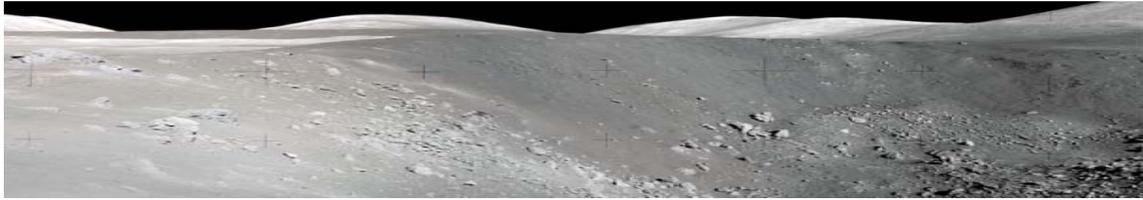


Space Tourism on Earth

Dr. Larry Krumenaker



Credit: NASA

Once you get past Low Earth Orbit and space stations, where will the next space tourists go? To the Moon, of course. But what would be there to explore? Primarily the craters and their features. But until such rocket flights exist, and the cost becomes affordable, one can explore similarly craters here on Earth. Yet too few know where to go or what to look for. Here is one excursion in the Southeast USA that, a jump off an Interstate, makes a good weekend trip to learn about how craters were formed millions of years ago, what happened afterwards, and what can be hidden in plain sight.

Imagine, in the near future....

All you hear is your breathing in your space suit. You walk gingerly through the lunar dust and rubble, up a rocky slight incline, to the edge...of the lunar crater. The sky above you is dark and star-filled but below you is a gaping, hundreds of feet deep, chasm. Miles ahead is a jagged set of mounds in the crater's center, rising sharply in the mostly flat crater floor, pockmarked with smaller holes and narrow, dry, crooked cracks. What appeared a sharp edge rim in the distance is actually a rapid curve, like some frying pans, and like that pan, heads left and right into the distance to a far distant, barely visible, meeting place. How to get safely down into the crater to explore that peak? That you have not yet figured out...

Alas, neither SpaceX nor Blue Origin, nor any other private space company, and not even NASA's Artemis Moon program is yet contemplating lunar excursions for the common folk. Getting into Earth orbit, or a stay in a space station, is still not yet in the cards for us. But if Moon trips were a doable venture, what would you *do* there? By their sheer abundance, you'd go visit a crater! The things you'd likely most want to do would be to go right up to the lip of one of these cosmic holes in the ground and peer down into it. Or take a walk around its perimeter. Another interesting sight would be to climb down into the crater and head to its center and look around its interior in some 360-degree panorama, whether from its central lowest point on the bottom, or its central peak rising high. And if the crater has an elevated rim, climbing up there for the view in all

directions would be so grand, too! What if the crater had other features, such as terraces along the rim, or ejecta or rays outside? These would be bear exploring, too, right?

Until that day happens, we'll have to make do with exploring craters on Earth. In the United States, there are over a dozen astroblemes—star wounds—with visible surface structure. Some are dramatic, others quite hidden under modern landscapes but if you know where the structures are, you can visit and view them. Some have peaks. Some have elevated rims and flat floors instead of deep depressions into the ground. Some are mere feet in diameter, others miles across; some are obvious as craters, some are disguised as mere rolling hills or buried under forests or subdivisions.

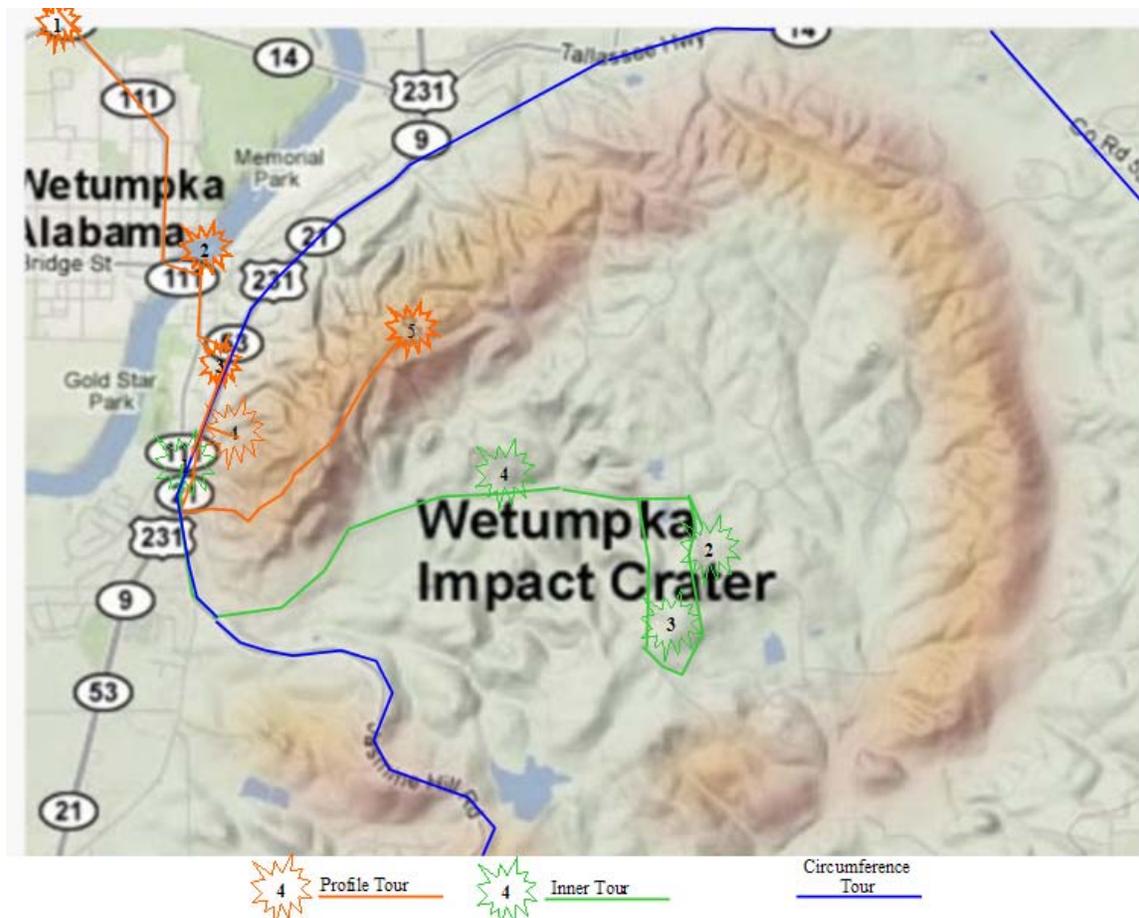
In this first exploration, call it a tongue-in-cheek EarthX trip, let more than your imagination roam over one such impact feature, a crater hiding in plain sight: the Wetumpka Crater, in Alabama. Researched notably by Auburn University geologist Dr. David King Jr., it was created in a 100-foot deep shallow sea an estimated 85 million years ago. This 4.7- to 6-mile diameter--depending on where you want to draw your circle on the inside or outside of the rims, we'll call it 5-miles for short--astrobleme has a not-quite-complete rim ring and a central elevation. Both were formed by the rebound of the Earth's temporarily molten surface as the 1000-foot-wide (0.2-mile) meteor crashed into this Cretaceous sea. Any T-Rexes swimming within an area of about 4-5 miles farther out from the impact zone was likely hailed over with ejected matter from inside the Crater, evidenced by geological core samples; surface destruction likely ranged out another 25 miles, sea or no sea. Of the impactor itself, none of it survived, vaporizing upon contact and any remaining bits swept away by the waters.

Today, the sea is long gone, Alabama here is fairly flat, with only slightly rolling terrain, and so the Crater is a bit of an elevated, not a depressed into the ground, anomalous feature on the landscape. Furthermore, it is on the edge of a river once used as a somewhat major commerce corridor in days gone by, which has eroded terrain down nearby and revealed some ejected Crater material outside of the Crater itself.

How We Will Explore the Crater

Personal note: I enjoy getting to places where I can stand and see the history that happened there. As the author of several historical tourism books, I write to create walking, mass transit or driving trails so that others can follow the story to and at those places. I use the mileages recorded in my automobile to the nearest 0.1 mile, and use landmarks for finer precision since an odometer reading can be plus/minus that same 0.1 mile. Directions start from the nearest Interstate exit (or in this case, InterstateS; there are two here), and in the case of multiple trails, when possible, one local starting point we return to as our origin or zero point. All three tours below have a common point, though they all do not start there—where Wetumpka's Main Street intersects US 231.

To follow along on the space tourism idea, there will be three trails:



Base map image credit: Wetumpka Chamber of Commerce

- The first and grandest is the **Wetumpka Crater Profile Tour**. We start far out and come closer and closer, seeing the outer features and rim grow, climbing upwards on the rim until we can view across the Crater to the far rim.
- The second tour is the **Wetumpka Crater Inside Tour**, where we succeed in getting down from the rim, through Wetumpka's southwestern side rim gap, and head to the area of the Central Peak which, while on private property, is quite otherwise evident. We can do as close to a 360-degree view as we can, including a very good look to the far rim, and some interior features remaining from the actual impact moment.
- The last tour, mostly to say we did it, is the **Wetumpka Crater Circumference Tour**, a drive around the rim.

Most of the stops we make are those that the Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission has created recently—with 'billboards' they call Educational Viewpoints--but some other sights I have added from my own driving and research. Finally, in order to make this a real excursion, I have added other sites and things one might do and see in the Wetumpka area, science-related and otherwise.

Getting to the Wetumpka Crater

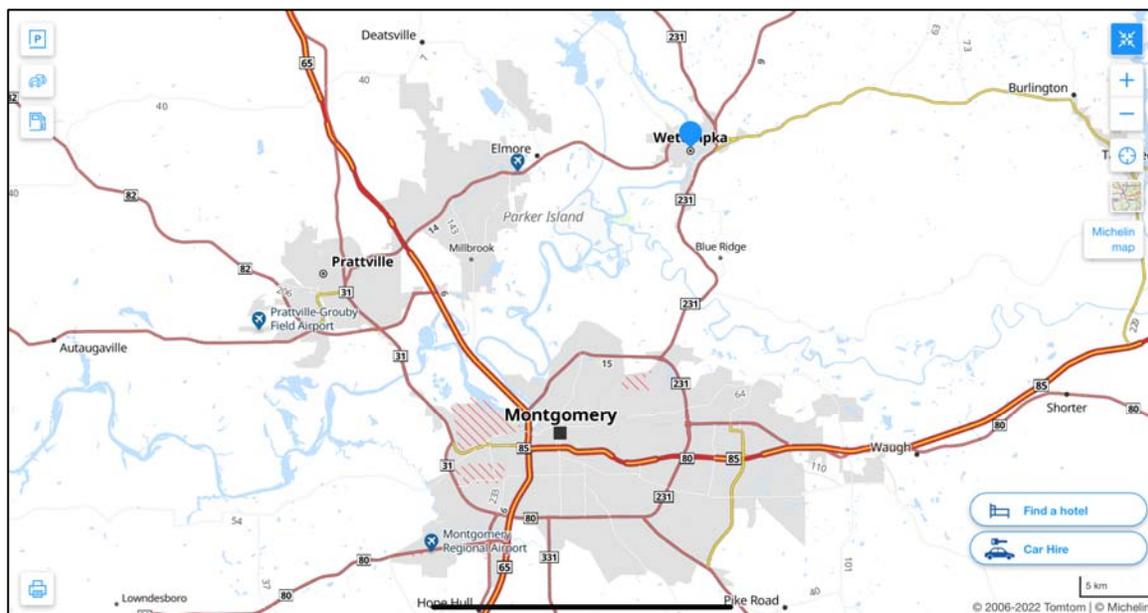
Wetumpka is located north of the state capital of Montgomery, itself at the intersection of Interstates 65—a north-south route between Mobile, Alabama, and Nashville, Tennessee—and 85—signed as a north-south route starting at Montgomery and heading towards Atlanta and points north but it actually goes due East at this location. If the intersection of the two interstates is the center of a regular analog clock, Wetumpka is roughly at the 1:30 position, at a 45-degree angle, roughly 14 miles away.

Our Wetumpka starting tour point will be an Educational Viewpoint about two miles to the west of the Crater. The driving directions are from both interstates, depending on whether you are coming from Atlanta and points East and Northeast, or from the North or South. If you are coming from the Western states, sooner or later you'll be getting onto I-65 at some point regardless.

Coming via I-65:

Exit I-65 at Exit 181 (Alabama Route 14, Millbrook, Prattville), turn right – Eastwards. This is about 10 miles north of the ramps to/from I-85 in Montgomery, which is exit 171 on I-65.

Head East on AL-14 for 14.4 miles to the Wetumpka Sports Complex entrance on the right, and turn in. The Educational Viewpoint is immediately on your right. You might not be able to park there to read it if the place is busy but there are parking lots ahead and on the right.



Credit: viamichelin.ie

Coming via I-85:

Heading South on I-85 (but actually moving westward), leave the Interstate at Exit 6, Eastern Blvd and also US 231. Note there is an earlier exit for US 231 at Exit 9, Taylor Road.....IGNORE THIS EXIT!

In 4.0 miles, take the off-ramp for US-231, merged with AL-21, which is a continuous merge so you can continue with no stops or braking.

In 8.4 miles more, the Crater rim ridge appears on your right. In another 0.3 miles, Wind Creek Casino is on your left. In 0.3 *more* miles you reach the city of Wetumpka's Main Street. This intersection will later be a common start point for two of our tours.

After driving 1.5 miles farther north from Main Street and bearing left and avoiding an right-side exit for Route 170, US 231 has a junction with AL-14. At the traffic light at this junction, turn left onto AL-14.

The Wetumpka Sports Complex entrance will be on your left in 0.9 miles Enter it. An Educational Viewpoint is immediately on your right. You might not be able to park there to read it if the place is busy but there are parking lots ahead and on the right.

The Wetumpka Crater Profile Tour (~4.5 miles, ~1-1.5 hours including viewing)

First Stop--Starting Point and View of the Rim



Beginning here at the Sports Complex, we see a great 1-3 miles distant view of the curving West Rim of the Crater rising up from the flat ground you see in every other direction (below).

This Rim is the highest surviving part of the Crater, rising to 587 feet at its maximum, estimated to be about half its original height. It curves around out of sight to the left, north end while the south end is essentially eroded away, a few hillocks remaining, but also out of sight from this vantage point. We are in the local total destruction zone, where ejecta rained down upon the seascape all those millions of years ago.

What we want to do is approach the Crater as linearly as we can from here, up to near its highest rim point, and view across the Crater's center to the far rim. So our next three stops are closer inwards to the elevated rim, in stages, viewing parts of the Crater's external anatomy.



Second Stop—Exposed Ejecta Field

We will be going through the residential, west of the river part of Wetumpka, crossing the bridge over the Coosa River, and parking in the commercial eastern part of the town.

Exit the Sports Complex turning left onto busy AL-14, traveling west for 0.8 miles to a traffic light at Holtville Road (Route 111) where you will turn left (South).

In 0.7 miles the road veers a little to the right and changes name to North Bridge Street.

In 0.5 miles it reaches its end at a traffic light at the west end of the bridge over the river, where North, East and West Bridge Streets all meet.

Turn left at the light and go over the bridge (named the Bibbs Graves Bridge).

Go straight-slightly left at the end of the bridge and find a parking spot. Do not turn right at the end of the bridge!



Credit: Dema Krumenaker

Walk back towards the bridge and go onto it. The view over the Coosa River is nice, with the flat west side and its church steeples on one side and commercial buildings nestled up against the rising foothills leading up to the Crater's rim on the other, eastern side. As you get near the center of the bridge span, look down; you will see linear rock features in the river, especially on the East side. These are exposed materials that had been ejected from the inside of the Crater during the meteor's impact, buried here and uncovered by the erosion of river water.

Incidentally, the road length, from the junction of the several Bridges Roads to nearest parking spaces on the other side is about the size of the impacting meteor.

You can get a closer look by going back over the bridge and descending down steps by the first building to a parking lot next to a river walk alongside the Coosa. The river walk is well maintained heading north and south, curvy, and lined with metal

sculptures, and the historical old jailhouse, the Calaboose. At the end of the walk is another Educational Viewpoint describing the ejecta in the river.



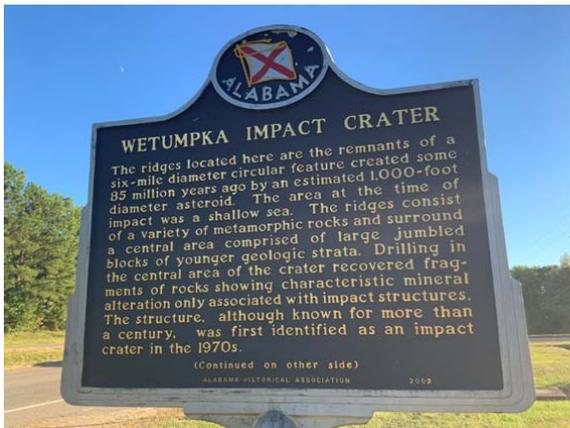
Photo: Dema Krumenaker

While You Are in This Area

Heading south under the bridge, the ejecta soon vanish. You enter a nice, well-maintained park with playgrounds, river overlooks, and other features, and some historical remnants including remains of a river lock. The Coosa had numerous locks to make it navigable all the way up into northwest Georgia, though today, like most Alabama rivers, there is little traffic, even recreational, on it. There are also remnants of earlier bridges and building foundations.

There are some interesting local eateries nearby in the small downtown area if you need a break, including a nice tea and cheese shop, and one building featuring a mural of a dinosaur getting walloped by a flaming asteroid, a token to the meteor strike, though this one had nothing to do with the extinction of the dinosaurs!

Third Stop—Marker Mapping the Crater



Return to Main Street at the bridge and turn left as if to return to US 231. Go 0.3 miles south and turn left onto Boundary Street, across from a Dairy Queen and before the Hampton Inn.

In only 0.1 miles you will reach US 231. At that corner there is an historical marker about the Crater, with a geological map of it on one side. There is room on the gravel shoulder for a car or two to park by the

marker but the Elmore County Health Department Center parking lot is next to the marker; you can enter and park in it for a few minutes easily.

The Crater rim begins its rise across the street and you can very easily feel dwarfed by its 500+ feet elevation, knowing that much of that was underwater when it was first formed and what you see is only half of the original rim height!

Fourth Stop—Uplifted Layers

As you can imagine, the Earth did not take kindly to the intrusion from space. In addition to the explosive results in the Crater itself, and the scattered debris outside of it, the outer layers surrounding the Crater were pushed upwards at various angles and directions by the outward-bound energies. A spot has been designated as a Viewpoint for all to see the no-longer-horizontal layers of the ground outside the rim that have been shifted.

From the historical marker, watching carefully as the traffic is coming from behind you at high speed over a hill top, get onto US 231 southbound.

In 0.5 miles you will reach the intersection of Main Street (right) and Breezehill Blvd. (left), a traffic light. You want to turn left here.

After crossing US 231, make an immediate left onto the frontage road (unmarked but mapped variously also as Wilson or King Streets) and go a little distance down the frontage road to the entranceway on your right to the First Community Bank. Once off the frontage road, turn right directly in front of the bank and drive as if to circle the bank.

Halfway around the bank you will see an Educational Viewpoint board in front of the blackened uplifted layers. There are parking spaces there to use.



The shiny flat rocks you see are called schist. The vertical indentations are from the digging into the ridge to cut away material to build the bank and parking area. The rock layers themselves are the 45-50-degree tilted lines within the blackened rock. They would normally be horizontal but the outward blast from the center of the Crater has pushed them up and northwestward as the Rim was raised into place.

Last Stop—Driving Up the Crater’s Rim

From here we are going to go onto the Crater Rim itself.

Note of warning. The first part of the drive is easy, but the last part is on a single lane road, sometimes without room for two cars to pass, that is twisty, paved but potholed, unlighted, with no significant shoulders or side fencing and lots of ravines coming up to the edges of the roadway. *This is not a road to travel at high speed, or at night, or on slick road conditions.** Drive CAREFULLY and at your own risk!**

We start from the intersection of US 231 and Main Street, at which we left US 231 to get to the First Community Bank and its display of uplifted layers.

If you were at the bank, head out of the bank entranceway you came in through, turning left onto the frontage road. When it ends you have only around 20 feet of Breezehill Blvd. before you hit the traffic light at US 231/Main Street (on the other side of 231) and you have to get into the left most of two lanes to make the left turn *onto* 231, southbound.

In about 0.1-0.2 miles, turn left (at Smokin S Bar—B--Que) onto Knight Street. Be careful, the street isn’t marked and this is a fork of two streets, and a disconnected part of the frontage road; you take the left of the two forked streets.

In 0.2 miles, you reach Hillside Drive, a loop road. Turn left onto Hillside.

In 0.1 miles, turn left onto Enslin Road.

In just a few feet, turn left onto the UNMARKED single lane Bald Knob Road. This is the road mentioned earlier to be very wary about in your driving!

Starting in 0.2 miles from the intersection there are some visible uplifted layers on the right (mostly) made by the road cuts. In 0.9 miles *from the intersection*, there is an Educational Viewpoint marker on the right, with some limited parking space on the right and left sides of the road.

At this point you are near the highest elevations publicly accessible on the Crater rim, called Bald Knob. Some radio, television or cell phone towers are nearby at the true highest elevations. The road continues on a bit more but it dead ends.

From the Viewpoint sign you can see the sheer drop-down from the West Rim into the Crater's floor due to the view along an electrical power line corridor cut straight through the treed landscape. Less than 2 miles away the elevation rises a bit; that marks the north side of the central peak zone, but the peak is not in this corridor itself. On clear days you can see the far, lower East Rim on the horizon.



The view is magnificent and a fine cross-section of the Crater, from rim through near-center to opposite rim!

This ends the first trail. To return, simply turn your car around and carefully wend your way back down Bald Knob Road, turn right at Bald Knob's end, turn right again in a few feet onto Hillside, and the next right onto Knight. Shortly you will be at US 231. There are numerous eateries, mostly of the fast food kind, up and down US 231 and on Main Street farther north, and at the expensive Wind Creek Casino nearby.

Wetumpka Crater Inside Tour (~4.6 Miles; < 1 hour)

This is a three-stop trail exploring the inside of the Wetumpka Crater. We begin at the intersection of Main Street at US 231.

First Stop—Peak to Rim View

Head South on US 231 for 0.3 miles and turn left onto Old Montgomery Highway.

In 0.3 miles, bear left at a 45-degree angle onto Jasmine Hill Road. There is a historic marker for the house at the corner. We will return to that later.

In just 0.1 miles, turn left onto Harrogate Springs Road.

(You will pass an Educational Viewpoint on your left in 1.3 miles from the intersection of Harrogate Springs and Jasmine Hill. We will return to that on the way back, too.)

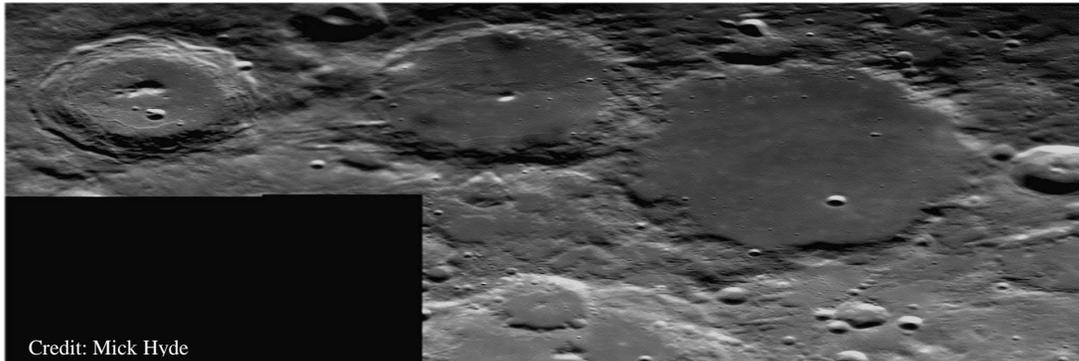
At 1.9 miles from the Jasmine Hill-Harrogate Springs intersection you pass Buck Ridge Road on your right. Note your odometer reading here. It is the end of a loop we are about to enter. Without any notice, Harrogate Springs changes name to Trotter Trail and swings right. At 0.5 miles from passing Buck Ridge there will be an Educational Viewpoint marker on your left. Stop there.



Here, at a natural gas pipeline cutting instead of an electrical power one, you have a very good Crater cross section, the Southeast Rim in the distance, and the rise to the Crater central peak behind you, with the fairly flat Crater floor between.

Clearly, whatever the Wetumpka impact feature originally was, it has become something of a Walled Plain, like those of the Moon, with an elevated rim and somewhat flat interior. On the Moon, in part these were formed by molten material overflowing into the original impact craters. The difference here is that almost immediately after

whatever depression had formed, it would have been filled in by ocean sediment and then land sedimentation. Alabama is largely part of the great southern alluvial basin where rivers have long laid down sediments, and here would have been no exception over the eons. Only the remaining Appalachian volcanic igneous and metamorphic rocks that the impactor disturbed have resisted the erosion best. The flat floor is less obstructed here than in the Rim View in the first Tour.



Three walled lunar craters, two with central peaks, and numerous regular depressions in the lunar surface.

Next Stop—Central Peak Area

Start driving again. In just 0.1 mile turn right onto Buck Ridge Road.

The nearest you get to the peak is about 0.7-0.9 miles from when you turned onto Buck Ridge Road, where the very high ridge to your right side is the Crater's central peak.

The road is twisty among the high-end housing, and you orbit around the true central peak, which is just around 100 feet, give or take, lower than Bald Knob. The actual peak houses a cemetery named Hopewell, but there seems to be no obvious public access to it. It is uncertain if it is a pet cemetery or for humans.

Last Stop—Oceanic Rebound

You reach the end of Buck Ridge, at Harrogate Springs, the end of the loop, in ~0.4 miles after passing the peak. Turn left.

Drive 0.6 miles back on Harrogate to the Educational Viewpoint on the right and CAREFULLY find a spot just past it to park on the shoulder.

You are at the other end of the transmission cut you were at when you were high up on the Crater rim at Bald Knob on the first tour, looking eastward. Now you are looking back westward. But here, especially in the winter/early spring when vegetation is less dense, you can see some light colored 'cliffs' in the far distance. These are where the rebound of ocean water forced the southern rim material and some of the Crater floor

back inwards, creating these cliffs and decimating the southern rim mostly out of existence.



The Wetumpka Inside Crater Trail ends here. To return to US 231, continue back along Harrogate, then the tiny piece of Jasmine Hill, then onto Old Montgomery to US 231.

A Not-So-Diplomat(ic)'s House:

At the intersection of Jasmine Hill and Old Montgomery is the house of William Lowndes Yancey. Of course, like many Southern states there are numerous homes of former and often forgettable Confederate personages, but this one is worth a moment of examination. Yancey was one of the ardent secessionists and both friend and foe of Jefferson Davis. Born up North, a newspaperman and a Congressman at one time, his reason for fame isn't his racial attitudes or secessionist ardor but the fact that he was one of the infamous three 'diplomats' sent to Great Britain to represent the Confederacy and gain recognition for the new country. Unfortunately, Yancey had no diplomatic experience and was no diplomat in any of his personal relationships, a bad choice to be sent overseas. His demeanor was one reason that the representatives kept being formally turned away by the British diplomatic corps after their first visit once they arrived in London. Eventually he was returned back to Richmond and then Alabama where he died before the Civil War was concluded. The Confederacy never did get officially recognized as an independent nation.

The Wetumpka Crater Circumference Tour (~17 miles, ~45 minutes)

This is one driving trail to be done just to say you did it. As a nearly circular, horseshoe-shaped, 5-mile diameter Crater, you've got a trail to follow that is roughly 17

miles of driving. On the West, and somewhat on the North, sides you've got the high rim to your immediate side but elsewhere the roads are some distance away and mostly hidden by trees and homes. We start at the junction of US 231 and Main Street, and head North/clockwise, but you can start anywhere and go counterclockwise, too.

Starting at the intersection of Main Street/Breezehill Blvd. and US 231, head North on US 231.

In 1.5 miles US 231 veers left; you exit and veer right onto Route 170.

A further 1.1 miles, Route 170 joins AL-14 (Tallassee Highway).

Exit AL-14 in 1.4 miles to the right onto Firetown Road (Route 59), heading south around the Crater's East Rim.

After traveling 3.9 miles, turn right at the four-way intersection onto Redland Road, heading southwest.

Follow Redland for 2.5 miles to Willow Springs Road, turning right. At some point you start driving between some low hills. These are the few remaining hillocks of the mostly-destroyed South Rim.

After driving 2.0 miles on Willow Springs, turn right onto Jasmine Hill Road.



Alabama's Ode to Greece Has Fallen:

At the 1.3 miles point from the time you turned right onto Jasmine Hill you'll pass a local relic. The Jasmine Hill Garden Museum was once a venue for special events, such as weddings. But it was also a bit of a museum for the owner was an avid lover of Greek arts and history and had built a complete replica of the Temple of Hera back on the hill, unfortunately out of sight of the road. The roadways beyond the locked gate are named for Greek seas and cities. There are ponds, statuary, broken columns, gardens and all sorts of Greek representations. Unfortunately, after 90 years of existence, at the start of the Covid pandemic, the owner gave up on keeping the place going and it has been closed ever since. All that gives it away is the Moon-symbol-ed mailbox and some spare broken columns at the entrance. One might hope that some other Hellenistic aficionado might come along and resurrect this interesting and intact attraction.

It is 4.4 miles along twisty Jasmine Hill to reach and pass Harrogate Springs Road. From there, as per the Inside Trail, it is 0.3 miles on Old

Montgomery Road to US 231 and then 0.3 miles north on US 231 to Main Street.

At this point it is time to return back to Earth, away from elevated rims and central peaks, from dark star-filled skies and ejecta-filled outer landscapes. The nearest possible confirmed impact features to here useful for further space tourism jaunts are to the North, in Tennessee and, believe it or not, Ohio. Others are farther afield to the West, and northwest of here. And there are others out of the US, of course. The next EarthX flights are not yet scheduled.....

What Else is Around?

Wetumpka is a small exurban town of just over 7000 people. The name comes from the Muscogee people, and means “rumbling waters.” Settlers first came from the French, then the British, then Americans in the 1830s after the Muscogee were removed during the Trail of Tears time. Its population has risen and fallen over its existence because of the Civil War, and floods.

A few years ago, Wetumpka underwent a revitalization of its downtown for a television show *Home Town Makeover*, and several movies have used its antebellum buildings for sets and scenery (*The Grass Harp*, *The Rosa Parks Story*, most notably). Every New Years Eve, New York City has its Big Apple Drop, Atlanta its Peach Drop...Wetumpka does its Meteor Drop. It is an active city with festivals and a community theatre. In its small by-the-bridge original downtown zone are some artsy stores and interesting eateries beyond the fast-food places that line the rest of its streets and highways. Across the river it is primarily residential. Wetumpka’s largest employer is the Wind Creek Casino and Hotel, which has shows as well as a resort and restaurants, and it is contemplating expansion. It is owned by the Muscogee Creek (Poarch Creek) Indian Nation, the only Native American tribe recognized in the state.

The largest museum in Wetumpka is actually a historical park a bit to the south and west, Fort Toulouse-Jackson, site of a large French attempt at a settlement. Andrew Jackson took it over later in history and the remains of his fort are nearby. There are a few small local history museums.

What sites are there, science-wise? In Wetumpka, nothing. Elsewhere nearby, not much. There are no public observatories anywhere near Wetumpka or in the nearest big city, Montgomery. In the latter is a public planetarium whose ownership has bounced from Troy University in Troy, Alabama, 60 miles south of Montgomery, to Montgomery’s Parks and Recreation this year (2022). It has not yet reopened. There are no others anywhere near Montgomery or Wetumpka, not even in schools. There are also no natural history museums in the area either. The closest other places related to science around here are the Montgomery Zoo and the Mann Wildlife Museum.

There are plenty of history sights, mostly in Montgomery. Much of it is based upon either civil rights or Civil War history. A short and not conclusive list includes:

For general and Civil War history—Montgomery has the state Capitol which is always open to the public, and there are a variety of museums nearby. A favorite is the Alabama Department of Archives and History's Museum. A multi-block area within walking distance is called Old Alabama Town because it has famous buildings from all over the state set up as a small city within a city. The first White House of the Confederacy is one block from the Capitol in another direction.

Civil Rights landmarks--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dexter Street Baptist Church, a couple blocks west of the Capitol. There is a new pair of relevant museums, one celebrating Rosa Parks and her famous bus stop refusal (Rosa Parks Library and Museum), and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice Museum, memorializing those who were lynched in the Civil Rights Era.

A recreated river boat offers dinners, music and tours of the Alabama River. Another music site is a museum dedicated to country singer Hank Williams, and there are several theaters for various kinds of performing arts in Montgomery. There are multiple live music sites around town.

Dr. Larry Krumenaker is an astronomer, educator and long-time science journalist who has lived and worked in 9 states plus Korea and Germany, most recently at the Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies and the University of Cologne, before ending up in Alabama. He is the author of six books in astronomy, computing and historical tourism with two more books imminent. Dr. Krumenaker is also the publisher and principle writer of *The Galactic Times* and *The Classroom Astronomer* newsletters.

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