



**the ultimate guide**  
**HIKING & PADDLING**  
**LAKE GUNTERSVILLE, AL**  
[www.ExploreLakeGuntersville.com](http://www.ExploreLakeGuntersville.com)





## **Experience your next adventure at Lake Guntersville**

With 69,000-acre Lake Guntersville surrounded by three state parks and more than 70 miles of hiking and biking trails, the outdoors is just a step or paddle away, making this North Alabama destination the perfect outdoor adventure.

Off the trails catch a concert, enjoy a meal with a water view, or do a little shopping. Lake Guntersville, located in Marshall County, Alabama has four cities – all interconnected with the lake at their center and offering unique shopping and dining experiences.

Visit [explorelakeguntersville.com](https://explorelakeguntersville.com) for information on lodging and camping options as well as events happening around the lake year-round. Or scan this QR code and let us help you plan your next outdoor adventure.



# HIKING TRAILS

16 scenic trails ranging from easy to difficult  
offering lakeside panoramas to woodland  
paths accented with wildflowers



# Marshall County Hiking Trail Descriptions

## Lake Guntersville State Park **Seales Trail**

Offering great views of the lake for almost the entire trail, Seales is a great option in any season. This 2.25-mile trail begins at Town Creek Bridge or in Lake Guntersville State Park Campground. Winding along the lake, hikers will have the chance to see eagles, osprey, otters and other species while hiking over limestone outcrops.

<b>Location</b>	Lake Guntersville State Park
<b>Difficulty</b>	Easy/Moderate
<b>Length</b>	2.25 miles - one way
<b>Trail Head</b>	Located to the left of the Town Creek Bridge on AL Hwy 227 just prior to the Town Creek Fishing Center
<b>Parking</b>	Town Creek Fishing Center. Limited parking on gravel pull-off to the left of bridge
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restrooms</b>	Town Creek Fishing Center
<b>Camping</b>	Lake Guntersville State Park Campground
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	No

## Lake Guntersville State Park **Cutchenmine Trail**

Beginning at Short Creek, located on AL Hwy 227, the trail follows the lake along an old coal road that is lined with wildflowers and Oak Leaf Hydrangeas in the spring and summer. Large boulders mark the edge of the path in some places and turtles and certain species of fish can be spotted in the shallow waters of the lake.

<b>Location</b>	Lake Guntersville State Park
<b>Difficulty</b>	Easy/Moderate
<b>Length</b>	2.25 miles - one way
<b>Trail Head</b>	Located just down from the Ranger Cabin at Short Creek on AL Hwy 227, or trail can be picked up at the parking lot of the Ranger Cabin near water's edge.
<b>Parking</b>	Short Creek Ranger Cabin and boat launch, AL Hwy 227
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restrooms</b>	No
<b>Camping</b>	Lake Guntersville State Park Campground
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	No

## **Lake Guntersville State Park**

### **Kings Chapel Trail**

This .7 mile hike leads to one of Lake Guntersville State Park's family cemeteries located on park grounds. Containing over 40 historic grave sites, this cemetery provides a glimpse back in time to the families that lived on the land before it became a state park. It can be enjoyed on foot or by bike.

<b>Location</b>	Lake Guntersville State Park
<b>Difficulty</b>	Easy
<b>Length</b>	.7 miles - one way
<b>Trail Head</b>	Enter Lake Guntersville State Park, turn left at the guard shack onto Aubrey Carr Scenic Drive. The trail head is located across from the first gravel lot on the right.
<b>Parking</b>	Gravel lot across from trail head
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restrooms</b>	Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge
<b>Camping</b>	Lake Guntersville State Park Campground
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	No

## **Lake Guntersville State Park**

### **Loop Trail**

The Loop Trail begins across the street from the Lake Guntersville State Park Campground store and is intertwined with the more difficult Lodge Trail. Hikers will begin at the trailhead for the Lodge Trail and will turn right at the first trail intersection, following the Loop Trail out and back. The Loop Trail follows the base of Taylor Mountain and offers many opportunities to view limestone outcrops and even deer. Note: The Lodge Trail continues up the mountain at a steep incline and ends at the lodge.

<b>Location</b>	Lake Guntersville State Park
<b>Difficulty</b>	Easy
<b>Length</b>	1.5 miles - one way
<b>Trail Head</b>	Located across the street from the Campground Store
<b>Parking</b>	Campground store
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restrooms</b>	Lake Guntersville State Park Campground
<b>Camping</b>	Lake Guntersville State Park Campground
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	No

## **Lake Guntersville State Park**

### **Golf Course Loop Trail**

As the second longest hike in Lake Guntersville State Park, the Golf Course Loop Trail wraps around the golf course and offers opportunities to view bald eagles nesting throughout the park. Traveling over many small streams, this trail also offers opportunities to see other wildlife including turtles and deer. It can be enjoyed on foot or by bike.

<b>Location</b>	Lake Guntersville State Park
<b>Difficulty</b>	Moderate
<b>Length</b>	3.8 miles
<b>Trail Head</b>	Located across the street from Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge. Follow the paved walkway to the trailhead.
<b>Parking</b>	Utilize Lodge left parking lot
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restrooms</b>	Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge
<b>Camping</b>	Lake Guntersville State Park Campground
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	No

## **Bucks Pocket State Park**

### **Point Rock Trail**

This trail begins at the base of Bucks Pocket Canyon and ends some 800 feet above the canyon floor on a sandstone formation called Point Rock. Natural features include Little Sauty Creek, varied plant life including wildflowers and ferns, and special geologic formations estimated to be between 200-250 million years old. The trail starts across the Little Sauty Bridge just outside the campground and terminates with a spectacular view of the canyon.

<b>Location</b>	Bucks Pocket State Park
<b>Difficulty</b>	Hard/ Difficult
<b>Length</b>	1.1 miles - one way
<b>Trail Head</b>	Located just prior to the entrance of Bucks Pocket State Park Campground on the right
<b>Parking</b>	Gravel parking lot on left side of road at entrance to Bucks Pocket State Park Campground
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restrooms</b>	Bucks Pocket State Park Campground
<b>Camping</b>	Bucks Pocket State Park Campground
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	\$5 day use

## **Bucks Pocket State Park**

### **Indian House Trail**

Venture to the scenic overlook for a view of Point and the canyon below. Historically, the Cherokee Indians frequently occupied the rock overhangs at the trail's end. Wildflowers and rhododendrons are abundant along this trail and bloom early spring.

<b>Location</b>	Bucks Pocket State Park
<b>Difficulty</b>	Easy/Moderate
<b>Length</b>	.5 miles - one way
<b>Trail Head</b>	Located on Alabama County Rd. 173, just before entering the park. The road curves to the right and the trailhead is on the left.
<b>Parking</b>	Very limited. Small pull-off on right across from the trailhead
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restrooms</b>	Bucks Pocket State Park Campground
<b>Camping</b>	Bucks Pocket State Park Campground
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	\$5 day use

## **Bucks Pocket State Park**

### **High Bluff Trail**

A short trail with giant boulders that line the top of the canyon wall. There is a huge beech tree in front of the overhang which is of historical significance. A small stream is located next to the overhang which flows during the fall and winter months.

<b>Location</b>	Bucks Pocket State Park
<b>Difficulty</b>	Moderate
<b>Length</b>	.5 miles - one way
<b>Trail Head</b>	Located on Alabama County Rd. 173 on left in the first curve going down the mountain
<b>Parking</b>	A circular gravel turnaround on the left, just before the trailhead
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restrooms</b>	Bucks Pocket State Park Campgrounds
<b>Camping</b>	Bucks Pocket State Park Campground
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	\$5 day use

## **Cathedral Caverns State Park**

### **Red Trail**

This short, 15-minute hike showcases the beauty of the caverns. Leaving from behind the Welcome Center, the hike will pass by many different plant species that call the park home and stunning rock features.

<b>Location</b>	Cathedral Caverns State Park
<b>Difficulty</b>	Easy
<b>Length</b>	.25 miles
<b>Trail Head</b>	Located behind the Cathedral Caverns State Park Welcome Center
<b>Parking</b>	Welcome Center lot
<b>Trail Color</b>	Red
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restrooms</b>	Cathedral Caverns State Park Welcome Center
<b>Camping</b>	Cathedral Caverns State Park Campground
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	No

## **Cathedral Caverns State Park**

### **Blue Trail**

The perfect trail to experience the forest without a climb, the blue trail meanders through the forest and hikers can most often spot deer and birds.

<b>Location</b>	Cathedral Caverns State Park
<b>Difficulty</b>	Easy
<b>Length</b>	1.2 miles
<b>Trail Head</b>	Located across the street from the trail parking lot, which can be found at the intersection of Cathedral Caverns Rad and Cave Road
<b>Parking</b>	Gravel lot at trailhead entry
<b>Trail Color</b>	Blue
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restrooms</b>	Cathedral Caverns State Park Welcome Center
<b>Camping</b>	Cathedral Caverns State Park Campground
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	No

## **Cathedral Caverns State Park**

### **Green Trail**

This trail shares a trailhead with the blue trail yet offers a more difficult climb, rising up Pisgah Mountain to an elevation of around 1,100 feet above sea level. This trail leads to one of the back country campsites offered to guests staying at Cathedral Caverns State Park and showcases the forests of North Alabama.

<b>Location</b>	Cathedral Caverns State Park
<b>Difficulty</b>	Moderate
<b>Length</b>	1.8 miles
<b>Trail Head</b>	Located across the street from the trail parking lot, which can be found at the intersection of Cathedral Caverns Rd and Cave Road
<b>Parking</b>	Gravel lot at trailhead entry
<b>Trail Color</b>	Green
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restrooms</b>	Cathedral Caverns State Park Welcome Center
<b>Camping</b>	Cathedral Caverns State Park Campground
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	No

## **Cathedral Caverns State Park**

### **Yellow Trail**

This trail begins with the green trail and continues up Pisgah Mountain to the peak and offers a more strenuous climb than the green trail. The quiet of the forest will open up, and several small caves are visible from the trail.

<b>Location</b>	Cathedral Caverns State Park
<b>Difficulty</b>	Moderate/Difficult
<b>Length</b>	1.5 miles
<b>Trail Head</b>	Located across the street from the trail parking lot, which can be found at the intersection of Cathedral Caverns Rd and Cave Road
<b>Parking</b>	Gravel lot at trail head entry
<b>Trail Color</b>	Yellow
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restrooms</b>	Cathedral Caverns State Park Welcome Center
<b>Camping</b>	Cathedral Caverns State Park Campground
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	No



## **Cathedral Caverns State Park**

### **Gray Trail**

A short 1-mile hike looping through the valley of Cathedral Caverns State Park, this trail showcases the flora and fauna living in the forest while never getting too far from the cabins that are located near the campground area.

<b>Location</b>	Cathedral Caverns State Park
<b>Difficulty</b>	Easy
<b>Length</b>	1.1 miles
<b>Trail Head</b>	Located across the street from the trail parking lot, which can be found at the intersection of Cathedral Caverns Rd and Cave Road
<b>Parking</b>	Gravel lot at trailhead entry
<b>Trail Color</b>	Gray
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restrooms</b>	Cathedral Caverns State Park Welcome Center
<b>Camping</b>	Cathedral Caverns State Park Campground
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	No

## **TVA Trails at Guntersville Dam**

### **Cave Mountain Trail**

This moderately challenging trail includes a historic cave that was used during the Civil War to mine saltpeter, a base ingredient of gunpowder. Another highlight is the hardwood swamp that attracts waterfowl. The tupelo gum swamp provides habitat for waterfowl, dragonflies, frogs and salamanders.

<b>Location</b>	Guntersville Dqm This trail is on the south side of Guntersville Dam about 6.5 miles north of Guntersville, Ala., off of Hwy. 69
<b>Difficulty</b>	Moderate
<b>Length</b>	1.5 miles
<b>Trail Head</b>	Located at gravel parking lot on the left at the entrance to the dam
<b>Parking</b>	Located at gravel parking lot on the left at the entrance to the dam
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restrooms</b>	TVA Dam Public Restrooms
<b>Camping</b>	TVA Public Land
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	No

## **TVA Trails at Guntersville Dam**

### **Cooley Cemetery Trail**

This is a good endurance building trail to pursue on foot, by bike or on horseback. There are two standing chimneys along this trail from old homesites that were in existence before the dam was built. The trail also provides access to some great fishing sites for those who like to fish from the shore.

<b>Location</b>	This trail is on the south side of Guntersville Dam about 6.5 miles north of Guntersville, Ala., off of Hwy. 69
<b>Difficulty</b>	Moderate
<b>Length</b>	6 miles - one way
<b>Trail Head</b>	Located at gravel parking lot on the left at the entrance to the dam
<b>Parking</b>	Located at gravel parking lot on the left at the entrance to the dam
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restrooms</b>	TVA Dam Public Restrooms
<b>Camping</b>	TVA Public Land
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	No

## **TVA Trails at Guntersville Dam**

### **Honeycomb Trail**

Five bluff overlooks provide amazing views on this trail, with opportunities to explore the lake's edge. Watch for bald eagles and ospreys.

<b>Location</b>	Honeycomb Campground Hwy. 431
<b>Difficulty</b>	Moderate/Hard
<b>Length</b>	9.3 miles
<b>Trail Head</b>	Located to the right before entering Honeycomb Campground
<b>Parking</b>	Gravel lot on the right before entering the campground
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restrooms</b>	TVA Dam Public Restrooms
<b>Camping</b>	No
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	No

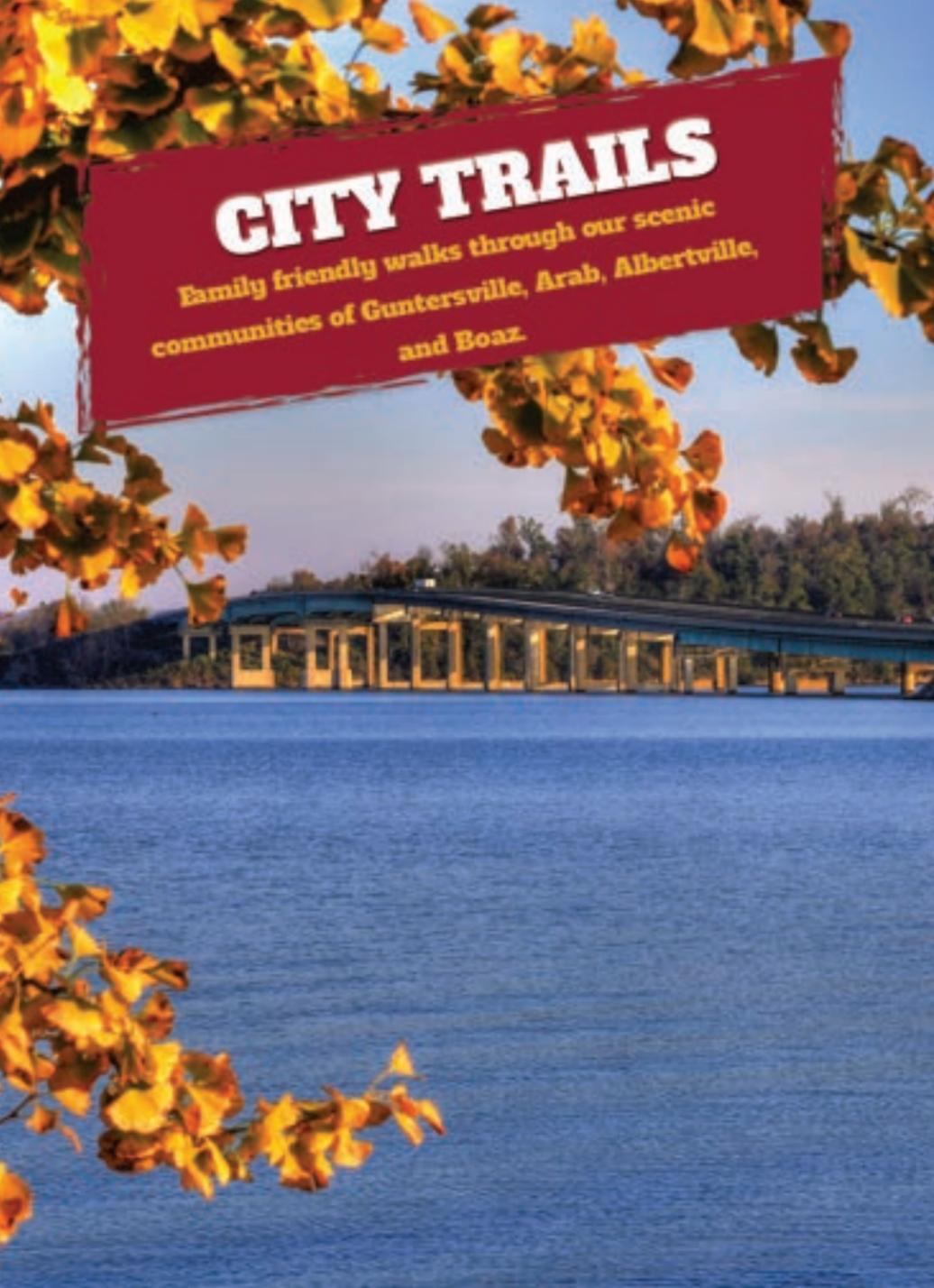


#### **Did You Know?**

The Lake Guntersville State Park boasts more than 6,000 acres of wooded lands as well as more than 30 miles of hiking trails.

# **CITY TRAILS**

Family friendly walks through our scenic communities of Guntersville, Arab, Albertville, and Boaz.



## City Trail Descriptions

### City of Guntersville Sunset Drive Walking Trail

From City Harbor, this trail follows the bend in the lake and curves around the peninsula, providing breathtaking views of Lake Guntersville and the famous river bridge. Benches located along the path provide the perfect spots for viewing sunrises and sunsets. The trail is paved, lit at night and stretches for almost four miles. An eagle's nest is located along the trail as well as three other birding stops on the Alabama Birding Trail. This trail is pedestrian and bike friendly.

<b>Location</b>	City of Guntersville, along Sunset Drive
<b>Difficulty</b>	Easy
<b>Length</b>	4 miles
<b>Accessibility</b>	Yes
<b>Restrooms</b>	Located along footpath
<b>Camping</b>	No
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	No
<b>Parking</b>	Any public lots located along trail; City Harbor; Lake Guntersville Chamber of Commerce

### Arab City Park and Historic Village

This 1.6 mile loop winds through Arab's shaded city park and up through the Arab Historic Village, where more than 10 buildings depict life in Alabama during the Great Depression. The historic village features a self-guided tour available using cell service. The trail is paved and well lit at night. There is a playground adjacent to the trail and is pedestrian and bike friendly.

<b>Location</b>	844 Shoal Creek Trail, Arab
<b>Difficulty</b>	Easy
<b>Length</b>	1.6 miles
<b>Accessibility</b>	Yes
<b>Restrooms</b>	Yes, parking area of main lot
<b>Camping</b>	No
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	No
<b>Parking</b>	Any public lots



#### Did You Know?

The Southernmost point of the Tennessee River is located at the Sunset Drive Walking Trail just at the base of the Guntersville River Bridge.



## Sand Mountain Park

This paved trail circles the multi-field sports complex, amphitheater and waterpark providing 3.5 miles of mostly flat trail with water features and playgrounds adjacent to the trail as well as a dog park. This is the perfect trail to stretch your legs in between games or to bring the entire family. Catch a game or enjoy the playgrounds, even play a round of disc golf. This trail is pedestrian and bike friendly.

<b>Location</b>	1325 SMPA Blvd., Albertville
<b>Difficulty</b>	Easy
<b>Length</b>	3.5 miles
<b>Accessibility</b>	Yes
<b>Restrooms</b>	Yes, at each ball field, the amphitheater and the main recreation center
<b>Camping</b>	Yes
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	No
<b>Parking</b>	Any public lots

## Old Mill Park

This paved trail sits in the center of Boaz and makes a quarter mile loop. Within the park is an amphitheater as well as a splash pad and water play area for children. This is the perfect place on a hot summer day and is within walking distance of the downtown and Boaz's many murals, which are included on the North Alabama Mural Trail.

<b>Location</b>	10315 AL Hwy 168, Boaz
<b>Difficulty</b>	Easy
<b>Length</b>	.25 miles
<b>Accessibility</b>	Yes
<b>Restrooms</b>	Yes
<b>Camping</b>	No
<b>Dog Friendly</b>	Yes, on leash
<b>Fees</b>	No
<b>Parking</b>	Any public lots surrounding the park.



# PADDLING TRAIL

6 Perfect routes with mild currents for kayaks, canoes, and paddle boards along sloping river banks, through quiet coves, and into hidden inlets.



# Marshall County Paddle Trail Descriptions

## Morgan's Cove (Bucks Pocket State Park)

The perfect place for a leisurely paddle, Morgan's Cove, offers a mild current and the option for two different paddles. Once launching from the boat ramp, heading right, travel up South Sauty Creek, a part of Bucks Pocket State Park. This is roughly a 2-mile out and back paddle. Head left from the boat ramp and travel 3-miles one way. Both of these paddles offer abundant views of wildlife with minimal current to paddle.

<b>Location</b>	Morgan's Cove (Bucks Pocket State Park)
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<b>Type of Water</b>	Class I/Leisurely float
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<b>Type of Launch</b>	Boat Ramp
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<b>Distance</b>	5 miles
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<b>Accessibility</b>	No
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<b>Restroom</b>	No
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<b>Camping</b>	Bucks Pocket State Park
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<b>Fees</b>	No
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<b>Rentals</b>	No
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## Town Creek

Town Creek Fishing Center offers a kayak launch free to the public, and has rentable kayaks, canoes, and boats. For this paddle, travel upriver into Town Creek as far as 2.5 miles. Along the way, spot Great Blue Herons nesting in the trees, otters chatting along the river banks, and bald eagles soaring high above.

<b>Location</b>	Town Creek Fishing Center
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<b>Type of Water</b>	Class I/Leisurely float
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<b>Type of Launch</b>	Kayak launch
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<b>Distance</b>	2.5 miles - one way
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<b>Accessibility</b>	No
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<b>Restroom</b>	Town Creek Fishing Center
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<b>Camping</b>	Lake Guntersville State Park
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<b>Fees</b>	No
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<b>Rentals</b>	Kayaks, canoes, and boats
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Lake Guntersville is one of the most popular locations to see Bald Eagles nesting, with one of the nests located along the Sunset Drive Walking Trail and several located within Lake Guntersville State Park.



## Lake Guntersville State Park Beach Paddle

Lake Guntersville State Park offers kayak rentals at the Beach Pavilion located in the day use area. Kayaks are rented by the hour and can be taken along the shores of the campground or just along the banks of the park. Both offer beautiful views of the park with amazing sunsets!

<b>Location</b>	Lake Guntersville State Park Beach
<b>Type of Water</b>	Class I/Leisurely float
<b>Type of Launch</b>	Sand launch
<b>Distance</b>	1 mile - one way
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restroom</b>	No
<b>Camping</b>	Lake Guntersville State Park Beach Pavilion
<b>Fees</b>	No
<b>Rentals</b>	Kayaks

## Short Creek

Paddling back to Dry Creek and inflow into Short Creek, pass along a sandbar where the cattails grow rampantly making great habitat for Red-Wing Blackbirds. The water along the shoreline is quite shallow creating many opportunities to view turtles and other species in the water. The kayak launch is located directly behind the ranger station at end of the fishing dock.

<b>Location</b>	Short Creek Boat Ramp, Alabama Highway 227
<b>Type of Water</b>	Class I/Leisurely float
<b>Type of Launch</b>	Kayak launch
<b>Distance</b>	2.5 miles - one way
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restroom</b>	Short Creek Ranger Station
<b>Camping</b>	Lake Guntersville State Park
<b>Fees</b>	No
<b>Rentals</b>	No

## Guntersville Civitan Park

Paddling along Sunset Drive offers beautiful views of the lake and many opportunities to view different types of wildlife, even paddling right by a bald eagle's nest! This paddle can be a bit choppy depending on the wind, so be prepared for some waves. Put in at the Civitan Park Boat Launch and paddle along Sunset Drive's shoreline.

<b>Location</b>	Guntersville Civitan Park
<b>Type of Water</b>	Class I and Class II
<b>Type of Launch</b>	Boat launch
<b>Distance</b>	2.6 miles - one way
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restroom</b>	Civitan Park
<b>Camping</b>	No
<b>Fees</b>	No
<b>Rentals</b>	No

## Hambrick Bat Cave

Launch on the north side of Guntersville Dam to paddle to Hambrick Bat Cave. The water can be choppy here depending on the water flow through the dam so be cautious. From launch it is about a 30-minute paddle upriver to reach the bat cave. Signs that signify the bat cave, "Gray Bat Sanctuary," will be visible. Be prepared and bring a red-light head lamp in case it is dark. Bats can only be seen emerging from April to October, and the cave is not accessible by land.

<b>Location</b>	Guntersville Dam Boat Launch, north side off of U.S. Hwy. 431
<b>Type of Water</b>	Class I, Class II, & Class III
<b>Type of Launch</b>	Boat launch
<b>Distance</b>	2 miles - round trip
<b>Accessibility</b>	No
<b>Restroom</b>	Guntersville Dam
<b>Camping</b>	TVA Public Land
<b>Fees</b>	No
<b>Rentals</b>	No



### Did You Know?

For guided kayak and boat tours to Hambrick Bat Cave, visit the Things to Do section on our website [www.ExploreLakeGuntersville.com](http://www.ExploreLakeGuntersville.com)





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