

Decatur, Alabama, USA

Known as The River City, Decatur sits on the Tennessee River with Victorian neighborhoods, world-famous Alabama White BBQ sauce, and a surprisingly world-class natural science museum.

Pier (docked) Typical call: 6-8 hrs US Dollar English Shuttle to downtown recommended

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier-docked at Rhodes Ferry Park or Ingalls Harbor — no tendering

Best For: Southern BBQ, Civil War history, Victorian architecture, birdwatching

Walk to center: 1.5–2 miles from dock; cruise shuttles provided to Bank Street

Don't Miss: Big Bob Gibson Bar-B-Q — birthplace of Alabama White Sauce since 1925

Getting around: Taxi \$5–\$15 · Rideshare Uber, Lyft

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Cook Museum of Natural Science** — A world-class interactive museum featuring a 15,000-gallon saltwater aquarium, live bee colony, terrariums, and hands-on earth science exhibits...
- **Old Decatur & Albany Historic Districts** — Stroll two of Alabama's best-preserved Victorian neighborhoods — Old Decatur dates to the 1830s railroad era, while Albany features late-19th-century...
- **Big Bob Gibson Bar-B-Q Pilgrimage** — This legendary pit was the birthplace of Alabama White Sauce — a tangy mayo-and-vinegar creation from 1925 that's won multiple World BBQ Championships.
- **Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge** — One of the Southeast's most important refuges, with wetlands, forests, and open fields.
- **Civil War Decatur Walking Tour** — Decatur changed hands multiple times during the Civil War, with only four brick buildings surviving near-total destruction.

BEST WALKS

- **Bank Street & Old Decatur Historic Loop** ~1.5 miles · 30-45 min · Easy — From the shuttle drop at Bank Street, walk through the commercial historic district, past the Princess Theatre's Art Deco marquee, then loop through Old Decatur's...
- **Rhodes Ferry Park Riverfront Walk** ~0.75 miles · 20 min · Easy — A short stroll along the Tennessee River waterfront from the dock area through Rhodes Ferry Park, with river views, historical markers about the Civil War and Trail of...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)			
	Mon	High	Low
Apr		62°	43°
Jun		83°	65°
Aug		82°	67°
Sep		78°	62°
Oct		65°	49°
			Rain
			12d
			12d
			12d
			7d
			10d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Apr 6:17AM–7:34PM · Jun 5:27AM–8:25PM · Aug 6:08AM–7:51PM · Sep 6:37AM–7:03PM · Oct 7:06AM–6:15PM	

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Take the ship's shuttle. The pier is 1.5–2 miles from downtown. Nearly all river cruise lines offer complimentary hop-on/hop-off service to Bank Street — use it.
- Alabama White Sauce is the reason to come. Big Bob Gibson Bar-B-Q invented it in 1925. It's a short rideshare from downtown and absolutely worth the trip.
- Winter visitors: don't miss Wheeler Refuge. November through January brings 20,000+ Sandhill Cranes and rare Whooping Cranes to the refuge just outside town.
- Summer calls are hot and humid. June–August temps routinely hit 90°F+ with high humidity. Light clothing, a hat, and water are non-negotiable.
- Sunday closures apply. Decatur is in the Bible Belt — many boutique shops, the Carnegie Arts Center, and some local restaurants close Sundays. The Cook Museum stays open.
- Rideshares work but can be slow. Uber and Lyft operate in Decatur, but in a smaller city response times can reach 10-15 minutes. Plan buffer time before all-aboard.

Decatur, Alabama, USA — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Old State Bank Alabama's oldest bank, now a historic museum.

3 Cook Museum of Natural Science Modern museum showcasing natural science exhibits and live animals.

5 Rhodes Ferry Park Riverfront park with playgrounds, walking paths, and ferry history.

P Cruise port / terminal

2 Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center Explore Alabama's first national wildlife refuge.

4 Wilson Morgan Park Large park with sports fields, walking trails, and playgrounds.

6 Delano Park Historic park featuring a beautiful rose garden and walking paths.