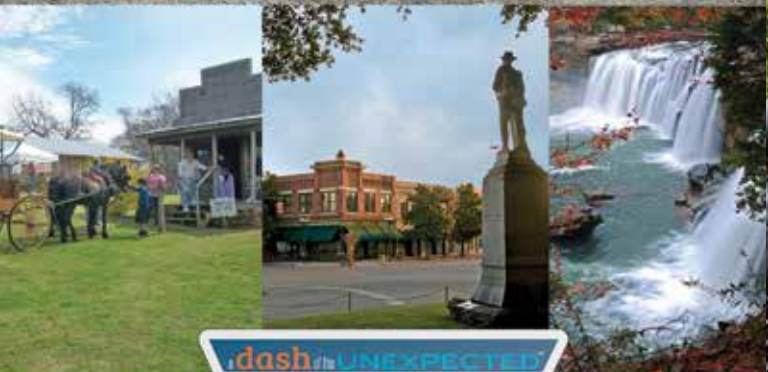


Scenic North Alabama  
**Motorcycle**



dash *the UNEXPECTED*  
**NORTH ALABAMA**

Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association  
 402 Sherman St., SE • P.O. Box 2537 • Decatur, AL 35602

**800.648.5381 • www.NorthAlabama.org**  
 #visitnorthal

free discount coupons on our website  
 Find us on social at @visitnorthal



1-20 Printed in USA

SCENIC  
*North Alabama*

**Motorcycle**  
 ROUTES



**800.648.5381 • www.NorthAlabama.org**



**THE MOUNTAINS  
 ARE CALLING  
 AND I MUST RIDE**

NORTH ALABAMA EMBRACES THE SOUTHERN FOOTHILLS OF THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS, MAKING IT A GREAT REGION FOR MOTORCYCLE RIDES. OUR SCENIC ROUTES ALSO OFFER A UNIQUE BLEND OF UNEXPECTED CULTURAL AND HERITAGE STOPS TO ACCENT YOUR TRIP. FOLLOWING ARE SELECT MOTORCYCLE ROUTES THAT CRUISE OVER ROLLING HILLS, THROUGH LUSH FORESTS, PAST CASCADING WATERFALLS, AND ACROSS THE FERTILE TENNESSEE RIVER VALLEY.

*ENJOY THE RIDE.*

# Natchez Trace

**Start/End:** The Natchez Trace covers approximately 430 miles. The northern most point is at Leipers Fork, Tenn., just southwest of Nashville, and the southern-most point is in Natchez, Miss. In Alabama, the Trace span is 33 miles from the Tennessee state line (milepost 341.8) to the Mississippi state line (milepost 308.9).  
**Scenery:** Southern pine and hardwood forests along the entire route. Popular seasons are spring for the blooming trees and autumn for the fall colors.

**Road Quality:** Clean and smooth. Paved, two lane road, well maintained with rolling hills. Commercial traffic is prohibited.

## Natchez Trace Historic and Scenic Sites in North Alabama:

- Rock Spring - milepost 330.2 - Hiking Trail
- Lauderdale County - milepost 328.7 - Picnic Area
- Colbert Ferry - milepost 327.3 - Restroom, Picnic Area, Old Trace
- Buzzard Roost Spring - milepost 320.3 - Old Trace, Indian History
- Freedom Hills Overlook - milepost 317.0 - Scenic Overlook
- Bear Creek - milepost 313.0 - Picnic Area

**Nearby Excursions:** Tuscumbia, Alabama about 19 miles east of the parkway. Exit the parkway at milepost 320 and travel east on US 72.

## Alabama Music Hall of Fame

617 Hwy. 72 W., Tuscumbia, AL; (256) 381-4417  
 Admission. Open: Tu-Sa 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Belle Mont Mansion

1569 Cook Lane (County Rd. 52); (256) 381-5052; www.preserveala.org

Open W-Sa, 10am-4pm. Other times for groups by appointment. To schedule call: (256) 383-4401. Admission.

## Birthplace of Helen Keller - Ivy Green

300 North Commons West; (256) 383-4066; (888) 329-2124; www.helenkellerbirthplace.org  
 Hours: M-Sa 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission.

## Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve

251 Loop Rd.; (256) 381-6301  
 Hours: Open year round. Call to ensure gate is unlocked. Maps available on site. Free.

## Seven Springs Lodge

1292 Mt. Mills Rd.; (256) 370-7218; www.sevenspringslodge.net  
 20,000 plus acres of picturesque natural woodland.

## Spring Park

Open daily. No admission.

## Info Contacts:

### Colbert County Tourism & Convention Bureau

719 U. S. Hwy. 72 West, Tuscumbia, AL 35674  
 (256) 383-0783, (800) 344-0783; www.colbertcountytourism.org

### Florence/Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau

200 Jim Spain Drive, Florence, AL 35630  
 (256) 740-4141, (888) 356-8687; www.visitflorenceal.com



Helen Keller Home, Gardens and Museum, Tuscumbia, Ala.

# Covered Bridge Route

**Start/End:** Oneonta.

**Scenery:** Farmlands, tree-lined roads.

**Road Quality:** Paved, lots of curves and rolling hills.

## What to see along the way:

Three covered bridges still exist in Blount County, the Covered Bridge Capital of Alabama and home of the annual Covered Bridge Festival. Spanning 324 feet and situated high above the rocky riverbed of the Black Warrior River, **Swann Covered Bridge** is the longest covered bridge still in existence in the state. It was built around 1933. **Old Easley Covered Bridge** is a one-span town bridge built in 1930. Tin-covered and in fairly good repair, all 95 feet of its single span are preserved. And **Horton Mill Bridge**, built in 1935, is one of the highest covered bridges in the nation, standing 70 feet above the Black Warrior River.

## Nearby Excursions:

### Spring Valley Beach Water Park

2340 Co. Rd. 55 (Spring Valley Beach Dr.); (205) 429-2075; www.springvalleybeach.com

Spring Valley Beach Water Park is located less than one hour from Huntsville, Decatur, Birmingham, and Pell City, and has one of the largest swimming pools in the Southeast. The park offers six water slides: The "Sidewinder," the "Chiller," "Black Out," "The Need for Speed," and an above-ground slide, the "Circle S" and the new "360 Rush." Hours: Daily 10 a.m.-6 p.m. from mid-May to Labor Day. Admission.



Swann Creek Covered Bridge, one of the last three covered bridges still open to traffic in Alabama.

## Blountsville Historical Park

71406 Main Street, Blountsville, AL 35031; (205) 429-2338

Hours of Operation, Sat., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun., 2-4 p.m.

The Freeman Cabin Museum houses different displays relating to the history of area. Brooksville Post Office and original one-room jail are also open for tours. The park also has a gift shop and a wedding chapel.

## Info Contacts:

### Blount County-Oneonta Chamber of Commerce

201 1st Avenue E, Suite 110, Oneonta, AL 35121  
 (205) 274-2478  
 www.blountoneontachamber.org



# Lookout Mountain Parkway

**Start/End:** The Lookout Mountain Parkway spans three states as it stretches across Lookout Mountain from Gadsden, Alabama to Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Lookout Mountain Parkway begins at Noccalula Falls Park in Gadsden, Ala., on top of Lookout Mountain. It is easily accessible via exit # 188 off Interstate 59 and following Highway 211 to Noccalula Falls Park. Turn to the left on Tabor Road in front of the Park to begin your journey across the scenic Lookout Mountain.

**Scenery:** Within its 93-miles, one will find waterfalls, canyons, scenic brow vistas, unique towns and villages, state and national parks and preserves and many more natural wonders. Named by Reader's Digest as one of The Most Scenic Drives in America.

**Road Quality:** Paved, well maintained with mountain vistas and rolling hills.

**What to see in North Alabama along the way:**

## Noccalula Falls Park

Hwy. 211; (256) 549-4663, campground (256) 543-7412; [www.cityofgadsden.com](http://www.cityofgadsden.com)

A 250-acre park to the north of Gadsden. Once called Black Creek Falls, the 90-foot waterfall here now bears the name of the Cherokee princess Noccalula, who is said to have hurled herself to a watery death rather than marry a man she did not love. A bronze statue of the lovelorn maiden looks out endlessly on the falls. Nearby, a stairway descends into Black Creek Gorge, a snaking chasm carved into the rocks just downstream from the falls. A 1 1/2-mile trail shadows the waterway as it races between towering sandstone bluffs. Call for hours. Admission.

## Little River Canyon National Preserve

The green signs along Tabor Road, Rte. 89, the first leg of the Lookout Mountain Parkway, will guide you north to State Rte. 68, where the parkway becomes Rte. 176 with Leesburg on the left and Collinsville to the right. Farther along, at a community called Dogtown, the drive makes a brief, beautiful detour from the parkway itself, taking Rte. 176A northeast along the western rim of Little River Canyon.

The roadway parallels the steep-walled rift, one of the deepest to be found east of the Mississippi River. Turnouts are sprinkled along the route; stand at the canyon's edge.

## DeSoto State Park

7104 DeSoto Pkwy NE; Lodge: (256) 845-5380, (800) 568-8840; Campground: (256) 845-5075, (800) 760-4089; [www.alapark.com/DesotoResort](http://www.alapark.com/DesotoResort)

The park provides both lodging and camping, motel rooms, log cabins, rustic cabins, mountain chalets, and 94 full hook-up RV or tent campsites. For the more adventurous, there are also primitive camping sites for tents as well as two back-country camp sites with shelters. Other amenities include a full service restaurant, meeting rooms, pavilions, picnic area with playground, swimming pool (seasonal), a nature center, CCC museum, and more than 25 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails.

## Cloudmont Ski Resort & Shady Grove Dude Ranch

Atop Lookout Mountain Pkwy, Co Rd. 614; (256) 634-4344; [www.cloudmont.com](http://www.cloudmont.com)

600 acres of forest trails, waterfalls, and streams. Home to Alabama's only snow ski resort. Cloudmont also features the Shady Grove Dude Ranch, daily trail rides. Open year-round.

## Nearby Excursions: Back Forty Beer Company

200 N. 6th St. Gadsden; (256) 467-4912; [BackFortyBeer.com](http://BackFortyBeer.com)  
Microbrewery guided tours on Sa 3-8 p.m.  
Taproom: M-Th 5-7 p.m. and F-Sa 3-8 p.m.

## Fort Payne Depot Museum

105 5th St, Fort Payne; (256) 845-5714  
Museum features exhibits typical of the lifestyles of the late 1800s and the early 1900s, and Native American pottery, basketry, tools, and clothing. Hours: W, Th, F 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission.

## Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts

Downtown Gadsden, 501 Broad St.; (256) 543-2787; [www.culturalarts.org](http://www.culturalarts.org)  
Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. Admission \$8. Free for children under 24 months.

## Untamed Mountain Tigers for Tomorrow

710 County Road 345, Collinsville; (256) 524-4150; [www.tigersfortomorrow.org](http://www.tigersfortomorrow.org)  
An exotic animal park and rescue preserve. Get up close and with over 75 big cats, wolves and bears in the carnivore compound. You'll be closer to lions and tigers than ever before in a safe and natural setting. Children can interact with barn yard animals and visit our Legacy Living Classroom and gift store. Private tours, group tours and school field trips are available by reservation. Open every Sa and Su year round 9am-5pm. Park hours are seasonal, please check our website for hours.

## Info Contacts:

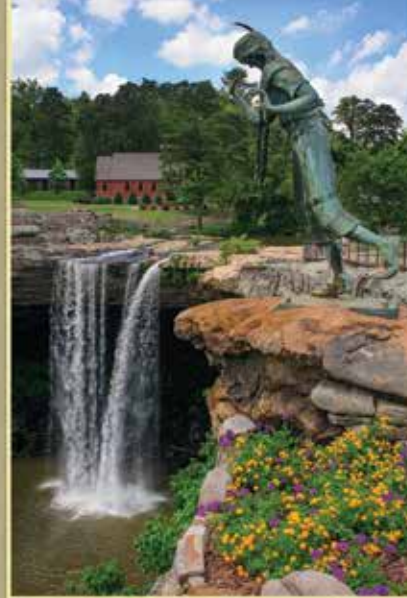
**Lookout Mountain Parkway Association**  
PO Box 680384, Fort Payne, AL 35968; (866) 638-4936; [www.drivelookoutmountain.com](http://www.drivelookoutmountain.com)

**The Chamber, Gadsden/Etowah County**  
One Commerce Square, Gadsden, AL 35902; (256) 543-3472; [www.etowahchamber.org](http://www.etowahchamber.org)

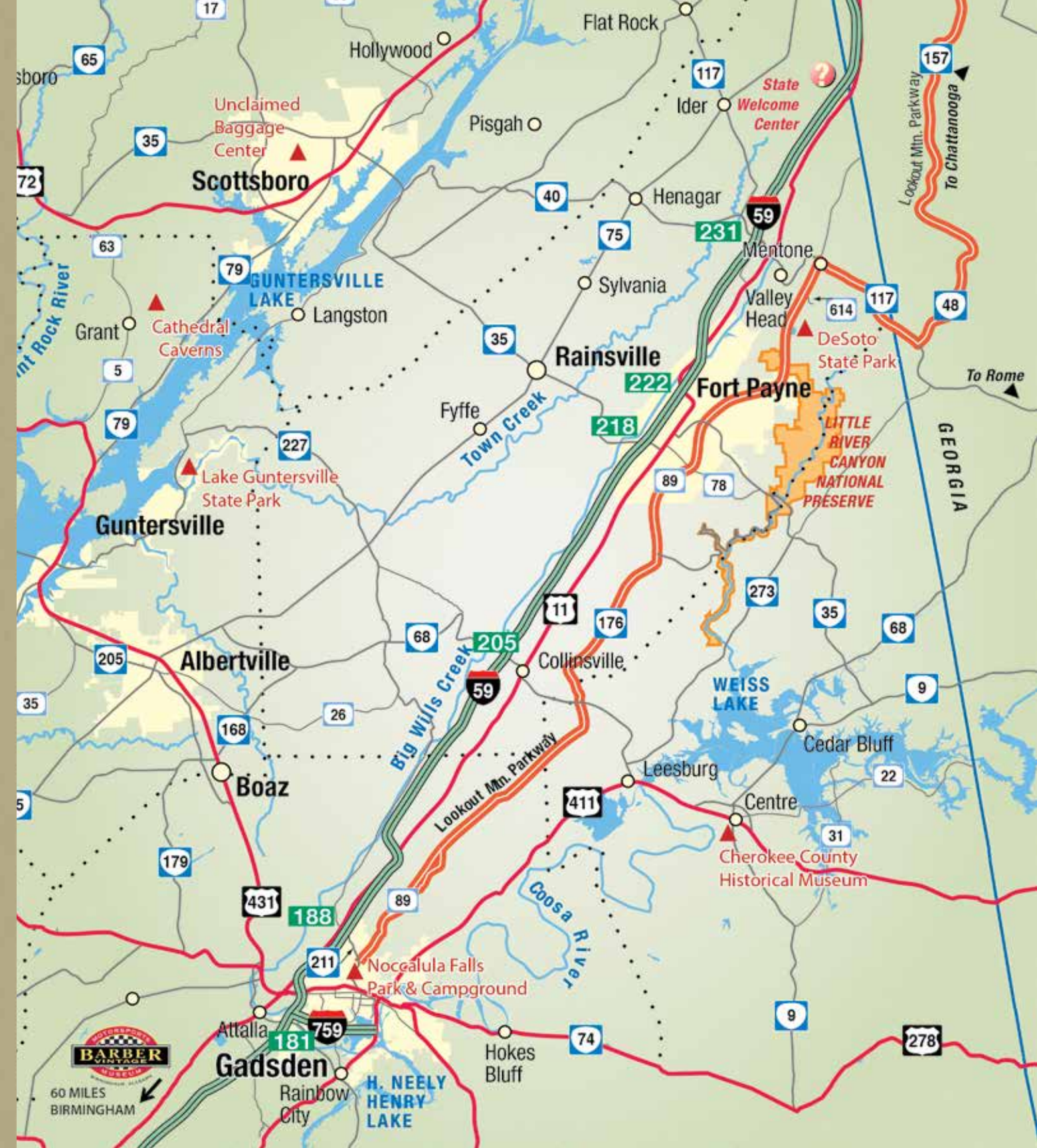
**DeKalb Tourism**  
1503 Glenn Blvd. SW, Fort Payne, AL 35968; (256) 845-3957. (888) 805-4740; [discoverlookoutmountain.com](http://discoverlookoutmountain.com)



Just off the southern edge of the North Alabama region in Birmingham, Alabama, is the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum. Located 60 miles southwest of Gadsden via I-59, the museum is recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's largest motorcycle collection. With over 1,600 motorcycles spanning over 100 years of production, the Barber collection represents 200 different manufacturers from 20 countries. Open daily. 6030 Barber Motorsports Parkway, Birmingham, AL 35094. [www.barbermuseum.org](http://www.barbermuseum.org)



Noccalula Falls Park and Campground, Gadsden, Ala.



# National Forest Route 1

**Start/End:** Moulton or Double Springs. 27 miles.

**Scenery:** A nice twisty road through the heart of Alabama's largest national forest.

**Road Quality:** Paved, two lane road, lots of curves and rolling hills.

**What to see along the way:**

**Bankhead National Forest**

Hwy. 278 and Hwy. 33; (205) 489-5111; [southernregion.fs.fed.us/alabama](http://southernregion.fs.fed.us/alabama)  
180,000 acres with an abundance of bluffs, canyons, waterfalls, springs, and lakes. Four recreation areas are located throughout the forest offering a wide range of activities.

**Dual Destiny Civil War Monument**

Blake Dr., between the courthouse and bank, Double Springs.

The "Dual Destiny" monument depicts a Civil War soldier, one-half Union and one-half Confederate, symbolizing the war within a war and honors the Winstonians in both armies.

**Lawrence County Farmers Market**

13182 Al Highway 157, Moulton; (256) 303-7553; Facebook

Many local specialties, fruits, vegetables and organic food. Products: fruit, berries, vegetables, canned and baked goods.

**Nearby Excursions:** Take AL Hwy. 36 east off of AL Hwy. 33 towards Hartselle.

**Jesse Owens Museum**

7019 Co. Rd. 203, Danville; Exit AL Hwy 157 at Co. Rd. 187;

(256) 974-3636; [www.jesseowensmuseum.org](http://www.jesseowensmuseum.org)

A tribute to the life of Jesse Owens, track great, who captured four

gold medals in 1936 Berlin Olympics.

The museum depicts Owens' athletic and humanitarian achievements through interactive exhibits, a rare film, memorabilia and museum shop. Enjoy free Wifi. M-Sa 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Su 1 p.m.-4 p.m. and by appointment. Admission.

**Oakville Indian Mounds Educational Center**

1219 Co. Rd. 187, Danville;

(256) 905-2499;

[www.oakvilleindianmounds.com](http://www.oakvilleindianmounds.com);

Features the largest 2,000-year-old Woodland Indian Mound in

Alabama, early settler cemetery,

Black Warriors Path, 8,000 sq. ft. 122 acre park with 20 acre fishing

pond, and walking paths. Cherokee Council House, gift shop, picnic

shelters. Hours: M-F 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Sa 10 a.m.-4 p.m.. Group tours are

\$2/person. General admission is free.

**Info Contacts:**

**Bankhead National Forest**

[www.fs.usda.gov/detail/alabama](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/alabama)

Number of downloadable maps including trailhead maps and

recreation maps.

**Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce**

12521 AL Hwy 157, Suite L, Moulton, AL 35650

(256) 974-1658, [www.lawrencealabama.com](http://www.lawrencealabama.com)



Dual Destiny statue on the courthouse square in Double Springs.

# National Forest Route 2

**Start/End:** Cullman County Museum near downtown Cullman, Double Springs courthouse square.

**Scenery:** Farmland, valleys, streams and thick forest.

**Road Quality:** Well maintained 4-lane highway with curves and rolling hills.

**What to see along the way:**

**Cullman County Museum**

211 2nd Ave. NE, Off Hwy. 31; (256) 739-1258;

[www.cullmancountymuseum.com](http://www.cullmancountymuseum.com)

Located within a replica of Cullman's founder's home, the museum

has something for all ages and interests. From Native American

presentations to the Main Street Displays which focus on Cullman's

German heritage. There are many interactive displays of interest to the

young and the young at heart. Open: M-F 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sa 10 a.m.-2

p.m. Admission.

**Bankhead National Forest**

Hwy. 278 and Hwy. 33; (205) 489-5111; [southernregion.fs.fed.us/alabama](http://southernregion.fs.fed.us/alabama)

**Dual Destiny Civil War Monument**

Blake Dr., between the courthouse and bank, Double Springs.

**Houston Log Jail**

4806 Co Rd 63, Houston, AL 35572

Built in 1868, named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

**Nearby Excursions:**

**Goat Island Craft Brewing**

1646 John H. Cooper Dr.; [www.goatislandbrewing.com](http://www.goatislandbrewing.com)

One of Alabama's newest breweries, Goat Island is the first brewery in Cullman since the 1880s. Open: M-W 2-6 p.m., Th 5-10 p.m., F 5-10 p.m., Sa 2-10 p.m.

**Ave Maria Grotto**

1600 St. Bernard Dr., Off Hwy. 278

East at St. Bernard Abbey;

(256) 734-4110;

[www.avemariagrotto.com](http://www.avemariagrotto.com)

Known throughout the world

as "Jerusalem in Miniature," the

Ave Maria Grotto is a beautifully

landscaped, four-acre park designed

to provide a natural setting for the 125

miniature reproductions of some of

the most famous historic buildings and shrines of the world. Listed on

the National Register of Historic Sites. Hours: Daily (except Christmas

Day & New Year's Day) April-Sept. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Oct.-March 9 a.m.-

5 p.m. Admission.

**Info Contacts:**

**Bankhead National Forest**

[www.fs.usda.gov/detail/alabama](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/alabama)

Number of downloadable maps including trailhead maps and

recreation maps.

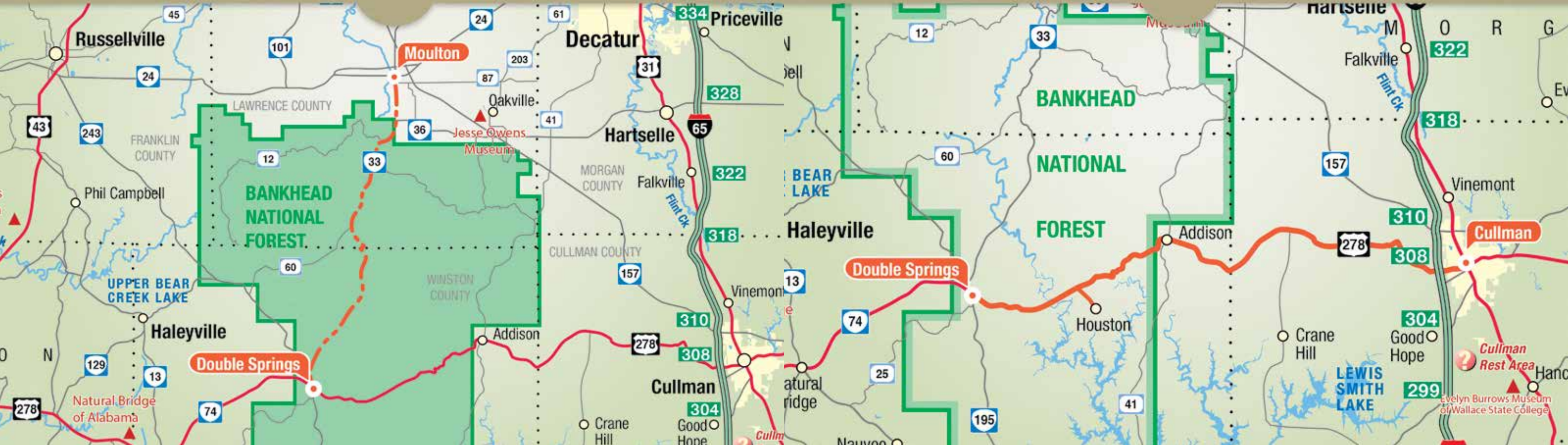
**Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center**

301 Second Ave. SW, Cullman, AL 35055

(256) 734-0454, (800) 313-5114; [www.visitcullman.org](http://www.visitcullman.org)



Cullman County Museum Cullman, Ala.



## Northeast Mountains Route

**Start/End:** Scottsboro.

**Scenery:** The vistas in Jackson County are spectacular, particularly the mountain panoramas.

**Road Quality:** Some four-lane areas, combined with two-lane state and county roads, all well maintained with rolling hills.

**What to see along the way:**

### Goose Pond Colony

417 Ed Hembree Dr., Off Hwy. 79; (256) 912-0592; [www.goosepond.org](http://www.goosepond.org)  
A municipal park, 368-acre peninsula offering golf, camping, cottages, lodge, a restaurant, picnicking, a pool, nature trails, marina with boat launch, fuel for boats and tackle shop, and amphitheater. Colony Golf Course: 18 holes, 6,854 yards, par 72. Rated a #1 Resort Value in Alabama and listed in Golf Digest's Places to Play. Plantation Golf Course: 18 holes, 6,901 yards, par 72, links-style course, Bent Grass greens, driving range, pro shop, snack bar, and putting green. Meeting facilities available, tournaments welcome. Open year-round.

### Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center

208 South Houston Street; (256) 259-2122  
Museum dedicated to preserving the history of Jackson County. 1881 neo-classical Brown-Proctor house, "Sagetown" pioneer village and the 1868 Jackson County Courthouse. Hours: M-F 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed holidays. Free.

### Unclaimed Baggage Center

509 W. Willow St., off Hwy. 72; (256) 259-1525; [www.unclaimedbaggage.com](http://www.unclaimedbaggage.com)

Home of lost treasures from around the world! As seen on Oprah, The Today Show, and The Late Show with David Letterman. Open: M-F 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sa 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Closed Su.

### Nearby Excursions:

#### Stevenson Railroad Depot Museum

Continue east on U.S. Hwy. 72, downtown Stevenson; (256) 437-3012. An important Civil War railroad junction. Station now houses a collection of military, agricultural, Indian artifacts, railroad, and other local memorabilia. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Hours: M-F 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Closed on state holidays. Free.

#### Russell Cave National Monument

Off of U. S. Hwy. 72, 3729 County Rd. 98, Bridgeport, AL; (245) 495-2672 [www.nps.gov/ruca](http://www.nps.gov/ruca)  
For hundreds of generations, the cave provided shelter for Southeastern Tribes of Indians. Today, visitors can learn about the national significance of this archeological site and enjoy the quiet setting of this National Park Service unit. Open daily 8-4:30 CT. No charge.

### Info Contacts:

#### Mountain Lakes Chamber of Commerce

407 East Willow St., Scottsboro, AL 35768; (256) 259-5500; [www.mountainlakeschamberofcommerce.com](http://www.mountainlakeschamberofcommerce.com)



World famous Unclaimed Baggage Center, Scottsboro, Ala.

## Sand Mountain Route

**Start/End:** Stevenson.

**Scenery:** Multiple views of the 69,000 acre Lake Guntersville.

**Road Quality:** Paved, two lane road, lots of curves and rolling hills.

**Detailed Directions:**

- Begin your trip in Downtown Stevenson at the Historic Railroad Depot Museum on Main Street.
- Take Main St. and bear right onto State Hwy. 117 and continue across the TN River bridge (2) – 4.5 miles
- After crossing the bridge turn left onto County Road 91 (the river road) – 12.9 miles
- Turn right onto County Road 93 (3) and travel 4.3 miles (up the mountain) to AL State Hwy. 73/71 (4).
- Bear right through Bryant & Higdon, AL and continue on State Hwy 71 for 16 miles to Flat Rock, AL (5).
- Turn right on AL State Highway 117 for 13.2 miles (down the mountain and across the TN River Bridge) (2) back into Stevenson.
- End your journey at Ft. Harker (6), one of the last redoubt Civil War forts remaining in America and take in some of our Civil War history.
- Total Mileage = 51 miles.

### What to see along the way:

#### Stevenson Railroad Depot Museum

Continue east on U.S. Hwy. 72, downtown Stevenson; (256) 437-3012. An important Civil War railroad junction. Station now houses

a collection of military, agricultural, Indian artifacts, railroad, and other local memorabilia. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Hours: M-F 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Closed on state holidays. Free.

### Nearby Excursions:

#### Russell Cave National Monument

Off of U. S. Hwy. 72, 3729 County Rd. 98, Bridgeport, AL; (256) 495-2672 [www.nps.gov/ruca](http://www.nps.gov/ruca)  
For hundreds of generations, the cave provided shelter for Southeastern Tribes of Indians. Today, visitors can learn about the national significance of this archeological site and enjoy the quiet setting of this National Park Service unit. Open daily 8-4:30 CT. No charge.

### Info Contacts:

#### Mountain Lakes Chamber of Commerce

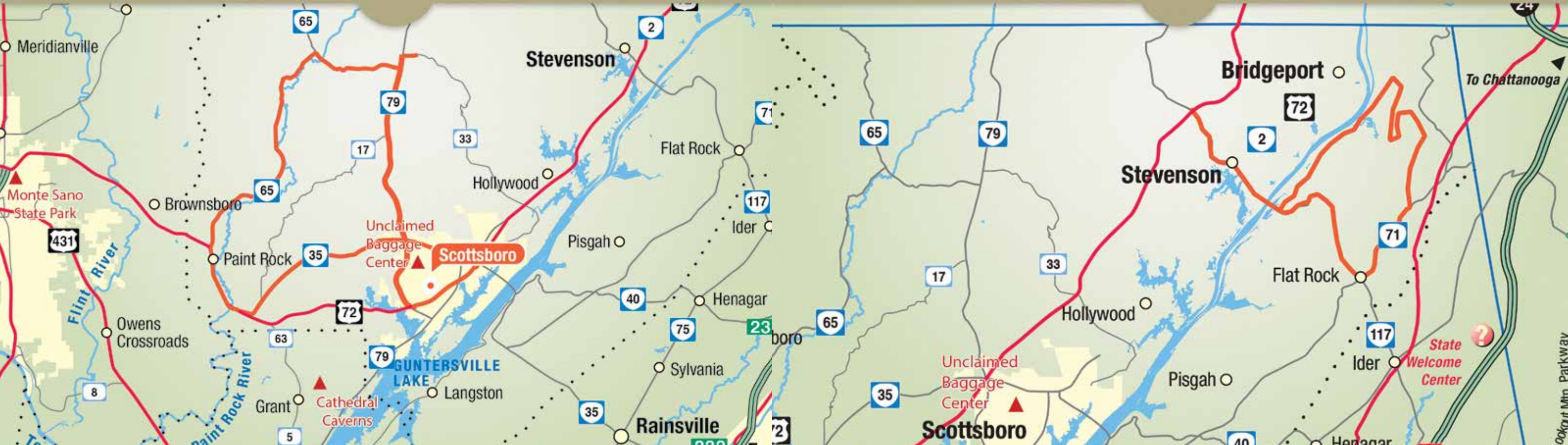
407 East Willow St., Scottsboro, AL 35768; (256) 259-5500; [www.mountainlakeschamberofcommerce.com](http://www.mountainlakeschamberofcommerce.com)

#### DeKalb Tourism

1503 Glenn Blvd. SW, Fort Payne, AL 35968  
(256) 845-3957, (888) 805-4740  
[www.discoverlookoutmountain.com](http://www.discoverlookoutmountain.com)



Historic Stevenson Railroad Museum, Stevenson, Ala.



# Limestone County 2-Wheel Bike & Motorcycle Route

**Start/End:** Downtown Athens courthouse square.

**Scenery:** Antebellum homes, tree-lined country roads, farmland, woodlands, streams.

**Road Quality:** Paved, two-lane mostly county roads.

**What to see along the way:**

## Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives

At bike trail #1.

GPS: 34.8066188, -86.9697798

Honors veterans with displays of memorabilia from the Revolutionary War to the present. The museum, located on West Pryor Street, is housed in the old L & N Railroad freight depot, which was built in 1928. Open M-Sa 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Contact: (256) 771-7578, [www.alabamaveteransmuseum.com](http://www.alabamaveteransmuseum.com)

## Alabama Welcome Center

Bike trail #14.

GPS: 34.9390866, -86.8958689

Home of the Saturn 1B Rocket, Vietnam, Korean and WWII Memorials. Contact: (256) 423-3891, [www.alabama.travel.com](http://www.alabama.travel.com) or 1-800-Alabama.

## Athens State University & The Altar of the New Testament

Near bike trail #2.

GPS: 34.8059671, -86.9675272

Alabama's oldest institution of higher learning. The main building on campus, Founders Hall, was built in 1842. Local legend says the building was saved from burning by Union troops raiding Athens during the Civil War when the college President produced a letter said to have been written by President Abraham Lincoln. Founders Hall, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, also houses the majestic Altar of the New Testament woodcarving. The life-size carvings took 12 years to complete and depict Christ and New Testament figures and verses carved in tulipwood. Contact: (256) 233-8100, [www.athens.edu](http://www.athens.edu)

## Big Springs Memorial Park

At bike trail #1.

GPS: 34.803, -86.967

Located just off Beaty Street, this park offers a playground, duck pond, tennis courts and pavilion. [www.limestoneparks.com](http://www.limestoneparks.com)

## Civil War Trail

Near bike trail #2 and along Rails-to-Trails.

This driving/walking trail tours the civil war historical sites in Limestone county

including the Battle of Athens and the Battle of Sulphur Creek Trestle (Elkmont).

[www.tourathens.com](http://www.tourathens.com)

## Historic Elkmont

Bike trail #20.

GPS: 34.9289743,

-86.9738959

Site of the Civil War



Red Caboose at the Elkmont historic train depot.

Battle of Sulphur Creek Trestle. This community is now home of the Rails to Trails Walking Trail, a historic train depot housing a museum and library, a train caboose and antique shops. Contact: (256) 232-4211

## Leggtown Cemetery

Midway between bike trail #23-24, 0.2 miles off trail.

One of Limestone County's oldest cemeteries and is the final resting place for Confederate Veterans and one of the famous Tuskegee Airman from WWII.

## Lentzville Cemetery

Midway between bike trail #36 and #37.

Historic family cemetery dating back to the early 1800's.

## Limestone County Canoe/Kayak Trail

Entry points near bike trail #'s 23, 38 and 39.

The beautiful Elk River is the perfect place for canoeing and kayaking in Limestone County. The water is challenging and the scenery is beautiful. There are five sites for easy in and out along the river. Canoe/kayak rentals available.

## New Garden Cemetery

Midway between bike trail #11 and #12, 0.4 miles off trail.

One of the oldest cemeteries in Limestone County with graves dating back to the 1800's.

## Richard Martin Rails-to-Trails

Entry points near bike trail #'s 7, 11, 20 and 18.

Located in Elkmont, this 10.2 mile trail offers a back-to-nature getaway for hikers, bikers, joggers, bird watchers, horseback riders, as well as students, naturalists, and historians. It is accessible to wheelchairs. (No motorized vehicles.) Accessible at Veto 34.59412 -86.59192, Elkmont 34.9289743 -86.9738959 or Piney Chapel Road 34.50543 -86.58105.

## Walnut Grove Church

Past bike trail #23, 1.3 miles off trail via Leggtown Road.

One of the sites on the Glory Road Historic Churches trail. The building was erected and the church established in 1875. This small white frame church is truly a beautiful church in the vale located in the Leggtown community.

## Info Contacts:

Athens Limestone County Tourism Association

100 Beaty Street North, Athens, AL 35611

(256) 232-5411, [www.visitathensal.com](http://www.visitathensal.com)



Alabama Veterans Museum and Archives, Athens, Ala.



Limestone County Courthouse, Athens, Ala.



Historic Downtown Athens, Ala.



**U.S. Space & Rocket Center**

Less than 30 minutes east of Athens is the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, the largest space collection on the planet, complete with interactive simulators, blockbuster traveling exhibitions and a National Historic Landmark Saturn V Rocket—the only one in the world! Soar through space in the National Geographic Theater or the breathtaking IMAX Theater. View online calendar for daily special activities. Open 9 am-5 pm daily. Closed for Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. [www.rocketcenter.com](http://www.rocketcenter.com).

**NOAH BIKE TRAIL**

[www.LimestoneParks.com](http://www.LimestoneParks.com) [www.VisitAthensAL.com](http://www.VisitAthensAL.com)

# TVA Dams Route

**Start/End:** This is a day-long route across the breadth of North Alabama (approximately 110 miles, 2 hours 15 minutes direct drive time.). Route is described as starting in Guntersville and heading west to Florence. You may choose to reverse the directions and begin in Florence and drive east to Guntersville. Due to the length of the route and allowing for time to visit sites along the way, you may wish to overnight and extend the trip to a two-day getaway.

**Scenery:** This route follows the Tennessee River's path through North Alabama. You will skirt four of the major lake reservoirs created by the TVA dams (Lake Guntersville, Wheeler Lake, Wilson Lake, and Pickwick Lake) so a number of lake vistas are featured on the route. You will also see antebellum homes, tree-lined country roads, farmland, woodlands, and streams.

**Road Quality:** The route is made up of U. S. Highways, state highways, and county roads. All are paved, well maintained, and are either four-lane federal highways or two-lane state and county roads.

**Directions via U.S. 72 Alt:**

**Guntersville Dam**

Guntersville, AL 35976

Follow Guntersville Dam Rd to US-431 N • 6 min (3.7 mi)

Turn left onto US-431 N • 6 min (5.8 mi)

Follow Hobbs Island Rd SE to US-231 S/Memorial Pkwy SW in Huntsville • 16 min (11.5 mi)

Take AL-36 W to E Upper River Rd in Morgan County • 12 min (10.8 mi)

Turn right onto E Upper River Rd • 18 min (14.9 mi)

Take US-72 ALT W to Co Rd 150/Jessie Jackson Pkwy in North Courtland • 33 min (26.3 mi)

Turn right onto Co Rd 150/Jessie Jackson Pkwy

Continue to follow Co Rd 150 • 11 min (9.6 mi)

Turn right onto AL-101 N • 2 min (1.6 mi)

Total Time: 1 h 46 min (84.3 mi)

**Joe Wheeler Dam**

Wheeler Dam, Rogersville, AL 35652

Head south on AL-101 S • 3.8 mi

Turn right onto Foster Mill Rd • 2.1 mi

Turn right onto River Rd • 9.0 mi

Continue onto Tennessee River Rd • 1.0 mi

Continue onto River Rd • 1.5 mi



*Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa overlooking Wilson Dam in Florence, Ala.*



*Dog's Biker Heaven - 4274 Hwy 101, Elgin, Ala. Telephone: 256-247-1684*

Turn right onto AL-133 • 0.2 mi

Turn right onto Reservation Rd • 1.6 mi

Total Time: 25 min (19.2 mi)

**Wilson Dam**

Florence, AL 35630

**About the Tennessee Valley Authority:**

The Tennessee Valley Authority is a corporate agency of the United States that provides electricity for business customers and local power companies serving 9 million people in parts of seven southeastern states. TVA receives no taxpayer funding, deriving virtually all of its revenues from sales of electricity. In addition to operating and investing its revenues in its electric system, TVA provides flood control, navigation and land management for the Tennessee River system and assists local power companies and state and local governments with economic development and job creation.

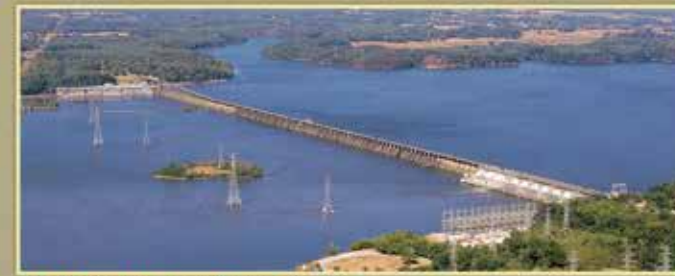
The original objective of TVA when it was established in 1933 – to make life better for the people of the Tennessee Valley – remains the federal corporation's goal. It serves seven states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Two TVA dams in Alabama – Wheeler Dam and Guntersville Dam – are currently being reviewed by the National Park Service for possible inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

**What to see along the way:**

**Guntersville Dam**

3464 Snow Point Rd., Guntersville, Ala. 35976.

Guntersville Dam is a hydroelectric facility with four generating units boasting a net dependable capacity of 124 megawatts. Guntersville Reservoir has almost 890 miles of shoreline and 67,900 acres of water surface. Construction of Guntersville Dam began in 1935 and was completed in 1939.



*Joe Wheeler Dam near Rogersville, Ala.*

Guntersville Reservoir is located in northeast Alabama, extending 76 miles up the Tennessee River into Tennessee. The nearby town of Guntersville is named for John Gunter, an early Scottish settler and adopted member of the Cherokee tribe, who established the town the year after the end of the American Revolution.

Good fishing, clear waters and the beautiful backdrop of the wooded Appalachian foothills combine to make Guntersville one of the South's premier recreation attractions.

Crappie is the number one sport fish, usually accounting for more than half of the total catch. Bass and bluegill are also caught in large numbers. The area just below Guntersville Dam is known for its fine sauger fishing during autumn and winter, white bass in early spring and catfish during the summer.

The area below the dam offers unique opportunities for day hiking and caving. An easy one-mile loop trail leads by a cave used during the Civil War to mine saltpeter, a basic ingredient of gunpowder.

**Wheeler Dam**

24455 AL Hwy. 101, Town Creek, Ala. 35672

Wheeler Dam in northern Alabama has 11 generating units with a net dependable capacity of 361 megawatts. The reservoir helps cover the Muscle Shoals, rock formations that had blocked navigation on the Tennessee River, which means the lake level can vary only by a matter of feet from winter to summer.

Wheeler Reservoir is named for Joseph Wheeler, a general in the army of the Confederacy, leader of U.S. volunteers in the Spanish-American War and U.S. congressman. Construction of Wheeler Dam began in 1933 and was completed in 1936. It was the second dam TVA built, finished only seven months after Norris Dam in Tennessee.

Wheeler is one of nine reservoirs that create a stairway of navigable water on the Tennessee River from Knoxville, Tennessee, to Paducah, Kentucky. Wheeler, along with Wilson and Pickwick reservoirs downstream, helps cover the Muscle Shoals.

Today, Wheeler Reservoir is a major recreation and tourist center. Along with camping, boating and fishing, visitors enjoy the Wheeler National

Wildlife Refuge several miles upstream from the dam. The refuge features Alabama's only significant concentration of wintering Canada geese.

**Wilson Dam**

Visitor Center - Located off Reservation Road in Muscle Shoals, the Visitor Center is accessible year-round. Display panels near the power plant describe the struggle between private and public power interests for ownership of the Shoals facilities, which TVA acquired when the corporation was created in 1933.

Wilson Reservoir is known as the Smallmouth Capital of the World for the trophy smallmouth bass caught there. The dam, built in the neoclassical style, has 21 generating units with a net dependable capacity of 663 megawatts.

Wilson Dam is on the Tennessee River in northwest Alabama. It is the only neoclassical-style dam in the TVA system, integrating themes of ancient Roman and Greek architecture into the modern structure.

The construction of Wilson Dam began in 1918, a year after the United States entered World War I. The federal government built two nitrate plants at Muscle Shoals for the making of explosives, and Wilson Dam was constructed to supply the electricity needed to power the plants. TVA acquired Wilson Dam in 1933.

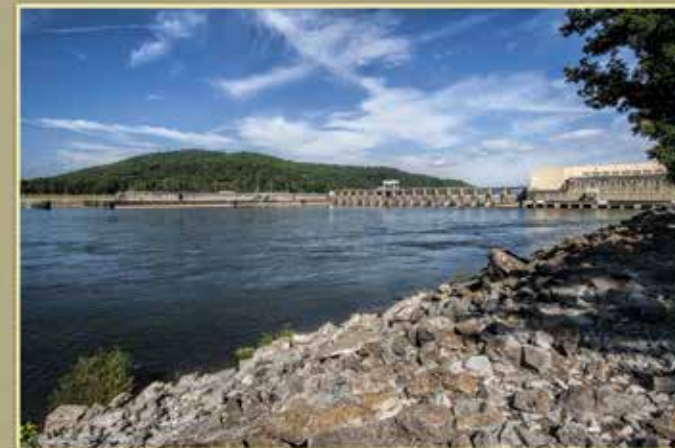
The site features a network of hiking and walking paths, including Old First Quarters Small Wild Area, named after a complex that housed engineers during Wilson's construction. Small feeder creeks run through the natural area, forming an ideal habitat for a variety of ferns, including the walking fern, a rarity in Alabama.

**Info Contacts:**

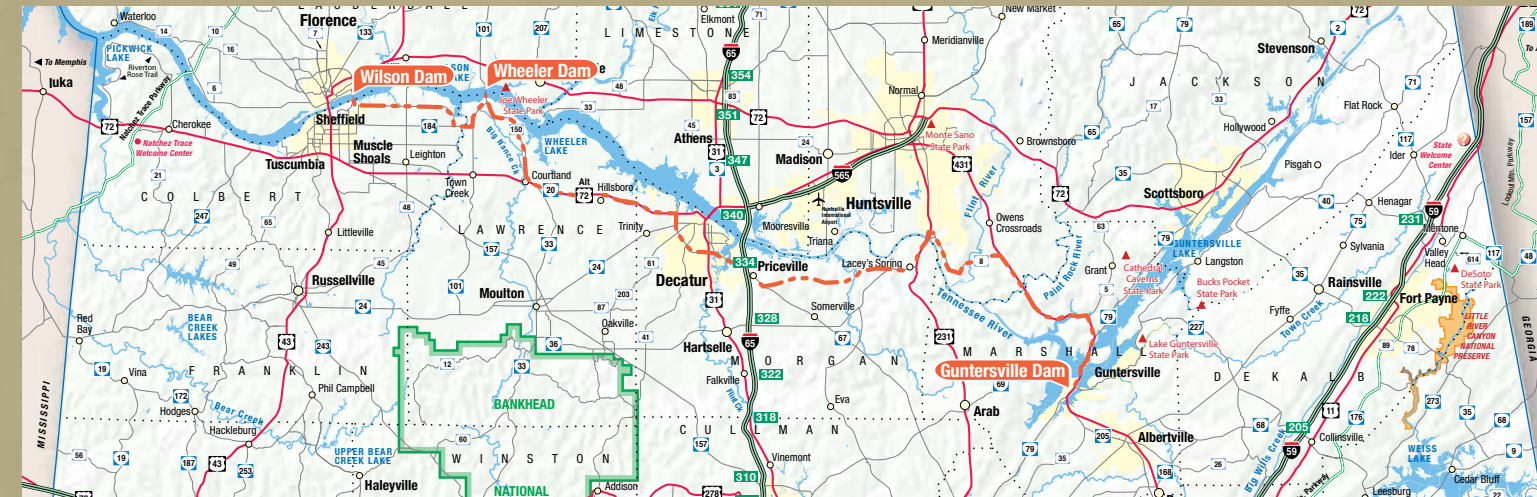
Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association  
800-648-5381; [www.NorthAlabama.org](http://www.NorthAlabama.org)



*Joe Wheeler State Park lodge near Wheeler Dam.*



*Lake Guntersville Dam in Guntersville, Ala.*



# North Alabama Wineries Route

**Start/End:** This is approximately a five hour route. While our route directions start at Jules J. Berta Winery in Albertville, Ala., you may start the route at any of the selected wineries.

**Scenery:** Overall, this drive is very scenic with eye-catching views of the rivers and lakes in the area, as well as cresting hills for breathtaking mountain views. Many areas offer canopies of gorgeous oak, hickory, ash, and elm. There's also plenty of Alabama snow and down home ranges- cotton fields, grazing pastures, tilled farmland, and other rural delights. Let's not forget the many rock walls, sweeping curves, and winding slopes one will enjoy on this delightful route.

## Road Quality and Directions:

Jules J Berta -> Will's Creek

First 3 lefts out of JJB are on rough, narrow roads. Once you make the first right, the road opens up nicely. Co Rd 4 is narrow, but nice. Co Rd 452 is more narrow, but very fun to ride with curves, slopes, and rises.

Will's Creek -> Maraella

Mostly smooth, minor rough patches. But lots of local produce stands, farmer's markets, a few gas stations. Be sure to turn right at the Little River Canyon Mouth Park sign to get onto Keener Rd, it sneaks up on you. Otherwise, roads are lovely and easy to navigate. Beautiful ride.

Maraella -> Fruithurst Winery Co.

Mostly Hwy 278, but still very scenic, smooth roads, curvy, will be gorgeous in spring and fall. Vigo Rd is a little more narrow and rough, but the views are amazing. Saw quite a few other bikers. Very curvy roads and plenty of inclines and declines. Rd connecting to 49 is a bit rough, but short. It crosses a biking trail, be sure to keep left. Co Rd 49 is a little wider at first, narrows and gets a little rough after about a mile. No shoulder, but very curvy with ups and downs. Road gets better before bridge, then a little rough after bridge. If the detour signs for bridge work are still up, ignore them. Bridge is completed. Important! If following GPS, the winery is actually 1/2 mile past where GPS claims. (Or before, if riding the other direction). Winery is clearly visible from the road.

Fruithurst Winery Co. -> High Country Cellars

65 is narrow with no shoulder, little rough, but very scenic and curvy. 78 is



*Jules J. Berta Vineyards in Albertville with autumn decorations.*



*The Fruithurst Winery in the Town of Fruithurst.*

very curvy, smooth roads, wide, multilane in places. Keep right, though, once you see the welcome to Heflin sign. Very nice route.

High Country -> White Oaks Vineyards

Short ride. Smooth, wide. Drive through Talladega National Forest. AL 9 is well paved. Dry Hollow Rd is before the bridge. For a slightly longer more wooded drive, take Iron City Road off of AL 9, then turn left onto Mandy Lane and cross back over AL 9 to Dry Hollow Rd.

## What to see along the way:

### Jules J. Berta Vineyards

We are a winery where Old World meets the Heart of Dixie! We have a heritage moving through the generations which was born through the love of a Hungarian refugee. We are all about Southern hospitality. The tasting room serves award winning wines grown from grapes in our vineyard such as Cabernet and Chardonnay, sweet muscadine wines, and locally sourced sweet fruit wines. Al fresco dining is the perfect way to try our wood fired pizza oven, charcuterie basket, and wine slushies! We can't forget to mention our mascot, an English Bulldog named Blondie. Gift shop, wine supplies, tours, tastings. Open M-Sa.

*Jules and Becky Berta*

1409 Darden Ave., Albertville, AL 35951

(256) 891-5115, [www.julesjbertavineyards.com](http://www.julesjbertavineyards.com)  
[bertavineyards@hotmail.com](mailto:bertavineyards@hotmail.com)

### Wills Creek Vineyards & Winery

Discover a tranquil world nestled in the Appalachian foothills of the Duck Springs Valley. Enjoy wine tastings from over 20 varieties of



*Wills Creek Vineyards is nestled in Duck Springs Valley in Attalla.*



*Maraella Winery & Vineyards in Hokes Bluff.*

wine. Relax on the deck or the newly enclosed and heated/AC room overlooking the vineyard and duck pond with wine by the glass or bottles, cheese and salami platters, available daily or on Saturday. Lunch is served Saturday noon until 2:00 p.m. Call the winery for the menu of the day. Winery tasting room and gift shop, home winemaker's corner and much more. Groups Welcome. M-Sa 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

*Jahn & Janie Coppey*

10522 Duck Springs Road, Attalla, AL 35954

(256) 538-5452, [willscreekwinery@gmail.com](mailto:willscreekwinery@gmail.com)

### Maraella Winery & Vineyards

Maraella is located in the picturesque foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Established in 2005, our vineyards include estate grown and bottled Cabernet Sauvignon. We promise personification of a principle to make fine wine; offerings include classic viniferous varietals and traditional Alabama fruit wines. We also offer our in house made Gourmet Wine Jellies. Our gift shop has a great selection of cheeses and wine novelties. Stop in for our friendly, informative wine and/or Jelly tasting and tours. Tasting room open M-Th 11a.m.-6 p.m., F-Sa 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

5296 Old US Hwy. 278E

Hokes Bluff, Alabama 35903

(256) 494-1000, [www.maraella.com](http://www.maraella.com), [info@maraella.com](mailto:info@maraella.com)



*Tasting room entrance at White Oak Vineyard, Anniston.*



*High Country Cellars in Heflin.*

### White Oak Vineyards

White Oak is a family owned farm winery featuring a selection of artisan wines. Come and walk through our flower gardens, sit and relax at the Koi pond. Bring a picnic basket if you would like to spend a pleasant afternoon with the owners. Muscadine Champagne, Muscadine wines, Fruit wines (peach & blueberry), and elegant dry wines (Cabernet, Norton, Chardonal, Blanc de Noir). Open Th-Fri 1-5 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Mon - Wed by appointment.

*Randal Wilson & Dana Davis*

1484 Dry Hollow Rd., Anniston, AL 36207

(256) 231-7998, [www.whiteoakal.com](http://www.whiteoakal.com)

[southernoakwines.com](http://southernoakwines.com)

### High Country Cellars

Offering 60 fine wines crafted from an assortment of fruits from around the region. Offerings include sweet wines, semi-sweet wines, dry wines, sparkling wines, and chocolate wines. Some wines are aged in charred oak barrels for those who prefer a smoky flavor. Winery open M-Sa 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Private tastings and tours available by appointment.

*Keith Roberts*

849 Almon St. (Hwy. 9), Heflin, AL 36264

(256) 463-3456, [www.highcountrycellars.com](http://www.highcountrycellars.com)

[highcountrycellarsal@gmail.com](mailto:highcountrycellarsal@gmail.com)

### The Fruithurst Winery Co.

The Fruithurst Winery is nestled just north of the town of Fruithurst, AL. Its name comes from one of the original wineries in the state. Surrounded by fifteen acres of muscadine vineyards, now owned and operated by two cousins, it carries the elegance and culture of what was then and will forever be the vineyard village. M-Sa 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

*Josh & Dylan Laminack*

27091 County Rd. 49, Fruithurst, AL 36262

(256) 463-1003, [www.thefruithurstwineryco.com](http://www.thefruithurstwineryco.com)

[thefruithurstwineryco@gmail.com](mailto:thefruithurstwineryco@gmail.com)

### Seasonal Events:

#### WINE & CHOCOLATE

Every Saturday in February

#### WINE & CHEESE

Every Saturday in June

#### WINE & PINK

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the participating wineries will have tasty wine and pink sweets. Start & finish the trail during the month of October to receive a pink stemmed North Alabama Wine Trail glass. Donations are appreciated and proceeds given to a local charity in support of Breast Cancer Awareness.

Limited Supply of Wine Trail glasses available