

AT HOME

MEMPHIS & MID SOUTH

A HOME RENOVATION
IN TUPELO

Southern Summer Supper

AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE
FEDEXFAMILYHOUSE

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HAIR BY
JENNIFER L. HARRIS
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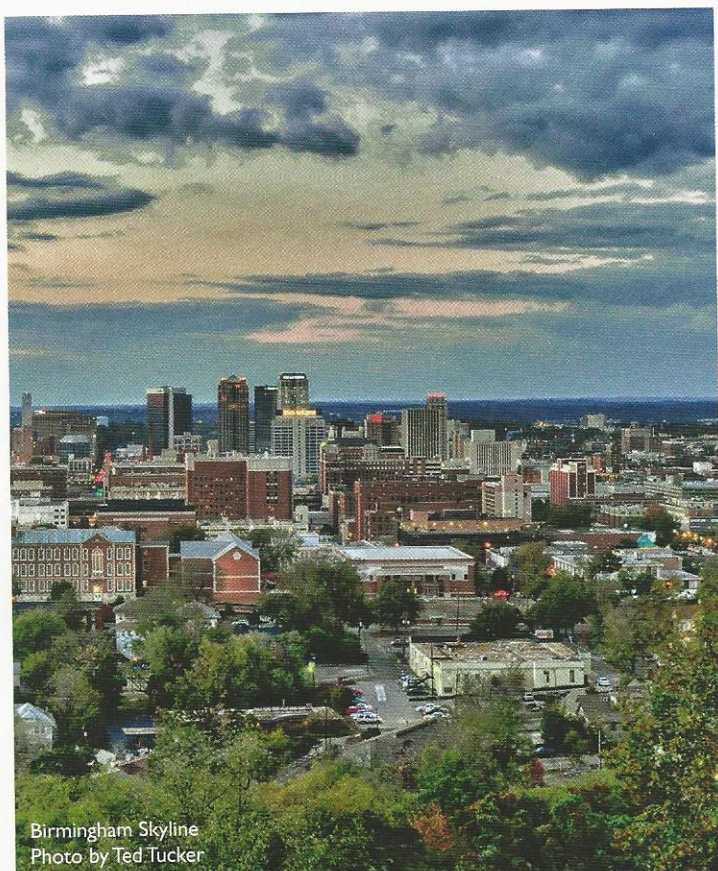
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Magic in the City: **BIRMINGHAM,** **ALABAMA**

TEXT BY CAMILLE PLATT



Birmingham Skyline
Photo by Ted Tucker

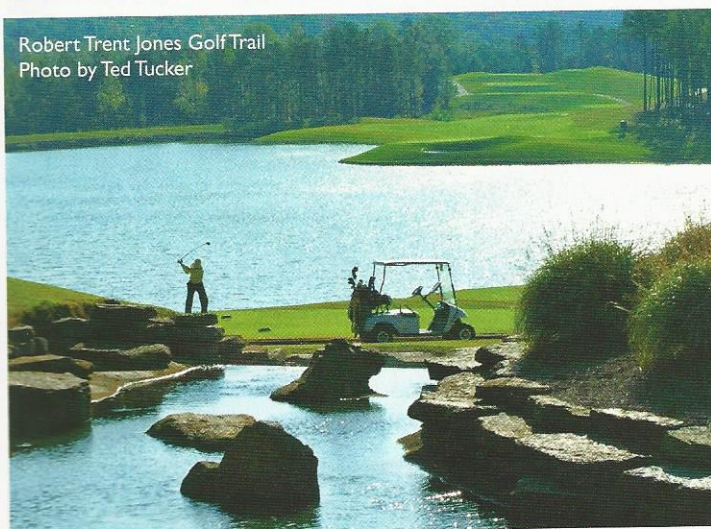
The only place in the world where all three ingredients for making iron—coal, iron ore and limestone—occur naturally within a ten-mile radius, Birmingham, AL, was dubbed The Magic City when its population exploded in the early 1900s. Today the city is best known for its medical research, culinary scene, historic neighborhoods, museums and green spaces near the city center, making it the perfect destination for a weekend away.

ARTS AND SPORTS

In the 1960s, Birmingham native George Barber modified and raced Porsches, eventually racking up 63 wins. Now a collector of classic motorcycles and sports cars, his **Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum** is the largest of its kind in North America. Over 600 of his 1,200 motorcycles are on display at any given time; Barber's collection includes a 1913 Flying Merkel, a 1953 Victoria Bergmeister and a 1954 Cushman Highlander. The museum is also home to 43 Lotus race cars including the 1964 Ferrari 158 used by Formula 1 racer John Surtees to win the World Championship for Italy in 1964.

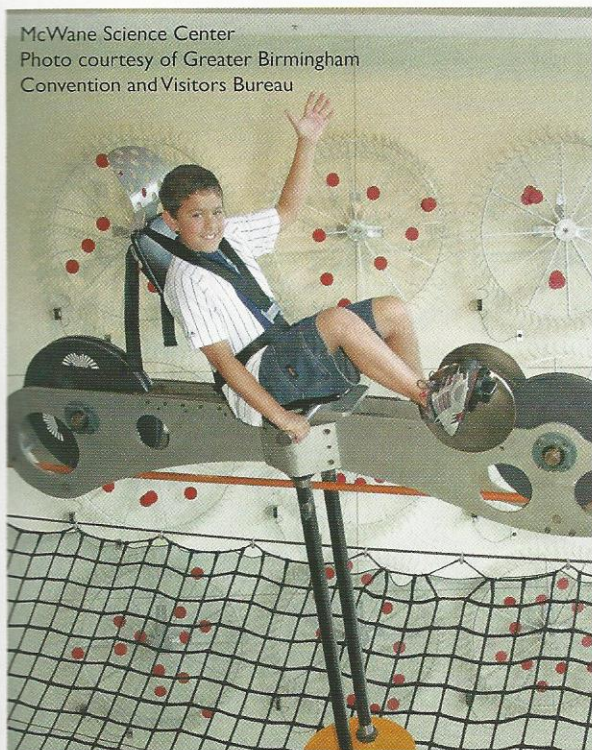
The oldest links in Alabama, **Charley Boswell Golf Course** in Highland Park is what locals call an urban gem. Renowned golfer Bobby Jones scored one of his first victories there at just 14 years old. Named after a World War II veteran and 17-time National Blind Golf Champion, it overlooks the downtown skyline and is just steps from restaurants **Bottega** and **Highlands Bar & Grill**. Just outside Birmingham in the city of Hoover, **Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort and Spa** opened with the third longest golf course in the world in 2005. Located on 300 acres of rolling, grassy hills, it is part of the **Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail** and hosts the Champions Tour Regions Charity Classic each May.

With Navajo blankets and rugs, a rare Ming dynasty temple wall, fired clay vessels made by modern-day African tribes, and Renaissance and Baroque paintings from the late 13th century, The **Birmingham Museum of Art** boasts more than 24,000 paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings and videos spanning 4,000 years. On July 11 and Aug. 15, the museum will host Art on the Rocks, an evening of musical performances, saké and Japanese street fashion inspired by the summer exhibition "Lethal Beauty: Samurai Weapons and Armor." Closed on Mondays, general admission to the museum is free.



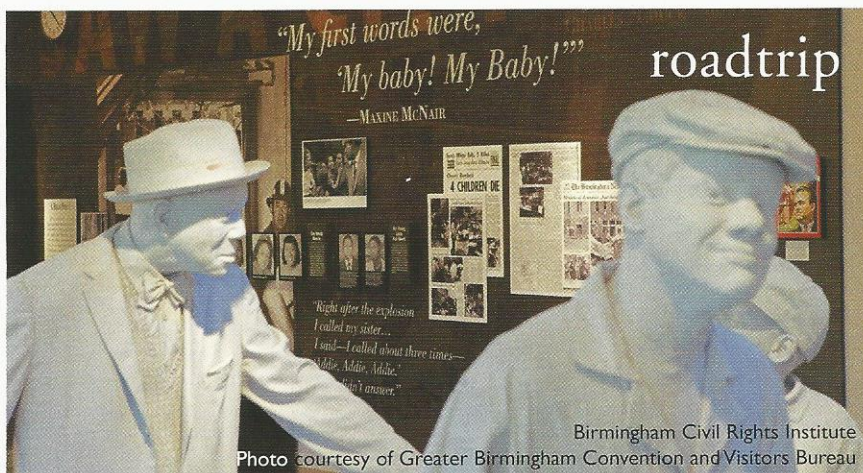
Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail
Photo by Ted Tucker

McWane Science Center
Photo courtesy of Greater Birmingham
Convention and Visitors Bureau



BIRMINGHAM FOR THE KIDS

- The Birmingham Zoo www.birminghamzoo.com
- McWane Science Center www.mcwane.org
- Ruffner Mountain Nature Center
www.ruffnermountain.org
- Birmingham Children's Theatre www.bct123.org



Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
Photo courtesy of Greater Birmingham Convention and Visitors Bureau



Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum
Photo courtesy of Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum

THE CIVIL RIGHTS DISTRICT

Inside the historic **Carver Theatre**, one of the few Birmingham auditoriums to admit black patrons to movies and live entertainment while the Jim Crow laws were in effect, the **Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame** pays tribute to the musical genre as an indigenous part of the state. Honoring artists like Duke Ellington, Erskine Hawkins, Lionel Hampton and Bessie Smith—all with Alabama ties—the museum is made up of interactive, colorful displays of instruments, jewelry, quilts, paintings and other items that tell the performers' stories.

Just past **Kelly Ingram Park** and **Sixteenth Street Baptist Church**, both pivotal landmarks in the city's civil rights history, the **Birmingham Civil Rights Institute** chronicles the area's impact on both civil rights and human rights worldwide. The self-guided tour includes a partially burnt wooden cross donated by an area FBI office, side-by-side models of segregated classrooms and water fountains, and a door

from the cell in which Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote his "Letter from Birmingham Jail."

DINING OUT

Once praised by Bob Dylan on his XM satellite radio program, **Rojo** is located on Highland Avenue near the historic Georgian-colonial mansion **The Donnelly House**. With red walls and a painting of a bandana-masked bandit over the bar, the restaurant was the first to receive six stars from The Institute of Sustainability's green certification program and has separate menus for Latin and American dishes. Whether you're in the mood for tomatillo tacos, black bean and corn soup, a spicy fuego burger, or a simple spinach and arugula salad, Rojo is a laid-back spot for lunch, dinner or late-night drinks.

Inspired by a shop of Mexican paletas in Nashville, Birmingham's Jim Watkins started experimenting with homemade popsicle recipes with help from his mom. Now

Watkins' **Steel City Pops** are all the rage. The treats include flavors like cucumber lime, blueberry basil, guava, buttermilk, coconut and cherry sour cream. Gluten-free, preservative-free and sweetened with raw, organic cane sugar, Watkins' chilly pops are now sold at four different locations around town—on Central Ave. in Homewood, The Pantry in Crestline Village, the Summit shopping center and outside a customized Airstream trailer off Highway 280.

Known for beating Iron Chef Bobby Flay in "Battle Sausage" on the Food Network and winning the James Beard Award for Best Chef in the South, Chris Hastings is the chef and co-owner at **Hot and Hot Fish Club**. Located on Birmingham's Southside, the restaurant takes a modern approach to blending French, Southern and California cuisine. The menu changes with available farmers' harvest and has favorites including marinated head-on Bayou La Batre shrimp with field peas, fried okra and smoked bacon; and roasted rabbit roulade with sweet corn puree and roasted tomatoes. ■