

Music • Heritage • Trails

Athens

Limestone County, AL

Official Visitors Guide



Limestone County is an area of 565 square miles in North Alabama with a population of 107,517. Athens, spanning over 40 miles, is the county seat with a population of 26,686. Nestled between Nashville and Birmingham, and just 1.5 miles west of Interstate 65, Athens is the perfect place for your next hotel stay.



Athens Visitor Center
 100 N Beaty St., Athens, AL 35611
 256-232-5411

VisitAthensAL.com

Music • Heritage • Trails

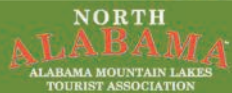
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Athens-Limestone County
 Tourism Association
 256-232-5411 / VisitAthensAL.com



Small Town Relaxation . . . *Near Big City Lights!*

Planning a vacation or weekend getaway? Visit Athens-Limestone County Alabama, located in the rolling foothills of The Appalachian Mountains in Northern Alabama. Filled with friendly people, fun community festivals, and peaceful countryside, Limestone County is only about 30 miles from Huntsville's World Famous Space and Rocket Center. Relax in Athens' many clean and affordable hotels and try our excellent down-home cooking. You'll soon be hooked on our Southern Hospitality and see why Athens-Limestone County is *"What You Love About the South!"*



Experience Our History & Heritage

MUSEUMS & TOURS



Thousands of authentic exhibits are on display at the Alabama Veterans Museum

MUSEUMS

Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives - The Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives collection contains an impressive display of artifacts from the Revolutionary War until present day. Visitors can walk among the actual uniforms, medals, photos and weapons; hear stories and experiences about the nation's wars from men and women who were actually there. Open Mon-Sat 9 am-3 pm. Coffee Call 1st Saturday each month. Contact us for information about our Event Center rental. 114 West Pryor Street. 256-771-7578 or alabamaveteransmuseum.com

Athens & Limestone County Historic Districts - The beautiful antebellum homes of the area are featured in a number of districts and trails. Free walking and driving tour brochures on the Beaty, Houston, Athens State College, Downtown Historic Districts and the Limestone County Antebellum Trail are offered at the Athens Visitors Center, 100 Beaty St. N., Athens. Contact 256-232-5411, www.VisitAthensAL.com.

Associated Growers Co-Op Inc - Experience an official functioning Alabama Cotton Gin. Observation room free and open October-December 7am-5pm. 15031 Brownsferry Road. Call 256-232-0739.



College Inn/Newby Gulf Station Museum - In 1947, Cloyde Mason Newby Jr., acquired The College Inn & Newby Gulf Station which became one of Athens' Hot Spots. Built in the later 1920s it was where everybody caught up on the latest news and where soldiers home on leave visited frequently. Young ladies were always happy to see the GI's and hear their stories. Open by appointment. 256-233-8728. Free admission.



Delmore Brothers Museum - Located on the ground floor of McCandless Hall at Athens State University, the Delmore Brothers Museum has been open since 2008, thanks to the generous donation of artifacts from Debby Delmore, the youngest daughter of Alton Delmore. The Delmore Brothers made up of Alton and Rabon, found their start right here in Limestone County, Alabama. "Born into poverty near Elkmont, sons of tenant farmers, amid a rich tradition of gospel and Appalachian folk music," they went on to write over 1200 songs. The Delmore Brothers became stars of the Grand Ole Opry, Grammy winners, and Country Music Hall of Famers. Call 256-233-8286 for more information.



Donnell House Museum Tours - This living history museum was built in 1845 by a travel weary 61-year-old Cumberland Presbyterian minister, Robert Donnell. In the 1860s the homestead served as a bivouac for union troops during the Civil War. Located at 601 S. Clinton Street. Open by appointment and for rent for weddings, receptions, and special occasions. Contact Janet Poole at 256-497-8526 to schedule your tour.

Houston Memorial Library and Museum - The George S. Houston Library and House is one of the cornerstones of the historic Athens community. Serving as both a public library and period museum, the restored site honors two-time Alabama governor and U.S. Senator George S. Houston who resided here. It is located at 101 N Houston Street just off the Courthouse Square. Open M-F 10-4 and 1st Sat Monthly 10-4. Ongoing used book sale. Free admission. 256-233-8770.

Limestone County Archives - If you are looking for your ancestors or the history of Limestone County, this is the place to go. Located at 310 W Washington Street in the old Athens passenger depot, they are open Mon - Fri, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Established in October 1980, the collection includes the government records of the county as well as historical and

genealogical material concerning northern Alabama and southern Tennessee. 102 W. Washington St. Contact 256-233-6404.

Sports Museum - Located in the Carter Gymnasium at Athens State University, The Sports Museum showcases photos, mascots, trophies, and memorabilia from over 100 years of Athens State sports. The museum highlights a diverse array of artifacts from the early days of tennis and swimming to championship softball and basketball teams. The Sports Museum was founded with generous community support and continues to honor decades of dedicated athletes, coaches, and the community who cheered them on. Call 256-233-8286 for more information.

Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Museum - Located on the ground floor of McCandless Hall at Athens State University, the museum features photos and memorabilia from this long and vibrant history. Free and open to the public. Athens State University is honored to continue being a proud host for the folk music legacy that is the Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention. Call 256-233-8286 for more information.

PLACES OF INTEREST

1818 Farms - Located on three acres in the northwest corner of Mooresville, 1818 Farms is named for the year the historic village was incorporated. The animal residents on the farm include Babydoll Southdown sheep, A Nubian goat, cats, hens, a pot-bellied pig, mini pigs, and two Great Pyrenees dogs. In an adjacent field, lavender and other herbs are grown for use in hand-made beauty products and for wreaths and bouquets. Offers variety of classes on gardening, food preservation, raising backyard chickens, knitting, and more. Farm tours, summer camps, and other special events. 256-714-3220. www.1818farms.com.



Athens State University - This is Alabama's oldest institution of higher learning. The main building on campus, Founders Hall, was built in 1822. Local legend says the building was saved from burning by Union troops raiding Athens during the Civil War when the college President, Jane Hamilton Childs, produced a letter said to have been written by President Abraham



Lincoln. Founders Hall, also houses the majestic Altar of the New Testament woodcarving. The life-size carvings took 12 years to complete and depict Christ and New Testament figures and verses carved in tulipwood. Tours are available by appointment. Contact 256-233-8100.

Trinity School 1865-1970 - Established by the American Missionary Association of New York in 1865, Trinity was one of many schools set up to educate children of freed slaves. One of its' famous graduates is Patti Malone of the Fisk University Jubilee Singers. Trinity Congregational Church, founded in 1871, has long been a spiritual partner to the Trinity School. Browns Ferry St. Open House & Alumni Reunion Annually in September. 606 Trinity Circle. Contact 256-431-3064 or [Facebook.com/Athens-Limestone-Community-Association](https://www.facebook.com/Athens-Limestone-Community-Association).

Historic Elkmont - Established in 1858, Elkmont is the site of the bloodiest Civil War Battle in Alabama at Sulphur Creek Trestle. Elkmont is located just five miles west of I-65 off Exit #361. This community is home of the 10 mile Rails to Trails Walking Trail where you will walk in the footsteps of both Confederate and Union soldiers, a historic train depot, a train caboose, and antique shops. The Limestone County 100 mile bike trail traverses the town and Elkmont is the trailhead town for the Limestone County Canoe and Kayak Trail. Contact 256-732-4211.

Historic Mooresville - This tiny community was incorporated on Nov. 16, 1818; one year after the Alabama Territory was created. The Mooresville Post Office, the oldest in the State, has been in continual operation since 1819. The town is home to two historic churches, including the old white clapboard Church of Christ where President James A. Garfield once preached. The Brick Church, the Post Office, and the Stagecoach Inn and Tavern are maintained by the town's residents in an effort to preserve some pieces of history. Often referred to as "Alabama's Williamsburg," the entire town is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is one of Alabama's most important and intact villages. Guided tours can be scheduled through the town's website. Contact 256-445.2590. www.moorevilleal.com.

Town of Ardmore AL/TN - This unique community is located in two states and four counties. Visit the Veterans Memorial Walk. **Ardmore Christmas Parade** – Held annually on a Monday in December at 6:30 pm. No entry fee. **Pictures with Santa at Town Hall** – Held annually on a Saturday in December from 10am to 12pm. Pictures are free. Free goody bags for the kids and refreshments while supplies last. Contact 256-423-3011 or townofardmore@ardmore.net. Contact 256-423-7588, www.ardmorealtchamber.com.

Get in Touch with Your Natural Side OUTDOORS



The 21.9 mile Limestone County Canoe/Kayak Trail travels north to the Tennessee state line.

TRAILS & WALKS

African-American Heritage Trail - A collection of sites, history, heritage and legacies of the African-American communities of the county. Free brochure download at VisitAthensAL.com

Antebellum Trail - The greater Limestone County remains rich in antebellum (1812-1861), late nineteenth century and early twentieth century architecture. The Trail is a driving tour featuring 24 antebellum homes, three antebellum churches, antebellum college, two antebellum working cotton plantations, antebellum post office and antebellum stagecoach inn and tavern. Contact 256-232-5411.

Ardmore Walking Tracks - A ¼-mile walking track is located in the beautiful Ardmore, AL Town Park located on Park Avenue and a ½-mile walking track under the shade trees in the Ardmore, TN John Barnes Park located on Ardmore Ridge Road. Both have a kids' playground area close to the track. Contact 256-423-7588.



The Donnell House, known as Pleasant Hill, is within the Beaty Historic District.

Athens Greenway Walking Trail - This 3.3 mile walking track starts at the Athens Sportsplex goes by Athens High School and Athens Public Archery Range and continues to Hwy 72 for an additional 1.2-miles walk. Contact 256-233-8740.

Beaty Historic District Walking Tour - is the walking tour of the historic Robert Beaty District which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. The Beaty Home, located on the street that now bears his name, is owned by Athens State University. Contact 256-232-5411.

Civil War Trail - This driving/walking trail tours the civil war historical sites in Athens and Limestone County including the Battle of Athens and the Battle of Sulphur Creek Trestle (Elkmont). Contact 256-232-5411.

Cowford Landing Walking Trail - This Limestone County walking and hiking trail takes walkers along the beautiful Tennessee River and is located on Cowford Road, off Snake Road. 256-216-3425.

The Glory Road

Limestone County

Hallelujah Trail - a

driving tour of churches

in Limestone County.

Brochures are available at

the Athens Visitors Center.

Contact VisitAthensAL.com,

256-232-5411.



St. Timothy's Church

Historic Haunt Walks -

Each October, this unique walking tour takes you through historic Athens most infamous haunted locations. In the tranquility of the night your storyteller will share the details of the "Spirits of Athens". Admission charged. Contact 256-232-5411, VisitAthensAL.com.

The Limestone County Canoe/Kayak Trail - offers five easy in and out sites. The trail totals 21.9 miles. As you are canoeing down the beautiful Elk River in the spring, the white dogwood and redbud trees, blooming along the riverbanks, are breathtaking. Contact 256-232-5411.

Noah Bike Trail - This 89-mile bicycle and motorcycle offers a beautiful ride in Limestone County of Northern Alabama. Contact 256-232-5411.

North Alabama Birding Trail - Seven sites included on this trail are located in Limestone County. The trail is made up of three loops linking some 50 birding sites in 12 counties into a chain. Each loop requires no more than a weekend to view. Contact 256-232-5411.

Richard Martin Rails to Trails - The 10.3-mile trail winds its way past the site of the Battle of Sulphur Creek Trestle. This trail offers a back-to-nature getaway for hikers, bikers, joggers, bird watchers, horseback riders, as well as naturalists, students and historians. The trail head is in downtown Elkmont. The trail hours are daylight to sunset. No motorized vehicles. Contact



The 10.3-mile Rails to Trails path welcomes everyone from horseback riders to hikers and bicyclists.

256-232-5411 or 256-278-1262.

Saturday Historic Walks - Each Saturday in April, four free historic walks are offered at 10:00 AM. Walkers meet guides at the Athens Visitors Center and select one of the hour long walks. Contact 256-232-5411.

Wellness Park Walking Trail - This 1/4-mile walking trail goes through the beautiful Wellness Park located in Athens on West Washington Street. 256-233-8740.

SPORTS

Athens Sportsplex - The Athens Sportsplex is one of the best municipal athletic facilities in the United States. It has eight baseball fields and five soccer fields designed for various levels of amateur competition, disc golf course, kids dugout playground complex, outdoor fitness court, pickleball court, and a swimming pool. Contact 256-233-8740.



The new Fitness Court at Athens Sportsplex

Archery Park - The Athens Community Archery Park is a state-of-the-art facility equipped with four youth targets (5-20 yards), eight adult targets (15-50 yards) and a 12-foot elevated platform with four Olympic style targets (10-40 yards) available for bowhunters to simulate hunting or shooting from a treestand. A simulated ground blind is available for bowhunters to practice shooting from a kneeling or seated position. The park is open to the public during daylight hours. Contact 256-233-8740 or www.athensal.us

Range 351 - Private self-defense courses and/or target shooting. Owner / Operator is a National Rifle Association-certified

instructor in Limestone County. Reserve time at the gun range or to register for classes, visit www.range351.com or call Matt 256-874-2500.

FISHING

Wheeler Lake - Wheeler impounds 67,100 acres and extends roughly 60 miles between Guntersville and Wheeler Dams. It is basically a shallow reservoir, but mixes shallow banks with deep drop-offs, wide-open spaces and narrow tributaries. Milfoil makes for great top water fishing in the spring and fall. Contact 256-232-5411.

GOLF

Golfers will find a pair of exciting 18 hole courses in Limestone County that are contoured to the natural lay of the land:

Canebrake Club (256-232-1816) and **Southern Gayles Golf Course** (256-232-9888).

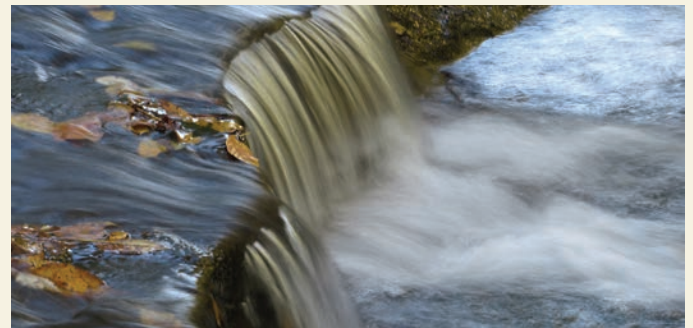
HUNTING

Limestone Hunting Preserve Sporting Clays - They offer a wide selection of activities for the sportsman. Deer, dove, quail, pheasant and chukar hunts, sporting clays, training and sales of bird dogs are all available at one location. The preserve is located at 28759 Coggins Road in northern Limestone County. Contact 256-423-6029.

Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area - Managed by the Alabama Department of Conservation, the area consists of 8,870 acres of Tennessee River waterfront property. Waterfowl, small game and archery deer are hunted in season by Management Area Permit. Contact 256-353-2634.

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge - Hunting seasons are usually shorter than the State of Alabama seasons. Archery deer and small game hunting are allowed by special permit. A two-week flintlock season is also open for deer during the month of January. Contact 256-353-7243 or 256-350-6639.

TVA Managed Federal Property - 11,300 Acres located in multiple locations along the Tennessee River and Elk River. Hunting on this property follows the State of Alabama game laws. Contact 256-386-3442.





Limestone County Map Legend

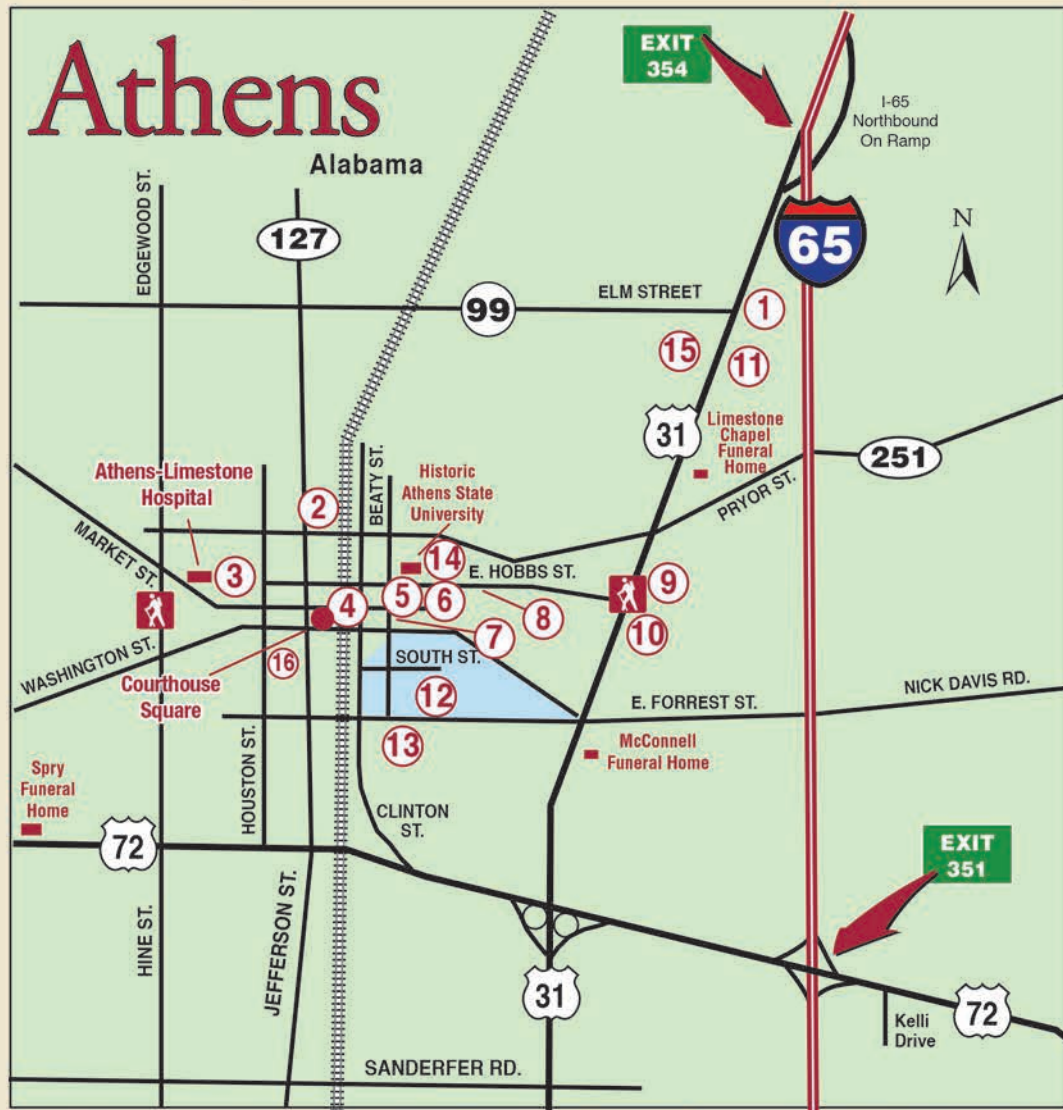
- ① Alabama State Welcome Center (I-1) *Temporarily closed for renovations*
- ② Ardmore Aviation (J-1)
- ③ Associated Growers Co-Op Inc. (G-2)
- ④ Richard Martin Rails to Trails (G-2)
- ⑤ Elkmont Depot (G-3)
- ⑥ Limestone County Sheriff's Rodeo Arena (E-4)
- ⑦ Southern Gayles Golf Course (J-4)
- ⑧ Limestone County Courthouse Square (H-7)
- ⑨ River View RV Park (A-8)
- ⑩ Lucy's Branch Marina (B-8)
- ⑪ 1818 Farms (K-12)
- ⑫ Canebrake Golf Community (I-8)
- ⑬ Orchards (J-8)
- ⑭ Cowford Landing (E-10)
- ⑮ Calhoun Community College/Pryor Regional Airport (H-12)
- ⑯ Huntsville International Airport (L-11)
- ⑰ North Alabama Birding Trail (I-13)
- ⑱ Historic Mooreville (L-13)
- 🚣 Limestone Co. Canoe/Kayak Sites



www.visitathensal.com

TO BIRMINGHAM

Athens



Smalltown Relaxation Near Big City Lights!

- 22 miles from Huntsville
- 14 miles from Decatur
- 90 miles from Nashville
- 99 miles from Birmingham
- 215 miles from Atlanta

Athens Map Legend

- 1 Athens Sports Complex / Kids Dugout/Swimming Pool
- 2 Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives
Limestone Co Event Center
- 3 Houston Memorial Library/ Museum & Historic District
- 4 Athens Historic District
- 5 Athens Visitors Center
- 6 Big Spring Memorial Park
- 7 Greater Limestone Co Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development
- 8 College Inn/Gulf Station Museum
- 9 Athens Middle School & Stadium
- 10 Athens Community Archery Park & Swan Creek Park
- 11 Athens Bible School
- 12 Beaty Historic Homes
- 13 Donnell Home Museum
- 14 Historic Athens State University
- 15 Athens High School
- 16 Athens Farmers Market



Alabama's Newest Location Now Open
At I-65 Exit 347 in Athens



Multi-Use Meeting Room
Available at Our Visitors Center
VisitAthensAL.com/visitor-center-meeting-room

Weddings | Receptions | Dinners | Reunions
Birthdays | Corporate Events

Come Celebrate Life's Seasons With These Signature Festivals & Events

SPRING

• BLOOMING EVENTS •



March

- Cruise-Ins
- Boutique Crawl

April

- Walking Tours
- Earth Day Expo
- Fridays After Five

May

- Athens Rodeo
- Relay for Life Walk
- Merchants Alley Happy Hour
- Farmers Market

SUMMER

• FAMILY FUN •



June

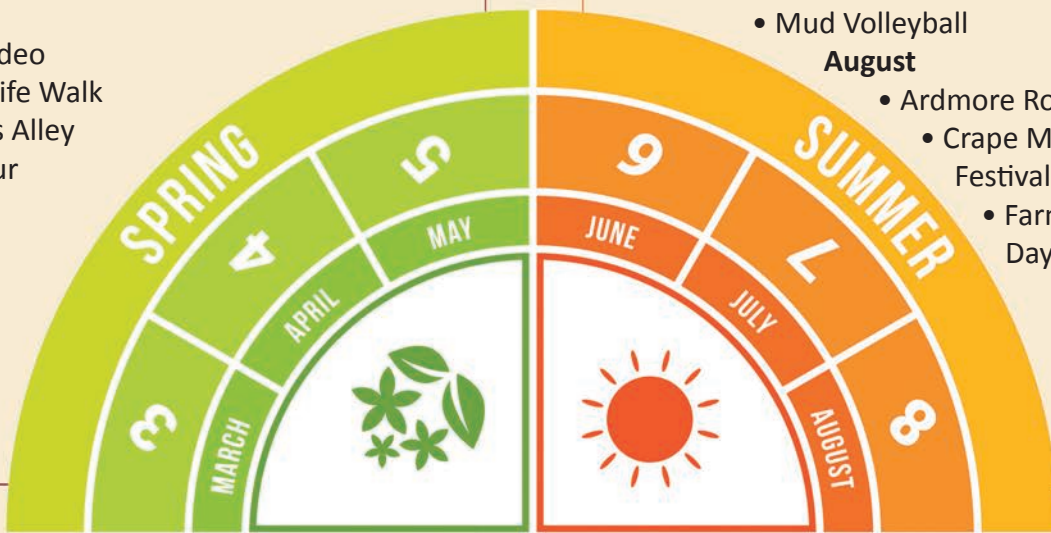
- Singing in the Park
- Tractor Pull
- Farmers Market

July

- Fireworks Show
- Kiddle Carnival
- Mud Volleyball

August

- Ardmore Rodeo
- Crape Myrtle Festival
- Farm Heritage Days



Anytime is a great time to Visit Athens-Limestone County

AUTUMN

• FALL FESTIVALS •



September

- SUPERHERO Day
- Farmers Market
- Duck & Run 5k

October

- Haunt Walks
- Haunted Houses
- Fiddlers Convention
- Rubber Ducky Race
- Cemetery Stroll
- Storytelling Festival

November

- Veterans Parade
- Christmas Open House

WINTER

• CELEBRATIONS •



December

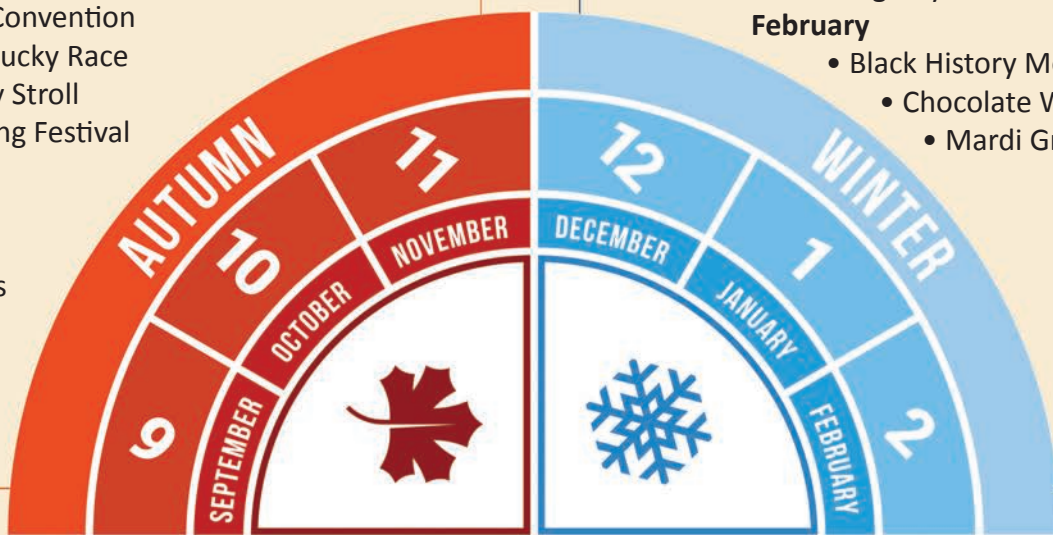
- North Pole Stroll
- Tinsel Trails
- Christmas Parades
- Sippin' Cider

January

- Martin Luther King Day Celebration

February

- Black History Month
- Chocolate Walk
- Mardi Gras Parade



Shopping & Dining

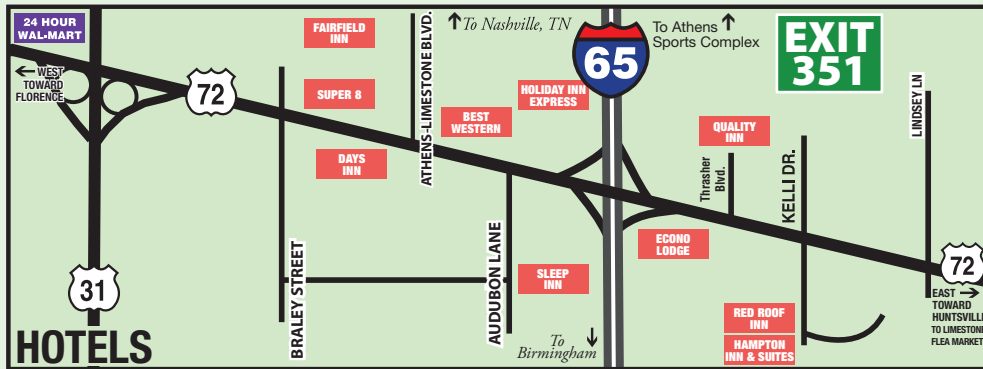
Shopping in Athens and Limestone County has everything from Boutiques to Bucees. Downtown Athens around the Square, we have unique experiences, vibrant places to explore, shops with one-of-a-kind merchandise, and a variety of restaurants that tempt the palate. You're sure to notice the improvements AthensMainStreet.org has brought to the Entertainment District. Grab a beverage and stroll through the whimsical Merchant's Alley with your blue cup. Don't miss one of Alabama's oldest General Stores: U.G. White Mercantile. Scan the QR code below or check out VisitAthensAL.com for a complete list of shopping and dining experiences.

If you're shopping for farm fresh food, the ever-growing Athens Farmers Market is open June-Sept (Saturdays 8 am-Noon) and May-August (Tuesdays 3-7 pm). This Certified Alabama Farmers Market has an array of seasonal fruits, vegetables, eggs, meats, honey, and prepared items like bread, sweets, and fried pies. Enjoy live music and kids' activities while you shop for hand-crafted gifts like candles and jewelry as well. If U-Pick Farms are on your list of things to do, try Isom's Orchard which has fruits, vegetables, and flowers in season.

If you're looking to savor the flavor of Alabama and the Deep South, then you have come to the right place. Sample local favorites like fried catfish, hush puppies, banana pudding, and sweet tea or go light and lean with plenty of healthy options. With over 140 restaurants located throughout Athens and Limestone County, you're sure to find whatever your palate desires.



LODGING



I-65 Exit 351 / Hwy 72 E	ADDRESS	PHONE	WEBSITE	ROOMS	INTERIOR CORRIDORS	FREE INTERNET	POOL	INDOOR POOL	PETS ALLOWED	PET FEE	MICROWAVE/FRIDGE	KITCHENETTE	HOT BREAKFAST	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	BANQUET/MEETING ROOM	FITNESS CENTER
Best Western	1329 Hwy 72 E	256-233-4030	bestwestern.com	83		●	●		●	●	●		●	●		●
Days Inn	1322 Hwy 72 E	256-233-7500	daysinn.com	93		●	●		●	●	●		●		●	
Econo Lodge	1500 Hwy 72 E	256-232-1520	countryhearhinn.com	48		●	●		●	●	●		●	●		
Fairfield Inn & Suites	21282 Athens Limestone Lane	256-233-4530	fairfieldinn.com/hsvat	75	●	●		●			●		●		●	●
Hampton Inn & Suites	1222 Kelli Dr	256-232-2377	athensi65suites.hamptoninn.com	88	●	●	●	●			●		●		●	●
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites	16074 Athens-Limestone Blvd	256-232-7931	holidayinnexpress.com	71	●	●		●			●		●		●	●
Quality Inn	1488 Thrasher Blvd	256-232-0030	choicehotels.com	58		●			●	●	●		●		●	
Sleep Inn (pet fee, call for availability)	1115 Audubon Ln	256-232-4700	choicehotels.com	60	●	●	●		●	●	●		●			
Super 8	1325 Hwy 72 E	256-233-1446	Super8.com	58	●	●			●	●	●			●		
Red Roof Inn & Suites	1218 Kelli Dr	256-232-2704	redroofathensal.com	62		●	●		●		●	●	●	●		

RV PARKS

I-65 Exit 361	ADDRESS	PHONE	WEBSITE	DESCRIPTION
Mill Creek RV Park	28861 Veto Rd, Elkmont	256-732-3686	millcreekrv.com	30 & 50 amp. Electric. Water. Sewage. Wifi. Creek. Bike Rental. Trail with Covered bridge. Security gate. Fitness room. Fenced dog area. River Boat Launch 3 miles away.
I-65 Exit 354				
Northgate RV Travel Park	1757 Hwy 31 N, Athens	256-232-8800	alabamarvtravel.com	Any size RV. All Pull-through sites. 30 & 50 amp. Full hook-up. Short-term only. No bath house. Cash or check only. Free Wifi. Easy on & off Interstate.
I-65 Exit 351				
Cowford Landing Campground	8700 Cowford Rd, Athens	256-349-6212	limestonecounty-al.gov.	53 RV Sites. Electrical & Water. Laundry. On the River. Boat Launch. Swimming. Some Pull-through Sites.
River View RV Resort	4900 Snake Rd, Athens	256-729-6329	riverviewrvresort.com	107 RV Sites - Weekly & Monthly Rates. Some Pull-through sites. Laundry. On the River. Boat Launch, Dock & Storage. Swimming.
T's Outback	10211 US Hwy 72 W, Athens	256-431-4761	Tsoutbackrvpark.com	51 RV Sites. 30/50 amp with full hookups. Pet friendly, Pond, Laundry, Storm Shelter. Playground. No Pull-through.
I-65 Exit 347				
Swan Creek MHC	10420 Hwy. 31, Tanner	256-355-5392	swancreekmhc.com	Short & Long Term. Some Pull-throughs. Bath House. Laundry. Wifi. Dog Park, Playground. Good Sam discount on daily rate.