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
Make sure to
Stamp your book.

Hop in your car.
See a county site.
Stamp your book.
Keep exploring.
The Wiregrass sweeps across southwest Georgia and a small pocket of southeast Alabama. Curious wildlife and colorful traditions flourish here. Fields of peanuts stretch for miles, and small towns host charming festivals. Long ago, longleaf pine forests and savannas of tall grass covered the land. Native Americans set fire to the land, and the wiry grass always came back stronger. When settlers and loggers transformed the landscape with new agriculture industries, the native wiregrass disappeared for good. Plantations dotted river bluffs, and steamboats carried cotton bales. Governors blazed trails to the Capitol while musicians pioneered soul-stirring blues. Our spirited history weaves together Civil War ghost stories, folklore, and heroic tales into a vibrant tapestry unlike any other.
Covington County is a sanctuary for wild plants and animals. Roads snake through longleaf pines to the Rattlesnake Rodeo in Opp. It’s a good ole time with food, music, and rattlesnake races. For more than 50 years, the festival has lured folks into this neck of the woods for some Southern fried fun. In the Conecuh National Forest, trails meander past cypress trees and sinkhole ponds. Hikers can catch glimpses of red-cockaded woodpeckers, gopher frogs, and armadillos. Visit the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center to learn about longleaf pines native to the area, or take a dip in Lake Jackson’s shimmering waters. Feisty little “shellcracker” fish dart through its marshy beds, grazing on snails and other shelled snacks. Up the road in Andalusia is the birthplace of a curious flying machine. See a historic photo of Jesse Dixon’s soaring helicopter car at the Three Notch Museum.

Jesse Dixon was an inventor who was fascinated with flight. In 1941, he had an idea that really took off. After a few years of designing, building, and tweaking, his “Flying Ginny” finally lifted from the ground.
The Wiregrass Region once rivaled the diversity of rainforests. Today, our lands still teem with exotic creatures like indigo snakes, gopher turtles, little grass frogs, and American gators.
In Geneva County, roots grow deep and hold fast. The beloved Constitution Oak watches over the area from the banks of the Pea and Choctawhatchee Rivers. The tree is older than the nation and has seen everything from the days of Spanish rule to the sinking of a Civil War steamboat. It has stood strong in the midst of floods and other natural disasters. The character of this place is built on trials and triumph. The territory once brimmed with longleaf pines and spindly grass, but a feverish quest for land led early settlers to clear-cut forests and plant rows and rows of crops. Miles of luscious sugar cane meadows inspired early farmers to invent new ways of harvesting gallon after gallon of sugary syrup. The area is sweet and ripe for exploration today. See the stunning live oak in Fowler Park, raft down coastal rivers, or sample juicy tomatoes every summer at the Tomato Festival in Slocomb.

The Constitution Oak grows in the town of Geneva and is believed to be the oldest and largest live oak in the state. Generations of citizens have gathered in the shade of its sprawling limbs through times of war and celebration.
Coffee County overflows with inspiring and spirited stories. Over a century ago, swarms of tiny insects called boll weevils wiped out most of the cotton crops. But a brilliant scientist, George Washington Carver, helped the county overcome. His revolutionary research persuaded farmers to plant peanuts in place of cotton. Within a few years, Coffee County grew more peanuts than any other county in the nation. Nearly a decade later, an international celebrity was born. Zig Ziglar came from humble roots, but his motivational spirit inspired the world. His famous speeches and bestselling books live on, as does the legend of a toe-tapping ghost. Some say that the sounds of dancing feet and fiddles drift through the night at Harrison Cemetery in Kinston. Today, families can visit the iconic Boll Weevil Monument in downtown Enterprise or enjoy canoeing on the Pea River.

Houston County is a comeback kind of place. After hordes of hungry insects gobbled up cotton, farmers planted peanuts, and business began to boom. That’s how this area became known as the “Peanut Capital of the World.” A decade earlier, another cotton-related conflict cropped up. Lawmakers passed a tax on traveling cotton wagons. Some farmers thought it was unfair, and they refused to pay. A gunfight broke out in downtown Dothan, killing several men. It was like a scene in an old Western movie. And this place should know. Johnny Mack Brown, a famous film star who made more than 60 westerns, was born and raised here. Modern-day adventure seekers can see historic events play out on Dothan’s mural tour or at a 135-acre living-history farmstead, Landmark Park. Visit the National Peanut Festival in the fall or the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens in the spring.
Crenshaw County is known for its warm hospitality and big-hearted celebrations. Each year, the quiet city of Luverne explodes with activity when the town hosts the World’s Largest Peanut Boil. The event benefits children’s charities and brings together thousands of locals and visitors to crack open 25 steaming tons of freshly boiled peanuts. In the county’s early days, rocky soil made it difficult for farmers to make a living. So they turned their focus to timbering pine. With the completion of new railroads in the early 1900s, mills shipped lumber with ease, and the area enjoyed an economic boom. Today, the land maintains its well-traveled reputation. Drive through Luverne to see hand-painted murals that honor the city’s Pepsi-bottling heritage. Then move on down the road to Brantley, a quaint historic town that’s recognized by many Alabamians as a welcoming gateway to the beach.

Brantley lives up to its nickname: the “Front Porch Capital of the South.” Motorists passing through can travel streets lined with charming old homes, antique stores, and shops that sell Southern-made arts and crafts.
Barbour County is a river region with mighty strong political undercurrents. From the swampy wetlands, six local men rose to power and forever changed the state. Follow their stories on the Governors’ Trail, which winds through the woodlands of Clio to the Chattahoochee’s bluffs in Eufaula. Here, antebellum mansions still stand, much like they did in the days when cotton was king. Steamboats carried cotton to world markets and returned with luxury furnishings from fashionable cities in the North. Today, visitors can cruise down plantation drives where wraparound porches and tall glasses of sweet tea set the scene. Fishermen can spot huge gators sunbathing on the banks of Lake Eufaula while reeling in their catch. Years ago, local legend Tom Mann lured in Leroy Brown, a small bass who charmed the world. Visit the monument to the famous fish in downtown Eufaula.

The city of Eufaula’s rise as a prominent trading center began in the early 1830s. At times, more than 200 steamboats traveled along the Chattahoochee, transporting thousands of bales of locally grown cotton.
HENRY COUNTY  Wiregrass

**Frontiers. Plantations. Freedom Fighters.**

Henry County’s history spans centuries of exciting and radical breakthroughs. Named after Revolutionary War hero Patrick Henry, it’s no surprise that the county’s founders led the charge to a new frontier. Their travels opened a gateway to southeast Alabama. Brave settlers crossed the Chattahoochee River on log ferries and built towns that predate Alabama’s statehood. The river flowed with rich opportunities, and wealthy landowners built elegant plantations along its shores. Riverboat passengers marveled at the “Showplace of the South,” a splendid, three-story mansion in Shorterville. Not far down the road, Rosa Parks tirelessly fought for justice in Abbeville. The case of Recy Taylor launched Parks’ career as a courageous freedom fighter. Today, visitors can enjoy spooky tales and friendly ghost stories in the Old Pioneer City Cemetery on Yatta Abba Day.

PIKE COUNTY  Wiregrass

**Roads. Roots. Revival.**

The story of Pike County traces back to the making of state roads and pioneering paths. Indian hunting trails paved the way for the Three Notch Road, an early trade and military route that connected Troy to the frontier. It was part of a network of roads that helped shape the state. Treasures bring local heritage to life at the Pike Pioneer Museum of Alabama. But nothing quite captures the area’s early days like the Brundidge Peanut Butter Festival. Every year, locals celebrate the county’s role in launching the peanut butter industry by making Alabama’s largest peanut butter and jelly sandwich. History spills from every corner of Pike County, but Troy University and the arts propel this region forward. The Johnson Center for the Arts showcases Alabama artists, while the Pike Piddlers Storytelling Festival welcomes top storytellers to center stage.
Alabama harvests more than 400 million pounds of peanuts a year. That’s over eight hundred eighty-eight times as heavy as the Statue of Liberty.
Dale County is steeped in soulful songs, military missions, and heroic stories. Willie Mae “Big Mama” Thornton was born in Ariton. Her original songs “Hound Dog” and “Ball & Chain” inspired Elvis Presley and Janis Joplin, but their big-time fame would quickly overshadow her popularity. Other local characters went to great lengths to stay out of the spotlight. Lt. Joseph Sanders and his gang of Confederate deserters devised a plan to destroy all court records of their mutiny, but brave locals ambushed the men in the night before they could burn down the county’s courthouse. Patriotism runs deep in this area. Fort Rucker is Alabama’s largest military base. It served as an infantry training camp during World War II. Today, it’s an aviation hotspot where visitors can learn about flying at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum, or watch as helicopters fly over Lake Tholocco.

Big Mama played on the Chitlin Circuit, a string of juke joints across the country where African American entertainers made it big. On these musical trails, she and many others paved the road to rock ‘n’ roll.
STAMP SITE LOCATIONS

Barbour County
Fendall Hall
Eufaula
Shorter Mansion
Eufaula

Coffee County
Pea River Historical Society
Depot Museum
Enterprise

Covington County
Springdale Estate
Andalusia
Three Notch Museum
Andalusia

Crenshaw County
Brantley Public Library
Brantley
Louverne Public Library
Louverne
F.M. Douglass House
Louverne

Dale County
U.S. Army Aviation Museum
Fort Rucker

Geneva County
Emma Knox Kenan Library
Geneva

Henry County
Abbeville Memorial Library
Abbeville

Houston County
George Washington Carver Interpretive Museum
Dothan
Landmark Park
Dothan

Pike County
Johnson Center for the Cultural Arts
Troy
Pioneer Museum of Alabama
Troy

OTHER SITES TO SEE

Coffee County
Boll Weevil Monument
Enterprise
The Huey Helicopter and Wall of Freedom
Enterprise

Crenshaw County
Brantley Hitching Post
Brantley

Highland Home College
Louverne
The Flowing Well
Glenwood

Dale County
Carillon and Bell Tower
Ozark
J.D. Holman House
Ozark

Geneva County
Constitution Oak Tree
in Fowler Park
Geneva

Henry County
Headland Public Square
Headland
Abbeville Old Pioneer
City Cemetery
Abbeville

Houston County
Peanut Monument
Dothan
Dothan Murals
Dothan
Alabama War Museum
Madison

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Happy exploring!