



The FALL GUIDE

TO BIRMINGHAM, AL

OUTSIDE *again*

Somewhere in early October, the heat should finally break and we can get back outside to enjoy all the things we love! Here are a few of our favorites...

PATIO WEATHER

Ironwood Kitchen + Cocktails

Gas fire pits at the Valley Hotel
Homewood

Habitat Feed & Social

Rooftop over the village
Mountain Brook

Golden Age Wine

A walled garden with no indoor room to retreat to
Downtown Birmingham

Chez Lulu + Continental Bakery

Sidewalk tables under the awnings
English Village, Mountain Brook

The Pizitz Food Hall Courtyard

String lights, a dozen stalls, live music
Downtown Birmingham

Slice Pizza & Brew

The two-tiered people-watching perch
Lakeview, Downtown Birmingham

TRAILS & PARKS

Lakeshore Trail

Five flat paved miles along Shades Creek
Homewood

Railroad Park

19 acres of lawn with the skyline behind it
Downtown Birmingham

Vulcan Park Overlook

The best sunset in the city, no exceptions
Southside Birmingham

Red Mountain Park

18 miles of trail and the Grace's Gap overlook
Homewood

Ruffner Mountain

1,000 acres and a quarry overlook, inside the city
East Lake, Birmingham

Moss Rock Preserve

Waterfalls and the boulder field
Hoover

STRING LIGHTS & LIVE MUSIC

Avondale Brewing Amphitheater

Chairs, blankets and dogs welcome. Fall is its whole season

Back Forty Beer Co.

Communal tables with the Sloss smokestacks in view

Cahaba Brewing

Open ground, dog friendly, easy to seat a crowd

Avondale Park Bandstand

Shaded lawn, walkable to a whole block of patios



SEPTEMBER

While it's TECHNICALLY still summer in Birmingham (with the temperatures to prove it!), September is magical! All of the festivals and shows really get into full swing and folks start really gearing up for the holidays ahead... there is ALWAYS lots to do!

MUSIC & FESTIVALS

Birmingham Art Walk

Sep 11–12 | *Downtown*

Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale

Sep 18–19 | *Mountain Brook*

Alabama State Fair

Sep 18–27 | *Birmingham Race Course*

Needtobreathe + the Holcombs

Sep 18 | *Coca-Cola Amphitheater*

Oktoberfest at Cahaba Brewing

Sep 19 | *Avondale*

Oktoberfest at Pepper Place

Sep 20 | *Pepper Place*

The War on Drugs

Sep 23 | *Avondale Brewing*

Switchfoot

Sep 24 | *Avondale Brewing*

Homestead Hollow Fall Festival

Sep 25–27 | *Springville*

Ballet in the Sky

Sep 26 | *Vulcan Park Overlook*

Mumford & Sons + Marcus King

Sep 29 | *Coca-Cola Amphitheater*

RUN & GIVE BACK

The Children's Ball

Sep 11 | *The Club – Children's of Alabama*

Zoo Gala: Axolotl Adventures

Sep 18 | *Birmingham Zoo*

Head Over Teal 5K & 10K

Sep 19 | *The Preserve, Hoover*

Congenital Heart Walk

Sep 26 | *Trussville*

WORTH SIGNING UP FOR

Get Healthy at Railroad Park

Free outdoor yoga Thursdays and Sundays,
6pm, through October | *Downtown
Birmingham*

Immersive Yoga at Aldridge Gardens

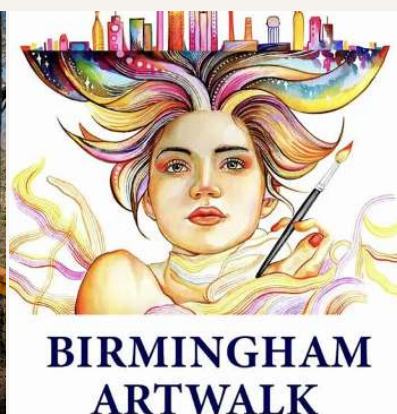
Thursdays in September | *Hoover*

Mindful Nature Walk

Sep 13 | *Red Mountain Park* | Free

Migration & Moonlight

Sep 27, 6:30pm | *Oak Mountain State Park*



OCTOBER

For sure October is my very favorite month! The weather is finally cooler, outdoor activities are in full swing, you can finally enjoy front porches and patios at all hours and Halloween is around the corner. Birmingham does Halloween so well... and what a way to kickoff the holiday season! This month is FULL!

MUSIC & FESTIVALS

Birmingham Greek Festival

Oct 1-3 | *Holy Trinity-Holy Cross*

JJ Grey & Mofro

Oct 2 | *Avondale Brewing*

Bluff Park Art Show

Oct 3 | *Bluff Park, Hoover*

Dermot Kennedy

Oct 6 | *Avondale Brewing*

Jonas Brothers

Oct 9 | *Legacy Arena*

Barber Vintage Festival

Oct 9-11 | *Barber Motorsports Park*

Furnace Fest

Oct 10-11 | *Sloss Furnaces*

Journey

Oct 13 | *Legacy Arena*

Movies on the Mountain

Oct 24 | *Vulcan Park*

Homewood Fall Festival

Oct 25 | *Homewood Central Park*

Magic City Classic

Oct 31 | *Legion Field*

Red Clay Strays + Shane Smith

Oct 31 | *Legacy Arena*

RUN & GIVE BACK

Sweet Home Brews

Oct 2 | *Ronald McDonald House Alabama*

Jimmie Hale Rescue Run 10K + 5K

Oct 3 | *ZoZo's Kitchen, Homewood*

BHM 26.2 Marathon, Half + 5K

Oct 4 | *Hoover*

Shop Save & Share

Oct 14-25 | *Junior League of Birmingham*

Homewood First Responders 5K

Oct 17 | *The Trak Shak*

Walk to End Alzheimer's

Oct 18 | *Sloss Furnaces*

The CLASSIC 5K

Oct 24 | *History Park*

Megan Montgomery Memorial 5K

Oct 31 | *Homewood*

WORTH SIGNING UP FOR

Native Plant Sale Saturdays

Every Saturday | *Ruffner Mountain*

Appalachian Heritage Series

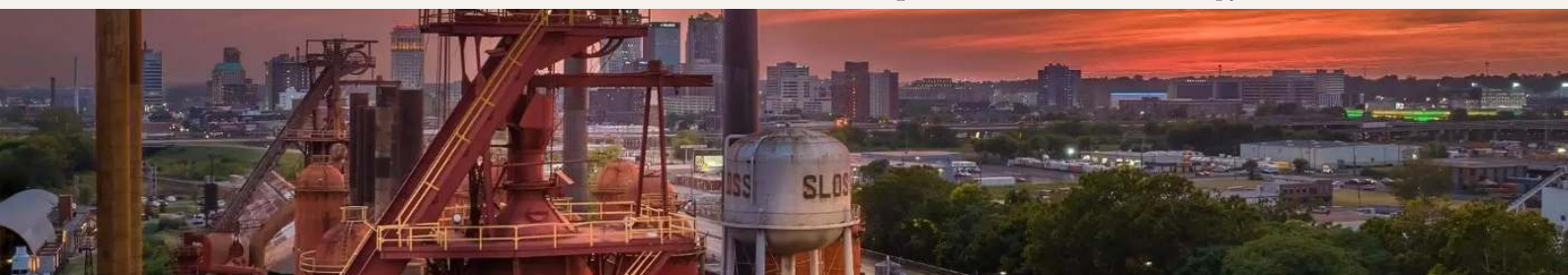
Oct 3, 4, 10, 11 at 2pm | *Oak Mountain*

Pilates & Hiking

Oct 4 | *Red Mountain Park* | Free

Fireside Folklore

Oct 9, 6pm | *Oak Mountain campfire*



NOVEMBER

Race season peaks, the Christmas markets open, and Thanksgiving needs ordering earlier than you think.

EVENTS & RACES

Christmas Village Festival

Nov 4–8 | *BJCC*

BTC Vulcan Run 10K + 5K

Nov 7 | *Homewood* | *The Local Classic*

Moss Rock Festival

Nov 7–8 | *Hoover Met Complex*

Disney On Ice: Magic of Family

Nov 12–15 | *Legacy Arena*

Girls on the Run Fall 5K

Nov 14 | *Railroad Park*

Hot Mulligan

Nov 19 | *Avondale Brewing*

KultureCity Half + 5K

Nov 21 | *Powell Steam Plant*

Where the Forest Breathes

Nov 21, 10am | *Oak Mountain*

Turkey Trot 5K

Nov 26 | *CrossPlex* | *Earn the dressing*

Noirvember

All month | *Sidewalk Film Center*

THANKSGIVING ORDER OPTIONS

Ashley Mac's

Order by Nov 23 | *Five metro locations*

Meals by Misty

Pickup Nov 20–26 | *Homewood & Trussville*

Homewood Gourmet

Order by Nov 21 | *Homewood*

Magnolia Café

Pecan smoked turkey | *Vestavia Hills*

Real & Rosemary

Order by Nov 21 | *Homewood & Mountain Brook*

Bright Star

Orders through Thanksgiving Day | *Bessemer*

PIE & BREAD

Savage's Bakery

Homewood since 1939. Call early, they sell out!

The Continental Bakery

English Village

Birmingham Breadworks

Harvest pumpkin and the dinner rolls

Full Circle Doughnuts

Homewood. For the morning after



GAME DAY

*Four teams, one metro, and somebody's game is always on.
Home games in dark, Away in gray*



University of Alabama

Game day bite: Dreamland Bar-B-Que, Tuscaloosa. Ribs, white bread, done.

Sep 12 at Kentucky
Sep 19 Florida State
Sep 26 South Carolina
Oct 3 at Mississippi St.
Oct 10 Georgia
Oct 17 at Tennessee
Oct 24 Texas A&M
Nov 7 at LSU
Nov 14 at Vanderbilt
Nov 21 Chattanooga
Nov 28 Auburn



Samford University

Game day bite: Saw's BBQ, Oxmoor Road, minutes from Pete Hanna

Sep 12 at Tennessee Tech
Sep 26 VMI
Oct 3 at UAB
Oct 10 at Chattanooga
Oct 17 Mercer
Oct 24 at Furman
Oct 31 Wofford
Nov 7 at ETSU
Nov 14 Western Carolina
Nov 21 at Auburn



Auburn University

Game day bite: Amsterdam Cafe, Auburn. Gay Street or Shug Jordan.

Sep 12 Southern Miss
Sep 19 Florida
Sep 26 Vanderbilt
Oct 3 at Tennessee
Oct 17 at Georgia
Oct 24 LSU
Oct 31 at Ole Miss
Nov 7 Arkansas
Nov 14 at Mississippi St.
Nov 21 Samford
Nov 28 at Alabama



University of Alabama at Birmingham

Game day bite: The Southern Kitchen & Bar, Uptown, with live music. Walk to the stadium

Sep 12 ULM
Sep 19 at Louisiana-Lafayette
Sep 25 Navy
Oct 3 Samford
Oct 10 at Memphis
Oct 15 East Carolina
Oct 31 at South Florida
Nov 7 Charlotte
Nov 14 at Temple
Nov 21 UTSA
Nov 28 at North Texas

NOT TO MISS

Iron Bowl

Nov 28 | Tuscaloosa

Magic City Classic

Oct 31 | Legion Field

What To Bring

*Saw's BBQ · Guthrie's ·
Ashley Mac's ·
Homewood Gourmet ·
Piggly Wiggly
Crestline's Deli and
Catering · Edgar's
Bakery Sweet Treats*

Where To Watch

*On Tap, Liberty Park ·
Otey's Tavern, Crestline
· Brock's Gap Brewery,
Hoover · Back Forty,
Sloss Docks · Good
People, Parkside ·
Avondale Brewing*

HALLOWEEN

Like I said, Halloween has always been a celebration in Birmingham. From Trunk or Treats at local churches and organizations to huge nights Trick or Treating, we do it big! And there is also a whole season on some of the best Haunted House attractions around if that is your thing. With Halloween on a Saturday evening this year, it is sure to be a weekend for the books!

WHERE TO TRICK OR TREAT

Crestline Village, Mountain Brook

The marquee. People drive in from all over the metro

Edgewood, Homewood

Flat, sidewalked and dense. The neighborhoods really go all out

Bluff Park, Hoover

A decorated walking trail by the playground. Contained and kid-scaled

Green Valley, Hoover

Organized route with police on the streets, plus a witches ride

Ross Bridge, Hoover

Tree-lined, continuous sidewalks, easy strolling

The Preserve, Hoover

Nearly 800 homes and restaurants right on the parkway

Mt Laurel, 280 corridor

Built for walking and decorated to the hilt.

Letson Farms, McCalla

645 homes, pumpkin lanterns instead of streetlights.

HAUNTED HOUSES

Atrox Factory. The big one. Child-Friendly Actorless Night Oct 14. Oct 2–Dec 13 | *Leeds*

Nightmare at 3008. Cash only, and the actors can touch you. Kids Day Oct 18, \$5

Opens Sep 18 | *Fultondale*

Spooktrail. Wooded maze, \$15 with a canned food donation. Ages 12+ Opens Sep 18 | *Quinton*

The Haunted Chicken House. An hour east, hayride and a full scream park. Opens Sep 18 | *Heflin*

PARADES, PARTIES, & COSTUMES

Mystics of Mountain Brook Parade

Oct 31 | *Crestline Village*

Hoots & Howls

Last 3 weekends of Oct, 10am–4pm | *Birmingham Zoo*

Haunt the Hills

Oct 17 | *Wald Park, Vestavia Hills*

Halloween in the Heights + Witches Ride

Oct 24 | *Cahaba Heights*

Tannehill Halloween Fairyland

Oct 31 | *McCalla*

Costumes. *Spirit Halloween* — Montclair Rd, The Summit, Hwy 280 · *Sozo Trading Co.* — Avondale. Build it from real clothes · *Lovelady Thrift* — Irondale. 99-cent Mondays, best for groups



SOMETHING *for* EVERYONE

*Pumpkin patches, mazes, and festivals, plus a backup plan for the weekend it rains.
Because it will.*

PUMPKIN PATCHES & CORN MAZES

Old Baker Farm, Harpersville

Sep 26–Oct 31. Weekdays 3–5, Sat 9–5, Sun 1–5. \$15. Festival Weekend Oct 24–25

The Great Pumpkin Patch, Hayden

Sep 26–Nov 1. Giant cornfield maze, hay pyramid, pumpkin train.

Griffin Farms, West Blocton

Every weekend in October, Sat 10–6 and Sun 12–6. \$10 covers every attraction.

Bennett Farms, Heflin

October, Sat 9–5 and Sun 1–5, plus Tues and Thurs 2–5. \$14. Two miles of corn maze and live music Saturdays.

Pumpkin Junction, Calera

Weekends Oct 3–18 only. A train ride through the pumpkins at the railroad museum.

Tuscaloosa Barnyard

A petting farm first, Sat 10–2 and Sun 1–5, \$15. They sell pumpkins but come for the animals.

Markets still going

*Pepper Place Saturdays 7am–Noon through
Dec 12 · Brock's Gap Saturdays 8am–Noon
through Nov 28*

FESTIVALS BUILT FOR KIDS

Alabama State Fair

Sep 18–27 | *Birmingham Race Course*

Bash on the Bluff

Oct 17 | *Children's Fresh Air Farm, Hoover*

Homewood Fall Festival

Oct 25 | *Homewood Central Park*

Alabaster Fall Fest

Oct 31 | *Alabaster City Hall*

Moss Rock Festival

Nov 7–8 | *Hoover Met Complex*

Adventure Fall Festival

Oct 17 & 24 | *Bessemer*

WHEN IT RAINS

McWane Science Center

Downtown. Four stories of fallback.

Birmingham Museum of Art

Downtown. Free, always.

Southern Museum of Flight

East Birmingham

Botanical Gardens Conservatory

Mountain Brook. Also free.



FALL *eats and* DRINKS

COFFEE & COCKTAILS

O'Henry's Coffee

Birmingham's own since 1993, and eight places to sit with a book

Homewood, Highland Park & more

Adiões

Agave-focused bar & Mexican small plates & a nationally recognized bar program

2218 1st Ave N, Downtown

The Red Cat, Pepper Place

The Saturday market anchor. Get there before the crowd does

2901 2nd Ave S

The Essential

All-day bistro with house pasta, natural wine and a corner patio

2215 1st Ave N, Downtown

Paper Doll

Pop-culture cocktail bar with live music and a 2am close on weekends

2320 1st Ave N, Northside

TABLES FOR OUTSIDE DINING

SoHo Social

The patio. Fire pits, string lights, and nobody cares what you are wearing

1830 29th Ave S, Homewood

Mexico Lindo

Neighborhood Mexican, and the queso outlasts the weather

350 Hollywood Blvd

Rojo

The porch on Highland Ave. Latin and Southern, dog friendly, weekend brunch

Highland Park

Ovenbird

Everything over live fire around an open-air courtyard. The best fall room in the city

2810 3rd Ave S, Pepper Place

Dyron's Lowcountry

Lowcountry seafood and steaks in the village. The neighborhood standby

121 Oak St, Crestline Village

Chez Fonfon

French bistro with a courtyard, for the night you want it to feel like an occasion

Five Points South



GET OUT *of town*

Fall is the only stretch of the year when Birmingham sits inside easy reach of three completely different trips. The mountains turn in October and Cheaha is under two hours. The Gulf stays warm into November and empties out. And the cities within half a day are at their best once it is finally cool enough to walk them. Pick one Saturday a month and you can do all three before Thanksgiving.



UNDER TWO HOURS

Cheaha State Park — *1 hr 40 min* — Alabama's highest point at 2,407 feet. Walk out to the Bald Rock boardwalk, which is flat and stroller-friendly, and you get the whole state turning underneath you. Go the third weekend of October and stay for sunset.

Mentone + Little River Canyon — *1 hr 45 min* — The closest thing Alabama has to a mountain town. DeSoto Falls, Little River Falls, antique shops on the main street, and cabins on Lookout Mountain if you want to make it two days.

Noccalula Falls, Gadsden — *1 hour* — A 90-foot waterfall you can walk behind, on 500 acres with a petting zoo and a mini train. The easiest half-day trip on this list with kids in the car.

HALF A DAY

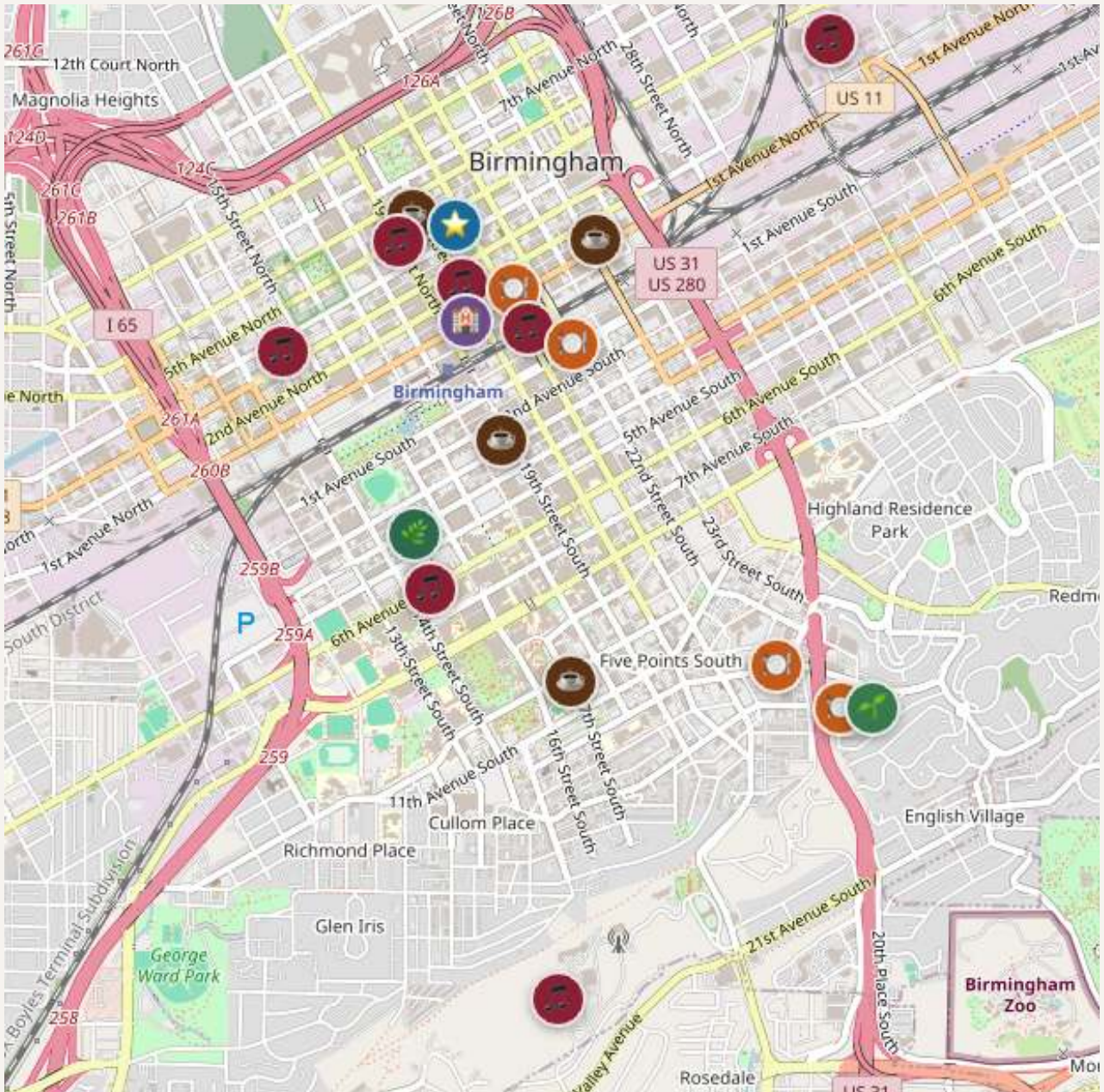
Chattanooga, Tennessee — *2 hours* — Lookout Mountain and Rock City for the color, the Aquarium when everyone gets tired, and a downtown built for walking. The one that works for every age at once.

Pensacola, Florida — *4 hours* — Still warm enough to get in the water, with none of the summer crowd. No wait for a table, no line for the boardwalk, and on a weekday the beach is basically yours.

Blue Ridge, Georgia — *4 hours* — Real mountain fall. The scenic railway, cabin rentals with a porch worth sitting on, and a downtown you can cover in an afternoon.

ACCESS *the* LIVE MAP

The best local activities in an
interactive map.



[Access the live map at maryreeddurkin.com/fall-guide](http://maryreeddurkin.com/fall-guide)



Hey, I'm Mary Reed

I'm a Birmingham Realtor, a wife, a mom to three boys, a fitness coach, and a proud Birmingham Local.

I have been so lucky to help so many find homes here and have fallen in love with our city over and over again through the process. This Fall Guide is just a snapshot of our favorite things about Birmingham once the weather finally turns. Fall is my very favorite time of year and it is absolutely magical in Birmingham. Stay tuned and follow along to see these events and many others unfold all season long...

I hope you enjoy them the way we do!

Mary Reed



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