



DAY TRIP TO ST. STEPHENS

From Jackson · Washington County, Alabama



RIVER AND
LAKE



Photo: Carol M. Highsmith, Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

PARK OPEN DAILY

An abandoned townsite inside a historical park that is open daily, per the park's pages read October 29, 2026 and a visit video posted July 2026.

Old St. Stephens is a half-hour drive from Jackson and makes an easy day: the townsite trail in the morning, the Indian Baths and the lake after lunch. Come on a Thursday if you want the museum in the old courthouse.

A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ **8:00** Leave Jackson on US 43 and County Road 34, about 31 minutes.
- ☐ **8:30** Pay admission and walk the Archaeology Trail and the 1922 marker.
- ☐ **10:30** Walk to the Indian Baths from the parking area.
- ☐ **12:00** Lunch at a picnic area by the lake.
- ☐ **1:00** On Thursdays, drive to the courthouse museum in today's St. Stephens before it closes at 2 p.m.

From November to February the park gate locks at 3 p.m.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The 1922 marker.** Shoot the plaque straight on to make the text readable.
- **The Indian Baths.** The basins sit under trees; a slow shutter smooths the spring water.
- **The quarry lake.** The white limestone shore and blue-green water show best in midday sun.
- **The courthouse.** Its white two-story porches face the road in today's St. Stephens.



USGS topographic map, 1953 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	15 mi, about 31 min each way from downtown Jackson. From Mobile: 68 mi, about 1 h 33 min.
OPEN	Park daily, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. March to October and 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. November to February. Store and office from 10 a.m., closing 3 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 5 p.m. Friday to Sunday.
MUSEUM	1854 Washington County Courthouse in today's St. Stephens, Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; call 251-247-2622 for a tour at other times.
ADMISSION	The park charges general admission; its pages don't state the amount. Call 251-247-2622.
TOURS	Self-guided walking tours of the townsite daily. Guided tours by calling 251-247-2622.
STAYING OVER	Nine cabins from \$75 a night plus tax, RV sites from \$30 a night and primitive tent sites at \$15 a night, per the park.
WATER	A 70-acre quarry lake with a swim beach that the park says is still being refurbished; beach tickets are limited. The posted sign warns of alligators, snakes and turtles.
WEBSITE	oldststephens.net

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 31.55547, -88.03644 · 31°33'20"N
88°02'11"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/alabama/st-stephens/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.