

Escort Notes



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The correct pronunciation of the city's name is "Mo-beel", given the soft emphasis on the second syllable by its French founders. It came from the Maubilla Indians and eventually became Mobile as spelled today.

Mobile is the **Azalea Capital of the World**, displaying more than 50 varieties in colors from paper white to pink, red and translucent lavender. Thanks to Fifise Langlois who first brought the bright pink blossoms here from his father's garden in Toulouse, France in 1754.

Mobile is **home to the original Mardi Gras** in this country, instituted in 1704, sixty-two years before New Orleans adopted the celebration.

Mobile Bay was the first body of water in the New World to be accurately charted. This was done by the Spanish explorer Pineda in 1519.

Mobile is **home to nationally televised** events: the LPGA Tournament of Champions (November), GMAC College football bowl game (December) Senior Bowl football game (January), and the America's Junior Miss Pageant (July).

Mobile Bay holds the **second largest natural gas reserve** in the world.

Mobile is the home of notables **Jimmy Buffet** (entertainer), **Hank Aaron** (baseball Hall of Fame) and **Winston Groom** (author of the novel *Forrest Gump*).

Five Hall of Fame Baseball players were born in the Mobile area: Billy Williams (Chicago Cubs), Willie McCovey (San Francisco Giants), Satchel Paige (Negro League/Atlanta Braves), Ozzie Smith (St. Louis Cardinals) and Hammerin' Hank Aaron (Atlanta Braves).

Visit the **Hank Aaron Museum opening in April 2010** on the grounds of Hank Aaron Stadium, home of the Mobile Bay Bears (AA Minor League Baseball).

The Museum of Mobile housed in the old Mobile City Hall is the **oldest continuous City Hall in the United States** still in use today. When it was first built, the building housed a Southern market on its ground floor and also held a Social Center where Mobilians went to socialize and be entertained.



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