



Atlanta's Annual Festivals

ATLANTA – Atlanta is blessed with a mild climate year-round, which makes outdoor festivals and celebrations a great way to explore the culture of this southern city. Atlanta's historic neighborhoods as well as the city's favorite parks, art, music, food and culture are celebrated at numerous festivals throughout the year.

January

Chinese New Year

The Chinese New Year takes place on the first day of the first lunar month (near the end of January or the beginning of February on the American calendar) and is a celebration of health, prosperity and happiness in the coming year. The festival shares the importance of the holiday to the Chinese community through the presentation of traditional foods, handmade artwork, musical and dance performances. For more information, please contact the Chinese Community Center at 770.454.9167.

April

Atlanta Dogwood Festival

The Atlanta Dogwood Festival is a showcase of springtime in Atlanta featuring local artists, crafters and musicians. Held each year in Piedmont Park, the 2007 festival celebrate 71 years in Atlanta, making it the longest-running festival in the city. Annual events include live musical performances, a 24-foot rock-climbing wall, kids' village and the annual U.S. Disc Dog Southern Nationals Competition. The festival also features great food and an artist market with more than 200 of the nation's top artists. The 2007 festival will take place April 13-15. To find out more, call 404.817.6642 or visit www.dogwood.org.

Georgia Renaissance Festival

The Georgia Renaissance Festival, April 14-June 3, 2007, transports visitors back to a magnificent 15th century kingdom. Cavort with nearly 1,000 colorfully costumed characters including kissing wenches, wandering minstrels, jugglers, magicians, hypnotists, rat-catchers and the world famous Hanlon-Lees Jousting Knights. Then, shop at 150 artisan shops featuring everything from fine jewelry, weaving and glass-blowing to a blacksmith and broom-maker. For more information, call 770.964.8575 or visit www.georgiarenaisancefestival.com.

Atlanta Film Festival

This annual festival, now in its 31st year, presents more than 150 independent films from more than 17 countries along with guest appearances by filmmakers, panelists, artists and industry professionals from around the world. The festival dates span April 19-28 in 2007. Screenings run at multiple venues throughout the 10-day festival, concluding with the Atlanta Film Festival

Awards Ceremony. For more information, call 404.352.4225 or visit www.atlantafilmfestival.com.

Inman Park Festival

Enjoy the best of spring blooms in Atlanta's oldest neighborhood at the Inman Park Festival April 27-29, 2007. For one weekend each year, the city's first suburb is transformed into a giant artist market, complete with live entertainment and a wide variety of food vendors. Festivities also include the Tour of Homes and a parade on Saturday, blending the eclectic atmospheres of Inman Park and nearby Little Five Points. To find out more, call 770.242.4895 or visit www.inmanpark.org.

May

Sweet Auburn SpringFest

Dubbed as the largest street festival in the southeast, SpringFest includes 10 stages of entertainment featuring Atlanta's best gospel, jazz, blues and hip-hop. Events include a children's fantastic fun area, technology expo and international vendors market. Two festival favorites are the Atlanta Classic Car Show and the Taste of Sweet Auburn, featuring the best soul food Atlanta has to offer. Sweet Auburn is one of Atlanta's historic African-American neighborhoods and is the birthplace of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the home to landmark churches, such as Big Bethel A.M.E. and Ebenezer Baptist. The 2007 event will take place May 11-13. For more information, visit www.sweetauburn.com.

The Atlanta Jazz Festival

This 31-day schedule of events brings more than 100 of the best jazz performers to Atlanta during the month of May. Festivities include a free weekend concert series at Piedmont Park, May 25-27, a special benefit concert at Chastain Park Amphitheatre, the best in soul food, ethnic cuisine and American cooking and an expanded arts and crafts market. The 2007 festival will take place May 1-31. For more information, call 404.817.6851 or visit www.atlantafestivals.com.

June

Virginia-Highland Summerfest

Summerfest takes place June 1-3, 2007 in the heart of Atlanta's historic Virginia-Highland, an in-town neighborhood known for its diverse mix of nightlife, galleries, restaurants and unusual shops. The three-day festival includes arts, great food, live local music, a Kidsfest play area and a Saturday morning 5K run and Tot Trot. For more information, visit www.vahi.org.

PRIDE

This annual festival and parade commemorates the Stonewall Riots in NYC that launched the modern lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual rights movement. Held June 22-24, 2007 at Piedmont Park, the festival attracts as many as 300,000 participants from the greater Atlanta area and neighboring states. It is the largest festival of its kind in the southeast and one of the largest in the country. To learn more, call 404.929.0071 or visit www.atlantapride.org.

July

National Black Arts Festival

This 10-day cultural festival celebrates the contributions of Africans and African-Americans to art with events throughout the city featuring the work of more than 1,000 artists from the Caribbean, Africa, Europe and the Americas. Included are artist and vendor markets, a gallery crawl and live entertainment encompassing music, literature, theater and performance art, film, dance, visual art and folk art. The 2007 festival will be July 20-29. For more information, call 404.730.7315 or visit www.nbaf.org.

July 4th in Atlanta

Independence Day is a citywide celebration in Atlanta. Festivities begin early with the Peachtree Road Race, a hilly, 6.2-mile course through the heart of the city. With 55,000 runners, it is recognized as the largest 10K in the world. Participants then head downtown for the Salute 2 America Parade, which ends in Centennial Olympic Park for a day-long family festival. The holiday offers a wide range of fireworks shows with the most popular taking place at Centennial Olympic Park, Lenox Square, Turner Field and Stone Mountain Park. To find out more, visit www.centennialpark.com.

August

Latino Festival

Underground Atlanta is the scene of dancing in the streets with Latin music, costumes, food and more, Aug. 26, 2007. With more than 80,000 attendees, the festivities kick off with a parade through Underground Atlanta, followed by performances from folkloric dance groups, local talent and top performers from the U.S. and Latin American countries. For more information, call 404.321.0663 or visit www.festivalpeachtreelatino.com.

September

DragonCon

Since 1987, Atlanta has provided a playground for science-fiction and fantasy fanatics from all over the world at America's largest popular culture conference, held over Labor Day weekend. Meet celebrities from the worlds of animation, comic books, acting and film-making and be sure to catch the Saturday morning parade of characters down Peachtree Street. To learn more, call 770.909.0115 or visit www.dragoncon.org.

Yellow Daisy Festival at Stone Mountain Park

Now in its 39th year, the Yellow Daisy Festival is one of Georgia's largest craft shows, boasting more than 500 vendors from 39 states and two countries. Voted by *Sunshine Artists* magazine as the Nation's #1 Arts and Crafts show, the festival features open-air shopping, live entertainment and food. The 2007 festival will be held Sept. 6-9. To learn more, call 770.498.5690 or visit www.stonemountainpark.com.

Taste of Atlanta

Take a bite out of what's cooking in Georgia's capital at Atlantic Station. This festival of taste features cuisine from more than 70 of the city's finest restaurants, wines from North Georgia and

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celebrity chef demonstrations. For more information, call 404.957.6083 or visit www.tasteofatlanta.com.

JapanFest

Experience an authentic Japanese outdoor festival at this annual celebration at Stone Mountain Park, Sept. 22-23, 2007. Japanese cuisine is accompanied by bonsai displays, kite making workshops, taiko drumming and dance performances to provide a multifaceted look at the ancient traditions of this culture. To find out more, call 404.842.0736 or visit www.japanfest.org.

October

Atlanta Greek Festival

Experience one of the oldest cultures in history at the Atlanta Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Oct. 4-7, 2007. Sample authentic Greek wine and cuisine paired with traditional music and dance. A shopping bazaar offers authentic Greek items such as clothing, ceramics, copper, books, jewelry, handmade tapestries, needlepoint and original artwork by international, national and local artists. For more information, call 404.633.5870 or visit www.atlantagreekfestival.org.

Atlanta Celebrates Photography

More than 100 exhibits, a lecture series, films, public art projects and other special events provide a chance to experience the versatility of artistic expression on film at the 9th annual Atlanta Celebrates Photography festival. Events are held throughout the city at commercial and non-profit galleries, museums, universities and other alternative arts venues. The 2007 festival will be Sept. 28-Oct. 3. To learn more, call 404.634.8664 or visit www.acpinfo.org.

Little Five Points Halloween Festival and Parade

Atlanta's most eclectic neighborhood celebrates the season with the annual parade and costume contest the weekend before Halloween, Oct. 19-21. The free, outdoor event boasts the 2003 *Best Festival* award by the International Festival and Events Association. Highlights include entertainment, an 8K "Run Like Hell," artist market, children's activities and more. Competition will heat up during the casket races and costume contest. For more information, visit www.l5phalloween.com.

Atlanta Botanical Garden's Scarecrows in the Garden

Dozens of imaginative scarecrows are displayed in the Children's and Woodland Shade gardens, Sept. 30-Oct. 31. Educational activities are scheduled every weekend in October and include storytelling, crafts and scavenger hunts. To find out more, call 404.876.5859 or visit www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org.

Stone Mountain Highland Games

The sound of bagpipes echo throughout Stone Mountain Park as Scots from around the world gather for the annual Stone Mountain Highland Games & Scottish Festival. The festival features traditional Scottish piping, drumming and harping accompanied by athletic events, dancing and a parade of tartans from various Scottish clans. The 2007 festival will be held Oct 20-21. For more information, visit www.smhg.org.

December

Festival of Trees

This spectacular festival celebrates international holiday with exhibits, extraordinary gingerbread creations from Atlanta's top chefs, specialty shops, a special Norman Rockwell's "Home for the Holidays" exhibition and a "Deck the Halls" display showcasing designs and decorations to warm the heart and home. To learn more about this Dec. 2-10 festival, call 404.785.8815 or visit www.choa.org/festival.

Established in 1913, ACVB is a private, nonprofit organization created exclusively to market metro Atlanta and Georgia as a premier convention, meeting and leisure destination in the regional, national and international marketplace and to favorably impact the Atlanta economy through conventions and tourism. For more information, visit www.atlanta.net.

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