



## Atlanta's Neighborhoods

Just beyond the striking skyline and bright lights of Atlanta lie the city's neighborhoods. These in-town neighborhoods represent Atlanta's Southern heritage and summon visitors to experience the many unique areas that create the landscape of the city.

East of downtown is Atlanta's quintessential example of restoration. **Inman Park** is Atlanta's first planned community and one of the nation's first garden suburbs. Prominent Atlantans such as Asa Candler and Ernest Woodruff, both of The Coca-Cola Company, once resided here in the upscale community, where businessmen were provided transportation downtown via trolley. During the mid-1900s, the area became depressed and was abandoned until the early 1970s, when it became a center of restoration. Inman Park is now one of Atlanta's most prestigious and picturesque neighborhoods, with authentic Victorian-style homes, sidewalks and streets lined with shading willow trees. Restaurateurs have discovered the charm of the area, opening notable dining destinations such as Rathbun's, Krog Bar, Sotto Sotto, Fritti, as well as new projects from Atlanta favorites Bob Amick and Shaun Doty. But the neighborhood is most noted for its annual tour of homes and walking tours conducted by the Atlanta Preservation Center, which follow the deep history of this neighborhood alongside the story of Atlanta.

Just south of Inman Park is **Little Five Points**, Atlanta's source for eclectic dining, bohemian shopping and artistic creativity. The scene is reminiscent of New York's Greenwich Village or San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury, embracing every lifestyle from Rasta to Gothic and offering a flavor unique to Atlanta. Clothing boutiques carry the latest trends by local designers while next door, one can find the city's best vintage shopping. Little Five Points is known for its progressive theaters, variety of music venues and diversity of cuisine. Popular music and performing arts venues include 7 Stages, Variety Playhouse and the Star Community Bar and Horizon Theatre, which converted a former bank vault into a shrine to Elvis. The area comes to life each October during the Little Five Points Halloween Festival and Parade, bringing out the eccentricity and liveliness of the area to a celebratory and spooky height.

West of Inman Park is Atlanta's **Sweet Auburn** district. The neighborhood's Auburn Avenue was once hailed as the richest black street in America and today is the center of Atlanta's African-American history. It is home of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, which features the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Visitor Center, the tombs of Dr. King and his wife, Coretta Scott King, King's birth home and Ebenezer Baptist Church, where he and his father preached.

**Virginia-Highland**, commonly referred to as The Highlands, is one of Atlanta's most popular neighborhoods for shopping, dining and nightlife. Noted for its renovations of 60-to 80-year-old

homes, the area boasts tree-lined avenues dotted with ethnic and new American restaurants, antique shops, art galleries, spas and salons, boutiques and a selection of bars and pubs. Favorite haunts include the well-known Paolo's Gelato Italiano, nationally-acclaimed Alon's Bakery, and patios at local pubs Hand in Hand, Neighbors, and Atkins Park, the oldest bar in Atlanta. The intown location and diverse offerings of this area draw a young crowd from nearby Emory University while remaining popular with young professionals and families alike.

**Downtown** is primarily the business district for Atlanta, yet in recent years more than \$2 billion in construction projects and new demand for intown living has led to a dramatic transformation. New restaurants, art galleries and attractions create a 24-hour city that is livable, walkable and entertaining. Top restaurants such as Dailey's and Ray's in the City are accompanied by popular nightspots like The Mark and Underground Atlanta's Kenny's Alley, with eight clubs staying open until 4 a.m. A multitude of family attractions surround Centennial Olympic Park including the Inside CNN Studio Tour, Imagine It! The Children's Museum of Atlanta, the Georgia Aquarium, several of the city's professional sports facilities, and opening in Spring 2007, the new World of Coca-Cola. Friendly, helpful Downtown Ambassadors patrol the streets offering security and assistance.

Adjacent to Downtown, **Castleberry Hill** is one of Atlanta's most up-and-coming neighborhoods, but is also the eighth Landmark District for the City of Atlanta. Early 20<sup>th</sup>-century commercial and industrial structures give the area a distinctive urban look, and an ever-growing conglomeration of art galleries, hip new restaurants, boutiques and loft housing are making Castleberry Hill a popular neighborhood for residents and visitors alike. The annual Castleberry Hill Loft Tour is a local favorite, drawing thousands to view lofts and stroll the galleries, shops and restaurants of the neighborhood.

**Midtown** today is known for its residential diversity combined with an energetic business district. The area is home to the Georgia Institute of Technology as well as the Savannah College of Art and Design. It is the center of Atlanta's thriving cultural scene, laying claim to the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Piedmont Park, Woodruff Arts Center, the Fox Theatre and several playhouses. Its cosmopolitan stature comes from trendy clothing and furniture boutiques, an eclectic blend of dining and what many consider the new center of nightlife. From restaurants serving up the latest dining trend to martini or wine bars to jazz clubs, local breweries or the city's hottest clubs, Midtown is one of Atlanta's most vibrant neighborhoods.

In the **West Side**, old warehouses are converting into Atlanta's most popular sites for clothing boutiques, specialty shops, artist studios, distinctive restaurants and nightlife. Antiques, custom pieces, hand-crafted items, lighting fixtures, bedroom furniture, mirrors, area rugs, outdoor furniture or garden accessories can all be found in this neighborhood. Set amongst the converted warehouse stores are upscale clothing boutiques such as Scout and G. Gilbert and one of Atlanta's best restaurants, Bacchanalia. Located in a recently restored warehouse, Compound is Atlanta's new "it" spot for nightlife, with multiple buildings and courtyards catering to various scenes. This once deserted area of town is now one of Atlanta's popular new neighborhoods.

One of Atlanta's most prominent neighborhoods, **Buckhead**, has been dubbed "the Beverly Hills of the East." Listed as one of the country's most affluent communities by the *Robb Report*, the area boasts some of Atlanta's largest and grandest homes. It is Atlanta's epicenter of shopping,

with upscale malls Phipps Plaza and Lenox Mall that feature Barney's, Louis Vuitton and Hermes, to Miami Circle, a shopping village of more than 70 furniture design rooms and antique stores. Buckhead has become the traditional location for fine dining, while new additions continue to maintain the area's status as a top dining destination. Buckhead is Atlanta's most evident example of old and new.

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