



Vulcan Park

20 Must-Know Facts About Birmingham

1. Birmingham was founded in 1871 – AFTER the Civil War.
2. It was founded partially because two railroads crossed in this valley, but primarily because it was the only place on the globe where all 3 ingredients for ironmaking (iron, limestone and coal) were all found in sufficient quantity, quality and close togetherness.
3. It was called the Magic City because it grew so fast in the late 1800's – "like magic".
4. The Birmingham region's current population is 1,100,000.
5. Birmingham's primary industries are banking & finance, education, construction, publishing and automotive.
6. When Regions Bank acquired AmSouth, it created the 8th largest bank in America – plus added 1,000 net new jobs a year after the merger (over the previous sum of both banks' employment prior to the merger).
7. UAB is the largest employer in the state with 19,000 students and 20,000 employees. In *U.S. News & World Report's* annual "America's Best Hospitals" issue. Out of all 6,007 hospitals in the nation, only 176 ranked in even a single specialty. Two UAB Hospital specialty programs made the Top 10 and nine specialty programs are ranked. Rheumatology was ranked sixth for an unprecedented 14th consecutive year; and heart surgery has leaped from 25th to 10th during the last two years.
8. Southern Research Institute is the leading private research institute in the country in the field of drug discovery and development.
9. Birmingham is a major ground transportation hub. The completion of I-22 by 2010 will give Birmingham six interstate spokes emanating from its center. No other city in the southeast has more and only Atlanta and Nashville have as many.
10. Birmingham ranked #1 in the nation in income growth over the past 25 years according to a new Bizjournals study that looks at 25 years of change in per capita income in the 100 largest metropolitan areas in the country.
11. The US banking industry has been consolidating since interstate banking restrictions were repealed in 1994. Even after the most recent acquisitions, Birmingham currently ranks 7th in the nation for headquartered banking assets, despite being ranked 48th in population.
12. Birmingham is emerging as a major "foodie" destination: in *Eat, Drink, Manhattan*, the foodie page in *The New York Times* Sunday magazine quoted celebrity restaurateur Danny Meyer as saying "Birmingham is one of the up-and-coming food cities." And from a lead article in the international news magazine "The Week" came this headline: *Birmingham: An unlikely gourmet destination*. "The restaurant scene has flourished, garnering raves from leading food magazines and food lovers from around the country."

13. Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort and Spa on the Robert Trent Jones Golf trail is 8,191 yards long, making it the 3rd longest golf course *in the world*. *Golf Digest* calls it “one of the top-50 golf trips in the world.”
14. The Porsche Driving Experience at Barber Motorsports plus the Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa made the Robb report’s (the luxury lifestyle publication) list as a “destination on par with Antigua and the Californian coastline.”
15. Following U.S. Steel’s donation, a 1,108 acre tract has been put together by the Black Warrior-Cahaba Rivers Land Trust that will result in the establishment of Red Mountain Park. This large park will extend for 4.5 miles along ridge top and adjacent lands in southwestern Birmingham. With the creation of this park, according to the Trust for Public Land, Birmingham will have 17.9 acres of public green space per 1,000 residents, ahead of top ranked Minneapolis with 14.3 acres per 1,000 residents.
16. And for the drinking crowd: Just this May, Lou’s Pub was ranked by *Esquire* Magazine as one of the “best bars in America.” This followed a cover story in *GQ* Magazine titled *Ten Bars Worth Flying For* which ranked the top ten bars in the world (including bars in Cairo, Montreal, Tokyo, Venice, Havana, New Orleans and New York City) where Birmingham’s “The Garages” ranked #2 overall for its “eclectic, authentic charm.”
17. Workplay Theatre was just named among America’s 40 best music venues in *Paste* Magazine.
18. Birmingham’s Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival was named one of “ten fantastic film festival vacations” along with New Orleans, Austin and San Diego, *Film Festival Today*, Spring, 2003. “The September fest in the theater district of Birmingham is an industry favorite, named a MovieMaker ‘film festival worth the entry fee’ and one of Chris Gore’s best film-festival vacations.” *Time Magazine*, June, 2006.
19. The Barber Motorsports Park is considered the “Augusta National” of racing and the home of the Porsche Driving Experience, a \$1,500 a day driving school for auto enthusiasts. At the heart of the park is a 2.3 mile long, 45 foot wide road course. “Without a doubt, (the Barber Motorsports Park is) the most beautiful and demanding facility in North America.”
20. Vulcan is the largest iron figure ever cast and is second in size only to the Statue of Liberty in the United States of America. It was cast in 1904 as Birmingham’s announcement to the world at the St. Louis World’s Fair about the strength of our industry.



Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort and Spa
