



Shopping, Arts & Culture in Atlanta

ATLANTA-- From shopping malls to outlet centers, neighborhood shops and antique treasures, the options ensure that no shopper will leave empty-handed in Atlanta. The city's arts and culture scene runs from neighborhood gallery strolls and city theater nights to a Grammy Award-winning symphony performance, the country's oldest ballet, the world's largest museum dedicated to the art of puppetry, and much more. Coupled together, shopping, arts and culture make Atlanta a hot destination with endless activities for any traveler.

Shopping

Atlanta has one of the top 10 retail markets in the country, and the city's neighborhoods are a great place to find antiques, art galleries, arts and crafts stores, thrift shops and boutiques. The city's eclectic shopping neighborhoods include downtown Atlanta, Little Five Points, Virginia-Highland, Buckhead, Midtown, the International Corridor on Buford Highway, Vinings, Marietta Square and Historic Roswell, to name a few.

Buckhead:

Just six miles north of Downtown, Buckhead is home to more than 1,400 retail stores. In addition to Lenox Square and Phipps Plaza, Buckhead also features more than 90 art galleries.

- Originally a small group of antique shops, [Miami Circle](#) has grown into a top resource for interior designers and retail customers. More than 80 shops and galleries offer museum-quality antiques, showrooms of chandeliers, furniture, flooring, accessories, gifts and other appealing items.
- South of Miami Circle, [Bennett Street](#) boasts more than 50 different antique shops, galleries and studios. What began as a supply path that linked Atlanta to the surrounding countryside during the Civil War, Bennett Street now offers some of the best antiques and art in Atlanta.
- [The Galleries of Peachtree Hills](#) has 29 distinctive antique and art galleries. This luxury center is reminiscent of an antiques and art row, with the five-building complex designed in classical French style. The collectors, gallery owners and designers offer knowledgeable, experienced guidance and service.

Midtown:

- [Atlantic Station](#) is a live-work-play, urban development boasting 18 eateries and 30 retailers including: Target, H&M, Ann Taylor, Banana Republic, K-La, Taste Clothing Boutique, DSW Shoe Warehouse, Dillard's, White House | Black Market and IKEA. Also housed is a Regal Cinemas 13, and Ten Pin Alley, featuring high-end billiards and bowling lanes.
- **The Westside**, once an up-and-coming area, is now a hip shopping destination with stores often in old warehouses. The [Westside Urban Market](#) on Howell Mill Road houses B Braithwaite, Bungalow Classic, Owen Lawrence, Sid Mashburn and Star Provisions, not to mention several restaurants from casual to four-star. In the Brickworks development on Marietta Street, check out [Waldenour](#), [Verde Home](#) and [Toscano & Sons Italian Market](#). [Staceage](#) on Huff Road sells modern fabrics and furniture, and [Home Identity](#) on Chattahoochee Avenue has home furnishings with pieces from China, Mongolia, Tibet, India, Indonesia, Italy and the U.S.

[Little Five Points](#) and [Virginia-Highland](#):

- Located close together, these diverse neighborhoods are on the edge of Downtown and are full of art galleries, eclectic boutiques, clothing, music and gift stores, and chef-owned eateries. These neighborhoods also have an abundance of coffeehouses, pubs and other nightlife options, making them an all-day destination.

Downtown:

- [AmericasMart Atlanta](#), located in downtown Atlanta, is comprised of four buildings that are open to trade only: the Atlanta Gift Mart, Atlanta Merchandise Mart, Atlanta Apparel Mart and Inforum. Each year, AmericasMart hosts more than 400,000 retailers from every state and more than 70 countries around the world in 17 home furnishings, gift, floor covering and apparel markets. In January and July, Atlanta International Gift and Home Furnishings Markets have become the dominant national wholesale markets among hundreds of competing shows staged throughout the United States. In 2009, AmericasMart recently opened a 2 million-square-foot expansion of its 6.2 million-square-foot complex.

Malls

There are more than 20 enclosed malls and hundreds of shopping centers in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Atlanta's malls feature such anchor stores as Bloomingdale's, Macy's, Dillards, Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom and Saks Fifth Avenue.

Together, [Lenox Square](#) and [Phipps Plaza](#) offer the most concentrated collection of upscale stores available anywhere in the city, including Barneys CO-OP, Neiman Marcus, Tiffany & Co., Jil Sander, Gucci, Cartier, Burberry, Jimmy Choo and Louis Vuitton.

From [Perimeter Mall](#) in Dunwoody to [Mall of Georgia](#) in Buford, [Cumberland Mall](#) in Marietta, [North Point Mall](#) in Alpharetta and the [Mall at Stonecrest](#) in Lithonia, shoppers can find a mall in almost any area of town. Several of these retail destinations are located on the [MARTA](#) rail and bus line, making them a quick ride away.

Outlet Centers

Atlanta has five outlet centers within a one-hour drive of the city.

- Located at the junction of I-85, State Road 120 and Sugarloaf Parkway, [Discover Mills](#) has 1.2 million square feet of retail space and offers entertainment venues, varied dining options and stores including Perry Ellis, Kenneth Cole, Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, Neiman Marcus Last Call, Off 5th – Saks Fifth Avenue and Strasburg Children, plus Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament, Jillian's and an AMC Movie Theater.
- [Tanger Outlet Centers](#) have two outlet malls in Georgia. The Locust Grove Outlet Center is located at Exit 68 off I-75 and has more than 70 stores. The Commerce Outlet Center is located at Exit 53 off I-85 and consists of 125 retailers. The two include such retailers as Ann Taylor Factory Store, Nine West Outlet, Nike Factory Store, Levi's Outlet, J. Crew, The Gap, GUESS and Banana Republic.
- [Prime Outlets](#) is located in Calhoun at Exit 312 off I-75 and GA-53. This center features more than 55 retail stores including COACH, Gap Outlet, Old Navy, Tommy Hilfiger, Nike, and Polo Ralph Lauren.
- [North Georgia Premium Outlets](#) in Dawsonville is Georgia's first and only premium outlet center. Located 45 minutes north of Atlanta, this center offers current-season merchandise from 140 stores including Off 5th – Saks Fifth Avenue, BCBG Max Azria, Burberry, Tahari, Puma, White House | Black Market, Kate Spade, Michael Kors, Pottery Barn Outlet, Cole Haan, Restoration Hardware, Waterford Wedgewood and Kenneth Cole.

Arts & Culture

Atlanta's extensive art scene and rich history create cultural offerings unmatched in the South. From historic to modern, visitors can enjoy art, performances and educational opportunities throughout the city. Neighborhoods around Atlanta house several museums, galleries and theaters, many with chef-owned restaurants or eateries that make a night on the town complete.

Midtown:

- [The Woodruff Arts Center](#) is the largest performing and visual arts center in the nation, encompassing the Alliance Theatre, Atlanta Symphony Hall, High Museum of Art, Young Audiences, 14th Street Playhouse and Table 1280 restaurant.

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- [High Museum of Art](#) attracts more than half a million visitors each year, hosting world-renowned exhibits with works by van Gogh, Norman Rockwell and Michelangelo. The High's permanent collection of more than 11,000 works includes African, American, decorative, European, folk, modern and contemporary art, and photography.

The High developed an exclusive partnership with the Musée du Louvre in Paris that brings hundreds of works from the Louvre's collections to Atlanta from October 2006 through 2009. This is the only opportunity in the United States to see this prestigious collection.

- Now in its 64st season, the [Atlanta Symphony Orchestra](#) (ASO) performs more than 250 concerts a year, many with the world's most prominent musicians, soloists and conductors. ASO recordings have won 23 Grammy Awards, more than U2, Madonna and the Rolling Stones combined.

- [Alliance Theatre](#) is one of the largest regional theaters in the nation serving a diverse audience through award-winning work on its stages. The Alliance has hosted groundbreaking performances such as the world premieres of Broadway-bound "The Color Purple" and "Aida."
- [Margaret Mitchell House and Museum](#), which houses the apartment where Margaret Mitchell wrote "Gone with the Wind," has been restored to its original condition and is available for tours. The house also includes special exhibitions, the Gone with the Wind Movie Museum and gift shop.
- The largest museum of its kind in the Southeast, the [William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum](#) offers three permanent galleries: "Creating Community: The Jews of Atlanta from 1845 to the Present;" "Absence of Humanity: The Holocaust Years;" and "The Legacy Project: Coming to America."
- [The Fox Theatre](#) is one of the country's best preserved picture palaces from the Golden Age of cinema. Designed and built in the 1920s, the theater was originally the Yaarab Temple Shrine Mosque, the headquarters of the Shriners. Visitors encounter an indoor Arabian courtyard with flickering stars and drifting clouds when they come to see the Atlanta Ballet, a summer film series, Broadway productions and other musical performances.
- [Atlanta Ballet](#) is the longest continually-operating ballet company in the United States. Catch presentations of classical and contemporary works at The Fox Theatre and Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre.
- The 15-acre [Atlanta Botanical Garden](#) borders Piedmont Park and brings exhibitions from world-renowned artists such as Dale Chihuly and Niki de Saint Phalle. The Garden features outdoor gardens, walking trails, a children's garden, the Dorothy Chapman Fuqua Conservatory housing rare and endangered plants from tropical rainforests and desert regions, and the Fuqua Orchid Center.
- [The Center for Puppetry Arts](#) has introduced millions to the wonder and art of puppetry through enchanting performances, workshops and the hands-on Museum. The center hosts family friendly shows, as well as the New Direction Series and Xperimental Puppetry Theater for more mature audiences.

Little Five Points:

- Theater is alive in Little Five as [Horizon Theatre Company](#) brings contemporary plays to the stage. For improv comedy, [Dad's Garage Theatre Company](#) is the ticket. [7 Stages](#) brings new plays and international artists to its stage.

Emory University Area:

- [The Michael C. Carlos Museum](#) at Emory University features art of ancient cultures of the Mediterranean and the Americas including Egyptian mummies; pre-Columbian pottery; ancient Greek and Roman sculptures; artifacts from the Middle and Far East; and European and American works on paper.
- [Fernbank Museum of Natural History's](#) permanent exhibits include "Giants of the Meozoic," featuring the world's largest dinosaurs; "A Walk Though Time in Georgia," featuring the chronological development of life in the geographic region that Georgia now occupies; and the IMAX Theater.

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Inman Park:

- [Jimmy Carter Library and Museum](#) portrays President Jimmy Carter's life and administration through films, displays and a recreation of the Oval Office. The museum's partnership with the Smithsonian brings popular visiting exhibitions such as The Declaration of Independence and "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War."

Sweet Auburn District:

- At the [Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site](#), visit The King Center and Dr. King's and Coretta Scott King's graves, the King birth home and Ebenezer Baptist Church, where he preached. The surrounding **Sweet Auburn District** was the thriving center of black enterprise in Atlanta from the 1890s through the 1940s.

Downtown:

- At [Imagine It! The Children's Museum of Atlanta](#), young children can experience the power of imagination and learning through fun and entertaining activities with such themes as The Amazing Castle and Alice in Wonderland.
- [The National Museum of Patriotism](#) opened Downtown in 2009 and is the first organization to create a place where people of all backgrounds can come together to gain deeper perspective on the American spirit. Exhibits include "Patriotism in Entertainment," "Symbols," "Hall of Patriots," "Immigrant Experience" and "First Responders."

- [Theatrical Outfit](#) performs at the new Balzer Theatre at Herren's, a historic building once housing a landmark restaurant. And, see classics by Shakespeare and other accomplished playwrights at the [New American Shakespeare Tavern](#).
- [Castleberry Hill](#) is an in-town, urban neighborhood very close to Downtown. Renovated warehouses now stand as residential lofts, dining destinations and galleries, including the [Marcia Wood Gallery](#) and [Wertz Contemporary Gallery](#).

Buckhead:

- At the [Atlanta History Center](#), explore Atlanta's history of the Civil War, civil rights and antebellum South at the Atlanta History Center Museum, housing the largest collection of Civil War artifacts anywhere in the world. Also included is the 1928 Swan House and the Tullie Smith Farm, an 1840s plantation farmhouse with outbuildings, gardens and nature trails. The Center also has a 27,500-square-foot wing memorializing the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games. The \$10 million interactive museum opened to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Atlanta Games in 2006.

Established in 1913, Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau is a private, nonprofit organization created to favorably impact the Atlanta economy through conventions and tourism. www.atlanta.net

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