

~Group Tours~

Madison and Morgan County is always more fun with friends, and no matter how diverse your interests, your group will find the right itinerary, whether it's distinctive architecture, world-renowned art, civil war history, African-American heritage, or farm tours. Plus, we are within easy reach by motorcoach – a convenient drive just an hour from downtown Atlanta with beautiful accommodations that allow you to stay for more than just a day!



Tip:

Any tour can be customized to fit certain group numbers, as well as, tours can be combined together to allow for a longer stay. The CVB is happy to coordinate your group travel plans and set up overnight accommodations to meet your group's interests.

Future Planning:

Check ahead for an advanced calendar of special happenings in town. There is always something new and exciting to share with our guests.

Additional Guidance:

Heritage Hall offers full service step-on Guides to accompany you in the historic district for \$2/person.

Madison Tour & Events Company offers customized V.I.P tours of private homes, house museums, and the historic district – suellenhampton@yahoo.com – 706.474.3696



History & Heritage Tour

10am - Begin your tour at the **Madison Welcome Center**, once the old firehouse and city hall, built in 1887. Located in downtown Madison, you'll find a vibrant downtown that boasts of unique boutiques, eateries, a town park, and even a beautiful tearoom. Begin with a tour of the historic district, a rich tapestry of some of Georgia's finest architecture. Choose to let the group loose with their self-guided walking guide or opt for a step-on guide to be your host (*see information below for customized tour contacts)

11am - Experience the height of extravagance during the era of Cotton plantations, when cotton was king. Known as Madison's Antebellum Dame, **Heritage Hall** was built in 1811 by Dr. Elijah Evans Jones, a prominent physician in Madison. Listed as a medical doctor at the young age of 22 with only one year of medical school, the term "practicing medicine" was seemingly literal terminology during this time for him and others in his profession. Enjoy a docent led tour and hear all the stories that bring this house back to life, specifically, its window etchings. (Cost: \$7/person or \$10/person if combined with Rogers House & Rose Cottage - guided tour) <http://www.friendsofheritagehall.org/>

12pm – Take a break and explore the many flavors that Madison has to offer (Reservations can be made in advance).

1pm - Spend some time perusing through the antiques shops, specialty stores, and sweet shops that add to the town's charming character.

2pm - Experience the **Morgan County African American Museum**, a key educational and cultural resource for Morgan County and the entire southeast region, offering a wide array of exhibitions, programs, and events geared to adults, families, and students of all ages. (Cost: \$5/person - \$3/students - guided tour) <http://www.mcaam.org/>

3pm - Your next stop is **Rogers House**, one of the oldest houses in Madison, built the same year Madison was incorporated, in 1809. This home, a fine example of Piedmont Plain architecture, is decorated with 19th century furnishings. (Cost: \$5/person or \$10/person if combined with Heritage Hall - guided tour)

3:30pm - Just next door, you'll find **Rose Cottage**, built by Adeline Rose in 1891. Adeline was born into slavery and made her living taking in laundry for boarders at The Hardy House, which was owned by famous comedian Oliver Hardy's mother at that time. She built this house for \$100. (Cost: included in Rogers House cost - guided tour)

Enjoy an elegant dinner at one of Madison's exceptional restaurants and/or catch a performance at The Cultural Center.

Arts & Culture Tour

10am - Begin your tour at the **Madison Welcome Center** located in downtown Madison, a vibrant downtown that boasts of unique boutiques, eateries, a town park, and even a beautiful tearoom. Begin with a tour of the historic district, a rich tapestry of some of Georgia's finest architecture. Choose to let the group loose with their self-guided walking guide or opt for a step-on guide to be your host (*see information below for additional guidance)

11am - The **Madison-Morgan Cultural Center** combines a rare treasure of the past with an active commitment to the future. Housed in a fine 1895



Romanesque Revival red brick building, the structure was built in 1895 as one of the South's first graded public schools. Today it is a vibrant non-profit multidisciplinary performing and visual arts facility serving the Southeast. The center allows you to take a look at the classroom that once taught a young, impressionable Oliver Hardy entering 1st grade in September of 1898, an original furniture exhibit to one of our historic homes, and a pre/post-civil war museum that takes you through the history of that time period in Madison. Community favorites at the Center include the annual Antiques Show & Sale, an array of visual arts exhibits, independent films, live performances and concerts, the annual Spring Tour of Homes, the Chamber Music Festival, and a variety of educational programs to enhance the arts experiences of local K-12 students. (Cost: \$3/person) <http://mmcc-arts.org/>

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3pm – Head out to beautiful **Buckhead** to the world renowned **Steffen Thomas Museum of Art**. Steffen Thomas was born in 1906 in Fürth, Germany. His father, a paintbrush manufacturer, apprenticed him to a stonecutter at the age of 14 after realizing his son wanted to be a sculptor. Steffen applied himself and became an excellent stone carver, spending part of his time working on WWI monuments. He was so gifted that at the age of 17 he was accepted to the School of Applied Arts in Nuremberg and at the age of 19 entered the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. While at the Academy he established himself as a sculptor of note, was given a studio of his own, and awarded “Master” status at the age of 21. He came to America at the age of 22 and a museum showcasing his work was the dream of his wife after he died in 1990. Among his amazing collection here, he also created the colossal size statue of Governor Eugene Talmadge, on the grounds of the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta, and the Alabama Memorial, located in the Vicksburg National Military Park in Mississippi. (Cost: \$5/person) <http://steffenthomas.org/>

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Outdoor Adventure Tour

Option I – Choose between 2 different B&B farm-stays:

Southern Cross Guest Ranch is a 17 room inn that is home to well over 150 quality Paint and Quarter horses. The ranch, which recently received accolades from Travel + Leisure and Ladies Home Journal Magazines as one of “Americas Best Dude Ranches,” is best known for its exceptional hands-on horseback riding programs, unguided

riding opportunities, and peaceful, comfortable setting. The inn serves 3 meals a day, has trails for bike riding, and a beautiful pool for those that just want to rest in the sun. <http://www.southcross.com/>

The Farmhouse Inn at Hundred Acre Farm offers ten bedrooms made up by five private guestrooms and a five bedroom farmhouse with large living area, kitchen, and dining room. The inn offers all the modern conveniences and comforts for a getaway for two or a family celebration for up to twenty eight overnight guests. The Red Barn Meeting Room, outdoor terrace, and adjacent lawns can be used for large group dinners, farm weddings, meetings, business retreats, family reunions, and other events for up to 200 guests. All ingredients in the preparation of breakfast come straight from the farm and guests are able to enjoy hiking the many trails, canoeing and fishing on the Appalachian River, and roasting marshmallows by the fire at the end of the day. Listed among Southern Living and Cosmopolitan Magazines, The Farmhouse Inn at Hundred Acre Farm is a country sanctuary where guests can rediscover life's simple pleasures. Solar power combines with organic gardening and a bevy of farm animals on 100-plus riverside acres and the finest in Southern Hospitality at this pristine inn and farm. <http://www.thefarmhouseinn.com/>

Option 2 -

Make your way just 9 miles east of Madison to the quaint town of **Rutledge**, home to Georgia's largest State Park, **Hard Labor Creek State Park**, the highly acclaimed **Sunflower Farm**, **Creekside Farm** (the largest Icelandic Pony farm in the US), and quaint shops and restaurants. Grab a boxed lunch from the old-time Caboose or Yesterday Cafe to enjoy under the state park's glorious pines, take a canoe ride, play some golf, relax on the beach, and stay the night in their nicely furnished cabins. No cell phone required. <http://www.smallbutspecial.info/>



The Sunflower Farm in Rutledge rarely has a season where it is not beautiful. When you 'round the bend' on Durden Road, most visitors nearly have an accident at the colorful surprise they encounter! A Photographer's dream, this beautiful 15-acre floral delight sits on 200 acres just West of Madison in nearby Rutledge and is jam packed with floral variety. Purchased by the family in 1936, the family first planted sunflower crops to attract wildlife; however, they later discovered it was a much desired attraction for visitors to the area. Now a focal point to the farm, the entry is an old house that was built in 1891 for a family of pioneers that eventually became the sharecropper's house. A photographer's dream, the gardens are open for touring and have graced the pages of **Southern Living**, **Atlanta Magazine**, and **Georgia Gardener Magazine**, just to name a few!

Creekside Farm, adjacent to Hard Labor Creek State Park, is home to almost 200 Icelandic Ponies and offers 120 acres of pasture, 28 miles of riding trails, a 250 and 300 meter oval track, a 300 meter pace track, an indoor arena, round pins and a dressage arena. It is an amazing farm just to visit as it is the largest in the United States.

Option 3 –

Burnt Pine Plantation offers 4,500 acres of land intensively managed for Quail, Whitetail deer, and Turkey. The plantation not only offers Quail Hunting and Deer Hunting, but Pheasant Hunting, Dove Hunting, Mixed Bag, Turkey Hunting, and fishing as well. With the completion of their new 26 bed lodge and conference center, this plantation is the perfect spot for Quail & Deer hunting getaways, corporate retreats or meetings, family gatherings, receptions, weddings, and simple "get away from it all" trips from the everyday hectic pace. There is no "Roughing It" at the Plantation, come just once and you will be a visitor for life. http://www.burntpine.com/quail_hunting.html

For Group Planning Assistance, please email ellen@madisonga.org to request more information, or give us a call at

800.709.7406 ~ 706.342.4454.



We Look Forward to your Visit!

www.madisonga.org