



By Doug Bailey

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR EXCEPT AS NOTED

**Registration form
is the insert
to this issue**



Join us for a memorable tour of a remarkable area of the New South! Rocket City is... **Huntsville, Alabama.**

It's a five-night, four-day "Hub 'n' Spoke" Tour, led by the *touring-est Region of the CLC*, the Peach State Region, out of Atlanta!

We're using the Marriott next to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center as our launch pad for a Cadillac-themed week of driving and adventure. We have a terrific rate of \$149 per night, plus taxes and fees, which includes a monster buffet breakfast and a heated patio, where you can order a "Golden Cadillac" at the cash bar. The hotel will cordon off our *free parking* area, but guests will still be able to see our Cadillac *road-sters*. The staff will have awards for their favorites. The Marriott has been an outstanding partner!

Customize your tour by preregistering using the QR code at the bottom of this page or by going to bit.ly/4moosSQJ. This is a CLC-sanctioned tour that earns members in good standing 500 miles towards their touring grille badge. The Peach State Region will host a hospitality room in the evenings, and will have a service truck on the road with us each day. We encourage you to bring registered (and paid) guests. Driving an old or new Cadillac or LaSalle is not required—it's just more fun.

TUESDAY, OCT. 13

If you make it to Huntsville early, there are plenty of things to do and see. We'll provide you with a brochure. You might want to visit the Twickenham, Old Town, and Five Points Historic Districts to walk among antebellum homes, churches, and museums. Hang out at Campus No. 805, or visit the SIGNALS Museum of Information Explosion, which covers information dissemination via radio, telegraph, TV, and other media. Tourers should arrive at the Marriott for check-in from 4 to 6 p.m.

tinyurl.com/marriotthuntsville

Pick up your touring guide for the week and stop by our Hospitality Room to say hello! An informal mixer will be open from 6 to 9 p.m. on the rear patio. We'll have a cash bar serving special drink offerings, and we'll include a selection of the Marriott's esteemed hors d'oeuvres. If you need more, dinner will be on your own.

alabama.travel/places-to-go/cities-and-towns/huntsville

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14

After breakfast, car groups (coordinated by Peach Staters) will stagger their starts and head west roughly 80 miles along U.S. 72 for the Quad Cities. We'll see some gorgeous countryside. Optional stop: Geezburger's in Athens, Alabama. Stretch your legs and grab an early lunch if you have time.

In Muscle Shoals, we'll have guided tours of three of the historic music factories—where such stars as Aretha Franklin, Paul Simon, Willie Nelson, and the Rolling Stones cut their best-selling albums, backed by the local Swampers studio band.

Then, north to Florence, where we'll tour the Rosenbaum House, an original Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home. In Tusculumbia, we'll walk through Helen Keller's childhood home, Ivy Green.

Our groups will return to the Marriott by a different route in the late afternoon, where we'll catch up with friends and have a drink at the bar. Dinner will be on your own. The hotel's restaurant is wonderful, and we will provide directions to other local hotspots.

alabama.travel/article/48-hours-in-the-shoals

THURSDAY, OCT. 15

After breakfast, our groups will depart for Lynchburg, Tennessee, a drive of about 45 miles north. The shopping on the downtown square is famous. We will stagger two-hour guided tours of the Jack Daniel's Distillery.

jackdaniels.com/en-us/visit-us/tours

We have lunch reservations for two groups at the world-renowned Miss Mary Bobo's Boarding House & Restaurant.

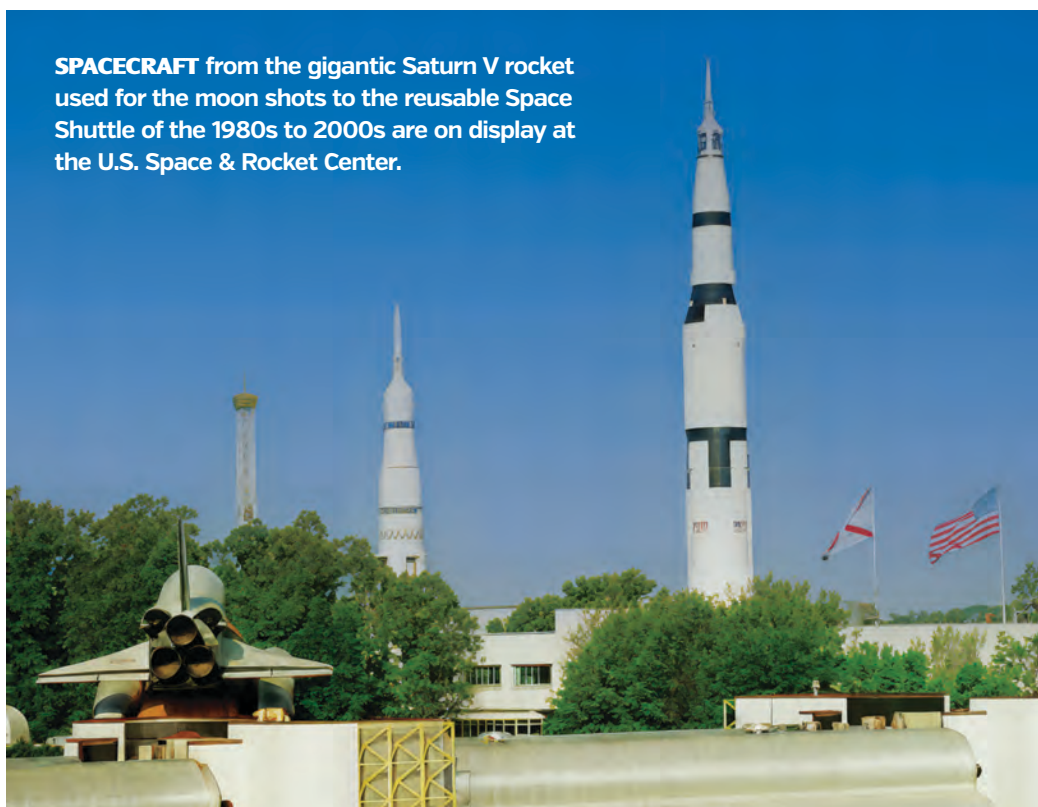
jackdaniels.com/en-us/visit-us/miss-mary-bobos-restaurant



VINTAGE IRON and vintage titanium at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Peach State Region members displayed their Cadillacs alongside the blindingly fast SR-71 Blackbird.



"NOW MUSCLE SHOALS has got the Swampers, and they've been known to pick a song or two" at Muscle Shoals Sound Studios.



SPACECRAFT from the gigantic Saturn V rocket used for the moon shots to the reusable Space Shuttle of the 1980s to 2000s are on display at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

RIGHT: The host hotel for the week has special parking reserved for CLC tourers' cars, like Doug Bailey's 1996 Fleetwood Brougham. **BELOW:** "Giant steps are what you take...walking on the moon" in the space suit like the one you'll see during this Driving Tour.



On the way back to Huntsville, some folks may want to stop by an Alabama CLC member's very nice private car collection in Hazel Green. Back at the Marriott, there will be time for drinks and comparing experiences. Dinner will be on your own at one of the many really good places within a few miles of the hotel.

FRIDAY, OCT. 16

After breakfast, we will drive about 30 miles southeast to Cathedral Caverns State Park near Grant, Alabama. There,

we'll have guided tours of the caverns—a *mile-long walk* through the legendary temperature-controlled grottos. Lean on the cool rock walls if you need a rest, because there's no seating in the caverns. There's a fine gift shop and plenty of above-ground nature to see if you have mobility challenges or just want to stay in the daylight! Box lunches will be catered and served on picnic tables under the park's awning.

After lunch, we'll drive another 30 miles to Scottsboro to visit the Scottsboro

Boys Museum. Within walking distance is Unclaimed Baggage, a store where you can buy anything your heart desires, so long as it was left behind on someone's flight! Done shopping? Tourers will return to the Marriott in time for plenty of socializing and fun. Dinner will be on your own.

alabama.travel/places-to-go/cathedral-caverns-state-park

alabama.travel/places-to-go/cities-and-towns/scottsboroandthescottsboroboysmuseum.com/

SATURDAY, OCT. 17

Let's use Saturday to recuperate; no organized driving today! After breakfast, our groups will walk (or drive, if you prefer) next door to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. You will enjoy a self-guided tour of the massive Saturn V rocket, space capsules, lunar landers, and equipment. Grab a volunteer docent from NASA if you can! A walk through the exhibits is breathtaking. Your visit to the Space Center includes one or more IMAX movies and a spectacular star show in the planetarium. Get your

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FANS OF FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT will enjoy visiting the Rosenbaum House, one of 26 surviving "Usonian" homes dating to the pre-war era.

photo taken at one of the many space scenes. Make time for shopping in the enormous gift shop!

We will organize a group photo at the museum, and we'll reserve a photo station for your car in front of the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird. You are free to leave early and check out other venues in Huntsville, including the SIGNALS Museum of Information Explosion and several antebellum venues. The bar at the Marriott and the Hospitality Suite will be open!

**alabama.travel/places-to-go/
u-s-space-and-rocket-center**

The Peach State Region will host the Closing Banquet at the Marriott in the foyer and on the patio. The banquet will begin at 6 p.m. with a video recap of the week's tours. After a plated dinner, we will present awards for the tour—a terrific wrap to a ROCKET CITY Rendezvous! ■

Doug Bailey from Roswell, Georgia, our tour coordinator, is a past director of the Peach State Region. He has led teams of volunteers on over a dozen Regional driving tours.

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