



## **Atlanta Festivals 2002**

**ATLANTA** (March 5, 2002) – Any time of year, there is always a celebration in Atlanta. The moderate climate enables festivals to be held year-round in the 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.

### **Chinese New Year**

Of all the traditional Chinese festivals, the New Year is the most elaborate, colorful and important. The celebration 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. A holiday of sacred traditions and symbolism for the Chinese people, each part of the New Year's Eve meal and New Year ceremonies have special meanings to honor the past and prepare for the year ahead. The festival shares the importance of the holiday to Atlanta's Chinese community through the presentation of traditional foods, handmade artwork and an authentic Chinatown parade. For more information, please contact the Chinese Community Center at 404.506.1669.

### **Atlanta Dogwood Festival**

The 66<sup>th</sup> annual Atlanta Dogwood Festival is a celebration of spring in Atlanta. This year's visitors and locals will enjoy three stages with more than 50 local, regional and national performers and creations from more than 200 artists. Held in Piedmont Park, the Atlanta Dogwood Festival will be held April 12-14 and will benefit Camp Sunshine, a summer camp for children stricken with cancer. Annual events include a canine frisbee event, hot air balloon races, a children's festival and a 5K road race. For more information, call 404.329.0501 or visit [www.dogwood.org](http://www.dogwood.org).

### **ParkFest**

ParkFest 2002 will kick off the warm weather season of outdoor festivals on April 20-21 with a weekend of free concerts, an artists' market, children's activities and performers at Centennial Olympic Park. The free, two-day festival will conclude each evening with a dramatic fireworks show, complete with special effects set against the beautiful downtown skyline. Past participants in ParkFest include the Atlanta Coalition of Theaters, Atlanta Motor Speedway, and musical performances by artists such as Nelly Furtado, Fastball, Ray Charles and the Lovin' Spoonful. For more information, call 404.223.PARK or visit [www.gwcc.com](http://www.gwcc.com).

### **Inman Park Festival**

Celebrate in Atlanta's oldest neighborhood at the Inman Park Spring Festival and Tour of Homes April 26-28. The festival is centered around the Tour of Homes, featuring turn-

of-the-century bungalows and contemporary designs and lofts. In addition, enjoy Atlanta's biggest street market, an arts and crafts show, live entertainment on two stages, a dance festival showcasing some of Atlanta's best ballet and modern dance companies, and plenty of children's activities including an exciting parade. For more information, call 770.242.4895 or visit [www.inmanpark.org/festival](http://www.inmanpark.org/festival).

### **Sweet Auburn SpringFest**

Set on the street famous for its role in the civil rights movement, the Sweet Auburn SpringFest will be held April 26-28, and features musical entertainment including gospel and jazz, street vendors, a BBQ Cook-Off and more. For more information, see the Web site at [www.sweetauburn.com](http://www.sweetauburn.com).

### **Georgia Renaissance Festival**

The Georgia Renaissance Festival, the largest themed festival in the Southeast, is scheduled for April 20 – June 2. Explore a multi-acre kingdom set in the 16<sup>th</sup> century European Country Faire where you can shop and meet nearly 1,000 costumed characters. Twelve stages of music and comedy shows set against a backdrop of Tudor homes and enchanting cottages accompany an artists' marketplace featuring more than 150 artists. Guests can participate in games and tests of skill or enjoy savory renaissance foods such as Italian sausage sandwiches and giant turkey legs. For more information, please call 770.964.8575 or visit [www.garenfest.com](http://www.garenfest.com).

### **Music Midtown**

One of Atlanta's favorite springtime traditions, the ninth annual Music Midtown Festival is back May 3-5, featuring more than 150 national, regional and local bands on 11 stages. Musical highlights will include Blues artists, an old-fashioned Cajun Fa Do Do dance party, Zydeco and Cajun performers, a unique tribute to Latin, Cuban and Brazilian music as well as children's entertainment. An expanded artists market will feature more than 70 vendors, a popular cultural stage and a film tent. In addition, festival-goers will enjoy delicious cuisine from around the world. For the second year in a row, Music Midtown will join with Turner South to bring fans the ultimate live concert experience – "Turner South Live; A Concert from Music Midtown," to be broadcast live on Saturday, May 4. For more information visit [www.musicmidtown.com](http://www.musicmidtown.com).

### **The Atlanta Jazz Festival**

A musical showcase, celebrating jazz legends and up-and-coming jazz greats comes to stages throughout Atlanta during the largest free jazz festival in the country held May 18-27 at Piedmont Park. The festival brings more than 100 of the best jazz performers to Atlanta for nine straight days and features a Free Weekend Concert Series at Piedmont Park, 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. For more information, visit the festival Web site at [www.atlantafestivals.org](http://www.atlantafestivals.org)

### **Atlanta Peach Caribbean Festival**

The streets of downtown resemble an island carnival during the Atlanta Peach Caribbean Festival on Memorial Day Weekend. Attendees travel from the United States, Canada and the Caribbean islands to gather under the warm spring sun and celebrate a unique history and culture. Experience Caribbean culture with performances from a diverse group of artists, an art show, the Atlanta Peach Caribbean Festival parade and a soccer tournament.

### **Georgia Shakespeare Festival**

Theater lovers of all types come to Oglethorpe University each summer to enjoy Shakespearean works and other classics performed in a picnic-style atmosphere. The festival's pre-show entertainment begins on the picnic grounds an hour before curtain. Guests are welcome to bring their picnics or pick up a catered dinner. Last summer's works included award winning performances of *Amadeus* and *The Winter's Tale*. The three shows run in repertory. This year the Conant Performing Arts Center has enabled the festival to return for the fall. For more information, call 404.504.3400 or access [www.gashakespeare.org](http://www.gashakespeare.org).

### **Virginia-Highland Summerfest 2002**

Celebrate the beginning of summer with Summerfest 2002. The festival takes place on June 1-2, in the heart of Atlanta's historic Virginia-Highland, an eclectic neighborhood known for its diverse mix of nightlife, galleries, restaurants and unusual shops. Recently voted the "Best Neighborhood Festival," this two-day event includes more than 200 artists booths, treats from the neighborhood's hippest restaurants, live local music, a Kidsfest play area, and a Saturday morning 5k race and Tot Trot. For more information, call 404.222.8244.

### **National Black Family Reunion Celebration**

The annual Black Family Reunion Celebration will take place in mid June at venues throughout the city. The three day celebration is designed to honor the many achievements of the Black family through art exhibitions, a parade, live gospel concerts and a free expo.

### **National Black Arts Festival**

The annual National Black Arts Festival will take place July 19-28, and has become the largest celebration of art and artists of African descent in the world, attracting a local, national and international audience of more than one million visitors. The festival showcases the work of African American artists, including dance, film, folk, art, literature, music, performance art, theater and visual art.

### **Yellow Daisy Festival**

More than 400 artists from 32 states and three countries will display their work Sept. 5-8 at the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Yellow Daisy Festival. Voted the nation's #1 Arts & Crafts Show by *Sunshine Artist Magazine*, the festival features daily live entertainment, Children's Corner activities, clogging and crafter demonstrations as well as fabulous festival foods. For more information, call 770.498.5633.

### **Stone Mountain Highland Games and Scottish Festival**

The sound of bag pipes echo throughout Stone Mountain Park Oct. 19-20 at the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Highland Games & Scottish Festival. Scots from around the world will gather for traditional Scottish competitions, celebrations of dance and music and displays of folk art and Scottish tartans. For more information, contact Stone Mountain Park at 770.498.5633.

### **First Glance Atlanta**

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 at 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.

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

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