

The best weekend activities in the Shoals for families

Whether you are a tourist here for a getaway or a seasoned local looking to shake up your family's weekend routine, these five local attractions will be fun for the whole family.

The Children's Museum

Florence

Watch your child's imagination come alive and learn about the world around them at this [museum](#) made just for kids. Here, your child can be a veterinarian and treat sick stuffed animals, hammer and drill away in the construction zone, or mine for gems in the outdoor mine camp. With over 20 immersive experiences, your child is sure to find something that sparks their interest. General admission is \$10 per family member, and the recommended ages for children are 10 and under.

Cane Creek Nature Preserve

Tuscumbia

If you are looking to veer off the beaten path, look no further than [Cane Creek Nature Preserve](#). Less than 20 minutes outside of Tuscumbia, you and your family can hike, explore, and take in the scenic beauty of the Little Mountain region without being too far away from the comforts of home. On 700 acres with over 15 maintained hiking trails that range from beginner to intermediate, there will definitely be a route that suits your family's ability level. For a special treat, pack a picnic lunch and eat by the waterfall.

River Heritage Park Splash Pad

Florence

Summers in the Shoals can be sweltering, and the [splash pad](#) at River Heritage Park is the perfect antidote to escape the Alabama heat. Watch as your kids run in and out of the soaring water jets, or even join in on the fun. A playground is located directly next to the splash pad that includes a rock climbing wall and a smaller jungle gym for toddlers. In the evenings, you and your family can kick back and watch the light/water show set to music connected to the Shoals area.

Helen Keller Birthplace

Tuscumbia

Introduce your kids to a piece of local history and learn about where it all began for disability rights advocate and political activist Helen Keller. See Keller's complete library of Braille books and her original Braille typewriter, step inside the cottage where she and her teacher Anne Sullivan lived throughout most of her adolescence, and touch the famous water pump that allowed Sullivan to break into Keller's

dark world. Museum hours are Monday-Saturday 8:30 AM - 4 PM, and Sunday 1-4 PM. Visit their [website](#) for more details.

First Fridays

Florence

In the evening on the first Friday of every month between March-December, Florence's historical downtown hosts a [festival](#) where arts and culture come alive. Begin your night with dinner at any one of downtown's delicious eateries, then walk the streets lined with local vendor's booths. You can find anything from baked goods to handmade knives and jewelry at this local outdoor market. Before you leave, be sure to stop by Mobile Street to listen to live music from local musicians.