

NOSTALGIC  
MACON  
COUNTY

• EST. •

1842

MACON COUNTY,  
TENNESSEE



A TRAVEL GUIDE



# **MACON COUNTY WELCOMES YOU!**



*A stream ripples through the valley separating the corn field and the tobacco plants. In the foreground, cooled from the summer's morning sun, sets a small church nestled among a cluster of shade trees. Voices singing praise rise from the steeple and filter through the stained glass windows. Their echo will soon be replaced by sounds of children running and playing, laughter and conversation – "I'll take seconds from that dish of fried chicken."*

**This is the heart of Macon County;**  
**its people and their values, living amidst the**  
**scenic beauty of the Upper Cumberland's hills**  
**and valleys composing the Highland Rim Plateau.**

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On the cover: The historical beauty of the stately Macon County Courthouse, circa 1933, sits on the public square in Lafayette, TN. This is the fourth Macon County Courthouse, having lost the first three courthouses to fire. It is partially surrounded by the original ornate iron fence that was added with the third Macon County Courthouse in 1901. Many shopping venues and other activities are found in this locale and will in all likelihood create new opportunities in this vintage courthouse area, county seat of Lafayette.

You are invited to enjoy a special collection of adventurous and beloved travel destinations scattered throughout Macon County, in the communities of Lafayette & Red Boiling Springs.

Lying on the Highland Rim, and becoming a county on January 18, 1842, Macon County will let the cares of the day gently guide you through these past and present memories of your travels through our friendly and picturesque countryside.

**1.**

## Measure Up - IAG



Located on Freeman Street in Lafayette, Measure Up is a refined and refreshing option for men's and lady's fashion shirts. They have been creating bespoke shirts for 35 years. Get the finest construction, high-end fabrics, personal measurements and styling selections, even hand-

stitched detailing if you like, and own the shirt that will always gather all the compliments! They began operation in 1990 in a location near the public square, and moved in 2003 to the "Silk Mill" building, as it is known in Lafayette, with renovation underway. This facility was built in 1947 by Kingsboro Silk Mills, Inc. The name changed to Genesco - Formfit Rogers in 1960. They had manufactured lingerie here for decades. One of the larger employers in Macon County, Measure Up currently employs approximately 75 employees at this location, with production now including their custom shirts, ready-made Gitman Brothers & Gitman Vintage shirts, and custom On Call Medical Coats. The architectural design of the building has drawn many designers to visit this monumental, rounded-cornered 29,544 square foot building that is three-quarters of a century old, but in a sense gives the aspect of being a more innovative modern structure.



# Explore Lafayette's Downtown

## 2. Gibson's Cafe

Dine in the 1850's building that served as the first Macon County Post Office. The oldest brick structure in Lafayette is made from brick fired in the old brick yard here. You can step back in time

where historic photos are depicted of past figures and places amidst history that surrounds you. All of this while you enjoy the delicious food prepared by Miles and Ginger and served daily at Gibson's Café.



## 3. McClard's Gifts

Enjoy the nostalgic atmosphere of McClard's Gifts with its' original 1950's old-fashioned soda fountain and ice cream bar with retro design. Here you may order ice cream

and soda selections as refreshing and delectable as the waitress can create, and an assortment of appetizing sandwiches are always available. McClards has an excellent display of beautiful jewelry, glassware and dishes, and other great gift ideas.



## 4. 615 Boutique & Macon Dept. Store

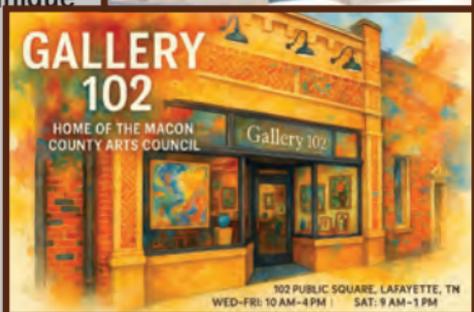
Don't overlook the quaint 615 Boutique, a chic clothier that is extremely popular with the junior in-crowd, and ladies looking to be dressed just right. Footwear and fashion accessories are readily available to complete each stylish outfit.



Located on the other side of the square is Macon Department Store with high-end fabric clothing for ladies & guys. Select name brand shoes, and current styles for either men or ladies can be found here. Don't leave without looking over the selection of charming children's clothing that is available.

## 5. Gallery 102

Gallery 102, a lovely art gallery with artful accents and sentimental keepsakes, is positioned on the Lafayette square. A distinctive collection of creative works by local artists including outstanding fine art pieces, crafts and literary works by local authors are all represented in this unique shop. All displayed works at Gallery 102 are available for pleasant viewing and for purchase.



## 6. The Health Nut

The Health Nut is located at 212 Public Square and offers therapy for your pleasure, relaxation, and ailments. Let their Professional Massage Therapist apply bodywork oil/cream to perform your Swedish Relaxation Massage, or try the Therapeutic/Deep Massage to relieve below the surface muscles and tissue.

While there, browse their variety of health products that will keep you restored and stimulated while on your travel adventure.



## 7. Southern Shave & Brew Company

Also on the Lafayette Square, a new coffee and shaved ice cozy space, Southern Shave and Brew Company, allows you to enjoy hot or cold refreshments while catching up on school work, or other work using available WIFI. Items made by local artisans are on display in the store for your "take home gift" including scented homemade soaps & an assortment of unique & colorful candles.



## 8. Lafayette Cinema

Just off the square, the Lafayette Cinema, built in the 1930's, is a family-friendly theater showing first-run movies in Digital Cinema with Surround Sound on a 30'screen. Open on Friday, Saturday, Monday & Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday Matinee at 4:00 p.m. Sunday Matinee and Monday Family Night admittance is only \$3.00 per person. Enjoy the always fresh concessions available at our 300 seat theater in climate controlled comfort. You won't believe our prices!



# Get Outdoors in Lafayette

The City of Lafayette has three beautiful city parks located within the city limits. All parks have extensive shade, pavilions and picnic tables. Each has adequate parking, and a public bathroom.

## Key Park

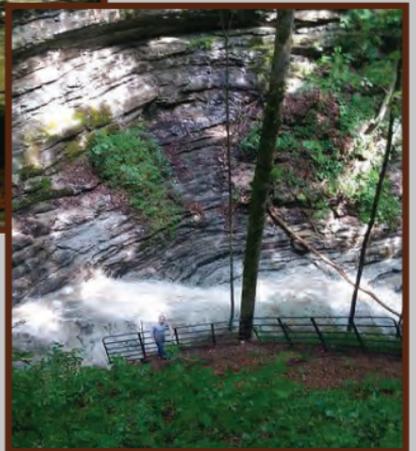
Key Park boasts a mile Walking Track, an authentic Historic Log Cabin, circa 1840, whose family owned the land from which Lafayette was taken. A large playground for children and time-limited RV parking with hookups are found here. Key Park is Located just off the public square on Church Street.

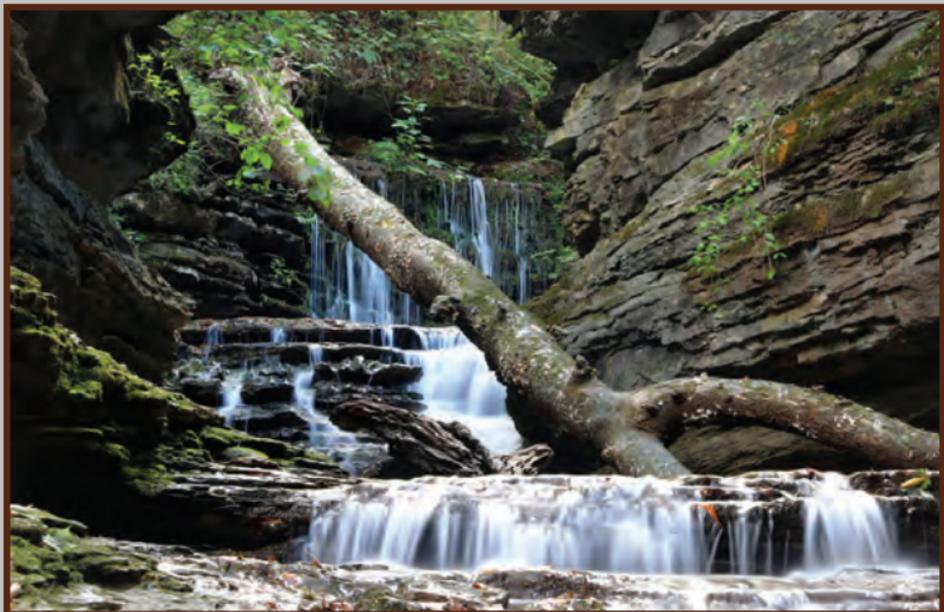


# Winding Stairs Nature Trails & Park

Most recently, the Winding Stairs Nature Trails and Park, opened with a variety of walking and hiking trails. The Winding Stairs Falls drop over 200' into a deep rock gorge with numerous droplets from small streams creating cascades resembling stair steps – hence, Winding Stairs. Flora, fauna and trees are identified for educational purposes. Deer and other wildlife, an ADA overlook, a new log cabin and rest area are found here. This park is located on Nature Trail Way just off Hwy 52 Bypass, West.

**Voted #1 park on yelp!**





# Lafayette City Park

Lafayette City Park caters to youngsters & adults in this activity-filled park. Playground equipment, basketball courts, pickleball court, tennis courts, a short walking track through a natural area, and a public swimming pool are some advantages of this park. The Babe Ruth Baseball Park adjoins City Park which is located on Days Road.



# Red Barn Winery & Vineyards and Lone Hickory Farm

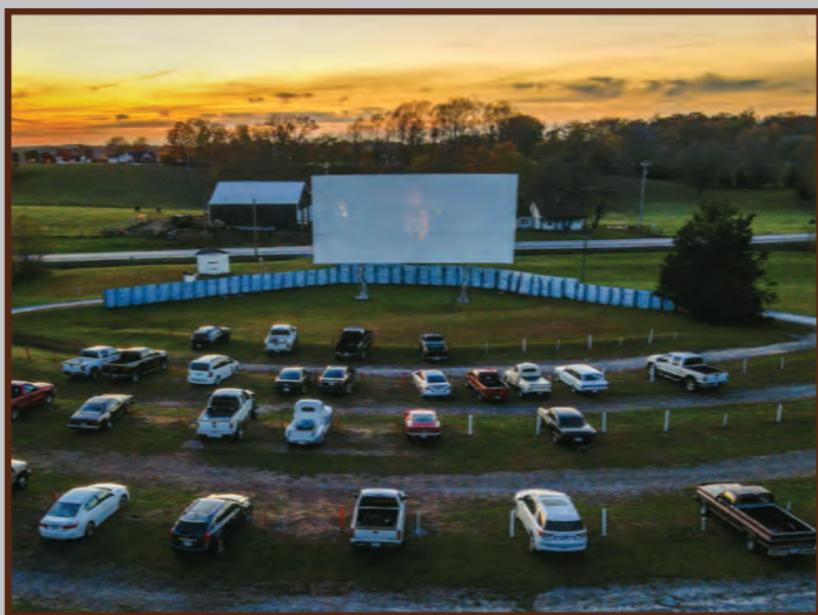
Travel from Lafayette via Hwy 52, East to Tanyard Road where you will find the Red Barn Winery & Vineyards and Lone Hickory Farm. Each business provides scenic beauty, satisfying tastes, and irresistible produce & flora. These businesses are located across from each other.



## Macon Drive-In

Macon Drive-In built in 1950, is open nine months a year, seven nights a week. Located on Highway 10N in Lafayette, the drive-in is the second oldest continuously operating drive-in cinema still open in Tennessee. They show first-run movies and have great concessions.

Admission for adults to 10 years, \$6.00, ages 5-9, \$3.00, age 4 and under, free. Showtime at dusk, around 7:30 p.m.



# Macon County Golf Course

If golf is your pleasure, try the Macon County Golf Course located on Putter Lane, just off Long Creek Road from Hwy 52 Bypass, W. This 9-hole semi-private golf course with beautiful bent grass greens, offers stunning natural landscape where available transportation around the course can be arranged from the golf pro-shop.



## Sun Dial

An amazing historical landmark in Macon County can be seen at 5964 New Harmony Road. This unique piece of art in the form of a concrete Sun Dial is reputedly the largest in the world and was constructed by extremely talented Elmer L. White in 1918 - 1920 on his farm. It is 30' tall and keeps correct time. The Sun Dial has never shifted since it was built over a century ago. Please respect owners' privacy on your tour from the roadway.



# Peddler's Ridge

If you are seeking scenic beauty, especially in the fall of the year, or after snow has fallen, you must make a trip to Peddler's Ridge aka/ Drury Ridge Road. This country road winds around, goes up and down hills and through valleys overlooking beautiful panoramic views. Drive slowly and continue the loop-around to State Route 10 going south when leaving Lafayette.



# Red Boiling Springs

In the late 1800's and early 1900's, the hamlet of Red Boiling Springs was a bustling mineral resort town, attracting wealthy vacationers like President Woodrow Wilson and other guests who were attracted to wellness tourism and "taking the waters". Visitors could take "red", "black", "double and twist" or any of the waters for its' effects on the person who consumed the water, or bathed in it. Today, three Historic Hotel owners serve the best meals around and welcome everyone to enjoy the beauty of a quaint, peaceful, welcoming small village. Two beautiful covered bridges, a pedestrian bridge, a Walking Quilt Trail and five small parks are nestled among the shady coolness and almost private area these charming Red Boiling Springs parks have to offer.

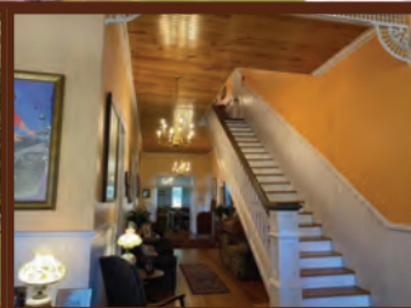


This original Red Boiling Springs Bank (later Macon Bank & Trust) brick building was built in 1928 from locally fired bricks. It is the oldest commercial building left in the downtown business district and is on the National Register of Historical Places. It is being restored to its original look and will house the Red Boiling Springs Heritage Museum upon completion.



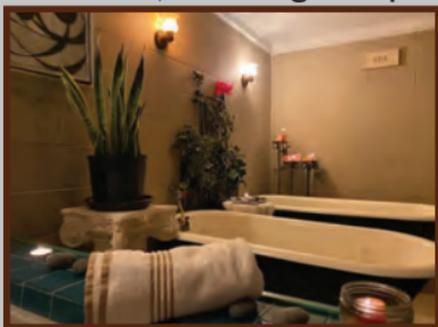
## Donoho Hotel

The recently remodeled Donoho Hotel in Red Boiling Springs was built in 1916 and has 37 rooms to accommodate the public and a dining hall that can host 128 people. It has a concert venue that regularly features country music and other talent. On most holidays, and every second and fourth Sunday, a family-style lunch is open to non-guests as well.



## Armour's Hotel and Spa

The 1924 - or older - Armour's Hotel and Spa has the last remaining mineral bath in the area that's open to the public. Guests can book rooms or suites and utilize one of two side-by-side bathtubs filled full with healing mineral waters just as tourists used to enjoy a century ago. At mealtime, guests can enjoy meals that are delicious, and gives the satisfaction of being "filled to the brim". Afterwards, a relaxing front-porch visit will be a welcome treat.



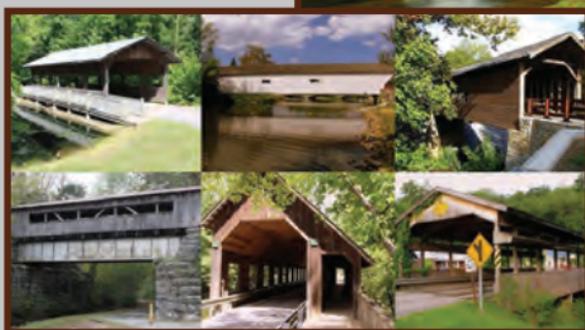
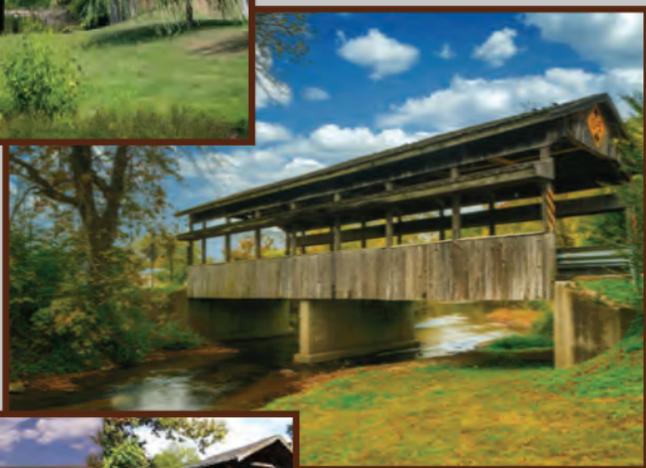
# Thomas House Hotel

Thomas House Hotel has been in operation since 1890 and offers 15 rooms to be rented to the public. During the past decade, it has become a hotspot for ghost tourism since a former resident "Abigail" is said to haunt the hotel. This spooky fix brings tourists back for fright nights. Seven generations of beautiful family antiques can be found throughout the hotel. Visit during Ghost Hunt Weekends and receive a guided ghost hunt tour. And, at mealtime you will not be left hungry.



## Covered Bridges

Two covered bridges are located in Red Boiling Springs. One bridge is located at 32 Church Street, and the other bridge is found on Valley View Drive. These nostalgic covered bridges pay homage to the Historic Hotels in Red Boiling Springs and make a great photo option for photographic needs.



# A Creek Runs Through It!

Looking for something to do while in Red Boiling Springs? Visit either or all of the five beautiful city parks. Each is unique within itself, but each has electricity and lighting, covered pavilions, picnic tables, grills and playground equipment. All of this entertainment plus the beauty of nature and surroundings at these parks. A creek runs through it!

The Red Boiling Springs Park and the Red Boiling Springs City Park are both located on East Main Street near the historic hotels.

## Red Boiling Springs Park and the



## Red Boiling Springs City Park



On the other side of town on Main Street are the other three city parks. Palace Amusement Park and Bilbrey Park are located on Main Street, while Blue Cross Park is found on Old Lake Road just beyond Main Street. All of these parks are within walking distance of each other. Each park has a bathroom facility.

## Palace Amusement Park



## Bilbrey Park



## Blue Cross Park





**TENNESSEE**  
SOUNDS PERFECT

**M**acon County  
**C**hamber of Commerce  
*YOUR BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION*





Image of Macon County's King Crop, Tobacco. This tobacco has been cut, is hanging in the tobacco barn drying for stripping, to haul to Tobacco Warehouse for expected, wonderful return on this crop that took a lot of hard work. Macon County farmers have relied on their allotted share of this cash crop to feed and clothe family from decades past. Currently, tobacco crops are much fewer, but are far greater patches.

**TENNESSEE**  
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**CM** Macon County  
Chamber of Commerce

*YOUR BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION*

**Macon County Chamber of Commerce**

**685 Highway 52 ByPass, West**

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**615-666-5885**

**[Maconcountychamber.org](http://Maconcountychamber.org)**

**[Visitmaconcountyttn.com](http://Visitmaconcountyttn.com)**

This guide was prepared by the Chamber as a Travel Guide to Macon County, Tennessee. Photographs are property of the Chamber and courtesy of online Macon County Historical Society photos available to public. Some reference to History of Macon County book was helpful.