

A Great Place to Explore

Athens

Limestone County



History

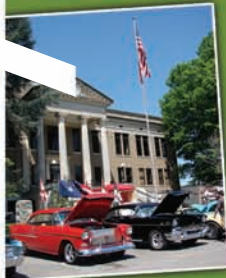


as you've never experienced it before. Step back through the centuries to a time before the Alabama Territory was created, experience the lives of America's military men, stroll through 4 historic districts, or pull into a 1940's service station museum.

Festivals

Limestone County and Athens celebrate life with a host of unique and family-friendly events.

From the downhome Ardmore Crape Myrtle Festival, car and art shows, to storytelling and the famous Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention, we put the fun into weekends!



Happy Trails

in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains for both the history and nature lover. Our trails include stately Antebellum homes, churches, bike routes Rails to Trails and Civil War sites.



866-953-6565 TourAthens.com

Come Explore Athens-Limestone County, AL

History/Attractions

Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives

Honors veterans with displays of memorabilia from the Revolutionary War to the present. Open M-Sa 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Contact: 256-771-7578, www.alabamaveteransmuseum.com

Athens State University & The Altar of the New Testament

Alabama's oldest institution of higher learning. The main building on campus, Founders Hall, was built in 1842. Local legend says the building was saved from burning by Union troops raiding Athens during the Civil War when the college President produced a letter said to have been written by President Abraham Lincoln. Founders Hall, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, also houses the majestic Altar of the New Testament woodcarving. The life-size carvings took 12 years to complete and depict Christ and New Testament figures and verses carved in tulipwood. Contact: 256-233-8100

College Inn - Newby Gulf Station Museum

Built in 1933, it is one of only two service station/cafe structures of the Prairie Style architecture left in the state and was one of the first full-service stations to open in Alabama. 1940s era decor, an ice cream stand, a jukebox with 1940s records and vintage gas pumps. Contact: 256-233-8728

Donnell House

This living history museum was built in 1845 by a travel weary 61-year-old Cumberland Presbyterian minister, Robert Donnell. In the 1860's the homestead served as a bivouac for Union troops during the Civil War. Tours available by appointment. Contact: 256-232-0743. www.donnellhouse.org

Historic Elkmont

Site of the Civil War Battle of Sulphur Creek Trestle. This community is now home of the Rails-to-Trails Walking Trail, a historic train depot housing a museum and library, a train caboose and antique shops. Contact: 256-232-4211

Historic Mooresville

This tiny community was incorporated on Nov. 16, 1818, one year after the Alabama Territory was created. The Mooresville Post Office, the oldest in the State, has been in continual operation since 1819. Contact: www.mooresvillealabama.com

Athens Area Historic Districts

Four areas are recognized by the National Register of Historic Districts in and around Athens. These are the Courthouse Square Commercial District, Athens State College, and the Houston and Beaty Historic Districts. Architectural styles include Classical Revival, Late Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, and Federal. Free brochures and walking tour maps are available online at TourAthens.com. Contact: 256-232-5411

2010 Festivals & Events

April 17 - Dogwood Festival

April 24 - Athens on the Square Car Show

April 23-25 - Best Buckin' BBQ Cookoff

May 7-8 - Athens Bible Homespun Arts/Crafts

May 14-15 - Limestone Sheriff's Rodeo

June 5 - Ardmore Dog Gone Festival

June 12 - Delmore Days Bluegrass Festival

July 4 - Reliance Bank Fire Cracker Festival

July 9-10 - Ardmore Lions Club Tractor Pull

July 17 - CASA Mud Volleyball Tournament

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July 30-31 - AL Championship Tractor/Truck Pull

Aug 6-7 - Ardmore Rodeo

Aug 6-7 - Piney Chapel Antique Engine Show

Aug 20-21 - Athens Homecoming Celebration

Aug 28 - Ardmore Grape Myrtle Festival

Sep 11 - Art on the Square

Sep 25 - Fiddlin' on the Square

Oct 1-2 - TN Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention

Oct 29-30 - Athens Storytelling Festival

Trails & Walks

HAUNTS WALKS - Each October, this unique walking tour takes you through historic Athens most infamous haunted locations.

STEP-BACK-IN-TIME WALKING TOUR - Takes you through the historic Robert Beaty District with some homes in the District date prior to the Civil War; however, most were built in the early 1900s.

ANTEBELLUM TRAIL - A driving/walking trail featuring 24 antebellum homes, three antebellum churches, antebellum college, two antebellum working cotton plantations, antebellum post office and antebellum stagecoach inn and tavern.

CIVIL WAR TRAIL - This driving/walking trail tours the civil war historical sites in Limestone County including the Battle of Athens and the Battle of Sulphur Creek Trestle (Elkmont).

GLORY ROAD HISTORIC CHURCHES TRAIL - Thirty-five of the historic and community churches of Athens and Limestone County are included on this trail, some dating as early as 1818.

LIMESTONE COUNTY CANOE/KAYAK TRAIL - Five easy in/out sites located along the beautiful Elk River.

RICHARD MARTIN RAILS-TO-TRAILS - Located in Elkmont, this 10.2 mile trail offers a back-to-nature getaway for hikers, bikers, joggers, bird watchers, horseback riders, as well as students, naturalists, and historians.

NOAH BIKE & VINTAGE CAR TRAIL - This 89-mile trail is a bicycle, motorcycle, and vintage car trail.

North Alabama Birding Trail - Seven sites of this 50 site regional trail are located in Limestone County. Wetland birds, forest dwellers and song birds are featured. www.northalababirdingtrail.com

