



2 Alabama hotels nominated for USA Today's Best Historic Hotel/Resort—how you can vote



BY ELLA WALTON · LAST UPDATED JULY 28, 2025

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Located in front of the Grand Hotel's main entrance is a beautiful pond + fountain. (Ella Walton / The Bama Buzz)

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The time to vote on another one USA Today's 2025 Readers' Choice Awards has come!

On the major media outlet's "Best Historic Hotel/Resort" list, we were delighted to find two Alabama hotels listed as nominees among the 20 final properties – [The Battle House Renaissance Hotel & Spa](#) in Mobile, as well as the [Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa](#) in Point Clear.

Voting, open to the public, will take place on [USA Today's website](#) until Monday, August 4, at 11AM. The 10 winners will be announced on Wednesday, August 13 at 11AM. Voters will be able to vote once per day until the polls close.

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Keep reading to learn more about the two Alabama hotels that were nominated.

The Battle House Renaissance Hotel & Spa

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In front of the Battle House Hotel is their valet station. (Ella Walton / The Bama Buzz)



The Battle House Hotel's interior features remarkable architecture with a rich history. (Ella Walton / The Bama Buzz)

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The Battle House Renaissance Hotel & Spa, located in Downtown Mobile, has a long (and structurally unlucky) [history](#) dating back to the beginning of the 19th century.

The site presently holding the historic hotel once housed General Andrew Jackson — before his presidency. It was, at one time, the former president’s headquarters during the War of 1812.

- Location: 26 N Royal St, Mobile, AL 36602

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Here's a rundown of the hotel's history, following the war:

- 1825: Hotelier Daniel White opened what he called “Franklin House” at the site, before it was destroyed by destructive floods
- 1829: The structure was restored by other hoteliers and renamed the “Waverly Hotel” – until a fire completely burnt it to the ground in 1850
- 1852: James, John + Samuel Battle decided to reconstruct the structure with the help of architect Isiah Rogers, who designed the new, four story building with Greek Revival-style architecture; it was named the “Battle House Hotel”
 - Many well-known guests visited, such as: General Winfield Scott, Senator Henry Clay, U.S. President Millard Fillmore + Senator and presidential candidate Stephan A. Douglas (who stayed in the hotel on Election Day in 1860, later losing the four-way contest to Abraham Lincoln)
- 1905: An industrial accident, another fire, compromised the building, leading D.R. Burgess + other Mobilian merchants to raise \$1.35M to rebuild the hotel
- 1906: Construction began + continued for the next 10 years, led by architect Frank M. Andrews, who redesigned the structure out of fireproof steel + concrete
 - President Woodrow Wilson + his wife held “Presidential Breakfast”

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ation; Southern Commercial Congress



- 1974: After changing owners several times in the 20th century, it faced financial challenges + closed; a year later, it was placed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places – protecting it from demolition
- 2025: Today, the property is a part of Marriott International’s prestigious Renaissance Hotels brand

The Battle House Hotel’s amenities include:

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- Three on-site restaurants
- An outdoor, rooftop pool + whirlpool
- Tennis court
- A fitness center
- 16 event venues
- A hair salon + spa
- Children’s recreation areas
- A sky-walk connecting the hotel to

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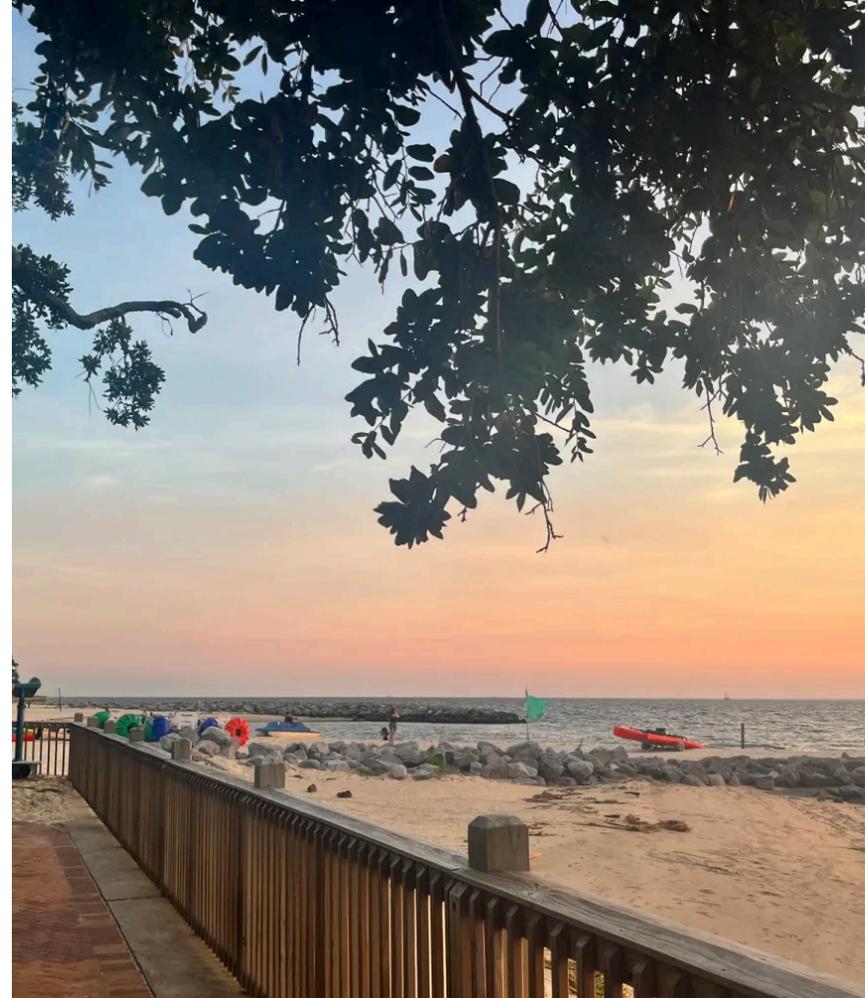
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Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa



One of the Grand Hotel's walking trail runs alongside their scenic pond. (Ella Walton / The Bama Buzz)



The Grand Hotel overlooks Mobile Bay + features three beach areas. (Ella Walton / The Bama Buzz)

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The site on which the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa currently sits on has hosted a hotel since 1822. The hotel, located on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay, has hosted an array of world dignitaries + celebrities.

- Location: One Grand Blvd, Point Clear, AL 36564

Here's a rundown of the hotel's [history](#):

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- 1847: F.H. Chamberlain began construction of the hotel; the original building featured two stories with 40 guest rooms, a shaded gallery overlooking Mobile Bay, a dining space, a bar + the Gunnison House (to help with housing overflow)
- 1863: The Grand became a makeshift field hospital for soldiers wounded during the Battle of Vicksburg, MS; a cemetery was built for 300 soldiers near the present-day 18th tee of the Grand's Azalea Golf Course
- 1846: Admiral David Farragut led flotilla of 18 Union warships past Point Clear as it invaded Mobile Bay, which was Confederate-controlled
- 1875-1939: The hotel underwent several changes in ownership, from Captain H.C. Baldwin + Major James K. Glennon to Edward A. Roberts
- 1944: The U.S. Army Air Corps began training servicemen at the resort in a top-secret program called "Operation Ivory Soap," which taught soldiers how to service aircraft at mobile air depots in the Pacific Theater
- 2011: The Grand Hotel joined Historic Hotels of America, the official program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation to recognize the nation's best historic destinations
- 2025: For over 175+ years now, it has been known throughout the South as "The Queen of Southern Resorts." Notable people that have stayed here are: Colin Powell, Margaret Thatcher, Patti LaBelle, Dolly Parton, Fannie Flagg, Barbara Bush, Clint Eastwood, Robert De Niro, Liam Hemsworth, Miley Cyrus, Nicolas Cage, Michael Bubl  + many more

The Grand Hotel's amenities include:

- Nine dining options
- Two 18-hole golf courses: the Dogwood + the Azalea
- A biking trail, jogging/fitness trail + fitness center
- A beach volleyball court
- Croquet
- Two outdoor pools (with a pool slide), one indoor pool + outdoor hot tubs
- Pool + beach cabanas
- Nall Art Gallery
- Tennis courts
- An arcade

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- An estate garden
- Bike + kayak rentals
- 11 pickleball courts
- A European spa
- A pier over Mobile Bay
- Four gift shops/boutiques

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Which hotel/resort will you be voting for, Alabama? Let us know in the comments 🙌

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!! MOBILE BAY HISTORIC HOTELS: Two hotels in South Alabama made it onto the voting ballot for USA Today's Best History Hotel/Resort list among 20 other properties – check out who was nominated



★ Battle House Renaissance Hotel & Spa

🕒 The site has hosted a hotel since the 1820s, with the present-day structure having been built in 1908.

📍 @renbattlehouse

📍 26 N Royal St, Mobile, AL 36602

★ The Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa

🕒 The Grand Hotel first opened its doors in 1847.

📍 @grandhotelresort

📍 One Grand Boulevard, Point Clear, AL 36564

🗳️ Voting will close on August 4 at 11AM (CT). The ballot can be found on the @usatoday website.

? Which hotel will you be voting for? Let us know in the comments!

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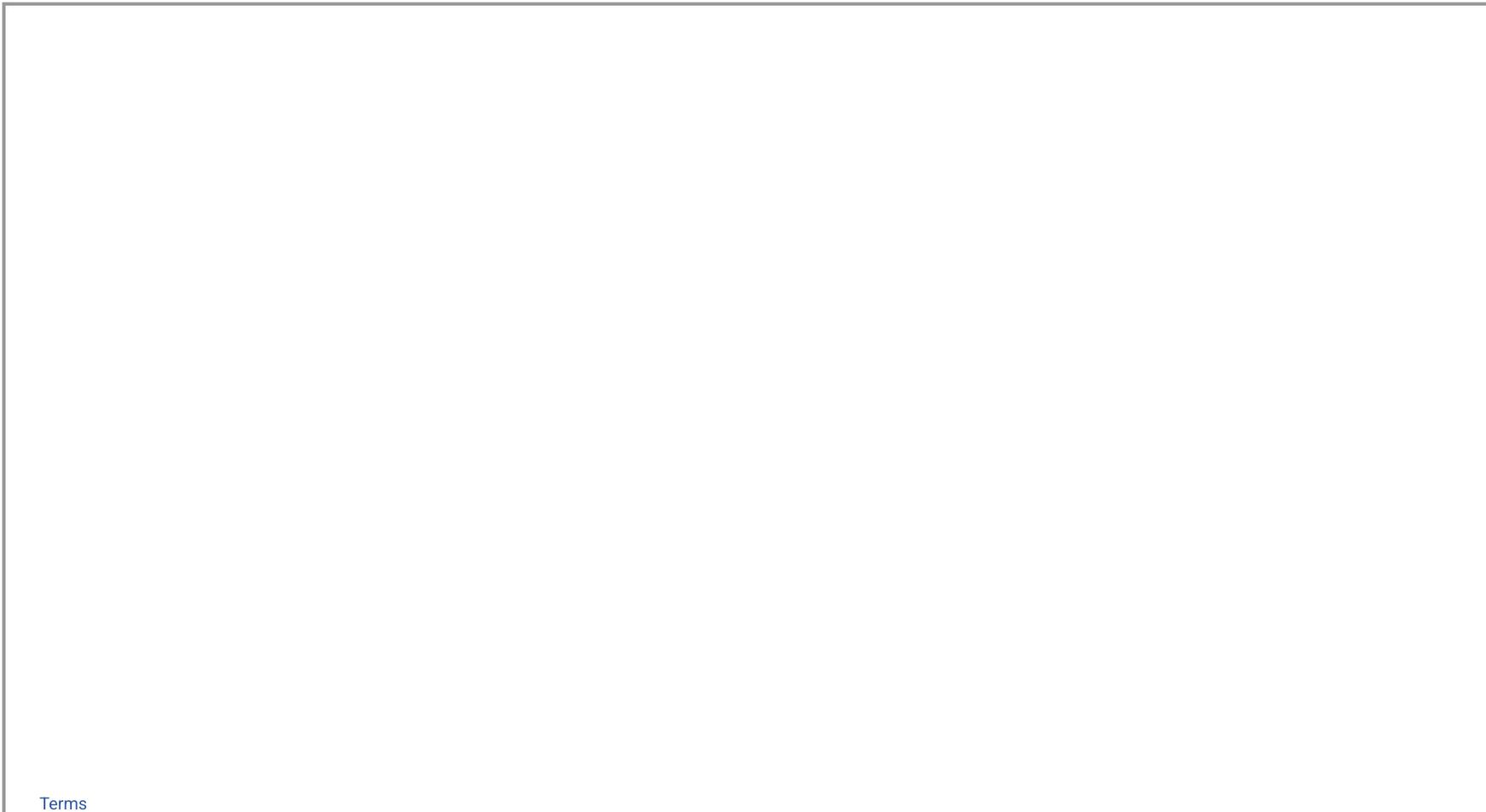
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