

WATERFALLS

NORTH

1. LITTLE RIVER FALLS — FORT PAYNE

At the top of Little River Canyon is Little River Falls, which drops 45 feet over sandstone into the “Grand Canyon of the East.” A parking area and boardwalk provide easy-to-reach views of the year-round falls.

2. DESOTO FALLS — MENTONE

Near Mentone on Lookout Mountain, DeSoto Falls — one of Alabama’s tallest cascades — plunges 104 feet into a rocky gorge.

3. MIZE MILL FALLS — DOUBLE SPRINGS

Tucked away in Bankhead National Forest’s Sipsey Wilderness, Mize Mill Falls cascades 20 feet over mossy rocks. The sound of the falls can be heard from the roadway, and viewing is an easy, short trek away.

4. CANEY CREEK FALLS — DOUBLE SPRINGS

Located in Bankhead National Forest, Caney Creek Falls is a Sipsey-area gem. The roughly 20-foot cascade can be reached by a short hike into a scenic, fern-filled sandstone canyon.

5. KINLOCK FALLS — HALEYVILLE

Kinlock Falls, a small but stunning cascade reached in a quick 0.2-mile stroll, spills into a clear natural swimming pool in Alabama’s “Land of a Thousand Waterfalls.”

6. NOCCALULA FALLS — GADSDEN

Noccalula Falls drops 90 feet into Black Creek Gorge. The easily accessible waterfall is in a city park known for its dramatic overlook, walking trails and the legend of Princess Noccalula.



7. HIGH FALLS — GROVE OAK

Near the town of Geraldine, High Falls is a roadside-accessible showstopper that flows through a natural rock arch. A pedestrian bridge spans the river, offering broad views.

CENTRAL

8. TURKEY CREEK FALLS — PINSON

Located in Turkey Creek Nature Preserve, Turkey Creek Falls is a series of rapids and cascades in one of the region’s most biologically diverse habitats.

9. PEAVINE FALLS — PELHAM

In Oak Mountain State Park just outside Birmingham, 65-foot Peavine Falls is the park’s tallest waterfall and is at its best after rain.

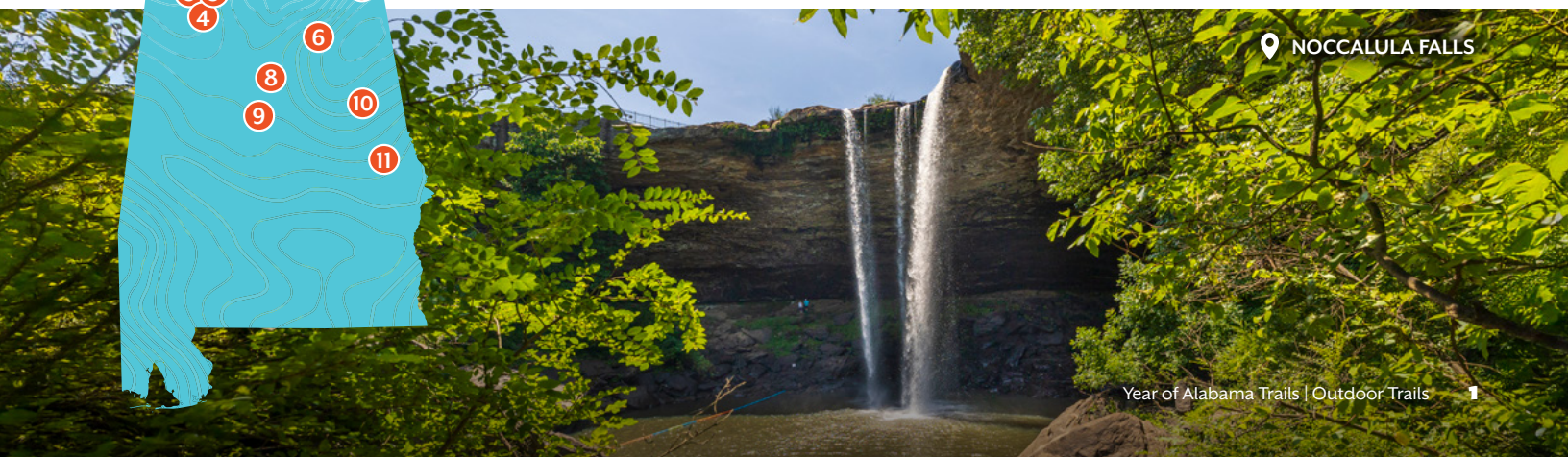
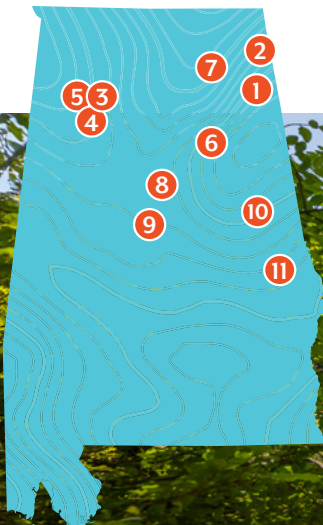
10. CHEAHA FALLS — LINEVILLE

Cheaha Falls is found in Cheaha State Park on Alabama’s highest mountain. The small, refreshing cascade can be reached by a short, family-friendly creekside hike.

SOUTH

11. CHEWACLA FALLS — AUBURN

In Chewacla State Park is Chewacla Falls, a 30-foot waterfall reached by a short trail. A visit to the falls, with its lake-and-trails setting, makes for a full day in the outdoors.



GARDENS

NORTH

1. HUNTSVILLE BOTANICAL GARDEN — HUNTSVILLE

This 67-acre garden in the heart of the city pairs top-tier plant collections with family favorites like the butterfly house and major seasonal events, making it a year-round nature escape for all ages.

2. NORTH ALABAMA JAPANESE GARDENS — HUNTSVILLE

Tucked inside Monte Sano State Park, this volunteer-built Japanese garden features bamboo paths, koi ponds, a red arched bridge and a traditional tea house, offering a quiet stroll.

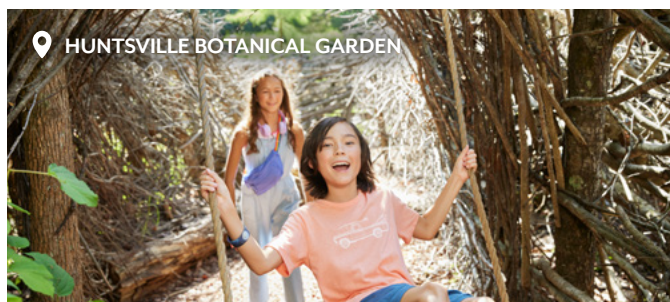
CENTRAL

3. BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS — BIRMINGHAM

Free to the public, this 67-acre urban oasis houses 24+ distinct garden spaces, a glass conservatory and miles of trails, showcasing over 10,000 plants in one of the most biodiverse regions of the country.



ALDRIDGE GARDENS



HUNTSVILLE BOTANICAL GARDEN



BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS



4. ALDRIDGE GARDENS — HOOVER

This 30-acre garden is best known as the home of the patented Snowflake Hydrangea and features a six-acre lake, half-mile walking trail, and art and education spaces.

SOUTH

5. DOTHAN AREA BOTANICAL GARDENS — DOTHAN

Spread across 50 acres, the gardens combine paved, accessible paths with themed spaces like the Coleman Tropical House, rose and meditation gardens, and Wings of Wonder, alive with butterflies.

6. CAROLINE DEAN WILDFLOWER GARDEN — OPELIKA

In Opelika's Municipal Park, this native-plant wildflower trail honors conservationist Caroline Dean and winds through a wetlands-friendly, butterfly-rich landscape designed to celebrate Alabama's natural flora.

7. SHAKESPEARE GARDEN — MONTGOMERY

In Blount Cultural Park, home of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the Shakespeare Garden is a small, reflection garden planted with flowers and herbs referenced in the works of playwright William Shakespeare.

GULF

8. BELLINGRATH GARDENS & HOME — THEODORE

Near Mobile, this historic 65-acre estate blends showstopping seasonal blooms, such as its renowned azaleas, with a 1930s mansion and year-round garden displays.

9. CORNERSTONE GARDENS — MOBILE

Just outside downtown Mobile, this intimate arboretum built as a place for rest and reflection includes tranquil pond-and-path garden rooms and a nationally noted camellia collection.

10. MOBILE BOTANICAL GARDENS — MOBILE

Mobile Botanical Gardens spans 100+ acres of cultivated and woodland gardens and stands of longleaf pine. Also included are the Camellia Winter Garden Collection and vast azalea and Japanese maple displays.

NATURAL WONDERS

NORTH

1. RUSSELL CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT — BRIDGEPORT

Russell Cave preserves one of the Southeast's most archaeologically rich prehistoric shelters, representing 12,000 years of human history. An easy boardwalk trail leads to the cave mouth.

2. DISMALS CANYON — PHIL CAMPBELL

Dismals Canyon is an 85-acre National Natural Landmark where a mossy gorge, waterfalls and the rare blue-glowing dismalites make guided night hikes truly special.

3. CATHEDRAL CAVERNS — WOODVILLE

Cathedral Caverns State Park impresses with its massive 126-foot-wide cave entrance and the towering "Goliath" stalagmite on an easy, paved tour route.

4. LITTLE RIVER CANYON — FORT PAYNE

Little River Canyon National Preserve protects the nation's longest mountaintop river, which carves through a 600-foot sandstone gorge. The preserve features scenic overlooks, swimming spots and signature waterfalls.

5. NATURAL BRIDGE PARK — NATURAL BRIDGE

At Natural Bridge Park, the longest natural bridge east of the Rockies spans 148 feet and rises about 60 feet above a shaded forest trail with small falls and rock features along the way.

6. WALLS OF JERICHO — SKYLINE

Near Skyline in Jackson County, the Walls of Jericho hiking trail drops into a dramatic bowl-shaped limestone amphitheater with a waterfall. The rugged, bucket-list trek rewards every step with canyon scenery.

CENTRAL

7. RICKWOOD CAVERNS STATE PARK — WARRIOR

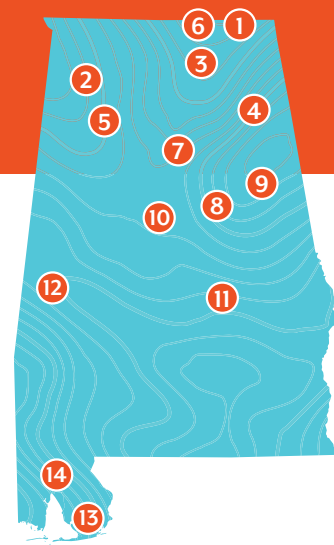
Rickwood Caverns offers guided trips through 260-million-year-old limestone rooms filled with formations and underground pools, plus trails and camping topside.

8. MAJESTIC CAVERNS — CHILDERSBURG

A show-cave tour of Majestic Caverns, Alabama's "Big Cave," features the football-field-sized Great Onyx Cathedral and some of the world's most extensive onyx-marble formations.

9. MOUNT CHEAHA — DELTA

Near the community of Delta in Cheaha State Park, Alabama's highest point at 2,413 feet delivers sweeping Appalachian overlooks and trail access that makes the summit feel both wild and welcoming.



10. CAHABA RIVER — HELENA

Flowing from the Birmingham/Trussville area down past Hoover, Helena and Centerville, the Cahaba is Alabama's longest free-flowing river. The waterway is famed for its rare Cahaba lily blooms and offers paddling experiences through some of the state's richest wildlife habitat.

SOUTH

11. WETUMPKA CRATER — WETUMPKA

Just outside Wetumpka, this rare, well-preserved meteor impact crater is explored via a self-guided driving tour and discovery center that bring the crater's 85-million-year-old story to life.

12. WHITE CLIFFS OF EPES — EPES

Along the Tombigbee River, the White Cliffs — composed of brilliant Selma chalk and packed with marine fossils — create one of Alabama's most striking riverside landscapes.

GULF

13. ALABAMA'S BEACHES — GULF SHORES & ORANGE BEACH

Gulf Shores and Orange Beach deliver 32 miles of sugar-white quartz sand and clear Gulf waters, pairing big coastal scenery with a relaxed, family-friendly beach-town feel.

14. MOBILE-TENSAW DELTA — MOBILE

The 260,000-acre Mobile-Tensaw Delta, aka "America's Amazon," is a maze of cypress swamps and waterways that ranks among the most biodiverse wetland systems in the U.S.

