



Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau

“Between the Mountains & the Lakes”

Huntsville and North Alabama

Hub-n-Spoke Tour

Sample Itinerary

DAY 1

Breakfast at the hotel

9 a.m.

A LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM—BURRITT ON THE MOUNTAIN

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! In 1955, Dr. Burritt willed his mansion and surrounding 167 acres of land to the city of Huntsville (making it Huntsville's first museum). Since that time, original log homes from the area have been moved to Burritt. Interpreters are always busy demonstrating activities as one would see on a 19th century farm.

Visit online at www.burrittonthemountain.com

11 a.m.

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

Enjoy the Nature Center, the largest seasonal butterfly house in the nation, where brightly colored butterflies live in their natural habitat, turtles sun themselves on rocks, and the rush of a waterfall takes you to a place of serenity. The eclectic Gift Shop is always filled with decorative and useful garden items. Galaxy of Lights, one of ABA's Top Destinations, is open nightly from Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve. Several major festivals such as Spring Festival of Flowers, 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.

Lunch in the Tea Room or a box lunch are available.

Visit online at www.hsvbg.org

1:30 p.m.

OUR NATION'S MILITARY HERITAGE

The **Veterans Memorial Museum** is a unique venue displaying more than 30 historical military vehicles from World War I to the present, as well as tableaus, artifacts, and other memorabilia dating back to the Revolutionary War. Learn about history based on the museum's collection of unique 'one of a kind' vehicles, representative weapons, radios, uniforms and personal gear. Veteran volunteers will present fascinating first-hand accounts of America's most significant historic moments. The museum is dedicated to promoting the accomplishments of American military men and women.

Visit online at www.memorialmuseum.org

3:30 p.m.

EXPAND YOUR MIND & IMAGINATION

More than 100 exciting interactive exhibits await the young and young at heart at **Sci-Quest**, North Alabama's premiere hands-on science center. Awaken the senses and energize the imagination while learning basic principles of science. All under one roof, you can get carried away in the Tornado Simulator, examine the mysteries of the human body with Grossology, get into the swing of things with the giant Magnetic Pendulum, and much more. No one will want to miss a 3D presentation in the state-of-the-art Immersive Reality Theater.

Visit online at www.sci-quest.com

5 p.m.

Check into your hotel. Enjoy some rest and relaxation before dinner.

7 p.m.

Enjoy dinner at one of Huntsville's unique dining establishments.

DAY 2

Breakfast at the hotel

9 a.m.

THE PAST PRESERVED FOR THE FUTURE

Listen to and enjoy intriguing stories 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. Many of the homes were seized by the Union Army during the Civil War from 1862-1865. (Step-on-guide or themed walking tours)

10:15 a.m.

THE LIFE OF HOWARD WEEDEN

Built in 1819, the **Weeden House** was home to the 19th century poet and artist, Maria Howard Weeden. This white, two-story brick house, located in the Twickenham Historic District, is distinguished by a remarkable leaded glass fanlight over the front door. Learn how Maria Howard Weeden used literature, architecture, language, tradition and values to contribute to the development and transmission of culture. View Weeden's exquisite portraits and learn how she captured the spirit of her models.

Visit online at www.weedenhousemuseum.com

11:15 a.m.

ALABAMA'S BIRTHPLACE

Hear the whir of the spinning wheel...smell the enticing aroma of freshly baked bread being prepared over an open fire...turn the great wheel lathe in the cabinetmaker's shop...and visit with villagers busy with their daily tasks, seemingly unaware that nearly two centuries have come and gone. **Alabama Constitution Village** 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. Visitors can contrast the 1800s urban life of the Village with the 1800s rural life at Burrirt on the Mountain. Catered lunch available.

Visit online at www.earlyworks.com

Stroll around the corner

1:30 p.m.

HARRISON BROTHERS HARDWARE SHOP

Founded in 1879 by brothers James and Daniel Harrison, **Harrison Brothers** is the oldest continuously operating hardware store in Alabama. Harrison Brothers is more than a glimpse of old Huntsville. It is a shopper's delight. Cotton throws, colorful tins, marbles by the scoop, cast iron cookware, and oak rocking chairs share space with garden gadgets, bird feeders, and whirly-gigs. Goods nestled up high are reached from tall rolling ladders, the rope elevator is hand operated, and a pot-bellied stove helps warm the store in the winter. Nearby, a tall desk displays an untidy mound of old invoices, catalogs and calendars, just as the last Harrison brother left it. When you are searching for a souvenir to take home or just plain looking, Harrison Brothers is the place to visit.

Visit online at www.harrisonbrothershardware.com

3 p.m.

A LESSON IN ART

Named as one of the state's "Top 10" destinations by the Alabama Tourism Department, the nationally accredited **Huntsville Museum of Art** fills its 13 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 of more than 2,500 pieces forms the basis for several exhibitions each year. In addition to its exhibitions, the Museum offers art classes for children and adults along with special programs, lectures, and musical presentations that add extra dimensions to the art work on display. 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 **SPACES**, Sculpture Trail. The Trail consists of 28 pieces, 3 permanent and 25 that will change biannually.

Visit online at www.hsvmuseum.org

5 p.m.

Return to the hotel for some rest and relaxation before dinner.

7 p.m.

PHANTOMS OF THE DEPOT

Up the creaking steps and down the shadowy halls of the Depot... learn about the history of this original 1860s building, its role in the Civil War and the townsfolk who walked the Depot floors. Hear about sightings and actual readings taken by trained paranormal experts. Perhaps you too will see evidence of the supernatural as you experience a ghostly lantern-lit tour of one of the nation's oldest remaining railroad structures, the **Historic Huntsville Depot**. Enjoy a spirited dinner served in the lobby of the Depot.

Visit online at www.earlyworks.com

DAY 3

Breakfast at the hotel

9 a.m.

BLAST OFF IN 3, 2, 1...

For just a moment, imagine you're an astronaut getting ready to board the Space Shuttle. It's your first flight. How are you feeling at this very moment? Are you nervous? Anxious? Scared? Excited? If you're like me, your adrenaline is pumping. These feelings and much more can be experienced at the **U.S. Space & Rocket Center**. Whether you're exploring the history of the U.S. Space program, taking a virtual journey inside a motion-based simulator or experiencing three times the pull of gravity inside the centrifuge, you're sure to have an out of this world experience!

Visit online at www.spacecamp.com/museum

Travel to Cullman, Alabama

1:30 p.m.

MINIATURE JERUSALEM

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

2:30 p.m.

BITTER SWEET

This family business is based on a candy recipe named for the owners' mother, Bert. Their unique Peanut and Pecan Brittle is made in small batches and stretched paper thin for your group. Enjoy learning about the products and see first-hand demonstrations of this outstanding candy maker by taking a tour of **Seven Winds Candy Store**.

4 p.m.

THE SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

Built by Mother Angelica and located in the City of Hanceville, it is the home of the Poor Clare nuns of the Perpetual Adoration. It is modeled after European 13th century monasteries with both Spanish and Italian influences. The monastery features stained glass windows from Germany, building stone from Canada, marble pillars and inlaid marble designs from Italy, roofing tiles from South America, carved stonework decorations from artisans in Spain, and the main altar area is made of carved cedar covered in gold leaf.

Visit online at www.olamshrine.com

5 p.m.

Enjoy dinner in Cullman

Return to Huntsville/Madison County

DAY 4

Breakfast at the hotel

Travel to Tusculumbia

9 a.m.

MUSIC TO MY EARS

The **Alabama Music Hall of Fame** tour includes a 12 foot jukebox playing pop, classical and opera tunes by Alabamians. The museum showcases recording equipment used in Sam Phillip's Memphis Music Service and the contract between Sam Phillips and RCA when the Alabamian sold his rights to the soon to be superstar Elvis Presley. Tommy Shaw of Styx fame has his shirt and guitar on display, along with Ransom Wilson's flute, Jim Nabors' Gomer Pyle outfit and stage outfits, Emmylou Harris, Donna Godchaux, Bobby Goldsboro, Lionel Richie, The Commodores and others. You too can live out your dream of becoming a star in the recording studio or a group effort singing of Tammy Wynette's "*Stand by Your Man*". Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about world famous musicians.

Visit online at www.alamhof.org

10:30 a.m.

FEATHERS GALORE

Make purchases to ensure a "heavenly" night rest including down bedding products, goose down pillows and feather beds. These same items are marketed to luxury hotels and sold locally at discounted prices to the public. Stop in and see how these items are made at this one-of-a-kind "mom and pop" **Pillow Factory**.

12 p.m.

Lunch in Tuscumbia

2 p.m.

"W-A-T-E-R"

At a plain, black well-pump in the small southern town of Tuscumbia, Alabama, one of the world's great miracles took place. Helen Keller became one of history's most remarkable women. She dedicated her life to improving the conditions of the blind and deaf-blind around the world, lecturing to individuals and organization in more than 25 countries. Wherever she appeared, she brought new courage to millions of blind people. Her teacher, Anne Sullivan is remembered as "the Miracle Worker" for her lifetime dedication, patience and love to a half-wild southern child trapped in a world of darkness. Learn more about the life of Helen Keller at Ivy Green, Birthplace of Helen Keller.

Visit online at www.helenkellerbirthplace.org

Travel to Mooresville

5 p.m.

WALKING TOUR

Visiting **Mooresville, Alabama** is like stepping back in time to a peaceful, less hectic way of living. Mooresville is older than the State of Alabama. Incorporated in 1819, the entire 12 blocks of the oak-lined village is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. President Andrew Johnson worked here while a tailor's apprentice. Recently, the town was the site of a movie about the adventures of Tom Sawyer.

6 p.m.

LIMESTONE BAY TRADING COMPANY

Guaranteed to be a relaxing evening of laughter, fun and mouth watering southern cuisine!

Visit online at www.limestonebay.com

Return to Huntsville/Madison County

DAY 5

Breakfast at the hotel

Travel to Grant

9 a.m.

WORLD'S LARGEST STALAGMITE

Cathedral Caverns features the WORLD'S LARGEST stalagmite, the WORLD'S LARGEST stalagmite forest and the WORLD'S LARGEST frozen waterfall. Evidence of human habitation in these limestone rock caves can be traced back 8,000 years. Come see for yourself...

Travel to Scottsboro

11 a.m.

A SHOPPERS PARADISE

If searching for bargains is your passion and the thrill of discovering a one-of-a-kind treasure makes your heart race, come on a shopping adventure like none other on the earth! Home of lost treasures from around the world! This unique facility has been featured on Oprah, Good Morning America and the Late Show with David Letterman. No worries about your new treasures,

Unclaimed Baggage will ship your items home for you!!

Visit online at www.unclaimedbaggage.com

12:30 p.m.

Lunch in Scottsboro

Travel to Huntsville

2 p.m.

AFTERNOON OPTIONS:

An afternoon of shopping and being pampered... Bridge Street Town Centre, Huntsville's newest dining, shopping, entertainment district, is an outdoor lifestyle center with a European design situated on a 10-acre lake, featuring over 70 upscale shops, many fabulous restaurants, from food court casual to fine dining, and the unique 14-screen Monaco Pictures. The site features many beautiful fountains, green open spaces, a walking trail and gondola and pedal boat rides. Bridge Street is also home to The Westin and BLUE Medspa.

Visit online at www.bridgestreethuntsville.com.

Tee it up on the Robert Trent Jones Trail... At the northern terminus of the Trail is Huntsville's very own **Robert Trent Jones Hampton Cove Golf Course** which features a 54-hole facility with terrain that drastically changes from one side of the property to the other. The Highlands Course, which emulates a Scottish Links, is one of the gems of the Trail. Completely opposite is the River Course, the only Robert Trent Jones layout without a single bunker. The third course is the Short Course which is very open with water in play on 11 holes and a large double green accommodating the 10th and 17th greens.

Visit online at www.rtjgolf.com/courses/hampton_cove

6 p.m.

Enjoy dinner at one of Huntsville's unique dining establishments.

Book your **"Between the Mountains & the Lakes"** tour TODAY!



Contact Pam Williams, Tourism Sales Manager
800-SPACE-4-U • 256-551-2204 • pam@huntsville.org