

Christmas in Sweet Home Alabama

A holiday travel guide to historical sites and cultural events for church groups and family excursions



Victorian Christmas at Landmark Park

Step back in time during Dothan's Landmark Park's Victorian Christmas, Dec. 14, 1-4 p.m. Watch the circuit-riding preacher arrive on horseback to deliver a Christmas message at the historical church located on the grounds of Landmark Park. Warm up to some holiday hospitality during an afternoon centered on the pleasures of Christmas past. Visitors are invited to sample turn-of-the-century desserts and sip hot chocolate or mulled cider while children try their hand at making traditional Christmas decorations. Admission is free. Call 334-794-3452 or visit www.landmarkpark.com for more information.

Eutaw's Kirkwood Mansion perfect setting for church group day outings, Christmas luncheons



Kirkwood Mansion
Paid Advertising

For church groups or businesses looking for a memorable experience and spectacular venue to host their Christmas party, look no further than the holiday grandeur of Kirkwood Mansion.

This refurbished ca.1860 antebellum home, which is listed on the national register of historic

places, is a magnificent example of American Greek Revival architecture, complete with eight massive ionic columns, Carrara marble mantels and Waterford crystal chandeliers.

Kirkwood is home to one of the greatest collections of period American antiques in the Southeast as well as an impressive collection of Southern art.

Located in historic Eutaw, Kirkwood is but a 30-minute drive past Tuscaloosa and easily accessible by way of Interstate 20/59. According to owners Al and Danky Blanton, visitors to Kirkwood have several tour options from which to choose. Individuals and groups can tour Mon.-Sat. from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun. from 1-5 p.m., or groups of 15 or more can experience a full-day excursion including touring another antebellum home, a tour of Kirkwood followed by lunch and concluding with a trip to Eutaw's antique district.

And a trip to Kirkwood isn't complete without guests gathering around the baby grand piano in the receiving parlor to sing Christmas carols and favorite hymns with the Blantons. Evening holiday parties at Kirkwood are also available but book up quickly during the season.

Kirkwood is available for tours, luncheons and outdoor weddings throughout the year. For scheduling information, call Al or Danky Blanton at 205-372-2694.

George Balanchine's
The Nutcracker™

Alabama Ballet
The State's Premiere Professional Ballet Company
Tracey Alvey, Artistic Director

Accompanied by The Alabama Symphony Orchestra

December 12, 7:30 p.m.
December 13, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.
December 14, 2:30 p.m.
December 20, 2:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
December 21, 2:30 p.m.

Samford Wright Center

Fun for the whole family!
Special Group Discounts Available!

Tickets: 205-975-2787, www.alabamaballet.org

Sponsored by: Regions, The Linn-Henley Charitable Trust, City of Birmingham, Alabama State Council on the Arts, BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama, The Birmingham News, Kinetic Communications

The
Living Christmas Tree



December 12 + 7 PM
December 13 + 4 & 7 PM
December 14 + 4 & 7 PM

Tickets available online beginning November 9.
Call 334.241.5156 or order online at www.montgomeryfbc.org

No offering will be taken during the presentation. \$5 per ticket suggested.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
montgomery

305 South Perry Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

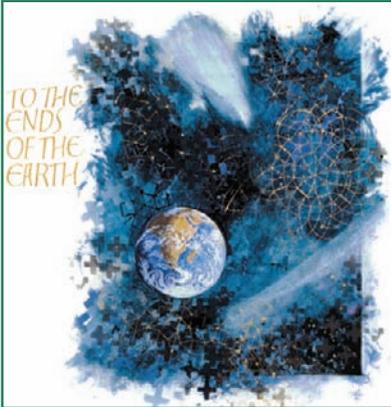
A one-of-a-kind Christmas trip excursion for church groups, families at Mobile's Museum of Art

The Museum of Mobile
Paid Advertising

When planning your group excursions to the Mobile Bay area, plan to make one of your tour stops the Mobile Museum of Art (MMA) where you can view a once-in-a-lifetime, world renowned exhibit.

Opening Oct. 10 and running through April 12, 2009, the

awe-inspiring art exhibit, *Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible with illuminated pages from the Gospels and Acts, the Pentateuch and the Book of Psalms* will be on display. This exhibit was created



under the artistic direction of calligrapher Donald Jackson.

On display at the MMA will be 60-70 items from the first three volumes. These items include original text and illuminated pages from the Bible, Jackson's process sketches tools from his scriptorium in Wales, as well as other manuscripts, bibles and art from special collections at Saint John's University.

The MMA's exhibition will allow visitors to see and hear about the process of using goose-and-swan quills, calfskin vellum, ancient hand-ground inks, gold and silver gilding, accompanied by the use of digital cameras, e-mail

and computer design technology to create this work of artistic and spiritual significance.

In December, the museum has several programs planned that will coincide with the exhibition.

On the 10th, the museum will be the only Alabama destination for the Bible Across

America Tour that is being put together by Zondervan, the world's leading Bible publisher. More than 30,000 people will be participating in the creation of a handwritten rendering of

the New International Version of the Bible by copying verses that will later be collected and published in a one of kind text.

Then on the 14th, the MMA will collaborate with Spring Hill College to host a lecture presented by the Benedictine Sisters from the Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman. The Sisters will be speaking at St. Joseph Chapel about the role of Scripture and handwritten Bibles in their religious traditions.

For more information about any of these events, call 251-208-5200 or visit their Web site, www.mobilemuseumofart.com.

Holiday Bright Lights

For homes, churches or businesses

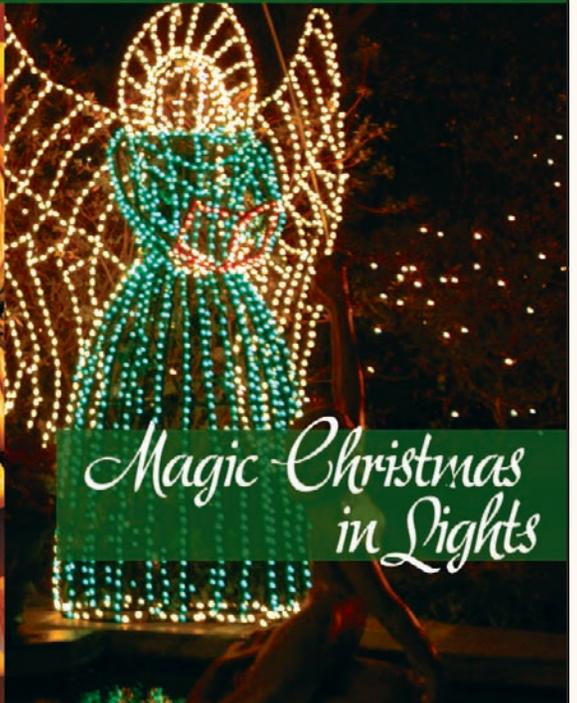
Beautiful yard ornaments made of the highest quality materials. Cutting-edge house trimming products in new, attractive styles. Realistic, full pre-lit wreaths, garlands and trees.

- No obligation design consultation
- Installation
- Service and maintenance
- Removal
- Storage

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TO EVERY SEASON, A CELEBRATION



MUM FESTIVAL

Magic Christmas in Lights

Balloon Glow in the Gardens - October 25, 5-7 PM
Family Fun Day - November 1, 11-3 PM
Kids Kruiise 12 Noon (Reservations Required)
Cascade Mum Bloom Out - November 8-26

Friday after Thanksgiving thru New Year's Eve 5-9 PM • Closed December 25th
ENTERTAINMENT • SHOPPING • DINING

Bellingrath
Gardens and Home

Theodore, Alabama
www.bellingrath.org
Group Tours - Contact Shanna Bennett
251.973.2217 Ext 163 or 800.247.8420
sbennett@bellingrath.org



Oh come, all ye faithful....

Join us for the 16th Annual Victorian Front Porch Christmas Tour. There may be a lot of places to find Santa Claus, but in Opelika you'll also still find the true meaning of Christmas. Contact the Auburn-Opelika Tourism Bureau to plan your visit today.



334-887-8747 | 866.880.8747 | aotourism.com | info@aotourism.com

Christmas in a Railroad Town
December 12

Tour of Homes & Nutcracker
December 13-14

Victorian Front Porch Tour
December 9-14

The Gospel According to Scrooge

A Christian musical adaptation of Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol"



Friday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 6, 2 and 7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 7, 3 p.m. matinee

At the Fayette, Ala., Civic Center
Tickets are \$10 each

Dogwood Productions

Providing wholesome family entertainment

205-932-3727
www.dogwoodproductions.org

Christmas Village Festival



An Alabama Tradition

Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex
(205) 836-7173

Charge by phone with MC, Visa, or Disc.

November 5, 2008
VIP / No Stroller Day
Call for details—Must pre-order this ticket

November 6-9, 2008
Public Shopping
Adults \$10.00 Child (6-12) \$4
Under 6 Free

Thurs.-Sat 10am-8pm*Sun. Noon-5pm
Entrance 1 hour early with advance

Ticket Outlets:

Clothes Tree 205 822-1902
County Fair 205 991-9968
Merle Norman 205 655-1905

Phone orders end 10/29/08

Tickets for Nov. 6-9 available @ the door (not early entrance ticket)

Don't miss the next *Sweet Home Alabama* advertorial package March 5, 2009. For advertising details, call Sue Ann Raybon at 205-870-4720 Ext. 107 or e-mail saraybon@thealabamabaptist.org.

OLD BAKER FARM

Harpersville, Ala.

www.oldbakerfarm.com



Cotton Pickin' Celebration '08
October 25-26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Includes pumpkin patch, Indian festival, Civil War reenactments, cowboy shootouts, bluegrass bands, arts and crafts, great food, antique tractor show and parade. Plus other activities*

Beginning September 27

Open to the public weekdays 3 p.m.-dark, Saturdays 9a.m.-dark, Sundays 1 p.m.-dark

*Always Available: Pumpkin patch, corn and hay maze, exciting hayrides, hay hill and hay mountain, petting farm, horseback rides, cotton picking, hot air balloon (weather permitting), cotton bounce, concessions and Indian village

Jerry and Pam Baker
1041 Farmingdale Rd.
Harpersville, AL 35078
205.672.7209



Experience Christmas traditions of yesteryear at Troy's Pioneer Museum Dec. 11-13



Pioneer Museum of Alabama

Paid Advertising

If it's a traditional Americana Christmas experience you're looking for, then Troy's Pioneer Museum of Alabama is the place you want to be the evenings of Dec. 11-13. A perfect outing for church groups or families, this nostalgic celebration of the Christmas season takes you back to years gone by.

You can experience Christmas as the pioneers did. Young and old alike will enjoy the demonstrations and exhibits of Christmas customs, fashions and lifestyles of past generations.

You can stroll down the luminary adorned paths to cabins that house quilt makers, musicians and painted scenes of the nativity story while you enjoy delicious homemade refreshments.

Children can participate in making old fashioned handmade Christmas ornaments and have their picture made with Father Christmas.

They can see firsthand a real general store and a one-room school house similar to ones their ancestors would have attended.

One of the highlights of your visit will be hearing the foot pump organ being played in the log chapel. This wonderful three-night event is Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 6-8 p.m. and is free to the public.

If area churches are interested in providing a small group of singers to stroll around the grounds singing Christian Christmas carols they can contact Jerry Peak at 334-566-3597 or e-mail him at pioneer@troycable.net.

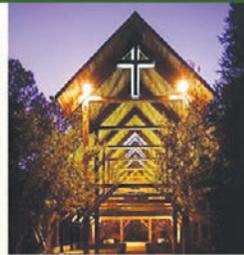
The Eufaula Christmas Tour of Homes

December 6, 2008



Experience an enchanting tour of the South's finest homes draped in holiday cheer. See how Southern halls are decked in four stately homes of Christmas Present (1-4:30 p.m.). Witness the nostalgia of Christmas Past on the Candlelight Tour of four historic homes (4:30-7:30 p.m.). A traditional Southern lunch and an elegant dinner will be offered at the Shorter Mansion. Limited seating, reservations required. Call 1-888-383-2852 or visit our Web site www.eufaulapilgrimage.com for prices and reservations.

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THE ALABAMA 4-H CENTER



Nestled on beautiful Lay Lake in Columbiana, The Alabama 4-H Center is the perfect choice for your next meeting, conference, adult or youth retreat and weddings. Whether you are looking for a small cozy setting, an open air pavilion by the lake or an exquisite auditorium with a view of the tree tops, we have the perfect location for your next event! The accommodations include spacious guestrooms at Guthrie Lodge as well as dormitory style rooms. A variety of recreation activities are also available including swimming, canoeing, climbing wall, giant swing, putt-putt golf, animal programs and so much more!

Let us host your next event ... you'll be glad you did!

www.Alabama4hcenter.org • 205-669-4241



EAGLE AWARENESS WEEKENDS
LAKE GUNTERSVILLE STATE PARK

Join us the weekends of **January 2–February 6, 2009**, for exciting programs and guided nature hikes in observance of our majestic American symbol, the bald eagle.

Prominent guest speakers with live birds include Callaway Gardens, the Kelley Bartlett Conservancy, the Montgomery Zoo, Anniston Museum of Natural History, SOAR — Save Our American Raptors and much more!

Call to request a brochure of scheduled events and for overnight accommodations.

1-800-548-4553 • www.VisitLakeGuntersville.com



Live Nativity Drama

We here at Sequoyah Caverns & Ellis Homestead present a live nativity drama inside the cave each Christmas to say thanks to the community for supporting us.

Dec. 21–24, 7 p.m.
(3 performances about 30 minutes in length each night)

No charge. Donations will be given to Save-A-Life of DeKalb County.

Group reservations available.
256-635-0025 or 1-800-843-5098

Looking For Unique Christmas Gifts?



Egypt Nile Cruises From a Christian View

25 wonderful packages — year-round. Excellent value for groups and individuals

Also: Israel, Greece, Turkey, Jordan, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, France, Britain, Livingstone's Africa

Pilgrim Tours, P O Box 268, Morgantown, PA 19543, www.pilgrimtours.com, 800 322 0788

"Christian Fellowship Tours Since 1987"

Mississippi Baptist Minister to Host

Alaska Cruise

And Pacific Northwest Vacation

15-Days; Departs July 2, 2009 from \$2211*

"I liked this trip so much...we're going back!"

On July 2, 2009, join your Spiritual Director, Baptist Minister Rev. J. Barry Worrell on this 15-day vacation including a 7-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a 7-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Devotions will be made available for those in the group who wish to participate. This will be Rev. Worrell's second time hosting this YMT Baptist vacation package. The first was on this same Alaska Cruise and Pacific Northwest trip that departed June 12, 2005. For 22 years, Rev. Worrell has served as Minister of Music and Senior Adults at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Grenada, Mississippi. Your group will fly into Salt Lake City for a day with a city tour (including the Mormon Tabernacle, Beehive House and Great Salt Lake). Next your group will take a five day scenic drive to Vancouver by way of Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Grand Teton National Park; West Yellowstone & Yellowstone National Park (two days); Butte, Montana; Lake Coeur d'Alene; Spokane, Washington; and Penticton, BC before boarding your five-star ship, HAL's *ms Volendam* in Vancouver. Enjoy the 5-star *Signature of Excellence Holland America Line* is famous for! And take advantage of Baptist devotions for your group aboard ship! Travel through a wondrous maze of forested-island and glacier-carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay National Park, and Ketchikan while sailing Alaska's Inside Passage. End your tour with one night in Seattle, Washington (with city tour) before flying home July 16, 2009. *Price per person, double occupancy; includes port charges, government fees, taxes and services; Alaska visitor's tax; ship fuel surcharge, the seven-day deluxe Alaska cruise, seven nights hotels, baggage handling and lots of motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest. Add \$700 airfare from Chattanooga, TN; Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, AL; or Atlanta, GA.

For Information, Reservations, Brochure & Letter from Rev. Worrell Call 7 Days a Week:

YMT Vacations 1-800-736-7300

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12-Day Holy Land

Seminar: Israel & Jordan

March 11-22, 2009

with Dr. Bob Terry and Dr. Mike McLemore

in partnership with The Alabama Baptist and the Birmingham Baptist Association

PRICE OF 12-DAY TOUR: \$4,059 from Birmingham

For information, contact: Holy Land Tour, The Alabama Baptist, 3310 Independence Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209, call 205-870-4720, Ext. 103, e-mail: holylandtour@thealabamabaptist.org or visit www.thealabamabaptist.org and click on the Holy Land Tour button.