

# MEDIA

*It is nice to have y'all in Birmingham!*

There are reasons *Conde Nast Traveler* named Birmingham, Alabama, one of 22 places in the world to visit in 2022. This is a lively, young city with an historic past and a present that journalists want to dive into.

**Here are a handful of story ideas for your consideration:**

- Birmingham's [civil rights history](#) is a story with angles that branch out like distributaries. The stories here are rich and told by foot soldiers who were active in the Birmingham campaign of the 1960s. This contemporary history makes fascinating reading for people of a certain age who remember America's Civil Rights Movement and for young readers who need to know it.
- The city's [historic Theatre District](#) is well worth a look. The majestic [Alabama Theatre](#) is a movie palace from the 1920s, now a performance hall for all types of entertainment. Across the street, the [Lyric Theatre](#) is restored to the beauty it was in its vaudeville days.
- *Fodor's Travel* calls Birmingham one of 10 surprising foodie destinations. Journalists have been watching Birmingham's flourishing food scene for some time now. Meat-and-threes join [James Beard Award winners](#) to serve up some of the finest dishes in the country. Global fare is very much at home here, too.
- ***Speaking of dining*** ... Greek immigrants moved in numbers to Birmingham in the late 1800s and early 1900s. They came to open eateries to feed hungry industrial workers who were mining and processing the ingredients for iron and steel production. The influence remains strong in the city today, with popular [Greek-owned restaurants](#) such as [The Fish Market](#) on the city's Southside and [Johnny's](#) in the Birmingham suburb of Homewood.
- [Pepper Place Saturday Market](#) will be in full swing during your time in Birmingham. This seasonal spread of Southern foods is a delight to wander through. Farmers' stalls are filled with peaches, peppers, tomatoes, corn, and all sorts of homemade goods.



- If you're looking for outdoor stories, it's important to know that Alabama is one of the most bio diverse regions in the country. Kayaking and canoeing are popular on the pristine [Cahaba River](#), home to the endangered Cahaba Lilies that bloom in late spring. Nestled in the rolling foothills of the Appalachians, Birmingham is a natural draw for hikers, climbers, and [mountain bikers](#).
- Look no further than [Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum](#) for the world's largest collection of antique and contemporary motorcycles. Adjacent is [Barber Motorsports Park](#), home to the Porsche Track Experience, designed for drivers on a world-class track to test their limits.
- [Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistlestop Café](#), the bestseller by Birmingham native Fannie Flagg, has its real-life origins at [The Irontale Café](#). Visitors come from across the country to visit the café with the Hollywood connections and to eat their fried green tomatoes.
- The city's unusual statuary makes for interesting stories. The most prominent statue is [Vulcan](#), the world's largest cast iron statue, who sits high atop Red Mountain and is made in the likeness of the Roman god of fire and forge, a giant nod to Birmingham's industrial history. Vulcan's back side is bare, prompting The New York Times to write that his bottom is as wide as a Greyhound bus. Vulcan is rumored to be romantically involved with another city statue, [Electra](#), who stands atop the Alabama Power building. She is totally unclad and anatomically correct.
- [Rickwood Field](#) is the oldest ballpark in America. The entire city of Birmingham closed for business to celebrate the opening of the new stadium in 1910. The city's all white Birmingham Barons drew overflow crowds and alternated weekends of play with the Negro Southern League's newly formed [Black Barons](#) who also packed the stadium. Players at Rickwood included Ty Cobb, George "Mule" Suttles, Babe Ruth, "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, Dizzy Dean, and Willie Mays.
- The greater Birmingham area has a robust craft brewing industry. Taprooms across the region are known for their inventive, award-winning beers. The Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau offers a guide to breweries entitled "[Jim's Beer Trail](#)."

Look to us to assist with these and more story ideas.

## Contact:

**Vickie Ashford-Thompson**  
 Director of Travel Media  
 Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau  
[vashfordthompson@inbirmingham.com](mailto:vashfordthompson@inbirmingham.com)  
 205-447-9213 or 205-458-8000



**BIRMINGHAM**

Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau

[www.inbirmingham.com](http://www.inbirmingham.com) | #inbirmingham