

## A Music Lover's Magical Mystery Tour of Alabama

The state is as famed for its Southern hospitality as it is for its inspired soundtrack.

Alabama's storied music scene has helped set the tone for some of America's most important music. From soul and jazz to rock 'n' roll and country, the region's musical roots run deep—giving rise to greatness like Hank Williams and W.C. Handy and playing host to bands like The Rolling Stones, who laid down some classics in the area's recording studios. Beyond its harmonious heritage, the heartbeat of this Southern hotspot is its live music—in roadside dives, music festivals, and arenas alike. Discover why this state is a must-stop for aficionados.

### MELODIC ORIGINS

To follow Alabama's historic beat, visit the **Alabama Music Hall of Fame** in Tuscumbia, which houses memorabilia honoring the achievements of the state's greats like Lionel Richie, Emmylou Harris, Nat King Cole, W.C.



Handy, and Hank Williams in its 12,500-square-foot exhibit hall. For a stroll down music's memory lane, hit the **Hank Williams Museum** in Montgomery, where country music's first superstar's legacy is preserved, along with his baby blue Cadillac.

### RECORDING HISTORY

The legacy of the state's signature sound was immortalized at **Fame Studio** where, beginning in the 1960s, some of music's most groundbreaking artists flocked to record with the studio's in-house band, the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section, a.k.a., "The Swampers." Later members of the band formed a second location down the road: **Muscle Shoals Sound Studio**. Tour both studios to see where legends like Aretha Franklin, The Rolling Stones, Otis Redding, and Lynyrd Skynyrd, laid their most influential tracks.

### LIVE MUSIC

There's no better way to take in Alabama's sound and glory than by experiencing its live music. From top-name touring acts to annual music festivals, there's something to strike a chord from one end of the state to the other. Check out a roadside dive like **Flora-Bama** in Orange Beach if your jam is local bands.



To catch a hot-ticket act, look over the lineup at **The Orion Amphitheater** in Huntsville. Or get on the festival circuit, with epic shows like the **Sloss Furnace Fest** in Birmingham for your fill of punk, or the **W.C. Handy Festival** in the Shoals region, if the blues is more your beat.

Visit [Alabama.travel](http://Alabama.travel) today to book a vacation that hits a high note.

Sweet Home  
**Alabama**