-9 p.m.

ENJOY DINNER AT ONE OF OUR WONDERFUL LOCAL EATERIES

If you need suggestions, we'll be happy to provide them. Or, if something more casual is your group's style, check out a concert and picnic dinner at **Lowe Mill Arts and Entertainment or Burritt on the Mountain (seasonal)**.

Day 3:

Breakfast at a local eatery.

10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

A LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM—Burritt on the Mountain

The vista from atop the mountain is unmatched, and Burritt offers a primer in the city's story. Start with Dr. William Henry Burritt's eclectic mansion, add a historic park with restored 19th century houses including barnyard and animals, and finally throw in the artistic side with concerts, plays and exhibits, and you have a delightful mixture of old and new! Visit online at www.burrittonthemountain.com

12-2:30 p.m.

Enjoy lunch at a place of your choice at **Bridge Street Town Centre** and take in a little shopping before departing. Bridge Street Town Centre is a shopping, dining, entertainment district featuring dining from fast-casual to casual-fine and 70+ nationally known stores.

Tour guides available:

Jacque Reeves, Avalon Tours
William Hampton, Huntsville Revisited
Denise Swain, Scenethat Tours

Contact Pam Williams, Tourism & Education Sales Manager
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