The story of our great state is brimming with vibrant characters, courageous quests, daring discoveries, and many bold stands for equality and justice. While most Alabamians are well acquainted with the more famous tales, some of the unexpected facts and lesser known details often remain overlooked. The Alabama Bicentennial PastPort invites you to embark on a statewide adventure that delves into a deep discovery of the sites where state-shaping events took place. This immersive journey ties together 67 counties and 200 years of history to vividly capture the true spirit of our people and the full, fascinating story of the land we love. Join us on this adventurous, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to unlock mysteries, spark imagination, and ignite curious exploration into who we are today, how we came to be, and what we hope to become.
67 counties
7 regions
1 Alabama
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MAKE SURE TO

STAMP YOUR BOOK

Hop in your car.

See a county site.

Stamp your book.

Keep exploring.

MARION COUNTY  Fall Line Hills

Beasts, Crafts, Forgotten Past.

Long ago, the peaceful hills of Marion County were a well-traveled frontier. Early settlers bravely crossed unfamiliar territory and put down roots along ancient Indian pathways near Pikeville. Each year, locals honor the hardworking beasts that pulled their ancestors’ wagons and plowed the fields. Mule Day is celebrated every fall in streets of charming downtown Winfield. It’s a weekend filled with lively music, dancing, and parades that draw crowds from all over the Southeast. While in town, visitors can explore the Marion County Arts Trail to discover Jerry Brown’s whimsical pottery, Missey Mule’s murals, and a glorious art deco theater. Journey back in time to Pikeville for a backcountry adventure in a ghost town from the 1820s, or head three miles south of Hamilton to see ancient Indian burial mounds on the banks of the Buttsatchee River.

During the Revolutionary War, the elusive “Swamp Fox,” Francis Marion, led surprise attacks against the British. His ambushed enemy troops, slipping in and out of swamps. His patriotic acts inspired the county’s name.
The Fall Line Hills slope downward through west-central Alabama. Our region’s name comes from a geological transition in the land. Rocky hills plunge into the sandy flatlands, creating a “fall line” that meanders all the way to Georgia. Elevation drop-offs form waterfalls and rapids along local riverways. Long ago, industrialists harnessed the swift waters to power factories in Tuscaloosa and Prattville. Confederates forged weapons at iron furnaces, and Union troops targeted industrial centers. They torched the University of Alabama, leaving only a few of the buildings intact. Communities rebuilt brick by brick. Farmers planted peaches, families made pottery, cooks opened BBQ joints, and coaches built football dynasties. Today, we’re most famous for folk art festivals, rare lilies, and college football games that rule the fall.
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Autauga County is full of fiery wonders, from soulful singers to industrial powerhouses. Wilson Pickett of Prattville lit up the charts with more than 50 hits, including “In the Midnight Hour,” “Mustang Sally,” and “Land of 1,000 Dances.” His smokin’ vocals and funky dance moves ignited audiences throughout the 1960s. More than a century earlier, Daniel Pratt developed a quaint New England-style factory town on the banks of Autauga Creek. Pratt Gin Company became the world’s largest manufacturer of cotton gins, shipping products as far away as Russia and South America. Eugene Allen Smith of Washington Ferry charted new territory as the state geologist. He mapped untamed areas of Alabama while searching for mineral wealth that industrialists could develop. His field notes helped build coal, iron, and steel empires. Today, local history comes alive at the Prattaugan Museum & Archives.

Capitol Hill is the only stop on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail with three championship courses. With more than 1,500 acres of cypress swamps and rolling hills, it’s a great place to begin golfing across the state.
**Potters. Famous Folks. Whitetails.**

Lamar County was once Chickasaw territory. Covered wagons carried early settlers to the area, and new traditions took shape over the years. The clay-rich terrain attracted migrating families of potters. Alabama’s most famous folk potter, Jerry Brown, was born in Sulligent. Brown’s old-world craftsmanship won him loyal fans as well as the prestigious Alabama Folk Heritage and National Heritage awards. James Greer Bankhead, the patriarch of Alabama’s royal political family, also came from these parts, and his home is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. Lightning-fast pitcher Guy Morton was born and raised in Vernon. He was the first Alabamian to win 100 baseball games in the major leagues. Visit the Sam R. Murphy Wildlife Management Area for hunting whitetail bucks, the Lamar Theatre for live music, or antique shops for locally crafted pieces of pottery.

**Fossils. Faces. Foreigners.**

In Pickens County, the waterways are big and wide, and the roads are dusty and long. Scientists say that millions of years ago, the county belonged to a barrier reef filled with sea creatures. Today, remnants of ancient history can be discovered in local creek beds. Curious explorers can hunt for heaping piles of fossils on “Shark Tooth Creek Outdoor Adventure” tours. These exciting excursions are fun for the entire family and are not to be missed. Chilling ghost stories are also a local tradition. Travel to Carrollton to see the mysterious “Face in the Courthouse Window” made famous by beloved writer Kathryn Tucker Windham in her popular *13 Alabama Ghosts and Jeffery* book. Stories of a different sort came from across the globe. During World War II, Camp Aliceville housed nearly 6,000 German prisoners of war. Be sure to stop by the Aliceville Museum to see memorabilia from the camp.
Bill Traylor was born into slavery on a life on scraps of cardboard, objects, and color, weaving stories about life and struggle. He brought his creativity to life through art, capturing the essence of his surroundings and experiences. "Art is my life," he once said, and through his paintings, he shared the stories of the people he knew and loved.

Bernice Sims grew up near Brewton, where she marched in the civil rights movement and captured the violence she experienced firsthand. These artists turn the outsider into an artist, and Missouri folklorist Mose Tolliver famous for his showings in the Corcoran Gallery.

Kentuck Art Festival: Folk Art Festival Work
turns the Outsider into an Artist

The Museum of Folk Art, that奇点店sell paintings, is a place where art and artists are celebrated. It's a place where the story of an artist's life is told through their work, and where the art of folk artists is preserved for future generations to enjoy. So, whether you're an art lover or just curious about the world, the Museum of Folk Art is a must-visit destination. The story of these artists is one of resilience, creativity, and the power of art to transform lives.
The Bear. UA. Northport.

Tuscaloosa County is etched with monumental legacies. In 1958, former Alabama football player Paul “Bear” Bryant famously said that he “heard Momma calling” and returned to his alma mater. In his 25 years as head coach, he cemented the school as an athletic powerhouse by racking up six national titles and a record-breaking 323 wins. But football isn’t the University of Alabama’s only claim to fame. The state’s oldest public institution of higher learning is a leader in the enrollment of National Merit Scholars and boasts a long string of Pulitzer Prize connections. Students enjoy socializing in Northport, a lively city across the Black Warrior River. It was established in the early 1770s as a ford for those crossing the territory, and today, it’s one of the nation’s top 100 Small Art Towns. Visit the Alabama Museum of Natural History, or grab some ribs at the original Dreamland Bar-B-Que.

Mercedes-Benz, one of the world’s most elite automakers, manufactures vehicles in Vance. Cruise through classic autos and racecars at the Mercedes-Benz Visitor Center to learn more about its innovations.
CHILTON COUNTY Fall Line Hills


Chilton County is a little slice of heaven in the middle of Alabama. It’s a sweet spot in Alabamians’ hearts. When people say, “Meet me at the peach,” they’re talking about the giant peach water tower in Clanton. Orchards decked with thousands of juicy peaches lure crowds from all over the state. The area’s fruitful heritage dates to 1898 when Scandinavians first planted peach trees. Get a mouthwatering taste of local flavor at roadside stands or the Clanton Peach Festival. Long before there were big interstates, people passed through the area on creaking stagecoaches and roaring trains. Wealthy families escaped yellow fever epidemics by traveling to Verbena, and a stylish resort blossomed amid purple wildflower fields. Today, the Maplesville Railroad Depot is open for trips to the past, and the Confederate Memorial Park immerses guests in the country’s war-torn history.

FAYETTE COUNTY Fall Line Hills


Off the beaten path in west Alabama, there’s a little place called Fayette County. Life in these parts follows the Sipsey River’s slow and steady pace. The name comes from Marquis de Lafayette, a legendary Revolutionary War hero who was touring Alabama at the time the county was formed. Although he never visited these parts, Lafayette’s grand tour stirred up a lot of excitement all across the state. The county’s very own Jimmy Lee Sudduth made big splashes in the art world. He created colorful paints known as “sweet mud” from a mixture of backyard clay, wild plants, and sugary soft drinks. His finger paintings are famous today, but Sudduth always stayed true to his Fayette roots. See his paintings in the Fayette Art Museum, or buy a bottle of locally made Golden Eagle syrup. It has been a staple in Alabama kitchens for almost 100 years.
Rivers run free and plants grow wild in Bibb County. Rocky shoals shelter one of the world’s largest stands of Cahaba lilies and rare aquatic creatures in the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge. Every spring, thousands of white lilies burst into bloom along the river. Canoeing is one of the best ways to view the flowers up close. Within the refuge, all sorts of plants and animals thrive in a lush area known as the Bibb County Glades Preserve. It’s actually one of the most biodiverse places in the state. Visitors call it a “botanical wonder” and “lost world of species.” Botanists discovered eight unknown organisms in the glades as well as a plant once believed to be extinct. Close by, Brierfield Ironworks State Park preserves the area’s industrial heritage. Union troops destroyed the forge long ago, but rambling ruins offer interesting insights into the past.

The Cahaba River overflows with natural treasures. There are 13 species of snails that can only be found in these waters. Catch glimpses of unusual creatures in the glades, or visit the Cahaba Lily Festival in West Blocton.
**STAMP SITE LOCATIONS**

**Autauga County**
- Autauga Place
- Autaugaville

- Prat tuaugaun Museum & Archives, Heritage Center
  - Prattville

**Bibb County**
- Miller’s Pottery
  - Brent

- Brierfield Ironworks Historic State Park
  - Brierfield

**Chilton County**
- Confederate Memorial Park
  - Marbury

- Maplesville Railroad Depot
  - Maplesville

**Fayette County**
- Fayette Civic Center
  - Fayette

- Fayette Depot Museum
  - Fayette

- Golden Eagle Syrup
  - Fayette

**Lamar County**
- Clearman House
  - Sulligent

- Moore-Hill House
  - Sulligent

- Local History Room and Museum, Vernon City Complex
  - Vernon

**Marion County**
- Jerry Brown Pottery
  - Hamilton

**Pickens County**
- Tom Bevill Visitor Center and Snagboat Montgomery Historic State Park
  - Carrollton

- Aliceville Museum
  - Aliceville

**Tuscaloosa County**
- Battle-Friedman House
  - Tuscaloosa

- Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion
  - Tuscaloosa

- The Historic Drish House
  - Tuscaloosa

**Alabama Museum of Natural History**
- Tuscaloosa

**Gorgas House Museum**
- Tuscaloosa

**Murphy African American Museum**
- Tuscaloosa

**The Old Tavern Museum**
- Tuscaloosa

**Tuscaloosa Transportation Museum**
- Tuscaloosa

**Mercedes-Benz Visitor Center**
- Vance

**Pickens County**
- Tom Bevill Visitor Center and Snagboat Montgomery Historic State Park
  - Carrollton

**Tuscaloosa County**
- Capitol Park
  - Tuscaloosa

Discover more stamp sites on the PastPort app. Download it to your mobile device to find more information for your cross-county adventures in Alabama.
THE ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION is pleased to bring you the Alabama Bicentennial PastPort. It is a once-in-a-lifetime gift to the students and citizens of our state. Many thanks to our corporate sponsors – Mercedes-Benz, Verizon, Airbus, and Alabama NewsCenter – for their tremendous generosity and support and to the institutions and individuals who have graciously granted access to historical images and artwork used throughout the piece. For a full list of contributors, please visit the Alabama PastPort app.

Happy exploring!