



Destination Guide: Atlanta



Top Picks From AAA Travel Editors - Travel information you can trust

AAA Destination Guide: Official AAA maps, travel information and top picks

AAA Destination Guide: Atlanta includes trip-planning information covering AAA recommended attractions and restaurants, exclusive member discounts, maps and more.

Atlanta is the capital of Georgia and the epicenter of the New South. While the city retains some of its small-town atmosphere in many ways—such as homey neighborhoods as Virginia-Highland and Little Five Points, blooming dogwoods and azaleas that politely announce springtime and the genteel hospitality practiced by true Southerners—it is far from the sleepy Southern town that Gen. Sherman burned to ashes in his 1864 march to the sea.



Sleek skyscrapers house headquarters to some of the country's biggest business names, and traffic rivals the professional gridlock found in other major metropolitan areas, but the atmosphere is pleasant. Perhaps it's all the sweet tea, but Atlanta is one big city that retains its Southern charm. The host for the Centennial Olympic Games, Atlanta is home to four major league sports teams whose fans are (dare we say) well-mannered. And one of the city's best preserved sites, the historic Fox Theatre, was saved from destruction by the goodwill of gracious Atlantans.

Even though driven Northerners count for more than half of the city's ever-growing population, you'll still encounter a slow pace if you look. Hints of the Old South can be found at historic sites, and heard—in the slow drawl of a “yes, ma'am.”

Essentials

Cheer on the Atlanta Braves at Turner field, which served as the Olympic Stadium for the Centennial Olympic games, and take a behind-the-scenes look with [Turner Field Tours and the Ivan Allen Jr. Braves Museum and Hall of Fame](#).

Stroll through the trendy Virginia-Highland neighborhood, stopping at a café or one of many eclectic shops housed in circa 1900 bungalows (Virginia Street meets Highland Street just northeast of downtown).

Take an Atlanta Preservation Society-sponsored architectural tour of the 1920s Moorish, Egyptian-style Fox Theatre. Saved from demolition by dedicated locals, the palace features onion domes, minarets and decorative tile work.

Visit Roswell's [Archibald Smith Plantation Home](#), which preserves Antebellum history through docent tours that explore the house (complete with original furnishings) and outbuildings.

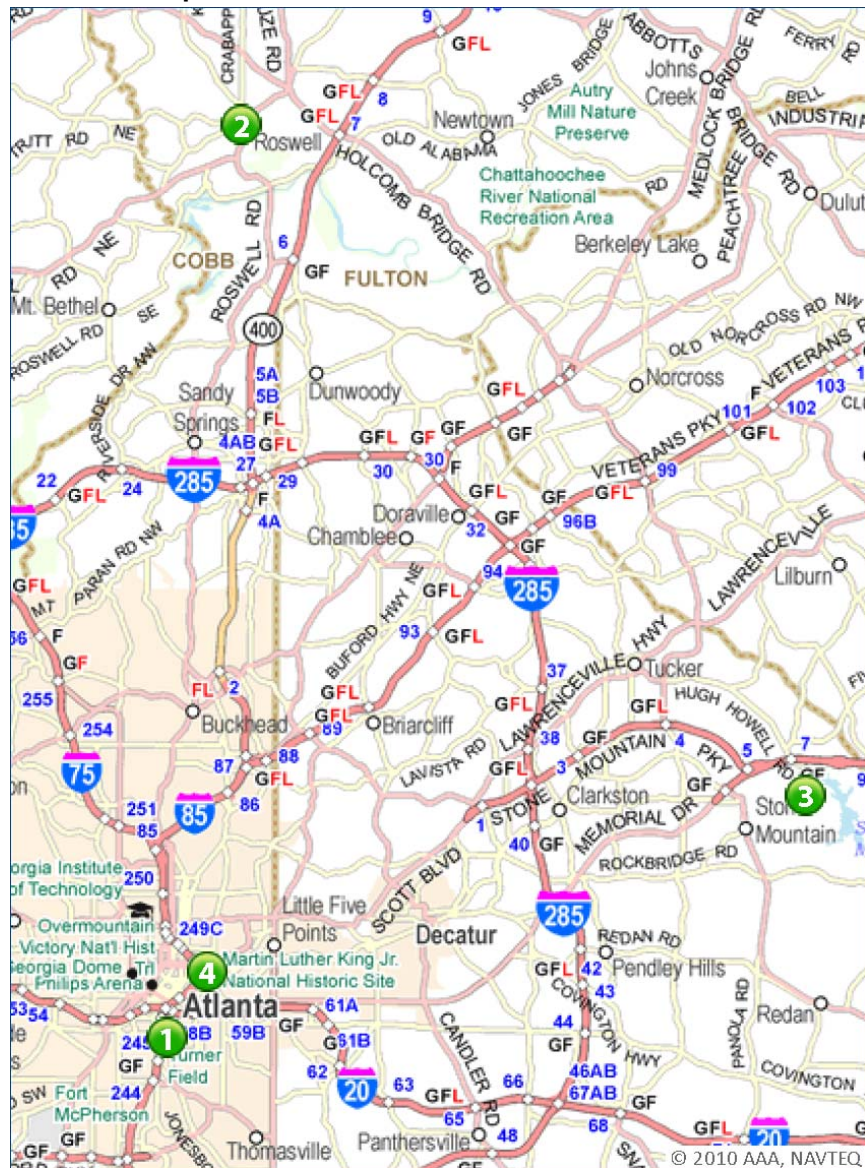
Take the elevator to the revolving 73rd floor of the Westin Peachtree Plaza for panoramic views of downtown; while there, sip a peach-flavored daiquiri.

Enjoy views of the Atlanta skyline and Appalachian Mountains from [Stone Mountain](#) via the skyride, a cable car that lets you off atop the giant Confederate memorial carving.

Join a walking tour of the Sweet Auburn National Historic District to see the boyhood home of assassinated Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., his crypt, the church where he preached and the [Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site](#).



Essentials Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com

Essentials Details - Get additional information on AAA.com



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

1. Turner Field Tours, The Ivan Allen Jr Braves Museum and Hall of Fame

755 Hank Aaron Dr
Atlanta, GA 30315
Phone: (404) 614-2311



2. Archibald Smith Plantation Home

935 Alpharetta St
Roswell, GA 30075
Phone: (770) 641-3978



3. Stone Mountain

I-287 & US 79
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
Phone: (770) 498-5690



4. Martin Luther King Jr National Historic Site

450 Auburn Ave NE
Atlanta, GA 30312
Phone: (404) 331-5190



Frolic in the Fountain of the Rings in downtown's Centennial Olympic Park and perhaps enjoy a picnic on the lawn.

Attend an outdoor concert at the Chastain Park amphitheater, where locals arrive bedecked in heels and carrying picnic baskets filled with table linens, floral centerpieces and candles.

Check out the Victorian architecture in the city's bohemian-style Little Five Points neighborhood, at the junction of Euclid and Moreland avenues.

Atlanta in 3 Days

Three days is barely enough time to get to know any major destination. But AAA travel editors suggest these activities to make the most of your time in Atlanta.

Atlanta in 3 Days – Day 1 Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com

Day 1: Morning

Your first stop should be the new and notable [Georgia Aquarium](#); our favorite exhibit is the gigantic Ocean Voyager tank, and we recommend making reservations in advance.

Then, stroll the 21-acre Centennial Olympic Park and take in the sculptures and Fountain of the Rings before signing up for a tour at [Inside CNN Atlanta](#), where you'll witness the interworkings of a busy newsroom.

Day 1 Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](#);
AAA Diamond Rating information available on [AAA.com/Diamonds](#)



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*

1. Georgia Aquarium
 225 Baker St NW
 Atlanta, GA 30313
 Phone: (404) 581-4000



2. Inside CNN Atlanta
 One CNN Center
 Atlanta, GA 30303
 Phone: (404) 827-2300

3. World of Coca-Cola
 121 Baker St
 Atlanta, GA 30313
 Phone: (404) 676-5151



4. The Georgia Capitol
 206 Washington St
 Atlanta, GA 30304
 Phone: (404) 463-4536

5. Tringali's
 94 Upper Pryor St
 Atlanta, GA 30303
 Phone: (404) 522-6568

6. Martin Luther King Jr National Historic Site
 450 Auburn Ave NE
 Atlanta, GA 30312
 Phone: (404) 331-5190



7. The Martin Luther King Jr Center for Nonviolent Social Change
 449 Auburn Ave NE
 Atlanta, GA 30312
 Phone: (404) 526-8900

8. The Varsity
 61 North Ave NE
 Atlanta, GA 30308
 Phone: (404) 881-1706

9. Turner Field Tours, The Ivan Allen Jr Braves Museum and Hall of Fame
 755 Hank Aaron Dr
 Atlanta, GA 30315
 Phone: (404) 614-2311



10. The Vortex Bar & Grill
 438 Moreland Ave
 Atlanta, GA 30307
 Phone: (404) 688-1828

11. Sweet Lime
 1128 Euclid Ave
 Atlanta, GA 30307
 Phone: (404) 589-9696

12. Sabroso
 351 Moreland Ave
 Atlanta, GA 30307
 Phone: (404) 475-8888


Nearby is [World of Coca-Cola](#). After a boost of energy from a fizzy sample, head to the gold-domed [Georgia State Capitol](#).

Afternoon

Have lunch at [Tringali's](#) at Underground Atlanta, a three-level shopping area (the bottom floor is the one actually underground) built before the

Day 2 Details - Get additional information on AAA.com;

AAA Diamond Rating information available on AAA.com/Diamonds

 - GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*

 - Exclusive AAA member discounts available

1. High Museum of Art

1280 Peachtree St NE
Atlanta, GA 30309
Phone: (404) 733-5000



2. Atlanta Botanical Garden

1345 Piedmont Ave NE
Atlanta, GA 30309
Phone: (404) 876-5859



3. Margaret Mitchell House and Museum

990 Peachtree St NE
Atlanta, GA 30309
Phone: (404) 249-7015

4. Osteria 832

832 N Highland Ave
Atlanta, GA 30306
Phone: (404) 897-1414

5. Belly General Store

772 N Highland Ave
Atlanta, GA 30306
Phone: (404) 872-1003

6. Woodruff Arts Center

1280 Peachtree St NE
Atlanta, GA 30309
Phone: (404) 733-5000



7. Park 75

75 14th St
Atlanta, GA 30309
Phone: (404) 881-9898

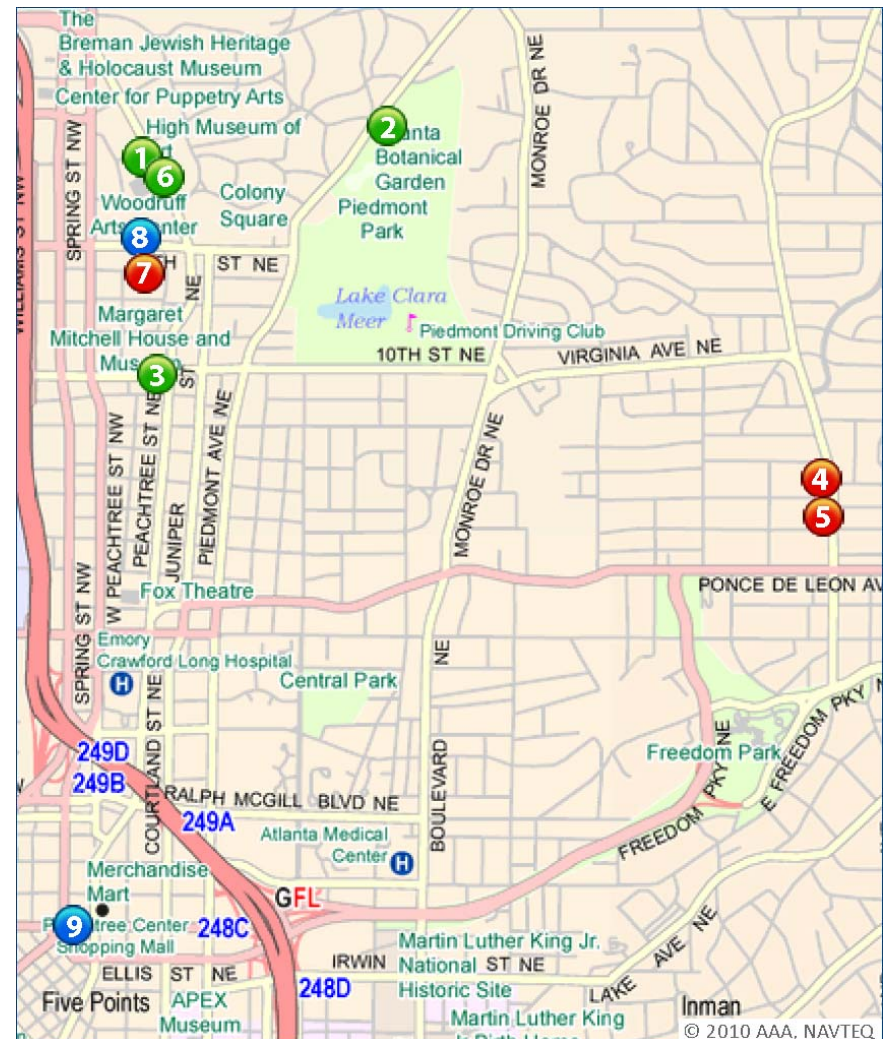
8. Four Seasons Hotel Atlanta

75 14th St
Atlanta, GA
Phone: (404) 881-9898

9. The Westin Peachtree Plaza

210 Peachtree St
Atlanta, GA
Phone: (404) 659-1400

Atlanta in 3 Days – Day 2 Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner](http://TripTik.com) on AAA.com

Civil War. East of US 75/85 is the African-American Sweet Auburn neighborhood, home to the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site (which includes his boyhood home and crypt) and The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. Both are worth a visit.

Evening

Opt for a cholesterol-packed chili dog and a frozen orange drink at The Varsity before rooting for the Braves at Turner Field Tours and the Ivan Allen Jr. Braves Museum and Hall of Fame. If the Braves are not at home

or it's off-season, head to the bohemian Little Five Points area at Euclid and Moreland avenues. Peek into shops in funky Victorian houses and dine on your choice of international fare: nosh on burgers and pub fare at The Vortex Bar & Grill; sample sushi and traditional Japanese at Sweet Lime; or opt for tasty Spanish tapas at Sabroso.

Day 2: Morning

Just northeast of the city surrounding Piedmont Park is Midtown, the city's hub for arts and culture. Spend the morning at the [High Museum of Art](#), the [Atlanta Botanical Garden](#) and, if time permits, the [Margaret Mitchell House and Museum](#).


Afternoon

Explore the Virginia Highland neighborhood, east of Piedmont Park at the intersection of Virginia and Highland streets. Peruse eclectic shops in Craftsman bungalows, and have a casual lunch at [Osteria 832](#) or [Belly General Store](#).

Evening

Catch a performance by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra or 14th Street Playhouse at [Woodruff Arts Center](#), and dine at [Park 75](#), inside the [Four Seasons Hotel Atlanta](#). Spectacular views of the city can be found at the rotating Sun Dial Restaurant (closed for renovations until early January 2010) atop [The Westin Peachtree Plaza](#) hotel, east of Centennial Olympic Park at 210 Peachtree St. N.E.

Day 3 Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](#)

 - GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*

1. Stone Mountain Park
 US 78 East, Exit 8
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087
 Phone: (770) 498-5690



2. Stone Mountain
 I-287 & US 79
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087
 Phone: (770) 498-5690



3. Summit Skyride
 Robert E Lee Blvd &
 John B Gordon Dr
 Stone Mountain, GA 30083
 Phone: (800) 317-2006

4. The Antebellum Plantation
 John B Gordon Dr & Jefferson Davis Dr
 Stone Mountain, GA 30083
 Phone: (800) 317-2006



5. Riverboat Cruises
 Robert E Lee Blvd & Marina Dr
 Stone Mountain, GA 30083
 Phone: (800) 317-2006

Day 3: Morning/Afternoon

Hit the highway en route to [Stone Mountain Park](#), east of the city. Spend the day viewing the Confederate Memorial Carving on [Stone Mountain](#) from its base or up close along the [Summit Skyride](#), which brings you to the top for spectacular views of the mountains and city. Also tour [The Antebellum Plantation](#) and the park's other myriad attractions.

Atlanta in 3 Days – Day 3 Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com](#)

Evening

If you haven't seen enough of the park, stay for the laser light show and check out its [Riverboat Cruises](#) for a trip aboard the *Scarlett O'Hara* paddlewheeler on Stone Mountain Lake. Or attend a concert at Chastain Park in northwest Atlanta (off Roswell Road near the intersection of West Wieuca and Powers Ferry roads). It's the city's best outdoor venue and known for its concertgoers, who arrive with insanely elaborate picnic spreads.

Restaurants

Chili dogs, onion rings and frozen orange drinks are but a few of the favorites you'll find at [The Varsity](#), an Atlanta institution. Expect shouts of "What'll you have?" from the high-energy staff at this retro drive-in, and don't dare approach the counter until you know what you plan to order, else harassment will ensue. Those on a diet or watching cholesterol should avoid this place, or take a day off. If you can't make it to the original landmark in downtown, seek out one of the four branches in convenient locations throughout the city.



Looking for super sandwiches, artisan breads and sumptuous desserts? [Alon's Bakery & Market](#) is the place to enjoy a creative spin on everyday fare. Garlic-roasted lamb sandwiches or a slice of Valrhona chocolate truffle cake tempt the palate. Set in a bustling neighborhood brimming with restaurants, bars and shops, this has become the place to get it and go. Primarily a take-out spot, it offers a few outdoor benches if you're both quick and lucky. In spite of its popularity, the friendly service here is prone to get rattled as the place gets crowded.

You don't need to make a trip south of the border to find authentic Mexican fare and dangerous margaritas. Head to the [Nuevo Laredo Cantina](#) instead. Tucked away in an inconspicuous hideaway, this cantina has become a mainstay for Atlantans. Quirky décor—which features

metal and wood crucifixes made by hand in Mexico—only adds to its Mexican charm. Fast service is also one of the hallmarks and is much appreciated by the local crowd and visitors alike.

[Mary Mac's Tea Room](#) serves up simple, home-style Southern fare that will take you back to a bygone era when sweet tea reigned supreme. Crispy fried chicken and fried green tomatoes are but two of the mouthwatering regional specialties, and the staff is almost as sweet as the tea. Locals often hang out here to catch a glimpse of the many luminaries that have been known to cut their teeth on the "Old South" vittles.

Have an appetite for a big steak? Peruse the meats on display in the clublike dining room of [Bone's Restaurant](#). Hand-pick your cut, then relax while the attentive staff serves up such well-known, beefy favorites as loin lamb chops and filet mignon with consistently good quality. Don't ignore the briny fare, either, as the seafood draws high marks, too. An award-winning wine list offers extensive choices to accompany a great meal.

If you know it swims in the ocean, then you may find it on your plate at the famous [Atlanta Fish Market](#), an enormous, bustling eatery marked by a 30-foot-tall copper fish. Fresh seafood doesn't get much fresher. Succulent, and sometimes obscure, options line the "today's catch" section of the menu. Come with an adventurous palate, and try the Maine skate wing, arctic char or English dory. Be sure to bring your patience, as long waits are the norm at peak hours, and the service can be streaky (although it hits more often than it misses). There's even a fresh market on site if you'd like to take something aquatic home with you.

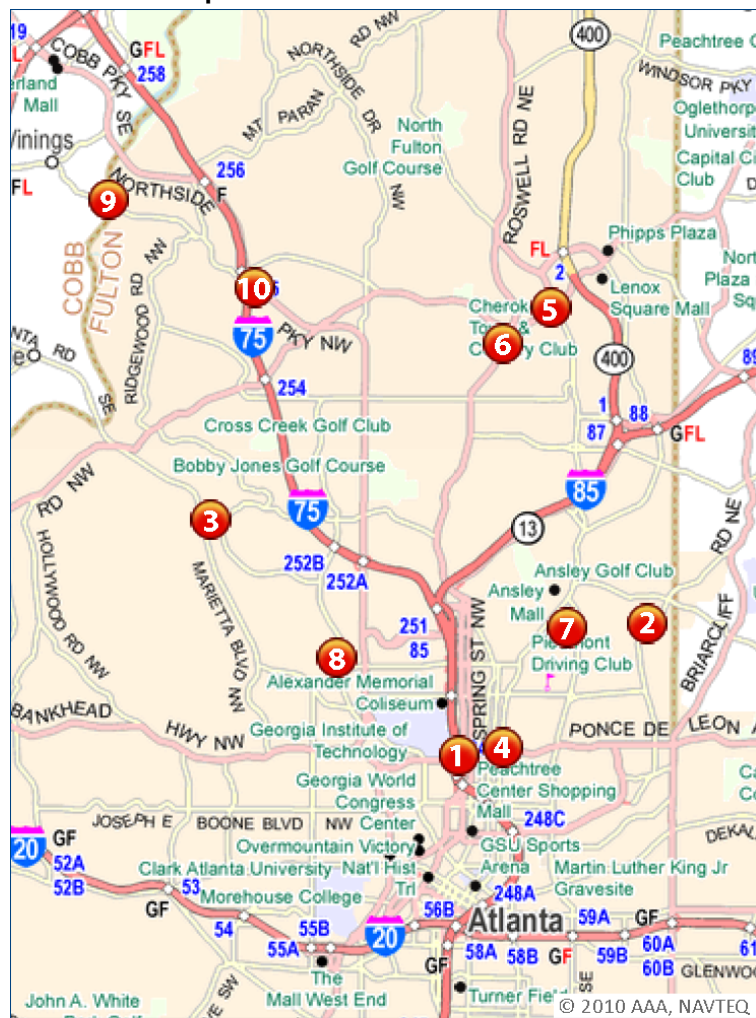
This ultra-hip, chic bistro has become one happening place in Atlanta for cutting-edge, New American cuisine. [One Midtown Kitchen](#) mixes and matches a variety of common dishes, creating new fare. Very popular are the smaller plates, which work great for sampling, coupled with bottomless wine glasses to accompany your chosen delights. The energy at this spot is palpable, friendly servers are both casual and professional, and the sleek décor and elevated noise level are vital parts of the lively scene. If you want to be where the action is, the bar is considered one of the area's best.

Bacchanalia—the name says it all. This California-style restaurant, set in a contemporary, refurbished warehouse, is one of Atlanta's most popular upscale destinations. Tasty food is always expertly prepared, and the service is just as notable. Don't dawdle in making a dinner reservation, as there is always a high demand for seats at this restaurant on any night of

the week. On your way out, stop by the gourmet outlet and take home some cheese, dessert, bread or wine.

Riverside setting and lush landscaping are only the beginning of the intimate dining experience at **Canoe**. A menu of New American cuisine—with such features as Maine peekytoe crab fritters and oak-grilled duck breast—is inspired by the season. Highly informed, yet unobtrusive, servers help make this a stellar dining spot. Fresh, local ingredients and a charming ambience contribute to the dining experience, which has long been a choice for special events.

Restaurants Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com

Restaurants Details - Get additional information on AAA.com; AAA Diamond Rating information available on AAA.com/Diamonds

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. The Varsity </p> <p>61 North Ave NE
Atlanta, GA 30308
Phone: (404) 881-1706</p> | <p>6. Atlanta Fish Market </p> <p>265 Pharr Rd
Atlanta, GA 30305
Phone: (404) 262-3165</p> |
| <p>2. Alon's Bakery & Market </p> <p>1394 N Highland Ave
Atlanta, GA 30306
Phone: (404) 872-6000</p> | <p>7. One Midtown Kitchen </p> <p>559 Dutch Valley Rd NE
Atlanta, GA 30309
Phone: (404) 892-4111</p> |
| <p>3. Nuevo Laredo Cantina </p> <p>1495 Chattahoochee Ave
Atlanta, GA 30318
Phone: (404) 352-9009</p> | <p>8. Bacchanalia </p> <p>1198 Howell Mill Rd
Atlanta, GA 30318
Phone: (404) 365-0410</p> |
| <p>4. Mary Mac's Tea Room </p> <p>224 Ponce de Leon Ave
Atlanta, GA 30308
Phone: (404) 876-1800</p> | <p>9. Canoe </p> <p>4199 Paces Ferry Rd NW
Atlanta, GA 30339
Phone: (770) 432-2808</p> |
| <p>5. Bone's Restaurant </p> <p>3130 Piedmont Rd NE
Atlanta, GA 30305
Phone: (404) 237-2663</p> | <p>10. Joel </p> <p>3290 Northside Pkwy, Suite 120
Atlanta, GA 30327
Phone: (404) 233-3500</p> |

In a stunning, modern facility that boasts a 65-foot lounge bar, the [Joel](#) offers arguably some of the most creative French cuisine in America. Dishes like roast hare tenderloin and grilled turbot delight guests. Relying on considerable international training, chef Joel Antunes has brought a memorable dining experience to Georgia that features Asian and Mediterranean influences. The wine list is outstanding, and the service is a perfect complement. Prices can be high, but prix fixe specials appeal to the more budget-minded diner.

Attractions

In a city with dozens of attractions, you may have trouble deciding where to spend your time. Here are the highlights for this destination, as chosen by AAA editors. GEMs are “Great Experiences for Members.”



Begin your visit to downtown Atlanta with a tour of the gold-domed [Georgia State Capitol](#), where you'll learn about the architecture of the building and see lawmakers at work. Be sure to check out the Hall of Valor, which has historic flags, and the Georgia Capitol Museum, chock full of rocks, artifacts and other natural history exhibits.

If pop history is more your style, head to the [World of Coca-Cola](#), a AAA GEM attraction, to find out the background behind one of the planet's most famous fizzy drinks. You still won't know the secret ingredients, but you can witness advertising at its best and sample some 40 varieties of Coke products from around the world.

Nearly next door is the brand-new [Georgia Aquarium](#), where you can peek in on 50,000 marine animals and about 100,000 fish, including gigantic whale sharks that were transported to the aquarium aboard a UPS aircraft.

Also behind glass are busy news anchors and reporters at One CNN Center. The [Inside CNN Atlanta](#) tour takes you behind the scenes to see the inner workings of one of the biggest cable TV networks.

Midtown Atlanta is home to many of the city's cultural attractions. A must-see is the [High Museum of Art](#), a AAA GEM attraction. The stark, modern building houses paintings, sculpture, photographs and decorative arts by acclaimed artists. The museum also plays host to notable traveling exhibitions. Nearby, the [Atlanta Botanical Garden](#), adjacent to Piedmont Park, is a tribute to nature. The lush, 30-acre garden encompasses old growth forest, a shade garden, a conservatory, greenhouses and a vine arbor, as well as acres of immaculate formal plantings interspersed with art and fountains.

Literary art is celebrated at the [Margaret Mitchell House and Museum](#) (catty-corner to Piedmont Park), where the author wrote most of the award-winning novel that epitomized the Old South. Burned twice since, the building has been faithfully restored.

Southeast of downtown, explore a few parks: [Grant Park](#) is home to Fort Walker and [Zoo Atlanta](#), a AAA GEM attraction. With the focus on the well-being of its residents at this animal park, a maze of pathways keeps humans in check while gorillas and giraffes run free in nature-inspired exhibit areas. Pandas, kangaroos, zebras and tortoises also reside at the zoo.

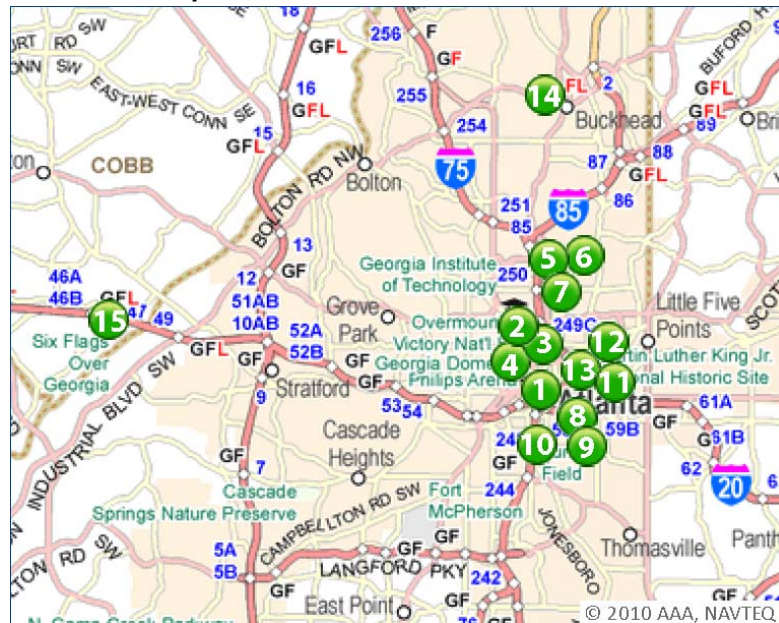
Nearby is a park of a different sort, Turner Field, where you can see the dugout, clubhouse and press box on guided tours of the Braves' ballpark with [Turner Field Tours](#) and the [Ivan Allen Jr. Braves Museum and Hall of Fame](#). North of Grant Park is the [Historic Oakland Cemetery](#). Besides being the city's third-largest green space, the grounds contain Gothic Revival and neoclassic tombs and statuary. Of the nearly 70,000 graves, about 6,900 are Confederate soldiers, and other headstones mark the final resting places for Margaret Mitchell and golfer Bobby Jones.

History was made in Atlanta's Sweet Auburn neighborhood, just north of Oakland Cemetery. This African-American community is where Civil Rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. lived and preached. [The Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site](#), a AAA GEM attraction, encompasses the two-story Victorian home where he was born, and the modest Ebenezer Baptist Church, in which he took to the pulpit with his father to preach about love, equality and peace. Steps away is [The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change](#), home to Dr.

King's tomb and exhibits about his life and work. A visit here really brings home the enormous influence King had on race relations.

North of downtown are two AAA GEM attractions that offer a glimpse into Southern antebellum history. Exhibits at the Atlanta History Center focus on the Civil War, folk art and Atlanta's early days, and outbuildings include historic properties restored to their original splendor. In Roswell,

Attractions Map



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find the Archibald Smith Plantation Home, an 1845 estate with 12 outbuildings on its 300 acres. Owned by one of the town's founders, the plantation house contains original family furnishings and valuable antiques.

Visible east of the city, Stone Mountain Park, a AAA GEM attraction, is definitely worth a day trip. The expansive, shaded park surrounds Stone Mountain, on which are etched larger-than-life images of Jefferson Davis, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and Robert E. Lee on horseback. Ascend to the top of the rock peak via the Summit Skyride and take in panoramic

Attractions Details - *Get additional information on AAA.com*



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

1. The Georgia Capitol

206 Washington St
Atlanta, GA 30304
Phone: (404) 463-4536

2. World of Coca-Cola

121 Baker St
Atlanta, GA 30313
Phone: (404) 676-5151

3. Georgia Aquarium

225 Baker St NW
Atlanta, GA 30313
Phone: (404) 581-4000

4. Inside CNN Atlanta

One CNN Center
Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: (404) 827-2300

5. High Museum of Art

1280 Peachtree St NE
Atlanta, GA 30309
Phone: (404) 733-5000

6. Atlanta Botanical Garden

1345 Piedmont Ave NE
Atlanta, GA 30309
Phone: (404) 876-5859

7. Margaret Mitchell House and Museum

990 Peachtree St NE
Atlanta, GA 30309
Phone: (404) 249-7015

8. Grant Park

800 Cherokee Ave SE
Atlanta, GA 30315
Phone: (404) 688-3353

9. Zoo Atlanta

800 Cherokee Ave SE
Atlanta, GA 30315
Phone: (404) 624-5600



10. Turner Field Tours, The Ivan Allen Jr Braves Museum and Hall of Fame

755 Hank Aaron Dr
Atlanta, GA 30315
Phone: (404) 614-2311



11. Historic Oakland Cemetery

248 Oakland Ave SE
Atlanta, GA 30312
Phone: (404) 688-2107



12. Martin Luther King Jr National Historic Site

450 Auburn Ave NE
Atlanta, GA 30312
Phone: (404) 331-5190



13. The Martin Luther King Jr Center for Nonviolent Social Change

449 Auburn Ave NE
Atlanta, GA 30312
Phone: (404) 526-8900

14. Atlanta History Center

130 W Paces Ferry Rd NW
Atlanta, GA 30305
Phone: (404) 814-4000



15. Six Flags Over Georgia


275 Riverside Pkwy
Austell, GA 30168
Phone: (770) 948-9290



views of the park and surrounding area. While you're there, see Riverboat Cruises for a trip aboard the Scarlett O'Hara and check out [The Antebellum Plantation](#), a AAA GEM attraction, for a glimpse into a 19th-century working plantation.

A warning: No child will want to pass up a day at [Six Flags Over Georgia](#), another AAA GEM attraction. The theme park, west of the city in Austell, has more than 100 thrill rides and about 10 stomach-churning roller coasters.

Attractions Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](#)

 - GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*

 - Exclusive AAA member discounts available

16. Archibald Smith Plantation Home

935 Alpharetta St
Roswell, GA 30075
Phone: (770) 641-3978



17. Stone Mountain Park

US 78 East, Exit 8
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
Phone: (770) 498-5690



18. Stone Mountain

I-287 & US 79
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
Phone: (770) 498-5690



19. Summit Skyride

Robert E Lee Blvd
& John B Gordon Dr
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
Phone: (800) 317-2006

20. Riverboat Cruises

Robert E Lee Blvd & Marina Dr
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
Phone: (800) 317-2006

21. The Antebellum Plantation

John B Gordon Dr &
Jefferson Davis Dr
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
Phone: (800) 317-2006



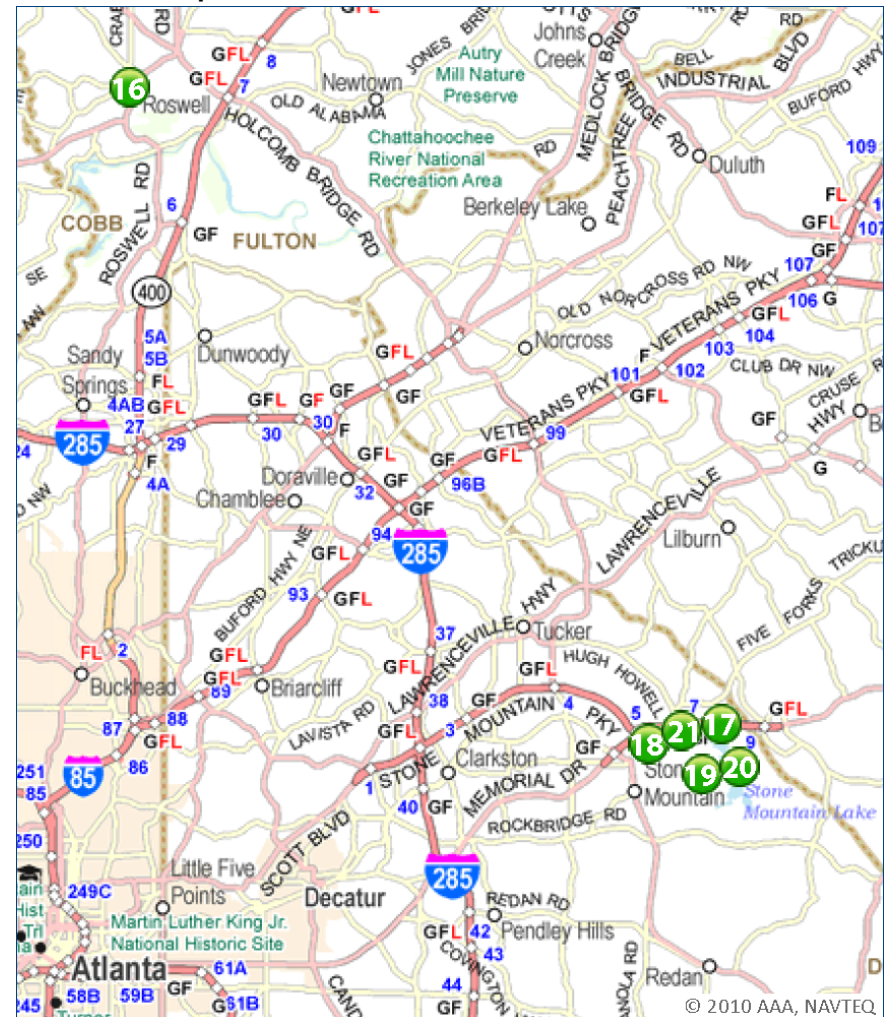
Events

In addition to its many cultural and historic landmarks, this destination hosts a number of outstanding festivals and events that may coincide with your visit. GEMs are "Great Experiences for Members."

When little white flower clusters start blooming on dogwood trees, you know spring has come to Atlanta. There's really no better way to

celebrate than to attend the [Dogwood Festival](#) at Piedmont Park in early April. The arts and crafts festival has taken place since 1936 at the beginning of spring, when the trees are at their prettiest. In addition to a chance to admire the delicate blooms, the event includes an artists' market, hot air balloon floats and a disc dog competition.

Attractions Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com](#)

We wouldn't say that Atlanta is obsessed with flowers, but they do provide a nice excuse for a get-together. The [Yellow Daisy Festival](#), at Stone Mountain Park in early September, honors the blooming of the Confederate yellow daisy, discovered in 1846 on the granite mountain. A giant arts and crafts show and a flower show are the main draws.

[JapanFest](#), held in Duluth the final weekend of September, celebrates Japanese cultural traditions, including clothing, cuisine, flower arrangements, martial arts, dance and music. Several workshops instruct attendees in kite construction and the paper art of origami.

Atlanta also times a number of outdoor festivals with the changing of the leaves, a spectacular event in itself. Scottish folks won't want to miss the [Stone Mountain Highland Games](#) in mid-October, when festivalgoers don their family tartans and gather to the sounds of bagpipes flowing through the pine-shaded meadow at Stone Mountain Park.

Atlanta's Festival of Trees, early December at the Georgia World Congress Center, kicks off the holiday season with decorated trees, wreaths and vignettes created by some of the city's top artists and designers. Locals rarely miss the [Magical Night of Lights](#), mid-November through December at Lake Lanier Islands. Armed with car picnics containing hot cocoa and holiday treats, they head to this drive-through tour of one of the world's largest animated holiday light displays—the 6.5-mile route features more than a million lights.

Nearby Marietta celebrates the season by decorating private homes and historic buildings in holiday finery and offering candlelight tours during the [Marietta Pilgrimage Christmas Home Tour](#) in early December. And Roswell invites everyone for guided historic home tours and to witness the lighting of the town square during [Christmas in Roswell](#), late November through December. The best part? Actors re-enact the 1853 wedding of Mittie Bulloch and Theodore Roosevelt.

Things to Do

Shopping

Trying to encapsulate the shopping experience in a metro area as big and spread out as Atlanta is pretty daunting. Don't even attempt to see and do it all; instead, beam in on a couple of areas that suit your fancy.

Buckhead, the city's No. 1 address for the well to do, has loads of shopping opportunities. In addition to two major malls, you'll find numerous specialty boutiques, antique shops and galleries. The malls are conveniently located across from each other at the intersection of Peachtree and Lenox roads, and both are within walking distance of MARTA's Buckhead station. Each has a distinct personality. Lenox Square has everything that mallers love: big department stores (Bloomingdale's, Macy's and Neiman Marcus), major chains (everything from Ann Taylor to Williams-Sonoma) and fast-food outlets galore for pit stops.

Phipps Plaza is more sedate and more upscale. Potted palms, plush leather couches and wood-and-brass accents provide a tony backdrop for Giorgio Armani, Versace, Gucci and other top-end retailers. Belk, Nordstrom and Saks Fifth Avenue are the department stores here, and there's also that mall staple, the food court.

If you're into antiques, definitely put Bennett Street on your shopping itinerary. It's on the southern edge of Buckhead off Peachtree Road (just north of Piedmont Hospital). Just a couple of blocks long, this hillside street is lined with galleries, boutiques, antiques showrooms and artist studios. The high-quality wares include imported English, French and Italian furniture, Turkish rugs, silver, pottery and clocks. Anne Irwin Fine Art, which showcases emerging Southern artists, is one of Atlanta's trendiest galleries. It's fun to explore even if you don't buy anything.

Atlantic Station (just off I-75/85 via the 17th Street Bridge) is Atlanta's latest shopping destination—or more accurately, it's a mixed-use retail, residential and office development. The city's first IKEA is the big draw here, but you'll also find standbys like Old Navy, Gap, American Eagle

Outfitters and Banana Republic, along with a multiplex and a whole bunch of casual eateries, all in an open-air setting. Those who don't want to drive can board a free shuttle at the MARTA Arts Center station (the shuttle stop is in the MARTA bus bay); it runs along 17th Street, stopping at designated bus stops along the way.

Underground Atlanta (downtown on Alabama Street between Peachtree Street and Central Avenue) has lost some of its luster over the years, but it's still a fun place to take the family for a couple of hours. The typically touristy assemblage of restaurants and specialty shops also includes everyday stores like Atlanta Dollar, a mecca for bargain hunters. There are parking garages off Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, but the easiest way to get here is to take MARTA to the Five Points station.

The Mall at Peachtree Center (Peachtree Center Avenue between Harris Street and Andrew Young International Boulevard) isn't so much a mall as it is a convenient stop-in for office workers and visitors staying at the major downtown hotels. Stores include Brooks Brothers and Pendleton for men's and women's clothing, plus a sprinkling of gift shops, business services and restaurants.

Atlanta neighborhoods abound with quirky shopping opportunities. If you're in the market for some new ink work, stop by Only You Tattoo (415 Memorial Dr. across from Historic Oakland Cemetery). Don't be intimidated by the biker vibe often associated with tattoo parlors; the artists at Only You will show their body art portfolios and discuss the design beforehand, and their gentle bedside manner will ease you right through the process.

Rockstar Gold (495 Flat Shoals Ave. at Glenwood Avenue) is in East Atlanta Village, or EAV, about a mile south of Little Five Points. It's a treasure trove of vintage rock memorabilia, from classic vinyl albums and posters to T-shirts and autographed photos. Take your time browsing, as everything's groovy. Nearby is Bound to be Read Books (481-B Flat Shoals Ave.). This funky little community bookstore has a captivating selection of tomes and a comfortable, chair-filled atmosphere.

Quirkiness central, of course, is Little Five Points, or L5P. This neighborhood has long been a stomping ground for hippies, punks,

rastas and the artistically inclined. It's on the scruffy side, and the little plaza bounded by Moreland, Euclid and McClendon avenues attracts some shady-looking characters. But it's also got character to spare.

L5P shops and services run the alternative gamut from thrift-store duds to unusual gifts to natural foods. Serious collectors come to Wax 'n Facts (432 Moreland Ave.), one of the city's best music stores, to thumb through stacks of vintage vinyl and a great collection of used CDs. Junkman's Daughter (464 Moreland Ave.) is a tabernacle of kitsch—knickknacks of every stripe, '80s goth clothing, gag gifts, naughty cards, outrageous wigs, feather boas and the like. Incense wafts out the door of Crystal Blue (1168 Euclid Ave.), which offers pendants, glass prisms, rocks, tarot cards and other metaphysical merchandise.

Walk due east on McClendon Avenue from Little Five Points and within minutes you'll be in Candler Park, a residential neighborhood with two small business districts on either side of its namesake park. Stroll around and admire the 1920s Craftsman bungalow homes, many beautifully renovated. Then duck into Donna Van Gogh's (1651 McClendon Ave.), which has a delightful collection of folksy, whimsical art created by local artists. Just down the street is the original Flying Biscuit Cafe, a cozy-hip breakfast and lunch spot with several Atlanta locations; their grits, biscuits and apple butter all have tasty reputations.

Virginia Highland is another desirable residential area, located on either side of N. Highland Avenue from Ponce de Leon Avenue north to about University Drive. Virginia Highland's symbolic center is the intersection of Highland and Virginia avenues, where there are shops specializing in gifts, home accessories, jewelry, stationery and women's fashions. Another small cluster of businesses at Highland and University includes Alon's (1394 N. Highland Ave.), which many Atlantans will tell you is the best bakery in town (their chocolate chunk pecan bites are legendary).

There are more specialty shops at the south end of the neighborhood near Ponce de Leon. Gems of Africa Gallery (630 N. Highland Ave.) has paintings, sculpture, pottery, masks and other African-made pieces, while Ten Thousand Villages (1056 St. Charles Ave.) is a fair trade retailer of handcrafted items from around the world. Work up an appetite at Belly General Store (772 N. Highland Ave.), a contemporary take on the

traditional general store. The building once housed Fleeman's Pharmacy, a community landmark with a popular soda fountain. Now it carries a full range of specialty foods, but the soda fountain's original marble countertop remains.

You don't have to live in Atlanta to enjoy the city's farmers markets. Serious cooks and dedicated foodies do their shopping at Your Dekalb Farmers Market (3000 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., about 2 miles west of I-285 exit 40), where you can buy just about anything under the roof of one big warehouse-like building. The produce, seafood, meat and bakery departments are extensive, but this market really shines when it comes to the amazing array of spices and international foods.

There's a similar smorgasbord at the Buford Highway Farmers Market (5600 Buford Hwy. N.E., just east of I-285 exit 32), where it's a treat just to wander up and down the aisles discovering stuff you've likely never encountered before. Folks in the know speak highly of the beef and cabbage piroshky freshly made and sold at the market's Eastern European bakery and deli stand.

And don't forget the Atlanta State Farmers Market, also called the Georgia State Farmers Market (on Forest Parkway just off I-75 exit 237; look for the big "State Farmers Market" sign). This is a real farmers market: rows and rows of stalls where growers unload truckloads of fruits and veggies every morning. In addition to produce you can find jams, jellies, baked goods, eggs, flowers, plants, trees, shrubs—even groceries. Many stalls are open by 6 a.m.; most are closed on Sunday.

If you're spending the day at Stone Mountain Park, include a stop at Stone Mountain Village, at the west end of the park via Memorial Drive to Main Street. "Quaint" about describes it, so just pop into whatever shop looks interesting—crafts, collectibles and antiques are a given, and since this is Georgia there's lots of Civil War memorabilia as well. Grab a bite to eat at The Village Corner (6655 Memorial Dr. at Main Street), a German restaurant and bakery specializing in goodies like apple and potato pancakes, sauerbraten and Bavarian-style spaetzle. It's a gemütlich kind of place.

Nightlife

Atlanta rocks, rolls, shimmies and shakes; this isn't a city where people spend the evening on the sofa watching "Everybody Loves Raymond" reruns (well, at least most people). Any pop music scholar can tell you the Atlanta area has produced such diverse artists as the Black Crowes, Collective Soul, Indigo Girls, Outkast and Sevendust. The city also has very fertile hip-hop and indie rock scenes, and a number of live music joints to boot.

Those in the musical know head for the small venues and clubs. The Variety Playhouse in Little Five Points (1099 Euclid Ave.) has been around for nearly two decades. Comfortable as an old shoe, it books an impressively eclectic roster of talent—everyone from oldies but goodies like Joan Baez, Todd Rundgren and Parliament/Funkadelic to the latest up and comers. In nearby East Atlanta Village, The Earl (488 Flat Shoals Ave., just north of Glenwood Avenue), is the place to see buzz bands like Late of the Pier and local faves (Dead Confederate, The Black Lips) before they go on to bigger things.

There's more of the same—meaning a mix of local acts and bands passing through town—at mid-size places like The Masquerade (695 North Ave.), which occupies a turn-of-the-20th-century former mill. The Tabernacle (152 Luckie St. in Centennial Olympic Park) also has a history; it opened in 1910 as part of the Georgia Baptist Medical Center and later was a church. Wood floors and a pipe organ lend a feeling of authenticity, and excellent acoustics showcase the sound, whether it's a popular hit-maker like The Fray, a more esoteric band like The Decemberists or a legend like B.B. King.

Center Stage (1374 W. Peachtree St. N.E. in Midtown) is a fairly intimate (1,100 seats) theater in the round. There's not really a bad seat anywhere in the house, and the concert lineup offers a little something for everyone. Light fixtures that resemble torches give Center Stage a slightly gothic vibe. There's also a full (cash only) bar. You'll have to pay to park in the adjacent parking deck, but the building is only two blocks from MARTA's Arts Center station (North-South line).

The burbs may seem an unlikely place for an urban nightclub, but Studio 72 (3965 Lawrenceville Hwy. in Tucker) fits the bill if you're into the bling. Owned by Atlanta music producer and songwriter Jermaine Dupri, it throbs with bass-heavy hip-hop jams (some Top 40 and R&B get thrown in as well) and has a wild atmosphere complete with Cirque du Soleil-ish sights like stilt walkers—and, for the ladies, shirtless male bartenders. Celebrity sightings run to pro athletes and well-known rappers.

The Fox Theatre (660 Peachtree St. N.E.) is perhaps the coolest place in the city for an entertainment night out. The “fabulous Fox” has it all—history, pedigree and best of all, a flamboyantly opulent interior that boasts painted plaster, bronze filigree, geometric tiles, intricately patterned carpets and other adornments. The huge auditorium, which seats just over 4,000 people, looks like a cross between a Moorish fort and a courtyard out of the Arabian Nights. What do the New York Metropolitan Opera, Elvis and the Stones have in common? They've all played the Fox. Besides being Atlanta's Broadway venue of choice, the performance schedule includes big-name pop, rock and country stars, movies (special showings of “Gone With the Wind” are major events), symphony orchestras and the Atlanta Ballet.

If you'd rather dial it down, hit one of Atlanta's neighborhood hangouts where blues, bluegrass and other homegrown music styles are on the menu. Blind Willie's (828 N. Highland Ave.) is a Virginia-Highland institution and the place to go for blues. The club was built from the ground up by local musicians who doubled as carpenters, and the house band, the Shadows, still backs many of the performers who appear here. Add the fact that you can get a Chicago dog or a Memphis-style BBQ pork sandwich washed down with a bottled or draft beer, and it's no wonder Blind Willie's packs 'em in.

In Little Five Points, the Five Spot (1123 Euclid Ave.) offers reggae, bluegrass and funk, plus a sandwich menu that includes classics like PBJ&A (that would be peanut butter and jelly plus Granny Smith apple slices). Smith's Olde Bar (1578 Piedmont Ave. near Ansley Mall) has five rooms. Aim for the downstairs bar first, then head upstairs to catch a show in the 350-seat Music Room or maybe an acoustic performance by

a local musician in the Atlanta Room before adjourning to the Poolroom for a friendly game of billiards or darts.

Buckhead is certainly a place to congregate, whether for dinner, drinks or just cruising around looking for action. For a sophisticated evening of dinner and live music, try Dante's Down the Hatch (3380 Peachtree Rd. N.E., across from Lenox Square Mall). This supper club has a loyal following, recently celebrating its 40th year in business. Interconnecting levels mimic an 18th-century sailing ship down to the stern of a fully rigged vessel, and the seating areas are filled with antiques and nautically themed memorabilia. The house specialty is fondue in permutations from beef to cheese to vegetable. A jazz trio plays every night but Monday, when soothing acoustic guitar takes over.

A special occasion always seems to call for dinner with a view. Celebrate at A Point of View, the bar at Nikolai's Roof in the Hilton Atlanta (255 Courtland St. N.E.). The name is appropriate, since it offers a stunning vista of the downtown skyline from 30 floors up. Sip a Peachtree martini before repairing to the restaurant, celebrated for its fine food and equally fine service. Or you could take one of the scenic glass elevators a dizzying 73 stories to the top of The Westin Peachtree Plaza (210 Peachtree St.) and the Sun Dial Restaurant, Bar & View. And it's quite a view indeed, whether you're sitting in the rotating cocktail lounge or gazing out from the adjacent observation deck.

But sometimes you just want to chill. The Lobby Lounge in The Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead (3434 Peachtree Rd. N.E.) is as elegant a place as there is in the city for a cocktail or a nightcap. If it's a chilly day, sink into one of the cozy couches in front of the fireplace. Another classy meeting place is the Park 75 Lounge and Terrace at the Four Seasons Hotel Atlanta (75 14th St. in Midtown). Relax in the lounge, graced with a baby grand piano and a mahogany bar, or on the next-door terrace beneath a canopy of giant ficus trees.

Note: Creative Loafing, a free newsweekly that comes out on Wednesdays, has extensive arts and entertainment listings and is available all over town.

Sports and Recreation

Atlanta's leisure activities are many. Visitors can go fishing in or rafting or canoeing down the Chattahoochee River, the focal point of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. Affectionately known as "the Hooch" by natives, the river is usually no more than 5 feet deep and affords excellent opportunities for year-round fishing. Trout, bass, catfish and other species of fish frequent the river. For fishing license and regulation information phone (800) 366-2661. Canoes, rafts, life jackets and shuttle service back to the departure point are provided by the Chattahoochee Nature Center early May to mid-September; phone (770) 992-2055. Jogging trails border the river.

Golf can be played at six city courses. The Bell-South Atlanta Golf Classic and other tournaments attract many spectators each year. The municipal parks also provide riding and hiking trails, tennis courts and swimming pools. Piedmont Park, off Monroe Drive and 10th Street in midtown, is a popular spot for bicycling and jogging.

Fishing, boating and swimming off a sandy beach are available at Lake Sidney Lanier, about 35 miles northeast off US 23.

The National League's Atlanta Braves play baseball from early April to late September at Turner Field, off I-75/85 exits 246 or 248A (Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.). Football games are played in the Georgia Dome from early September to late December when the Atlanta Falcons of the National Football League take the field. The Chick-fil-A Bowl is played between the two rival teams ACC and SEC in late December.

The National Hockey League's Atlanta Thrashers and NHL All-Star Game, the National Basketball Association's Atlanta Hawks and the Women's National Basketball Association's Atlanta Dream host opponents downtown at the Philips Arena, 1 Philips Dr. (next to CNN Center).

Racing in Atlanta focuses on horsepower. Fans of the checkered flag can see it waved almost all year at Atlanta Motor Speedway, 20 miles south, and at Road Atlanta, 39 miles northeast near Braselton. The former is host to NASCAR racing; the latter offers sports car, Formula One,

motorcycle and motocross events on its road circuit March through November.

Performing Arts

Atlanta's cultural offerings range from grand opera and fine symphony to summer stock and vintage films. Founded in 1929, the Atlanta Ballet is one of the oldest civic ballet companies in the country. The company performs from October through May at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, 2800 Cobb Galleria Pkwy. Highlights include a holiday presentation of *The Nutcracker*, which is performed at the Fox Theatre; phone (404) 881-2100 Monday through Friday 10-6 for the ballet box office. Tickets for the ballet, the Broadway Series and other fine arts events may also be obtained by calling Ticketmaster Arts Line, (404) 817-8700.

During the fall-winter concert season several other ballet and modern-dance groups stage revues, which are usually presented in the Woodruff Arts Center, 1280 Peachtree St. N.E.; phone (404) 733-5000.

The renowned Atlanta Symphony Orchestra has musical presentations September through May also in the Woodruff Arts Center. The series is supplemented by free concerts June through August. The orchestra performs in Chastain Memorial Park Amphitheatre June through August; most seats, except for lawn seats are reserved. The Chastain concert series features headliners performing with the ASO. For ticket information, phone (404) 733-5000.

The Atlanta Opera offers four productions from late September through May at Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre at 2800 Cobb Galleria Pkwy. The 2009-10 schedule includes "Elixir of Love" in October 2009, "Orfeo and Euridice" in November 2009, "Aida" in late February-early March 2010 and "The Magic Flute" in April-May 2010. For ticket information phone (404) 881-8801 or (800) 356-7372.

The Alliance Theatre Company, in the Woodruff Arts Center, presents performances that range from musicals to new and classic dramas.

Dinner theater productions at Agatha's—A Taste of Mystery, 161 Peachtree Center Ave., feature audience participation; phone (404) 584-2211. The city also is the home of numerous professional, experimental and community theater groups. Daily and weekly newspapers give details about theater and dance productions, concerts and film showings.

Insider Info

CityPass

The Atlanta CityPass includes the Georgia Aquarium, the Inside CNN Studio Tour, World of Coca-Cola and Zoo Atlanta. Also included are two option tickets for either the Atlanta Botanical Garden or the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, and either the Atlanta History Center or the High Museum of Art.


The pass may be purchased at any participating attraction and is valid for 9 days once the first ticket is used. The price as of March 1, 2010, is \$74; \$54 (ages 3-12). Credit cards accepted vary with the vendor. Phone (208) 787-4300 or (888) 330-5008.

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