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## “African American Heritage” Huntsville, Alabama

### Sample Itinerary

#### **Day 1**

2-3:30 p.m.

#### **OUR NATION'S MILITARY HERITAGE**

The Veterans Memorial Museum is a unique venue displaying more than 30 historical military vehicles from World War I to the present, as well as tableaus, artifacts, and other memorabilia dating back to the Revolutionary War. Learn about history based on the museum's collection of unique 'one of a kind' vehicles, representative weapons, radios, uniforms and personal gear. Veteran volunteers will present fascinating first-hand accounts of America's most significant historic moments. The museum is dedicated to promoting the accomplishments of American military men and women.

Visit online at [www.memorialmuseum.org](http://www.memorialmuseum.org)

4-5 p.m.

Check into hotel.

5:30-6:45 p.m.

#### **WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION**

Located in the Imhotep Cultural Arts Center, the Imhotep Art Gallery features one of the largest collections of African art in the Southeast. Before dinner enjoy wine and cheese as you view artwork featuring local and regional artists.

7:15 p.m.

Enjoy dinner at one of Huntsville's unique dining establishments.

#### **Day 2:**

Breakfast at hotel

8:30-11:30 a.m.

#### **ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY TOUR**

In 1873 the state legislature established **Alabama A&M University** for the education of African American teachers. It opened on May 1, 1875 as the Huntsville Normal School. The first principal and president was William Hooper Council, an ex-slave. Today the school offers bachelors and masters degree's along with other professional programs. The original campus is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. While visiting the campus tour the **State Black Archives Research Center and Museum**, which serves as a repository for material, documents and artifacts of the African American experience in Alabama from its earliest day to present. Permanent and rotating exhibits.

Visit online at [www.aamu.edu](http://www.aamu.edu)

12-5 p.m.

#### **BLAST OFF IN 3, 2, 1...**

For just a moment, imagine you're an astronaut getting ready to board the Space Shuttle. It's your first flight. How are you feeling at this very moment? Are you nervous? Anxious? Scared? Excited? If you're like me, your adrenaline is pumping. These feelings and much more can be experienced at the **U.S. Space & Rocket Center**. Whether you're exploring the history of space exploration, taking a virtual journey inside a motion-

based simulator, or experiencing three times the tug of gravity inside the centrifuge, you're sure to have an out of this world experience! Box lunch available.

Visit online at [www.spacecamp.com/museum](http://www.spacecamp.com/museum)

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Return to Hotel. Enjoy some rest and relaxation before dinner.

7 p.m.

### **THE CIVIL WAR**

Built in 1860, the **Historic Huntsville Depot** served as a war hospital and quarters for black and white Union soldiers. Later the depot was used as a major shipping point for the regional cotton industry. Experience Huntsville's history as you hear tales of the depot during the Civil War.

Enjoy a favorite southern meal during your visit...Barbeque and Beans!

Visit online at [www.earlyworks.com](http://www.earlyworks.com)

## **Day 3**

Breakfast at the Hotel

8:15-11 a.m.

### **AFTER FREEDOM - A NEW BEGINNING**

A driving tour will take you on a journey through Huntsville's African American Heritage. Seeing several historical sites including the **Old Georgia Cemetery**, the burial grounds of early Huntsville slaves and a former site where church services were held by slave Bartley Harris; **Big Spring Park**, where hundreds of people were baptized by Rev. Harris before his death in the late 1800s; **Cavalry Hill**, the site where members of the 9th and 10th Cavalry, known as the Buffalo Soldiers, camped while recovering from malaria immediately following the Spanish-American War; **St. Bartley's Primitive Baptist Church**, the mother church of African-American Primitive Baptist Churches in Alabama; **Historic Glenwood Cemetery**, where early African-American pioneers are buried; and the **Historic Home of Maria Howard Weeden**, an artist who became famous for her paintings of former slaves. (Step-on-guide)

11:15 a.m.-1 p.m.

### **ALABAMA'S BIRTHPLACE**

**Alabama Constitution Village** dates back to 1819 and is the actual site where forty-four delegates gathered to forge the way for Alabama's Statehood. More than eight carefully reconstructed buildings of the 1800's depict early lifestyles in Alabama, including that of African American settlers who became skilled craftspeople. View demonstrations of blacksmithing, cabinetmaking, tinsmithing, spinning and weaving. Box lunch available.

Visit online at [www.earlyworks.com](http://www.earlyworks.com)

1:30-3:30 p.m.

### **ONCE A SLAVE PLANTATION**

Oakwood College began as an industrial school and was founded by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1896 to educate African-Americans in the South. The first building built on the campus replaced the nine slave huts which housed the first eight male students who enrolled on the opening day of school. Dred Scott, the plaintiff in the famous Scott v. Sanford case, was brought to Huntsville in 1858 to live on the grounds of what is now Oakwood College. A slave, he sued for freedom, because he had been transported from Illinois and the Wisconsin Territory, both of which barred slavery. Visit the **Oakwood College Archives and Museum** to hear the story of Dred Scott, the Take 6 Group and others. View unique collections of artifacts,

biographies, documents, manuscripts, and historical records about the history of Oakwood College and Huntsville.

Visit online at [www.oakwood.edu](http://www.oakwood.edu)

4-5 p.m.

#### **WHAT'S GROWING ON?**

There is always something 'growing' on at the **Huntsville Botanical Garden**. Discover the 100+ year old dogwood tree on your guided tour through the garden. Enjoy the Nature Center and Children's Garden complex, the largest seasonal butterfly house in the nation, where brightly colored butterflies live in their natural habitat, turtles sun themselves on rocks, frogs croak, and the rush of a waterfall takes you to a place of serenity.

Visit online at [www.hsvbg.org](http://www.hsvbg.org)

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Return to the hotel for some rest and relaxation before dinner.

7-9 p.m.

#### **SHADOWS ON THE WALL: MARIA HOWARD WEEDEN**

Dr. Burritt built his mansion, **Burritt on the Mountain**, in the early 1930's and several log houses have been moved to the site and restored. Tour the Burritt museum; enjoy dinner and a dramatic presentation of scenes illustrating the story and brilliant career of one of Huntsville's most important and talented citizens. An artist and writer, Weeden's life story is told through her interactions with Mammy, one of Weeden's most enduring subjects. The play unfolds to include a composite life of her long time mammy, as well as Weeden's career.

Visit online at [www.burritonthemountain.com](http://www.burritonthemountain.com)

Book your  
"African American Heritage"  
tour TODAY!