ATLANTA

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2011 - 2012



The best places to eat, sleep and play in Atlanta this fall and winter

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INTRODUCTION

TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



You'll find reviews for more than 520,000 hotels, 125,000 vacation rentals, 155,000 attractions and 715,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



- I. If the Georgia Aquarium is on the itinerary, "purchase tickets online for the specific date and time you want. Otherwise, you run the risk of tickets selling out."—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta
- 2. "Get ready to get lost. There's no logical grid system or simple numbering of streets. Get a good visitor map and depend on Southern hospitality and long-winded directions" to find your way.—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta
- 3. Get in the spirit: Read Margaret Mitchell's Southern opus Gone With the Wind en route.

Inside

ATLANT

Sometimes called "the capital of the new South," Atlanta combines a cosmopolitan air with a commitment to its past. Hip nightlife spots and upscale eateries attract young upwardly mobile professionals, while history buffs flock to the inspirational Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site or the home of Gone With the Wind author Margaret Mitchell.

There's no sign of Tara, but there is the gargantuan Georgia Aquarium, home to beluga whales and four whale sharks, the largest fish species in the sea. Visitors with a penchant for the great outdoors will find tranquility at the Atlanta Botanical Garden or sprawling Piedmont Park. News junkies can take a studio tour for a peek behind the scenes at CNN.

Whether seeking Southern charm and a plate of good oldfashioned grits or a weekend escape filled with urban arts and cultural offerings, Atlanta will not disappoint.

Atlanta's climate brings generally mild winters, with colder temperatures but rare snow. Spring is delightful but unpredictable, with rainstorms always a possibility.

Top VIEWS





ATLANTA'S BEST VIEWS

"Have a drink in the Westin Peachtree

Sun Dial Restaurant for the best views
of Atlanta." The revolving bar is 73 stories
up.—TripAdvisor Member, United States

Sun Dial Restaurant Bar and View, 210 Peachtree St. N.W., 404 589 7506 Two Licks "is just too cool! You enter through the back of an old warehouse, and all of a sudden, WOW. There is a jazz band playing, and the place is loud and rocking, with a good view of the Atlanta skyline."—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta

Two Urban Licks, 820 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404 522 4622

Visit Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, northwest of Atlanta, the site of Civil War battles in 1864. "You can drive to the top of the mountain and have a great view of the area."—TripAdvisor Member, Georgia

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, 900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive, Kennesaw, 770 427 4686

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

- 1. Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, 450 Auburn Ave. N.E., 404 331 5190
- 2. Oakland Cemetery, 248 Oakland Ave. S.E., 404 688 2107
- 3. Atlanta History Center, 130 W. Paces Ferry Road N.W., 404 814 4000
- 4. Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern, 499 Peachtree St. N.E., 404 874 5299
- 5. Centennial Olympic Park, 265 Park Ave. West N.W., 404 222 7275
- 6. Georgia Aquarium, 225 Baker St., 404 581 4000
- 7. Atlanta Botanical Garden, 1345 Piedmont Ave. N.E., 404 876 5859
- 8. Turner Field, 755 Hank Aaron Drive S.E., 404 522 7630

"Lift an actual bar of gold!"

- 9. The Breman Jewish Heritage & Holocaust Museum, 1440 Spring St. N.W. at 18th St., 678 222 3700
- 10. Wren's Nest, 1050 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. S.W., 404 753 7735



FAMILIES

"Be mindful of the time of day you go," because the **Georgia Aquarium** gets crowded. But "definitely bring the kids" to see the "beluga whales, sea lions, sharks and tropical fish."—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta

Georgia Aquarium, 225 Baker St., 404 581 4000

The kids will love getting to "lift an actual bar of gold, see \$100,000 bills and watch loads of cash being moved by robots at the **Federal Reserve**. VERY COOL!"—TripAdvisor Member, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Federal Reserve Bank, 1000 Peachtree St., 404 498 8764

"The **World of Coke** was a world of fun! Better bring an iron stomach if you truly plan to taste all the flavors in the tasting room. Lots of photo opportunities, too."— TripAdvisor Member, Pennsylvania

World of Coca-Cola, 121 Baker St. N.W., 404 676 5151



ROMANCE

Sit under the "starlight" for a performance at the **Fox Theatre**, a restored "1920s dream mixture of Egyptian, Arab and Middle Eastern influences."—TripAdvisor Member, Bath, England

Fox Theatre, 660 Peachtree St. N.E., 404 881 2100

Plan a date night in the charming **Virginia-Highland** neighborhood, where "the shops are great and there are many good restaurants. Just go to a bar, get chatting and you'll get recommendations aplenty."—TripAdvisor Member, Bath, U.K.

Virginia-Highland

Stroll through **Inman Park**, which is "full of beautiful Victorian homes and has a few small, unique restaurants."—TripAdvisor Member

Inman Park, Two miles east of downtown Atlanta

Where to PLAY





BUDGET

The Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site includes his home, the church where he preached and a memorial. "It is a beautiful and inspirational tribute to Dr. King—a humble Taj Mahal."—TripAdvisor Member, Boston, Mass.

Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, 450 Auburn Ave. N.E., 404 331 5190

Tours of the Braves hometown turf are available year-round. During baseball season, limited numbers of \$1 tickets are available before each game and upper deck seats start at just \$6. "Turner Field is by far the best deal for baseball fans in the major league." —TripAdvisor Member, South Boston, Mass.

Atlanta Braves at Turner Field, 755 Hank Aaron Drive S.E., 404 577 9100

'...one of Atlanta's
 best strolls"



"Explore the **Centennial Olympic Park**. There is a dancing fountain display with shows at certain times, a very beautiful manmade stream, reflecting pool, nice playground and plenty of space to walk."—TripAdvisor Member, Valdosta, Ga.

Centennial Olympic Park, 265 Park Ave. West N.W., 404 222 7275

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 8,000,000 traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It's almost like being there!



ADVENTURE

Piedmont Park provides downtown Atlanta with opportunities for swimming, tennis and even fishing. "They have an off-leash dog park. If you're visiting with beloved furry friends, you can let them run and have fun!"—TripAdvisor Member, Toledo, Ohio

Piedmont Park, Piedmont Avenue, 404 875 7275

"Take a walk or jog around **Chattahoochee River Park**. Grab a bike, baby stroller,
fishing pole, dog or just your sneakers and
take one of Atlanta's best strolls, through
the Cochran Shoals park."—TripAdvisor
Member, Atlanta

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, Cochran Shoals Area, 678 538 1200 Whitewater raft down the wild and scenic **Chattooga River**, "where some of the scenes from the movie 'Deliverance' were filmed."—TripAdvisor Member, Jacksonville

Whitewater rafting, Chattooga River, Border of Georgia and South Carolina, 706 782 4812 (Rabun County Georgia Chamber of Commerce)

"...totally unexpected and pleasant surprise!"



EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

The **Michael C. Carlos Museum** is "the most beautiful museum in Atlanta. The lighting in the Greek and Egyptian halls adds an air of mystery to a magnificent collection of statues and sarcophaguses."—TripAdvisor Member, Marietta, Ga.

Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University, 571 South Kilgo Circle, 404 727 4282

The Atlanta History Center has

"something for everyone. Galleries cover a broad range of subjects (folk art, local Native American history, golfer Bobby Jones, to name a few) plus the added attraction of a historic farm and a charming mansion with formal gardens."—TripAdvisor Member, Adrian, Mich.

Atlanta History Center, 130 W. Paces Ferry Road N.W., 404 814 4000

"Stately **Oakland Cemetery** is the final resting place of many Atlanta luminaries, including Margaret Mitchell. On a pretty day, it's serene and beautiful, evoking the cemeteries of Europe."—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta

Oakland Cemetery, 248 Oakland Ave. S.E., 404 688 2107

A 42-foot oil painting of the 1864 Battle of Atlanta springs to life at the **Atlanta Cyclorama and Civil War Museum**.

"This turned out to be a totally unexpected and pleasant surprise! You sit in a theater and are moved around the arena to see the Cyclorama."—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Atlanta Cyclorama and Civil War Museum, 800 Cherokee Ave. S. E., 404 658 7625

Stroll along **Chamblee's Antique Row**, with "over 30 different antique stores. Some are more specialized, but there's something for everyone."—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta

Chamblee's Antique Row, Off Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, near intersection of I-85 and I-285, Old Towne Chamblee, 770 458 6316

RELAXATION

"Do not miss the beautiful **Atlanta Botanical Garden**. The grove of 100-foottall water oaks interspersed with large camellias, ferns, wildflowers and bushes was so peaceful."—TripAdvisor Member, Cincinnati, Ohio

Atlanta Botanical Garden, 1345 Piedmont Ave. N.E., 404 876 5859

What's TOUR



How to Get Around

Atlanta's subway is complicated, but two MARTA bus routes are geared to visitors: the Downtown and Midtown Tourist Loops stop at most major attractions.

MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority) 404 848 5000

Dodge lines with an Atlanta CityPass, which provides admission to six top attractions in nine days, including the Georgia Aquarium and CNN Studio Tour.

Atlanta CityPass, 888 330 5008

"What a great way to explore! I would highly recommend a Segway tour as your first experience. It gives a fantastic overview of the city."—TripAdvisor Member, Newport News, Va.

City Segway Tours, 250 Park Ave. West N.W., 404 588 2274

VHERE

Want more information on Atlanta? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Atlanta or any other destination you choose.

TOP 10 Restaurants

- I. Fogo de Chao, 3101 Piedmont Road, 404 266 9988
- 2. Canoe, 4199 Paces Ferry Road N.W., 770 432 2663
- 3. One Flew South, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Terminal E. 404 816 3464
- 4. La Grotta Ristorante Italiano, 2637 Peachtree Road N.E., 404 231 1368
- 5. Bone's Restaurant, 3130 Piedmont Road N.E., 404 237 2663
- 6. South City Kitchen Midtown, 1144 Crescent Ave. N.E.,
- 7. Thumbs Up Diner, 573 Edgewood Ave. S.E., 404 223 0690
- 8. Rathbun's, 112 Krog St., Inman Park, 404 524 8280
- 9. Woodfire Grill, 1782 Cheshire Bridge Road N.E., 404 347 9055
- 10. Fat Matt's Rib Shack, 1811 Piedmont Ave. N.E., 404 607 1622



FAMILIES

"The best frozen yogurt I've had in my life! I sometimes stop at Yogurberry on the way home and then take the kids after dinner... and have more! I hope the kids don't find this review!"—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta

Yogurberry, 3280 Peachtree Road N.E., 404 869 9788

Six Feet Under is "a fish house that does a good job with all the standbys of barand-grill dining. It's encouraging to enter a restaurant and see a packed house with everyone smiling as they eat."—TripAdvisor Member, Berea, Ky.

Six Feet Under, 437 Memorial Dr. S.E., 404 523 6664

"Like an old '50s diner, but with the lights turned down a notch, the **OK Cafe** is not fancy, but comfortable. They serve a huge cornbread muffin that is like cake with the meal."—TripAdvisor Member, Georgia

OK Cafe, 1284 W. Paces Ferry Road, 404 233 2888



ROMANCE

'The candlelight ambiance and smoky wood fire aroma give the Woodfire a nice feeling. The booths are the best if you plan on staying awhile."—TripAdvisor Member, New York

Woodfire Grill, 1782 Cheshire Bridge Road N.E., 404 347 9055

"The restaurant's ambiance is very upscale and romantic. The service was unbeatable, and the food was unbelievable. If you're looking for a great Italian restaurant, look no further than La Grotta."—TripAdvisor Member, Scottsdale, Ariz.

La Grotta Ristorante Italiano, 2637 Peachtree Road N.E., 404 231 1368 "The food, service and atmosphere at Canoe can not be beat. We sat outside next to the river and the gardens were just beautiful. We shared the oysters and they were plump and very flavorful. I also recommend the warm cheese salad - very rich and delicious."-TripAdvisor Member, Hawkins, Texas

Canoe, 4199 Paces Ferry Road N.W, 770 432 2663

WHERE to eat





BUDGET

Head to Georgia chain Mellow Mushroom for an inexpensive pizza. "They are the best. The crust has a slight sweetness and is not too chewy. Good local atmosphere and a good place to take the kids."—TripAdvisor Member

Mellow Mushroom, 400 West Peachtree St., 404 577 1001

"Having eaten at what was reputed to be the 'best' (as well as most expensive) Thai restaurant in Atlanta, Mali's food is just as good, but at half the price. The presentation is great, and the flavors dance on your tongue."—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta

Mali Restaurant, 961 Amsterdam Ave. N.E., 404 874 1411

"Thumbs Up Diner, in a groovy industrial setting, ranks among the best breakfast spots in Atlanta. Food portions are generous and tasty! Whole-wheat biscuits have a crunchy crust but are fluffy on the inside. Top it with homemade peach preserves, and you'll swoon."—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta

Thumbs Up Diner, 573 Edgewood Ave. S.E., 404 223 0690



HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

Souper Jenny is an adorable little shop in Buckhead, serving delicious and healthy soups, sandwiches and salads for lunch Monday through Saturday. The line is usually out the door, but it goes quickly."—TripAdvisor Member

Souper Jenny, 56 E. Andrews Dr. N.W., 404 239 9023

Dig into "the huge and flexible menu" at Vortex Bar and Grill. There are many "specialty burgers all of which can be made with a veggie or black bean patty, plus lots of other interesting soups and sandwiches."-TripAdvisor Member, Michigan

Vortex Bar and Grill, 878 Peachtree St., 404 875 1667

"The fish is astonishingly fresh and perfectly prepared at Taka Sushi Cafe. Standouts are the lobster salad with flounder sashimi, the tuna avocado cocktail, any special that involves saba (mackerel) and the spicy scallop and ikaten rolls."—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta

Taka Sushi Cafe, 375 Pharr Road N.E., #600, 404 869 2802



HIDDEN GEMS

Sample "Southern cooking at its everso-gratifying best" at the Flying Biscuit Cafe. "The colorful atmosphere and the happily attentive service get your day off to a cheery start as well."—TripAdvisor Member, Montclair, N.I.

Flying Biscuit Cafe, 1655 McLendon Ave. N.E., 404 687 8888

Eating at The Colonnade is "just like being at your grandmother's on Thanksgiving." Southern highlights include "fried chicken, fresh vegetables, homemade rolls and cornbread."—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta

The Colonnade, 1879 Cheshire Bridge Road N.E., 404 874 5642

"Eclipse di Luna is a must for any visit if you can find it in its little cul-de-sac. The food is excellent, especially the cake."—TripAdvisor Member, Cochran, Ga.

Eclipse di Luna, 764 Miami Circle, 404 846 0449

SPECIAL EVENTS

Celebrate the arrival of 2012 with a whole day of activities culminating in fireworks, live entertainment and the annual New Year's Eve Peach Drop. (December 31)

New Year's Eve Peach Drop, Underground Atlanta, 404 523 2311, http://www.peachdrop.com

Commemorate the life of Martin Luther King Jr., with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's annual tribute, A King Celebration. This year, the concert celebrates its 20th anniversary with a special performance by legendary cellist Yo-Yo Ma. (January 12)

A King Celebration, Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel, Morehouse College, 404 733 5000, http://www.atlantasymphony.org

Catch a flick and some cultural insight at the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, the largest film festival in Georgia. The event features an international lineup of both fiction and documentaries that explore Jewish life, history and art. (February 8 - 29)

11th Annual Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Various venues, 404 806 9913, http://www.ajff.org



Run like an Olympian at the **Atlanta Marathon & Half Marathon**. Cross the same finish line as the champions of the 1996 Summer Games. (March 18)

Atlanta Marathon & Half Marathon, Centennial Olympic Park, 404 832 0786, http://www.georgiamarathon.com

Indulge in fine wines and tasty beers at the Atlanta Wine Auction, raising money for the High Museum of Art. (March 28 – 31)

Atlanta Wine Auction, High Museum of Art, 404 733 5335, http://www.atlanta-wineauction.org

Watch the dogwood trees come into bloom and enjoy live music and crafts at the annual **Dogwood Festival**. There's even a fur-riffic Disc-Dog competition where dogs leap through the air to catch flying Frisbees. (April 20 – 22)

Dogwood Festival, Piedmont Park, 404 817 6642, http://www.dogwood.org

Where STAY





FAMILIES

"We took three children to the Georgia Aquarium and Zoo Atlanta while staying at the **Country Inn**. The kids loved the indoor heated pool. The staff was very friendly, and the cookies are awesome."—TripAdvisor Member, Virginia

Country Inn & Suites Atlanta-NW at Windy Hill Road, 4500 Circle 75 Pkwy., 770 956 9919 The **Drury Inn** is a "great value, with nice, quiet rooms, great freebies like internet, popcorn, soda and breakfast." Catch "the free shuttle to the airport" and take the MARTA (train) right to the city center.— TripAdvisor Member, Adelaide, Australia

Drury Inn and Suites Atlanta Airport, 1270 Virginia Ave., 404 761 4900 "My family had a lovely time at the **Embassy Suites**. The room was nice and spacious and the reception and breakfast were great!"—
TripAdvisor Member, Kathleen, Ga.

Embassy Suites Hotel Atlanta - Galleria, 2815 Akers Mill Road, 770 984 9300

"The bed was like falling into a cloud"



Have questions about Atlanta? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.



ROMANCE

"My husband and I stayed at the **Ritz- Carlton** to celebrate our anniversary. A hotel employee made reservations for us at our favorite restaurant and got us a table with a view of downtown."—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta

Ritz-Carlton Buckhead, 3434 Peachtree Road N.E., 404 237 2700 "The bed at the **Intercontinental**

Buckhead was like falling into a cloud: big, soft and billowy The bathroom was elegant, right down to the fresh orchid that adorned the soaking tub."—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta

Intercontinental Buckhead Atlanta, 3315 Peachtree Road N.E., 404 946 9000 "Walk back in time to a perfectly decorated slice of heaven" at the **St. Charles Inn.**

"The rooms are immaculate, with nice touches like great quality sheets and towels, handmade chocolates and a teddy bear on the pillow."—TripAdvisor Member, Advance, N.C.

St. Charles Inn, 1001 St. Charles Ave. N.E., 404 875 1001



BUDGET

The **La Quinta Inn** has "spacious rooms that include a small microwave and refrigerator. The breakfast was great, and it felt like a safe area."—TripAdvisor Member, Spartanburg, S.C.

La Quinta Inn and Suites Atlanta Perimeter Medical Center, 6260 Peachtree Dunwoody Road, 770 350 6177 "From the front desk to everyone I came in contact with, I had a great experience at the **Hampton Inn Atlanta**. The room, along with the entire hotel, was clean and the breakfast was perfect."—TripAdvisor Member, Loganville, Ga.

Hampton Inn Atlanta - Northlake, 3400 Northlake Pkwy. N.E., 770 493 1966 "I picked the **Residence Inn** to please my employer with my frugality and ended up pleasing myself with a stay that had all the pluses of a higher end property - convenient location, room amenities, efficient staff, & complimentary and yummy breakfasts. It's a 'can't beat' value for downtown Atlanta."—TripAdvisor Member, Topanga, Calif.

Residence Inn Atlanta Downtown, 134 Peachtree St. N.W, 404 522 0950



LUXURY

"I am a stickler for details, and our room at the **Mansion** was spotless, with a large Jacuzzi, king size bed with 400+ thread count sheets, a flat screen TV hidden behind a picture on the wall and an EXCELLENT view of Atlanta. And did I mention crown molding throughout?"—TripAdvisor Member, Baltimore, Md.

The Mansion on Peachtree, 3376 Peachtree Road, 404 995 7500

"The St. Regis has set the bar so high that no other hotel even comes close. From the incredible rooms and service to the 5-star meals, nothing else in the city compares. It's a masterpiece. Simply the best."—
TripAdvisor Member, Orlando, Fla.

The St. Regis Atlanta, 88 West Paces Ferry Road, 404 563 7900

"When the **Westin Buckhead** boasts of its Heavenly bed and showers, they should actually scream it from the mountain tops!" This TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice award honoree for Atlanta Luxury has "beautiful linens, and the shower was unbelievable."—TripAdvisor Member, New York

Westin Buckhead Atlanta, 3391 Peachtree Road N.E., 404 365 0065

the best."

Where STAY





HIDDEN GEMS

1890 King-Keith House delivers "accommodation with character, a very homey feel, excellent breakfasts and an owner who pays great attention to detail."-TripAdvisor Member, Kirkcaldy, Scotland

1890 King-Keith House, 889 Edgewood Ave. N.E., 404 688 7330

"The **Ellis** is a terrific choice in downtown Atlanta. The hotel sits within walking distance of a dozen other larger chain hotels, but with a fraction of the number of rooms. It reminded me of a boutique hotel in Miami Beach."—TripAdvisor Member, St. Louis,

The Ellis, 176 Peachtree St. N.W., 404 523 5155

"Stonehurst is a feast for the eyes and soul, with beauty and comfort everywhere we looked. We warmed ourselves by the fire and went to sleep between luxurious sheets on a mattress that felt incredible. I wanted to stay forever!"—TripAdvisor Member, Asheville, N.C.

Stonehurst Place Bed & Breakfast, 923 Piedmont Ave. N.E., 404 881 0722

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