



# History in Your Own Backyard

## The Best Museums in West Alabama

### **Mercedes-Benz Visitor Center** Vance, Bibb/Tuscaloosa

Visit the newly redesigned Mercedes-Benz Visitor Center to experience the rich history and the exciting future of the automaker. For more than 20 years, Mercedes-Benz has been manufacturing some of its popular automobiles right here in Alabama, and the Visitor Center is an evolving, interactive tour through some of the legendary manufacturer's greatest innovations and most promising future concepts.

### **Fayette Art Museum** Fayette, Fayette

There are now over 4000 pieces in the permanent collection with over 500 running feet of display space on the main floor of the Civic Center and 6 folk art galleries downstairs, as well as a gallery used for the Director/Curator's office. The Fayette Art Museum was founded in 1969 by Fayette City Council and Jack Black, who was the Museum's Director for 35 years.

### **Kirkwood Mansion** Eutaw, Greene

Kirkwood was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 17, 1976, due to its architectural significance. The historic antebellum plantation mansion is a Greek Revival style house with Italianate influences.

### **Moundville Archaeological Park** Moundville, Hale

Called "The Big Apple of the 14th Century" by *National Geographic*, Moundville Archaeological Park was once the site of a powerful prehistoric community that, at its peak, was America's largest city north of Mexico. The park has a museum that combines the latest technology with more than 200 stunning artifacts to describe one of the most significant Native American archaeological sites in the United States.

Call ahead for hours and availability.

[www.tourwestalabama.com](http://www.tourwestalabama.com)

*Pictured above: Moundville Archaeological Park*



*Pictured above: Kirkwood Mansion in Eutaw, Alabama.*

### **Safe House Museum**

### **Greensboro, Hale**

On the night of March 21, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. sought refuge from the Ku Klux Klan inside a small, shotgun-style home in the depot neighborhood of Greensboro, Alabama. Today, that house is known as The Safe House Black History Museum. It is a site of great significance to American history as well as the Civil Rights Movement.

### **Rural Studio**

### **Newburn, Hale**

Headquarters for Rural Studio Architectural Designs in Alabama's Black Belt. Established in 1993 by architects Samuel "Sambo" Mockbee and D. K. Ruth, the Rural Studio is a part of Auburn University's School of Architecture. Rural Studio students work directly with poor communities in west Alabama to improve living conditions. Students creatively design and construct their projects.

### **Aliceville Museum**

### **Aliceville, Pickens**

The Aliceville Museum has grown from a single room to a large facility encompassing three buildings, a courtyard, and a plaza area in downtown Aliceville. The museum has been in its current location since 1995. There are four exhibit rooms and a meeting space. Self-guided audio tours are available.

### **Alabama Museum**

### **of Natural History**

### **Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa**

The Alabama Museum of Natural History, with thousands of invaluable specimens from all lines of scientific research, is a lasting monument to the energy, labor and love exhibited by Dr. Eugene Allen Smith. He was appointed as state geologist in 1873 and spent nearly 40 years surveying, mapping and collecting scientific specimens throughout Alabama.

### **Tuscaloosa Museum of Art**

### **Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa**

The Tuscaloosa Museum of Art displays about 1000 works of fine and decorative art and it is considered to be one of the greatest private collections of American Art.