



Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau

## “African American Heritage” Huntsville, Alabama

### Sample Itinerary

#### **Day 1**

2-3:30 p.m.

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

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

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

4-5 p.m.

Check into your hotel.

7:15 p.m.

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

#### **Day 2:**

Breakfast at the hotel

8:30-11:30 a.m.

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

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

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

12-5 p.m.

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

For just a moment, imagine you're an astronaut getting ready to board the Space Shuttle. It's your first flight. How are you feeling at this very moment? Are you nervous? Anxious? Scared? Excited? If you're like me, your adrenaline is pumping. These feelings and much more can be

experienced at the **U.S. Space & Rocket Center**. Whether you're exploring the history of the U.S. Space program, taking a virtual journey inside a motion-based simulator, or experiencing three times the pull of gravity inside the centrifuge, you're sure to have an out of this world experience! Box lunch or lunch in the Galaxy Food Court are available.

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

5:30-6:30 p.m.

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

7 p.m.

### **THE CIVIL WAR**

Built in 1860, the **Huntsville Historic Depot** served as a war hospital, quarters for white and black Union soldiers and a prison for Confederate soldiers. Later the depot was used as a major shipping point for the regional cotton industry. Experience Huntsville's history as you hear tales of the depot during the Civil War. Enjoy a favorite southern meal during your visit...Barbeque and Beans!

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

### **Day 3:**

Breakfast at the hotel

8:15-11 a.m.

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

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

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

### **ALABAMA'S BIRTHPLACE**

Hear the whir of the spinning wheel...smell the enticing aroma of freshly baked bread being prepared over an open fire...turn the great wheel lathe in the cabinetmaker's shop...and visit with villagers busy with their daily tasks, seemingly unaware that nearly two centuries have come and gone. **Alabama Constitution Village** dates back to 1819 and is the actual site where forty-four delegates gathered to forge the way for Alabama's Statehood. Become a part of Alabama's history as villagers dressed in period clothing take you through eight reconstructed Federal style buildings.

Catered lunch available.

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

1:30-3:30 p.m.

### **ONCE A SLAVE PLANTATION**

Oakwood College began as an industrial school and was founded by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1896 to educate African-Americans in the South. The first building built on the campus replaced the nine slave huts which housed the first eight male students who enrolled on the opening day of school. Dred Scott, the plaintiff in the famous Scott v. Sanford case, was

brought to Huntsville in 1858 to live on the grounds of what is now Oakwood College. A slave, he sued for freedom, because he had been transported from Illinois and the Wisconsin Territory, both of which barred slavery. Visit the **Oakwood College Archives and Museum** to hear the story of Dred Scott, the Take 6 Group and others. View unique collections of artifacts, biographies, documents, manuscripts, and historical records about the history of Oakwood College and Huntsville. Visit online at [www.oakwood.edu](http://www.oakwood.edu)

4-5 p.m.

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

There is always something 'growing' on at the **Huntsville Botanical Garden**. Enjoy the Nature Center, the largest seasonal butterfly house in the nation, where brightly colored butterflies live in their natural habitat, turtles sun themselves on rocks, frogs croak, and the rush of a waterfall takes you to a place of serenity. Galaxy of Lights, one of ABA's Top Destinations, is open nightly from Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve. The Tea Room serves light lunches and the Gift Shop is always filled with interesting, decorative and useful garden items. Several major festivals such as Spring Festival of Flowers, Green U, Scarecrow Trail plus many more, prove that at the Huntsville Botanical Garden – there's always something growing on! Golf cart tours are available upon request. Visit online at [www.hsvbg.org](http://www.hsvbg.org)

5:30-6:30 p.m.

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

7-9 p.m.

#### **THE HISTORIC WEEDEN HOUSE MUSEUM**

Built in 1819, the **Weeden House** was home to the 19th century poet and artist, Maria Howard Weeden. This white, two-story brick house, located in the Twickenham Historic District, is distinguished by a remarkable leaded glass fanlight over the front door. Learn how Maria Howard Weeden used literature, dialect, tradition and values to contribute to the development and transmission of culture. View Weeden's exquisite portraits and learn how she captured the spirit of her models. Interpreters and catered dinner are available. Visit online at [www.weedenhousemuseum.com](http://www.weedenhousemuseum.com)

Book your **"African American Heritage"** tour TODAY!



Contact Pam Williams, Tourism Sales Manager  
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