

LEAD THE GREATEST TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR TIME.

» Living Here

Life Style: Balancing Big-City Convenience and Small-Town Comfort

The Tennessee Valley provides an exceptional number of residential options. For example, the city of Madison, AL, just west of Cummings Research Park and growing at the rate of 5% a year, attracts many young families. Within the Huntsville city limits, fast-growing 2,800-acre Hampton Cove community contains three Robert Trent Jones Golf Trails, a Nature Preserve, 28 lakes, several parks and more than 20 miles of community sidewalks and paths.

Another plus is that centrally located Huntsville has become a leader in advanced and preventive healthcare. A regional core of excellence in medical technology, the area offers state-of-the-art facilities for residents in North Alabama and south central Tennessee. In fact, the publicly owned Huntsville Hospital offers surgical, intensive care and other specialized medical services, while Crestwood Medical Center, the city's privately operated hospital, provides a similar array of healthcare services. Several specialized healthcare agencies and a host of social service agencies also provide community resources and treatment options throughout the entire Tennessee Valley region.

Life Style: Retirement & Senior Living

It isn't hard to understand what makes the Tennessee Valley so inviting to retirees and seniors looking for a comfortable environment in which to live. From the majestic scenery to the vibrant communities to the rich cultures of the area and more, the region offers life style options that are difficult to match anywhere else.

Life Style: The Political Side of the Tennessee Valley

It doesn't matter what party you affiliate yourself with. You'll find political activities in the Valley just as engaging as they are on Capitol Hill — although you may have to dig just a little deeper to get involved in them. You can start by reading up on Congressman Bud Cramer, who represents Madison County in the 5th District. Or, if you'd like to learn more about the general history and projects going on in the region, the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce provides information about the Alabama state government and legislature, while the Tennessee General Assembly offers information about that state's activities. You can also find out more about Alabama's or Tennessee's political environment through US Politics Today.



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»» Retirement Communities

Imagine retiring in a place where you can enjoy a climate that changes gently with the seasons, fine dining every night, exclusive shopping venues, family entertainment centers and every outdoor activity possible. If you're ready to spend less time working and more time enjoying the finer things in life — from rounds of golf on championship courses, to fishing, boating and other water activities, to enjoying an abundance of fine arts events throughout the year — there is no better place for you to be than in the Tennessee Valley. Whether you choose to live in one of the area's exclusive retirement communities, or find a neighborhood that better suits your needs, you'll experience everything from the traditional to the trendy, and every aspect of what you're sure to consider the "good life."

Senior Care Communities

Individuals who are in need of additional assistance to help them through their daily routines can easily find their place here in the Tennessee Valley. Not only is centrally located Huntsville a leader in advanced and preventive healthcare offering an impressive array of standard and urgent care facilities, but the region also supports a variety of elderly living environments. There are a number of nursing homes and assisted living communities throughout the region that can provide for and support whatever special needs you may have. And, since the area provides easy access to surrounding neighborhoods and shopping venues and offers many other options for activities and excursions, you won't be disappointed by the opportunities to continue experiencing the best that life has to offer.

Homes in the Area

It's actually possible. The house of your dreams may be here in the Tennessee Valley, and you'll have fun finding it. For example, the Huntsville/Madison County neighborhood offers many options sure to meet your needs. Huntsville features a healthy and growing economy, with a steady housing market. In fact, housing prices in this market are 22% below the national average. You can find a starter home for around \$100,000, up to a 3-bedroom brick home for just \$250,000. There are even several custom homes and neighborhoods available that offer lakes, walking trails, mountain views and other high-end amenities. Or, if you prefer something a bit more rustic, you might find a 1920s cottage or an antebellum home in one of the historic districts. And, if you would like to spread out on a few acres, the outskirts of the country present small, secluded farms with stables.



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»» **Home Costs in Huntsville Compared with Other Metro Areas**

The chart below depicts the purchase price of a new home with a 2,400 square-foot living area on an 8,000 square-foot lot in an urban area, with all utilities.

Metropolitan Area	Purchase Price	Monthly Mortgage Payment
Huntsville	\$256,528	\$1,138
Washington, DC	\$647,135	\$2,972
Denver, CO	\$350,433	\$1,602
Chicago, IL	\$347,708	\$1,613
Seattle, WA	\$456,083	\$2,115
Orlando, FL	\$301,937	\$1,413

Source: American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association (ACCRA) Cost of Living Index, 3rd Quarter 2005.

For more information about all the local communities in the Tennessee Valley area, please visit the Tennessee Valley Information Center.

Life Style: Demographics

Families from around the United States and the world have been settling in the Tennessee Valley more and more in recent years, bringing a population filled with the diverse nuances of global cultures to this cosmopolitan area. There are approximately 168,000+ residents within the Huntsville city limits, and more than 10% of them are natives of other countries speaking more than 100 languages and dialects.

	City of Huntsville	Madison County
Population	164,146	293,072
Median Age	36.7	35.7
Race		
White	64.5%	72.1%
Black	30.2%	22.8%
Asian	2.2%	1.9%
Other	3.1%	3.2%
Education		
% High School Degree	85.7%	85.4%
% College Degree	36.1%	34.3%
% Foreign Born	4.9%	4.0%
Median Family Income	\$52,202	\$54,360
Median Home Value	\$97,300	\$103,300
Mean Travel Time to Work	18.3 min.	20.9 min.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov)



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» Life Style: Cost of Living: www.tennessee-valley.org/tv_region/cost_living.html
 If you'd like to experience a high quality of life with one of the lowest cost of living indexes in America — about 10% below the national average — the Tennessee Valley presents an environment that will exceed your expectations. You'll enjoy its top schools, various houses of worship, safe streets, easy commutes without daily traffic gridlock and fine shopping.

City	100% Composite Index	16% Grocery Items	28% Housing	8% Utilities	10% Transportation	5% Health Care	33% Misc. Goods & Services
Philadelphia	123.2	127.7	135.3	122.0	113.3	116.1	115.1
San Diego	146.9	109.0	229.0	97.5	118.8	122.9	117.1
Cleveland	102.5	109.7	101.6	119.0	102.0	99.9	96.3
Denver	101.6	106.4	105.2	87.5	96.0	106.5	101.7
Raleigh	93.8	102.6	75.8	102.6	107.4	109.5	97.6
Columbus	100.1	106.9	96.8	103.7	105.9	100.1	97.7
Phoenix	96.8	100.7	88.8	92.9	102.3	99.5	101.3
Atlanta	96.0	95.0	91.6	86.7	106.3	110.4	98.3
Charlotte	93.4	98.0	81.6	79.1	105.1	103.6	101.4
St. Louis	96.3	103.0	89.2	97.3	104.5	98.9	97.1
Dallas	91.7	91.6	75.5	103.8	102.3	100.8	97.8
Nashville	95.1	107.4	75.7	85.0	97.6	101.5	108.0

Source: ACCRA Cost of Living Index, First Quarter 2005 (U.S. Average=100)

Home Listings & Home-Buying Guides

- Huntsville Area Association of Realtors/Home Listings
- Spring Tour of Homes
- Parade of Homes
- Homes for Today
- Area's Best Homes
- Homes and Land Magazine
- North Alabama Real Estate Showcase
- Huntsville/Madison County Builders Association

Apartments & Condominiums

As the Tennessee Valley economy continues to grow, an increasing number of short- and long-term housing opportunities also evolve, including apartments and condominiums. These developments feature lakes, trails, fitness centers and many other amenities. Or, you could take advantage of a new or renovated mid-rise condo in Huntsville that would offer a scenic view, with price ranges that are sure to please everyone from singles to families to retirees.



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» **Comparison of Apartment Rental in Huntsville and Other Metro Areas**

The following chart reflects the monthly rent for an unfurnished 2-bedroom, 1-1/2 or 2 bath, 950 square-foot apartment, excluding all utilities except water:

Metropolitan Area	Monthly Rent
Huntsville	\$615
Denver, CO	\$809
Orlando, FL	\$792
Chicago, IL	\$1463
Seattle, WA	\$1416
Washington, DC	\$1,779

Source: American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association (ACCRA) Cost of Living Index, 2rd Quarter 2007.

Find the Right Apartment for You:

- Apartment Finder
- Apartment Guide

Life Style: Schools & Universities

Whatever choice you make, you can't go wrong, because there are many excellent public and private schools, as well as a number of renowned colleges and universities located in the Tennessee Valley from nearby schools like the University of Alabama-Huntsville and Alabama A&M as well as regional powerhouses like Auburn, Vanderbilt, the University of Alabama, Ole Miss and the University of Memphis. The Huntsville/Madison County community is committed to meeting the needs of its diverse population through an exciting curriculum and innovative magnet schools that help talented students excel in top subjects, such as Space Science, creative and performing arts, English and math. Some of the area's school districts are ranked on Newsweek's 2007 Top Schools in the US list.

Public High School Systems & Programs:

- Huntsville City
- Madison County
- Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative
- Alabama Reading Initiative

Private Schools

If you're looking for an alternative to the public school system in the form of an independent or religiously affiliated school, there are a number of them represented in the Tennessee Valley. These schools are well-supported by smaller student-teacher ratios, original curriculums, and the Huntsville-Madison Private Schools Association.



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»» **Private Schools in the Region:**

- Huntsville/Madison Private Schools

Colleges & Universities

Majors in science, engineering, liberal arts, and business from baccalaureate to doctoral degrees are abundant in the area's noted colleges and universities. These fine institutions of higher learning also offer continuing education and professional development programs for individuals who wish to build upon their current knowledge-base or skill set.

Institutions of Higher Learning

- Alabama A&M University
- University of Alabama in Huntsville
- Oakwood College
- Calhoun Community College
- J. F. Drake State Technical College
- Faulkner University Huntsville
- Florida Institute of Technology — Redstone Graduate Center
- Virginia College at Huntsville

