

WHAT TO SEE & DO ON



BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST



DISMALS CANYON



DUNCAN BRIDGE MARINA
& RV PARK

NORTH ALABAMA™

Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association

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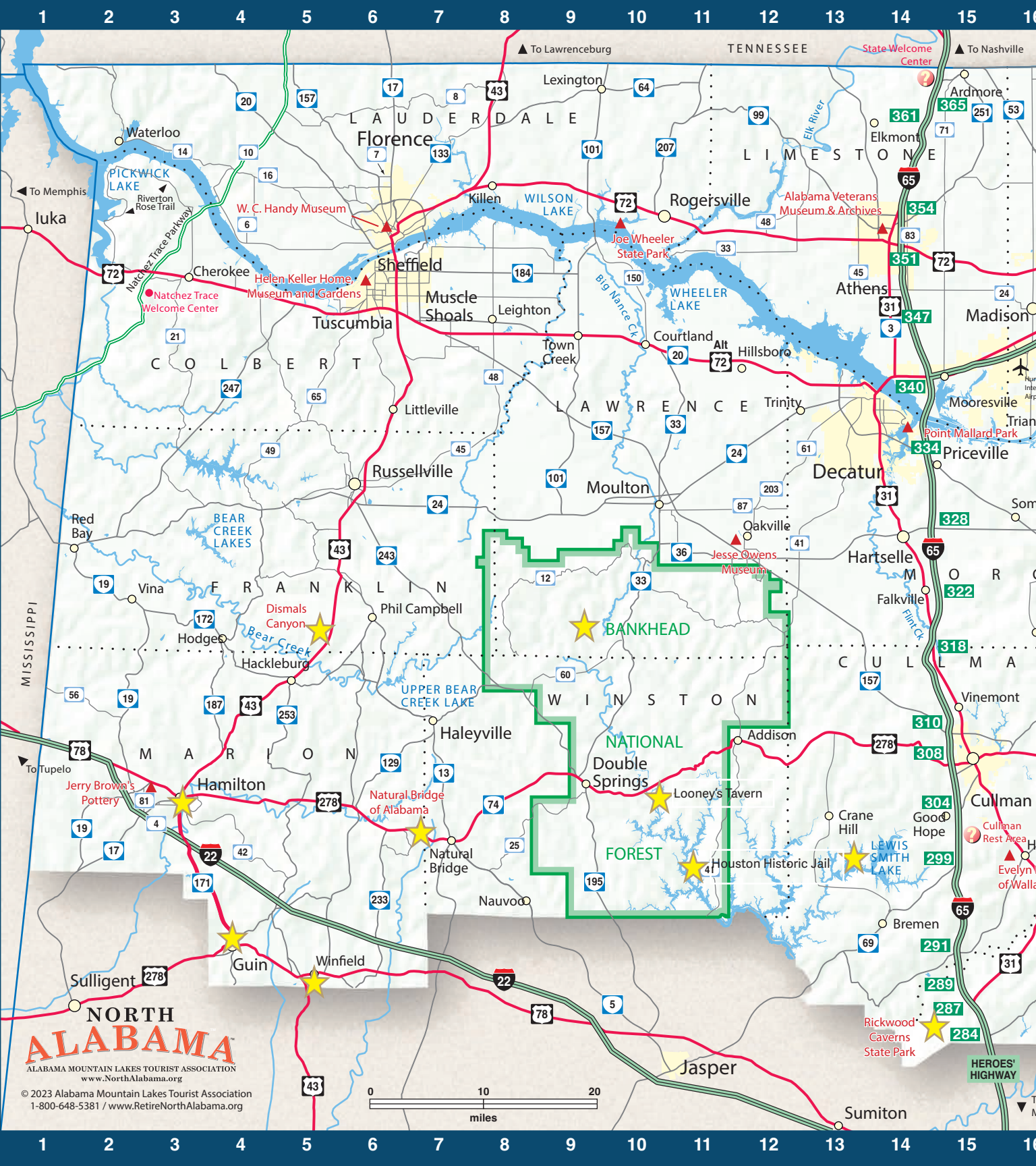
WHAT TO SEE & DO ON



Photo by John Dersham

MUST SEE STOPS • FESTIVALS • MURALS • ACCOMMODATIONS

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ITINERARY

What to See and Do off of I-22 in North Alabama

I-22 serves as a Birmingham to Memphis expressway, cutting across rural areas in northwestern Alabama. As you drive the stretch through North Alabama, it may appear rural, but there are plenty of things to see and do, so stop, stretch and explore! We believe the experience will have you returning for more visits.

Must See Stops:

• Bankhead National Forest and Sipsey Wilderness (Winston County)

Approximately one mile north of Double Springs, Bankhead National Forest features 180,000 acres containing bluffs, canyons, waterfalls, springs and lakes. There are nine recreation areas scattered about the Forest, each offering a unique experience of its own and there are over 90 miles of recreational trails. Kinlock Falls is located along Hubbard Creek and offers a magnificent view and an area where people come to swim. Turkey Foot Falls is just a 30-minute walk from the Sipsey River Picnic Grounds and Recreation Area and is a popular waterfall for pictures. The Sipsey Wilderness, Land of a Thousand Waterfalls, lies within the Bankhead National Forest and is home to Alabama's largest tree, a tulip poplar with a 21-foot circumference at its base.
Off Hwy. 278 and Hwy. 33 | (205) 489-5111 | www.fs.usda.gov/alabama

• Dismals Canyon (Franklin County)

So much adventure is waiting at Dismals Canyon. This attraction is a National Natural Landmark and offers hiking in pristine wilderness. There are dozens of grottos, two waterfalls, six natural bridges and giant moss covered boulders strewn. Come for a summer night tour on Saturday evenings when the canyon lights up with tiny creatures called Dismalites. These "glowworms" require a select habitat to survive and are unique to only a few places on Earth. They are "close cousins" of the rare glowworms found in Australia and New Zealand. There are cabins and campsites for overnight stays. Admission charged. Seasonal Hours.
901 Hwy. 8, Phil Campbell, AL | (205) 993-4559 | <https://www.dismalscanyon.com/>

• Duncan Bridge Marina & RV Park (Winston County)

This private-owned marina provides boat storage facilities, long term RV parking, gas for boats and beach area for the sunbathers. M-F 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Sa–Su 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Weekends Memorial Day thru Labor Day 8 a.m.–7 p.m.
55 Marina Drive, Arley, AL | (205) 387-1208 | www.duncanbridgemarina.com

• Gentry's Produce (Marion County)

Locally owned produce stand selling fresh, local fruits and vegetables. Seasonal hours.
117 Airport Rd, Hamilton, AL | (256) 436-8489

| www.NorthAlabama.org |

• Houston Historic Jail (Winston County)

Circa 1868, the jail is the oldest such structure in the state and the second oldest in the country. Houston was the first county seat of Winston County, which was named in honor of the first native born Governor of Alabama, John Anthony Winston. Free admission. Open daily.
4786 Co. Rd. 63, Houston, AL | (205) 489-3669

• Lakeshore Inn, Restaurant & Marina (Winston County)

This 34-room condo resort offers beautiful views and a stunning lakefront location. Dining is available in the on-site restaurant where wall to wall bay windows overlooking the waters of Smith Lake provide stunning views at every angle. The casual-style restaurant serves great American favorites and southern classics for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Outdoor seating on one of the many decks is also available. Restaurant open M-W 8 a.m.–9 p.m., Th 8 a.m.–10 p.m., Fr–Sat 8 a.m.–12 a.m., Su 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
364 Lakeshore Lane, Double Springs | (205) 489-2462 | lakeshoreinnandmarina.com

• Lewis Smith Lake (Winston/Cullman County)

A regular stop on the Alabama Bass Trail, Smith Lake is located approximately 20 miles northwest of Birmingham, is the holder of five previous World Record spotted bass catches and highly rated in the state as a trophy saltwater striped bass fishery. The current lake record is 45 lbs. A deep, clear lake with feeder streams, bays and sloughs, it is also popular for weekend getaways where boating, skiing, wakeboarding, paddleboarding, swimming and cliff jumping are all on the agenda. It has 21,000 acres of some of the cleanest and deepest lake water in the United States and over 500 miles of beautiful tree-lined coastline.

• Looney's Tavern Entertainment and Cultural Center (Winston County)

Before closing its doors two decades ago, Looney's Tavern Entertainment Park hosted a variety of concerts, musical entertainment and Alabama's Official Outdoor Musical, The Incident at Looney's Tavern. Today, with the support of the community and the Winston County Arts Council, it is opening its doors once again as Looney's Tavern Entertainment and Cultural Center. The Center includes a 1500-seat outdoor amphitheater and a 300-seat indoor theater. The indoor theater is currently hosting live music and entertainment. Call for schedule.
22400 Highway 278, Double Springs, AL | (205) 489-6569 | www.winstoncountyyartscouncil.org

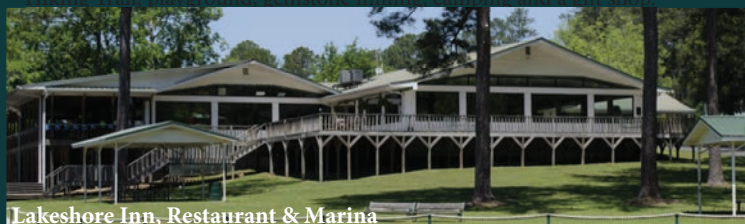
• Natural Bridge (Winston/Marion County)

Natural Bridge Park features a 148-foot sandstone bridge that towers 60 feet above winding pathways, and it's the longest natural bridge east of the Rockies. The park has a picnic area perfect for bringing a lunch to eat before or after you hike the approximately two mile trail through the park. At the back of the park is a small waterfall, and there is a stream that runs throughout the park. During the spring, you'll find all kinds of wildflowers, and in the fall you'll see the vibrant fall foliage. Under the natural bridge is a cave-like bluff for exploring. This natural bridge formation dates back to two million years ago, and it is known that the Creek Indians lived in the area. Don't miss the Indian face that's etched by

nature in the large rock! The park also features a great gift shop that has local products as well as products from all over the United States. Admission charged. Open daily from 8am to sunset, year round
314 County Road 3500, Haleyville, AL |
<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-4227>

• **Rickwood Caverns State Park (Blount County)**

What makes Rickwood Caverns State Park unique is the massive cave that contains 260-million-year-old formations that were created by water and reveal evidence that the cave was carved from an ocean bed. Along with guided tours of the cave, the park offers an Olympic-size swimming pool fed by chilly waters from the cave, picnic area, hiking the Fossil Mountain Hiking Trail, and a museum, dining room, and gift shop.



Lakeshore Inn, Restaurant & Marina



Rickwood Caverns State Park
Photo By Amanda Bridges-Dunn



Houston Historic Jail



Dismals Canyon



Natural Bridge Park
Photo by Lesia Bevis



Lewis Smith Lake
Photo by Brent Boyd

Must See Festivals:

• Jerry Brown Arts Festival (Marion County)

Juried artists from across the Southeast make their way to North Alabama the first weekend in March for the town of Hamilton's highly acclaimed art festival, the Jerry Brown Arts Festival (JBAF). Presented by the Northwest Alabama Arts Council, the JBAF offers two days of quality folk art exhibition, an art station for children, artists demonstrations and the opportunity to purchase one-of-a-kind creations and masterpieces. The annual event is held at the Tombigbee Electric Cooperative, located underneath the city's water tower at 3196 County Highway 55 in Hamilton. Free admission.

(205) 921-9483 | www.jbaf.org

• Mayfest Music & Arts Festival (Marion County)

The popular Mayfest transforms downtown Guin into a venue for free family fun, attracting thousands of visitors to the wholesome North Alabama community. For two days, festivalgoers are treated to live music, games, a dog show, 5K race, barbecue cook-off, car show and plenty of good food. Hosted by the City of Guin, the event is typically held the third Friday and Saturday in May. Mayfest takes place in downtown Guin at "the square." Free admission.

(205) 468-2242

• Arley Day Festival (Winston County)

The Arley Day Festival, Car Show and Parade brings colossal fun to the small North Alabama town with a day filled with free, family-friendly activities. Typically held the third Saturday in May, the one-day event is a celebration of the town of Arley, the heart of Smith Lake, complete with a parade, car show, arts and crafts vendors, games, horse rides, food trucks and more. The event takes place at D. H. Hamner Park located on Helicon Road/Highway 77 in Arley. Free admission.

<https://www.facebook.com/ArleyWomensClub/>

• Coalfest (Marion County)

Each year during Memorial Day weekend, the North Alabama community of Brilliant pays tribute to its roots in the coal mining industry with a free festival filling the downtown area with two days of family fun including live music, games, a look into the coal mining days, activities for children, arts and crafts and more. As music fills the air, festival goers can learn about the early history of coal mining in Brilliant with a guided tour of the historic Train Depot located in City Park. Brilliant Methodist Church, located on Main Street, will also be open for tours. A stop on the North Alabama Hallelujah Trail, Brilliant Methodist Church was built by local coal miners and remains an iconic cornerstone of the town. Free admission.

(205) 465-2281 | <https://brilliantal.org/coal-fest/>

• 911 Festival (Winston County)

Over fifty years ago, the first 911 emergency call was made in the United States and the call was placed in the North Alabama town of Haleyville. In celebration, the town hosts a two-day festival offering activities for kids, street vendors, a parade, live music, antique tractor show and more. Always first Friday and Saturday in June, activities are held in downtown Haleyville. Free admission.

205-486-4611 | www.haleyvillechamber.org

• Mule Day (Marion County)

Held annually on fourth Saturday in September, this fun event celebrates the hardworking mules of the day. Activities begin Friday night with arts and crafts and food vendors, live music, fireworks and a 5K run at midnight. Saturday, come see the parade with mules, horses, jacks and jennies, along with a car show, arts and crafts, mule judging and cornhole and disc golf tournaments. Activities take place in and around downtown Winfield. Free admission.

(205) 487-3002 |

<https://www.winfieldcity.org/en/chamber-of-commerce/mule-day>



• Buttahatchee River Fall Fest (Marion County)

Everyone is invited to join the Hamilton Area Chamber of Commerce for some free family fun in downtown Hamilton the last Saturday in October. The Buttahatchee River Fall Festival is a family-friendly event offering a day of arts and crafts, music, tractor and car show, kids' area and more. Activities are held in and around the Court Square of the Marion County Courthouse and throughout the downtown area. The Festival is named after the Buttahatchee River, which zigzags its way through Hamilton and connects with the Tombigbee River in Mississippi. Free admission.

(205) 952-9884 or (205) 921-7786 | www.brff.org

• Wonderland Under Warrior (Blount County)

Held at Rickwood Caverns State Park on select dates in November and December, Wonderland Under Warrior welcomes guests for a unique experience that celebrate the sights and sounds of Christmas and the natural beauty of the cavern. Visitors come to see over 100,000 twinkling lights and to walk the lighted path among the stalactite, stalagmites and other unique geological formations. The whimsical journey underground transforms the already magnificent cave into a special holiday experience. 370 Rickwood Park Road in Warrior.

Admission charged

205-647-9692 |

www.alapark.com/parks/rickwood-caverns-state-park/wonderland-under-warrior

Accommodations:

• Hampton Inn by Hilton Winfield,

7005 State Hwy 129 N., Winfield, AL; (205) 487-1270;
winfield.hamptoninn.com

• Holiday Inn, 5750 Hwy. 44, Guin, AL 35563;

(205) 468-4625; www.ihg.com. EV charging station (12 Tesla and 6 universal).



Wonderland Under Warrior



Mule Day



Arley Day Festival

Must See Murals:

- **Freedom Eagle/United We Stand**

US278 at Hwy 118, downtown Guin

Gourd artist and muralist Missy Miles of Hamilton painted Freedom Eagle, also known as the United We Stand mural, as a tribute to veterans.

- **Mutters**

9075 US Hwy 43, Guin

Gourd artist and muralist Missy Miles of Hamilton painted the mural as a tribute to Mutters Diner and bike club members.

- **Webster's Piggly Wiggly**

7270 US Highway 43, Guin

Painted by gourd artist and muralist Missy Miles of Hamilton, the mural is a tribute to the Webster family who have been in the grocery business over 50 years.

- **Carquest Mural**

Downtown across from Courthouse, Hamilton

- **Game Time / Deer**

415 Bear Ave W, Hamilton

Painted by gourd artist and muralist Missy Miles of Hamilton. In addition to murals in Marion County, her work can be seen in Fayette, Lamar, and Jefferson counties, as well as four in the city of Jasper.

- **How Electricity Gets to Your Home**

3196 County Highway 55, Hamilton

Painted by gourd artist and muralist Missy Miles of Hamilton, this mural is located in the lobby of Tombigbee Electric Cooperative and can only be viewed during business hours.

- **Pigs**

1717 State HWY 17, Hamilton

Local artist Misty Miles painted the flying pig mural at a locally owned barbeque restaurant, J & V Ole Smokehouse. The patriotic lettering is a tribute to the owner's late son who was a member of the National Guard.

- **Wings**

116 Bexar Ave W, Hamilton

A colorful and vibrant mural sure to catch your eye is located at a locally owned women's clothing boutique. It was designed and painted by Derriann Pharr, a multimedia artist based out of North Alabama.

- **R. W. Harris and Son**

956 US Hwy 43, Winfield

The mural is located on a large, two story brick building that houses the R. W. Harris store. The building, built in 1885, has its original copper framed windows, and the inside of the building is a virtual museum of the late 19th and early 20th century.

- **State Bank and Trust**

1945 US-43, Winfield



Freedom Eagle / United We Stand - Guin, AL



Webster's Piggly Wiggly - Guin, AL



Mutters - Guin, AL

Must See Waterfalls:



Kinlock Falls

Located along Hubbard Creek in Bankhead National Forest

- **Kinlock Falls**

Located along Hubbard Creek in the Bankhead National Forest, Kinlock Falls is a cascade waterfall that drops 15 feet over a span of 20 feet. Though Kinlock Falls is not a high waterfall, it features a magnificent view, along with being an area that people come to swim.

- **Rainbow Falls**

Located in northwest Alabama, Rainbow Falls is nestled in a small canyon known as The Dismals, featuring two waterfalls, many various rock formations, and a 3/4-mile trail through the canyon. Dismals Canyon is a National Natural Landmark and is noted as one of the finest examples of ecological and geological features composing our nation's natural history.

- **Turkey Foot Falls (pictured on cover)**

Turkey Foot Falls is a 30-minute walk from Sipsey River Picnic Grounds and Recreation area in Bankhead National Forest. Turkey Foot Creek runs through a sandstone canyon then empties into the Sipsey Fork. The area is rich in Native American and pioneer history.



Rainbow Falls

Located in northwest Alabama's Dismals Canyon

Photo Credit: John Dersham