



AFAR Trail

Birmingham's food culture recently caught the beam of a global spotlight, thanks to AFAR, a print and digital publication focused on experiential travel. When the magazine released its 2026 Where to Go list in December, Birmingham appeared as one of 24 places around the world "on the rise and off the beaten path." Follow this trail to learn about some of the reasons why.

Where to go

Farmers Market at Pepper Place

2829 2nd Ave S, Bham 35233

[@pepperplacefarmersmarket](#)

Based on community, culture, and producer-only commerce, The Market at Pepper Place is widely considered Alabama's top market. The year-round event draws 80 to 100 of the state's top growers and artisans weekly, and approximately 350,000 visitors annually.



Continental Bakery

1909 Cahaba Rd, Bham 35223

[@thecontinentalbakery](#)

For breads and pastries that look as good as they taste, Continental Bakery will knock your proverbial socks off with their historically authentic, edible works of art. Handwork, skill, attention to detail, and natural ingredients are the key to over 40 years of baking success.



Where to eat

Adiós

2218 1st Ave N, Bham 35203

[@adiosbham](#)

Co-founded by José Medina Camacho, a 2025 Beard finalist for Outstanding Professional in Beverage Service, this vibrant new Mexican establishment is not just a local favorite. In 2024, it was one of only 12 cocktail bars in the U.S. honored with a Tales Spirited Award.



Bottega

2240 Highland Ave S, Bham 35205

[@bottegabham](#)

A sophisticated blend of the foods and traditions of the American South, the flavors of the Italian countryside, and the guiding hand of Beard award-winning chef and restaurateur Frank Stitt, has made Bottega not only a hometown favorite but a destination for visitors.



Chez Fonfon

2007 11th Ave S, Bham 35205

[@chezfonfon](#)

A French-inspired casual bistro amid the bustle of Birmingham's eclectic Five Point South neighborhood, Chez Fonfon is one of Chef Frank Stitt's three award-winning restaurants. Stop by for a Hamburger Fonfon, repeatedly recognized as Alabama's top burger.



Automatic Seafood & Oysters

2824 5th Ave S, Bham 35233

[@automaticseafood](#)

When Adam and Suzanne Evans opened their Southside restaurant in 2019, they didn't have to look very far to find a name. Their building, the former home of an Automatic Sprinkler manufacturing facility, simply became known as Automatic Seafood & Oysters.





Where to eat



Current Charcoal Grill
1625 2nd Ave S, Bham 35233
[@currentcharcoalgrill](#)

After being named Best Chef South in 2022, Adam Evans didn't rest on his laurels, opening Current Charcoal Grill, his second restaurant, in 2024. Its Asian-inspired menu features fresh Gulf seafood, along with quality produce and proteins from local sources.



Bayonet
2015 2nd Ave N, Bham 35205
[@bayonetbham](#)

Multiple James Beard Award semifinalist Rob McDaniel opened his second restaurant in 2025, a seafood-forward place called Bayonet. Drawn from the resilient Spanish Bayonet plant, a symbol of strength and endurance, the name defines the spirit of the restaurant.



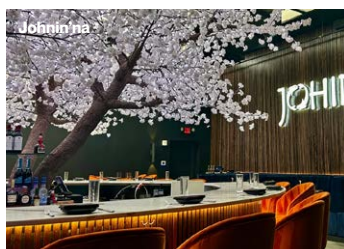
Armour House
2309 1st Ave N, Bham 35203
[@armourhouse](#)

A classic brasserie featuring Southern fare with European influences, Armour House is right at home in a former Armour & Company meatpacking building. Innovative culinary techniques using local ingredients make for a dining experience you don't want to miss.



Pogo
2309 1st Ave N, Bham 35203
[@pogobham](#)

While in Birmingham, experience Pogo Cocktail Bar, a 1920s speakeasy, 2020s style, in the Armour building. With an extensive menu of cocktails, wines, brews, and spirits, Pogo is bound to have your favorite. Enjoy live jazz performances on Thursdays and Fridays.



Johnin'na
2002 2nd Ave N, Bham 35203
[@johinnabhm](#)

Owned by Alabama sisters who bring Southern tradition to the Japanese table, Johnin'na offers an omakase (chef's choice) experience, oysters, and sushi. For a bit of downhome flavor, try the Birmingham Roll or Bao Buns with pork belly and Alabama White Sauce.



Where to stay

Elyton Hotel, Autograph Collection
1928 1st Ave N, Bham 35203
[@elytonhotel](#)

Loaded with old-fashioned charm and modern sensibilities, the 111-room Elyton occupies the Empire Building, one of four skyscrapers built between 1902 and 1912 on 1st Avenue and 20th Street North. The intersection was promoted as "The Heaviest Corner on Earth."



The Painted Lady
2143 2nd Ave S, Bham 35233
[@thepaintedladyhotel](#)

A 22-room and suite boutique hotel in the Automotive Historic District, "The Painted Lady" pays homage to Louise Wooster, a Birmingham madam, who earned hero status by remaining in the city to serve as a nurse during the cholera epidemic of 1873.

