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## “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 and photos will be taken of the individuals staged behind a cutout of an astronaut.

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 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!

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

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Check into 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 1860’s building 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](http://www.earlyworks.com)

#### Day 2

Breakfast at the Hotel

8:15 -9:15 a.m.

#### **THE PAST PRESERVED FOR THE FUTURE**

Listen 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)

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. Presented by the museum's curator, learn how Maria Howard Weeden used literature, architecture, language, tradition and value to contribute to the development and transmission of culture.

View Weeden's exquisite portraits and learn how she captured the spirit of her models. Poetry will be recited in the dialect of the servants and songs will be sung that will warm your heart.

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

11 a.m.-1 p.m.

### **IT'S NOT JUST A PLACE TO SHOP!**

Experience southern traditions and shop for treasures at Huntsville's **Interior Marketplace**. The unique local shopping venue is located in a 1920's southern farmhouse and quaint old country church! Today the venue houses 24,000 feet of boutique shopping, a gourmet café, gourmet food stuffs, home décor, fashionable clothing and more! Enjoy cooking demonstrations, fashion shows, as well as seasonal themed presentations on entertaining and decorating. You can also arrange for a day of services in our own Salon Villa Day Spa. You'll find that Interior Marketplace isn't just a place to shop...it's a destination. Lunch available.

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

1:30-2:30 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](http://www.earlyworks.com)

Walk around the corner

2:30-3:15 p.m.

### **HARRISON BROTHERS HARDWARE SHOP**

Harrison Brothers is the oldest 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. On the west side of the store, a stack of antique biscuit jars brimming with old-fashioned candies tempts youngsters of all ages. 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 real 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 plain looking, Harrison Brothers is the place to visit.

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

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.

**MURDER IN THE MANSION – DINNER AND MAYHEM**

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. 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.burritonthemountain.com](http://www.burritonthemountain.com)

Book your  
**“Antebellum to Antigravity”**  
tour TODAY!