We invite you to experience the magic of the Singing River, with towns as diverse in character as the attractions and amenities they offer. Visit Muscle Shoals, Tuscumbia, and Sheffield, collectively called “The Shoals”. Those who seek inspiration in the life of Helen Keller should visit her quaint Southern home, music lovers must visit the recording studios that gave Muscle Shoals the title of “hit recording capital of the world”. Nature lovers will find scenic vistas with canyons and waterfalls. You’ll discover a vibrant cultural scene offering art and architecture, music, parks, festivals and fun! Enjoy fishing Pickwick and Wilson Lakes or play a round of golf at The Shoals Robert Trent Jones Golf Course. Whatever you seek in a vacation, we offer it in a special place called The Shoals.

Let the magic of the Singing River cast its’ spell on you...  

Earliest history noted the thunderous stretch of shallow rapids where the Tennessee River flowed through the hills and valleys of northwest Alabama. The Cherokees called the river, “Unashey” or the Singing River. Legend has it that an American Indian maiden lived in this flowing river and sang beautiful songs to their people that lived and traveled along the river’s banks. Today, the legend continues and many believe this same magic has influenced the accomplishments of our music, people and charming towns.

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300 North Commons, W., Tuscumbia

The dramatic life and times of Helen Keller are preserved at her birthplace and childhood home, Ivy Green. The plantation home and birthplace cottage, dating back to the 1820’s, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Original furnishings of the Keller family decorate the home and museum, highlighted by hundreds of Ms. Keller’s personal mementos, books and gifts from her lifetime of travel and lectures for the betterment of the world’s blind and deaf-blind.

Hours: M – Sa 8:30 am – 4 pm. (256) 383-4066. Admission. www.helenkellerbirthplace.org

“The Miracle Worker” Play

Alabama’s official outdoor drama, continues to inspire and captivate audiences from around the world every June through mid-July since 1961. William Gibson’s play dramatizes the efforts of teacher Anne Sullivan to open the world of communication to 7-year-old blind and deaf Helen Keller. STS* Top 20 and ABA* Top 100 Event. For tickets call 256-383-4066.

Known for our rocking Muscle Shoals music and as the birthplace of America’s first Lady of Courage, Helen Keller, we invite you to visit the Muscle Shoals area for an authentically southern experience. Whether it is dining in one of our local eateries, shopping in a lovingly preserved downtown district in Tuscumbia or Sheffield filled with a variety of merchandise in antique stores, gift shops, and fashionable ladies clothing boutiques, or strolling through Tuscumbia’s scenic Spring Park to enjoy the musically choreographed Water Show, we know you can experience a taste of true southern culture in our area.

During your visit, please stop in our Visitors Center, located conveniently next door to the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in Tuscumbia for friendly, local advice, free brochures, and area maps. Also, be sure to ask for discount coupons to some of our local attractions. No matter where your visit leads you, you will find friendly people, small town charm, and sites authentically Southern.

For more information call (256) 383-0783 or visit www.VisitShoalsAL.com
Historic Tuscumbia
One of Alabama’s Best
Collections of 19th century architecture from the antebellum period. The town of Tuscumbia is centered by its quaint downtown, which includes the majestic Colbert County Courthouse, a restored train depot, early churches and many historic homes. More than 50 buildings remain from the Antebellum period. A 6-block area along Main Street holds some of Alabama’s earliest commercial buildings, including the Sutherland Building and Commercial Row. The south end of Main Street culminates at Spring Park, site of the town’s founding (c.1817). Chickasaw Chief Tuscumbia was honored by early white settlers in the naming of the town. National Register Historic District. Specialty shops and restaurants now occupy many of these historic buildings.

Historic Sheffield
North Montgomery Avenue with its wide, tree-lined streets is the setting for many historic homes in Sheffield. The city was incorporated in 1885 and soon after, fine Victorian homes were built, followed by large, craftsman style bungalows. National Register Historic District. Specialty shops and restaurants now occupy many of these historic buildings.

Village One - Sheffield
This planned community of 85 bungalows, barracks, school, and parks was built as government defense housing in 1918. The streets were laid out in an unusual Liberty Bell design. The houses feature red tile roofs and stucco exteriors. National Register Historic District.

Belle Mont Mansion
1969 Cook Lane, Tuscumbia
One of early Alabama’s crowning architectural achievements, this is one of the most outstanding Palladian-style houses in the Deep South. The mansion has a raised, two-story central section with flanking one-story wings and a U-shaped floor plan that embraces a courtyard.

LaGrange College Site Park
1491 LaGrange College Rd., Leighton
Established in 1830 as Alabama’s first college, LaGrange became known as “The West Point of the South.” In 1863, the college was destroyed by Union forces. A pioneer village has been recreated at the site to include a welcome center and museum, chapel, and Log Cabin B&B.

Tuscumbia Railway Depot & Museum
204 W. 5th St., Tuscumbia
This 1888 restored passenger depot was utilized by both the Memphis and Charleston and Southern Railway companies. Today, it is a museum dedicated to railroading. Tuscumbia boasts the first railroad west of the Appalachian Mountains.

The Ritz Theatre
111 West 3rd St., Sheffield
Built in 1927, this former silent movie house was renovated in 1985, preserving the original 1930s art deco interior. The theatre is now home to a vibrant community performing arts program. (See website for Production and Film Calendar.)

Kennedy-Douglas Center for the Arts, 217 Tuscaloosa St., Florence
Shoals Symphony at UNA, Florence
The Shoals Theatre, 213 N. Seminary St., Florence

The Tennessee Valley Museum of Art
517 North Water St., Tuscumbia
This regional art center is a venue for cultural activities. Galleries provide annual and rotating exhibits as well as workshops for adults and children.

Tuscaloosa Railway Depot & Museum
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Stage production of Les Misérables at The Ritz Theatre. (Photo credit: Joe and Valerie Romans)

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**NATURE WALKS & CYCLING**

Several miles of hiking, walking, jogging and biking trails are available to the public on the TVA Reservation located in Muscle Shoals and Sheffield. A six mile bike trail through historic downtown Sheffield is accessible from N. Montgomery Ave. Fifteen miles of hiking trails are maintained in Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve, west of Tuscumbia.

**Old Railroad Bridge**
2100 Ashe Blvd., Sheffield
This pedestrian bridge is 1,580 feet long and 14 feet high. The pier dates back to 1832, the superstructure to 1903. The original bridge opened in 1839 as a toll bridge with trains crossing on the upper deck while wagons, pedestrians and livestock crossed over the bottom.

**Riverfront Park**
1416 Alabama Avenue, Sheffield
This park boasts one mile of inviting shoreline on Pickwick Lake. Variety of recreation available, including boat launch, fishing piers, dock facilities, picnicking, walking trails, splash pad, playground and restrooms.

**UNIQUE & OUTDOORS**

**Hawk Pride Mountain Off-Road Park**
3834 Hawk Pride Mountain Rd, Tuscumbia
This privately owned park offers a wide variety of offroading spread over 1,000 acres. Over 40 trails to accommodate everyone from the most sophisticated rock crawlers to simple 4x4s and ATVs. Camping pads for RV’s, primitive camping, bathhouses, restrooms, food vendors, and merchandise.

**Wilson Lock and Dam**
3985 Reservation Rd., Muscle Shoals
Wilson Dam boats one of the highest, single lift locks in the world. Construction on the dam began during World War I, TVA was created in 1933.

**Natchez Trace Parkway**
444 Miles from Natchez, MS to Nashville, TN – 33 miles in Alabama
A National Scenic Byway and All American Road, the Colbert Ferry site offers restrooms, picnic area, swimming, fishing, boat launch, bicycle only campground at Milepost 327. www.nps.gov

**Watersports:**
With two lakes covering more than 58,700 acres and hundreds of miles of winding creeks and streams, Pickwick and Wilson Lakes are a paradise for water sports enthusiasts! The waterways are great places to kayak, fish, swim, paddle board, windsurf, water ski or take a sunset cruise on a yacht.

**Nearby:**
Te-lah-nay’s Wall (Tom Hendrix’ Wall):
13890 County Road 8, Florence (256) 764-3617
Tennessee River, stretching 15 miles between Wilson Dam and Pickwick Dam, impounds 15,930 acres of water along the bluffs, rocky ledges and long grassbeds.

**LICENSE**

Fishing licenses are available at the Colbert County Courthouse and at many bait and tackle shops in the area. State fishing licenses may also be purchased online at [www.OutdoorAlabama.com](http://www.OutdoorAlabama.com), which also contains the latest license fees, creel limits and lake records.

The Muscle Shoals area offers some of the best fishing opportunities in the nation with well-known Pickwick and Wilson Lakes! The lakes were formed beginning in the 1930s when the Tennessee Valley Authority began construction of a series of massive man-made reservoirs of flooded fields, bluffs and marsh areas. This unique combination of the nature-made deep channel of the river and the dams along the Tennessee River in North Alabama. This unique combination of the nature-made deep channel of the river and the dams along the Tennessee River in North Alabama.