

# Associates Support Group Travel Recovery

## **Tour Smokies grows into Tour Tennessee.**

Last year U S Tours and Smoky Mountain Resorts married efforts and created "TourSmokies.com." According to Pete Smith, "the birth was successful, the formative first year as a local receptive just flew by and today we are proud to announce that our little company has grown into "Tour Tennessee."

As a Statewide Receptive Operator Tour Tennessee will serve the group tour market with the products that Tour Smokies sold last year and will add many new itineraries that were already being sold on U S Tours website. Together we launched a new site with group tour itineraries from The Mountains to the Mississippi River, featuring the best of Chattanooga, Nashville and Memphis.

Bob Cline, President of U S Tours said, "We've been talking about this since last winter, the first year profits from Tour Smokies was a real surprise and we felt this was a natural expansion. We already have the production and operation staff in place, so with a few modest little twists to our marketing we've created a larger business without any capital investment."

Cline said, "I'm not much of a salesman myself but I do so enjoy watching them work. Pamela Huey and Pete Smith are all over this and Steve Ellis is like a gopher in soft dirt digging up new opportunities. They have just finished training on the Special Events and themed itineraries that U S Tours has loaded onto the Tour Tennessee webpage and ready to start providing new products to old customers.

A few of the new Special Events available are Blue Christmas when U S Tours rents Graceland every December for a Holiday Tour. The National Quartet Convention (Spring & Fall) and Gaylord's Country Christmas in Nashville.

There are also quite a number of innovative itineraries and themed tours visiting multiple cities such as "The Big Bang of Country Music," "American Recording Studios," "The History of Country Music," "The Birth of Rock & Roll," "The MoJo Tour" combining Memphis & New Orleans, and several more.

According to Pete Smith, “we did a few things with our marketing partners here in the mountains that worked well for all of us. We were able to share several initiatives that allowed all of us to focus our dollars and efforts toward the same projects - that focus not only yielded bigger results, it collectively reduced our costs.”

“I hope we can bring these partnership concepts to our friends across the State and achieve some of the same success we had here in the Smokies. We were not aware of the Coronavirus when we started this and we had never heard of an economic shutdown, but now that we are in the middle of it. We think that partnership initiatives can help the entire State return to normal. We have to restart businesses and get our industry back to work. But we are also optimistically planning for growth.”



## **Alabama Tourist Attractions Reopens Amid Pandemic**

“As our state works to readjust to the rapidly evolving changes in our lives, we understand reopening needs to be done cautiously by adhering to CDC and health guidelines

### **Birmingham Area Attractions (Updated 7/17/20)**

**Current Operating Status - OPENED**

*For COVID-19 update-hours of operation logon to website*

**Alabama Adventure & Splash Adventure** <https://www.alabamasplash.com/>

**Aldridge Gardens** [www.aldridgegardens.com](http://www.aldridgegardens.com)

**Autobahn** **Indoor**

**Speedway** [www.autobahnspeed.com/locations/birmingham-al-indoor-go-karts/](http://www.autobahnspeed.com/locations/birmingham-al-indoor-go-karts/)

**Ave Maria Grotto** [www.avemariagrotto.com](http://www.avemariagrotto.com)

**Barber Motorsports Museum** [www.barbermuseum.org](http://www.barbermuseum.org)

**Bessemer Hall of History Museum** [www.bessemerhalloffhistory.org](http://www.bessemerhalloffhistory.org)

**Birmingham Botanical Gardens** <https://www.bbgardens.org/>

**Birmingham Zoo** [www.birminghamzoo.com](http://www.birminghamzoo.com)

**DeSoto Caverns** <https://www.desotocavernspark.com>

**Hear of Dixie Railroad Museum** [www.hodrrm.org](http://www.hodrrm.org)

**Market at Pepper Place** [www.pepperplacemarket.com](http://www.pepperplacemarket.com)

**McWane Science Center** [www.mcwane.org](http://www.mcwane.org)

**Railroad Park** <http://www.railroadpark.org>

**Red Mountain Park** [www.redmountainpark.org](http://www.redmountainpark.org)

**Ruffner Mountain Park** <https://ruffnermountain.org/>

**TopGolf** <https://topgolf.com/us/birmingham>

**The Pixel Room** [www.thepixelroombham.com](http://www.thepixelroombham.com)

**Vulcan Park & Museum** <https://visitvulcan.com/explore/covid-19-update/>

**Birmingham Area Attractions** (Updated 7/17/20)

**Current Operating Status - CLOSED**

*For COVID-19 update-hours of operation logon to website*

**Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame Museum** <https://jazzhall.com>

**Alabama Sports Hall of Fame** [www.ashof.org](http://www.ashof.org)

American Village [www.americanvillage.org](http://www.americanvillage.org)

Arlington Antebellum Home <https://www.arlingtonantebellumhomeandgardens.com/>

Bethel Baptist Church [www.bethelcollegeville.org](http://www.bethelcollegeville.org)

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute [www.bcri.org](http://www.bcri.org)

Birmingham Holocaust Education Center [bhecinfo.org](http://bhecinfo.org)

Birmingham Museum of Art [www.artsbma.org](http://www.artsbma.org)

*EWTN pilgrimage groups, tours, and live show audiences are cancelled until Sept. 1st. No new pilgrimage groups will be scheduled for the remainder of the year. [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com)*

International Motorsports Hall of Fame [www.motorsportshalloffame.com](http://www.motorsportshalloffame.com)

Negro Southern League Museum [birminghamnslm.org](http://birminghamnslm.org)

Sixteenth Street Baptist Church [www.16thstreetbaptist.org](http://www.16thstreetbaptist.org)

Sloss Furnaces <https://www.slossfurnaces.com/>

Southern Museum of Flight <http://www.southernmuseumofflight.org>

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## Huntsville Area Attractions (Updated 7/17/20)

Current Operating Status - OPENED

For COVID-19 update-hours of operation logon to website

[U.S. Space & Rocket Center](#) museum is open with [social distancing modifications](#) and pre-purchased, timed [tickets](#) are required. [Space Camp](#) has also resumed operations.

The [Alabama Constitution Hall Historic Park & Museum](#) and the [Historic](#)

**Huntsville Depot properties are now open with revised hours. Pre-purchased, timed tickets are required.**

The **Early Works Children's Museum** is open with **social distancing modifications**. Pre-purchased, timed **tickets** are required.

The **Huntsville Museum of Art** is open with **social distancing modifications**.

The special **tours and experiences of Touronimo** are accepting small groups.

**Huntsville Botanical Garden** is open with **social distancing modifications**.

Pre-purchased, timed **tickets** are required.

**Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment** is open with **social distancing modifications**.

**Burritt on the Mountain** is open with **social distancing modifications**.

**The Weeden House** is open for tours with **social distancing modifications**.

**Stovehouse** is **reopen with modifications**.

**Stars and Strikes** is open with social distancing modification.

**Rocket City Arcade** is open with social distancing modifications.

**Shenanigans Comedy Theatre** is open with social distancing modifications.

**Cathedral Caverns State Park** has started tours with **social distancing modifications**

All **Huntsville City recreation centers** are open along with playgrounds, splash pads and pools.

All branches of the **Huntsville-Madison County Public Library** are **offering curbside service**.

**Huntsville Stand Up Live** is open with **social distancing modifications**.

The [Huntsville Havoc office](#) is open in limited fashion inside the [Von Braun Center](#).

The 2020 [City Lights and Stars](#) concert series at Burritt on the Mountain will proceed with [new health and safety measures in place](#).

**Current Operating Status - CLOSED**

*For COVID-19 update-hours of operation logon to website*

Several concerts and events scheduled to take place at the Von Braun Center have been cancelled or postponed. [Visit the Von Braun Center's website](#) for more details.

The [U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum](#) is temporarily closed.

[Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theatre](#) will not be presenting any in-person shows, camps, or classes through the end of 2020.

The Thursday night [Biergarten at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center](#) has been postponed until further notice.

This year's Arts Huntsville [Concerts in the Park](#) series has been cancelled.

Spring/summer [Concerts on the Dock](#) at Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment have been cancelled.

Various shows in the [Tangled String Concert Series](#) are cancelled or postponed.

The 2020 [Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll](#) has been cancelled.

The 2020 [Madison Street Festival](#) has been cancelled.

The Zimsculpt exhibit at the Huntsville Botanical Garden has been postponed until further notice.

The [Land Trust of North Alabama Concerts at Three Caves](#) concert series schedule has been revised for 2020.

2020 [Hamfest](#) has been cancelled.

This year's [Microwave Dave Day](#) has been postponed. An alternative virtual event will take place on June 28 on the Microwave Dave YouTube channel.

This year's [Taste of Huntsville](#) has been cancelled and will resume in 2021.

The Tennessee Valley Jazz Society's [Jazz-N-June on the Mountain](#) has been postponed until 2021.

The [2020 Tennessee Valley Hunting and Fishing Expo](#) has been postponed. A new date is to be announced.

The next Downtown Huntsville's [Women in Music Weekend](#) will take place March 2021.

The [2020 SMD Symposium](#) will be a virtual-only event, starting August 4.

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## **Montgomery Area Attractions (Updated 7/17/20)**

**Current Operating Status - OPENED**

**For COVID-19 update-hours of operation logon to website**

**Alabama Safari Park - Open from 9-4**

**Civil Axe Throwing - OPEN - masks recommended**

**Escapology - OPEN Thurs - Sun 2pm - 8:30pm. Masks Required. COVID-19 protocol will be provided during reservation**

**EJI Legacy Museum and The National Memorial for Peace and Justice - Open M-F, 9am - 5pm, FREE of charge through December**

**F. Scott Fitzgerald Museum - OPENING Thursday, June 18, 10am to 2:30pm Thursday - Sat. The Airbnb Suites are currently available for booking.**

**The Department of Archives and History - Limited open beginning June 2nd for onsite access to the EBSCO Research Room by appointment.**

**Hanks Williams Museum - Open**

**Kick Back Ranch & Event Center - OPEN - Normal Hours - Pool, game room, fitness center and The Hitching Post only open to on-site residents.**

**Montgomery Zoo - OPEN. Visit their website [HERE](#) for details on updated operations.**

**The MOOseum - OPEN 8-3:30 closed for lunch 12-1 Groups 10 or less with temperature taken upon entrance**

**Old Alabama Town - OPEN**

**Rosa Parks - OPEN - 9 to 5 M-F. Face cover required. Groups no larger than 8.**

**W. A. Gayle Planetarium - OPEN for public shows Monday - Thursday @9:30 AM, 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM, Friday @ 9:30 AM (Face masks required for admission)**

**Windcreek Casino in Montgomery - OPEN**

**Montgomery Area Attractions (Updated 7/17/20)**

**Current Operating Status - CLOSED**

***For COVID-19 update-hours of operation logon to website***

**The Montgomery Visitor Center - closed until further notice.**

**Alabama Judicial Building - closed for tours**

**Alabama Shakespeare Festival - all shows are cancelled or postponed until further notice.**

**The Alabama State Capitol - closed**

**The Biscuit Basket at Riverwalk Stadium - closed until further notice**

**Biscuits Baseball - season cancelled**

**The Civil Rights Memorial/Visitor Center - closed until further notice**

**Dexter Avenue Baptist Church - closed until further notice**

**The First White House of the Confederacy - closed until further notice**

**The Freedom Rides Museum - closed until further notice**

**The Harriott 2 Riverboat - closed until further notice**

**Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Tours - closed until further notice**

**MLK Parsonage and Visitor Center - closed until further notice**

**Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts - closed until further notice**

**Montgomery Performing Arts Center - closed until further notice**

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## **Shoals Area Attractions (Updated 7/17/20)**

**Current Operating Status - OPENED**

**For COVID-19 update-hours of operation logon to website**

**FAME Recording Studio is open Mon through Fri, two tours each day, 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., and they are open from 10 a.m. .until 2 p.m. for tours on the hour. THESE ARE THEIR NORMAL HOURS.**

**Cypress Moon Studios are open for tours, Mon through Sat, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., NORMAL HOURS.**

**Ivy Green, Home of Helen Keller, is open for tours Regular hours, 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., Mon - Saturday**

**Ala Music Hall of Fame is open for tours, Regular hours, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., Tues - Saturday**

**Belle Mont Mansion is open for tours, Regular Hours, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.,  
Wed. - Saturday**

**Coon Dog Cemetery is open daylight hours, every day (Regular hours)**

**Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve is open Fri, Sat, Sun and all Federal  
holidays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Normal Hours**

**Current Operating Status - CLOSED**

**Muscle Shoals Sound, 3614 Jackson Highway, Sheffield, AL is closed from  
June 21 through July 31.**

**The Tennessee Valley Museum of Art has closed again.**