



MOBILE, ALABAMA AREA INFORMATION

[Mobile](#) has a certain magic that keeps you on your toes. Funky, feisty and festive. Historic, hip and happening. Or colorful, cool and cultured. You can call this coastal town a lot of things when you have a vibrant 300-year history with lots of stories to tell and long-standing traditions celebrated on a regular basis. Once called the Paris of the South, Mobile is the oldest settlement in the state of Alabama and has long been the cultural center of the Gulf Coast. You'll find an authentic experience like nowhere else in the southern United States.



Overview

- [Official website](#)
- [Visitors website](#)
- [Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Public Library](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Parks and Recreation](#)
- [Area Hospitals](#)
- [Public Safety](#)
- Population was 195,111 as of the 2010 Census

Transportation

By Car

Most residents have a car, especially for weekend road trips. Mobile is well served by many major highway systems.



By Bike

Bicycling is green and it's stress-free! Mobile now has a downtown bicycle-sharing service with [Lime](#).

- [Bike Trails](#) in the area

Public Transportation

The [Wave Transit System](#) is the operator of public transportation in Mobile, operated by the City. Eleven local routes service the city and suburban regions, while the [trolley](#) provides downtown shuttle service.



By Air

- [Mobile Airport](#) offers regular flights to Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, and Charlotte.

Schools

Generally, to register your child for school you will need to have a passport and/or birth certificate, proof of immunizations, any applicable past school records and proof of residency. Most public schools have boundary areas, and you must show proof (i.e. copy of lease or home purchase agreement) to be allowed to register in that particular school. Please always confirm requirements with the school you are interested in before assuming that your child will be able to attend that school.

Grade level in the US public-school system is determined by the age of the child. School districts are usually very strict about the age requirement, but inquire with the school district you are interested in to determine if there are any exemptions for foreign students who are ahead in grade level. You may also want to ask about any gifted or advanced programs as well as their English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs. Some elementary schools also offer a pre-Kindergarten program for children who miss the deadline requirement. You may inquire at the school districts for availability, and contact your IOR Destination Services Consultant for more assistance with schooling questions.

Public Schools

Public schools in Mobile are operated by the [Mobile County Public School System](#), which include [magnet schools](#) with focused themes and aligned curricula in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Fine and Performing Arts, and [International Bacculaureate](#).

Private Schools

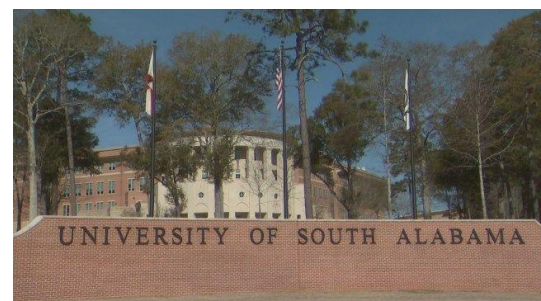
There are 49 [private schools](#) in Mobile, Alabama, serving 16,839 students. Many belong to the [Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Mobile](#). Other private school options include [St. Paul's Episcopal School](#), [Mobile Christian School](#), [St. Lukes Episcopal School](#), and [UMS-Wright Preparatory School](#).

Additional Resources

- www.greatschools.org
- www.eschoolprofile.com
- www.schooltree.org

Colleges/Universities in the area

- [University of South Alabama](#)
- [Spring Hill College](#)
- [The University of Mobile](#)



Area Recreation

Downtown is home to a wide variety of studios and centers featuring murals, sculptures, paintings, abstract art and more. Theater buffs and musical mavens alike will find something they enjoy, whether it be seeing a performance at the historic [Saenger Theatre](#) or taking in the [Mobile Ballet](#). The restaurant scene is loaded with seafood, slow-cooked barbecue, and farm-to-table restaurants are on the rise.

- [Calendar of events](#)
- [Visitors Bureau](#)
- [Farmers Markets](#)

Culture and Museums

Every second Friday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., downtown Mobile comes alive during the wildly popular [ArtWalk](#), where thousands of folks gather to enjoy the latest in local art, music, food and culture.

- [More arts to enjoy](#)
- [Mobile Museum of Art](#)
- [Alabama Contemporary Art Center](#)
- [Mobile Opera](#)
- [Mobile Symphony](#)
- [USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park](#)

Festivals

Mobilians love to throw a party and celebrate!

- [Ten65 Music Festival](#) - a free, two day event
- [MobileBayMardiGras](#) - Mobile has celebrated Mardi Gras celebration since 1703 (even before New Orleans)
- [Calendar of Events](#)

The Great Outdoors

The area is home to the [Mobile-Tensaw Delta](#), the largest river delta and wetland in Alabama. In fact, there are not many places in the world that hold the eco-diversity of the bayous, bays and [beaches](#) of Mobile. From kayaks and canoes to airboats and fishing tours, there are numerous ways to roam this wilderness. A plus is Mobile's [Parks and Recreation Department](#) to preserve beauty, establish, maintain and protect parks and natural spaces. [Explore the Great Outdoors!](#)



Area Sports

- Golfers can enjoy [Magnolia Grove](#), a Robert Trent Jones' Golf Course.
- [Mobile Tennis Center](#) is one of the world's largest public tennis facilities.
- [Ladd–Peebles Stadium](#) hosts The Dollar General Bowl.
- South Alabama also has a proud tradition of baseball in the area. [Hank Aaron Stadium](#) hosts a minor-league team, plus a museum dedicated to local baseball great, Hank Aaron.
- [Archbishop Lipscomb Athletic Complex](#) hosts the Gulf Coast League soccer team.

Registration

Obtaining a Driver's License

In the US, a driver's license or ID card is issued by each individual state and not by the federal government. Since there is no national identity card in the USA, and many Americans don't have a passport or carry around a birth certificate, a driver's license issued by your state is often the only official piece of identification for many citizens. Since 9/11, you will need to show a valid driver's license or State ID card to enter many big office buildings.

If you have an out-of-state or out-of-country license, you may use it for as long as you maintain your residency in the state where it was issued. International licenses are not recognized in Alabama. If you are moving permanently to Alabama, you may use your out-of-state license for only your first 30 days.

To change to an Alabama license, bring your Social Security card, another form of ID, and two utility or phone bills verifying that you are an Alabama resident to a motor vehicle facility. You'll have to pass written and eye exams, and usually a road test.

For general information and instructions on how to obtain an official state ID card or driver's license, visit the [Alabama Law Enforcement Agency](#)

Your IOR Destination Services Consultant will also assist you with the proper procedure.