

SPRING 2024

# Food & Travel

MAGAZINE

## NINA COMPTON

BREAKING THE BOUNDARIES  
OF SOUTHERN COOKING

DISCOVER  
**SILVER CITY**  
NEW MEXICO



**BEAR LAKE**  
UTAH ~ IDAHO  
**OUTDOORS**  
**FOOD & FUN**

# SO MUCH.SO CLOSE.SO NEVADA.

The sun is shining on your next getaway! There are so many outdoor activities to choose from including pristine bike paths, hiking trails, golf courses, paddleboards and kayaking. With thousands of restaurant options from fine dining to fine BBQ, a view of the mountains, or the bright lights of Las Vegas. Henderson has so many choices to customize your experience. See all that Henderson has to offer.





# Food & Travel MAGAZINE

**SPRING 2024**

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Food & Travel Magazine is published quarterly - Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter.

For subscription inquiries, email us at [admin@KanePublications.com](mailto:admin@KanePublications.com)

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**32. SILVER CITY, NM**



**70. DAWSONVILLE, GA**

# Food & Travel

MAGAZINE

## TOP SPRING DESTINATIONS

- |           |                    |            |                      |
|-----------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|
| <b>12</b> | Fresno County, CA  | <b>70</b>  | Dawsonville, GA      |
| <b>16</b> | Henderson, NV      | <b>74</b>  | Columbus, GA         |
| <b>20</b> | Bear Lake, UT - ID | <b>78</b>  | Hammock Coast, SC    |
| <b>24</b> | Bisbee, AZ         | <b>84</b>  | Greenwood, SC        |
| <b>28</b> | Surprise, AZ       | <b>88</b>  | Kinston, NC          |
| <b>32</b> | Silver City, NM    | <b>92</b>  | Jefferson County, WV |
| <b>38</b> | Marfa, TX          | <b>96</b>  | Shores & Islands, OH |
| <b>42</b> | Laredo, TX         | <b>100</b> | Lake Barkley, KY     |
| <b>46</b> | Lufkin, TX         | <b>104</b> | Galena Country, IL   |
| <b>52</b> | Mobile, AL         | <b>108</b> | Abingdon, VA         |
| <b>56</b> | Dekalb County, AL  | <b>112</b> | Harrisonburg, VA     |
| <b>60</b> | Dalton, GA         | <b>118</b> | Bedford, VA          |
| <b>64</b> | Ellijay, GA        |            |                      |

**BEAR LAKE, UTAH & IDAHO** PAGE 20



**96. SHORES & ISLANDS, OH**

ON THE COVER PG. 6

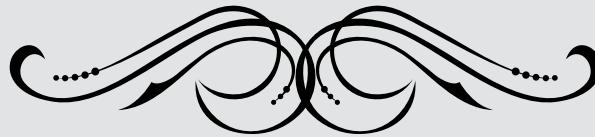


**NINA  
COMPTON**  
BREAKING THE BOUNDARIES  
OF SOUTHERN COOKING

# NINA COMPTON

## BREAKING THE BOUNDARIES OF SOUTHERN COOKING

*By Margie Goldsmith*



**O**ne of America's best and hottest Southern chefs, St. Lucian native Nina Compton has just opened ShaSha Lounge: Social Aid and Pleasure Club in New Orleans.

Along with Compère Lapin, BABs (formerly Bywater American Bistro), and Nina's Creole Cottage in celebrity chef food hall, ShaSha is the newest of boundary-breaking Compton's three NOLA restaurants.

The James Beard Award-winning "Best Chef: South" and semi-finalist for James Beard's "Outstanding Chef" Award, Nina Compton was born and raised in St. Lucia, the daughter of St. Lucia's three-time late prime minister, Sir John George Melvin Compton. At the Compton home of seven, the kitchen was the center of activity, and young Compton wanted to spend as much time as she could there. Like her siblings, she was sent to England for secondary school. When she returned home, she told her parents she wanted to be a chef. They tried to discourage her, but she insisted, so they arranged a two-year internship at a friend's hotel in Jamaica.

***We caught up with the busy chef in New Orleans.***





## **What did you learn in the kitchen at the Jamaican hotel?**

For me, the biggest thing was never stop learning. I thought I knew everything and then the chef said the next step was for me to go to culinary school. I went to The CIA [Culinary Institute of America] in Hyde Park and, after, decided to learn from the best: Daniel Boulud at his three-star Michelin restaurant in NYC: Daniel.

## **What was the most important thing you learned from Boulud?**

It was excellence or nothing. He really pushed to make the people around him excellent.

## **You met Emeril Lagasse. What did he say to you?**

He said, always engage people; when they come up to you, always smile. People have this expectation of you, so you need to be engaging.

## **You moved to Miami to work at the iconic Norman's and, eventually, Casa Casuarina, the former Versace Mansion in Miami's South Beach, where you met your husband and rose from sous chef to executive chef. Wasn't this a very fast-track advancement?**

It was, but it's about paying attention and reading and researching and pushing yourself. I think that's why people excel; you learn from your mistakes and try to be better each day.

**In 2008, Fontainebleau Miami Beach re-opened, and you joined Scott Conant at Scarpetta there as sous chef. Then you were appointed chef de cuisine. What was that like for you?**

I was able to learn Italian food from the Maestro, who is very, very talented in what he does and the way he's able to showcase food at that level.

**You fell in love with New Orleans and opened your first solo restaurant, Compère Lapin, which has become a hugely successful restaurant included in "Best Restaurants in America" and Food & Wine's "40 Most Important Restaurants of the Past 40 Years." What makes Compère Lapin so successful?**

Some of those flavors that I grew up with as a child are very unique to people who've never had them before. There are green figs and salt fish, conch croquettes, callaloo soup with spinach okra, nutmeg, coriander and chili flakes, and much more. We don't make food for everyone else, we make food for you.

## **Why is NOLA such a great foodie town?**

I think it's the most culturally rich city in the U.S. There are influences here you don't find anywhere else in the country or world. But it's really about the people who live here and the people who came before us and instilled such strong cultural roots for us to carry that on.

## **What is your comfort dish?**

I think, coming from the Caribbean, curried goat is probably something that people can identify with. That is definitely my comfort food.

**In 2018, you opened Bywater American Bistro, recently relaunched as BABs this past January. Why did you change the name and what kind of food do you serve?**

It was always supposed to be a neighborhood restaurant: casual, no frills. But the name was very long, and I just felt like BABs, the abbreviated version, would be more playful. We focus more on Italian cuisine.



**You've opened Nina's Creole Cottage, a fast-casual concept featuring affordable, heritage-inspired dishes which offers bold flavor combinations traversing St. Lucian savors with Louisiana Creole flavors. Why did you open it, and what's your favorite dish there?**

Doing fast-casual is really a nod to pretty much all the things I love to eat, but in a fast-casual format. My favorite dish there is the Hot Fire Chicken because with each bite the flavor builds, which I love.

**How can you run all these restaurants at the same time?**

I don't know. I haven't figured it out yet.

**You were recently named the Godmother of Silversea's newest ship. Silver Nova. How did that feel?**

I've always explored the many ways in which the world's cuisines – especially St. Lucia and the Caribbean – strengthen human connections and honor heritage, tradition, and identity. I believe food and drink have the power to bond people together and serve as a unifying language.

**How do you describe your cuisine?**

I would just say it's fun. It's not meant to be too crazy, where people don't feel comfortable, but adventurous people can enjoy lots of flavors.

**What is your guilty pleasure?**

Pig. I've compared it to crispy savory gummy bears. I've tried to cut back on it and it's just not possible.

**When you taste a dish, what exactly are you tasting for?**

It depends. Whenever we try a new dish at the restaurant, a lot of the young kids say, 'Oh, Chef, I think it needs more acid or more lemon juice' or something. And my response to that is, 'Do you put lemon juice in your macaroni and cheese?' And they always say no. I think having the balance of the flavors to build within the dish is very important, and having complexity where it's not just one note. I like things to either be salty or spicy or acidic, not where it's just one flavor you're tasting.



**You are the culinary ambassador for St. Lucia. What do you do to promote it?**

I take visitors to my home island, St. Lucia, every year for a week [this year it's July 21-27, 2024, at the luxury resort Cosmos]. I focus on the history and technique of the island's food, but we also explore everything from markets to waterfalls. I try and show the special secrets St. Lucia holds for me and get people to understand the beauty of the island through my eyes.

**Do you have any new restaurants on the horizon for the future?**

I'm trying to retire.

**What advice would you give to those who want to be a chef?**

Don't give up. Don't lose sight of your goal. And have fun. We spend too many hours in the kitchen not to have fun.



### **What's the most important thing about being a chef?**

Get rest. Take time for yourself in the day, whether it's 10 minutes or an hour. And go outside. When I wake up in the morning, I make a cup of coffee and sit outside and either plan out my day or disconnect for a second. My husband/business partner, Larry Miller, and I run the business together and talk about our day together. It helps to have somebody.

Also, I think the most important part of it is to stay grounded. You have to really know who you are and be comfortable with everything you're doing and not doing it for social media or anything like that. It's just really about how you're projecting yourself to the people.

### **What's the most favorite meal you've ever eaten?**

It could be having grilled lobster on the beach or eating dinner in Paris. It's really about time and place, not so much about the food but really about where I am and who I'm with.

### **What's the biggest mistake you ever made as a chef?**

Everybody makes mistakes. I try and look at it as a Bob Ross situation where they're happy mistakes. At the time, we think it's terrible, but I think everything happens for a reason in a very Seinfeld roundabout way. I think it all makes sense.

### **What do you want your legacy to be?**

I want my legacy to be Caribbean food is unique. The Caribbean is very big and very diverse with a lot of culture people don't know. If you venture to the Caribbean, I think you should really go to underdeveloped places. Don't go to the touristy places. Go to areas that are off the beaten path because sometimes that's the most authentic food that you can get to understand the island. •

A photograph showing a group of people dancing in an outdoor setting at sunset. A man in a cowboy hat and blue shirt is dancing with a woman in a white top. In the background, there's a band playing music under a red and white striped umbrella.

SEE ANOTHER SIDE OF CALIFORNIA IN

# FRESNO COUNTY

**F**resno County is where thrills are second nature, farm-fresh is year-round, and you'll find underground experiences—literally. Only true travelers dare to take on this other side of California.

## PARK HOP WITH NO LINES AND FEWER CROWDS

Skip the crowds and lines of major theme parks, and enjoy a different kind of “park hopping” experience with just as many thrills. Three of California’s most beautiful national parks surround Fresno and Clovis. Only a short drive away, visitors can see three parks in one trip. A hidden gem, Kings Canyon National Park, is the deepest canyon in the United States. At 8,200 feet at its deepest points, Kings Canyon is deeper than the Grand Canyon and rewards hikers with incredible views of a glacial valley, roaring waterfalls, and giant sequoias. Stand beneath the General Sherman, the largest tree in the world, inside Sequoia National Park. Don’t miss the iconic El Capitan Mountain and Half Dome in Yosemite National Park. Yosemite requires reservations to enter the park from April through October.



Photo by Daisy Productions







## FARM-FRESH, YEAR-ROUND

From luxury dining experiences to farm stands with fresh fruits, experience farm-fresh in the United States's heartland of agriculture. It's here you'll discover California's most underrated wine country. Not only does Fresno County produce a large sum of the state's wine grapes, but wine lovers can also taste award-winning wines in an intimate setting at a reasonable price. Local wineries like Kings River Winery provide guided tours with the owner of the winery, taking you through the vineyards where their grapes are grown and the wine cellar to learn about their storing process. At Trelio Food & Wine in Clovis, the menu changes with the season and the chef utilizes locally grown ingredients to create high-end dishes. The restaurant's sommeliers are trained to pair the best local wines to your taste and meal. Join the community in celebrating the spring harvest on the Fresno County Fruit Trail. Stop for fresh salsa and apricots at Sweet Girl Farms, juicy strawberries at Sunshine's Farm, and a variety of fruits, dried nuts and old-fashioned sodas at Simonian Farms.

## TAKE THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

Explore the Forestiere Underground Gardens, an underground wonder carved by hand more than 100 years ago. The gardens have their own microclimate that makes the tunnels 10-20 degrees colder than the surface level. Take the family to the Fresno Chaffee Zoo to see more than 200 species within their interactive exhibits for a fraction of the cost of other nearby zoos. Join one of the behind-the-scenes experiences to help train sea otters, feed a giraffe, and touch a stingray. Thrill seekers can take a wild ride down the Kings River. Experienced tour guides will take you through twisting channels and chilled waters during a whitewater rafting trip hosted by the Kings River Expedition Class 3. The rafting season runs from late March through August. Take part in springtime events like the Clovis Rodeo, Kingsburg Swedish Festival, and the Wildflower Trail.

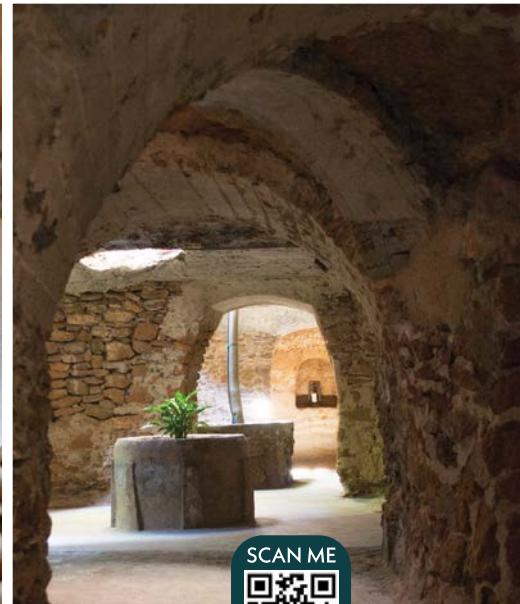
For more information go to [visitfresnocoount.org](http://visitfresnocoount.org).





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# Discover HENDERSON Nevada



River Mountain Loop Trail

Nestled in the heart of Southern Nevada and just minutes from the world-famous Las Vegas Strip, Henderson is a picturesque City that offers a myriad of attractions for travelers. Breathtaking outdoor trails, scenic day trips, and world-renowned golf courses are just a few of the activities that visitors can indulge in while enjoying the endless sunlit skies and organic beauty of the majestic Southern Nevada landscape.

Here, recreation is more than an outing, it's an adventure with incomparable beauty. Hikers and bikers can trek more than 180 miles of spectacular outdoor trails, golfers enjoy their pick of champion courses, and recreational options abound—with scenic day trips to the picturesque Zion National Park, Red Rock Canyon State Park and its historic rock formations, and last but not least, Lake Mead, home to the iconic Hoover Dam.







Begin your recreational feast with nine courses—golf courses, that is—which include the Jack Nicklaus-designed gem at Lake Las Vegas. An alluring backdrop for golf, the lake's brilliant blue waters also offer a refreshing plunge into kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, flyboarding, and even yacht cruises. Back on land, hiking and biking trails stretch out across the City, ribbons of exploration threading through suburban streetscapes and through dramatic mountain and desert vistas. Take your pick from easy, intermediate, challenging and even equestrian trails.

The same is true for dining. In a City where food is a passion and every meal a celebration, diners enjoy a bountiful array of choices, from acclaimed chefs throughout Henderson and the City's Water Street District – a historic street lined with breweries, retail and restaurants specializing in flaming fajitas to flavor-packed steaks, from robust and upscale Italian flavors to sports bar fare elevated to an art. You won't want to miss the many picture-worthy and locally inspired murals while strolling Henderson's original downtown.

A tasting tour of the Ethel M chocolate factory is another sweet treat, and in the aptly named Artisan Booze District, where spirits are indeed both an art and a craft, you can sip and savor your way through a brilliant lineup: Original brews in



pubs like Crafthaus Brewing as well as handcrafted, small-batch wines at Vegas Valley Winery, where tours and a tasting room are special draws.

When you're ready to relax, Henderson is home to many premier hotels such as the M Resort and Spa, Green Valley Ranch Resort Spa and Casino and lakeside hotels surrounding Lake Las Vegas, including Hilton Lake Las Vegas Resort and Spa and The Westin Lake Las Vegas Resort & Spa.

With diverse recreational options, exceptional dining experiences, and comfortable accommodations, visitors can custom tailor their visit to suit their needs and preferences. Whether you're a family seeking a fun-filled getaway or a business traveler in need of a restful retreat, Henderson is the ideal destination for you. •



**SO MUCH.SO CLOSE.SO NEVADA.**

The sun is shining on your next vacation! There are so many outdoor activities and great places to eat. From golf courses to pools, there's something for everyone. Whether you're looking for a quiet retreat or a night out, Henderson has it all. So why wait? Book your trip today and experience the beauty of Southern Nevada.

**HENDERSON**  
[cityofhenderson.com](http://cityofhenderson.com)



**CHECK OUT OUR AD ON THE  
INSIDE FRONT COVER OF THIS MAGAZINE!!!**

*Photo by Jonathan Rouse*



# OUTDOORS, FOOD & FUN





**B**ear Lake is a sensory delight with its stunning natural beauty and the wide range of activities it offers. The crystal-clear blue waters of the lake, surrounded by lush green forests and majestic mountains, create a picturesque setting that is a feast for the eyes. The fresh mountain air fills your lungs with a crisp and invigorating scent, while the gentle sounds of nature, like birds chirping and leaves rustling, provide a soothing auditory experience. As you explore the area, you can feel the soft sand between your toes at the beach, or the cool breeze on your skin as you hike through the trails. And let's not forget the taste of the famous raspberry shakes that Bear Lake is known for! It's truly a sensory paradise that offers something for everyone.

Traveling to Bear Lake is a journey through scenic vistas. The drive, whether from Salt Lake City or Boise, is part of the adventure, winding through mountain passes and lush valleys. Upon arrival, visitors are greeted by the expansive beauty of the lake, which serves as a hub for an array of recreational activities throughout the year.

During the summer, the lake becomes a playground for water sports enthusiasts. Spend a day at the beach, Bear Lake's sandy beaches are perfect for soaking up the sun, building sandcastles, and taking a refreshing dip in the crystal-clear waters. Try renting a paddleboard or kayak to explore the lake at your own pace. You can also try thrilling water sports like jet skiing, tubing, or wakeboarding. Bear Lake offers scenic trails for all skill levels. Lace up your

hiking boots and explore the beautiful surrounding mountains and forests. Pack a delicious picnic and find a picturesque spot to enjoy your meal while taking in the breathtaking views. If you're into fishing, rent a boat and try your luck at catching some fish. Or simply rent a boat for a leisurely cruise on the lake. These are just a few ideas to get you started. Bear Lake offers plenty of outdoor adventures and fun activities for everyone. Enjoy your summer in Bear Lake!

When it comes to food in Bear Lake, you are in for a treat! The region offers a variety of dining options that cater to different tastes and cravings. If you're in the mood for some classic American fare, you can check out the Bear Trapper Steakhouse. They serve up mouthwatering steaks, juicy burgers, and hearty comfort food. Another popular spot is Cooper's Restaurant, known for its homestyle cooking and friendly atmosphere. They offer a range of dishes, from breakfast favorites to delicious



sandwiches and salads. For those seeking a taste of Mexican cuisine, Café Sabor is a local favorite. They serve up authentic Mexican dishes like enchiladas, tacos, and sizzling fajitas. The vibrant flavors and generous portions will leave you satisfied. If you're in the mood for pizza, be sure to visit Summit Pizza Co. They offer a variety of specialty pizzas, loaded with fresh toppings and gooey cheese. Don't forget to try a delicious cheese Doodle. It's the perfect spot for a casual meal with friends or family. For a sweet treat, don't miss the famous raspberry shakes at Zipz Drive-In. Made with locally grown raspberries, these shakes are a refreshing and delicious way to cool down on a hot summer day. These are just a few of the many dining options available in Bear Lake. Whether you're craving comfort food, international cuisine, or local specialties, you're sure to find something that satisfies your taste buds. Enjoy exploring the culinary delights of Bear Lake! •





Outdoors • Food • FUN!

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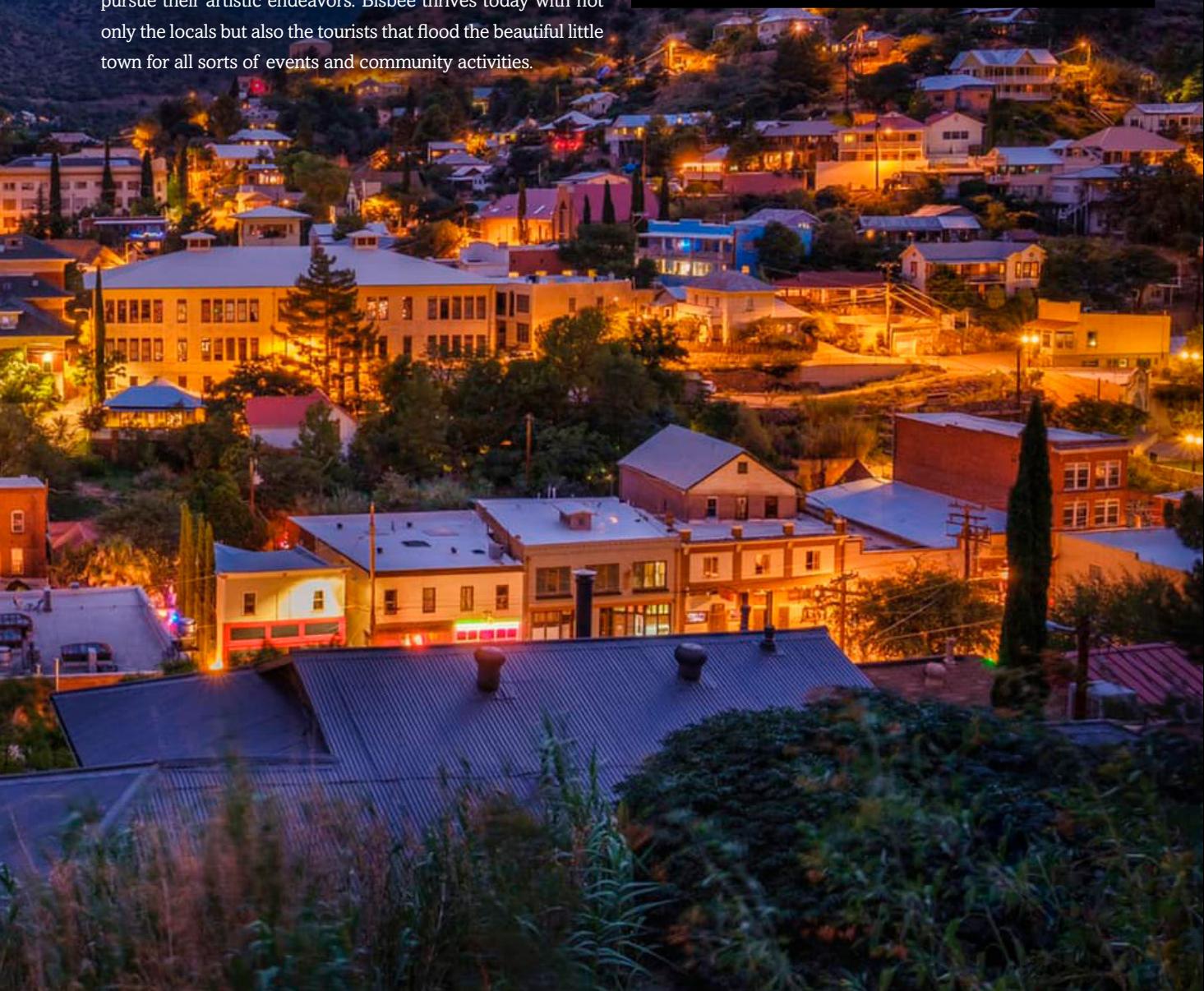


# Welcome To BISBEE ARIZONA

LOCATED 90 MILES SOUTH-EAST OF TUCSON AND NESTLED AMONG THE MULE MOUNTAINS, BIS-BEE IS THE PICTURESQUE COUNTY SEAT OF HISTORIC COCHISE COUNTY.



Bisbee is more than just a geographical location, it's a state of mind. Nestled in Cochise County's Mule Mountains at an elevation of 5,350ft. The preservation of its history has been an important aspect to Bisbee's citizens. "Historic Bisbee" is a registered National Historic District. Bisbee remained an active mining community until the mid-1970's. When the mine closed, a tremendous shift occurred in the local population. As many mining employees and their families left to pursue work elsewhere, an influx of artistic entrepreneurs found Bisbee's historic district to be an attractive, inspiring, and inexpensive location to settle and pursue their artistic endeavors. Bisbee thrives today with not only the locals but also the tourists that flood the beautiful little town for all sorts of events and community activities.



## PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Mining in the Mule Mountains was quite successful, and Bisbee proved to be one of the richest mineral sites in the world, producing nearly three million ounces of gold and more than eight billion pounds of copper, not to mention the silver, lead and zinc that came from these rich lands. Along with Bisbee's cosmopolitan character, the colorful, rough edges of the mining camp could still be found in the notorious Brewery Gulch, with its saloons and brothels. In its heyday, the Gulch boasted nearly 50 saloons and was considered the one of the liveliest spots in the west. Historic taverns still retain the rich character and boomtown flavor of this period.



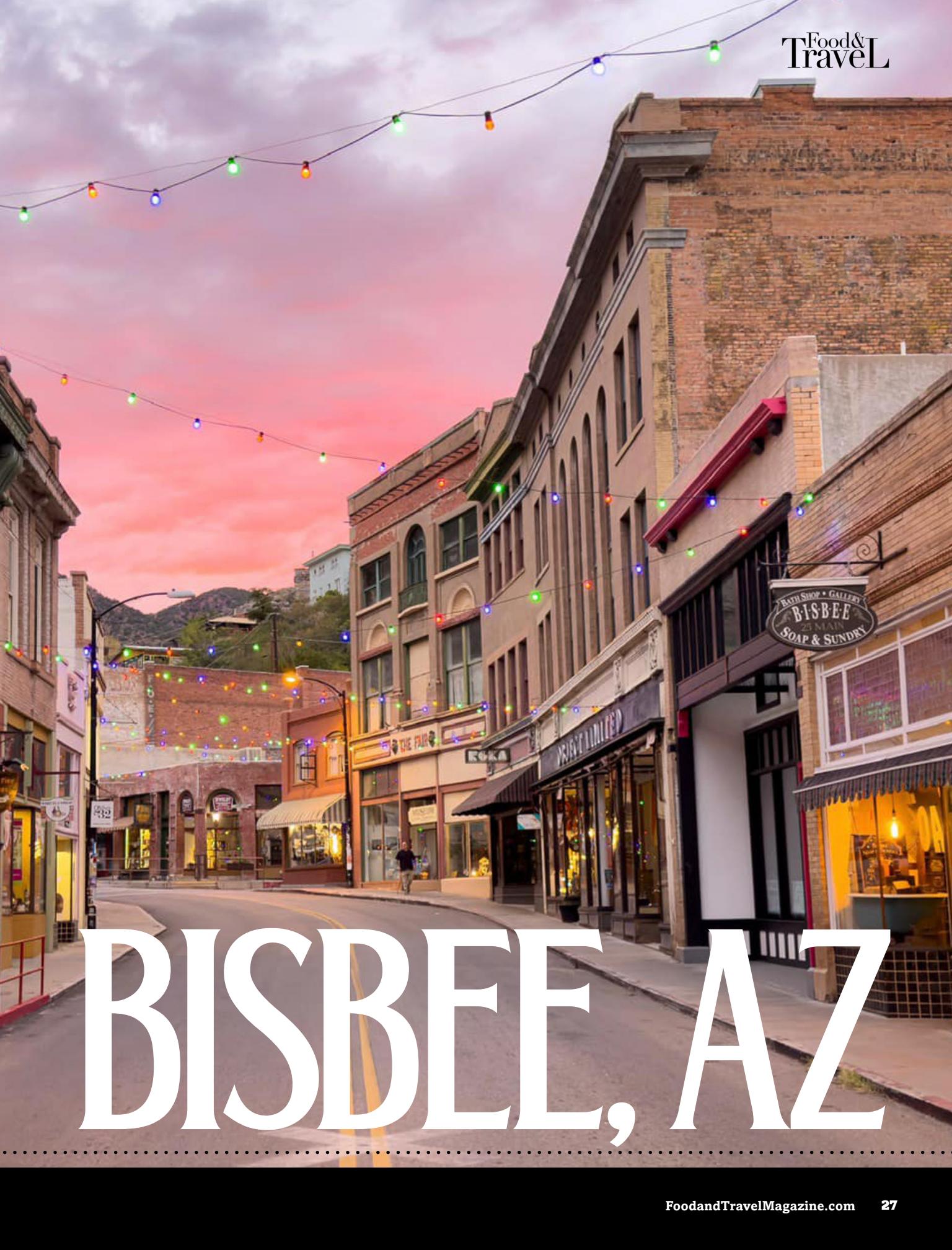
*Photo by Liam O'Shea*

## SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

Bisbee's history and its art are intertwined as one strolls the narrow streets and alleys, as well as Bisbee's 350 historic staircases. Enter another time when you visit a museum housed in an 1890s building that was the first rural Smithsonian Affiliate, or experience what it was like to be a miner at the Copper Queen Mine Tour. Various types of Tours will take you in and around Old Bisbee and the surrounding areas teaching the rich history of Bisbee.

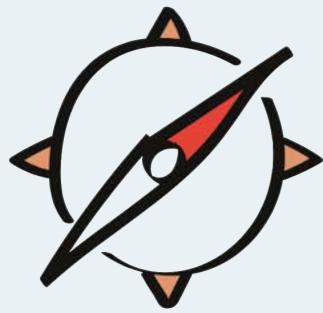
**Today, Bisbee's extraordinarily well-preserved early-twentieth-century downtown draws visitors from around the world, who appreciate its historic architecture, its welcoming, creative spirit and its cool climate. Bisbee also serves as an ideal overnight home-base for visitors – birders, hikers, wine-tasters, music-appreciators, and others who wish to explore our geologically, biologically and culturally rich “Sky Islands” region. •**





# BISBEE, AZ

# Find Your Surprise



**Surprise, Arizona** is a beautiful Sonoran-desert community surrounded by mountain park lands. The gorgeous landscape sets the stage for the city's vibrant sports and recreation scene, growing arts community and fantastic restaurants! It's the perfect place to "Find your Surprise!"

**L**ocated in the Phoenix-Metro area, the city's year-round sunny climate makes it the ideal place for outdoor recreation, and it abounds here! Surprise boasts one of the largest public tennis and racquet complexes in the Southwest including 25 tennis courts, two racquetball courts, a table tennis room, clubhouse and event space. If you prefer pickleball over tennis, there's a place for that, too. Home to 16 dedicated pickleball courts – the Surprise Community Park – is a haven for pickleball fans. The Community Park also includes an urban fishing lake, basketball courts and a playground all nestled within a sprawling downtown park.

Surprise is also a golf aficionado's dream destination with eight courses to choose from. Be sure to check out Surprise's newest course, Sterling Grove Golf & Country Club. This world-class Nicklaus Design course draws inspiration from some of the world's most famous courses. And there's more than just 18 holes with grove-lined fairways – it's also home to a state-of-the-art practice facility that includes an indoor golf simulator.



Surprise Stadium Lawn  
Photo by Slaven Gujic

Surprise Stadium, ranked the #1 Spring Training Stadium in Arizona by USA Today, is the Spring Training home of Major League Baseball's Kansas City Royals and Texas Rangers – 2023 World Series Champions! Baseball fans from all over the country travel to Surprise every Spring to experience the fun atmosphere of a spring game in the Arizona sunshine. With unique game viewing options, family entertainment, mouthwatering foodie favorites and craft brews, Surprise Spring Training is a can't miss when traveling to Arizona.



Sterling Grove Golf Course

If you are looking for outdoor adventure, the White Tank Mountain Regional Park, which rises from the border of Surprise offers hiking, biking, camping and a nature center. Maricopa County's largest regional park is nearly 30,000 acres and provides endless options to fit every age, experience level and ability. There are approximately 30 miles of hiking trails at the park that offer breathtaking views of the mountains and panoramas of the valley below.



White Tank Hiking



State 48 Group Patio



Saigon Kitchen Spring noodles

Surprise also has an emerging arts and culture scene with an array of public art, local galleries and performing arts venues. The Vista Center for the Arts is a state-of-the-art 1,300 seat performing arts center that hosts a variety of music acts, comedy shows and live performances. In addition, West Valley Arts HQ is an art gallery and cultural event center that holds exhibitions, performances and events.

As a growing city, Surprise's retail and culinary scene continues to expand, showcasing everything from local hot spots to regional shopping centers. Local favorites include Saigon Kitchen, offering a traditional Vietnamese cuisine with a modern touch. For Mexican fare, Rio Mirage Café features Sonoran-style recipes handed down for generations including homemade tortillas, sizzling fajitas and delicious margaritas. Vogue Bistro is perfect for a date night out with an intimate setting, delicious French-American style dishes, designer martinis and an extensive wine list. Surprise also has great options if you are in the mood for a nice cold beer – locals love State 48 Brewery, Bonfire Craft Kitchen & Tap House and Irish Wolfhound. And for the shopping enthusiasts, check out the Village at Prasada and Surprise Towne Center & Marketplace. These open-air malls are a perfect escape for a day of retail therapy!

**There's something for everyone in Surprise, Arizona.  
Find your game. Find your adventure. Find your retreat.  
Find your Surprise! •**



Surprise Park at Sunset

FIND YOUR Adventure

Surprise, Arizona is the place to take in an MLB Spring Training game at Surprise Stadium, hike the beautiful White Tank Mountains, play at one of our pristine golf courses, and enjoy our award-winning signature cuisine.



With blogs, itineraries, events and more, we'll help you "Find Your Surprise" at [ExploreSurprise.com](http://ExploreSurprise.com)



Find   
Your Surprise



Discover  
**SILVER CITY**  
NEW MEXICO



Looking for an escape? A small mountain town destination with tons to do, beautiful weather and never any crowds? Silver City is the perfect anecdote to our busy often stressful lives with dark skies, a pleasant climate, abundant sunshine, 339 species of birds, five life zones, and enough precipitation to transform the high desert hillsides into a gorgeous, lush landscape from summer through fall. At 6,000 feet above sea level, Silver City's mountainous air maintains a moderate temperature year-round, yet the town experiences four distinct seasons.



**N**ature wows visitors to Silver City. Animal lovers and bird watchers in the area can observe the life that animates riverbanks, the forests, and the parks each season. Astronomers can set up shop under the Milky Way, as observatories are sprinkled throughout the county, and star parties occur regularly. Some stargazers might want to spend a couple of nights at the Cosmic Campground International Dark Sky Sanctuary, which is an easy drive from town. The people make the place, and Silver City's population of 10,000 is a tight-knit community that welcomes strangers as family. You'll anticipate friendly conversation, as well as recommendations on best places to eat, hang out, and relax at one of our locally owned coffee shops.

For the outdoors enthusiasts, Silver City is a sprawling playground of activity. Explore the vast 3.3 million-acre Gila Wilderness, the first wilderness designated by congress. Hike, bike, fish, or relax in natural hot springs, or take it to the next level with rock climbing. Discover the hidden, secret places in cliff walls and marvel at the natural beauty of the Catwalk National Recreation Area or the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, which was home to ancestral Mogollon people. City of Rocks State Parks offers otherworldly rock formations. One of only six areas in the world with this type of rock formations—created by volcanic ash and sculpted by weather—City of Rocks State Park is a must-see destination, providing hours of hiking or biking fun, as well as camping, bird watching, picnicking and star gazing.



The area's small town charm shines through its eclectic art community. With over 30 art galleries and studios, as well as annual arts-focused festivals and public art installations, Silver City draws in art lovers and aspiring artists each year. Plan your visit around iconic events like the Silver City Clay Festival, Southwest Print Fiesta, Silver City Blues Festival, Fiesta Latina, or the Silver City Film Festival. Then, stick around town to shop for locally made jewelry, pottery, and more. Be sure to swing by the Farmer's Markets to enjoy local produce and hand-crafted items.

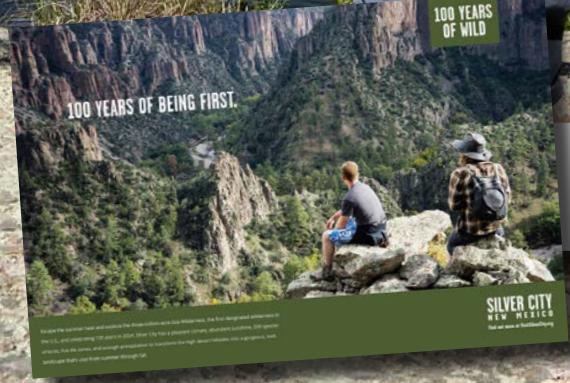
While visiting Silver City, explore the area's storied past as a mining town. Get a glimpse of Silver City in years gone by while you stroll through the historic downtown area, which showcases architecture and remnants, including the preserved Victorian homes along Bullard Street. Take a morning or an afternoon to visit the Silver City Museum and view over 20,000 objects relating to the history of southwest New Mexico.

Whether you're in town for a day or a week, you're sure to find delicious offerings at local restaurants to treat your palate. With a variety of locally owned options, you'll have the chance to dine like the locals do and experience mouth-watering flavors. Be sure to try some of the area's famed New Mexican cuisine like enchiladas, tamales, and green chile relleños.

Silver City is not just a destination, but an experience and an opportunity to immerse into the history, art, and culture of The Land of Enchantment. To plan your visit, go to

[VisitSilverCity.org](http://VisitSilverCity.org) •



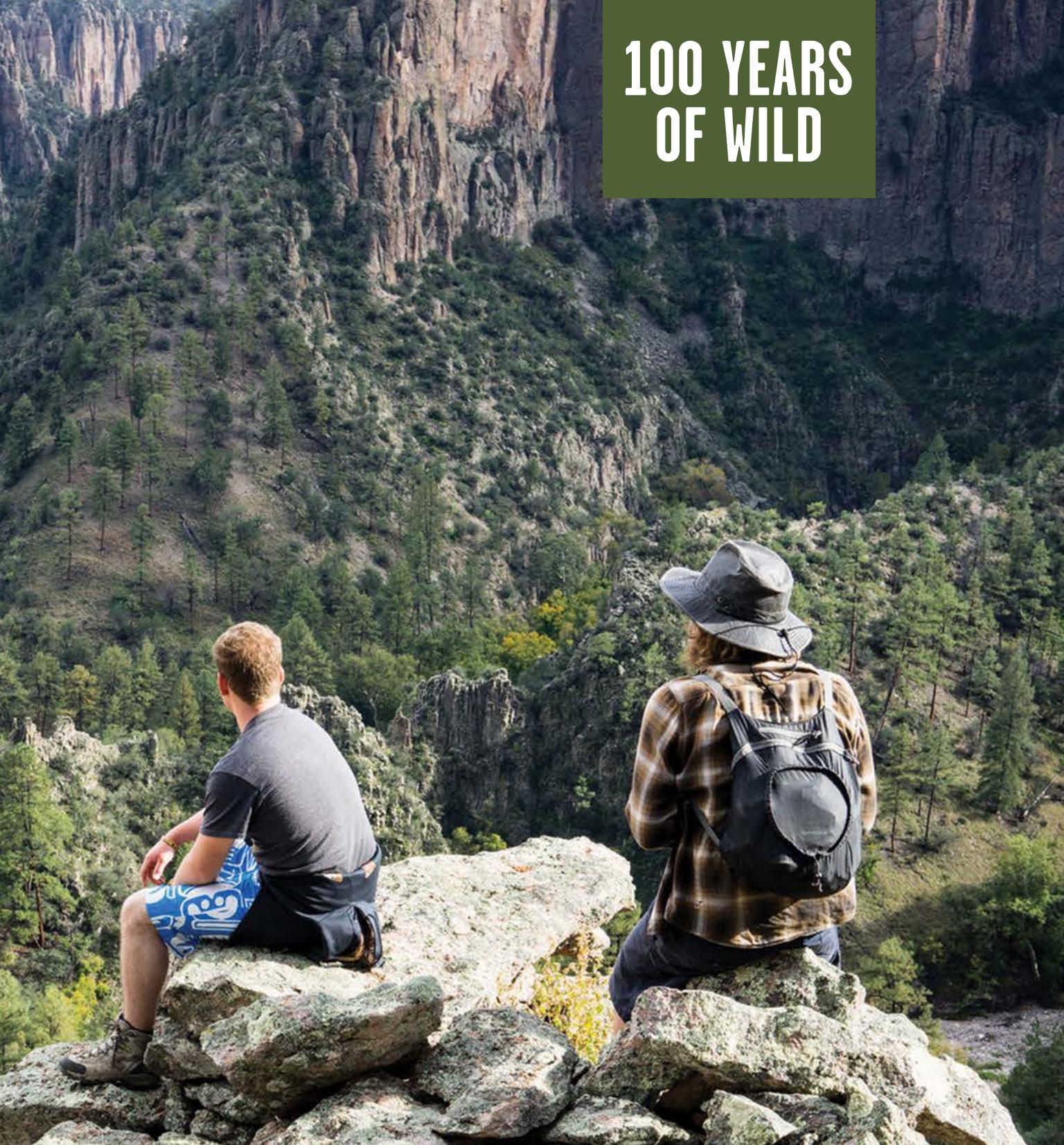


**CHECK OUT OUR AD ON THE  
INSIDE FRONT COVER OF THIS MAGAZINE!!!**



# 100 YEARS OF BEING FIRST.

Escape the summer heat and explore the three-million-acre Gila Wilderness, the first designated wilderness in the U.S., and celebrating 100 years in 2024. Silver City has a pleasant climate, abundant sunshine, 339 species of birds, five life zones, and enough precipitation to transform the high desert hillsides into a gorgeous, lush landscape that's cool from summer through fall.



100 YEARS  
OF WILD

SILVER CITY  
NEW MEXICO

Find out more at [VisitSilverCity.org](http://VisitSilverCity.org)



# MARFA MARVELS

*Texas*

AN OASIS OF ART, CULTURE, HISTORY, MYSTERY, LAND, AND SKY, MARFA, TEXAS  
IS A BUCKET-LIST DESTINATION WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO ESCAPE THE CROWD OR  
DISCOVER SOMETHING UNEXPECTED KICKING OFF.

## ART.

MARFA is world-renowned as the home of artist Donald Judd, and his influence can still be felt today. Reserve a tour at Judd Foundation and Chinati to view the museum he established to house large-scale works of art. You can also set up an appointment for a studio visit with one of the many artists currently residing in MARFA.



## CULTURE.

With a tight-knit community of around 1,800 residents, MARFA is a walkable West Texas destination where the pace slows down and you find yourself appreciating the simple things in life. You will find a great selection of restaurants, from food trailers to fine dining, Texas BBQ to international cuisine. Leave yourself plenty of time for browsing the independently owned bookstores, art galleries, and specialty shops. The Central Marfa Historic District was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places. The newly listed district encompasses the city's core, including 183 significant locations in MARFA.

*Photo by Charles David Smith FAIA*

## HISTORY.

West Texas encompasses an incredibly rich history. Geologic time scale is on full display in the mountains that surround the area. Archaeological evidence of early Native people exists in the nearby state and national parks. Stories from early settlers have become legend. Cavalry forts, military bases, army airfields, and German POWs have all had a home in MARFA. The MARFA and Presidio County Museum holds an incredible archive of historic objects that is a must-see for history buffs. You can also visit the Blackwell School, America's newest National Historic Site, to learn about an important and often painful era of our national history.



## MYSTERY.

MARFA, Texas. You've probably heard of it, but have you been? It's where ranchers begin the day at dawn and artists lay down roots. It's where Anthony Bourdain dined, Rick Bass wrote, and Beyoncé went to unwind. It's where land as far as the eye can see meets more stars than you can count. When you arrive at this peaceful desert plateau surrounded by mountains, sprawling ranches, and stunning sunsets, you'll know the journey to get there is well worth it. The Marfa Mystery Lights have been observed for over 175 years, yet no geologist, meteorologist, or ranch hand has found an explanation - can you? Open to the public 24/7/365.

## LAND.

MARFA is located in the high plains of the Chihuahuan Desert, sitting at an elevation above 4,500 feet. Experience big, vibrant skies and rolling landscapes for miles in every direction. A sunset drive down Pinto Canyon Road gives uninterrupted views from horizon to horizon into the Chinati Mountains. MARFA is a gateway to the entire Big Bend Region.



## SKY.

MARFA is part of the Greater Big Bend Dark Sky Reserve boasting incredible opportunities for stargazing, even within city limits. A short jaunt outside of town will present you with more stars than you thought possible. Nearby, at the McDonald Observatory, world-renowned astronomers will unravel the mysteries of the night sky at one of their wildly popular star parties. Be sure to book ahead! •

# MARFA

A photograph of a couple standing in a dark field, looking up at the night sky. The sky is filled with numerous stars and the bright, glowing band of the Milky Way galaxy. The couple is positioned in the bottom left corner of the frame.

MARFA Visitor Center  
302 S. Highland Ave.  
Marfa, TX 79843  
Phone: +1 (432) 729-4772  
Monday-Friday: 8am to 5pm  
Saturday-Sunday: 9am to 4pm

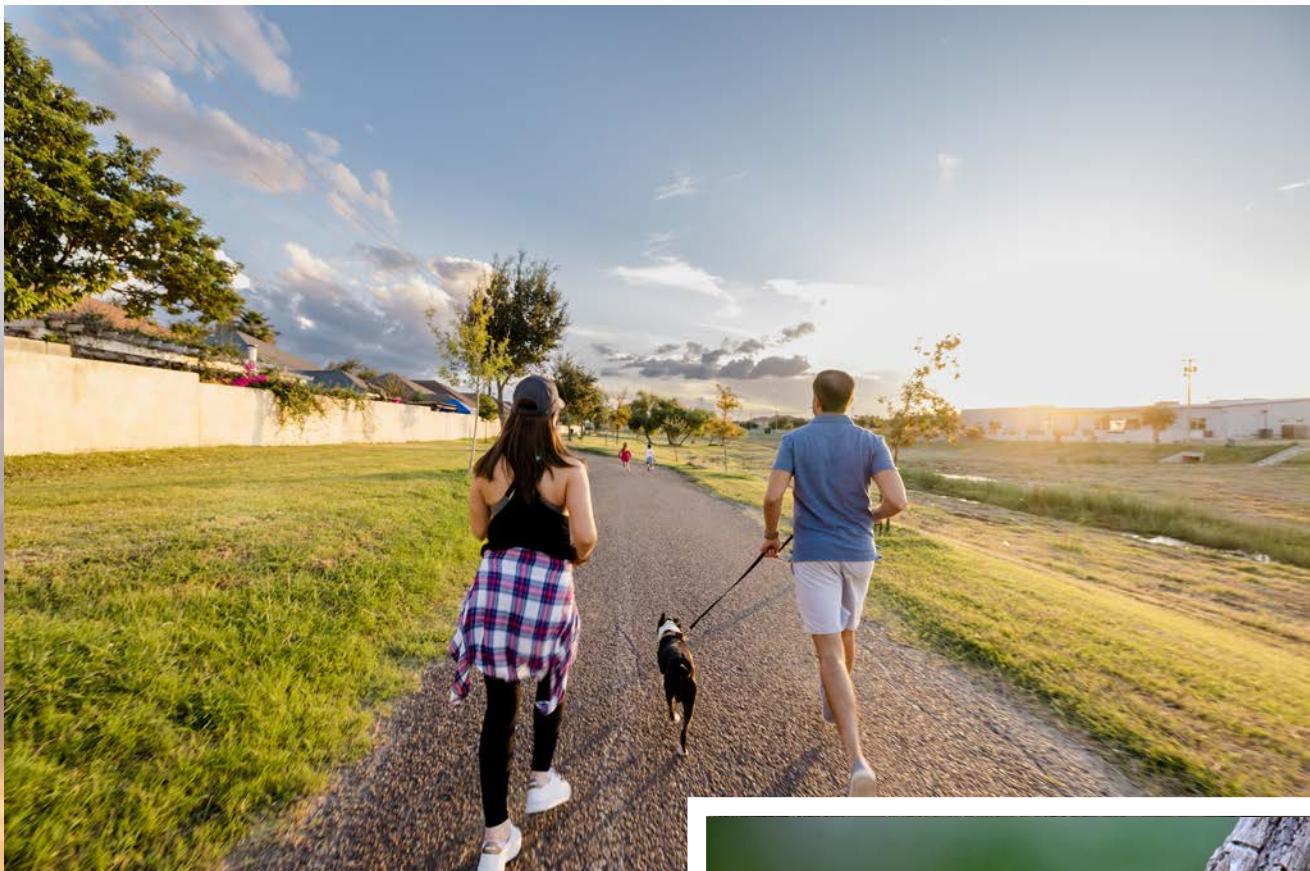


# LAREDO

*The Cultural Jewel of South Texas*



Welcome to Laredo, Texas, where the streets are immortalized in song, paved with history and lead to adventure around every corner. Set along on the banks of the Rio Grande, Laredo is a vibrant city brimming with culture, charm, and coffee.



The adventure begins with the Historic Laredo Walking Tour. Step into 268 years of rich history, with stories whispered in both English and Spanish. Marvel at the architectural beauty of the San Agustin Cathedral. Lose yourself in the tales of the Republic of the Rio Grande Museum and Villa Antigua Border Heritage Museum. Soak in the colors as you stroll through San Agustin Plaza.

But Laredo's soul doesn't just dwell in its past. The streets speak through stunning murals with modern tales of heritage and hope. And for those brave souls who fancy a sprinkle of mystery, the Haunted Heritage San Agustin Ghost Walk will have you exploring the eerie side of downtown, guided by the glow of your smartphone.

Steeped in flavor, The Laredo Coffee Tour is your passport to the finest artisanal brews on the border. Sip on coffee, collect stamps, and earn yourself a special souvenir to remember your journey by.



Photo: © Todd Steele  
Land: Butter Ranch

From the Chacon Creek Trail to the lush habitats of Lake Casa Blanca International State Park, and everywhere in between, Laredo is a haven for hundreds of species of local and migratory birds. For birding enthusiasts, Laredo is the place to immerse themselves in the avian wonders of South Texas all year round. Bird lovers and hikers alike can explore Laredo's riverfront, creek systems, nature trails, and private ranchlands, some offering never-before-birded sites.



## VisitLaredo.com

When sports are your goal, Laredo scores big time! Laredo is home to Los Tecos Baseball Team, the two-nation organization and five-time winners of the Mexican Baseball league. They'll play 90 adrenalized games this year. The action continues with the Laredo Heat, champions of the Lone Star Conference Championship. Catch the excitement of a match at Texas A&M International University and feel the heart-pumping excitement of Laredo's sporting spirit.

Around here, all roads lead back to la cocina, no reservations required. In Laredo, the essence of "Mex-Tex" cuisine comes alive in every bite. Here, you don't need to cross the border to enjoy authentic Mexican flavors or hearty American fare. Laredo kitchens have more than 200 years perfecting the fusion of two distinct cultures into dishes that define Laredo's "Mex-Tex" flavor. From sizzling fajitas, tasty tacos, to carne asada and more.

From traditional dishes to global gastronomy, Laredo's culinary landscape is as diverse as its heritage. Choose between Thai, Italian or Japanese, and of course, the Lone Star State's famous BBQ and steakhouses. After a hearty meal, treat yourself to the sweet delights of local confectioners, offering everything from fresh doughnuts to tres leches.



From table tops to the mountain tops, our dual culture is everywhere. In colors, textures and flavors that surround you. Here is where two become something new, and totally Laredo.

Come sunset, toast your adventure with an ice-cold IPA or cocktail. Catch the game at a sports bar or dance the night away. Laredo nights make unwinding the day easy.

Whether you're a history buff, an art lover, just passing through, or simply in search of a new adventure, Laredo caters to all. From the cobblestone alleys to the bustling markets of San Bernardo Avenue, from serene riverbanks to artisanal coffee shops, every moment here is a discovery. So, pack your bags and set your sights on Laredo, where every visit is a journey through the heart of Mex-Tex culture. •

WELCOME TO

# THE HEART OF MEX-TEX CUISINE



Laredo, Texas, isn't just a city on the border of two countries. We live at the nexus of two distinct cultures fusing together to create something brand new. Where authentic Mexican dishes are not only served next to hearty American fare, they also come together to form a unique cuisine we like to call "Mex-Tex." Learn more about this delicious melding of cultures at [VisitLaredo.com](http://VisitLaredo.com).



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VISIT  
**Lufkin**  
TEXAS

DISCOVER LUFKIN IN SPRING

Where Adventure  
**BLOSSOMS**

**A**s spring unfurls in Lufkin, Texas, so does the promise of adventure. This season, immerse yourself in the vibrant blossoms of the Azalea Trail and the rich lush greenery of our Piney Woods. Lufkin's natural splendor offers an idyllic backdrop for outdoor enthusiasts and families alike to create lasting memories. From kayaking along the serene Neches River to exploring the trails that crisscross our picturesque landscape, adventure is always just around the corner. In Lufkin, the herald of spring is not just a shift in weather, but an invitation to step into a world where adventure blossoms with the azaleas. This East Texas haven, nestled within the whispering pines, offers a springtime tableau that beckons nature lovers, thrill-seekers, and families to indulge in its natural splendor and welcoming community spirit.



### **EMBARK ON THE NECHES RIVER RENDEZVOUS**

The season's centerpiece is the Neches River Rendezvous, an annual affair that beckons adventurers to paddle through the heart of the Piney Woods. This tranquil sojourn along the Neches River is a celebration of Lufkin's pristine ecosystems and the simple joy of connecting with nature. With each stroke of the paddle, the waterway unfurls its treasures, from hidden coves to sun-dappled banks teeming with East Texas wildlife. If you want more information or would like to give it a paddle, visit Angelina Neches River Authorities at [www.anra.org](http://www.anra.org)





## A SYMPHONY OF FLAVORS

As the landscape reawakens, so does Lufkin's local gastronomy. Spring heralds the arrival of vibrant farmer's markets where the earth's bounty is a palette for the senses. Here, culinary artisans transform fresh, local ingredients into masterpieces of flavor. The town's eateries and breweries, like the charming downtown bistro and the rustic Rusty Axe & South First Grill, offer menus infused with the zest of the season.



## CULTURAL BLOSSOMS

Lufkin's rich cultural fabric comes alive in the springtime. The town's galleries and studios throw open their doors, inviting art enthusiasts to explore the local creativity that thrives under Lufkin's canopy. The sounds of music festivals and live performances resonate through the streets, where the traditions of East Texas are celebrated and shared.



*Photo by Jay Brittain*



## FAMILY ESCAPADES

Families find a special welcome in Lufkin, where the Ellen Trout Zoo and expansive city parks offer endless opportunities for discovery and play. Special events cater to the curious minds of young explorers, while interactive exhibits at the Naranjo Museum of Natural History offer a journey through time.



## SPRING FEST

SpringFest in Lufkin is the epitome of springtime joy, where the community and visitors alike come together to celebrate the season's vibrant rebirth. Wander among stalls of local artisans and indulge in the region's freshest flavors, while live music fills the air. It's a place where kids laugh in bounce houses, and all can revel in the beauty of East Texas's Piney Woods. Join us for a day of fun, food, and festivity at Lufkin's SpringFest – where every moment is a memory in the making.

## ADVENTURE IN THE HEART OF LUFKIN

Lufkin's essence is captured in the moments of connection—between people, nature, and history. It's in the thrill of the river, the taste of a new dish, the applause at SpringFest, and the quiet reflection that can be formed from the "Locked With Love" tree. Adventure is not just an activity; it's the heartbeat of Lufkin in spring.

So, come to Lufkin where "Adventure is Here" is not just a tagline—it's a lived experience. It's the laughter of children as they dance under the spring sun, the shared glances of couples strolling down blooming pathways, and the camaraderie of friends toasting to new discoveries. This spring, let Lufkin be your canvas for adventure, painting memories that will last a lifetime. •

# *adventure is here*

*In the heart of Lufkin, where vibrant culture meets rustic charm, indulge in a symphony of flavors from local eateries and explore the town's rich tapestry of art and music as the community blooms with springtime and summer joy.*

Pelican Pointe in Lufkin Texas

Visit us at Lufkin TX

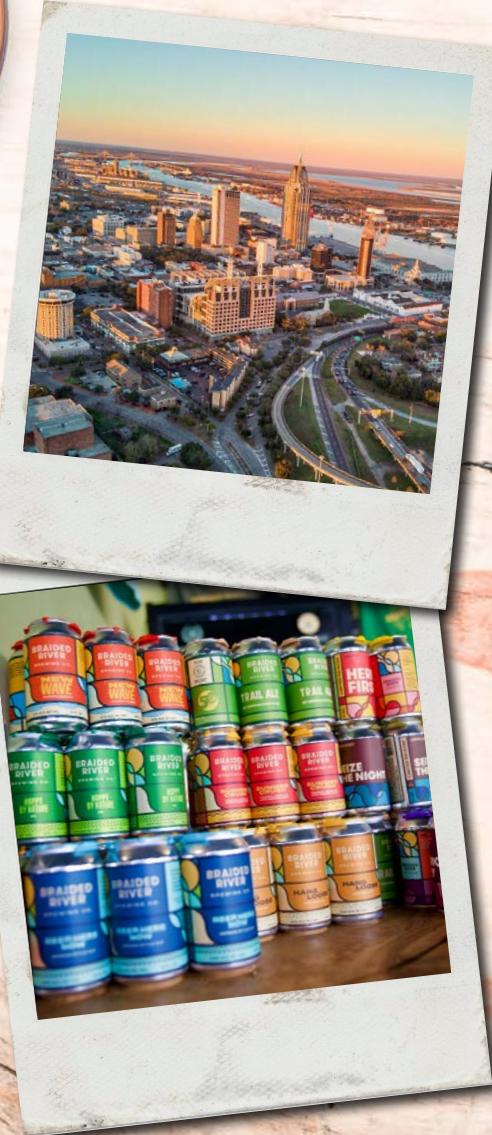
Join us where every moment is an adventure and every experience becomes a cherished memory in Lufkin, the hidden gem of East Texas.





[visitlufkin.com](http://visitlufkin.com)





Mobile, Alabama

# CRAWFISH CRAFT BEER & Cocktails

**A**s the azaleas bloom brightly and temperatures rise, Mobile, Alabama, transforms into a celebration of cultural heritage, art, history and the outdoors, inviting travelers to explore their curiosities and passions. As one of the oldest cities on the Gulf Coast, Mobile is home to many long-standing traditions. For example, Mardi Gras, originally established in Mobile, paints the city purple and gold every year. Traditions are also regularly infused into the city's landscape through seasonal beverages and fresh caught seafood, especially in the springtime.

Each Spring, there's one seasonal delicacy on every Southerner's mind: crawfish. There are appetizers, entrees and loads of crawfish being boiled and sold by the pound. The South clearly takes crawfish season seriously. If picking up a sack of fresh caught crawfish, shrimp, or oysters and hosting a boil in your own backyard isn't on your agenda, our restaurants have got you covered. Begin your adventure surrounded by gameday hype at Heroes Sports Bar & Grille, where crawfish are



*Photo by Anna Elise Poche*

served in a creamy spinach dip with warm toasted pita. For those seeking a more laid-back experience, Wintzell's Oyster House offers a signature crawfish-infused sauce over a variety of dishes, and their acclaimed seafood gumbo pairs perfectly with their freshly shucked oysters. If you're looking for some heavenly handheld options, you'll love the fried soft-shell crab po'boy from Debris Po-Boys & Drinks.



Dinner wouldn't be complete without a view. Add a taste of local flair and a stunning view of Mobile Bay at Felix's Fish Camp. In addition to the variety of daily fresh catch options, the restaurant's seasoned and sautéed crawfish tails are a must-try for those searching for a medley of Gulf Coast flavors. The waterfront setting adds an extra layer of charm to the dining experience. Dauphin's crawfish and beurre blanc Delta Cakes are complemented by panoramic views of Mobile's skyline from the 34th floor of the RSA Tower.

Beer and crawfish go hand in hand. Mobile's award-winning craft breweries carry an array of drafts, cans and bottles that complement the local dishes in the area while matching the tastes of guests. Mobile's oldest brew house, Iron Hand Brewing, specializes in British-style ales. For those who prefer to match Gulf Coast's flavor and culture while prioritizing sustainability, Braided River Brewing Company is the ideal spot. One of their core brews, "Hoppy By Nature," features notes of mango, pineapple and grapefruit. The refreshing taste of Oyster City Brewing Company's flagship and seasonal drinks adds to the longing of sunny days ahead. This indoor/outdoor pub provides enough space for you and your crew to beat the Mobile heat in the taproom or enjoy a spring day with local food trucks on the partially covered patio.

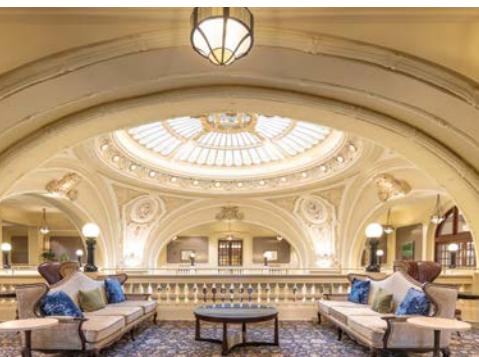


Once the cravings have been satisfied and the beer has been enjoyed, it's time to venture into Mobile's entertainment district for some refreshing cocktails and mocktails. The Royal Scam, a popular and upscale spot known for its eclectic cocktail selection, offers the perfect setting to unwind near the buzz of downtown Mobile's nightlife. Try the "Black Cadillac" from Squid Ink Eclectic Eats & Drinks, a bubbly gin beverage with a splash of real squid ink. Complete the evening at the Haberdasher, where a team of skilled mixologists serves modern takes on old classics and libations.

**Spring enhances the flavors of Mobile. Coastal dishes, brews and cocktails set the tone for the upcoming season and create a signature experience like no other. Every bite and sip are celebrations of the diverse and vibrant spirit of Mobile. Cheers to good times, unique cuisine and a warm Spring welcome on the Gulf Coast. •**



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OUR DESTINATION.**



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# DISCOVER DEKALB County

-Photo by Marc Morales

## ALABAMA



-Photo by November // Photography

In DeKalb County, you're sure to find charming scenery around every turn. Nature lovers will enjoy the fresh crisp air, scenic mountain views, and picturesque waterfalls. You can enjoy nearly 30,000 acres of public lands highlighted by Little River Canyon National Preserve, DeSoto State Park, Buck's Pocket State Park, and High Falls Park.

Little River Canyon, a 650' canyon where you can see the sparkling Little River below from a choice of seven scenic overlooks along the Canyon Rim, which is an alternate route of the Lookout Mountain Scenic Parkway. While in the park, you will find Little River Falls, hiking trails, and the Jacksonville State University Canyon Center with a gift store and information station.



Nearby is DeSoto State Park and DeSoto Falls, with its magnificent 104' drop, making it one of the tallest in the State. The Park has an impressive hiking/biking trail system, aerial adventures, a restaurant, lodge, rental cabins, chalets, and campgrounds.

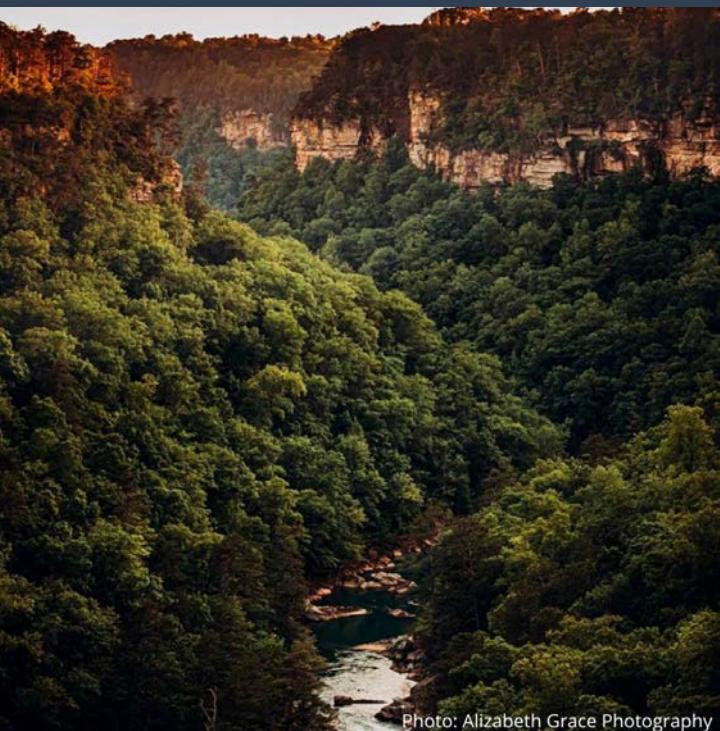
In addition, there are rental cabins, campgrounds, and bed-n-breakfasts scattered around these mountain woodlands. If you prefer a hotel, you will find them in Fort Payne, Rainsville, or Collinsville.

While on Lookout Mountain you can visit the quaint village of Mentone and shop for arts and crafts at several locations. The Mentone Arts Center in the middle of town is a good place to start.

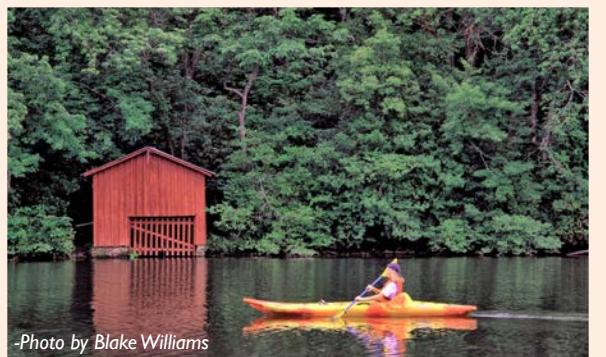


-Photo by Kayla Worthey

For an intimate dining experience, try Elevation Bistro or the Wildflower Café, or choose from many other great restaurant locations in Fort Payne and the surrounding areas. You will not want to miss Big Mill Artisans and Antiques and Vintage 1889 Restaurant in Fort Payne. To the west lies Sand Mountain and more great scenic outdoor locations, including High Falls Park, with its natural bridge, and Buck's Pocket State Park and its newly constructed ORV trail.



Throughout DeKalb County you will find a wealth of Antique stores, gift shops and flea markets. Visitors love to mill around in the scenic and homey small towns. This is an area that is easy to drive in with very little traffic, especially in the rural communities. These towns make you feel welcome and comfortable, and their true southern hospitality will be evident right away. You can spend an afternoon or a day on Sand Mountain visiting Rainsville, Henagar, Fyffe, Geraldine, Ider and Sylvania. On the same outing, you can spend some time at DeKalb Fishing Lake, where you can fish, camp or hike around the beautiful 120-acre lake.



-Photo by Blake Williams

Among the largest attractions each year are two yard sales. The U.S. Hwy 11 Antique Alley Yard Sale is the Thursday through Sunday following Mother's Day each May and runs over 500 miles. Beginning the first Thursday in August, you can explore the World's Longest Yard Sale, which runs along the Lookout Mountain Scenic Parkway. People travel from all over the United States to this yard sale that spans from Gadsden, Alabama north to Hudson Michigan, a route of almost 650 miles.

If you are interested in history, you will find plenty here, including downtown Fort Payne, which was developed by New Englander's who came to "Boom" the town as an industrial community. They built an Opera House, which is still used today, a lot of gorgeous Victorian era homes and most downtown buildings, which are still there for you to enjoy. Also, you will find some great community parks for the whole family to enjoy. One of which is the Alabama Walking Park in honor of the "Boys from Fort Payne", the legendary country music group, Alabama band. In addition, the group operates a gift store and museum in Fort Payne. •

A large photograph of a waterfall cascading down a dark, layered rock cliff. A man in green swim trunks stands on a rock in the foreground, looking up at the falls. The sky is bright and cloudy.

ALABAMA'S LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

# Eat. Play. Explore.

Buck's Pocket State Park | DeSoto State Park  
High Falls Park | Little River Canyon National Preserve  
Tigers for Tomorrow | 11 Scenic Waterfalls

**Free Travel Guides Available!**  
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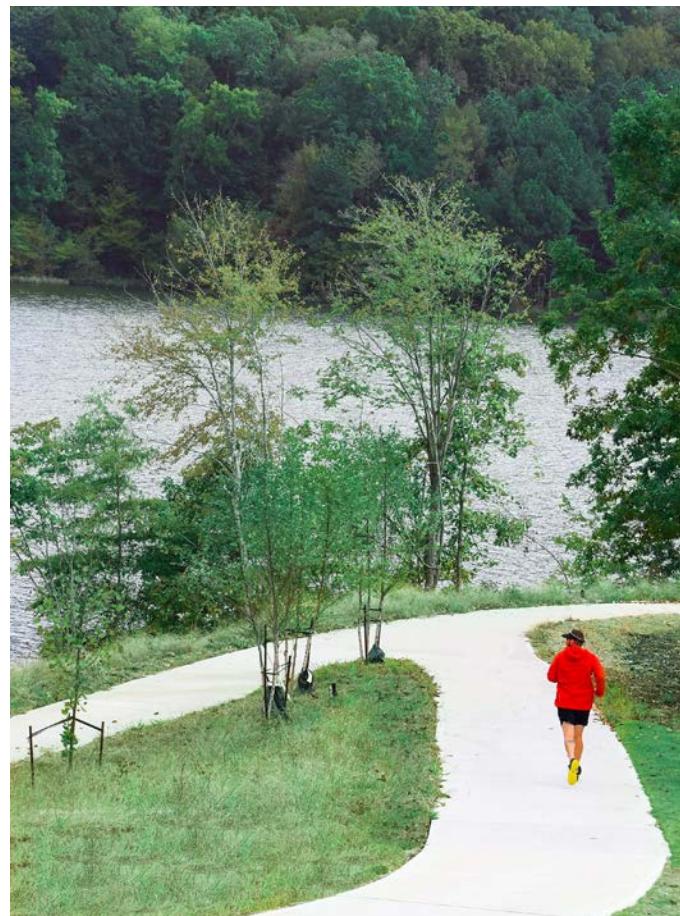
DeSoto Falls  
Photo by Aaron Mitchell

# Taste of DALTON

Dalton, Georgia is easily accessible, sitting along I-75, just 90 miles north of Atlanta and 30 miles south of Chattanooga, TN. Outdoor lovers may have trouble leaving our community. There is no shortage of incredible biking and hiking trails, places to kayak, disc golf courses, pickleball courts, and so much more. Summer is our favorite and a visit to Dalton will be unforgettable!

Dalton may not be the first place that comes to mind when you think of food destinations, but this charming southern town has a surprisingly diverse and delicious food scene. From classic southern comfort food to international cuisine, there's something for everyone in Dalton.





For a taste of traditional southern food, head to The Filling Station. This popular restaurant is known for its mouthwatering fried chicken, mac and cheese, and creamed corn. It sits on the railroad tracks and once served as a gas station, hence the name. You'll want to go by earlier in the day because they close after lunch.

If you're in the mood for something a bit more upscale, check out Cyra's. This elegant restaurant serves up farm-to-table fare made with locally sourced ingredients. The menu changes seasonally, so you can always expect something new and exciting.

Look no further than D Food for a variety of flavors and cuisine. This eatery serves up authentic Mexican dishes like birria tacos or loaded nachos. They also have an amazing flavorful lemon peppercorn basket. If you're a fan of pizza, be sure to check out Cherokee Pizza and Brewery. This casual restaurant has a "Brewcade" full of classic arcade games that will delight both the young and older crowd. The pizza is crispy and delicious, with plenty of one-of-the-kind options to try.



If craft beers are your thing, also check out Dalton Brewery on King Street. It is a popular craft brewery known for its exceptional selection of beers. They offer a wide range of styles, from hop-forward IPAs to rich stouts and refreshing lagers. With a welcoming and laid-back atmosphere, Dalton Brewing is a great place to relax, socialize, and enjoy quality craft beer in the heart of Dalton.

In addition to its diverse food scene, Dalton, Georgia is also known for its vibrant music scene. The Off the Rails concert series is one of the town's most popular music events. This annual concert series takes place every summer and features a lineup of talented musicians from a variety of genres.

The concerts are held at Dalton's Burr Performing Arts Park, which provides a unique setting for the performances. The venue is downtown nestled among the restaurants and shops lining Hamilton Street. There's something for everyone at these concerts, whether you're a die-hard music fan or just looking for a fun night out with friends and family.

Overall, the Off the Rails concert series is just one example of the many cultural events that make Dalton, Georgia such a special place. From its delicious food scene to its vibrant music scene, this town has something to offer everyone who visits.

**Start Your Visit at [VisitDaltonGA.com](http://VisitDaltonGA.com) •**



A promotional poster for the "Downtown Dalton Friday Nights" concert series. The poster features two men playing guitars: one on a banjo and one on an acoustic guitar. The background is a vibrant purple. The text "Downtown Dalton Friday Nights" is prominently displayed in the center. Below it, "OFF THE RAILS" is written in large red letters, accompanied by a cartoon-style train icon. The poster includes the text "Crawford & Power 2022 Music Series" and "Photo: Mills Fitzner". At the bottom right, it says "Summer 2024".

# Taste of Dalton!

In the Flooring Capital, you will find a hunger for adventure and a taste for design!



Start your visit at [VisitDaltonGa.com](http://VisitDaltonGa.com)

right  
**Dalton!**  
Convention & Visitors Bureau

# REDISCOVER RELAXATION

*in Ellijay, Georgia*



*Photo by Outlive Creative*



Photo by Outlive Creative

**N**estled amidst the rolling foothills and expansive protected forests of the Southern Appalachians, Ellijay, Georgia offers the ultimate experience in restorative travel. This charming mountain town promises a thoughtful blend of relaxation, rejuvenation, and delicious culinary experiences – the perfect cure for the daily grind.

The journey begins at a secluded cabin, a world away from the constant notifications and obligations. Imagine crackling fireplaces, sun-drenched porches with rocking chairs, and warm blankets to wrap up in while you watch the sunrise. Ellijay boasts a wide range of vacation rentals, from traditional log cabins to modern, eco-friendly retreats.

Unplugged mornings become pure bliss. Travelers can wake up to the song of sparrows, brew a cup of locally roasted coffee, and curl up on the porch with a good book. In the evenings, stargazing from the hot tub under a blanket of stars is an experience straight out of a fairytale.



Ellijay is a hiker's paradise, with trails catering to all levels. Whether you're a seasoned adventurer or a casual stroller, the fresh mountain air and breathtaking scenery will leave you feeling invigorated.

One popular option is Tumbling Waters Trail, a beautiful mile-long hike that winds alongside an inlet of Carter's Lake, Georgia's Deepest Lake. Those who complete the trail will be rewarded with the peaceful sounds of roaring waters and the perfect spot for stringing up a hammock to disconnect for the day.

Wellness travel isn't just about pampering the body; it's about nourishing the soul, and Ellijay delivers on that promise in spades. The town boasts a vibrant farm-to-table scene, with fresh, seasonal produce taking center stage.

Summer afternoons can be spent strolling through farmers' markets like Panorama or B.J. Reece Orchards, picking up juicy peaches and early-season apples straight from the orchards. Local farm stores like Cress Creeks Farms and Mountain Valley Farm Store become treasure troves, brimming with artisanal cheeses, grass-fed meats, homemade jams, and honey straight from the hive.



Ellijay also surprises with its burgeoning wine scene. Several vineyards nestled in the foothills offer tastings of award-winning wines. Sitting on a patio overlooking rolling vineyards, sipping on a crisp white or a bold red, is a perfect way to unwind.

The Ellijay wine experience is unfussy and unpretentious. Here you will find beautiful views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and a vineyard adventure experience that sacrifices nothing in the way of quality while delivering a low-key experience.

For an even more authentic Ellijay adventure, spend the afternoon at Reece's Cider Company tasting delicious hard ciders with names like Hops of Jupiter and Poppy's Pick. Reece's Cider Company's impressive list of ciders are made using apples straight from neighboring B.J. Reece Orchards.

By the end of an Ellijay retreat, travelers often feel like new people. The fresh mountain air cleanses lungs, restorative hikes energize bodies, and farm-to-table feasts nourish souls. The constant digital detox and peaceful solitude bring a much-needed clarity of mind.

If you're seeking a wellness escape that's more than just spa treatments and facials, Ellijay offers a holistic approach to rejuvenation. From the cozy cabin retreats and restorative hikes to the farm-to-table delights and enriching local experiences, Ellijay promises a return to nature, a reconnection with yourself, and a renewed sense of balance – the perfect prescription for a happier, healthier you. •



*Photo by Outline Creative*



# ADVENTURE

## AROUND EVERY TURN



Where heirloom orchards  
meet unparalleled vineyards,  
and mountain magic is waiting  
around every corner.

# SPLENDOR IN EVERY SIP



THIS IS ELLIJAY,  
GEORGIA

The Ultimate Mountain Getaway Awaits  
[PickEllijay.com](http://PickEllijay.com)



CREATE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE IN  
**DAWSONVILLE**  
*Georgia*



Dawsonville, Georgia is a charming town located about an hour north of Atlanta. Boasting a number of attractions ideal for the outdoor and adventure seeking enthusiast. One of the most popular spots is Amicalola Falls State Park and Lodge, home to the tallest cascading waterfall in Georgia and third tallest east of the Mississippi River. At 729 feet, Amicalola Falls is one of the seven Natural Wonders of Georgia, and is a must-see while visiting. Within the 829-acre park, there's multiple hiking trails with the most popular being the Approach Trail to the Appalachian Trail itself. Also in the park, don't miss the Screaming Eagle Aerial Adventure Zipline Tour, with the longest run featuring 250 feet of elevation and whisking you 2,000 feet across the park! Atop the falls is a 57-room resort-style lodge, complete with stunning views of the Appalachian Mountains and an on-site restaurant,

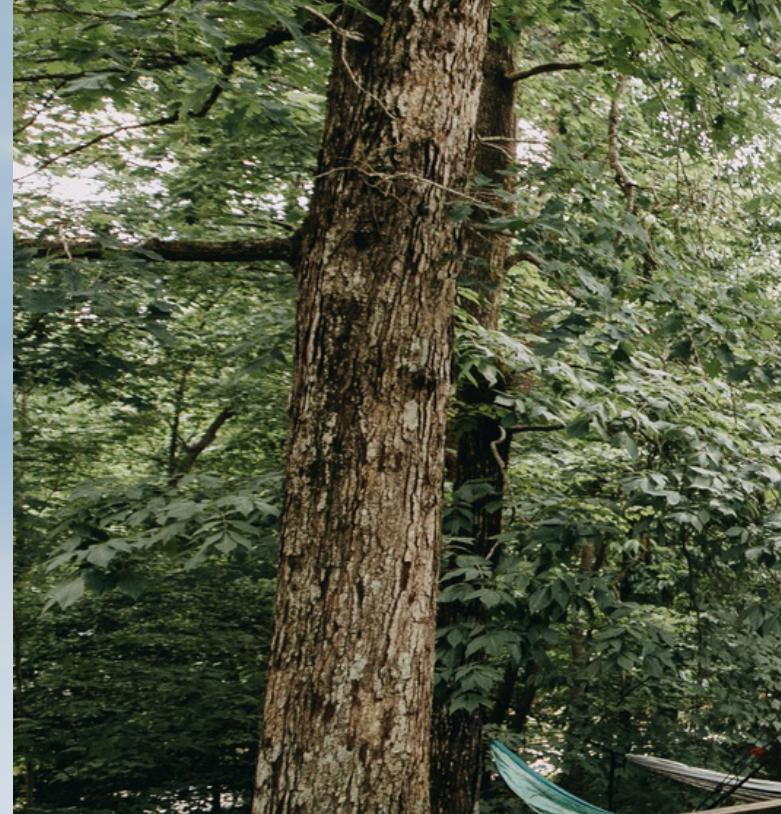
Cascades, featuring beautiful panoramic views of the Appalachian Mountains. In addition to guestrooms, the park offers onsite cabins, RV and tent campsites, as well as luxury glamping. As you enter the park, you'll be greeted with a new state of the art Visitor Center featuring the history of Dawson County and the Appalachian Trail, interactive displays and wildlife exhibits, and the Falls Café to fuel your hiking adventures!





Looking for an even more adventurous getaway, the Len Foote Hike Inn is a must-visit. Located five miles north of Amicalola Falls, it is Georgia's only backcountry lodge, accessible only by hiking a 5-mile trail through the Chattahoochee National Forest. The Hike Inn places an emphasis on conservation and sustainability, while providing rustic charm in a relaxed and beautiful setting that allows families to enjoy nature together. All you need is a change of clothes and a toothbrush, and they'll handle the rest, even deliciously served family style meals.

Seeking a need for speed? Atlanta Motorsports Park is an F1 designed 2-mile road course that's been voted one of the Top 10 Tracks in North America by Road and Track Magazine and Speed Sport's 2023 Outstanding Facility of the Year, and for good reason. It offers the perfect setting to unleash your inner racer with the world's most unique public kart racing track, race leagues, racing schools, a teen driving program, racing simulators and more. This is the perfect place to get behind the wheel and satisfy your need for speed.



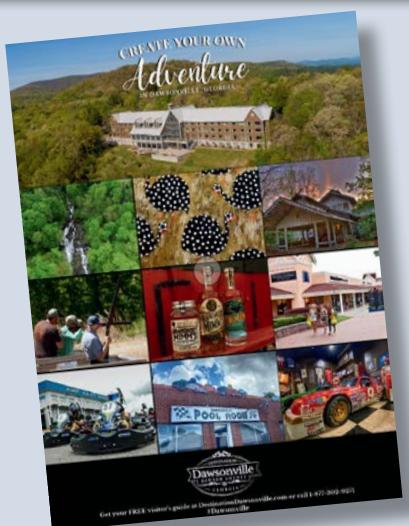
Racing fans will also relish in a visit to the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame, where you can explore the roots of stock car racing and discover how running moonshine during the prohibition era grew into the NASCAR of today! The Hall of Fame has exhibits celebrating the history of motorsports in the State and features memorabilia and trophies from Dawsonville's own 2020 NASCAR Cup Champion, Chase Elliott and his dad, former champion Awesome Bill from Dawsonville. Speaking of moonshine, adjacent to the museum, Grandaddy Mimm's Distilling Co. is a family owned and operated distillery specializing in high quality, small-batch spirits, including moonshine crafted from legendary Jack Mimm McClure's perfected North Georgia recipe. And don't forget to take a walk to the legendary Dawsonville Pool Room, known for their Bully Burgers and Fresh Cuts, where owner Gordon Pirkle displays racing memorabilia and has sounded the infamous si-reen for every Elliott victory since the 1980s.

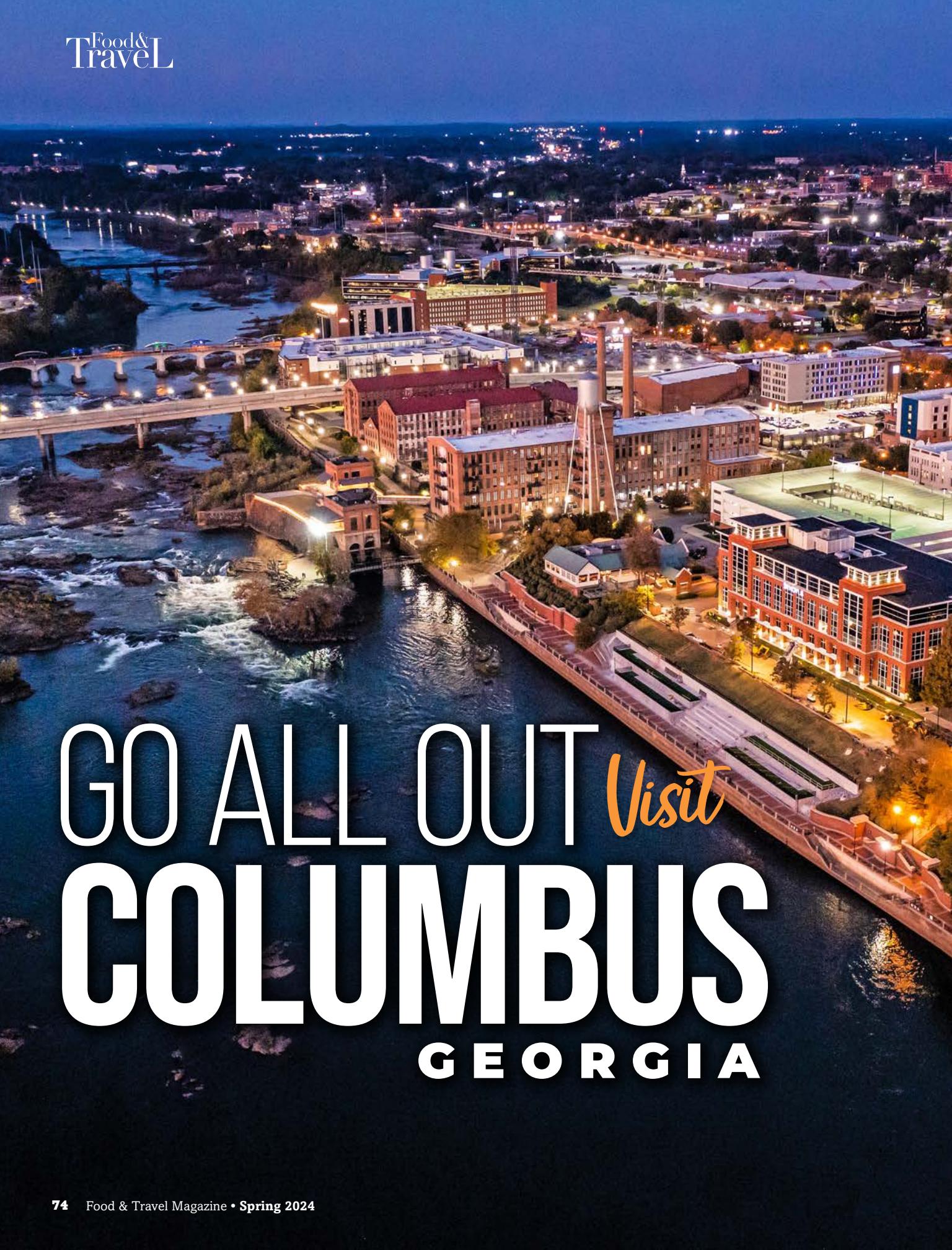


Finally, if you're in need of a little retail therapy, look no further than the North Georgia Premium Outlets, Atlanta's premier outlet shopping destination featuring 140+ stores with savings up to 65% off every day! Luxury retailers including Gucci, Versace, Jimmy Choo, Ferragamo, Stuart Weitzman, Armani and more. For a more unique experience, visit Around Back at Rocky's Place, the South's largest folk art gallery, featuring work from over 250 southern artists. Including the largest collection from sought-after folk artist, Cornbread.

There is something for everyone in Dawsonville and its surrounding areas. Embark on the adventure of a lifetime and experience all it has to offer. •

**CHECK OUT OUR AD ON THE  
BACK COVER OF THIS MAGAZINE!!!**





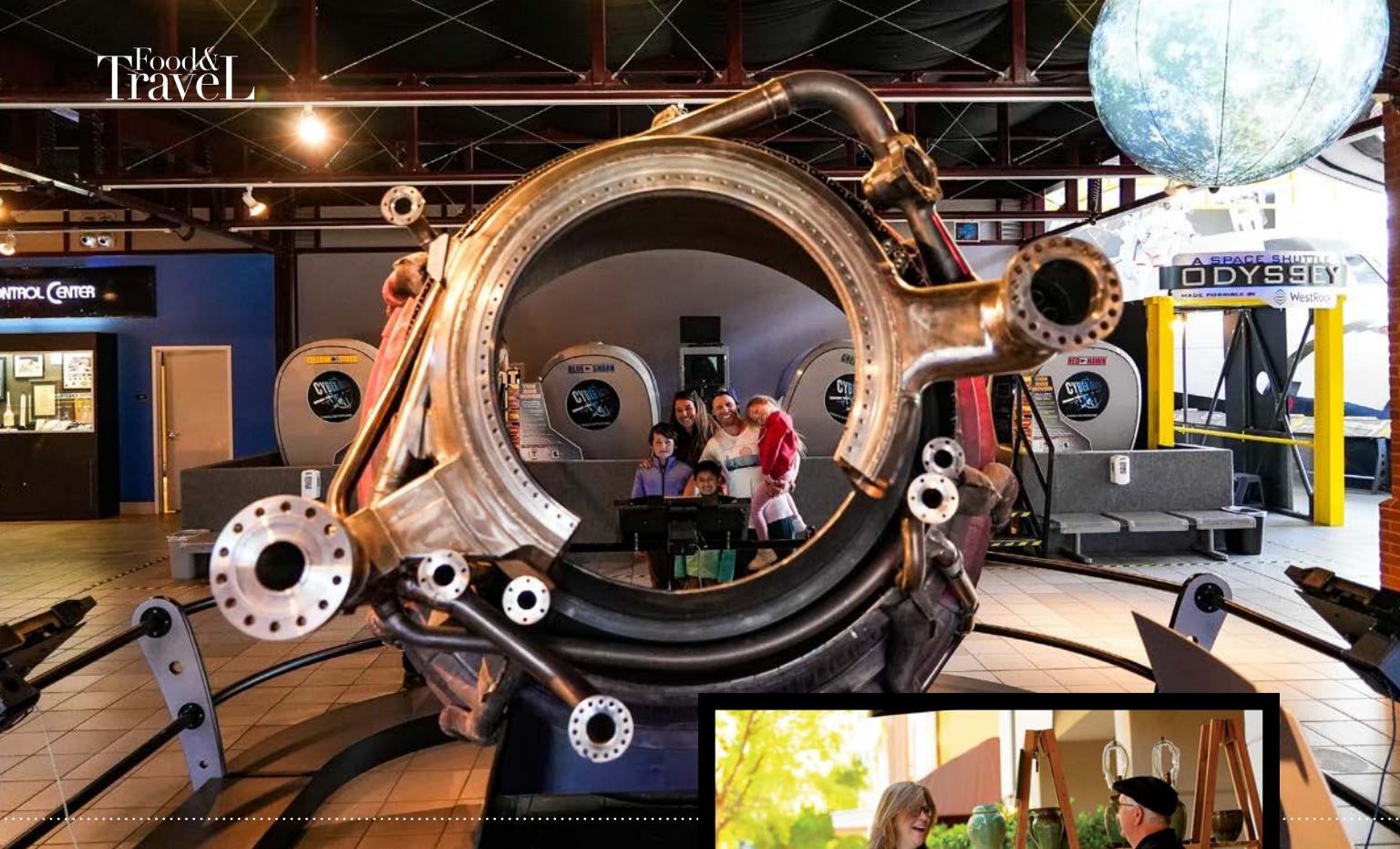
GO ALL OUT *Visit*  
**COLUMBUS**  
**GEORGIA**



**G**eorgia's second-largest city is a dynamic and diverse destination located in west-central Georgia on the banks of the Chattahoochee River – and it's the perfect place to put on your travel bucket list. A chef-driven local restaurant scene, a thriving arts community, and endless opportunities for outdoor adventure await travelers of all ages! Columbus is a great place to discover the wonders of nature AND delve into the city's unique culture.

Uptown Columbus (what locals call "downtown") is the heart of the city. Positioned along the Chattahoochee River, Uptown is a great stop on the 15-mile RiverWalk and home to a collection of some of the newest, hippest hotels; a local restaurant scene that rivals that of much larger cities; Market Days on Broadway, which is a Saturday-morning street market with more than 200 vendors selling art items, local produce, baked goods, and countless cool local finds; a free concert series where you can bring your chair and unwind to the sounds of a wide variety of musical entertainment; local boutique shopping; exciting public art and sculpture displays; and much more!

Columbus offers epic outdoor adventure steps away from the ultra-cool Uptown. Adventure seekers can enjoy 2.5 miles of whitewater rafting and kayaking on the longest natural urban whitewater course in the world! For those who want a milder adventure, you can also tube and paddle board on the river. Another one-of-a-kind attraction is the zip line that sends you from Columbus over the Chattahoochee River to Alabama – and back! Those who enjoy even more leisurely pursuits can stroll or bike along the RiverWalk, which winds past historical monuments and sites like the National Civil War Naval Museum and the experiential National Infantry Museum.



Columbus is an epicenter for cultural experiences. Founded in 1953, The Columbus Museum is the second-largest museum in the southeast and is being reimagined and fashioned as the region's cultural gathering place with newly designed galleries and gardens. The Columbus Collective Museums is home to the famous Lunch Box Museum (with the world's largest collection of vintage lunchboxes) plus six more dazzling museums that showcase the area's local industrial heritage and culture. The Coca-Cola Space Science Center features simulators, film screenings, and observation events appropriate for all ages. The Ma Rainey Home & Museum is a historical Columbus landmark honoring the legendary "Mother of Blues," Ma Rainey. And The Bo Bartlett Center is an 18,500-square-foot interactive gallery in the Uptown campus of Columbus State University.



*Photo by Robert Weems*



*Photo by Stephen Poff*

From ballet to Broadway, Columbus offers inspired performances and show-stopping events. RiverCenter for the Performing Arts is home to the Columbus Symphony Orchestra hosting Broadway shows as well as world-renowned performers and popular entertainers such as Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, The Moscow Boys Choir, and David Copperfield. The Springer Opera House is Georgia's State Theater, the region's premier professional theater, and annually produces over a dozen shows with talent from Los Angeles to New York.

Come and enjoy the vibrant artsy energy, the rich local history, epic outdoor adventures, and a thriving food scene (not to mention incredible photo opportunities for Insta!). It's no wonder Columbus was named "Georgia's Cool Cat City" by Forbes and one of the Best Trips of the Year by Explore Georgia. Couples, singles, and families alike will find what they need to plan an authentic, one-of-a-kind getaway by heading to [VisitColumbusGA.com](http://VisitColumbusGA.com).

With a zip line across the river, the longest natural urban whitewater course in the world, inspiring cuisine, and a creative spirit—a Columbus getaway is perfect for adventurers, foodies, and families alike. No wonder we were named one of the **Best Trips of the Year** by Explore Georgia.

ALL OUT **Exciting.** ALL OUT **Inviting.**

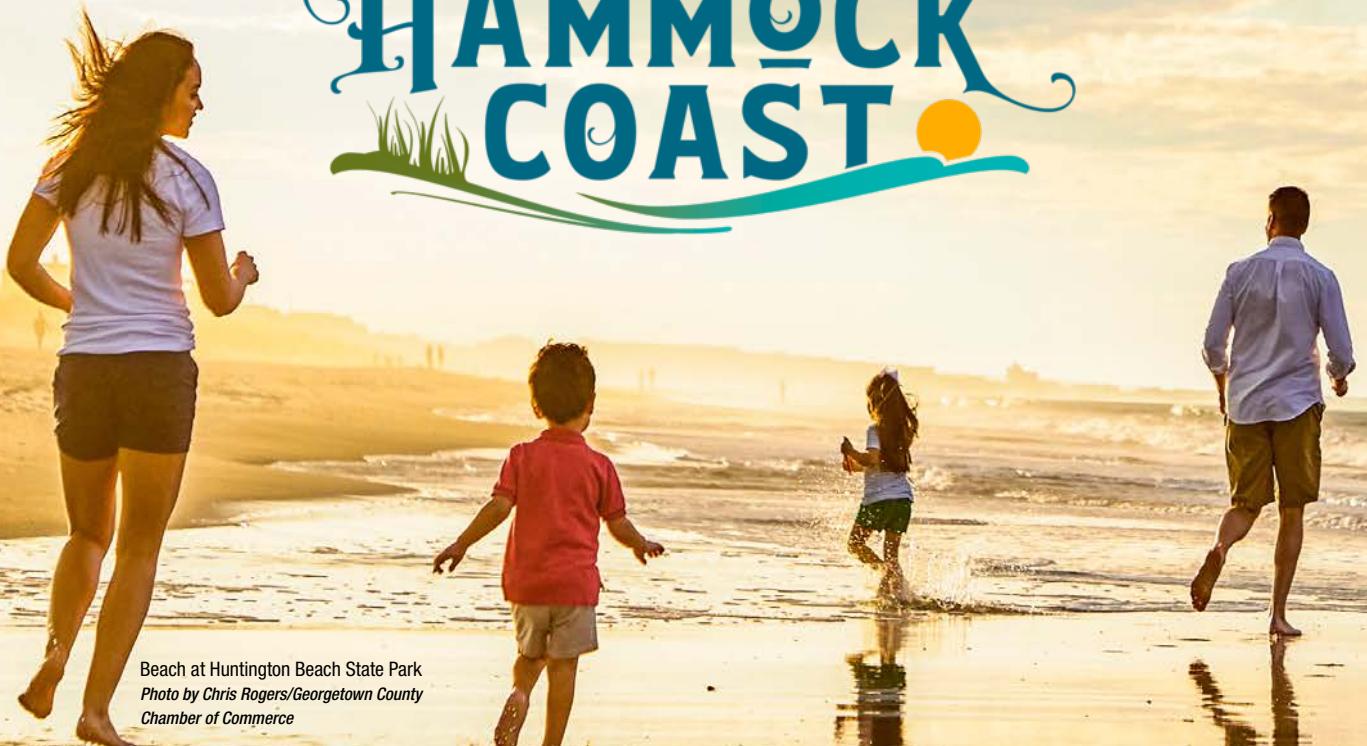


 Visit**ColumbusGA** Go All Out

VisitColumbusGA.com  

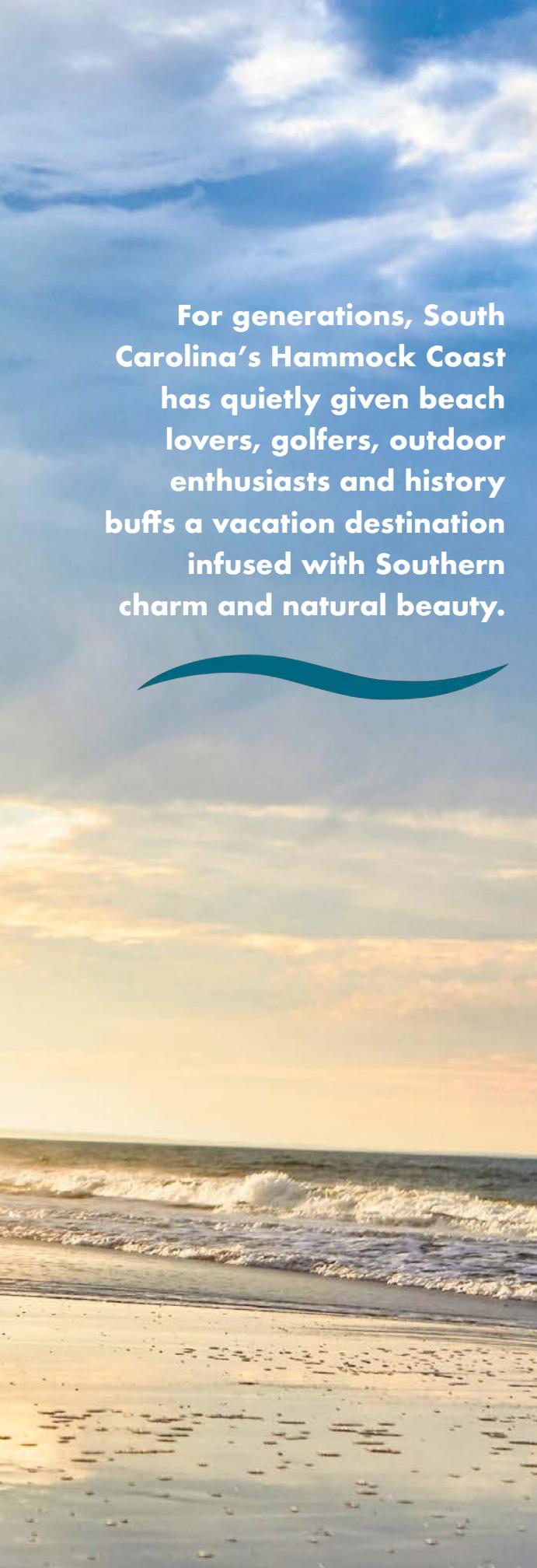
# EXPERIENCE THE RELAXATION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA'S  
**HAMMOCK COAST**



Beach at Huntington Beach State Park  
Photo by Chris Rogers/Georgetown County  
Chamber of Commerce

**For generations, South Carolina's Hammock Coast has quietly given beach lovers, golfers, outdoor enthusiasts and history buffs a vacation destination infused with Southern charm and natural beauty.**



Delicious dining options on the Hammock Coast  
Photo by Chris Rogers/Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce

**P**erfectly located in Georgetown County between Myrtle Beach to the north and Charleston to the south, the Hammock Coast is made up of the beach communities of Pawleys Island, Litchfield Beach, Murrells Inlet, DeBordieu and southern Garden City, as well as the historic cities of Georgetown and Andrews.

Each area has its own distinct personality, but when combined as the Hammock Coast, they all form a unique attraction. Spacious beaches and pristine salt marshes are perfect for soaking up the sun, doing some birdwatching or even catching some fish or blue crabs for dinner.

Pawleys Island is, in fact, the oldest seaside resort in America and continues to be a great place to enjoy a quiet, laid-back vacation. As the birthplace of the famed Pawleys Island rope hammock, relaxation has a long history here. Other than two historic inns, the historic island has no commercial development; however, just over the short causeway, there are first-class restaurants and boutique shops. Several homes and a series of condos known as the Pawleys Pier Village can be rented throughout the year on the island.



The Pelican Inn on Pawleys Island  
Photo by Chris Rogers/Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce



Seafood is king on the Hammock Coast

*Photo by Chris Rogers/Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce*



Biking on the Hammock Coast  
*Photo by Chris Rogers/Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce*

Murrells Inlet is proudly known as the “Seafood Capital of South Carolina.” Originally a fishing village on a protected inlet, the community boasts some of the best seafood in the entire South! The Murrells Inlet MarshWalk is a half-mile-long boardwalk on the banks of the Inlet, allowing visitors to truly experience the salt-marsh ecosystem along with restaurants, shops, parasailing, jet skiing and fishing excursions.

Between the business districts of Murrells Inlet and Litchfield Beach, ranked by TripAdvisor as one of America’s Top 10 beaches, are two of the Hammock Coast’s most famous attractions – Brookgreen Gardens and Huntington Beach State Park. The park, known as one of the East Coast’s top birding spots, offers camping and access to a pristine undeveloped beach and Atalaya Castle. (Yes, the Hammock Coast has a real castle overlooking the beach!) Just across Ocean Highway is Brookgreen Gardens, a 9,127-acre botanical and sculpture garden that draws visitors from around the world.

Tea at Hopsewee Plantation  
Photo by Chris Rogers/Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce



Sunrise on the Hammock Coast  
Photo by Chris Rogers/Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce



Caledonia Golf and Fish Club in Pawleys Island  
Photo by Chris Rogers/Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce



Dog with people on Litchfield Beach  
Photo by Chris Rogers/Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce

For the history buff, Georgetown is South Carolina's third oldest city, founded in 1729. Five museums are located in the historic district, and walking tours are part of daily life in Georgetown. Hopsewee Plantation, home to Thomas Lynch Jr., a signer of the Declaration of Independence, is just south of Georgetown and offers teas, tours, a museum, and Gullah interpretations of Black history.

Andrews, 18 miles inland from Georgetown, offers the perfect place to experience the natural world. From sporting clays to kayaking along the winding Black River, Andrews is an outdoor enthusiast's dream.

The Hammock Coast Golf Trail highlights 12 public courses in Georgetown County. Many are built on former rice plantations giving a graciously Southern golf experience. Three of Golf Magazines' "Top 100 You Can Play" are here, and Pawleys Island was named one of the top 10 "Golf Islands" in the world by Links Magazine.

National accolades for South Carolina's Hammock Coast have swept in like the ocean tide in recent years. Southern Living magazine named Georgetown one of the best small towns in the South, and USA Today proclaimed Georgetown as the Best Coastal Small Town in America. Garden & Gun magazine readers named Pawleys Island the second-best small beach town in the South.

On South Carolina's Hammock Coast, you can rediscover life with no schedules and the importance of true relaxation. The only itinerary you may need is a tide chart! ●

For information, go to [www.HammockCoastSC.com](http://www.HammockCoastSC.com)





CHERISH THE  
*moments*



PAWLEYS ISLAND | MURRELLS INLET | LITCHFIELD BEACH  
GARDEN CITY | GEORGETOWN | ANDREWS

[HAMMOCKCOASTSC.COM](http://HAMMOCKCOASTSC.COM)



SCAN TO START  
PLANNING YOUR TRIP

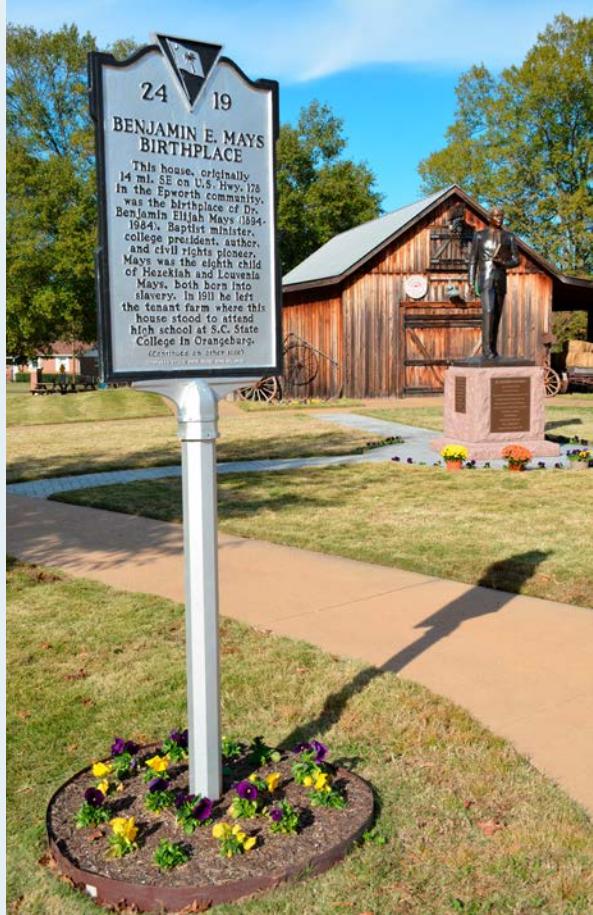
**DISCOVER**  
*South Carolina*

# DISCOVER **greenwood** SOUTH CAROLINA



WHERE STORIES  
COME ALIVE





# greenwood

SOUTH CAROLINA

If one is looking for a true hidden gem in Upstate South Carolina, Greenwood will exceed your expectations. Serving as the regional hub for retail, dining, lodging, healthcare, education, and more, Greenwood's hospitality and charm is one of the many reasons why visitor and newcomer traffic is ever increasing.

Uptown Greenwood is a great example of a smaller city thinking big. It has emerged once again as a key economic driver for the city, despite the distinctive challenge of forging a sense of community from an area that was once divided by railroad tracks, and then hundreds of feet of blacktop. By modernizing the downtown (including free WiFi) while keeping an eye on the historic character of Main Street, Uptown Greenwood truly embodies its mission of "Embracing the future and preserving the past." Over the last 15 years, Uptown has seen a huge increase in retail and dining options, including boutiques, craft breweries, and restaurants.

From upscale cuisine to good old-fashioned burgers, Greenwood has over 200 restaurants, including lakefront dining on Lake Greenwood. Greenwood's most recent culinary campaign, A World of Flavor, highlights the diversity of cuisine across the area and allows visitors a "sneak peek" of dining options across the county. For the BBQ lover, Greenwood offers its annual SC Festival of Discovery featuring BBQ and blues during the second weekend each July.



Boating, swimming, skiing, fishing—all of the traditional water activities are in play at Lake Greenwood. Live music, nearby restaurants with casual waterfront dining, and July 4th fireworks. Sandy beaches for volleyball and swimming add to the fun. Boat rentals for leisurely cruises are also available and for those who'd like to sit back and let someone else do the driving, boat tours are available as well.

Fishermen flock there for catfish, bass, and crappie. Fishing tournaments are a frequent event. Lake Greenwood State Park provides water access and camping facilities. A three-mile walk and bike trail gives visitors a view from the land. The Lake Greenwood Blueway Trail, a 34-mile trail for paddling, has brought kayakers, canoers, and other water lovers to the area.

For the historian, Greenwood's rich railroad history is chronicled with the Railroad Historical Center. Open throughout the spring and summer months, the center offers visitors a look at numerous locomotives, dining cars, sleeping cars, and even an executive car used to transport textile CEO's and customers throughout the Southeast.

The Benjamin E. Mays Historic Preservation Site, located behind what once was the African American hospital for the community, offers visitors a peek at the early childhood and life



of Dr. Benjamin E. Mays. Coming from impoverished, humbled beginnings, Dr. Mays rose to become one of the greatest international leaders of his generation. A lifelong educator, mentor to numerous presidents such as Kennedy and Carter, Dr. Mays retired as President of Morehouse College. The Mays Site serves as a reflection to those who seek success that education, determination, and hard work are the essential tools for breaking the walls of poverty and building the ladder to self-sufficiency.

As the nation prepares to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War, history abounds at the Ninety-Six National Historic Site. The site, which is a part of the National Park Service, documents key battles and skirmishes based at the "Star Fort", the earthen fort built by soldiers for protection. The site also hails as one of the first areas to see a bloodshed battle in South Carolina during the beginning of the Revolutionary War. •

**DiscoverGreenwood.com**

For more information on Greenwood and its many offerings, visit [www.discovergreenwood.com](http://www.discovergreenwood.com) or contact Discover Greenwood at 864-953-2466.

# A WORLD *of* FLAVOR



Find big flavors, small-town charm and a warm welcome in beautiful Greenwood.

[discovergreenwood.com](http://discovergreenwood.com)

greenw\*rd

SOUTH CAROLINA



# A TASTE OF KINSTON

## *North Carolina*

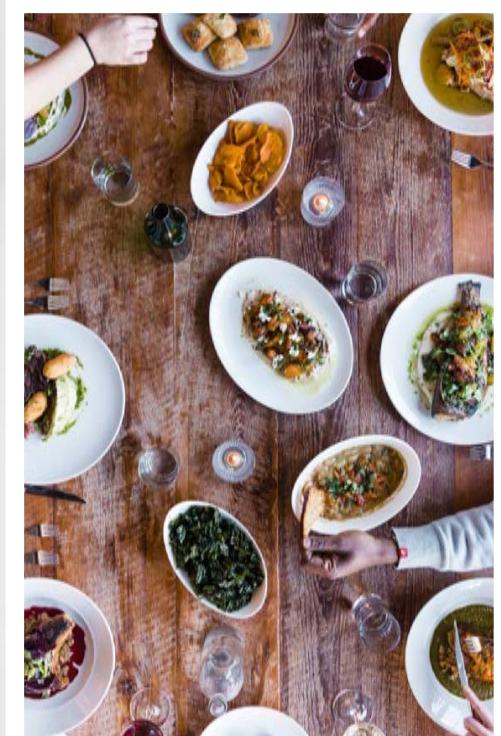


**H**and-crafted. Made from scratch. Outdoor fun. But kicked up a few notches. That's Kinston. Here, cooling off happens after a two-story drop. Imagination comes with seven doors and even its own section of town. Playtime includes paddling down the river or sliding down a dragon's back. History is something you learn about and something you pop in a bag and take home. Hotel stays can transport you back in time. Or make you feel rich just by walking into the lobby. And the food...oh, the food.... Biscuits as big as a cat's head and barbecue that's not just good...but best-in-the-nation good. Having a meal in Kinston isn't just about filling your stomach. These are meals you savor with memories that last a lifetime.

### THE KITCHEN BAR AT CHEF & THE FARMER

In 2006, Chef & the Farmer helped create the farm-to-table movement which quickly spread across the country with fervor. For more than 15 years, Chef & the Farmer was the flagship of the movement.

In 2023, Chef & the Farmer reinvented itself as The Kitchen Bar, under the leadership of Chef Vivian Howard. Howard's vision for Chef & The Farmer's new methodology is to create an intimate experience one weekend a month. If you are lucky enough to get a table, Howard cooks the meal herself and 14 patrons get to experience a 7-course dinner and optional wine pairings, served right at the kitchen bar. The dedication to creating this experience is backed by Howard's drive to locally source vegetables and meats, and a desire to interact with her patrons one-on-one.





## KINGS BARBECUE

A legacy has been built here. King's takes the same old fashion flavor perfected in 1936, and brings it into the present, right onto your plate. Picture this: Tender, pork barbecue painstakingly hand-chopped daily and slathered in our secret family sauce.

You can taste the family recipes and traditional Southern cooking methods in every morsel of their signature vinegar-based chopped pulled pork and Ribs. How good is it exactly? Well, King's BBQ ribs were voted best in the country on the Drew Barrymore Show's Battle of the Bites. So, nations' best is pretty good.



## SOCIAL HOUSE VODKA & PUMPHOUSE 1906

Social House Vodka is the place for vodka. It's here that Social House has converted an old power station into a farm-to-flask distillery. Made in Kinston, this corn-based vodka is all locally sourced from North Carolina farmers. Their craft spirits are premiere in their flavor and presentation. Offering distillery tours by appointment, you can see the process of how Social House creates liquid gold from grain. The corn gives the Vodka a sweet, buttery, soft, subtle note suitable for sipping on the rocks or mixing into cocktails.

You can taste those cocktails at the PumpHouse 1906. The local speakeasy is owned and operated by Social House and it showcases small batch collections of craft spirits, infusions, syrups, and bitters. No one cocktail is quite like the other. Choose from their extensive menu options or ask one of their mixology specialists to create something special for you.

**When you're in Kinston, every meal has meaning. It's about the experience of sitting at the table with friends and family. It's about the sustainable practices that go into every sip. It's about supporting local farmers. It's about a culinary experience that you can't find anywhere else. It's not just food, but it's memories. It's not just southern, it's southern with a kick. Consider yourself invited. •**



*Kinston is known  
FOR HISTORIC BATTLES  
including this morning's  
THROWDOWN FOR THE  
*last cheese biscuit.**

FOOD HAS A WAY OF BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER. That's why thousands of visitors follow the rumblings in their stomach to Kinston each year. Here, food isn't just prepared and served, it's crafted. Your farm-to-table meal happens in the city that invented farm-to-table meals. Your plate of barbecue isn't just good, it's best-in-the-nation good. And that last homemade biscuit on the breakfast table, it won't be there for long. So, put your bathroom scales away, and head over to Kinston. One of the culinary capitals of the South awaits.

KINSTON

[VisitKinston.com](http://VisitKinston.com)



JEFFERSON COUNTY, WV

# SPRING INTO NEW ADVENTURES *& Tasty Delights*





Photo by Chris Weisler

Just an hour west from Washington DC, Jefferson County, West Virginia is famous for the saga of John Brown and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. However, visitors have discovered that this piece of almost heaven delivers equally well on outdoor recreation venues and an incredible dining scene.

**T**here are few places with the outdoor recreation opportunities that you find in Jefferson County. Miles of scenic hiking and biking trails are highlighted by the Appalachian Trail. The Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers are home to great fishing, whitewater rafting, kayaking and tubing. An assortment of Professional outfitters can take care of all of the logistics and equipment for any adventure and guide you on a memorable adventure.

The legendary Appalachian Trail runs right through Harpers Ferry, near the headquarters and visitor center of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Pick up a guidebook or chat about your hiking plans at the conservancy's visitor center, then get underway.

Also in Harpers Ferry, River Riders Family Adventure Resort has you covered for just about any adventure, from cycling to a treetop challenge course. But in this town defined by the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, you must get on the water. River & Trail Outfitters and River Riders' whitewater rafting trips conquer class I-III rapids. You can even experience whitewater tubing on the Potomac river, which zips you over the river's rapids alongside the historic town. Slow down with a Shenandoah float – a ride so mild, you can bring a picnic.



Photo by Chris Weisler

Harpers Ferry Outfitters is a must-stop for all kinds of travelers. Whether you are a cyclist, hiker, passing pedestrian, or tourist, you will likely be leaving with at least one item in hand. Find a filled inventory of gear, T-shirts, accessories and other clothing, freeze-dried foods, and snacks to prepare for your hike or biking excursion. One welcoming resource provided here is the water re-fill station which those stopping by town while on a long trek certainly appreciate.

After a day of adventure, explore the shopping and dining scene in and around Harpers Ferry. The historic rich streets of Harpers Ferry are home to a unique mix of shops and galleries. The Vintage Lady has been a favorite spot for visitors for over 20 years for unique gifts, art, and jewelry. Spoil your sweet tooth and True Treats Historic Candy, the nation's only historic candy store, where visitors can shop over 500 historic teas, candies, and confections. Tenfold Fair Trade Collection is a curated artisan market providing fair trade, hand-crafted, eco-conscious items for you and your home. Whether a student, teacher, hiker, historian, nature lover, or every day visitor, you will find something to remember your trip at the Harpers Ferry Park Association Bookstore.



Photo by Joshua Lykins



94 Food & Travel Magazine • Spring 2024



Photo by Joshua Lykins

When it is time to relax, have some great food and reminisce about your day, Harpers Ferry offers a variety of great options. Kelley Farm Kitchen is Harpers Ferry's first vegan restaurant and provides mouth-watering meals that will be appreciated by vegans and non-vegans alike. Battle Grounds Bakery & Coffee is known for amazing sandwiches, great coffee, pastries and frozen custard. Wander to The Rabbit Hole Gastropub for a Blue Ridge Burger and a drink from its impressive craft beer selection, all enjoyed with a gorgeous view at one of its outdoor tables overlooking the river.

At the end of the evening, head to The Barn of Harpers Ferry for some live music and cold beer.

Bordering Harpers Ferry is the town of Bolivar. Stop in the Country Cafe for a good old-fashioned homemade breakfast. Nothing fancy, just delicious food like your grandmother used to make. Or find a range of fresh goods, including cinnamon rolls, biscuits, scones and West Virginia's best pepperoni rolls at Bolivar Bread Bakery.

For more information on creating your own Jefferson County getaway, visit [WhereAlmostHeavenBegins.com](http://WhereAlmostHeavenBegins.com).

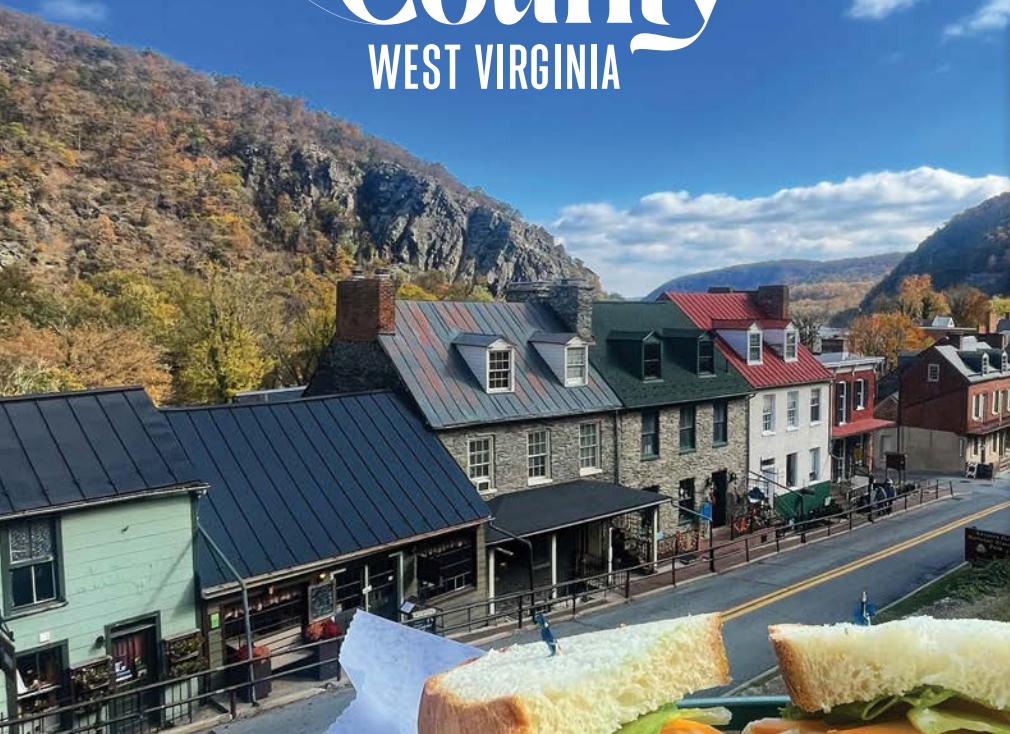


94 Food & Travel Magazine • Spring 2024

WHERE ALMOST HEAVEN BEGINS™

# Jefferson County

WEST VIRGINIA



**Harpers Ferry   Bolivar   Charles Town   Shepherdstown**

In Jefferson County, historic trails lead you along majestic rivers, through a national park, and to endless outdoor adventures. Our welcoming towns make you feel at home and sometimes a voice from the past will echo in the breeze. Jefferson County is your first step to exploring West Virginia. Take it and you will quickly realize this is Where Almost Heaven Begins.



WATCH OUR VIDEO

[WhereAlmostHeavenBegins.com](http://WhereAlmostHeavenBegins.com)

# DISCOVERING UPSCALE FLAVORS

*in Shores & Islands*  
**OHIO**

Experience a culinary journey through the world of fine dining in Shores & Islands Ohio, where gourmet delights meet the picturesque landscapes of Lake Erie. Fine dining refers to a restaurant experience that is of a higher quality and greater formality compared to the experience at a casual dining restaurant. The atmosphere of a fine dining establishment is usually more elegant, and the food is served in a more formal way.





Nestled along the shoreline, this charming region boasts a treasure trove of upscale restaurants that blend local flavors with a touch of sophistication. From charming waterfront eateries to hidden gems tucked away in historic towns, the Shores & Islands Ohio dining scene promises a delectable experience for discerning palates. Explore these culinary gems that elevate dining to an art form.

Celebrating 10 years of bringing “big city dining to a small town” in 2024, **Orchard Bar & Table** at Catawba recently debuted major renovations and an expansion project. The new-and-improved restaurant offers a luxe and inviting atmosphere with a combination of indoor soft seating, traditional dining tables, bar seating, and a gorgeous expanded patio, in season. In addition to the intimate and more formal main dining room, consider watching chef’s preparations at the all-new sushi and raw bar. The dining concept offers prime steaks, fresh seafood, handcrafted cocktails, and a large selection of wine in an elevated, warm and welcoming space.

**1812 Food & Spirits** features fine dining but casual dress. Named for the region’s history and close association with the War of 1812 and the Battle of Lake Erie, 1812 Food & Spirits offers an upscale dining experience featuring local favorites like Lake Erie yellow perch and walleye as well as other culinary treats. The rich menu also includes steaks, ribs, chops, seafood, pastas, and homemade desserts.

**Bay Harbor Waterfront Restaurant** is located at the Cedar Point Marina, offering water views and sitting in the shadow of some of the world’s most amazing roller coasters. This casually-elegant eatery features fresh seafood, delicious pasta, and prime rib. Outdoor eating on the patio is available in season, but the restaurant is open year-round. Come by lake or land for a romantic dinner or casual get together with friends.





Get dressed up for a fancy night out at **Chez François**, a French gem along the Vermilion River. The main indoor dining room does require jackets for men and a refined dress code. This elegant dining experience comes with top-rated food and service. Regularly one of the top restaurants in the region, Chez François features a highly-rated wine list and delicious French cuisine, fit for a special occasion. Their other onsite venues, Riverfront Café and Touché Wine and Martini Bar feature a more casual dress and atmosphere.



A more casual choice is **Crush Wine Bar**, offering both small plates and entrees with an extensive wine menu. Crush is known for its sushi and raw bar items, as well as a number of sharable dishes, pizzas, pastas, steaks, and chops. During the warmer months, the outdoor patio offers a casual place to enjoy an evening in downtown Sandusky.

For more than 150 years, there has been a winery steeped in history and style on the Catawba Island peninsula. Now known as **Gideon Owen Wine Company** (formerly Mon Ami), this premier food and wine destination is the perfect fusion of old-world charm, innovative design, and immersive experiences. Offering a formal dining room as well as a more casual patio and a wine bar, Gideon Owen serves lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunch. Visit for one of many special events, including live entertainment and wine cellar tours, or plan your own special event! Dinner menu includes elevated entrees featuring seafood, steaks, and pastas, all enjoyable with a glass of local wine!



Looking for an upscale island dining experience? Enter **The Goat, Soup & Whisky** which offers casual fine dining with a farm-to-table focus. It's large eclectic menu features foods created with and utilizing herbs from the onsite garden. Not only does this eatery present a nice wine list, but they also boast an outdoor Austrian/German Biergarten, open seasonally.

Another downtown Sandusky option for a fantastic night out with a delicious meal is **J Bistro**, a fine-dining restaurant offering steak, seafood, and pasta with a large wine selection, homemade desserts, and both indoor and patio seating.

**Sawmill Creek** by Cedar Point Resorts offers a beautiful resort property with a number of amenities and dining options, where they definitely don't offer typical hotel restaurant fare. The Miller's Table is an experience, dedicated to sourcing the best sustainable and local Ohio ingredients and bringing them fresh to your table. It's obvious in the rotating menu and your unforgettable meal. Hand-crafted cocktails from the full-service bar will complement your meal. The best part is you do not have to be an overnight resort guest to enjoy this experience, but upscale stays are always available for a memorable getaway.

These culinary delights are perfect when you are looking to celebrate a special occasion or enjoy a night on the town. Which of these Shores & Islands Ohio upscale dining experiences will you try first? Get more information and order your Play + Stay Guide at [SHORESandISLANDS.com](http://SHORESandISLANDS.com). •

## Always in Season? IT'S A SHORE THING

Shores & Islands Ohio is more than just a place, it's a feeling. Make our Cheers Trail part of your next adventure. Download our free Cheers Trail pass. Visit, check-in, and enjoy delicious locally-made craft brews, beverages

and wines. Earn points for prizes year-round! Find your Lake Erie Love at [SHORESandISLANDS.com](http://SHORESandISLANDS.com).



Cheers Trail



**SHORES & ISLANDS**<sub>OHIO</sub>  
CEDAR POINT • SANDUSKY • PUT-IN-BAY

# SPRING ADVENTURE

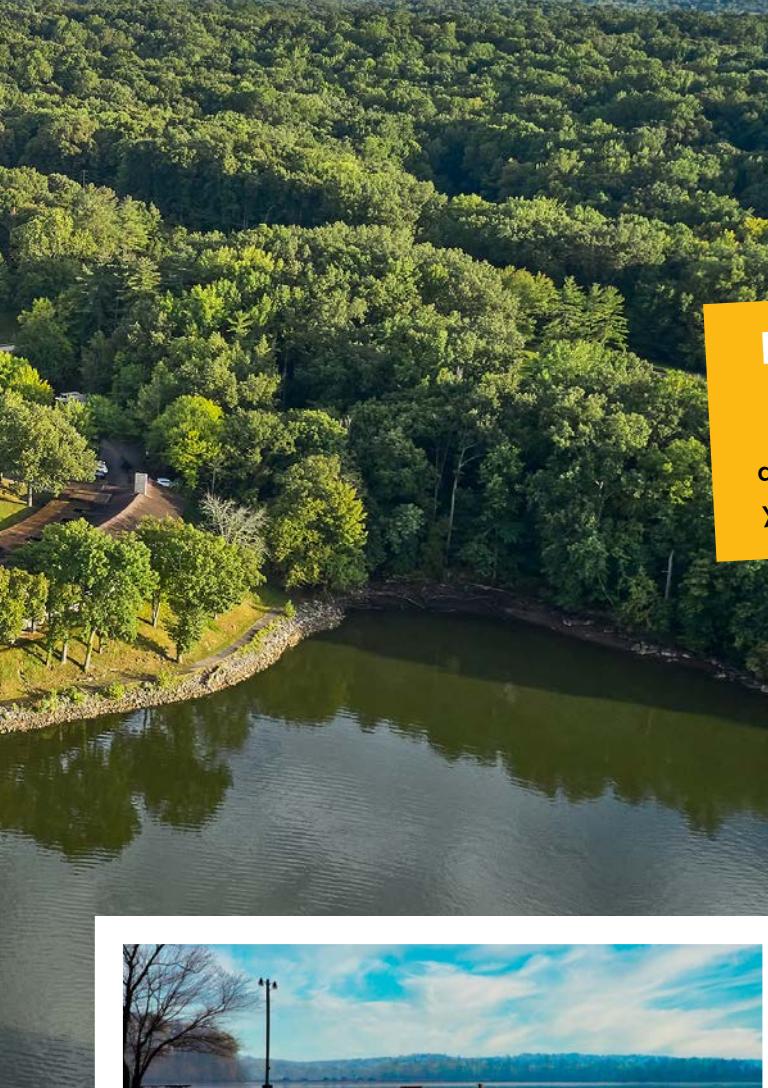
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## *at Lake Barkley*

**A**s the second-largest lake in Kentucky, Lake Barkley contains 57,900 acres of water, is 134 miles long, and boasts 1,000 miles of shoreline. It is a water, outdoors, nature and beach lover's paradise due to the many activities available on the lake's shore and beyond. It also serves as the east border of the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. It is a world-renowned location for fishing professionals and boating enthusiasts. Having a spring adventure on this behemoth of a lake is more than possible without even leaving the area.



Photo by Clay Cook



## PLANNING YOUR SPRING ADVENTURE AT LAKE BARKLEY

When planning your upcoming visit to this beautiful lake, consider adding stops to the following notable attractions/destinations. Include some or all of them on your spring adventure itinerary when visiting the area:



### LAKE BARKLEY'S HISTORY

Lake Barkley is a manmade lake that was formed when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed the Barkley Dam in 1966 to control the flow of the Cumberland River. The water overflowing from the river formed the lake. It is the second largest in the state, second only to Kentucky Lake, which incidentally was also manmade by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Today, Lake Barkley is one of the most popular recreational areas for camping, hunting, ATV riding, horseback riding, hiking, fishing and more.

### LAKE BARKLEY STATE RESORT PARK & LAKE MARINA

Featuring an impressive lodge of glass and wood, the lodge at Lake Barkley State Resort Park is the largest and most impressive structure east of the Mississippi River. Designed by Edward Durrell Stone, it seamlessly blends from the water to the wooded shoreline. The lodge also features private balconies with commanding views of the expansive lake. Suites and cottages are also available.

In addition to the lodge and cottage, while visiting Lake Barkley State Resort Park, you can also stay in one of the 78 campsites, some of which have grills, water and electricity. Some of the sites are primitive for those who prefer tent camping. The campground also provides guests with two bathhouses, showers and laundry facilities. Birding is an immensely popular activity at the resort overall, thanks to the over 200 species of birds, including eagles, that live or visit this beautiful area.

Of course, there are countless other activities to enjoy as well, including swimming, tennis, racquetball, trap shooting, hiking, golf, and much more. Located inside Lake Barkley State Resort Park, Lake Barkley Marina allows you to enjoy many water activities on the lake. You can rent a boat by the hour or by the day at the marina or grab a bite to eat on the water at Cap'n Jim's. And if you're looking for a home for your boat, the marina also has boat slips available year-round.



# GoCADIZ.com



Photo by Clay Cook

## PRIZER POINT KOA

Prizer Point Marina & Resort on Lake Barkley is another destination that you can visit that is full of family activities. As a KOA, it is arguably the area's finest destination if you want a family gateway. Here, you can rent condos or cabins or enjoy the camping sites. Golf cart rentals help you get around easily from activity to activity.

One of the most anticipated upcoming events, the North American solar eclipse, will take place on Apr. 8, 2024. Visiting during this time will allow you to witness a truly unique celestial event and create unforgettable memories with your family. There are even eclipse-related discounts and vacation packages you can enjoy when booking during this time. Even if you don't visit during this time, there are plenty of onsite activities to enjoy, including The Pier, a floating restaurant.



## MAKING YOUR WAY INLAND

Known as the friendliest little town in all of Kentucky, Cadiz is worth a visit as you make your way slightly inland when visiting Lake Barkley. The charm of the main street is ideal, while the mixture of dining options, galleries and shops is a perfect getaway when you want a break from the water. Be sure to visit the Cadiz Family Restaurant, winner of the Best of Kentucky award, along with Triplets BBQ or the Harper House for the best and most authentic regional BBQ. Triplets is a more mid-week casual restaurant, while its sister eatery is a more sit-down weekend stop that is more upscale. Debbie Kaye's Restaurant will take you back to Grandma's with a taste of home cooking that can't be beaten. Try any of these or choose from others that are situated in Trigg County as part of a well-rounded spring adventure at Lake Barkley. •



CADIZ-TRIGG COUNTY  
KENTUCKY  
Lake Barkley & Land Between the Lakes

Begin Planning Your

# spring & summer

## Visit Here



Vacation Rentals

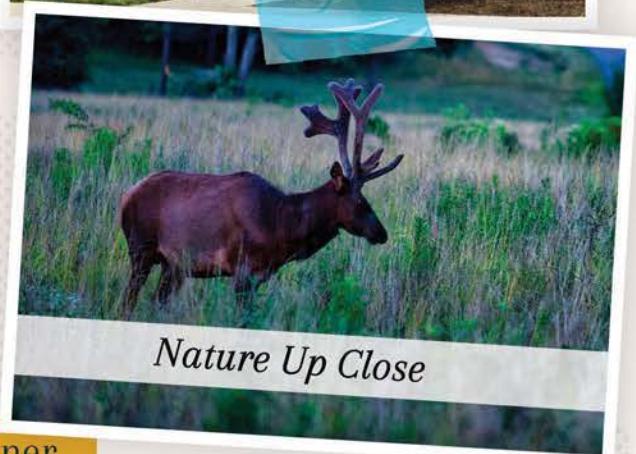
Lake Barkley

Land Between the Lakes

Restaurants and more



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*Galena*  
COUNTRY

# WELCOME To CHARMING



**T**ucked into the corner of Northwest Illinois is a hidden gem called Galena Country. This captivating location is lush with rolling hills, rich in history, and loaded with incredible outdoor adventure, shopping, and dining.

Only a few hours' drive from Chicago, this traveler's favorite is the second most-visited leisure destination in the state. Explore the 11 unique locations that makeup Galena Country with this adventure-filled, 4-day itinerary!

## DAY 1

Stockton is full of surprises. Fill up on a juicy burger at JJ & Freddie's, shop at Savvy Scavengers, and bag your candy at Sweet Alice's. Stroll the town to find memory-making opportunities with the artistic Stockton Adventures murals! Learn something new at the Stockton Heritage Museum, featuring N-scale model trains and Kraft Foods' history (Fun fact: Kraft started in Stockton)



Take in magnificent views while heading to Apple River for an outdoor adventure! Fuel up at Thriving Thistle Market with fresh-made smoothies and take a journey to Apple River Canyon State Park. Unplug, relax, and enjoy nature!

Cruise the historic Stagecoach Trail towards Scales Mound. Stop into the Country House Grocery for last-minute essentials and follow the scenic route to Galena. Explore Galena's Historic Main Street, ending with a delicious dinner and live music performed by local musicians.

Photo by Matt Haas



*Photo by Galena Country Tourism*



*Photo by Galena Country Tourism*



*Photo by Galena Country Tourism*

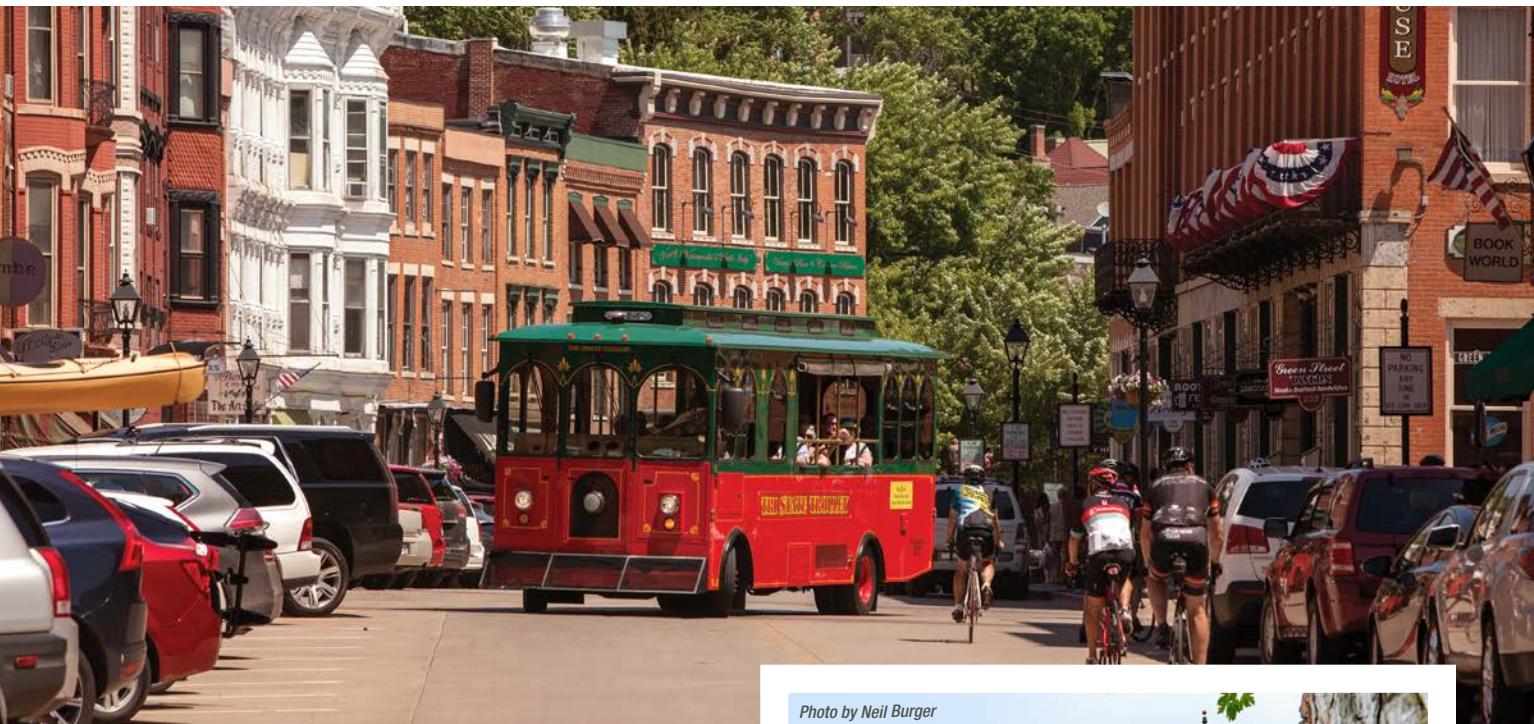


## DAY 2

On your way to Elizabeth, stop at the Long Hollow Scenic Overlook to soak in stunning views. Enjoy breakfast at E-town or Lola's Deli and treasure hunting at Common Cents Resale, Elizabeth Grand Antique Co., and Three Sisters Sweet Shoppe. Pick your own pumpkins at Dittmar Farms and check out the Apple River Fort State Historic Site to experience Black Hawk War history.

Indulge in a tasty lunch at Cajun Jack's and delicious local brews at the Highway 20 Brewing Company before heading to Hanover. Enjoy a scenic hike along the Apple River at the beautiful Wapello Land & Water Reserve. For the drive back to Galena, consider following Blackjack Road for a scenic pit stop at Chestnut Mountain Resort, an all-season resort with zip-lining, an alpine slide, Segway tours, boat rides, and Skiing!

Menominee and East Dubuque are calling! Delight in dinner at Timmerman's Supper Club, nestled among the bluffs of the Mississippi River, or tour Berning Acres Dairy Farm. Millennium Bar & Marina and Frentress Lake Marina are great spots to watch beautiful sunsets! Head back to Galena for an epic magic show with P.T. Murphy!



## DAY 3

Some local breakfast favorites include Otto's Place, Charlie's Place, Paradise Grill, and Galena Bakehouse. Hit up Galena's Main Street for an incredible shopping experience with more than 125 independently owned stores. Get your history fix on a tour of U.S. Grant's Home, The Dowling House, and The Old Blacksmith Shop. Hop on a tour with Galena Trolley Company to further discover the beautiful homes and views that are often raved about.

*Photo by Neil Burger*



## DAY 4

Take a self-guided tour of the Historical DeSoto House Hotel before continuing to Warren for a beer tasting at Pecatonica Beer Company. Enjoy a delicious burger at a small community with a hoppin' bar called Nora Bar in Nora and venture back onto the beautiful Stagecoach Trail to Galena.

The last stop to complete the tour of Galena Country is Woodbine. Search for specialty gifts at Nature's Treasure or stop for a round of golf at Woodbine Bend. Speaking of golf, golf enthusiasts won't want to miss Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa.

**Galena Country transports people to one-of-a-kind experiences and adventures. Some historic, some timeless, and some brand-new, but always original! Start planning a trip today by browsing [VisitGalena.org](http://VisitGalena.org) •**





# WELCOME TO CHARMING

YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE AWAITS!

enjoy  
**illinois**

*Galena*  
COUNTRY  
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# OUTDOOR ESCAPADES

IN

*Abingdon*  
VIRGINIA

*Photo by Cameron Davidson*



**A**bingdon isn't just any small town; it's an invitation to the great outdoors, celebrated by Blue Ridge Outdoors as a top adventure town. Imagine pedaling or hiking along the Virginia Creeper Trail, a 34-mile stretch where history and nature intertwine. This Historic Hall of Fame Rails-to-Trails weaves from Whitetop Mountain, the second -highest peak in the state through breathtaking landscapes of the Jefferson National Forest, alongside trout filled streams and over 47 wooden trestles – a must for any adventurer's bucket list.

For those drawn to the water, South Holston Lake bordered by the Cherokee National Forest, has much to offer. A gentle glide on a kayak or paddleboard, world-class fishing, rare bird observation, enjoy the thrill of a jet blade or floating waterpark, South Holston provides a perfect blend of activities for everyone. Numerous streams, rivers and lakes throughout the region are filled with large and smallmouth bass, spotted and rock bass, walleye, catfish, native brook, brown, and rainbow trout. Reserve a day or camping excursion with a local fishing guide.



### CULINARY DELIGHTS

Abingdon is well known for its collection of local restaurants. There are more than 30 in all, combining for an amazing mix of culinary offerings that has consistently garnered votes as one of the Best Small Town Food Scenes in the Country by USA Today's 10Best. Abingdon is a treasure trove for the palate, from farm-to-table dining experiences to the unique flavors of craft beverages, including beer, wine, cider, freshly pressed juice, and specialty coffees.



*Photo by Jason Barnette*



*Photo by Billie Wheeler*



## GLIMPSE OF HISTORY AND CULTURE

While the call of the mountains and the lure of the table are compelling, Abingdon's charm is deepened by its unique blend of history and culture. The town's storied past is not just alive, but it resonates in its 22-block historic district, where architecture spans two centuries. Stand on the very ground where a small group of patriot militia changed the course of American history at the Abingdon Muster Grounds, the trailhead for the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. From Barter Theatre, which has a fascinating history of trading performances for produce during the Great Depression to vibrant festivals, museums, artisan studios, unique shops and galleries showcasing art, music, and antiques; Abingdon has something for every art and history lover.



## ABINGDON'S WARM WELCOME

After a day spent in the embrace of nature or indulging in culinary delights, Abingdon offers a range of accommodations to rest and rejuvenate. Recognized for its southern hospitality, the town's lodging options—from charming inns to cozy lofts—promise a warm welcome and a comfortable stay, making it easy to see why Southern Living heralds it as one of the best small towns in the South.

## YOUR INVITATION AWAITS

Located conveniently off I-81 and within easy reach of major cities and airports, Abingdon stands as a beckoning destination that marries the tranquility of the great outdoors with the vibrant beat of cultural and culinary life. Its central location makes it a perfect getaway for those seeking a blend of nature and culture, inviting you to explore, taste, and discover.

So, are you ready for an unforgettable journey? Find your way to play and indulge in Abingdon's culinary and natural splendors! [VisitAbingdonVirginia.com](http://VisitAbingdonVirginia.com) for more information and start planning your adventure today. •



# Abingdon

VIRGINIA

IT'S ALWAYS PLAY TIME IN ABINGDON!

Historic Downtown Abingdon



Historic Barter Theatre



The Tavern

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One of the Best Small Towns in the South - Southern Living

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**Explore  
HARRISONBURG  
*Virginia***



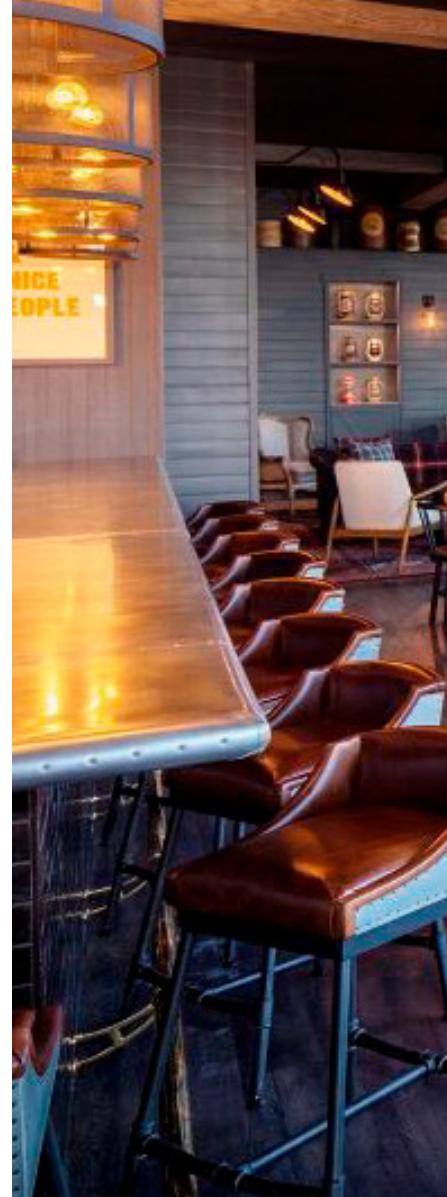
**Explore  
HARRISONBURG  
*Virginia***



Photo by Cedric Angeles

**F**rom the moment you arrive in downtown Harrisonburg, you're greeted by a sense of calm, with views of the surrounding mountains and the city's friendly, unhurried pace. Surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains and Shenandoah National Park, it's your gateway to outdoor bliss. With vast forest lands, countless trails, and pristine waterways, Harrisonburg is the adventure hub of the Shenandoah Valley. Whether you're hiking the legendary Appalachian Trail or exploring lesser-known paths in the George Washington National Forest, there's an adventure for every outdoor enthusiast.

Located just 30 minutes from Harrisonburg, the High Knob Fire Tower offers panoramic views accessible via trails in the George Washington National Forest. Begin your journey early in the morning or near dusk for the best views of sunrise or sunset over the majestic mountains that surround the valley. For an easy, refreshing hike, head to Fridley Gap in Massanutten Mountain, less than 10 miles away, where a shaded trail leads to a swimming hole fed by a small waterfall. Harrisonburg is also a haven for cycling enthusiasts, hosting events like the Shenandoah Mountain Bike Festival and Alpine Gran Loop Fondo. With nearby mountain biking trails and the city's IMBA Bronze Level Ride Center status, adventure is always close at hand.



Serving as a hub for all these activities is the city's vibrant downtown district, a designated First Arts and Cultural District and the First Culinary District of Virginia. Its charming atmosphere is punctuated by local live music, public art, and a vibrant culinary scene. With shopping, dining, and entertainment conveniently located near mountains and national parks, Harrisonburg stands out as the perfect basecamp for outdoor adventure.

## INDULGE IN LOCAL FLAVORS

Fuel your outdoor adventure with Harrisonburg's diverse culinary scene. From rooftop dining to historic settings, 50+ locally-owned eateries offer unique experiences for every taste. Try Magpie, a popular brunch spot housed in a converted 1950s tire station, serving a modern, ever-changing menu inspired by seasonal ingredients. For a quick pick-me-up, grab artisanal pastries at Heritage Bakery or gluten-free treats at BMC Bakes. Plan a scenic picnic with sandwiches from Lola's Delicatessen, known for their gourmet selections crafted from freshly sliced meats and cheeses. After conquering nearby trails, reward yourself with a special dining experience at the Ridge Room, a rooftop tavern just outside downtown, offering fresh bites and craft cocktails with views of the nearby mountains you've recently explored.



## ENJOY LOCAL SHOPPING

Meander through Downtown Harrisonburg's diverse shopping scene, where independent shops, eclectic boutiques, and bustling markets offer a diverse array of treasures. Discover unique finds at the Shops at Agora and Liberty Street Mercantile, where local artisans showcase one-of-a-kind, handcrafted goods. For outdoor enthusiasts, Harrisonburg features specialty stores catering to adventures of all kinds, including climbing, hiking, biking, and fishing. Knowledgeable outfitters like Walkabout Outfitters provide trail information and hiking equipment, while Sole Focus Running offers a range of gear for running and walking. Cyclists can find tips, gear, and repairs at Shenandoah Bicycle Company or Rocktown Bicycles. Stop by the farmers market or food co-op to grab fresh, locally-grown snacks to fuel your outdoor adventures.

## CULTURAL ENRICHMENT AND EVENING DELIGHTS

As the sun sets, Harrisonburg comes alive with the sounds of live music and the aroma of craft brews wafting through the air. Catch a performance at Golden Pony or Clementine, where local talent takes center stage. For a more laid-back evening, sit back with a pint of freshly brewed beer at one of Harrisonburg's five local craft breweries and a cidery. Cozy up with your favorite book and a pint of Pale Fire Brewing's award-winning cream ale, Taking Water. Taste The Great Outdoors at Brothers Craft Brewing with their "Virginia" pale ale, capturing the essence of the Shenandoah Wilderness. •



**HARRISONBURG | VA**  
FRIENDLY BY NATURE



# EXPLORE HARRISONBURG VIRGINIA

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAPITAL  
OF THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY



# HIDDEN TREASURES



IN BEDFORD, VIRGINIA



**B**edford is home to the National D-Day Memorial, a deeply moving tribute to the American and Allied forces that fought in the largest amphibious invasion of all time. The Memorial overlooks the community that suffered the greatest loss per capita of any in the United States. It is a solemn atmosphere for veterans and visitors alike to gain insight and learn more about the events that shaped world history. It is the only place in the world that individually lists the names of all Allied personnel who died on June 6, 1944, during the invasion of Normandy. This was a groundbreaking research effort to recognize those who had fallen in service to their country and to preserve their memory. The Memorial is also the site of Virginia's first Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, honoring all families who have lost a loved one in military service.



In December 2023, the National Park Service named Bedford, Virginia an American World War II Heritage City. This program honors the contributions of localities and their citizens who stepped into the workforce to support America's efforts during World War II. Only one such designation is awarded in each state or territory.





When visiting, don't miss the Bedford Boys Tribute Center in historic downtown. Opened June 1, 2019, this is the nation's largest and most comprehensive museum honoring the legacies of the famed "Bedford Boys." Walk in their footsteps inside Bedford's iconic and historic Green's Drugstore where they hung out as young men. Learn about them growing up and about the supreme sacrifices made that forever teach us that freedom is not free.

Also located in Bedford is Thomas Jefferson's personal retreat home, Poplar Forest. Built in a grove of poplar trees, the octagonal house, one of Jefferson's finest architectural designs, offers great insight into the private side of this Founding Father. A visit to Poplar Forest will

The 80th anniversary of D-Day will be commemorated June 6-9, 2024, with the theme "Every Story Lives On". The events begin with a ceremony on June 6 with surviving D-Day and World War II veterans as the guests of honor. On the evenings of June 7 and 8, the Memorial will be transformed in a multi-media sensory display, with the presentation When We Went In: The D-Day Experience in Light and Sound, created exclusively for the National D-Day Memorial by the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology at Virginia Tech. The acclaimed West Point Alumni Glee Club will perform a stirring patriotic remembrance concert before the Friday night show. On Saturday, USO-style duo, Letters from Home, will dazzle the audience with a 1940s-themed concert to open the showing. The events conclude with an authentic field chapel service on Sunday morning, June 9.

Visit the Memorial's 80th anniversary website at [dday.org/80th](http://dday.org/80th) for full event details, tickets, and updates. The Memorial's normal operating hours are daily, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

shed new light on Thomas Jefferson's creativity and curiosity, his enslaved community, and his private world. View artifacts from the free and enslaved people who lived and worked at Poplar Forest. The site is open for daily tours and hosts special events throughout the year, including historical theater, lectures, dinners, ceremonies, wine festivals, and more.

Historic downtown Bedford offers art galleries, shops, antiques, and restaurants that are within easy walking distance from each other in a charming atmosphere of 19th Century buildings. The Bedford Museum, located beside the County Courthouse, showcases Bedford's rich history.

**While in Bedford, be sure to stop by the Bedford Area Welcome Center. The Center is open daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and includes a gift shop, firefighter display, RV hook-ups, electric car charging station, LOVE sign, and more.**

Visit [DestinationBedfordVA.com](http://DestinationBedfordVA.com) or call (540) 587-5681 for more information. •

Begin your extraordinary visit to Bedford at the official Welcome Center. Find sweeping views of the Peaks of Otter, a LOVEworks display, gift shop and more.



— *Where Ordinary Ends...* —

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