



2002 Brings Exciting Events to Atlanta

ATLANTA (February 4, 2002) – Atlanta is filled with exciting events in 2002 from the arts and theater to sports and special festivities that will entertain visitors and keep locals coming back for more. With continuous renovations and openings, there is always something new to check out, so start planning the perfect weekend by taking a look at what will be going on in Atlanta this year.

Attractions

The **High Museum of Art's** "A Passion For Renoir" is on display through Feb. 24. This exhibit brings Atlanta a rare opportunity to view five luminous paintings by this important impressionist. In addition, art lovers will not want to miss "After the Scream: The Late Paintings of Edvard Munch." Edvard Munch is among the greatest of 20th century artists and will be at the High from Feb. 9 until May 5. The exhibit is on loan from the Munch-Museet in Oslo, Norway and the High is the sole venue for *After the Scream*. One of Munch's best-known modern images, the display brings to view 62 large colorful canvases from the artist's late years, few of which have ever been seen in Atlanta.

"Ancient Empires, Syria: Land of Civilizations" will be on display at the **Fernbank Museum of Natural History**. The exhibit runs from March 1-May 20 and will include more than 350 artifacts from the Middle East, including jewelry, statues, manuscripts, masks and paintings.

In Georgia, some of the most beautiful blossoms bloom in the winter and spring months. **The Atlanta Botanical Garden** has much to offer with 30 acres of diverse gardens. "Tropical Orchids: Splendor Under Glass" begins March 15 and displays more than 1,500 orchid varieties as they bloom, providing a dazzling show with an explanation of the history of the orchid culture, plant morphology and pollination. Another upcoming event at the Garden is the grand opening of the Fuqua Orchid Center March 23. The 10,000-square-foot glass facility will include a high elevation Orchid House, including rare species. The Tropical Lowland Orchid House will feature flowers that grow up trees and on rocks in natural settings. Do not miss the **Southeastern Flower Show** Feb. 20-24 with more than four acres of magnificent floral arrangements, life-sized professional gardens and educational discovery gardens.

As home of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Atlanta is proud to host a variety of events surrounding Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The long-awaited restoration of Ebenezer Baptist Church, which is part of the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic Site**, officially began in April 2001 and re-opened in January. The King Holiday's spirit extends into February with many opportunities to enjoy Black History Month. Visit the **Auburn Avenue District**, the birthplace of Martin Luther King, Jr. and site of The Auburn Avenue Research Library on African-American Culture and History.

The award-winning **Atlanta History Center** features several exceptional exhibits throughout the year. "Furniture of the American South," the largest assemblage of furniture that was made in the early South, opens March 16. The exhibit will display a wide array of chairs, bedsteads, tables and case furniture that were made for patrons with British and European roots. The Tullie Smith Farm comes to life the first Sunday of every month with "Sundays Live! at Tullie Smith Farm." Living history interpreters and craft demonstrators present a different aspect of 19th -century farm life each month.

Stone Mountain Park, often referred to as "the eighth wonder of the world," features a variety of scenic, historic, recreational and leisure activities for the whole family. The Park is currently undergoing its largest expansion ever. To thrill children of all ages, experience *The Great Barn*, a gigantic climbing structure full of rope nets, mazes, interactive games and an ultimate super slide. *Crossroads*, opening Memorial Day weekend, will recapture a small Georgia town from the 1870's and bring to life the story, people and crafts-makers of the South. Immerse in the Southern culture and heritage, as the townspeople are dressed in period costumes and invite visitors to experience the past. The town will feature Thompson's grist mill and bakery, a blacksmith shop, Tweedle's candle shop, glass blowing demonstrations, the Crossroads Mercantile with candy and ice cream production, Miss Katie's side-board restaurant with Southern cuisine and the Tall Tales 4D Theatre with 3D film and special in-house effects and scenery.

Celebrating 35 seasons, **Six Flags Over Georgia** will open an astonishing, next-generation roller coaster this spring. Superman – Ultimate Flight is the South's only flying roller coaster. Passengers tilt face-first into flying position, before climbing the 115-foot hill with a bird's-eye view below and entering a series of sharp dives, high-banked curves and spirals designed to enhance the flying experience. The signature feature comes as riders sail through the first-ever, 78-foot pretzel shaped inverted loop, climbing to the top of the large looping figure and diving into a curve which brings them amazingly close to the ground, amplifying the sensation of flying. Ending the flight is a 360-degree in-line roll. To celebrate a season filled with thrills, fun and excitement, SixFlags, is stacking up festivities for the whole family to enjoy including nightly celebrations, electrifying LIVE shows and commemorative collectibles.

The **Jimmy Carter Library & Museum** provides an in-depth view of the modern American presidency through displays of room settings, objects, documents, photographs, audio and video. "Freedom's Journey: The Declaration of Independence and Beyond" is one of the many changing exhibits throughout the year. Beginning April 27, see Norman Lear's original copy of the Declaration of Independence on display,

including a historical timeline of key events leading up to the Declaration and original weapons and artifacts from the Colonial era. “American Originals – Treasures from the National Archives” beginning Sept. 27 and running through Jan. 5, 2003, brings together 29 documents and objects, including some of the rarely-seen jewels in the holdings of the National Archives: the signed Emancipation Proclamation, The Louisiana Purchase Treaty, Thomas Edison’s patent for the “Electric Lamp,” and the official German Surrender document from World War II.

Performances and Festivals

The stage lights up this year with a menagerie of traveling Broadway favorites and other spectacular shows at **The Fox Theatre**. Some of the upcoming highlights include: Atlanta Ballet presents *Dracula*, Feb. 7-10; David Coperfield, Feb. 22-24; *Rent*, March 13-17; *Saturday Night Fever*, May 7-12; and *Flying Dutchman*, Oct. 24-27. For more information and to order tickets, visit www.foxtheatre.org.

Celebrate **Puppets Take Atlanta**, the first festival of its kind. The summer-long event is a collaborative effort between The Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau (ACVB), the Center for Puppetry Arts, City of Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs, Fulton County Arts Council, and local arts organizations. This citywide festival is comprised of more than 15 extraordinary exhibits, performances and workshops beginning June 1 and running through Aug. 18. Puppets Take Atlanta is part of the International Puppeteers Association Conference being held in Atlanta this summer, June 20-23. This is the first time the world’s largest puppetry association has held its bi-annual conference in Atlanta and only the second time in the United States.

Atlanta is in love with anything new, and the cultural community is bringing new dance, theater and performance art to the city. **First Glance Atlanta** is a citywide festival showcasing world premiere arts and culture. Running Oct. 18-Nov. 3, the festival will take place around venues in the midtown, downtown and Little Five Points areas. Visitors and locals will enjoy a festival full of new workshops, performances and special events.

Sports

Basketball’s most exciting events will take place in Atlanta in 2002. For sports fanatics, it doesn’t get any better than the **Southeastern Conference (SEC) Men’s Basketball Tournament** March 7-10 at the Georgia Dome, which leads in to the **NCAA Final Four**. This pinnacle of all college men’s basketball tournaments will be held in Atlanta, March 29- April 1 at the Georgia Dome. Tickets are sold out, but there are many events surrounding the tournament including NCAA’s Hoop City, a celebration showcasing the excitement and fanfare of NCAA championships. Sports fans will enjoy interactive events that test basketball fundamentals and celebrate college basketball’s greatest teams, players and coaches.

Do not miss the chance to get an up-close view of golf’s greatest players, as the **TOUR Championship** returns to Atlanta. The tournament takes place Oct. 28-Nov. 3 at one of golf’s most serene and historic sites, East Lake Golf Club. The Championship represents

the best of the PGA TOUR, only those players in the top 30 on the TOUR's money list will receive the coveted invitation to compete.

With five professional sports teams, Atlanta can satisfy the need for action-packed sports any weekend of the year. The Atlanta Braves, Atlanta Hawks, Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta Thrashers and the Women's United Soccer Association's, Atlanta Beat will be in action throughout the year.

For more information on these events and many others, visit www.atlanta.com.

Established in 1913, the ACVB is a private, nonprofit organization created exclusively to market metro Atlanta and Georgia as the premier conventions, meetings and leisure destination in the regional, national and international marketplace and to favorably impact the Atlanta economy through conventions and tourism.

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