

A collage of Southern food and drink. In the foreground, there's a bowl of white rice topped with green onions and a small amount of sauce. To the left, a plate of bread is topped with a large crab claw and a shrimp. In the background, a large platter of cooked crabs is visible. To the right, a glass of beer with a thick head of foam sits next to a bottle of Ibibira Beer. The entire scene is set on a newspaper-lined table.

Sights, Sounds & Flavors

**A Guide to a Perfect Road Trip to
Louisiana and Alabama**

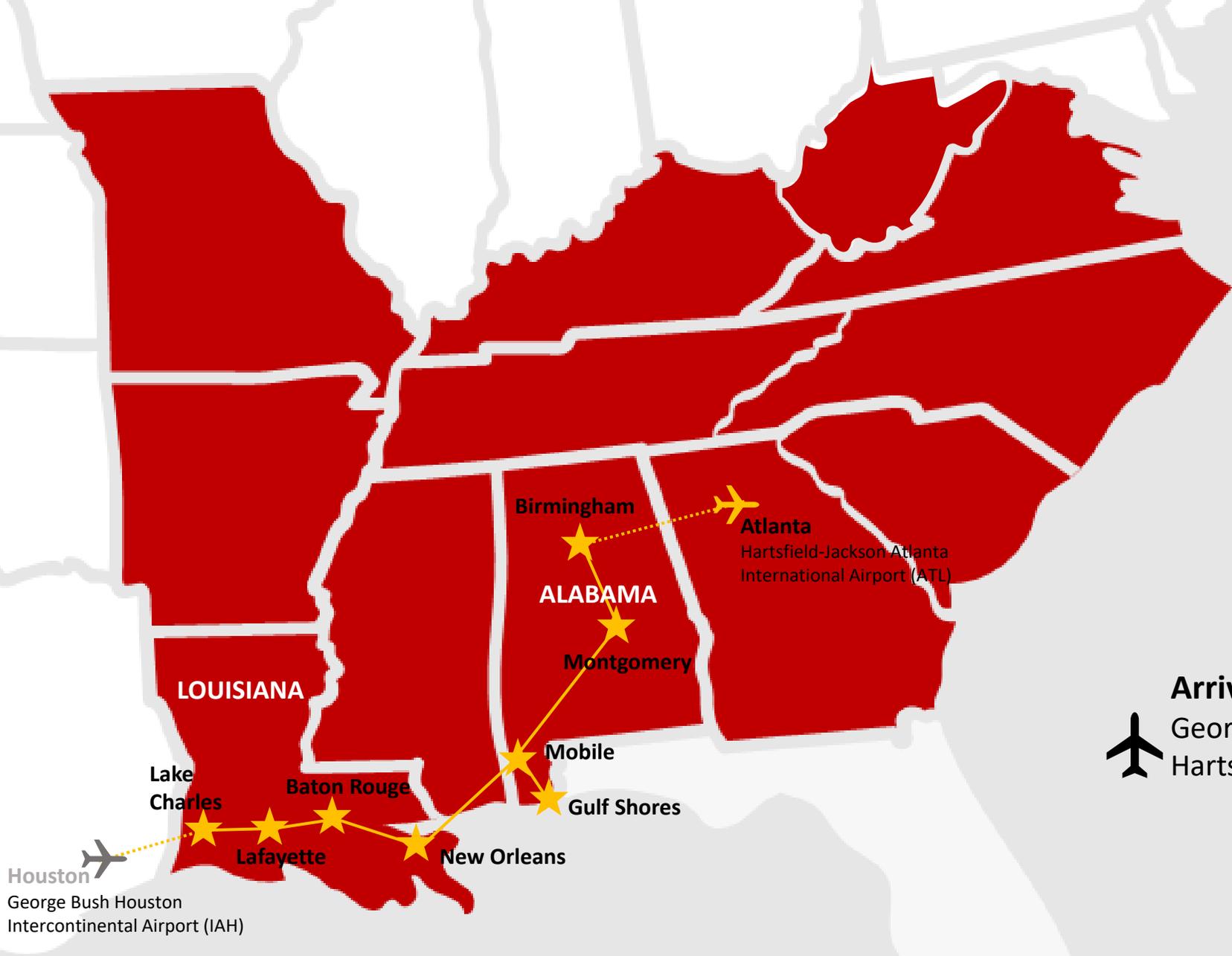
International Gateways

- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL)
- Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CTL)
- Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport (DFW)
- Kansas City International Airport (MCI)
- Orlando International Airport (MCO)
- Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)
- George Bush Houston Intercontinental Airport (IAH)
- Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD)
- Lambert-St. Louis International Airport (STL)
- Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU)
- Nashville International Airport (BNA)
- Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY)
- Memphis International Airport (MEM)
- Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG)
- Charleston International Airport (CHS)



The American South welcomes you to take a trip on the open road across 12 authentic southern states.

Experience a mix of charming towns and vibrant metropolitan communities, local culinary favorites, rich music, amazing outdoors and true hospitality!



Sights, Sounds & Flavors

 **Driving Distance:** 1,580 km
 **Suggested Time:** 2-3 Weeks

Arrival/Departure Airports:

-  George Bush Houston Intercontinental Airport (IAH)
-  Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL)

Houston
George Bush Houston
Intercontinental Airport (IAH)

Atlanta
Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta
International Airport (ATL)

A close-up photograph of several blue crabs resting on a wooden surface. The crabs have a vibrant blue color with greenish-brown accents on their shells. A semi-transparent white circle is centered over the image, containing the text 'Lake Charles' in a red script font and 'LOUISIANA' in a grey sans-serif font below it.

Lake Charles

LOUISIANA



Southwest Louisiana's Culinary Traditions

Jambalaya, gumbo, spicy crawfish, boudin and bread pudding, these are just a few things you can sample of Southwest Louisiana's famous Cajun French and Creole cuisine.



Louisiana's Outback

Start on the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road, which passes through marshland wilderness and Gulf of Mexico beaches in Southwest Louisiana, where you're likely to spy alligators, marine life and some of more than 400 species of birds.



Lafayette

LOUISIANA



Come for the Food, Stay for the Music

There's no better way to marry the two than at a Lafayette festival, where those unique flavors – often accompanied by the sounds of live zydeco and Cajun music – come to life.





Baton Rouge

LOUISIANA



Baton Rouge – Louisiana’s Capital City

Whether it’s Mardi Gras, the vivid food and music, or the tradition of tailgating at an LSU or Southern University football game, Baton Rouge takes advantage of every opportunity to revel in the good times. One of the most historic, vibrant and unforgettable cities in the South, it’s a place where Blues festivals and beignets are as beloved as football, where you can shop one day at the Mall of Louisiana and keep it local at the farmers market the next. Here the history is as rich as the flavors, with plantations, memorials and museums bringing the character of the city to life, and hundreds of restaurants dishing it up on a plate.



New Orleans

LOUISIANA



Sounds of New Orleans

Always, forever, the city's music is its beating heart – especially true during Mardi Gras, Jazz Fest and other celebrations. The musical notes of jazz, brass, R&B, soul and many mixes fill the air along with night-blooming jasmine and other fabulous tropical fragrances.

Cuisine as a Reflection of Culture

The New Orleans dining scene is a brilliant reflection of the city's diverse history, culture and neighborhoods. Plenty of traditional New Orleans dishes emerged from different cultural influences. Try the muffuletta (an Italian sandwich invented in New Orleans with cured meats, cheese, olive dressing and great bread), gumbo (claiming French and West African roots, a thick stew served over rice and made with a roux - mixture of butter and flour - and a wide variety of ingredients such as celery, peppers, okra, onions chicken, sausage and/or seafood), jambalaya (a reconstructed Spanish paella, this dish is comprised of a mix of meat – chicken, seafood, sausage or all three! – peppers, onions, other vegetables, spices and rice), and more.



Mobile

ALABAMA



Discover Mobile

Mobile is a melting pot of people, flavors, cultures, and traditions. Join the jubilee and welcome every day with an enduring passion and a little soulful hospitality. Funky, feisty and festive. Historic, hip and happening. Or colorful, cool and cultured. You can call this coastal town a lot of things when you have a vibrant 300-year history with lots of stories to tell and long-standing traditions celebrated on a regular basis.

A sunset over a beach with a white circular overlay containing text. The sky is filled with warm, golden and orange hues, and the sun is visible on the horizon. The foreground shows a sandy beach with some sparse vegetation. A red border is visible on the right and bottom edges of the image.

Gulf Shores

ALABAMA



Picture Perfect

Picture a perfect day at the beach: blue skies, a gentle breeze and turquoise waters lapping at the shore of a sugar-white sand beach. Alabama's 51 kilometers of pristine beaches on the Gulf of Mexico set the scene for holiday memories that last a lifetime.



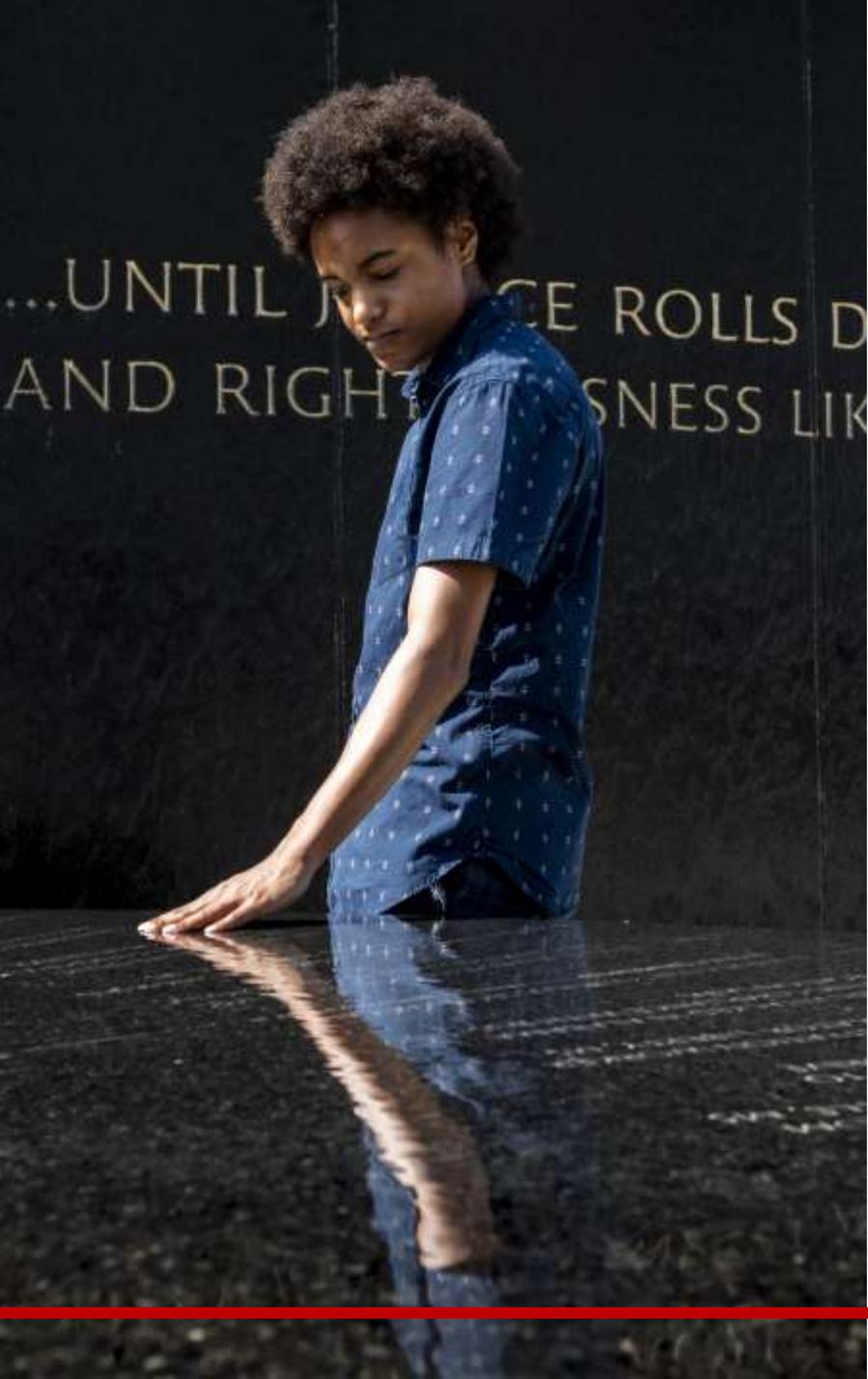
Fresh Gulf Seafood

Whether you catch your own on an offshore fishing charter or simply select from a restaurant menu, seafood plays a starring role in the culinary scene of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach.



Montgomery

ALABAMA



Civil Rights Circle

We start in Montgomery, a real Southern city. It is the capital of Alabama on the Alabama River. Montgomery has by far the most historical sites associated with the Civil War and Civil Rights. This is where Martin Luther King preached, which led to the founding of the Civil Rights Movement in America. You can go to the Rosa Parks museum, the woman who refused to get up to go to the back of the bus. This led to a year-long boycott of the bus company. The Alabama State Capitol demonstrated for voting rights.

Selma is about 80 kilometers away. Known from the Selma to Montgomery Civil Rights March. A beautiful museum shows the entire history. Getting in the mood? Then watch the film Selma, highly recommended.



Birmingham

ALABAMA



Beauty, Class, Art, Charm, Fine dining and Civil Rights

The largest city in Alabama is, unsurprisingly, not short on things to do.

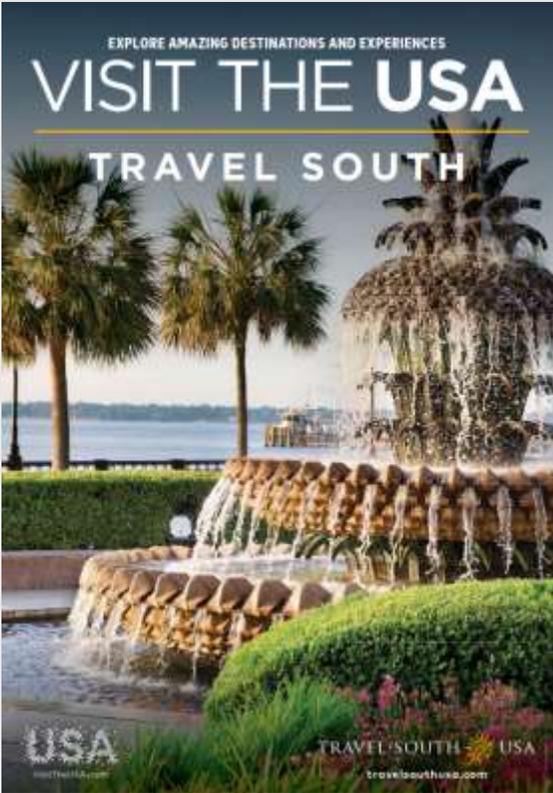
16th Street Baptist Church

Located in the Civil Rights District of Birmingham, visit the historic 16th Street Baptist Church, a part of the U.S. Civil Rights Trail, and experience the spirit-filled Gospel Choir. This church suffered the deadliest moment in the history of the civil rights era. On Sept. 15, 1963, four girls preparing for Sunday school were killed by a bomb in the church basement



Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum

Recognized by Guinness World Records as being the world's largest motorcycle collection, Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum also features the world's most extensive Lotus car collection with over 1,600 vintage and modern motorcycles and race cars. The museum grounds include an 880-acre park with a 2.38 mile racetrack.



And for more Southern road trip itineraries and inspiration, please visit our website.



travelsouth.visittheusa.com

