



As the economic, cultural and population center of the First District, Mobile County has often been described as being the size of a metropolis with the charm of a small town.

Home to the country's original [Mardi Gras](#) celebration, the [City of Mobile](#) takes time out each year to continue its celebration of this time of revelry and celebration with a series of exciting parades and elegant balls that culminate on Fat Tuesday. Along with this three centuries' old tradition, Mobile County also boasts numerous historic and architectural attractions, including the [USS Alabama Battleship Park](#) , [Forts Gaines](#) and Morgan (involved in the famous Battle of Mobile Bay), and [Fort Conde](#) (one of the city's original locations and now the home of the city's official welcome center).

Additionally, Mobile County is home to [Spring Hill College](#) , Alabama's oldest institution of higher learning. Along with the [University of South Alabama](#) , the [University of Mobile](#) and [Bishop State Community College](#) , the City of Mobile is one of the state's most successful and well-respected centers of postsecondary education.