

Annual Events



SPRING

Huntsville Blooms
NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge
Historic Districts Walking Tours
Panoply Arts Festival
WhistleStop BBQ Weekend
Rocket City Brewfest
Concerts on the Dock (spring & fall)
Cotton Row Run



SUMMER

Concerts in the Park
Jazz 'n June
Purdy Butterfly House
Madison Gazebo Concerts
City Lights & Stars Concert Series
Taste the Spirit of Madison
Rocketman Triathlon
Huntsville Restaurant Week



FALL

Big Spring Crush Wine Festival
Redstone Arsenal Oktoberfest
Madison Street Festival
Folklife Festival
Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll
Downtown Ghost Walks (summer & fall)
Monte Sano Art Festival
Scarecrow Trail and Enchanted Forest



WINTER

Galaxy of Lights
Rocket City Marathon
Christmas Parades
Santa's Village
Spirit of Christmas Past Homes Tour
Kris Kringle's Candlelight Christmas
Ice Skating in the Park
Tinsel Trail

For detailed information on these and many more special events, visit huntsville.org or call the VISITOR CENTER at 800.772.2348.



Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau
800.SPACE4U • 256.533.5723 • huntsville.org
500 Church Street NW • Huntsville, Alabama 35801

3-2-1 Engage with us on social media!

 /HuntsvilleCVB  @Go2HuntsvilleAL
 VisitHuntsvilleAL #iHeartHsv

The Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau has made every effort to maintain the accuracy of information presented in this guide but assumes no responsibility for errors, changes or omissions.

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Destination GUIDE

HUNTSVILLE

ALABAMA

we've got space



Huntsville/Madison County
Convention & Visitors Bureau

huntsville.org



Get to know the Rocket City...

Huntsville was established in 1805 by pioneer John Hunt, who settled at the area now known as the Big Spring. Delegates from the Alabama Territory met in Huntsville to write the constitution enabling Alabama to become the 22nd state of the Union. Huntsville grew into an important center for cotton trading, as well as a major transportation hub. The surprise capture of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad's Huntsville Depot during the Civil War resulted in private homes being spared. Huntsville boasts the South's largest concentration of antebellum homes.

Today, Huntsville is a high-tech city. Launched in the 1950s with the U.S. space and rocket industry, it was here that a team of scientists, led by Dr. Wernher von Braun, designed and tested the rockets that put man on the moon.

Huntsville City Population: 193,079
Huntsville Metro Population: 449,720

Madison City Population: 47,959
Madison County Population: 356,967

2016 Census Estimates



Downtown Huntsville

Huntsville/Madison County Visitor Center®

Stop by

- ✓ Get local attraction, lodging and dining information
- ✓ Pick up free attraction brochures, event info and area maps
- ✓ Grab your **FREE** Passport Coupons (20% off attraction admissions), All-Star Sports Pass and Art Pass
- ✓ Get started on the Lucky Duck or Trains on Main Scavenger Hunts

Take your free **#RocketCitySelfie** at the Visitor Center! Stand in front of our green screen and snap a picture with the Shuttle Pathfinder (and more) as the backdrop. While you're at it, share your selfie with your friends and family on social media using the hashtag **#RocketCitySelfie**.

Cool!

Open 7 days a week
500 Church Street



Space to Play



Ignite your passion for exploration at the Earth's largest space museum, the **U.S. Space & Rocket Center**, home to Space Camp® and Aviation Challenge. Here, you can explore over 1,500 artifacts from America's achievements in space exploration and get a sneak peek into what's next for human space travel. If you're in the mood for a different kind of exploring—say, into Huntsville's past—venture to the city's oldest museum, **Burritt on the Mountain** for breathtaking views of the Tennessee Valley. Journey back down to the valley and explore the **Weeden House Museum**, the former home to 19th century poet and artist Maria Howard Weeden. Get to know America's military past and the servicemen and women of the U.S. Armed Forces at the **U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum**, which displays over 30 historical military vehicles from WWI to the present. Located in historic downtown, you'll find the **EarlyWorks Children's Museum**—be sure to have the kids listen to the story from the famous talking tree!

Exploring Huntsville is never complete without a stop at the **Huntsville Museum of Art**, home to the largest collection of art created by American women in the U.S., or a visit to the **Huntsville Botanical Garden**, home to the nation's largest open-air butterfly house where something beautiful is always *growing on!*



Huntsville Botanical Garden



EarlyWorks Children's Museum



Space Camp®



Huntsville Museum of Art



Burritt on the Mountain

Outdoor Fun

DID YOU KNOW?

You'll have access to **over 100 miles** of hiking and biking trails in Huntsville/Madison County.

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Hampton Cove



Need a little **outdoor escape**? Hit the links at **Hampton Cove**, the northernmost stop on Alabama's famed **Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail**. Relax by the water at **Big Spring International Park** in the heart of downtown Huntsville or hike on a **Land Trust of North Alabama, Monte Sano State Park** or **Hays Nature Preserve** trail. Discover a safari in the South at **Harmony Park Safari** where you'll find tortoises, giraffes and more! Down south, you'll find the peaceful **Ditto Landing** on the banks of the Tennessee River, where you can enjoy boating and other outdoor activities.



Ditto Landing



Monte Sano State Park



Land Trust of North Alabama



Birding Trails



Tweet all
Huntsville questions to
@Go2HuntsvilleAL



Entertainment

Did you know the **Huntsville Symphony Orchestra** is the oldest continuously operating professional orchestra in Alabama? Whether you're catching a **Broadway Theatre League** show, **Huntsville Ballet Company** performance or cheering for the **Huntsville Havoc** (Southern Professional Hockey League), you're sure to be entertained in the center of the city at the **Von Braun Center**, our 170,000 sq. ft. eco-friendly convention center.



Von Braun Center

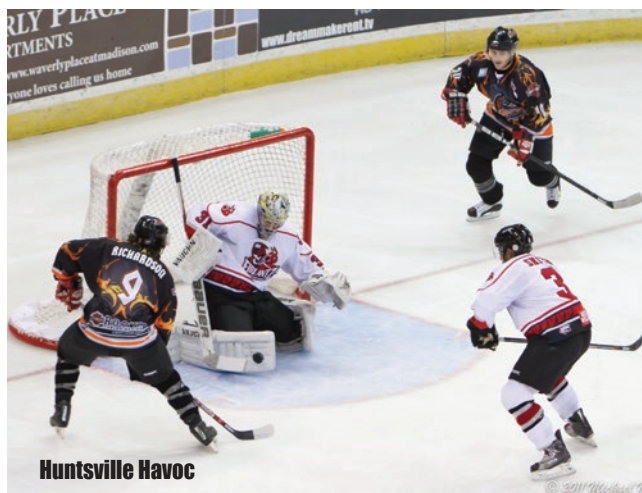
Huntsville is home to vibrant **Arts & Entertainment Districts.**

Enjoy the beverage of your choice while strolling in the Quigley, Meridian, Village of Providence and S.R. Butler Green (Campus No. 805) districts during designated hours.

So, what'll it be?



Huntsville Ballet Company



Huntsville Havoc



Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment

CHECK IT OUT:
Lowe Mill is home to the longest running Cigar Box Guitar Festival in the world.



Space to Rest



In the **ROCKET CITY** there's plenty of space to rest and rejuvenate. Whether you are planning a trip for business or pleasure, traveling with kids, looking for a romantic getaway or a girls' night out, you will find a remarkable range of hotel options all within reach of the things you most want to do. And while you are here, indulge in one of our many luxurious spas. For a complete listing of accommodations, visit huntsville.org.

-  huntsville.org
-  [HuntsvilleCVB](#)
-  [VisitHuntsvilleAL](#)
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3-2-1 Engage! Connect in digital space.

Check out these photos of Rocket City attractions taken by people just like you! Snap your own pictures while you're here and share with us on social media using the popular hashtags **#VisitHuntsville** or **#iHeartHsv**.



By Car

2 hours south of Nashville
1.5 hours north of Birmingham
3.5 hours from Memphis & Atlanta

Getting to Huntsville is easy!



Where is the Visitor Center?

Take I-565 exit 19-C going east or 19-A going west and turn right on Monroe Street. Go one block, turn right onto Church Street. The Visitor Center is located on the northeast corner of Church and Cleveland Streets at **500 Church Street NW** in historic downtown.

Hours of Operation:
Monday – Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday: noon to 5 p.m. Central Time

By Plane

Huntsville International Airport has special travel deals just for you! Head on over to HuntsvilleHotTicket.com or visit them on:

-  [/HuntsvilleInternationalAirport](#)
-  [@FlyHsv](#)



Uniquely Huntsville

HSV

There's no way we can list *all* of the exceptional things to do in Huntsville, but we can get you started on the right track by giving you a small glimpse into some of these one-of-a-kind activities only found in the Rocket City and Madison County. To discover them all, visit huntsville.org.



One-of-a-kind Rocket City Shopping

Harrison Brothers Hardware 124 Southside Square, Huntsville

Harrison Brothers will simultaneously transport you back in time with nostalgic toys and catapult you into the pulse of the city with community art.

Five Points Shopping District

One of Huntsville's Historic Districts, Five Points, is home to unique, locally-owned shops and boutiques to fit any style.

Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment 2211 Seminole Drive SW, Huntsville

A historic textile mill turned into an arts center, Lowe Mill is the largest privately owned arts facility in the U.S.

Shoppers can buy local art of all kinds directly from artists' studios and even grab a bite to eat. When you see the old water tower (lit up in vibrant colors at night), you'll know you've arrived. (Wed.-Sat.)

The Garage at Clinton Row Corner of Clinton Avenue and Jefferson Street, Huntsville

The Garage at Clinton Row is an adaptive reuse of the first floor of a city parking deck. Retail bays will offer shoppers new and diverse shopping options in the heart of downtown Huntsville.



Explore Huntsville History

Historic Huntsville Depot (pictured above) Civil War Era Graffiti, 3rd floor 320 Church St NW, Huntsville

During the Civil War, Huntsville's depot was captured by Union soldiers. Today, you can still see the written thoughts, drawings and ponderings of Confederate soldiers who were held prisoner there. The kids will love Andy, the robotic ticket agent, and his stories!

Redstone Arsenal- **NASA Marshall Space Flight Center** Redstone Test Stands National Historic Landmark

Witness the very spot where the Saturn V moon rocket and space shuttle engines were tested before they blasted off into outer space. Tours leave from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, and are subject to availability.

Maple Hill Cemetery 202 Maple Hill Street SE, Huntsville

Cemeteries are rarely thought of as beautiful, but you haven't seen Maple Hill. Adorned with huge oak trees and historic tombstones, Maple Hill is also the final resting place of some of Huntsville's most unique characters.

Historic Twickenham District Downtown Huntsville

Stroll through the South's largest concentration of antebellum homes. Brochures are available in the Visitor Center.



mmm... Homegrown Favorites

Nick's Ristorante 10300 Bailey Cove Road SE, Huntsville

Steak, seafood and delicious Italian cuisine are among the most popular dining options at this south Huntsville restaurant.

Main Street Café 101 Main Street, Madison

Dine in an old jail cell and don't forget to try their famous Coca-Cola cake for dessert!

G's Country Kitchen 2501 Oakwood Ave NW, Huntsville

Downhome country cooking and soul food as seen on *Samantha Brown's Places to Love*. Open lunch and dinner Tuesday-Saturday.

Pane E Vino 300 Church Street SW, Huntsville

Stylish, indoor/outdoor pizzeria at the Huntsville Museum of Art in Big Spring Park.

1892 East Restaurant & Tavern 720 Pratt Avenue NE, Huntsville

Located in historic Five Points, new American cuisine is prepared with the freshest ingredients.



Huntsville Restaurant

Week, mid-August,
is ten tasty days to get
out and experience

Huntsville's local foodie havens
(and take advantage of great savings)!

FUN FACT:

Huntsville has the most craft breweries in Alabama!



Rocket City Breweries

Below the Radar Brewing Company

220 Holmes Avenue NE, Huntsville
Brewpub

Blue Pants Brewery

500 Lanier Road, Madison
Brewery and Tap Room

Green Bus Brewing

206 Eustis Avenue, Huntsville
Nano-brewery and Tap Room

InnerSpace Brewing Company

2414 Clinton Avenue W, Huntsville
Brewery and Tap Room

Mad Malts

109 Maple Avenue, Huntsville
Brewery and Tap Room

Old Black Bear Brewing Company

212 Main Street, Madison
Brewery and Tap Room

Rocket Republic Brewing Company

289 Production Avenue, Madison
Brewery and Tap Room

Salty Nut Brewery

2406 Clinton Avenue W, Huntsville
Brewery and Tap Room

Straight to Ale

2610 Clinton Avenue W, Huntsville
Brewery and Tap Room

Yellowhammer Brewery

2600 Clinton Avenue W, Huntsville
Brewery and Tap Room

make my day

Get ready for your adventure in the Rocket City!

Check it off as you go!

Day 1

- Stop at the Visitor Center for attraction discounts
- Visit EarlyWorks family of museums (EarlyWorks and Historic Huntsville Depot)
- Enjoy lunch and shopping at Bridge Street Town Centre
- Embrace adventure at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center
- Venture out to dinner in the idyllic Village of Providence

Day 2

- Discover breathtaking views and exciting nature trails at Burritt on the Mountain
- Check out local art and nostalgic gifts at Harrison Brothers
- View local and global art at the Huntsville Museum of Art
- Journey to quaint Historic Five Points for lunch
- Visit the Weeden House in the Twickenham Historic District
- Shop at Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment (Wednesday-Saturday)
- Dine in scenic downtown Madison, just west of Huntsville

Day 3

- Explore what's growing on at the Huntsville Botanical Garden
- Grab a bite to eat on the lovely Courthouse Square in the heart of downtown Huntsville
- Embark on the Lucky Duck Scavenger Hunt
- Remember the sacrifice of U.S. service members at the Veterans Memorial Museum
- Catch a Broadway Theatre League show or concert at the Von Braun Center and dinner downtown