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, Missy Miller’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 ambush of enemy troops, slipping in and out of swamps, inspired the county’s name.

In Alabama, a Pastport, Marion City, bicentennial.
The Piney Woods envelop tangled forests, cypress swamps, and emerald waters. In the 1500s, Spanish explorers sailed around our barrier islands and bays. Nearly two centuries later, the French came ashore and founded the first European settlement. English naturalist William Bartram traveled wild rivers, and Spanish troops joined the American colonies’ fight for freedom. The War of 1812 shattered foreign rule, and the United States seized Mobile. Forts guarded the territory as new settlements spread. Civil War battles sizzled on the Gulf Coast, and great ships sank to the ocean’s floor. Everything from shell mounds and oyster beds to lazy gators and playful dolphins are a part of this enchanting land. Discover the magic of our colorful gardens, small towns, and white sand beaches.
After years of blending into dominant culture, the Poarch Creek are reviving old traditions. There has been a resurgence of tribal language, culture, and art among their people. Be sure to visit their annual Thanksgiving Pow Wow.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY Piney Woods

Outlaws. Burnt Corn. Poarch Creek.

In the late 1800s, gunslingers and train robbers ruled the railroads of Escambia County. One of the South’s most infamous train robberies went down near Pollard. Rube Barrow single-handedly brought a train to a screeching halt over Big Escambia Creek. He made a daring escape, but later died in a fiery shootout with lawmen. Over in Brewton, outlaw Railroad Bill inspired larger-than-life tales with his train-hopping exploits. Gunfights, train heists, and miraculous escapes all shaped his legendary character. Bounty hunters finally chased him down in local swamplands. Decades earlier, militiamen ambushed a group of Red Sticks at a crossing in Burnt Corn Creek. The fight escalated tensions on the frontier and led to the pivotal attack on Fort Mims. Today, the state’s only federally recognized tribe lives on the Poarch Creek Indian Reservation near Atmore.
**Washington County**  
Winey Woods

Washington County was carved from the Mississippi Territory years before Alabama became a state. In 1799, the Spanish surrendered their army fort on the Tombigbee River to the United States, and the new nation’s flag flew over Alabama soil for the first time. The fort was renamed St. Stephens, and in 1817, this frontier community became the capital of the Alabama Territory. As the most populated Alabama settlement, the town enjoyed a brief period of bustling political and social activity. Not far away, lawmen chased down former Vice President Aaron Burr, who was wanted for treason. The thrilling manhunt ended with his arrest. On the Mobile and Washington County line, Choctaw Indians narrowly escaped removal by hiding deep in the forest. Their descendants are the MOWA tribe of Choctaw Indians. Visit the MOWA Cultural Center or St. Stephens Historical Park.

**Choctaw County**  
Winey Woods

Choctaw County is a rugged place where resilient characters and exotic creatures thrive. World-famous millionaire H.L. Hunt struck oil deep in the backwoods of Gilbertown in the 1940s. His discovery fueled the early oil industry of south Alabama. This timber-rich region is prized for natural resources and a remote wildlife refuge teeming with countless species of birds, fish, and wild animals. Fishing for “blue cats” in the bayous and bottomlands of the Tombigbee River is a favorite hobby, but the greatest local treasure remains a secret to most people. In the 1890s, a fossil hunter uncovered the skeletal remains of a giant prehistoric whale. Scientists pieced together the fossil and put the mighty Basilosaurus on display at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Explore local wonders today at the Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge or the Old Naheola Bridge.
CONECUGH COUNTY Piney Woods


Conceuh County is hog heaven for hungry explorers and bold adventurers. Every year, BBQ kings bring the heat and smoke out the competition at the Conecuh Sausage Festival in Evergreen. This area is famous for its mouthwatering meats, but it also has some juicy stories to tell. Millions of years ago, sharks prowled the ocean waters that covered southern Alabama. Today, the Sepulga River is one of the world’s best places to look for shark teeth. But treasure hunters beware. Gators guard the shallows, so watch out for their big toothy grins. Locals tell tales of troves of gold and gems hidden nearby in Turk’s Cave. This underground hideout was once a favorite spot for slippery thieves and shady characters. The cave is too dangerous to explore today, but curious visitors can still travel back in time at the Brown Hawkins Rural Learning Center. It immerses students of every age in 19th-century farm life.

The Old Paul Post Office sends visitors back to the days when locals gathered on the front porch to exchange the latest news and gossip. Stop by to see the tiny structure that has stood for more than 100 years.
Mobile is the state’s only deep-water port. All kinds of vessels, from cotton barges to pirate ships, set sail on long voyages from the bay. Today, the USS ALABAMA, a World War II battleship, is open for tours.

MOBILE COUNTY
Piney Woods


Mobile County is filled with shipwreck tales, centuries-old traditions, and a royal legacy made up of masked revelers and baseball champions. Mobile is home to America’s first Mardi Gras celebration. In the early 1700s, French colonists brought this old holiday to the New World, and people formed secret mystic societies. Today, Mardi Gras kings and queens preside over lavish balls, and elaborate floats parade through town. The city’s French influence dates to 1699 when explorers landed on Dauphin Island. The Le Moyne brothers, Iberville and Bienville, founded the first capital of French Louisiana nearby at Fort Louis. Much later, baseball superstar Hank Aaron grew up in Mobile. Today, he is honored in the National Baseball Hall of Fame along with local legend Satchel Paige. Visit the Hank Aaron Childhood Home and Museum, or see what’s in bloom at Bellingrath Gardens and Home.
Good stories spread fast in the South, but the classic bestsellers of Monroe County’s literary legends captivated the world. Harper Lee and Truman Capote grew up together in Monroeville and stayed close friends throughout their writing careers. Lee won a Pulitzer Prize for her social justice novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Later, Lee investigated real-life crimes alongside Capote for his bestselling book *In Cold Blood*. Their legacy, along with that of other Alabama authors, endures in Monroeville, which has been dubbed the “Literary Capital of Alabama.” But long before Alabamians wrote acclaimed novels, settlers told sensational tales of their travels on the Old Federal Road. Thousands passed through Burnt Corn, a tiny speck of a town, on their way west. Retrace their journey at local historical markers, or visit the William B. Travis House where the famous Alamo hero used to live.

Every year, world travelers trickle into Monroeville to tour the town’s 1903 courthouse made famous by *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Explore the Monroe County Museum inside or see the Mockingbird Players put on a show.
Baldwin County weathers every storm with grace and grit. The Emerald Coast welcomed early explorers, sank enemy ships, and recovered from tragic oil spills. For centuries, nations battled for control over the land, but none of these conflicts were as consequential as the massacre at Fort Mims. William Weatherford led Red Stick warriors in a surprise attack on settlers, killing 250 people. It triggered U.S. entry in the Creek War and ultimately led to statehood for Alabama. Years later, Fort Morgan stood guard over Mobile Bay while Civil War gunboats clashed on open waters. Explore the forts, or enjoy a breezy getaway to Fairhope, Alabama’s dreamy, single-tax colony. Upstream in Daphne, people go wild when thousands of fish wash ashore during a natural event known as a “Jubilee.” Feast on big, heaping seafood platters, or lounge on the white sand beaches of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach.

Clarke County


Once a center of deadly conflicts, Clarke County is now a quaint, woodsy sanctuary. Indian nations and settlers faced off in many skirmishes over the years. The most famous of all was a hand-to-hand fight between the Red Sticks and Sam Dale’s militiamen in canoes. The legendary fight lives on in history books and local lore. Famous storyteller Kathryn Tucker Windham grew up nearby in Thomasville. She spun spooky stories in 13 Alabama Ghosts and Jeffrey and captured countless other folk tales. Another intriguing legacy is the “death masks” of Isaac Nettles. He sculpted clay masks of loved ones and decorated their graves in Mt. Nebo with his unique art. Step back to the days of the early pioneers and Native Americans of southwest Alabama at the Clarke County Historical Museum in downtown Grove Hill, or visit the Kathryn Tucker Windham Museum in Thomasville.
Greetings from the Gulf

“LAND OF SUGAR SANDS”
Hank’s hillbilly tunes won fans in every musical genre. Each June, the King of Country’s world-famous legacy is celebrated at the Hank Williams Festival held on the grounds of his boyhood home and museum.

Butler County is famous for country songs, lavish blooms, and sprawling greens. It is the birthplace of country music’s first superstar, Hank Williams. At the age of eight, he received a guitar for Christmas and learned to play from an African American street singer named Rufus Payne. Hank made his radio debut at 13 and grew up to become one of the most popular singer-songwriters ever known. Greenville is also famous for its colorful collection of camellias. In 1937, a city newspaper printed “The Camellia City” on its masthead, and the signature stuck. Today, home gardens overflow with camellia blossoms, and visitors come from all over to see the explosion of pink, white, and red. And golfers flock to Greenville to play at Cambrian Ridge, a Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail stop that has been ranked a top public course by Golf Digest.
Piney Woods

Stamp Site Locations

Baldwin County
Fort Morgan State Historic Site
Gulf Shores
Swift-Coles Historic Home
Bon Secour
Baldwin County Heritage Museum
Elberta
Fairhope Museum of History
Fairhope
Foley Railroad Museum
Foley
Historic Blakeley State Park
Spanish Fort

Butler County
Greenville Railroad Depot
Greenville
Hank Williams, Sr. Boyhood Home and Museum
Georgiana

Choctaw County
Choctaw County Historical Museum
Gilbertown

Clarke County
Thomasville Sports Hall of Fame
Thomasville
Clarke County Historical Museum
Grove Hill
Kathryn Tucker Windham Museum
Thomasville

Mobile County
Brown Hawkins Rural Learning Center
Evergreen
Booker’s Mill
Evergreen

Escambia County
Thomas E. McMillan Museum and Alabama Room
Brewton
Poarch Band of Creek Indians Museum
Atmore

Mobile County
Bellingrath Gardens and Home
Theodore
Mobile Medical Museum
Mobile
Historic Fort Gaines
Dauphin Island
USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park
Mobile
Hank Aaron Childhood Home and Museum
Mobile
South Alabama Archaeology Museum
Mobile
Historic Oakleigh
Mobile
The History Museum of Mobile
Mobile

Mobile Carnival Museum
Mobile
MOWA Choctaw Cultural Center
Mount Vernon
National African American Archives and Museum
Mobile
Richards DAR House Museum
Mobile

Monroe County
Veterans Memorial Park
Monroeville
Monroe County Museum
Monroeville
Rikard’s Mill Historical Park
Beatrice

Washington County
St. Stephens Historical Park
St. Stephens
Washington County Museum
Chatom

Butler County
Ritz Theatre
Greenville

Choctaw County
Old Naheola Bridge
Pennington
Wilson’s Grist Mill and Broadhead Memorial Park
Needham

Clarke County
Kimbell House
Jackson

Conécuh County
The Old Paul Post Office
Paul

Conécuh County
Brown Hawkins Rural Learning Center
Evergreen
Booker’s Mill
Evergreen

Monroe County
Veterans Memorial Park
Monroeville
Monroe County Museum
Monroeville
Rikard’s Mill Historical Park
Beatrice

Washington County
St. Stephens Historical Park
St. Stephens

Other Sites to See

Baldwin County
Removal of the County Seat Mural
Bay Minette

Butler County
Ritz Theatre
Greenville

Choctaw County
Old Naheola Bridge
Pennington
Wilson’s Grist Mill and Broadhead Memorial Park
Needham

Clarke County
Kimbell House
Jackson

Conécuh County
The Old Paul Post Office
Paul

Monroe County
William B. Travis House
Perdue Hill

Washington County
Old St. Stephens Courthouse
St. Stephens

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!