

Alabama Civil War Trail



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Alabama Tourism Department
www.Alabama.travel
05/20 25K Printed in USA • For free distribution only

Photo by Billy Pope

Montgomery was chosen as provisional capital of the Confederate States of America. In April 1861, the order to commence hostilities originated in Alabama. In 1865, some of the last battles fought in the war occurred on Alabama soil. From beginning to end, explore this fascinating period in American history on Alabama's Civil War Trail.



Civil War Attractions & Sites

1 Alabama Department of Archives & History



The Department of Archives and History houses one of the finest Civil War artifact collections in the nation. Included are flags, uniforms, weapons and equipment used by Alabama's soldiers and sailors as well as items used on the home front. Those wishing to research Civil War history will have access to thousands of documents, photographs and books.
624 Washington Ave., Montgomery
334-242-4363, www.archives.state.al.us

2 Alabama State Capitol

Alabama's Capitol, which has been called "A Confederate Independence Hall," served as the first Capitol of the Confederacy. Jefferson Davis was sworn in on its west portico as president of the Confederate States of America on Feb. 18, 1861. A bronze star marks the spot.



The Senate Chamber looks as it did in 1861 when the Confederate Convention met and drafted its constitution. The House Chamber is where the ordinance of secession was passed in 1861, withdrawing Alabama from the Union. In 1886, Davis returned and set the cornerstone of the Confederate Monument on the grounds, honoring Confederate soldiers and sailors. Davis' body laid in state in the Capitol's Supreme Court chamber.
600 Dexter Ave., Montgomery
334-242-3935
www.preserveala.org

3 Arlington Antebellum Home & Gardens



Union Gen. James H. Wilson's mounted invasion force came through Elyton in March 1865. The mansion is said to have served as headquarters when the decision was made to send part of Wilson's force to Tuscaloosa while the main body proceeded to Selma. The mansion, an outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture, dates from the 1840s and is furnished with 19th-century decorative art. After the war, Arlington's owner helped establish the new city of Birmingham.
331 Cotton Ave., Birmingham
205-780-5656, www.informationbirmingham.com

4 Athens

Athens changed hands a number of times during the war. One example occurred in May 1862 when Union troops under Col. J.B. Turchin burned and looted the town. Another was when the Confederate cavalry under Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest captured the town in September 1864.
Athens-Limestone Chamber of Commerce
101 S. Beaty St., Athens
256-232-2600, www.tourathens.com

5 Berman Museum of World History

The collection includes traveling pistols, which were presented to Jefferson Davis by the Belgian government, as well as major examples of Civil War weaponry.
Lagarde Park, 840 Museum Dr., Anniston
256-237-6261, www.bermanmuseum.org

6 Bessemer Hall of History Museum

The museum includes a Civil War collection relating to the 28th Alabama Regiment.
1905 Alabama Ave., Bessemer
205-426-1633, www.bessemerchamber.com

7 Blue & Gray Museum of North Alabama

Civil War military equipment on display includes guns, swords, rifles, bayonets and uniforms.
723 Bank St. N.W., Decatur, 256-350-4018

8 Brierfield Ironworks Historical State Park

The Confederate government purchased the furnace in 1863, added a second furnace and rolling mill, and turned out high-quality iron for the production of cannon and armor plating for ironclads. In March 1865, the Union 10th Missouri Cavalry burned down the Brierfield Ironworks.
240 Furnace Pkwy., Brierfield
205-665-1856,
www.brierfieldironworks.com



9 Confederate Memorial Park

A unique museum tells the story of the men whose conduct left a legacy of bravery, honor and devotion to duty during wartime, and courage in the face of adversity during peacetime. The museum has an extensive collection of Civil War uniforms, weapons and equipment. The 102-acre park includes Alabama's only Confederate soldiers' home, the residence of hundreds of war veterans and widows between 1902 and 1939. Also on the grounds are two cemeteries, a church, a post office, trails and pavilions.
437 County Rd. 63, Marbury
205-755-1990, www.preserveala.org

10 "Confederate Rest" & National Cemetery at Magnolia Cemetery

The "Confederate Rest" section of the cemetery has a memorial to the men who died aboard Mobile's C.S.S. Hunley submarine, plus the graves of 1,100 Confederate war dead. The National Cemetery section is the resting place for Union soldiers who fell during the Battle of Fort Blakeley, including African-American soldiers from Gen. Hawkins' 1st Division.
1202 Virginia St., Mobile
251-432-8672



11 Cornwall Furnace Park

The Confederate government commissioned this cold blast furnace to produce the iron that went into some of the Civil War's first weapons. Union forces destroyed the furnace in 1864.
Off Ala. Hwy. 9, two miles east of Cedar Bluff
256-927-8455

12 "Damn the Torpedoes!" Civil War Trail

By 1864, Mobile was the only open port on the Gulf of Mexico with river and rail connections to the Confederate interior. Supplies brought into Mobile helped keep the Confederate armies in the field. Union Admiral David G. Farragut launched a joint navy-army operation in August, 1864 to shut down the the forts guarding Mobile Bay, climaxing with his vow to "Damn the torpedoes" protecting the city. This trail with interpretive signage stretches from Gulf Shores to Mobile and recounts the fighting that led to the fall of Mobile. A free trail brochure is available.
Gulf Shores and Orange Beach Tourism
3150 Gulf Shores Pkwy., Gulf Shores
800-745-SAND, www.gulfshores.com

13 Decatur Civil War Walking Tour

This self-guided walking tour of nine sites begins at the Old State Bank, Alabama's oldest bank, one of only four buildings standing after the 1864 Battle of Decatur. The bank was also a wartime hospital.
Decatur/Morgan County CVB
719 6th Ave., SE, Decatur
800-524-6181, www.decaturcvb.org

14 Dred Scott Home Site

Dred Scott, the plaintiff in the legendary *Scott v. Sanford* case, was brought to Huntsville as a slave in 1818 and lived in Alabama for 12 years. In its now infamous decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against Scott 7-2 in 1857, saying that blacks — whether free or slave — could not be citizens of the United States. Historic marker.
Oakwood Rd., Oakwood College, Huntsville
256-726-7000



15 Emma Sansom Monument

On May 2, 1863, teenage heroine Emma Sansom bravely volunteered, despite enemy gunfire, to guide Confederate General Forrest's cavalry to a shallow ford near her home where they could cross Gadsden's Black Creek. Her uncommon valor helped Confederate forces overtake and capture the retreating Union Col. Streight and his entire command of 1,466 men in Cedar Bluff.
Gadsden-Etowah Tourism Board
90 Walnut St., Gadsden
888-565-0411

16 First White House of the Confederacy

This 1835 Italianate-style house was the home of President and Mrs. Jefferson Davis while Montgomery served as the Confederacy's capital. Many cabinet meetings were held here. First Lady Varina Howell Davis, a Natchez belle, was admired for her hospitality and political savvy. The home displays period pieces from the era and family heirlooms. Seen above left.
644 Washington Ave., Montgomery
334-242-1861



17 Forrest-Streight Route

A sequence of running battles between Confederate Gen. Forrest and Union Col. Streight began with the Battle of Day's Gap. For details on the marked route, stop by the Crooked Creek Civil War Museum in south Vinemont.
Battleground to Cedar Bluff
256-739-2741



18 Fort Morgan State Historic Site



A museum details the history of the fort including its nationally famous role in the Battle of Mobile Bay. On Aug. 5, 1864, U.S. Admiral Farragut's fleet of 18 vessels, including four ironclad monitors, attempted to enter Mobile Bay, guarded by forts Morgan, Gaines and Powell. Farragut was forced to run the narrow gauntlet in front of the heavy artillery of Fort Morgan. The Union monitor *USS Tecumseh* struck a torpedo and quickly sank. This is the point where Farragut reportedly uttered his famous remark, "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" The battered Union fleet then attacked and overpowered the tiny but gallant Confederate fleet led by the mighty ironclad *CSS Tennessee*. Farragut's victory enabled the army to commence siege operations against the fort which ultimately fell on Aug. 23, 1864.
51 Hwy. 180 West, Gulf Shores
251-540-5257, www.preserveala.org

19 Fort Tyler

This hilltop earthen fort above the Chattahoochee River witnessed one of the last skirmishes of the war in April 1865.
18th St., Lanett
334-642-1411, www.greatervalleyarea.com

20 "Gallant Pelham" Statue

Burial site of Maj. John Pelham, Confederate hero killed during the war; Left the U.S. Military Academy at West Point within weeks of graduating to offer his services to his native state of Alabama. Commanded Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's horse artillery; Hero of the battle of Fredericksburg. Called by Gen. Robert E. Lee, "Gallant Pelham."
Church & James Streets, Jacksonville
800-489-1087

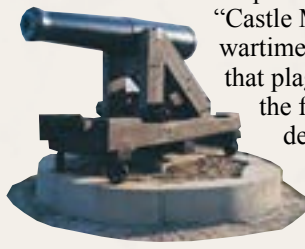


21 Historic Blakeley State Park

Remains of earthen forts, old rifle pits, redoubts and battery sites dot the park's 3,800 acres. Following the fall of nearby Spanish Fort on the night of April 8, 1865, orders were issued to take Blakeley by assault. The general advance began at 5:25 p.m. on April 9, six hours after Gen. Lee surrendered to Gen. Grant at Appomattox, Va. The 3,500 Confederate defenders were overpowered, and Fort Blakeley fell in one of the last battles of the Civil War.
Ala. Hwy. 225, Spanish Fort
251-626-7175, www.blakeleypark.org

22 Historic Fort Gaines

Federal operations against forts Gaines and Morgan were one of the rare combined land/sea operations of the Civil War. After the U.S. fleet successfully entered Mobile Bay and destroyed the Confederate fleet, the U.S. army began siege operations on land. Soon the forts were bombarded day and night by artillery fire from land and sea. Fort Gaines surrendered on Aug. 8; Fort Morgan on Aug. 23, 1864.
51 Bienville Blvd., Dauphin Island 251-861-6992,
www.dauphinisland.org



23 Historic Grand Hotel

Known as the "Queen of Southern Resorts," the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa dates back to 1847. During the Civil War, the 21st Alabama Infantry had a garrison on the grounds, and part of the hotel was converted into a Confederate hospital. A cemetery for about 300 soldiers who died at the hospital after the Battle of Vicksburg is near the 18th tee of the Azalea course.
One Grand Blvd., Point Clear
800-544-9933, www.marriottgrand.com

24 Historic Huntsville Depot

This depot was used as a Union hospital, prison and living quarters for both black and white Union soldiers, who left graffiti on the walls that can still be seen today. An annual Civil War Encampment educational program introduces children to the daily routines of a soldier's life, from basic marching drills and packing a haversack, to cooking over a campfire.
320 Church St., Huntsville
800-678-1819, www.earlyworks.com



25 Janney Furnace

As it neared completion in 1864, this iron furnace in Ohatchee was almost completely destroyed by Gen. Rousseau's Union troops.
Calhoun County CVB
1330 Quintard Ave., Anniston
800-489-1087, www.janneyfurnace.org



Photo by Art Metcal

26 Joe Wheeler Plantation — "Pond Spring"

Confederate Gen. Joseph "Fighting Joe" Wheeler lived here after the Civil War. The 50-acre site has 13 historic buildings and many personal possessions of Gen. Wheeler and his family. A birthday party is held for Wheeler every Sept. 10.
12280 Ala. Hwy. 20, Hillsboro
256-637-8513, www.preserveala.org

27 Karl C. Harrison Museum of Washington

The museum includes family artifacts of Gen. Robert E. Lee.
50 Lester St., Columbiana
205-669-8767, www.washingtonmuseum.com

28 Marion Female Seminary

Faculty member Nicola Marschall is said to have designed the First National Confederate States of America flag, which was adopted by the Confederate government on March 4, 1861.
Monroe St., Marion
334-683-9622

29 Marion Military Institute & St. Wilfrid's

A military hospital was established at this college campus. Soldiers who died at the hospital are buried nearby in the cemetery at St. Wilfrid's. Also buried here, William Brooks, president of the 1861 Alabama Secession Convention.
Washington St., Marion
334-683-9622, www.marionmilitary.edu



30 Museum of Mobile

Highlights of the museum's Civil War collection include a gallery devoted to Confederate Admiral Raphael Semmes and the *C.S.S. Alabama*, which captured 65 U.S. merchant ships. An interactive model of the Mobile-built *C.S.S. Hunley* submarine, numerous flags and weapons, a 70-foot pennant from the *C.S.S. Alabama* and a sword from Lt. John Low, who served with Semmes aboard the raider, are also featured.
111 S. Royal St., Mobile
251-208-7569, www.museumofmobile.com

31 Newton Civil War Monument

This marker recalls the only Civil War action in southeast Alabama, one month before the war ended in 1865.
College St., Newton
334-299-3361

32 Old Cahawba Archaeological Park

The former capital city of Alabama (1820-1826) was the site of a prison for captured Union soldiers. While conditions at "Castle Morgan" were subject to wartime shortages of supplies that plagued the Confederacy, the facility had the lowest death rate percentage of any prison on either side during the war.
9518 Cahaba Rd., Orrville (near Selma)
334-872-8058,
www.preserveala.org



33 Old Depot Museum

This interpretive history museum in an 1891 railroad depot has a Civil War room. In 1862, Selma became a Confederate weapons manufacturing center. Union troops attacked the city April 2, 1865, burning and looting 150 homes.
4 Martin Luther King St., Selma
334-874-2197,
www.selmaalabama.com



34 Old Live Oak Cemetery

Many Confederate notables are buried here including: Generals William J. Hardee; Edmund Pettus and John T. Morgan; Navy Captain Catesby Ap R. Jones (commander of the *CSS Virginia*); Mrs. Elodie Todd Dawson, wife of Confederate officer and sister-in-law of Abraham Lincoln; and a number of other Confederate officers, enlisted men and civilians, some of whom were killed during the war.
7142 Ala. Hwy. 22, Selma
800-45-SELMA, www.selmaalabama.com



35 Pope's Tavern Museum

This one-time stagecoach stop, tavern and inn was used as a hospital by both Confederate and Union forces during the Civil War. The upstairs museum houses an extensive collection of war artifacts.
203 Hermitage Dr., Florence
256-760-6439, www.fto-tour.org



36 Shorter Cemetery

Alabama Civil War Governor John Gill Shorter is buried in this antebellum cemetery.
Riverside Dr., Eufula
334-687-3793

37 Stevenson Railroad Depot Museum

Stevenson was a vital rail link to major points throughout the Southeast. Union Gen. Rosecrans' men built a pontoon bridge across the Tennessee River here in 1863, allowing thousands of Union troops to advance on the battlefield at Chickamauga.
Main St., Stevenson
256-437-3012, www.stevensondepotmuseum.com



38 Tallassee Confederate Armory

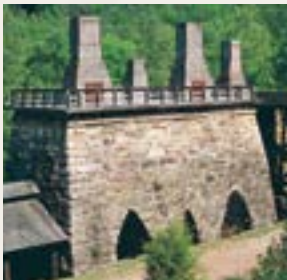
The Richmond, Va., carbine shop was moved into the Tallassee Manufacturing Co. Mill in the spring of 1864 as Richmond was threatened by Union forces. It is the only Confederate armory that was not destroyed during the Civil War. Tours by appointment only.
1844 Outer Dr., Tallassee
334-283-5151, www.tallassee.al.us

39 Tallassee Confederate Officers Quarters

When the Confederate army was moved to Tallassee in 1864, three homes were constructed by the Confederate government to house the officers in command. Two of the three houses remain and are now used as offices.
301 King St., Tallassee
334-283-5151, www.tallassee.al.us

40 Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park

The Tannehill Ironworks produced upwards of 20 tons of iron each day at its height of production during the Civil War in 1864. The furnaces were destroyed in March 1865 in a raid by three companies of the Eighth Iowa Cavalry as part of Union Gen. James Wilson's attack on Alabama war industry sites.
12632 Confederate Pkwy., McCalla, 205-477-5711,
www.tannehill.org



41 Union Springs Confederate Cemetery

The cemetery is the burial site of both Union and Confederate soldiers.
U.S. Hwy. 82 West, Union Springs
334-738-TOUR

42 University of Alabama Campus

On April 4, 1865, a Union brigade under Gen. John T. Croxton burned the University of Alabama. The Gorgas House was one of only four university buildings to survive the attack. The President's Mansion was spared only because Union soldiers obeyed the university president's wife when she sternly ordered them to put out the fire they had started in her house.
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
205-348-5906, www.museum.ua.edu



43 Vaughn-Smitherman Historic Building

This building was used as a Confederate hospital and features the Lewis collection of Civil War memorabilia. On display are Selma-manufactured munitions from the Civil War period which were salvaged from the Alabama River.
109 Union Street, Selma
334-874-2174, www.selmaalabama.com

44 Winter Building

On April 11, 1861, Confederate Secretary of War L.P. Walker sent a telegram from the second-floor office of the Southern Telegraph Company in the Winter Building. It authorized Confederate Brigadier Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard to fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston, S.C. The bombardment of Fort Sumter the following day was the first military action of the Civil War. Historic marker.
Montgomery CVB, 2 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery
800-240-9452, www.visitingmontgomery.com

45 Winston County "Dual Destiny" Monument

This unusual statue (*below*) depicts a Civil War soldier in a half-Confederate, half-Union uniform. He bears flags from the North and South, and carries a broken sword symbolizing divided families and loyalties. Winston County was famous for threatening to control its own destiny and secede as "The Free State of Winston." A dramatic musical about its wartime sentiments has been periodically staged at an outdoor amphitheatre overlooking the Bankhead National Forest.
Winston County Courthouse, Double Springs
205-489-5029



The War Between The States

In 1860, most Southerners feared that election of a president from the Republican party would permanently establish Northern dominance over the South. One month after the election of Republican Abraham Lincoln in November 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union.

In Alabama, delegates were elected to attend a state convention in Jan. 1861 at the State Capital in Montgomery. On the fifth day of the convention, Jan. 11, after considerable debate (plus the knowledge that Mississippi and Florida had already joined South Carolina in secession), a decision was made. By a vote of 61 to 39, Alabama seceded from the Union.

In February 1861, representatives from six of the seven seceded states met in Montgomery (chosen because of its central location) in the Senate Chamber of the Capitol to form a new nation called the Confederate States of America. The convention adopted a provisional constitution, established a provisional government and selected Montgomery as the provisional capital. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi was elected president. An engraved bronze star on the Capitol's west portico marks the spot where Davis took the oath of office.

The Confederate government insisted all former United States government installations within the boundaries of the Confederacy be turned over to Confederate authorities. Federal troops occupying the garrison at Fort Sumter, commanding the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, refused



Photo by Billy Pope

to evacuate. After nearly two months of fruitless negotiations, a C.S. War Department telegram giving Confederate forces permission to fire on the fort was sent from the Winter Building on Dexter Avenue in Montgomery. This order was carried out early the next morning on April 12, 1861.

After the fall of Fort Sumter and Lincoln's call for volunteers to "put down the rebellion," four additional states joined the Confederacy and the permanent capital was moved to Richmond, Virginia in May 1861.

Alabama's Reenactment Events

Long after the last Civil War cannon boomed over Alabama, reenactment events with Confederate and Union "soldiers" in period uniforms became popular across America. Alabama hosts several such events. Tourists are welcome to watch the Blue and Gray "fight" in these staged battles.



Changes in announced schedules sometimes occur. Call in advance to confirm your travel plans, or check the online *Alabama Calendar of Events* website listings by logging on to www.Alabama.travel.

1 Battle of Blakeley Festival
Spanish Fort • Historic Blakeley State Park
251-626-0798 • *April*

2 Battle of Ten Island
Ohatchee • 256-390-3910 • *April*

3 Battles for the Armory
Tallahassee • 334-283-6888
Late October or early November

4 Campaign at Fort Morgan
Gulf Shores • Fort Morgan State Historic Site
251-540-7127 *April*

5 Confederate Memorial Park
Marbury • 205-755-1990 • *Living history & Skirmish (last Friday-Saturday in April)*

6 Fiddler's Green
Jacksonville • 256-454-0092 • *Every May*

7 Fort Morgan Siege & Encampment
Gulf Shores • Fort Morgan State Historic Site
251-540-7127 • *First weekend in August*



Photo by Billy Pope

8 Joe Wheeler Plantation
Hillsboro • 256-637-8513 • *Living history every September*

9 Old Baker Farm
Harpersville • 205-672-7209 • *Fourth weekend in October*

10 Recall LaGrange
Leighton • LaGrange College Site Park • 256-446-9324
(Military demonstrations, no battle reenactments) *May*

11 September Skirmish
Decatur • Point Mallard Park
256-350-2028 • *Sat.-Sun. of Labor Day weekend*

12 Siege of Bridgeport
Bridgeport • 256-495-3614 • *Fourth weekend in March, unless Easter and then moved to third weekend in March*

13 Skirmish at Luxapalila
Winfield • 205-487-1938
Fourth weekend in September

14 Tannehill Skirmish
McCalla, Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park
• 205-477-5711 • *Sat.-Sun. of Memorial Day weekend*

Historic Flags of the Confederacy

The following flags can be found at the Department of Archives and History.

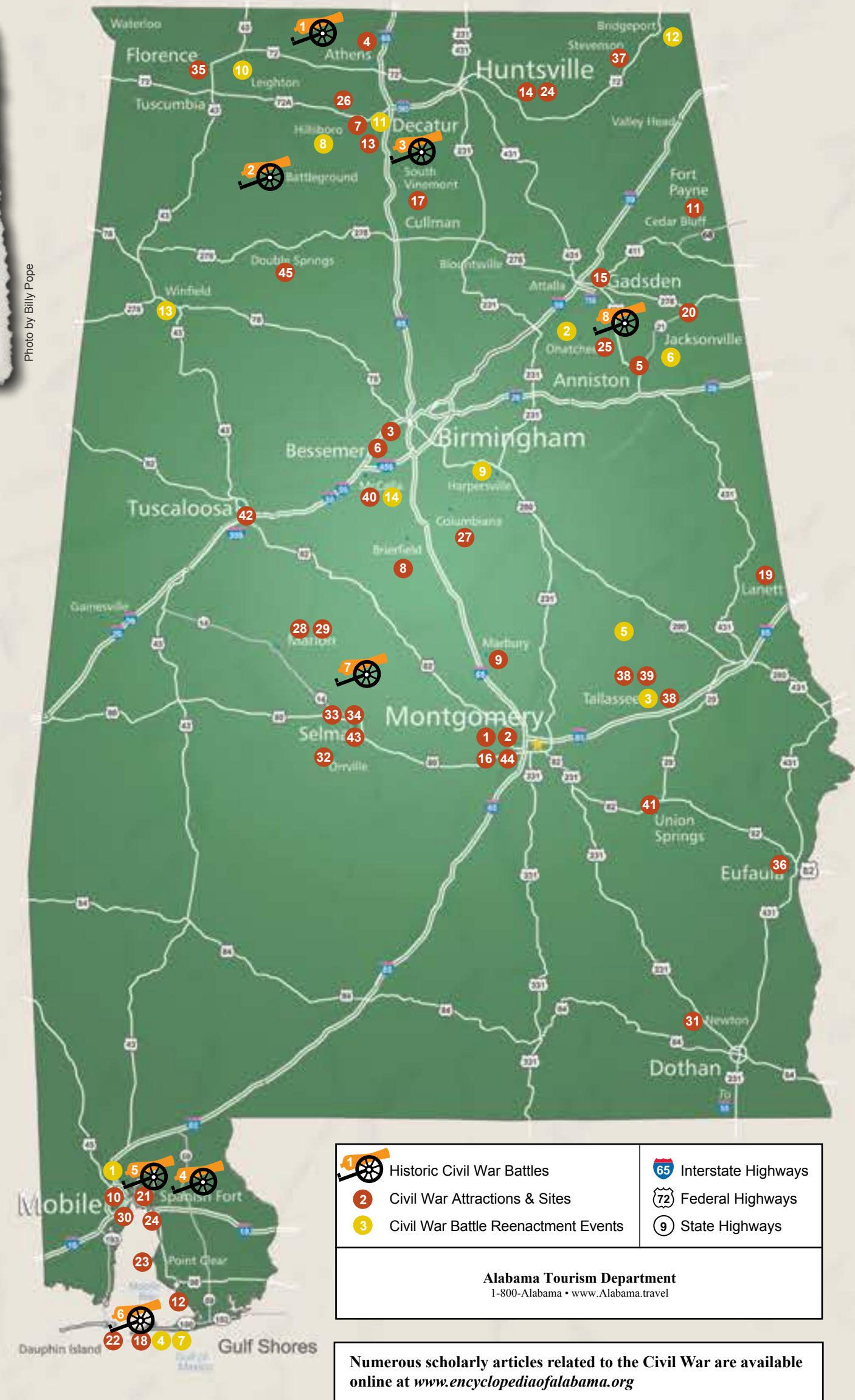


The Stars and Bars
The First National Flag ("Stars and Bars") was adopted in Montgomery on March 4, 1861. Its design reflected a sentimental attachment to "Old Glory," the number of stars in the canton reflected the number of states of the nation.

Although the Confederate states never officially numbered more than eleven, the final versions of the Confederate national flags contained thirteen stars representing the secession governments of Kentucky and Missouri.

Confederate Battle Flag

At the First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) on July 21, 1861, the smoke and dust of battle made it difficult to distinguish between the red, white and blue national banners of the two opposing



sides. As a result, the Confederate War Department allowed the armies in the field to carry distinctive flags in battle.

However, an official "battle flag" was never adopted by the Confederate government. Accordingly, there were a number of different types of battle flags used by the Confederate armies in the field. Those used in the Eastern theatre were fairly uniform, but the flags used in the Western theatre of operations were more diverse in their styles and patterns.

The Stainless Banner

As war progressed, more and more Confederate citizens came to see "Old Glory" as a symbol of oppression and imperialistic aggression. Consequently, because the "Stars and Bars" was too similar to the enemy's national banner, a second national flag was adopted by the Confederacy on May 1, 1863.



The battle flag or "Southern Cross" was placed in the canton of this new flag. The Second National flag was referred to as the "Stainless Banner" because of its pure white field, for purity of the cause of independence which it represented.

The Third National Flag

The Second National flag was often mistaken for a flag of truce when it hung limply around the staff. As a result, a new flag was created with a broad, red vertical bar added to the fly end of the "Stainless Banner."



This third and final flag of the Confederacy was adopted on March 4, 1865, exactly four years after the first Confederate flag was approved. Its official life was short-lived due to the surrender of the Confederate armies in April and May.



Photo by Billy Pope

Alabama's Historic Civil War Battles

5 Blakely
April 2-9, 1865 • U.S. 20,000 vs. CS 3,800 • Two Divisions of the U.S. 13th Corps plus a Division from the 16th Corps and a Division of Colored troops invested the Confederate defenses with siege trenches and continuous artillery fire. On April 9th Federal reinforcements arrived from Spanish Fort. That evening a massive Federal assault overwhelmed the thinly manned Confederate defenses.

6 Campaign for Mobile
August 1864 • Forts Morgan, Gaines and Powell guarded Mobile Bay garrisoned mainly by Alabama troops under Confederate Brig. Gen. Richard L. Page. A powerful naval squadron under Rear Adm. David G. Farragut and an infantry and heavy artillery force under Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger launched a rare combined land and sea operation.

Mobile Bay • Aug. 5, 1864 • U.S. 14 wooden warships and four ironclad monitors (2,700 sailors) vs. CS - 1 ironclad and three gunboats (470 sailors) plus Ft. Gaines (864), Ft. Powell (141), Ft. Morgan (500) • Farragut's powerful fleet forced its way past Ft. Morgan (losing the monitor USS Tecumseh to a torpedo), destroyed the tiny Confederate squadron and finally forced the surrender of the mighty ironclad CSS Tennessee.

Fort Powell • Aug. 5, 1864 • Evacuated and blown up by the garrison.

Fort Gaines • Aug. 3-8, 1864 • U.S. 1,700 vs. CS 864 • Siege operations including night and day land and sea bombardment forced the surrender of vulnerable Ft. Gaines.

Fort Morgan • Aug. 9-23, 1864 • U.S. 3,100 vs. CS 500 • Ft. Morgan was much stronger than Gaines, but similar siege operations and night and day land and sea bombardment forced the Confederate surrender.

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Wilson's Cavalry Invasion of Alabama
March-April 1865 • Maj. Gen. James H. Wilson led over 13,000 Federal mounted soldiers on "...a demonstration upon Tuscaloosa and Selma..." to prevent the Confederate cavalry force of Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest from interfering with Federal operations against Mobile.

Ebenezer Church • 24 miles north of Selma • April 1, 1865 • U.S. 9,000 vs. CS 1,500 • Heavy spring rains had destroyed bridges and flooded fords so that only a fraction of Forrest's cavalry could participate. Gen. Wilson's veterans with much greater numbers and their Spencer repeaters drove the Confederates from the field and on toward Selma.

Selma • April 2, 1865 • U.S. 9,000 vs. CS 3,000 • Forrest's numbers, including Roddey's Alabama cavalry brigade, were far from adequate with defenders standing 10-feet apart in the fortifications. In the late afternoon the part of the lines held by the militia was overrun causing the collapse of the defenses. The great Confederate arsenal and naval foundry fell into Union hands.

Girard (Phoenix City) • April 16, 1865 • U.S. 7,000 vs. CS 1,500 • After destroying the Selma facilities (and a number of civilian homes) Wilson next captured Montgomery without a fight. The Federals destroyed supplies and continued east toward the Confederate production center at Columbus, Georgia. In a night assault against a hastily assembled force of defenders, Wilson's troopers overran the Girard fortifications and captured Columbus.

Rousseau's Cavalry Raid
July 1864 • Maj. Gen. Lovell H. Rousseau led 2,500 cavalrymen in a raid "from Decatur to Opelika" to cut the Montgomery and West Point railroad supplying Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Tennessee defending Atlanta.

Ten Islands • 10 miles southeast of Ashville • July 13, 1864 • U.S. 2,200 vs. CS 650 • Gen. James H. Clanton's Alabama cavalry was hit in front and flank at the Coosa River ford and forced to retreat.

Chehaw Station • Five miles southwest of Notasulga • July 18, 1864 • U.S. 600 vs. CS 400 • A hastily collected force of Alabama reserve units of teenagers and old men plus a company of University of Alabama Cadets attacked part of Rousseau's cavalry. The Federals, aided by their Spencer repeaters, drove off the Alabamians and the destruction of the railroad continued.

Campaign for Mobile
March-April 1865 • The Confederate defenses protecting Mobile were under the overall command of Maj. Gen. Dabney H. Maury. The fortifications at Spanish Fort and Blakely were formidable and enjoyed the rare support of the Confederate Navy. However, the defenses were manned by battle-depleted infantry and artillery units plus Alabama reserves consisting mostly of teenagers. The Federal army under the overall command of Maj. Gen. E.R.S. Canby conducted siege operations intended to wear down the Confederate defenses until the success of an all-out assault would be guaranteed.

Spanish Fort • March 27-April 8, 1865 • U.S. 32,000 vs. CS 1,800 • The U.S. 16th Corps and two Divisions of the 13th Corps invested the Confederate defenses with siege trenches and continuous artillery fire. Just after dark on April 8th a vigorous Federal assault broke through part of the defenses. A valiant Confederate counterattack stalled the Federals but the fate of the fort was sealed. During the night the garrison was successfully evacuated to Mobile.

Hog Mountain • April 30, 1863 • U.S. 1,500 vs. CS 1,200 • Streight repulsed Forrest's attack in the mountainous terrain and in a counterattack captured two cannons.

Day's Gap • April 30, 1863 • U.S. 1,500 vs. CS 1,200 • Streight repulsed Forrest's attack in the mountainous terrain and in a counterattack captured two cannons.

**Site is not accessible to the public.*