

Local Getaways

ONLY IN ALABAMA

Get to know the real Alabama with a visit to these three lesser known, but truly unique destinations.



Fairhope Municipal Pier

BEAUTY ON THE BAY

On Alabama’s Gulf Coast, the charming town of **Fairhope** draws locals and visitors alike with its vibrant downtown, idyllic parks, and sweeping panoramic views of Mobile Bay. The Fairhope Municipal Pier is a perfect spot to start exploring. Stroll down the quarter-mile-long pier and soak in the water views or enjoy the nearby landscaped gardens, walking trails, and duck pond. Fairhope’s historic downtown is packed with boutiques, galleries, and eateries—this is the place to indulge in fresh-from-the-boat seafood while taking in stunning sunset vistas.

HISTORY IN THE EAST

Situated alongside the university town of Auburn, **Opelika** is a wonderful place to dive into the history of southeastern Alabama. Begin your journey with a visit to the downtown Promenade where you can view beautiful historic homes and the still-operational Lee County Courthouse, an impressive neoclassical revival-style structure built in 1896. You’ll also want to explore the town’s many charming restaurants, fun breweries and distilleries, and quaint boutiques. While in the area, get a feel for the local arts scene at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, home to almost 2,500 works of art and sculpture.



Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment



Jule Collins Smith Museum

THE STAR-STUDDED NORTH

Known as “Rocket City” and home to the renowned U.S. Space & Rocket Center, **Huntsville** is northern Alabama’s star destination, with plenty to offer beyond its Race-to-the-Moon history. Take a guided walking tour of the Madison Historic District. Enjoy a concert at the stunning open-air Orion Amphitheater. Sip your way through downtown on the Craft Coffee Trail, Craft Cocktail Trail, or Craft Beer Trail. And discover America’s largest independent center for the arts, Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment, which houses 148 working studios for over 200 artists and makers.

▼ Start planning your journey to Fairhope, Opelika, and Huntsville at alabama.travel.