

A TOASTING TOUR OF ALABAMA

Head to these varied hot spots to sip on inventive cocktails, complex craft beers, and strong shots of local flavor

Throughout Alabama, bars and breweries have set the standard high with both the caliber of their libations and the atmosphere in which they're poured. Whichever area of the state you're exploring, there's a personality-filled watering hole that you won't soon forget... no matter how many delectable drinks you imbibe. Here, we visit five of the state's most singular establishments.

ACRE

Epicures will appreciate the food-forward approach to cocktails at this farm-to-table **Auburn** eatery led by James Beard Award-nominated chef David Bancroft. Case in point? The Call Me Old Fashioned—a sweet-and-savory mix of cherry juice, blood orange bitters, and ham-fat-infused bourbon (made by steeping leftover country ham in Woodford Reserve). There's a literal cherry on top—one that's been soaked in bourbon, for good measure. The figurative cherry topper is the restaurant's location, as it sits just two blocks from historic Toomer's Corner.

THE ATOMIC BAR & LOUNGE

Enter this funky **Birmingham** bar and you'll feel like you're in the 1960s, with midcentury modern furnishings and Warhol-style art all around. Expect top-notch tipples—the Atomic has been nominated for a James Beard Award twice, after all—and entertainment aplenty. There's a closet full of costumes that patrons can don throughout the evening, and Jenga and Connect Four games top tables. Don't leave without trying the Legendary Sex Panther, a flaming mix of bourbon, blackstrap rum, Cynar, demerara sugar, and bitters.

THE TIPPING POINT

With Goldfish crackers on the menu and a lush lawn dotted by umbrella-topped picnic tables, this **Montgomery** snack bar is refreshingly kid—and pup—friendly. It treats thirsty adults just as well, offering a page-long liquor list, experimental cocktails, a curated cast of wines, and more than a hundred beers, many of which are sourced from Alabama breweries. Children of all ages will enjoy the elevated bar eats, which include souped-up hot dogs (pimento cheese fans have to taste the Augusta) and both virgin and spiked cookie skillet baked to order. There's gourmet coffee, too, for capital city tourists needing a jolt.



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1. Acre's Call Me Old Fashioned. 2. The Atomic Bar & Lounge's Chase Lewis. (Photography: Rachel Roberts) 3. The Haberdasher's Bankhead Swizzle. 4. Straight to Ale's He Ain't Heffe. 5. The Tipping Point's Duchess of Hampstead.

THE HABERDASHER

Situated in the heart of downtown **Mobile**, this sophisticated establishment is credited with bringing craft libations to Alabama's Port City, kick-starting a burgeoning cocktail scene that's beloved by locals and visitors alike. Though the Hab—as regulars fondly refer to the cozy bar—is best known for its innovative spins on classic cocktails (which are as good-looking as they are good tasting), its menu of upscale pub fare will please your palate as well.

STRAIGHT TO ALE AND YELLOWHAMMER BREWING

Barhop between two of Alabama's most popular breweries, both housed in Campus 805, a middle school turned multiuse complex in **Huntsville**. Where students once studied, thirsty travelers now unwind over crisp pilsners, creamy stouts, and earthy IPAs. Once you've had your fill of brews, nosh on inventive Southern fare at one of the many restaurants on campus, hit the arcade room, or search for the speakeasy hidden behind defunct lockers.



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To find many more top-notch taverns throughout the state, visit alabama.travel/experience-alabama