



Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau

“Antebellum to Antigravity Experience”

Huntsville, Alabama

Sample Itinerary

Day 1:

Arrive in Huntsville. Prepare to be **“SPACE NAPPED.”** Representatives from the Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau will greet your group at a predetermined location where your driver will stop for them to board the motorcoach under the pretense of “kidnapping” your group (of course with fun as they know who we are). The group will be taken to our Visitor Center for a special welcome.

2-5 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 the U.S. Space program, taking a virtual journey inside a motion-based simulator or experiencing three times the pull of gravity inside the centrifuge, you’re sure to have an out of this world experience! Visit online at www.spacecamp.com/museum

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Check into your hotel. Enjoy some rest and relaxation before dinner.

7 p.m.

PHANTOMS OF THE DEPOT

Up the creaking steps and down the shadowy hall of the Depot... learn about the history of this original 1860s building, its role in the Civil War and the townsfolk who walked the Depot floors. Hear about sightings and actual readings taken by trained paranormal experts. Perhaps you too will see evidence of the supernatural as you experience a ghostly lantern-lit tour of one of the nation’s oldest remaining railroad structures, the **Historic Huntsville Depot**. Enjoy a spirited dinner served in the lobby of the Depot. Visit online at www.earlyworks.com

Day 2:

Breakfast at the hotel

8:15 -9:15 a.m.

THE PAST PRESERVED FOR THE FUTURE

Listen to and enjoy intriguing stories told about the early merchants, bankers and attorneys who built the fashionable brick homes in the **Twickenham Historic District**, Alabama’s largest district of antebellum homes. Many of the homes were seized by the Union Army during the Civil War from 1862-1865. (Step-on guide or themed walking tours)

9:30-10:30 a.m.

THE HISTORIC WEEDEN HOUSE MUSEUM

Built in 1819, the **Weeden House** was home to the 19th century poet and artist, Maria Howard Weeden. This white, two-story brick house, located in the Twickenham Historic District, is distinguished by a remarkable leaded glass fanlight over the front door. Learn how Maria Howard Weeden used literature, architecture, language, tradition and values to contribute to the development and transmission of culture. View Weeden's exquisite portraits and learn how she captured the spirit of her models. Visit online at

www.weedenhousemuseum.com

10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

HUNTSVILLE MUSEUM OF ART and Lunch at Pan e Vino

Named as one of the state's "Top 10" destinations by the Alabama Tourism Department, the nationally accredited museum fills its 13 galleries with a variety of exhibitions throughout the year, including prestigious traveling exhibits and the work of nationally and regionally acclaimed artists. The museum's own permanent collection of more than 2,500 pieces forms the basis for several exhibitions each year. In addition to its exhibitions, the Museum offers art classes for children and adults along with special programs, lectures, and musical presentations that add extra dimensions to the art work on display. Docent lead tours are available to enhance your group's experience. Outside and surrounding the museum, are pieces of public art that are part of our city-wide **SPACES**, Sculpture Trail. The Trail consists of 28 pieces, 3 permanent and 25 that will change biannually.

Pan e Vino is located on the first floor of the museum and offers indoor and outdoor seating overlooking the lagoon on **Big Spring International Park**. Pan e Vino offers delicious, Italian-inspired dishes.

1:00-2:00 p.m.

ALABAMA'S BIRTHPLACE

Hear the whir of the spinning wheel...smell the enticing aroma of freshly baked bread being prepared over an open fire...turn the great wheel lathe in the cabinetmaker's shop...and visit with villagers busy with their daily tasks, seemingly unaware that nearly two centuries have come and gone. **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. Become a part of Alabama's history as villagers dressed in period clothing take you through eight reconstructed Federal style buildings.

Visit online at www.earlyworks.com

Stroll around the corner.

2:15-3:30 p.m.

HARRISON BROTHERS HARDWARE

Harrison Brothers is the oldest continuously operating hardware store in Alabama. Founded in 1879 by brothers James and Daniel Harrison as a tobacco store on Jefferson Street, the business was moved to its present location in 1897. Harrison Brothers is more than a glimpse of old Huntsville. It is a shopper's delight. Cotton throws, colorful tins, marbles by the scoop, cast iron cookware and oak rocking chairs share space with garden gadgets, bird feeders and whirly-gigs. Goods nestled up high are reached from tall rolling ladders, the rope elevator is hand operated, and a pot-bellied stove helps warm the store in the winter. Nearby, a tall desk displays an untidy mound of old invoices, catalogs and calendars, just as the last Harrison brother left it. When you are searching for a souvenir to take home or just browsing, Harrison Brothers is the place to visit.

Visit online at www.harrisonbrothershardware.com

Stroll around the courthouse square to more view pieces of public art from **SPACES**, Sculpture Trail.

3:45-5 p.m.

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

Enjoy the Nature Center, 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. Galaxy of Lights, one of ABA's Top Destinations, is open nightly from Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve. The Tea Room serves light lunches and the Gift Shop is always filled with interesting, decorative and useful garden items. Several major festivals such as Spring Festival of Flowers, Green U, Scarecrow Trail plus many more, prove that at the **Huntsville Botanical Garden** – there's always something growing on! Golf cart tours are available upon request.

Visit online at www.hsvbg.org

5:30-6:30 p.m.

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

7-9 p.m.

MURDER IN THE MANSION – BURRITT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Dr. Burritt built his eccentric mansion in the early 1930's and several log houses have been moved to the site to create the Historic Park complete with barnyard and animals. Enjoy touring the museum, but be careful because sinister things are happening! A murder mystery is the game. That's *Murder in the Mansion* of course. The Burritt Mansion will witness a crime most foul, and you can be there! Guests receive a character description in advance, which is necessary for participation in a night full of surprises, danger and lots of laughter.

Visit online at www.burrittonthemountain.com

Or if something more casual is your group's style, check out a concert and picnic dinner at **Lowe Mill Arts and Entertainment**.

Extend your visit with shopping at **Bridge Street Town Center** or a golf game on the **Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Hampton Cove**.

Book your **"Antebellum to Antigravity"**
tour TODAY!



Contact Pam Williams, Tourism Sales Manager
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