

Culture "Cul-cha"

Some Interesting Facts About Mobile!

Mobile has an interesting past and an exciting future. Here are some facts that have contributed to this city of "Six Flags":

The correct pronunciation of the city's name is "Mo-beel", given the soft emphasis on the second syllable by its French founders. See this link for information on the origin of the name of the city. 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.

Modern Mobile derives more than half its annual wealth from industries dependent upon and directly allied with waterborne commerce.

Mobile is home to such national events as the Senior Bowl Presented by Food World football game (January), the Azalea Trail Run marathon race (March) 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 Buffett (entertainer), Hank Aaron (baseball Hall of Fame) and Winston Groom (author of "Forrest Gump").

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How to Speak Mobile

Frederic:

The hurricane that invented modern day Gulf Shores and got a bunch of us out of debt.

"On Airport":

Airport Boulevard. You'd rather go through hell than travel on it, but you have to sometimes.

Pretty shrimp:

Shrimp that look fresh and are ready to use.

Huntin' Camp:

Probably a trailer in North Mobile or Washington County.

Fishin' Camp:

Probably a trailer in the Delta. Most are furnished in Early Yardsale motif.

Connie Bea and Estelle:

The Mobile version of Julia Child and Martha Stewart. Had a long run cooking show on channel 5 (formerly one of only two channels in the City).

Pinky Grant:

Announced all Mobile high school games at Ladd Stadium (now Ladd-Peebles).

Ladd:

Ladd-Peebles Stadium where GMAC and Senior Bowls are played. Located on Virginia Street.

Jubilee:

A cornucopia of fish, crabs and sometimes shrimp washed up on shore as a result of low oxygen in the water. Happens only two places in the world.

"Good ta see ya":

"pleasure to meet you."

Stauterbilt:

A Mobile Bay boat that is made of wood and will survive the heat, hurricanes, and scum lines.

"The Infirmary":

Mobile Infirmary where many Mobilians were born.

Pill Hill:

The neighborhood near "the infirmary."

Mobilians never say, "I'm going to the beach." They say:

"The Gulf." The Gulf of Mexico, sometimes Gulf Shores.

"The Island: Dauphin Island"

Over the Bay:

The Eastern Shore. Includes Spanish Fort, Daphne, Montrose, Fairhope and Point Clear.

"The Mall":

Once known as Bel Air Mall today called Colonial Mall Bel Air and built on top of a former swamp.

The Grand:

A historic hotel on Mobile Bay—Marriott's Hotel Grand that was once a Civil War Hospital.

Down the Bay:

That area near or below Broad.

Old Mobile Green:

The black-green color of shutters on a Mobilian's home.

Out at South:

The University of South Alabama, i.e. "he goes out at South."

Dolly Parton Bridge:

The double bridge on I-65. (By the way, a great view of the Delta).

D.I.P.:

Dauphin Island parkway (even though it doesn't really go to Dauphin Island it is in that direction — go figure)

Okrie:

Vegetable one puts in Gumbo known as okra.

Pecans:

Pronounced "pa cahns" also "ba cahns".

The Loop:

In the early 1900's a trolley line ran throughout the city. The "Loop" was the end of the trolley line. Patrons would get off the trolley and loop it around to return to town. For a nickel patrons could ride all day. Today, trolleys are still in Mobile and they are FREE.

The Hill:

Also known as Springhill, home to Spring Hill College. Also "Sprang" Hill.

The Avenue:

Today, Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., connects the northern side of Downtown Mobile with Water and Broad Streets making a loop around part of the Downtown Area.

Ole Shell:

Correctly spelled "Old" Shell Road, this road was an old-shell-road.

LoDa:

"Lower Dauphin" street area, our entertainment district.

Mobile:

Pronounced Mobeel (like automobile).

Mottie Grah:

Correct way to pronounce Mardi Gras.