



# Colbert County

Tourism & Convention Bureau  
 719 U.S. Highway 72 West  
 P. O. Box 740425  
 Tuscumbia, AL 35674  
 (800) 344-0783 / (256) 383-0783  
 E-mail: colberttourism@comcast.net  
 www.colbertcountytourism.org

**North Alabama  
 Birding Trail  
 Stops**

*Gateway to  
 Northwest Alabama!*

# Getting Around the Muscle Shoals Area

Muscle Shoals, Sheffield, Tuscumbia & Florence

## Colbert County Attractions

- 1** Alabama Music Hall of Fame  
U. S. Hwy. 72 West, Tuscumbia; (256) 381-4417
- 2** Helen Keller Home & Birthplace  
300 West North Commons, Tuscumbia; (256) 383-4066
- 3** Belle Mont Mansion  
off U. S. Hwy 43, County Road 52; (256) 381-5052
- 4** Cane Creek Canyon Wildlife Preserve  
251 Loop Road, Tuscumbia, (256) 381-6301
- 5** Colbert County Courthouse & Historic District  
Main St., Tuscumbia; (256) 383-0783
- 6** Colbert County Visitor's Center  
719 U. S. Hwy. 72 West, Tuscumbia; (256) 383-0783
- 7** Coldwater Stagecoach Stop  
Dickson St., Tuscumbia; (256) 383-0783
- 8** Key Underwood Coon Dog Cemetery  
Off U. S. Hwy. 72 & Ala. Hwy. 247, on Coon Dog Rd.;  
(256) 383-0783
- 9** LaGrange College Site Park, Pioneer Village & Cemetery  
off Ala. Hwy. 157, Leighton; (256) 446-9324
- 10** Muscle Shoals Sound Studios  
3614 Jackson Hwy., Sheffield; (256) 383-0783
- 11** The Pillow Factory  
298 River Rd., Muscle Shoals; (256) 383-8507
- 12** Old Railroad Bridge  
off Ashe Blvd., Sheffield (access adjacent to Holiday Inn)
- 13** Ritzy Theatre  
103 West 3rd St., Sheffield; (256) 381-8370
- 14** Riverfront Park  
off Alabama Ave., Sheffield; (256) 386-5615
- 15** Spring Park  
South Main St., Tuscumbia; (256) 383-0783
- 16** Tennessee Valley Art Center  
511 North Water St., Tuscumbia; (256) 383-0533
- 17** Tuscumbia Railroad Depot  
204 W. 5th St., Tuscumbia; (256) 383-0783
- 18** Whippoorwill Park  
10th St. & Montgomery Ave., Sheffield; (256) 383-0783
- 19** Wilson Lock & Dam  
Ala. Hwy. 133, Muscle Shoals; (256) 383-2442

## Florence Attractions

- 20** Children's Museum, 2810 Darby Drive, (256) 765-0500
- 21** Frank Lloyd Wright Rosenbaum Home, 601 Riverview Dr., (256) 740-8899
- 22** W. C. Handy Home, 620 West College St., (256) 760-6434
- 23** Indian Mound & Museum, 1028 South Court St., (256) 760-6427
- 24** Pope's Tavern, 203 Hermitage Drive, (256) 760-6439
- 25** Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, 217 East Tuscaloosa St., (256) 760-6379

## Hotels/Motels (area code is 256)

- A** Best Western Fairwinds, 2807 Woodward Ave., Muscle Shoals, 381-0236
- B** Coldwater Inn, 712 U.S. Hwy 72 West, Tuscumbia, 383-6844
- C** Days Inn, 2701 Woodward Ave., Muscle Shoals, 383-3000
- D** Four-Way Motel, U. S. Hwy. 43 South, Tuscumbia, 381-8484
- E** Hillcrest Motel, 3115 Jackson Hwy., Sheffield, 383-2631
- F** Holiday Inn, 4900 Hatch Blvd., Sheffield, 381-4710
- G** Key West Inn, 1800 U. S. Hwy. 72, Tuscumbia, 383-0700
- H** King's Inn, 4420 Jackson Hwy., Sheffield, 383-6131
- I** Regal Inn, 2910 Jackson Hwy., Sheffield, 383-1114
- J** Webster Hotel & Suites, 4205 Hatch Blvd., Sheffield, 383-4100

## Bed & Breakfasts, Cabins, Cottages

- K** Big Bear Adventure, 791 Shook Rd., Cherokee, (662) 429-3597
- L** Cedar Bend Lodge, 736 Church Loop Rd., Cherokee, 810-6614
- M** Cottage House, 1505 Spout Springs Road, Muscle Shoals, 446-8911

## Campgrounds

- N** Heritage Acres RV Park, 1770 Neil Morris Rd., Tuscumbia, 383-7368
- O** McNabb's RV Park, 18260 U. S. Hwy 72 West, Tuscumbia, 381-4530
- P** Rockpile, TVA Reservation, Muscle Shoals
- Q** Rose Trail General Store & RV Park, Riverton Rose Trail, 360-2393  
Cherokee (across from Rose Trail County Park)
- R** Rose Trail RV Park & Campground, Riverton Rose Trail, Cherokee, 360-2764

# Muscle Shoals Area Attractions

Gateway to Northwest Alabama!

Muscle Shoals  
Sheffield  
Tuscumbia  
Florence

Colbert County Tourism & Convention Bureau, 719 U. S. Hwy. 72 West, Tuscumbia, AL 35674  
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## Muscle Shoals, Sheffield, Tuscumbia Attractions

**1. Alabama Music Hall of Fame.** 617 U.S. Hwy 72 West, Tuscumbia. (256) 381-4417; (800) 239-2643. www.alamhof.org. Open M-Sa 9am-5pm; Su 1-5pm. Admission. Museum honors all of the state's notable music achievers with visual and audio showcases, a "Walk of Fame," a portrait gallery, life-size plaster casts and "life-like" wax figures. Learn about the history of Muscle Shoals music.

Listen to the many songs written by Alabamians in the songwriters section including Country, Rhythm & Blues, Gospel, Rock & Roll and more. Make your own "hit" in the recording studio.

**2. Helen Keller Home & Birthplace.** 300 W. North Commons, Tuscumbia. (256) 383-4066; (888) 329-2124. www.helenkellerbirthplace.org. Home and gardens are open M-Sa 8:30am-4pm; Sun 1-4pm. Admission. This circa 1820 plantation home and birthplace of Helen Keller provides an inspirational "look" at the life of world renowned Keller, including original furnishings, memorabilia and personal items.

The famous well pump where teacher Anne Sullivan taught Keller the meaning of language is just beyond the back door of the home.

**3. Belle Mont Mansion.** Co. Rd. 52 (3.5 miles south of Tuscumbia, off U.S. Hwy 43). (256) 637-8513. Open by appointment only for groups. Admission. Circa 1828, the mansion is one of Alabama's most distinguished homes, featuring neoclassical architecture of the Jeffersonian-Palladian style. Alabama Historical Property.

**4. Cane Creek Canyon Wildlife Preserve.** 251 Loop Rd., Tuscumbia. (256) 381-6301. Open daylight hours, year round. Free. A scenic preserve encompassing 323 acres of natural habitat, including nature plants, wildlife, canyons, rock shelters, and waterfalls. Hiking, camping, picnicking sites. Four-wheel drive access afforded to the handicapped or seniors. Canyon maps provided.

**5. Colbert County Courthouse and Historic District.** Main St., Tuscumbia. (256) 383-0783; (800) 344-0783. Open M-F 8am-4pm & by special appt. This stately building, constructed in 1881-1909, houses county government and serves as a centerpiece for the surrounding Tuscumbia National Register Historic District.

**Tuscumbia's Historic District** boasts one of Alabama's best collections of pre-Civil War structures with over 100 from the antebellum period. The district includes Alabama's oldest row of seven commercial buildings along with many churches and beautiful homes from the early 1800s. Today, many downtown buildings have been restored and are occupied by specialty shops, gift shops and restaurants. Summer Walking Tours & Trolley Tours.

**6. Colbert County Visitor's Center.** 719 U.S. Hwy 72 West, Tuscumbia. (256) 383-0783, (800) 344-0783. www.colbertcountytourism.org. Open M-F 8:30am-5pm; Sat during "peak" seasons. Staff will welcome you to Colbert County, providing maps, brochures and information on attractions, lodging, outdoor recreation, special events, festivals, activities, restaurants, etc.

**7. Coldwater Stagecoach Stop.** Dickson St. (overlooking Spring Park), Tuscumbia. (256) 383-0783, (800) 344-0783. Free. This early, circa 1815 log cabin is believed to be Tuscumbia's oldest structure. Serves as a welcome center for the town and is open for special events.

**8. Key Underwood Coon Dog Cemetery.** Off State Hwy 247 on Coon Dog Rd. near the Natchez Trace Parkway and the town of Cherokee. (256) 383-0783; (800) 344-0783. Open daylight hours, year round. Free. Over 185 coon dogs have been laid to rest in the scenic "Freedom Hills." Unique headstones and epitaphs pay tribute to "man's best friend."

Key Underwood's raccoon hunting dog, Troop, was the first dog buried here on Labor Day in 1937. Labor Day Celebration held annually.

**9. LaGrange College Site Park, Pioneer Village & Antebellum Cemetery.** 8 miles south of Muscle Shoals off AL Hwy 157. (256) 446-9324; (256) 383-0783; (800) 344-0783. www.recall-lagrange.00me.com Park open daylight hours, museum open Su 1-4pm or by appt. Free. Site of Alabama's first chartered college, destroyed during the War Between the States. Along with the antebellum cemetery, the park is dedicated to recreating life on LaGrange Mountain. Period structures relocated to the park include a log-cabin museum, country store, bed & breakfast inn, chapel, and outbuildings.

**10. Muscle Shoals Sound Studios Historic Museum.** 3614 Jackson Hwy., Sheffield. (256) 383-0783. www.MuscleShoalsSound.org. Admission. Muscle Shoals Sound Studio at this location has been fully restored and has original equipment. The Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section operated this studio from 1969 until 1978, making this studio famous with many "hit" recordings. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the studio is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from Noon until 6pm.

**11. The Pillow Factory.** 298 River Rd., Muscle Shoals. (256) 383-8507.

www.pillowmakers.com. Open M-F 10am-5pm, Sa 10am-4pm. Free. This locally owned manufacturer of "the Heavenly Bed" provides an interesting view of its production of luxury down-filled bedding supplied to nation wide hoteliers. Retail outlet shop.

**12. Old Railroad Bridge.** Off Ashe Blvd., Sheffield (on TVA property). Open daylight hours, year round. Free. This pedestrian-only bridge is 1,580 ft. long and 14 ft. high and offers a beautiful view of the Tennessee River (Pickwick Lake). Pier dates to 1832; the superstructure to 1903. The original bridge opened in 1839 as a toll bridge and for nearly a century was the only way to cross the river between Tuscumbia and Florence.

**13. The Ritz Theater.** 103 West 3rd St., Sheffield. (256) 381-8370; (256) 383-0533. www.tvaa.net. Open for events and by appt. Admission. This 1920s silent movie house has been restored to its Art Deco style and is used for community theater.

**14. Riverfront Park.** Alabama Avenue, Sheffield. (256) 386-5615. Free. Waterfront park boasts 1 mile of inviting shoreline along Pickwick Lake. Recreation available includes boat launch, piers, docking facilities, picnicking, gazebo, walking trails, Kiwanis Boundless Playground and splash pad (fee). Facility for major fishing tournaments.

**15. Spring Park.** South end of Main St. & Water St., Tuscumbia. (256) 383-0783; (800) 344-0783. www.tuscumbiarailway.com. Park open daily. There is no admission to the park; some amusements charge fees. This well-landscaped park, including the "Big Spring" is the cornerstone of Tuscumbia, settled around 1815. Enjoy the beautiful waterfall that stretches 80 feet wide and 48 feet tall. A bronze Indian statue pays tribute to Tuscumbia's early heritage and commemorates

the American Indians who were relocated to the west. A breathtaking fountain show, choreographed to music and lights, is presented weekend evenings at dusk. Water shoots 150 ft into the area from 51 jets. A narrow-gauge passenger train seats 120 children or 80 adults and travels around the park. Other features include a carousel, roller coaster, family picnic area, restaurants and playground equipment. Site of many festivals and events.

**16. The Tennessee Valley Art Center.** 511 North Water St., Tuscumbia. (256) 383-0533. www.tvaa.net. Open M-F 9am-5pm; Su 1-3pm. Admission. Provides rotating exhibits, juried art competitions, workshops and classes for adults and children. Permanent exhibit of aboriginal art (Petroglyph).

**17. Tuscumbia Railroad Depot.** 204 West 5th St., Tuscumbia. (256) 389-1315. www.tuscumbiarailway.com. Open W-Sa 10am-4pm, Su 1-4pm. Admission. This Memphis and Charleston 1888 Railroad Depot was used as a passenger and division headquarters building by both M&C and Southern Railway Company. Computerized train simulators allow an actual "driver's" experience. Site of early frontier railroad.

**18. Whippoorwill Park.** 10th St. & Montgomery Ave., Sheffield. (256) 383-0783. Free. 50 acres of hardwood trees, dogwoods, and wild flowers. Other features include a bird sanctuary, a variety of wildlife, walking trails, a bridge constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and a war memorial honoring fallen veterans.

**19. Wilson Lock & Dam.** AL Hwy 133 as it crosses the Tennessee River in Muscle Shoals. Open daily for traffic, year round. No tours of the Dam. Wilson Dam boasts one of the highest single lift locks in the world and was the cornerstone of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

## Florence Attractions

**20. Children's Museum,** 2810 Darby Dr. (256) 765-0500. www.shoalschildrensmuseum.org. Open: Tu-Sa 10am-5pm. Admission. Discovery museum is designed to encourage youth to learn by doing, to imagine and create through hands-on exhibits and programs. Activities are locally specific.

**21. Frank Lloyd Wright Rosenbaum House.** 601 Riverview Dr. (256) 740-8899. Open: Tu-Sa 10am-4pm. Admission. Alabama's only FLW structure, designed in the Usonian style.

**22. W. C. Handy Home & Museum.** 620 W College St. (256) 760-6434. Open: Tu-Sa 10am-4pm. Admission. The restored log cabin birthplace of W. C. Handy, "Father of the Blues," houses memorabilia, musical instruments and original manuscripts.

**23. Indian Mound & Museum.** 1028 S Court St. (256) 760-6427. Open: Tu-Sa 10am-4pm. Admission. The largest mound in the Tennessee Valley. The museum houses artifacts from the region dating back 10,000 years.

**24. Pope's Tavern.** 203 Hermitage Dr. (256) 760-6439. Open: Tu-Sa 10am-4pm. Admission. Dating from the early 1800's, this home served as a stagecoach stop and later as a Civil War hospital. Local artifacts displayed.

**25. Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts.** 217 E Tuscaloosa St. (256) 760-6379. Open: M-F 9am-4pm. Free. The cultural center for Florence, this facility is a gallery, an educational facility and a museum.

## Map Compliments of:

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