



# Mobile, AL



**M**obile, Alabama was founded in 1702 by French settlers who ruled until 1763 when they lost the French and Indian War. As a result, Mobile and other French territories east of the Mississippi were ceded to England. The Spanish Governor in New Orleans captured Mobile in 1780 from the British during the Revolutionary War. Spanish rule continued until 1813 when the town was captured by the United States military during the War of 1812. Mobile was originally named Fort Louis de la Mobile to honor France's king and to acknowledge the local Mobile (or Maubilla) Indians.

Artifacts and interactive exhibits from many historical periods are used to tell Mobile's story at the History Museum of Mobile, which also displays a collection of miniature houses created by a local resident. A second museum site is the partially reconstructed Fort Condé, which had protected Mobile from 1723 to 1820 and now serves as the city's official Welcome Center. The Phoenix Fire Museum, a third museum site, is in the restored home of the Phoenix Volunteer Fire Company No. 6 and houses turn-of-the-20th-century horse-drawn steam engines and early motorized vehicles.

Mobile's new GulfQuest National Maritime Museum celebrates the heritage and culture of the entire Gulf of Mexico and offers over 90 interactive exhibits and activities. Other museums include the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center, which hosts a variety of interactive exhibitions and an IMAX® theater. Paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, and decorative art from around the world can be found in the permanent collection of the Mobile Museum of Art. Alabama Contemporary Art Center is a showcase for contemporary art. The Mobile Medical Museum contains over 50,000 medical artifacts and documents from the Gulf Coast region and is located in the historic Vincent-Doan-Walsh House on the campus of the University of South Alabama Children's and Women's Hospital.

Housed in the historic Bernstein-Bush mansion, the Mobile Carnival Museum chronicles the city's Carnival and Mardi Gras experience including the art of costume design and float construction.

The National African American Archives and Museum contains artifacts and records integral to African American culture throughout the country and local exhibits about the "History of Colored Carnival" and the Clotilde, the last known illegal slave ship to dock in Mobile Bay.

The University of South Alabama's Archaeology Museum showcases artifacts from the Gulf Coast. Life-size scenic representations depict archaeologists at work.

Three historic house museums are located in Mobile: Richards Daughters of the American Revolution House Museum, Oakleigh House Museum, and Carlen House.

The historic Saenger Theatre of Mobile is the official home of the Mobile Symphony Orchestra and also presents numerous concerts, lectures, an annual Summer Movie Series, and special events. The Temple Downtown and The Steeple on St. Francis are the venues for the Mobile Opera. Mobile Ballet performs at the Mobile Civic Center Theater. The Playhouse-in-the-Park produces shows and trains young people in theater arts.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Although primarily commercial in nature, downtown Mobile has 3 residential areas. Church Street East Historic District features Queen Anne and shotgun style homes that date from the 1820s to 1900. Housing styles in the DiTonti Square Historic District include side-hall dwellings, Italianate, townhouses, and Gold Coast cottages that date between 1825 and 1925. On Lower Dauphin Street, several former commercial buildings have been converted into lofts.

Located outside of the downtown, Ashland Place Historic District features houses built in the 1920s and 1930s in Colonial Revival, Dutch Colonial, and Craftsman styles. Nearby Florence Place has homes built in the Spanish revival style. Old Dauphin Way Historic District has a mix of houses in Foursquare, Colonial Revival, and Queen Anne styles from the late 1800s. Oakleigh Garden Historic District homes were built in many styles, including Foursquare, bungalow, shotgun, Italianate, Gulf Coast cottage, and Queen Anne, and date from 1850 to 1925.

Ranch-style homes from the mid- to late-20th century dominate other residential neighborhoods in Mobile, including Spring Hill, Cottage Hill, Regency, Ridgefield, and Kingswood.

The Heron Lakes community features contemporary single- and two-story brick or stucco homes built on the Heron Lakes Country Club golf course primarily in the early 2000s.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Mobile has 55 parks and squares and provides 8 recreation centers, 2 golf courses, and 2 tennis centers. Bienville Square is anchored by an elaborate

wrought-iron fountain and is the site of social and civic gatherings. Cathedral Square, the "front yard" of the Cathedral Basilica of The Immaculate Conception, is another popular public gathering space and hosts a farmers' market, art festivals, music concerts, and fashion shows in the spring and fall.

The Mobile Museum of Art, Azalea City Golf Course, Mobile Botanical Gardens, and Playhouse-in-the-Park are located in the 720-acre Langan Park, which also features a large lake, the country's largest tennis center, children's playgrounds, and biking/jogging paths.

Baseball Hall of Famer Hank Aaron's childhood home was relocated to Hank Aaron Stadium, where the Mobile BayBears minor league team plays. The Hank Aaron Park offers softball, baseball, and football fields; basketball and tennis courts; and a playground.

The USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park is home to the USS Drum Submarine, used during World War II, and military aircraft.

Mardi Gras in Mobile is a multi-week celebration in the spring which fills the streets of the downtown with live marching bands, brilliant-colored floats, and crowds of parade watchers.

Nearby Historic Blakeley State Park, 5 Rivers Delta Center, Meaher State Park, and Dauphin Island offer other recreational opportunities.

## EDUCATION

Mobile County Public Schools educates 59,000 students in 52 elementary schools, 19 middle schools, 1 K-8 grade school, and 12 high schools, each with a specific signature academy for students in grades 10 through 12. Three magnet elementary schools feed into 3 magnet middle schools. Envision Virtual Academy is available for grades 6 through 12.

Higher education is available at the University of South Alabama, which is a public research university that grants undergraduate and graduate degrees and has Colleges of Medicine, Allied Health Professions, Nursing, and the Harrison School of Pharmacy at USA. Spring Hill College is a private, Roman Catholic Jesuit liberal arts college and has a College of Nursing. University of Mobile is a private, liberal arts university affiliated with the Alabama Baptist State Convention that offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs, including nursing. Sanford D. Bishop State Community College is a two-year, public, historically black college that offers technical and workforce training and academic programs leading to transfers to 4-year colleges.

Remington College, ITT Technical Institute, Virginia College, and Fortis College offer career oriented programs.

## HEALTH CARE

Mobile is served by the following health facilities:

- Mobile Infirmary Medical Center: 689 licensed beds
- Providence Hospital: 349 licensed beds
- Springhill Memorial Hospital: 263 licensed beds
- University of South Alabama Children's and Women's Hospital: 152 licensed beds (Specialized pediatric/maternity hospital)
- University of South Alabama Medical Center: 406 licensed beds
- BayPointe Behavioral Health: 60 licensed psychiatric beds
- Infirmary LTAC Hospital: 22 licensed long-term acute care beds

## CITY STATS

2014

City Population	194,624
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	415,123
Per Capita Personal Income, Mobile, AL, MSA	\$35,031