



GEORGIA

2026 OFFICIAL STATE TRAVEL GUIDE



CITIES

SMALL TOWNS

BEACHES

MOUNTAINS


 Atlanta

Official Host City for the FIFA World Cup 2026™
Photo Credit: Luis Gaud



PLAINS, GA.

Jimmy Carter
PRESIDENTIAL
CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS

 Plains

The Hometown That Shaped a President



SMALL TOWNS

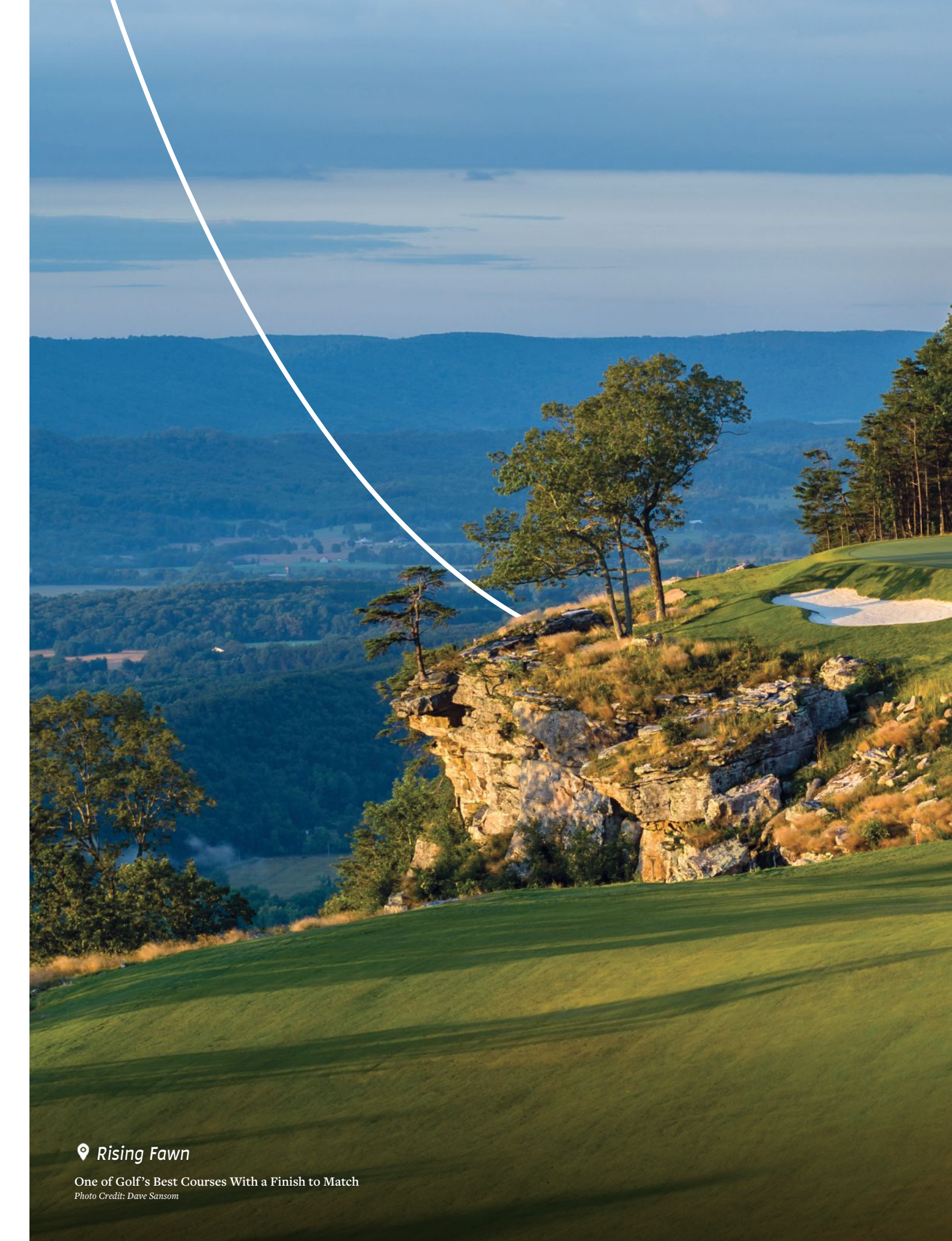



📍 *St. Simons Island*

Colonial History Lives Along Georgia's Coast



BEACHES



 **Rising Fawn**

One of Golf's Best Courses With a Finish to Match
Photo Credit: Dave Sansom



MOUNTAINS



Visit **Perry**
GEORGIA



Perry is more than a place to visit, it's a place where you feel at home.

Centrally located on I-75 in the heart of Georgia, just 90 minutes south of Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, Perry welcomes you with the comfort of home and the safety you seek when traveling.

Enjoy our walkable historic downtown, award-winning events, and flavorful dining that celebrate the best of Southern living.

Discover why visitors return to Perry again and again -

it feels like home!

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Welcome to Georgia

LOVE SPORTS? COME TO THE PEACH STATE.

Georgia's passion for sports shines bright with FIFA World Cup 2026™, pro teams, and college powerhouses. page 10

BEST TRIPS OF 2026

Discover the Georgia destinations creating buzz this year, from new openings to beloved favorites with something fresh to offer. page 17

ONE BIG FAMILY, ONE BIG ATLANTA ADVENTURE

With its unique culture, history, diverse food, and plenty of fun, Atlanta is the perfect place for a family trip that brings everyone together. page 38

ONLY IN GEORGIA

From natural marvels to cultural standouts, these are the Georgia experiences that can't be duplicated anywhere else. page 51

ALWAYS IN SEASON

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FOUR REAL-LIFE TOWNS FOR FILM FANS TO VISIT

Famous on film yet unforgettable in person, these iconic locations invite you to visit. page 85

10 GEORGIA DISHES WORTH THE TRIP

Savor the Peach State's culinary bounty, from coastal seafood to farm-fresh flavors and restaurants with MICHELIN stars. page 90

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF GIANTS: THE U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL IN GEORGIA

Explore the U.S. Civil Rights Trail and Georgia's pivotal role in shaping a movement etched in American history. page 97

EMBRACE THE JOY OF MISSING OUT

Unwind with a vacation that'll let you linger at some of Georgia's best escapes, from rustic retreats to luxury getaways. page 104

NEXT EXIT: WORTHY GEORGIA DETOURS

Discover charming towns near top destinations that are worth an extra stop. page 111

GILDED AGE CHARM MEETS MODERN INNOVATION



GREAT DUNES
JEKYLL ISLAND

Players journey through wind-swept dunes, along oceanfront vistas, and through pristine maritime forest—all thoughtfully preserved to honor the natural beauty of the landscape. Experience a timeless course, elevated for today's game.

Newly restored. Book your tee time:



GEORGIA'S OFFICIAL STATE TRAVEL GUIDE

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Governor's Welcome

Welcome to Georgia!

On behalf of the Kemp family and the entire state, we want to thank you for choosing to visit Georgia. Over the years, our family has traveled across every region of this great state, experiencing firsthand what makes each community special. From small towns to major cities, with natural wonders and exciting attractions at every turn, we know you'll find a reason to keep Georgia on your mind.

Whether you're a first-time visitor or a lifelong Georgian, the Peach State offers something special to enjoy. New adventures await from North Georgia's mountains and waterfalls to the pristine beaches and barrier islands along our coastline. Historic sites and cultural experiences go hand-in-hand with outdoor recreation and breathtaking scenery at our state parks.

This year, we're celebrating meaningful milestones and enjoying once-in-a-lifetime experiences. During America's 250th birthday year, visitors to Georgia can walk through centuries of history, join in cultural celebrations, and connect with the places that have shaped both our state and nation, from Savannah to Atlanta. Global sporting events and famous filming locations bring fans from around the world to explore our state, from Augusta to Columbus. Along the way, vibrant music and arts scenes will connect you with our spirit and culture, from Athens to Macon and beyond.

No matter where your travels take you in the Peach State, you'll be met with new memories and warm Southern hospitality. Welcoming visitors and treating them like family is at the heart of who we are as Georgians – defining our culture and character. We look forward to making your trip unforgettable.

Thank you again for choosing to Explore Georgia. Enjoy your time here!

Sincerely,

Brian P. Kemp & Marty A. Kemp
Governor & First Lady of Georgia





A city where roaming
is its own reward.

SAVANNAH
EST. 1733



VisitSavannah.com

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SAVANNAH'S BEACH

Tybee Island
VISITTYBEE.COM



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SCAN HERE

*Share your feedback on the
2026 Official State Travel Guide for your chance to win!*

*The prize pack will include the following Explore Georgia-branded items: a backpack, a tote bag, a hammock, a hat, and beverage cozies. Eligibility is subject to terms and conditions.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

For more travel tips, trip ideas, and destination inspiration:

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Sign up for our email newsletter at ExploreGeorgia.org/free-newsletter

**EXPLORE
GEORGIA**
USA



Visit
East Point
Georgia

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East Point Convention and Visitors Bureau | 1526 E Forrest Avenue, Suite 105
East Point, Georgia 30344 | (470) 903-2766

Atlanta Utility Works | Black Art in America | Hartsfield-Jackson Int'l (ATL) | Tyler Perry Studios | Malone's Steakhouse



Make a great save.

Book now and save your spot in Dunwoody, GA for the 2026 FIFA World Cup™.



When the world comes to Atlanta for the 2026 FIFA World Cup™, make sure you stay in the heart of it all—without the hustle and bustle of downtown. Dunwoody, GA, offers easy access to the games and a more affordable, family-friendly place to unwind after the excitement. Just minutes from the Dunwoody MARTA station, you'll get to the stadium fast without the stress of traffic. After the games, explore Dunwoody's diverse dining, nightlife, shops, parks, and trails.

Book Your Stay Today and Lift Up Youth Soccer! When you book your stay in Dunwoody, a portion of the proceeds will go to Passion Soccer, a nonprofit committed to helping kids pursue their dreams to become elite athletes. Scan the QR code to find the best hotel deals and exclusive packages for your World Cup stay!



d
discover
Dunwoody™
above and beyond

LOVE SPORTS?

COME TO THE PEACH STATE.

In Georgia, sports aren't just popular, they're a full-on passion. And with 20-plus professional and minor league teams, powerhouse college programs, immersive athletic experiences – and the highly anticipated **FIFA World Cup 2026™** coming to **Atlanta** – our state is where serious fans come to watch (and roar!). Experience this summer's electrifying celebration of soccer under the brightest global spotlight, then return year after year for unending competition.



Want more action?
SCAN CODE to
explore Georgia's
full lineup of sports
destinations.



MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM, ATLANTA | DISCOVER ATLANTA (ATLANTA CVB)

EXPLORE ICONIC EVENTS & VENUES

This summer, cheers will rip through the air at **Atlanta's** eight **World Cup** games, including a semifinal in mid-July. The city is no stranger to high-caliber events, having hosted three past **Super Bowls** – and a fourth coming in 2028. And each December, the streets brim with spirited fans making their way to **Mercedes-Benz Stadium** for the **SEC Football Championship Game** – arguably the most important event in the South.

Take in lush fairways and white sand traps shaded by towering pines in **Augusta** as golfers compete for the coveted green jacket of the **Masters Tournament**. At **South Commons Softball Complex** in **Columbus** – site of the 1996 Olympic Women's Fastpitch Softball Competition and the 2019 USA Softball International Cup – top national players wind up and let loose whip-fast pitches. Get swept up in the excitement of dragon boat and crew races as oars rhythmically slice the water at **Lake Lanier Olympic Park** in **Gainesville**, also a 1996 Summer Olympics site.

MEET OUR PROFESSIONAL POWERHOUSES

Georgia's professional sports lineup is packed, and the biggest teams play in **Atlanta**, making it easy to hit multiple games in one visit. Root for the **Atlanta Braves** at **Truist Park**, where every crack of the bat could mean a home run. Or, sing along to boisterous chants at **Atlanta United FC** soccer matches held in **Mercedes-Benz Stadium**; if that's not your kind of football, the venue is also home field for the NFL's **Atlanta Falcons**. Plan an early arrival at **The Home Depot Backyard** to revel in pregame tailgating festivities with locals.

NBA fans cheer as the **Atlanta Hawks** dunk and alley-oop at **State Farm Arena**. Meanwhile, the **Dream** – Atlanta's WNBA team – dazzles with deep threes from **Gateway Center Arena at College Park**. For a different kind of courtside fun, catch an **Atlanta Vibe** volleyball match at **Gas South Arena** in **Duluth**.



DOOLEY FIELD AT SANFORD STADIUM, ATHENS | UGA SPORTS COMMS, MACKENZIE MILES

FEEL THE COLLEGE GAME DAY RUSH

Athens is the territory of the **University of Georgia (UGA) Bulldogs**, who won back-to-back College Football Playoff National Championships in 2022 and 2023. Sipping a local beer and savoring fall breezes amid a sea of red-and-black-clad fans all-out screaming, “Go Dawgs!” is an unbeatable experience. And UGA has more than football on its roster: catch the **Georgia GymDogs** women’s gymnastics team in action late winter through early spring; they’ve tumbled their way to more NCAA titles than any other team in the sport’s history.

In **Statesboro**, fall means the **Georgia Southern University Eagles** rule the football field. Or, in **Atlanta**, join thunderous crowds bellowing in support of the **Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets** or **Georgia State University Panthers**. Both schools’ basketball teams have made appearances in the NCAA’s March Madness, as have the **Kennesaw State University Owls**.

DISCOVER THE PLACES WHERE LEGENDS WERE MADE

Breaking barriers and records are just part of our game. After all, this is the land in which Hank Aaron cracked his 715th home run, shattering Babe Ruth’s 39-year streak at the top of the leaderboard. And among the many athletes born here are baseball’s Ty Cobb, boxing’s Sugar Ray Robinson, and track and field’s Alice Coachman – the first Black woman in the world to win an Olympic gold medal.

At the **Ty Cobb Museum** in the center fielder’s birthplace of **Royston**, learn about Cobb’s life via a colorful array of Coca-Cola promotional materials, bats engraved with career milestones, and curated photo collections. In **Dawsonville**, discover where stock car racing began – and where the **Georgia Racing Hall of Fame** keeps the legacy alive. Race fans can geek out over custom and classic cars, channel their inner Chase Elliott in race simulators, and trace NASCAR’s moonshine-fueled roots to Georgia’s winding back roads.

ROOT FOR MINOR LEAGUE & EXHIBITION TEAMS

If Cracker Jacks and line drives are your idea of a good time, the Braves aren't the only sluggers. Georgia lays claim to four Minor League Baseball teams – the **Columbus Clingstones**, **Gwinnett Stripers**, **Augusta GreenJackets**, and **Rome Emperors** – giving you a grand slam of options.

In **Savannah**, treat yourself by seeing a Banana Ball game on home turf, courtesy of the viral sensations **Savannah Bananas** and **Party Animals**. They bring a bold, no-rules twist on baseball, blowing fans away with choreographed dancing, on-base backflips, and even a moonwalking umpire. Tip: Banana Ball requires some planning by entering a ticket lottery. In the past, the lottery opened in early October and closed about a month later.

Heated rivalries clash on icy rinks at **Macon Mayhem** hockey games as three periods of action keep you on the edge of your seat. For more thrills with chills, check out the **Athens Rock Lobsters** at the new **Akins Ford Arena** or see the **Savannah Ghost Pirates** at **Enmarket Arena**. Tip: the Ghost Pirates are the minor league affiliate of the Florida Panthers, who won the 2025 Stanley Cup, taking home the prize for a second straight season.

BURN RUBBER & SWING PADDLES

Each October, **Braselton** puts on the **Motul Petit Le Mans** – four days of endurance races in which drivers intensely battle it out in Porsches, McLarens, Aston Martins, and other mechanical marvels. Take a break from the exhilaration of the chase at the Fan Zone, where you can grab a bite to eat, race laps in a simulator, and shop for souvenirs.

If the simulator isn't enough of a ride for you, check out **Porsche Experience Center Atlanta**. Select your favorite model before hitting the track to revel in the power and precision these cars hide beneath their shiny hoods.

Pickleball's popularity is ever-growing, too. If you're a fan of this charmingly named sport, don't miss a visit to **Macon's Rhythm and Rally Sports and Events**, one of the largest indoor pickleball facilities in the world. Smash and volley across 32 courts or sign up for their "New to the Game" class to learn the ropes from top-notch instructors.

Chase sports action year-round across Georgia: be part of the energy that makes us the ultimate state for fans in every kind of jersey.



SAVANNAH BANANAS | ANNA ROUGH

WARNER ROBINS: Home of the Museum of Aviation

Experience flight, history, and discovery at Georgia's premier aviation museum and STEM education destination.



WARNER
ROBINS

Step into history at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins. With over 85 aircraft, interactive exhibits, and STEM programs, it's a destination for families, students, and aviation enthusiasts.



Altogether Vibrant

Discover Carrollton. Local eats, artisan beverages and craft brews are on the menu in our charming town. Find live music, art exhibits, performances, historic landmarks and boutique shopping around every turn. Love the outdoors? Zipline at Historic Banning Mills, bike our 18-mile GreenBelt or enjoy a round of disc golf or pickleball in one of our many parks. With so many options to explore, you're sure to find an original adventure in Carrollton.

» [VISITCARROLLTON.COM](https://www.visitcarrollton.com)

WHERE
HISTORY RESTS,
STORIES RISE.

A Significant Historic Landmark



Mulberry Street Cemetery Now Open

Step into a powerful new chapter of Georgia's story. As the state's newest heritage destination, Mulberry Street Cemetery adds depth to LaGrange's evolving landscape of places to explore. This sacred site is the final resting place of Confederate soldiers, unmarked graves of the formerly enslaved, and Horace King—a formerly enslaved man who became a renowned engineer and legislator. With peaceful walkways, an interpretive pavilion, and one of the last remaining King bridges, it invites reflection and discovery.



Learn more about this sacred site at [VisitLaGrange.com](https://www.VisitLaGrange.com)



Oh, The Stories You'll Tell



We're So Glad Georgia's on Your Mind

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

One of the best ways to find things to see and do in Georgia is to stop into our nine Visitor Information Centers, where helpful staff are ready to share their local know-how. You'll get a warm and friendly welcome, travel ideas, directions, and the chance to snap your pic with our "Georgia On My Mind" signs.



SCAN CODE to get the inside scoop on "Best Plates" – dishes handpicked by our information center teams, true experts in locals' favorites in their regions.

Getting Around Georgia

BY AIR

Georgia's eight commercial airports offer convenient flight connections throughout the state:

- Atlanta – Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (ATL)
- Augusta – Augusta Regional Airport (AGS)
- Brunswick – Brunswick Golden Isles Airport (BQK)
- Savannah – Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport (SAV)
- Macon – Middle Georgia Regional Airport (MCN)
- Columbus – Columbus Metropolitan Airport (CSG)
- Albany – Southwest Georgia Regional Airport (ABY)
- Valdosta – Valdosta Regional Airport (VLD)

BY FERRY

Ferry routes in Georgia link coastal towns with barrier islands and the Savannah Riverfront, including service to Cumberland and Sapelo islands. These islands (to right) are only reachable by ferry.



Darien > Sapelo Island

St. Marys > Cumberland Island

St. Simons Island > Little St. Simons Island

BY BUS

Greyhound and FlixBus operate from major stations in Atlanta, Savannah, Macon, and Columbus, with additional stops throughout Georgia to connect travelers across the state.

BY TRAIN

Daily passenger rail service in Georgia is served by four Amtrak routes, with stops in Atlanta, Gainesville, Jesup, Savannah, and Toccoa.

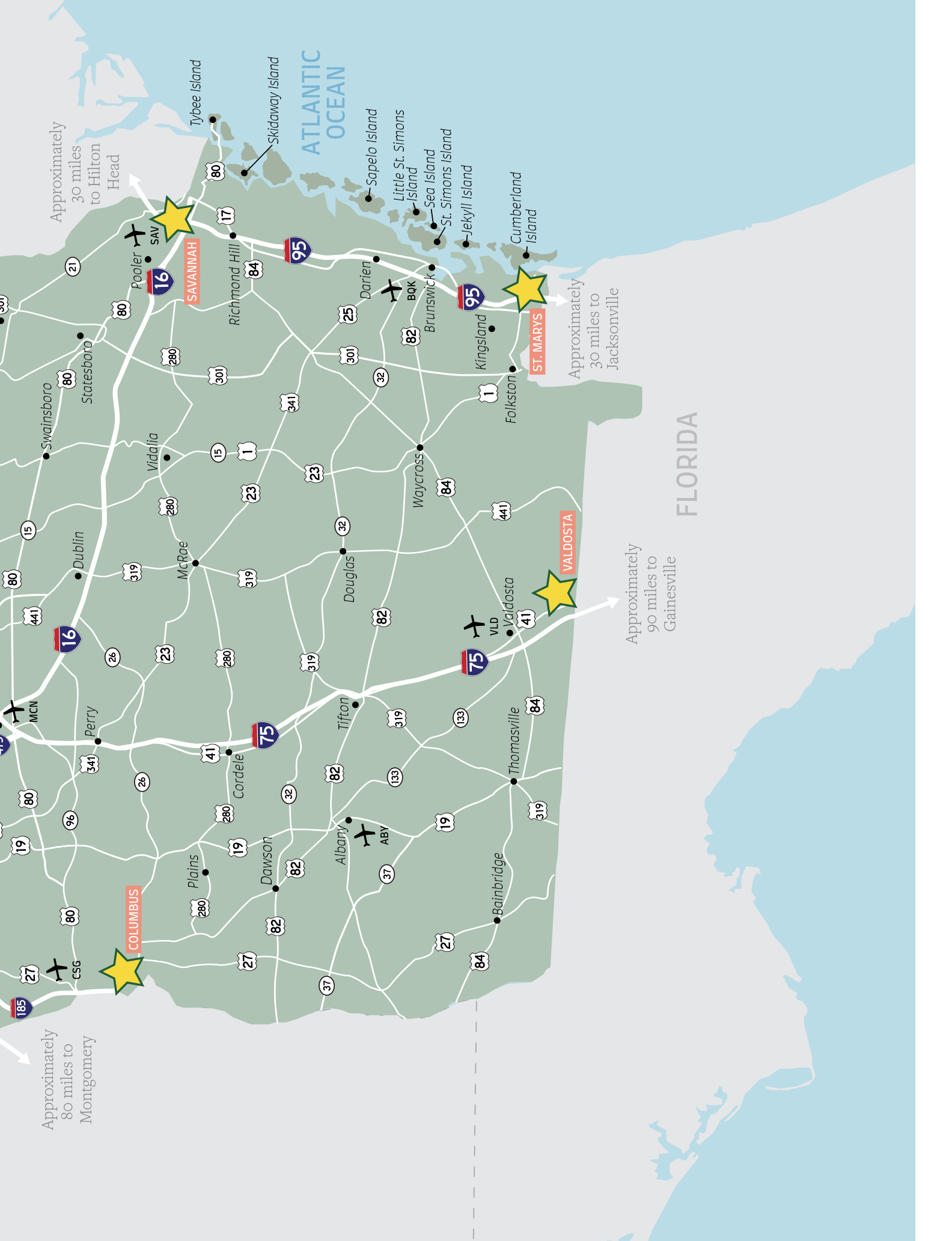
ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL

Georgia welcomes all travelers. Explore accessible destinations, experiences, and travel resources at [ExploreGeorgia.org/accessible-travel](https://www.exploregeorgia.org/accessible-travel).



Looking for a navigational map?

In addition to the map in this guide, the Georgia Department of Transportation offers a wide variety of official transportation maps on its website. **SCAN CODE** to explore the options and download the maps you need.



ATLANTIC OCEAN

FLORIDA

Approximately 30 miles to Hilton Head

Approximately 30 miles to Jacksonville

Approximately 90 miles to Gainesville

Approximately 80 miles to Montgomery

COLUMBUS

SAVANNAH

VALDOSTA

ST. MARYS

Tybee Island

Skidaway Island

Sapelo Island

Little St. Simons Island

Sea Island

St. Simons Island

Jekyll Island

Cumberland Island

SAV

BQK

VLD

CSG

Pooler

Richmond Hill

Darien

Brunswick

Kingsland

Folkston

Waycross

Valdosta

Tifton

Thomasville

Albany

Bainbridge

Vidalia

McRae

Douglas

Dublin

Perry

Plains

Dawson

Swainsboro

Statesboro

Dublin

MCN

Perry

CSG

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DISCOVER THOMASVILLE



DISCOVER THE SOUL OF THE SOUTH



Your discovery begins here.

Gracefully tucked within the Red Hills of South Georgia, Thomasville curates a distinguished Downtown experience that meanders along iconic red brick streets. Here, bespoke boutiques, coveted antique art purveyors, and celebrated culinary artisans converge in harmony with the cultural richness of Pebble Hill Plantation and the tranquil allure of Birdsong Nature Center.

We are here to help you tailor every moment.

Text: 229.221.2900

Atlanta to Thomasville: 4 hours



LEARN MORE

Explore Georgia's

BEST TRIPS OF 2026

Georgia's diverse landscapes, history, and cultural attractions offer a trip for every kind of traveler. Whether you are looking for an epic outdoor adventure, to relax with the family by a pristine lake, or to eat and drink your way through the city, there is a fitting itinerary to keep you busy all year long. Start planning your 2026 travels with this year's list of the best trips in Georgia.

THIS LIST OF SIX BEST TRIPS WILL BE YOUR TRAVEL CHECKLIST STARTING ON PAGE 18.

1. *Bask in Coastal Charm in Darien*
2. *Go Wild in Madison*
3. *I Rode a Roller Coaster Backward & Fed a Giraffe at Wild Adventures*
4. *Feed Your Creative Soul in the Starland District*
5. *Explore Georgia's Colonial History*
6. *Unplug & Recharge at Seminole State Park*



There's more to see! **SCAN CODE** to unlock the full list of our 10 best trips of 2026.



1. BASK IN COASTAL CHARM IN DARIEN

You don't need a plane ticket to find peace on the water – just make your way to **Darien**, a relaxed waterfront gem tucked between **St. Simons Island** and **Savannah**. A gorgeous coastal secret, it offers the scenic beauty of the Golden Isles along with small-town charm. Park once, or boat in, and step into a breezy water wonderland.

Explore **Marsh Pirate Marina**, a hybrid marina, outfitter, taproom, and shop right on the waterfront. They offer daily, monthly, and “dock and dine” slip rentals – perfect for boaters looking to tie up and hang out. Grab a local craft beer like Marsh Pirate Lager, refuel, unwind with riverfront views, and earn group chat bragging rights for being the first to visit.

For waterfront luxury, **Oaks on the River** delivers sweeping **Altamaha River** views from its perch on Darien's high bluff. The **Darien Waterfront Inn** offers a cozier stay with river-facing rooms and free bikes for exploring town. For an off-the-grid retreat, **Emma's Driftwood Farm** spans 81 waterfront acres with five historical-style homes and two deep-water docks for swimming, crabbing, and fishing. Rent a single house or the full property for up to 35 guests.

Refuel at **River's Edge Bar & Grill**, perched on the Darien River with live music and marsh views. Sip a local craft beer at **Tabby House Brewing**, which is rich with Restoration-era artifacts and is one of the last surviving tabby structures in Coastal Georgia. Just up the street, sister spot **The Canopy** serves

Southern comfort food in an 1875 coastal home with breezy outdoor seating. Craving seafood? **Skipper's Fish Camp** delivers boat-camp vibes and fresh-caught shrimp, flounder, and oysters – plus land-lover favorites like barbecue and peach cobbler.

At **Sugar Marsh Cottage**, find seashell-shaped shortbreads and nautical-themed sweets in a restored Colonial Revival home. Embark on a nautical journey at **Nautical Treasures Boutique on Broad**, and discover an array of custom-crafted treasures, from unique gifts to home goods.

When your sea legs need a rest, visit the **Old Jail Art Museum**, one of Darien's oldest public buildings. Six galleries showcase rotating exhibits featuring local and regional artists, while the upstairs jail cells hold historical artifacts and ledgers. Outside, don't miss the restored, historic **Kit Jones** vessel on display. The 60-foot, 60,000-pound tugboat was built from heart pine and live oak in 1939, and is packed with maritime history. And for a bit of fun, snap a photo with Darien's 20-foot **sea monster** at the **Visitor's Center**. Nicknamed “Altie” and a cousin of Loch Ness's Nessie, sightings date back to the 1800s.

Darien is more than a scenic waterfront town. It's a gateway to rustic **Sapelo Island** and sits at the heart of the **Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor**, preserving African-American culture across generations. It's where tidal waters meet deep history, and centuries-old traditions still shape the community.



**PLANNING A
SPRING TRIP?**

*Don't miss Darien's annual **Blessing of the Fleet**. Boats line the river for a parade and a ceremonial blessing, with food, music, and fireworks celebrating the town's shrimping heritage.*





BOTH PHOTOS: GEORGIA SAFARI CONSERVATION PARK, MADISON | GEORGIA SAFARI CONSERVATION PARK



2. GO WILD IN MADISON

You don't need to fly 15 hours or spend thousands of dollars to have an African-style safari experience. Instead, drive to **Georgia Safari Conservation Park in Madison**, the first overnight safari park in Georgia, where you can get up close to over 60 wild and exotic species of free-roaming animals, including bison, impalas, addax, kudus, elands, roans, rhinos, water buffaloes, zebras, and giraffes. Through your visit, you also help conserve species and ensure that the genetic health for critically endangered animals is maintained.

Take an exciting tour riding in an open-air safari vehicle over bumpy, rugged dirt roads through 530 acres of open grasslands and lush forest canopy as you spot majestic animals frolicking around. Listen to captivating stories about the animals' unique traits straight from the guides who care for them.

If you are traveling with little ones, opt for a 90-minute safari game drive. The animals are most active in the mornings and right before sunset. Or, if you are up for a longer three-hour VIP adventure, you will get a chance to feed a giraffe and have a rhino encounter at the hi-tech barn.

For an unforgettable stargazing experience, stay at one of the luxurious one- or two-bedroom canvas-tented camps fitted with

expansive decks, modern amenities, and African decor. For the ultimate experience, snag the Giraffe Suite and witness the graceful movements of your barn mates unfold right from your private panoramic bedroom window, all while you lounge in your PJs and savor your morning coffee.

Tame your hunger at the nearby **Farmview Market** for delicious farm-to-table Southern-inspired breakfast and **Oconee Roasters** coffee. Make sure to pick up some Georgia-grown produce, snacks, and pantry items for the drive as well.

If you stay longer, there are several dining options in the charming town of Madison. Find Southern-inspired French cuisine in a casual atmosphere at **Town 220 Restaurant**, casual Mediterranean seafood and pasta at **Ricardo's Kouzzina**, or reserve a table at **The Dining Room** for an intimate evening featuring a seasonal prix fixe menu.

If you prefer to nest in the urban jungle with walking distance to historical homes, shopping, and dining, find your den at the refined and cozy, boutique **The James Madison Inn**. Or, rest your paws at the pet-friendly, retro-inspired **New South Motor Inn**.



EDITOR'S NOTE: *Sometimes, the best travel stories come from the smallest voices. Here's one kid's take on the thrills, treats, and big adventures of a day at Wild Adventures.*



3. I RODE A ROLLER COASTER BACKWARD & FED A GIRAFFE AT WILD ADVENTURES

Insane roller coasters, amazing animals, and a crazy-good waterpark. **Wild Adventures** in **Valdosta** was so awesome we didn't want to go home. My little brother had fun. I had more fun. Even my parents said they'd come back.

First up: rides. I rode every coaster I could. Boomerang was hands down the best ride – it shoots you backward first, so you're basically flying through every twist with zero idea what's coming next, like being fired out of a cannon in reverse.

I would have camped out there all day, but my parents wanted to check out the Water's Edge section and its new rides.

I saw the Wing Swinger and had to try it, so Mom joined me. We were spinning so fast I couldn't stop laughing. While we were in the air, Dad took my little brother on the new Boat Parade ride. I could've gone too, but he takes the boat captain thing way too seriously.

The smell of barbecue made me realize I was super hungry. I wanted to eat at **LoneStar BBQ**, but everyone else voted for **Paradise Pizza** instead. I was glad our pizzas came out fast, and the pepperoni one tasted so good.

After lunch, we hit the water park, and I raced to the Bonzai Pipeline slides. High drops and fast turns were exactly what I wanted. I rode it three times before Dad and I tackled Wahee Cyclone in this massive tube that spins you around like a washing machine.

My little brother got splashed by the water bucket at Polynesian Adventure, the kids' section, about 100 times. Then, while he napped under Mom's umbrella, I floated in the lazy river a little.

We were getting raisin fingers, so Mom decided it was time to feed a giraffe. It was so weird. Her blue tongue felt like sandpaper when it curled up and yanked the lettuce from my hand. Mom also

got us tickets for the Discovery Outpost Tour, so we fed gators and held a snake. My little brother's favorite animal at the petting zoo was the white goat because he could feed it hay. How is that better than holding a snake?

After grabbing a snack at **Brews & Bites**, we changed and went to **Splash Island Nights**. Mom said it's only on Fridays in the summer, so we were staying until the very end.

Sliding in the dark was like being in a glow stick. Then the drone show started with crazy lights zooming and spinning into shapes. Mom timed our visit to catch it! One of the park helpers told us the show is even bigger at Christmas, which blows my mind.

You can ride coasters, splash in the water park, and feed a giraffe – all in one trip. Mom was happy because it was a "great value," but I was happy because it was the perfect way to celebrate summer.



OPPOSITE PAGE: WILD ADVENTURES THEME PARK, VALDOSTA | WILD ADVENTURES THEME PARK, THIS PAGE: SPLASH ISLAND WATERPARK AT WILD ADVENTURES THEME PARK, VALDOSTA | WILD ADVENTURES THEME PARK

THREE THINGS TO TELL YOUR PARENTS

1. *Stay at the Wild Adventures campground. There are cottages, RV spots, and tents. Mom says it's won lots of awards.*
2. *In Valdosta, hit **Dixie Cream Donut Shop** for breakfast and **The Mill Pizza Buffet** for dinner, where you can play arcade games while your parents relax.*
3. *Wear water shoes at the water park. Mom made me, and it helped with climbing and kept my feet cool on the hot pavement.*



4. FEED YOUR CREATIVE SOUL IN THE STARLAND DISTRICT

Despite the citywide wonder and beauty of **Savannah**, and all its endless opportunities for exploration, you could make a strong case for spending an entire weekend in the **Starland District**. One of Savannah's most creative and trendsetting communities, Starland has become the heart and soul of the city's creative community, thanks to its open-armed approach to those who love art and culture, especially when it's a bit quirky.

Options for lodging include intimate boutiques that retain Savannah's inimitable style. **B&B Zia Gianna** offers a chef-driven breakfast each morning, in a renovated Victorian home built in 1899 that balances historical and modern luxury. For an intimate, sophisticated escape without children or pets, book **The Galloway House Inn**, which proudly promotes the neighborhood's restaurants, bars, and bookstores like **E. Shaver, Bookseller**, a haven for literary history buffs in a beautifully maintained 1840s-era building. For a uniquely artsy overnight experience, consider the Sacred Tower room at **The Isetta Inn**, where the round walls are painted like a dreamy cloudscape, and glow-in-the-dark stars hang above a rope-suspended bed.

In a city famous for its food and drinks, Savannah's Starland District serves up the goods, letting you base your dining experience on your mood. There are can't-miss spots like **Foxy Loxy Cafe**, which has fine Tex-Mex cuisine from sausage scramble burritos to chipotle chicken tacos, plus exceptional coffee. Similarly, indie in its epicurean exploits is **Brochu's Family Tradition**, serving excellent raw seafood (especially oysters), but also a whole chicken dinner that serves it fried, charred, and salad-ed with biscuits, and an impressively affordable wine list. If a bakery and supper club – illuminated by natural sunlight and surrounded by flowers and hand-drawn sketches – is your preference, **Flora and Fauna** is your happy place. If it's liquid refreshment and competitive fun you seek, try **Moodright's**, a divey analog gamer's paradise of pool tables, bowling alleys, and bingo nights. Fans of tiki cocktails should wander over to **Lone Wolf Lounge**, a 2025 semifinalist for the James Beard Foundation's Outstanding Bar award, where the decor includes wood-paneled walls and checkerboard floors, and events range from karaoke to music-inspired wine-paired dinners.

The walkable and welcoming area is near the **Historic District** and **Victorian District**, offering easy connectivity and convenient access for those seeking nearby adventure. Discover beautiful ceremonial and spiritual artwork, from ceramic to wood and metal, at the **Savannah African Art Museum**. If you're visiting near the start of the month, check out **Starland First Fridays**, where a number of local businesses like the lovably funky **Starland Strange and Bazaar** – a boutique shop mixed with an ice cream parlor – host events and offer specials for those strolling the district for the latest and zaniest creative craftwork.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FOXY LOXY CAFE; TOP MIDDLE: LONE WOLF LOUNGE; TOP RIGHT: SAVANNAH AFRICAN ART MUSEUM; BOTTOM RIGHT: HENNY PENNY CAFE; BOTTOM MIDDLE: STARLAND DISTRICT; BOTTOM LEFT: E. SHAVER BOOKSELLERS; MIDDLE LEFT: FLORA & FAUNA. PHOTO CREDITS: EXPLORE GEORGIA, THE VOLO PROJECT.





5. EXPLORE GEORGIA'S COLONIAL HISTORY

The United States was founded 250 years ago, but the history of this period is as important as ever. Many travelers might not know the role the Peach State played in the American Revolution as one of the 13 original colonies. You'll find the history of these brave revolutionaries from the mountains to the coast.

ELBERTON

The **Nancy Hart Log Cabin** at **Nancy Hart Historic Park** tells the story of one of the state's most legendary figures. The almost mythical 6-foot-tall woman had wild red hair and served as a patriot spy during the Revolutionary War, gathering information by dressing as a man and even capturing several Tories. The cabin sits near the original site of her home.

DARIEN

In **Darien**, **Fort King George State Historic Site** takes you back in time as a reminder of the British Empire's reign in North America. It's also the oldest remaining English fort in the region, with tabby ruins and barracks. Visitors can explore the museum or wander the coastal trail system.

GAINESVILLE

The **Northeast Georgia History Center** has a 19th-century cabin that belonged to White Path, a Cherokee leader, as well as interpreters detailing what life on the Georgia frontier was like. Plan your trip around the monthly **Family Days**, when you can see a live blacksmith demonstration.

GOLDEN ISLES

Brunswick was a former British settlement where streets have their original names. After the war, the county seat moved to **Fort Frederica National Monument** on **St. Simons Island**, which had been established to keep the Spanish in Florida at bay.

MIDWAY

Midway in **Liberty County** was an important port during the 1776 Continental Congress. **Fort Morris State Historic Site** saw several British attacks in the following years, which you can learn about from the on-site museum and interpretive film. The site also hosts colonial demonstrations. The **Midway Museum & Cemetery** further tells the story of the people of Midway.

SAVANNAH

Savannah's history is experienced around every tree-lined corner, but the **Savannah History Museum** does a great job of covering the early years of the port city to the present. It contains several artifacts from the Revolutionary War and sits next to the site of a 1779 battle.

THOMSON

Historic Wrightsboro was founded in 1768 as a Quaker settlement in **McDuffie County**. The historical church, cemetery, and historic district have been well preserved and are a good example of what this part of the state looked like in the years around the war.



LEFT TO RIGHT: MIDWAY MUSEUM, MIDWAY | EXPLORE GEORGIA; FORT KING GEORGE STATE HISTORIC SITE, DARIEN | EXPLORE GEORGIA



SCAN CODE
to explore
Georgia's place
in American
history and join
the celebration
of the nation's
250th birthday
in 2026.



Planning to fish?

*You'll need a Georgia license. **SCAN CODE** to see what's required and how to get started.*

ALL PHOTOS: SEMINOLE STATE PARK, DONALSONVILLE | EXPLORE GEORGIA



6. UNPLUG & RECHARGE AT SEMINOLE STATE PARK

Looking for an under-the-radar family-friendly getaway without the crowds? Tucked away in the southwest corner of Georgia, **Seminole State Park** is a haven where you can satisfy your thirst for outdoor adventure and serene stays.

The 1,478-acre park, located directly on the shores of **Lake Seminole**, engages travelers of all ages with plenty of activities. Start your day hiking along the easy 2.2-mile-long **Gopher Tortoise Nature Trail**, take a relaxing swim in the lake's cool, protected coves, and soak in Georgia's natural, raw, and tranquil beauty in the quiet evenings.

For the ultimate immersion in nature, stay overnight at one of the park's 14 pet-friendly furnished cottages and admire the perfect sunrise and sunset views on the lake. Alternatively, camp waterside under the twinkling stars in one of 50 tent, trailer, and RV campsites with access to modern amenities.

Wake up to detect resident gopher tortoises, alligators, foxes, raccoons, deer, and ducks – often spotted in the lush longleaf pine forests of the park. Due to the park's location on a migratory path, there's ample birdlife viewing, so make sure to bring a pair of binoculars for a chance to spot soaring ospreys over the lake and fledgling bald eagles emerging from their nests (typically from late March to early May).

Make plans to putt a round of mini-golf for only \$5 per person, slide down and race each other at the kids' playgrounds, and play a game of cards at one of the picnic shelters.

Reel in a big one and see if you have what it takes for a fishing tournament! An angler's paradise, the 37,500-acre reservoir Lake Seminole is a world-renowned bass fishing destination, where you can launch your boat to find prime fishing spots. The lake's rich aquatic vegetation contributes to a healthy population of largemouth bass,

striped bass, crappie, and catfish, so you may be able to take home a prize. Continue to explore the mangrove forests along dedicated trails on a rental kayak, canoe, or paddleboard.

When hunger bites, dock your boat and head to a nearby restaurant to land some satisfying comfort food, hobnob with the locals, and watch live music. Indulge in a plate of fish and grits by the lake at **Fins & Feathers Lakeside Grill**, or devour a fried whole catfish with sweet potato fries at **Big Jim's Oyster Bar Restaurant**. If you plan on cooking your own fresh catch while staying at the park, be sure to stop at one of the grocery stores in **Donalsonville** or **Bainbridge** for supplies.



SCAN CODE
to read all
10 best trips
of 2026.

Where once-in-a-lifetime
happens everyday.



Where there's beauty at every turn.

Nestled along the Southern coast of Georgia, an hour south of Savannah, the Golden Isles awaits. It's a place family, friends and couples have long cherished, visiting time after time, spanning generations. They escape the bustle of life to connect with each other and to celebrate what matters most.

Across its four barrier islands, St. Simons Island, Sea Island, Jekyll Island, Little St. Simons Island and the historic port city of Brunswick, there lies a journey of exquisite discoveries steeped in stories and cuisines, traditions old and new, and serene beaches shimmering beneath golden sunsets. Plan your getaway to a place where cherished memories begin and stories are written with every tide.



GOLDEN ISLES
GEORGIA

goldenisles.com • 912.638.9014

The Golden Isles

An All-Season Destination

There's something special about every season in the Golden Isles. The islands reside in a perfect location on the coast, allowing mild temperatures in the winter, warm seaside summers, refreshingly cool spring days and crisp autumn mornings. No matter when you choose to visit for the first time, you'll be thinking the same thing as you leave: one trip just isn't enough.

BRUNSWICK

*The city of **Brunswick** is steeped in culturally rich scenes of history, art and cuisine. Take a bicycle tour, charter a fishing boat or simply sip on a Golden Isles IPA at Silver Bluff Brewing Company. Brunswick is the perfect gateway to the islands that await you.*



SEA ISLAND

*Experience **Sea Island's** internationally acclaimed Forbes Five-Star resort and enjoy exquisite accommodations and service. Play three world-class championship golf courses, or embark on a sunset cocktail cruise and sail through the pristine marshes and waterways.*



2026 Signature Events

ST. SIMONS LAND TRUST OYSTER ROAST

January

Mollusk memories are yours—along with a Lowcountry boil and chefs' signature dishes and desserts—at St. Simons Land Trust Oyster Roast, a January event supporting the organization's mission to preserve the scenic character of the area.

BLESSING OF THE FLEET

May

This time-honored tradition is the oldest in the country. Beautifully decorated shrimp boats line Brunswick's waterways as they prepare for this Portuguese tradition celebrating the local shrimping industry.

FOURTH OF JULY

Cheer for the red, white and blue as fireworks fill the sky at Independence Day celebrations on St. Simons Island, Sea Island, Jekyll Island and Brunswick.

SOUTHERN GROWN

September

Sea Island commemorates the distinctive culture of the South during Southern Grown, where history and hospitality entwine. Choose from a full weekend experience of curated programming or the annual headlining concert, which is open to the public.

JEKYLL ISLAND SHRIMP & GRITS FESTIVAL

October

Celebrate the South's most iconic dish with a weekend of shrimp and grits in every style, live music, fireworks and an artists market—all surrounded by the historic charm of Jekyll Island's National Historic Landmark District.

PORCHFEST

November

Local musical groups perform gratis on the front porches of Brunswick's Old Town Historic District during PorchFest each fall. Savor the sights, sounds and bites as you stroll among Victorian architecture.

THE RSM CLASSIC

November

Hosted by local PGA pro Davis Love III, this four-day tournament has become a highlight of the PGA Tour in which top names on the pro circuit drive, chip and putt on one of the most revered courses in the Southeast.

ST. SIMONS ISLAND

St. Simons Island is an idyllic, moss-draped setting for couples, families and friends. Experience signature Golden Isles delights—horseback riding on pristine beaches, kayaking along historic sites, ambling through inviting shops and savoring bites at delectable restaurants.



Taste the Best of the Golden Isles

HALYARD RESTAURANT GROUP

Enjoy Southern seafood, Italian classics, Mexican favorites and flame-grilled steaks—served daily at Halyards, Tramici, La Plancha and Agio, where good food and great company come together.

halyardrestaurantgroup.com • 912.638.3158



Stay in the Heart of St. Simons

THE INN BY SEA ISLAND

They say location is everything. The Inn by Sea Island's desirable setting in the heart of St. Simons Island puts guests within easy access to historic sites, beaches, shopping and dining. The Inn offers casual, comfortable lodging which is perfect for families, golfers and wedding parties. Spacious, airy rooms invite relaxation along with the heated outdoor pool. Complimentary amenities include breakfast, bicycles, a fitness center and a laundry room on-site. Plus, visitors enjoy access to three championship golf courses at Sea Island when booking the Sea Island Golf Package.



theinnbyseaisland.com • 866.976.6523

JEKYLL ISLAND

On Jekyll Island, cruise along miles of shoreline that's home to native wildlife and the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, and marvel at the opulent mansions of the Gilded Age. Whether by bike, car or on foot, this timeless island is a treasure trove of discoveries for families and nature lovers alike.





An Icon Reimagined

JEKYLL ISLAND CLUB RESORT

The newly renovated Jekyll Island Club Resort stands as the quintessential emblem of the Golden Isles in Georgia, offering an enduring allure of timeless elegance and Southern charm. With its perfect blend of waterfront lifestyle, captivating grounds, exquisite dining options, inviting pools and direct oceanfront access, the resort creates an idyllic sanctuary for guests. Beyond beauty, it provides the ideal escape from the hustle and bustle, immersing visitors in a tapestry of rich history, relaxation and coastal charm.



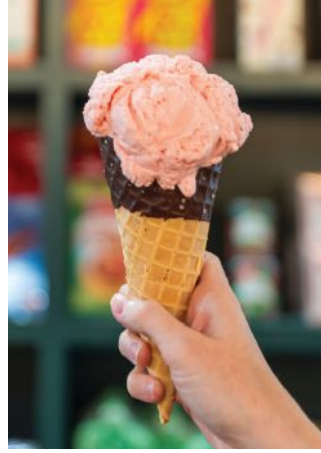
JEKYLL OCEAN CLUB

Jekyll Ocean Club, the contemporary all-suite extension of the renowned historic Jekyll Island Club Resort, offers a modern take on luxury living on Jekyll Island. As an AAA Four Diamond resort, it sits along an exclusive stretch of pristine shoreline, providing 40 elegant suites and an expansive outdoor pool deck with a cozy fire pit, hot tub and comfortable lounge chairs. Guests can also enjoy the ocean view terrace and savor delectable dishes from Eighty Ocean Kitchen and Bar, the resort's beachfront restaurant, all embodying the essence of the Jekyll Ocean Club lifestyle.

Stroll Into Something New

JEKYLL ISLAND

In the heart of Jekyll Island's National Historic Landmark District, you'll discover a collection of new experiences as unique as the island itself. Once home to service buildings from the island's Gilded Age, The District Shops welcome you with a walkable mix of shopping and dining.



Browse local, farm-raised goods at the Georgia Grown Signature Shoppe, sample treats at Jekyll Island Sweets, or gear up for adventure at Pier Road Outfitters. Discover island-inspired lifestyle gifts at 31•81, capture a Gilded Age keepsake at J.P. & Co. and unwind and dine at Founder's Social. From year-round Christmas cheer at North Pole South to morning favorites at Wake Up Coffee, The District Shops make for a day of discovery where every path leads to something new.

jekyllisland.com





More Than a Getaway

DAYS INN & SUITES JEKYLL ISLAND

The award winning Days Inn & Suites is centrally positioned on stunning Jekyll Island, supplying the ideal setting for leisure or business travel. Guests enjoy a complimentary deluxe continental breakfast, free WiFi, two pools, a hot tub, a kiddie pool, a pickleball court, a firepit and bike rentals on-site.

daysinnjekyll.com • 912.635.9800



Making You Feel Right at Home

VILLAS BY THE SEA RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Adjacent to Driftwood Beach on Jekyll Island, this condo-hotel is perfect for your next vacation or meeting. With an award-winning restaurant and many amenities, there's plenty for you to enjoy.

villasbythesearesort.com • 912.635.2521

LITTLE ST. SIMONS ISLAND

*Accessible only by boat, **Little St.***

Simons Island is a lush, unspoiled paradise. Whether taking a day trip or staying in one of their 16 rooms, situated in 6 charming cottages and lodges, time spent on the island lets you connect with nature. Join a naturalist-led expedition, relish garden-fresh meals with fish you caught that day, birdwatch in serenity or go on a peaceful shell walk along 7 miles of private beaches.



Where the Wild Things Are

LITTLE ST. SIMONS ISLAND

Explore 11,000 acres of wilderness and enjoy all-inclusive accommodations at The Lodge on Little St. Simons Island. Experience enriching guided adventures, Lowcountry cuisine and warm hospitality on the island where nature is the luxury.

littlessi.com • 912.638.7472



Where the world comes to **CELEBRATE**

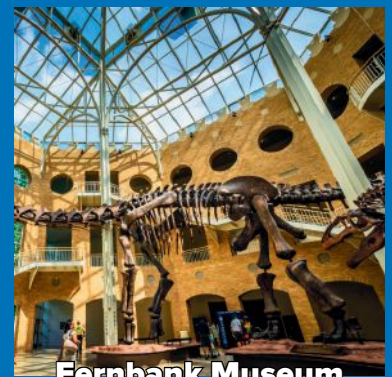
DeKalb is your home for culture and excitement in 2026. Discover your own adventures, enjoy shopping from around the world and savor global flavors that bring a piece of home back to you. The world comes alive here and so will you.



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PLAY OUTSIDE ATLANTA.



VISIT
SANDY SPRINGS
GEORGIA

ONE BIG FAMILY, ONE BIG ATLANTA ADVENTURE

Beneath its reputation for hip-hop, Hollywood, and history that leaps off the page, Georgia's capital reveals itself as a perfect place for multigenerational adventures. Here, your entire family, from toddlers to grandparents, will discover exciting ways to relax, have fun, and make lasting memories together. Start exploring the possibilities with handy travel, activity, and dining tips that'll help you plan a weeklong vacation.



THIS PAGE: FERNBANK WILDWOOD, ATLANTA | EXPLORE GEORGIA. OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM TOP: ATLANTA BELTLINE EASTSIDE TRAIL, ATLANTA | EXPLORE GEORGIA; CENTER FOR PUPPETRY ARTS, ATLANTA | EXPLORE GEORGIA.



ARRIVING & GETTING AROUND ATLANTA

Yes, Atlanta may be known for its traffic, but smart routes make getting to the airport and attractions surprisingly uncomplicated. Check out our pointers to make navigating Atlanta a breeze, even with a large family group.

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport ranks among the world's best-connected airports, making meetups easy from almost anywhere. After landing, getting from the terminal to the **Rental Car Center** or the **MARTA** airport station is pretty simple – even with tired kids and extra luggage – thanks to the free **ATL SkyTrain**.

Once you've arrived, getting around is easy, too, no matter your group's pace or style. Stroll the scenic **Atlanta Beltline** – a 22-mile trail that navigates around popular neighborhoods. Hop on **MARTA's** trains, streetcars, or buses to reach top attractions. Rent bikes or scooters on the go and cruise to parks and food halls at your own speed. Or, bring transportation to you using rideshare apps.

FIND THE PERFECT STAY FOR YOUR FAMILY

After a day exploring Atlanta, where your family sleeps matters, especially when your group spans toddlers to grandparents. The good news? Atlanta's diverse neighborhoods deliver lodging options that are comfortable and convenient, whether you want adjoining suites, walkable attractions, or a pool the kids can't get enough of. Explore the city's regions along with a sampling of accommodations, everything from wallet friendly to luxury.

Intown regions are centrally located with hotels and short-term rentals in reach of your daily adventures. **Downtown**, you'll find popular attractions like the **Georgia Aquarium** amid sky-high buildings. **Home2 Suites by Hilton Atlanta Downtown** delivers comfort and value with complimentary breakfasts and kitchenettes for easier mealtime – just a five-minute walk from **SkyView Atlanta**, the city's 20-story Ferris wheel. Meanwhile, the **Omni Atlanta Hotel at Centennial Park** offers splurge-worthy two-bedroom suites mere steps from the park.

A **Midtown** stay means access to **Piedmont Park**, a massive green space that's great for children with energy to burn. Here, the luxe **Four Seasons Atlanta** welcomes kids with cookies and play tents, and on-site dining creates indulgent evenings for everyone. Meanwhile, the **Kimpton Shane Hotel** – a more economical, mid-range option – pairs skyline views with thoughtful family perks, like fridges for nursing moms, accessible tubs, attraction bundles, and pet-friendly options.

Embrace the charm of local eateries, tree-lined streets, and stunning historic homes – all in the heart of the city – whether you're wandering laid-back **Grant Park** or the more lively **Inman Park**, just 10 minutes away. You'll find your home away from home here with kid-friendly B&B stays at the tropical-themed **Urban Oasis Bed & Breakfast** or the Victorian-era **Sugar Magnolia Bed & Breakfast's** private **Cottage Suite**, both in the Inman Park neighborhood.

Meanwhile, upscale **Buckhead** brims with chic storefronts for afternoons of retail therapy. Stay at **The Westin Buckhead Atlanta** for 250-plus stores just down the street at **Lenox Square Mall** and a MARTA station around the corner. Or, gather with your family in **Brookhaven**, a neighboring area with a thriving art scene and beautiful parks. You'll love the privacy and space of Brookhaven vacation rentals loaded with amenities like full kitchens, shady patios, and dedicated common areas.

In Atlanta's suburban neighborhoods like **Sandy Springs**, you'll have quick city access along MARTA rail stops and bus lines – and the potential for budget-friendly accommodations. In addition to boasting nearby bus stops, **Fairfield Inn & Suites Atlanta Perimeter Center** caters to families with

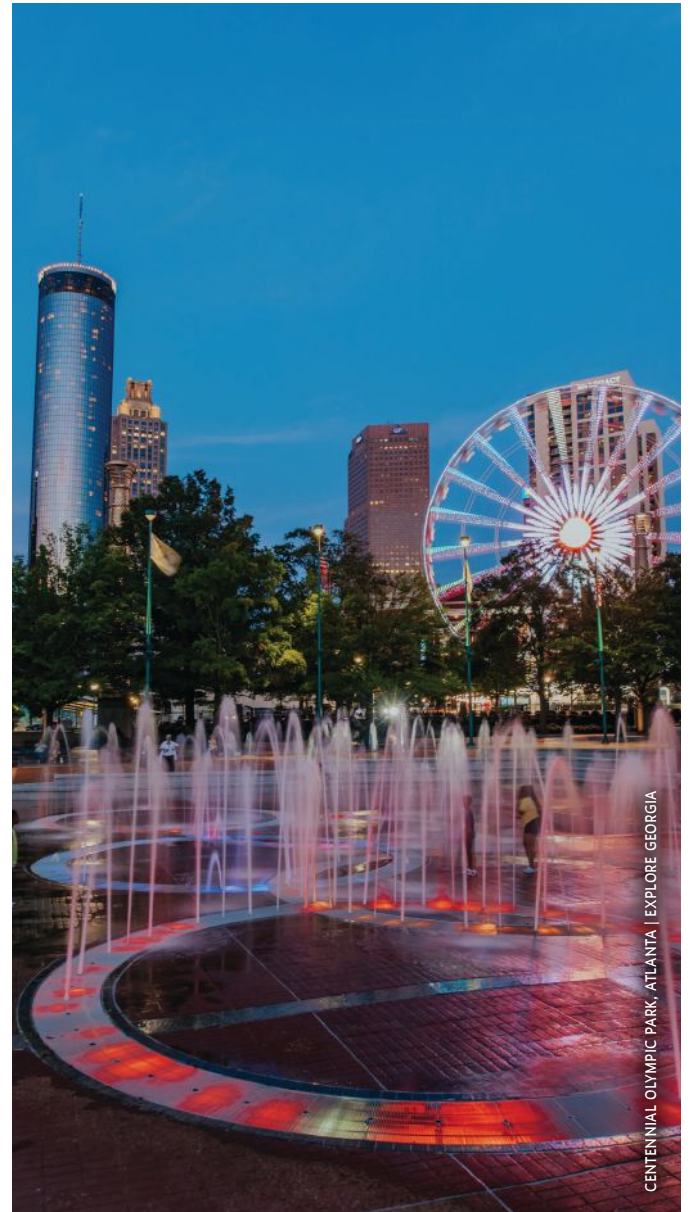
on-site laundry, free coffee in the lobby, and an indoor pool where kids, parents, and grandparents can all cool off.

About 20 minutes east of Atlanta's downtown, **Decatur** delights families with its standout eateries and vibrant festivals. At locations like the **Hampton Inn & Suites Atlanta Decatur/Emory**, your group will be close to all the action with more than a dozen restaurants and the seasonal **Decatur Farmers Market** within walking distance.



Traveling With Your Pup?

SCAN CODE to discover some of the best places you can take your dog in Georgia.





DATE SPOTS FOR ADULTS

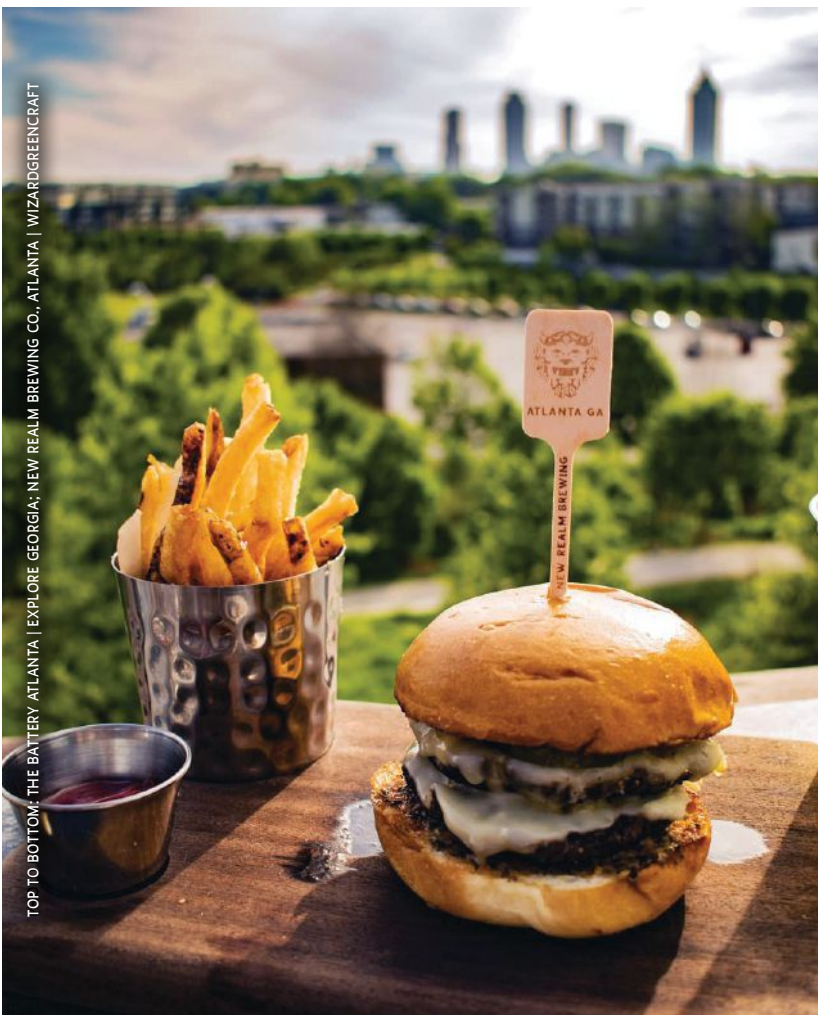
Even on a big family trip, parents deserve a break. While the kids are entertained, slip away for a romantic afternoon or evening, or a full day just for two.

If you have hours to play, start your date at **The Battery Atlanta**, a lively spot that combines entertainment, food, and shopping. Kick things off with a teamwork test at **The Escape Room**, where clever puzzles put your twosome to the challenge. When hunger hits, **Punch Bowl Social** provides an electric atmosphere for sharing plates of cilantro-honey wings followed by rounds of bowling, darts, and arcade games. In the evenings, try **Park Bench** to sip frozen cocktails and listen to live tunes. Round out your visit with shopping for baseball-themed mementos – perfect after watching the **Atlanta Braves** run the bases at **Truist Park**.

If you're seeking quiet time, try **Westside Park**, Atlanta's newest green space. You'll love strolling hand-in-hand along the winding paths and stopping at shaded benches for skyline views or covered pavilions for a cozy two-person picnic. Afterward, try the half-mile **Blue Loop** for panoramas of the **Bellwood Quarry's** walls of granite and shimmering blue lake.

For a romantic fine-dining experience, book a table at the tucked-away **Canoe**. Savor standout seasonal dishes, like smoked-salmon eggs Benedict or braised Blue Ridge rabbit leg, over brunch, lunch, or dinner. *Tip: request a spot on the shaded patio for enviable views of the Chattahoochee River while you dine. Then, wander the lush gardens and capture a few frame-worthy shots.*

Keep the chill vibes going at **New Realm Brewing** – with bonus points for strolling over on the happening **Atlanta Beltline**. Chow down on pub fare, like hand-twisted Bavarian pretzels and smokehouse burgers paired with inventive craft beers, refreshing hard ciders, and cocktail classics. As you sip, take in striking downtown vistas from the rooftop deck.



TOP TO BOTTOM: THE BATTERY ATLANTA | EXPLORE GEORGIA; NEW REALM BREWING CO., ATLANTA | WIZARDGREENCRAFT



ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN, ATLANTA | EXPLORE GEORGIA

NATURE & OUTDOORS

With its pockets of lush canopies and numerous green spaces, it's easy to see why Atlanta is called the "City in the Forest." And amid the city buzz, your crew can connect with nature through scenic parks, sea-life encounters, and garden strolls.

Head downtown to [Georgia Aquarium](#) for a peek beneath the waves, like in [Ocean Voyager](#)'s glass tunnel. Get ready to "ooh" and "ahhh" as you take turns pointing out schools of shimmering fish, spotted whale sharks, and open-mouth rays swimming overhead. Tots and grandparents alike will love pointing out unexpected critters, like camouflaged sea dragons, and sharing newfound knowledge. When you need a break, snag a seat at a live sea lion show. For older kids ready for something unforgettable, go beyond the exhibits with a behind-the-scenes tour of staff-only areas, or take it up a notch with a poolside training session alongside the aquarium's beluga whales.

Nestled at the northern end of [Piedmont Park](#), the [Atlanta Botanical Garden](#)'s stroller- and wheelchair-accessible paths mean everyone can admire fantastical topiaries, whimsical glass sculptures, and stunning plant collections together.

Stop by the [Orangerie](#), where your group can take turns identifying flora that make your favorite foods and spices, like nutmeg, lemon, and coffee. Or, bring energetic youngsters to the [Lou Glenn Children's Garden](#), where they can climb rope bridges, play in fountains, and explore the world of horticulture with veggie-garden demonstrations. Plan your visit during the fall or winter for spectacular seasonal events, like [Garden Lights](#), [Holiday Nights](#), the garden's beloved holiday light display.

More to explore

Stroll [Piedmont Park](#)'s shaded paths, take a guided history tour, or plan your trip around an annual event held there, like the [Atlanta Jazz Festival](#). Snap a family selfie in front of the Olympic rings at [Centennial Olympic Park](#), then watch younger cousins splash in the [Fountain of Rings](#), while grandparents reflect on past Olympic games at monuments like the [Quilt of Nations](#). Or, wander between [Zoo Atlanta](#)'s live animal presentations and naturalistic exhibits like the [African Savanna](#), where ostriches, giraffes, and zebras roam.

COOL INDOOR ATTRACTIONS

When the weather heats up (or turns rainy), Atlanta's indoor experiences take center stage, offering hands-on discovery and creative inspiration that resonate with both the youngest and oldest explorers in your crew.

Creative activities

Take a trip down memory lane at the [Center for Puppetry Arts](#), where wonder and imagination capture the spotlight. In the [Worlds of Puppetry Museum](#), childhood nostalgia comes to life as grandparents reminisce over beloved Muppet Show characters, like the sassy and glamorous Miss Piggy, and parents rediscover the joys of Fraggle Rock and Labyrinth. For kids, it's a chance to uncover the global story of puppetry and see their own Sesame Street icons like Bert, Ernie, and Big Bird. For an interactive adventure, join the museum-wide scavenger hunt to find specific puppets, answer questions, and earn a prize. Then, nab tickets to a live puppet show at the [Mainstage Theater](#). See the event calendar for performance schedules, including seasonal holiday-themed shows and special exhibitions.

Next, step into the [World of Coca-Cola](#) for a glimpse into the history and magic behind the iconic fizzy drink. Explore the [Coca-Cola Stories](#) exhibit, where long-time cola drinkers can relive their first bubbly bottle of Coke and newer beverage fans can meet SJ, the likable virtual soda jerk. Perk up with samples of the brand's popular global flavors, like the bubblegum-esque Inca Kola from Peru, at [Taste It!](#) Then, head to the [Beverage Lab](#) where everyone can craft their own unique drink to sip and share.

More to explore

Gather big and small builders for an imagination-filled day at [LEGO® Discovery Center Atlanta](#), where race cars, princess-saving missions, and a mini Atlanta skyline made of bricks are just the beginning. Or, delight in something squishy and surprising at the [Sloomoo Institute Atlanta](#), a colorful all-ages playland where slime is the main attraction.



FAMILY-APPROVED DINING

From loaded pizzas and finger-licking barbecue to build-your-own feasts at lively food halls, Atlanta has flavors to satisfy even the pickiest eaters. Whether grabbing something quick between attractions or sitting down with your whole crew, Atlanta's diverse dining options make meals a special part of your family vacation.

Atlanta's food halls

Food halls like **Krog Street Market** are the perfect solution when nobody can agree on what to eat. Here, your dining options range from artisanal pizzas to Vietnamese dishes. Try eateries like **Suzy Siu's Baos**, the plant-based **Recess**, and **Fred's Meat & Bread** – awarded a MICHELIN Guide Bib Gourmand rating for its delicious sandwiches, like the spicy Korean cheesesteak. Taste it for yourself to savor the spicy gochujang sauce, candied jalapeños, and garlic aioli.

Across town, **Chattahoochee Food Works** offers every generation something to savor, from trendy bubble teas to classic Mediterranean dishes. If you're having trouble choosing what to eat, try hot spots like **Delilah's Everyday Soul** – a mother-daughter-run stall that delights guests with a modern twist on comforting Southern cuisine. Sample the Southern Belle fried chicken sandwich, topped with fried green tomatoes, pimento cheese, and a slab of bacon. Whatever you order, regroup to share bites and crown the day's top food-picker.

Or, try **Ponce City Market**, where you and your crew can shop, play, and eat – all in one place. Hungry travelers will find a satisfying array of sweet and savory choices, from French mille crêpe cakes to regional Chinese cuisine. Taste snackable Indian street food like crispy, masala smashed potatoes at **Botiwalla by Chai Pani** or Puerto Rican-inspired dishes like tender, slow-roasted pork served with mofongo (mashed plantains) from **El Super Pan**. Then, head to the rooftop **Skyline Park** for carnival-style rides, a three-story slide, Skee-Ball, and more.

Local flavors & favorites

Close to popular attractions like the **Georgia Aquarium**, **Max's Coal Oven Pizzeria** is a can't-miss spot for New York-style pies baked

in a coal-fired oven. Adults will love specialty pizzas like the Arugula & Prosciutto, while children stick to go-to favorites like chicken fingers.

For heartier meals, **Fox Bros. Bar-B-Q** dishes out some of the tastiest Texas-style fare in town that'll have you digging into plates piled with fall-off-the-bone spare ribs, smoked brisket, and succulent pulled pork, or go sandwich-style with all the fixin's.

Or, try **The Varsity**, a classic drive-in experience that gives a nod to nostalgia that kids, parents, and grandparents can appreciate together. Order a round of chili dogs and Frosted Orange shakes to hear their iconic "What'll ya have?" greeting.

For more seasonal options, **Souper Jenny** offers a rotating menu of soups, salads, and sandwiches that hit the spot with lighter fare in summer and body-warming meals in winter.

Craving a traditional Southern meal? Slide into a large, cushy booth at **OK Cafe**, where classic meatloaf, omelets, and milkshakes come with a side of Southern hospitality. Or, head to **The Colonnade**, a long-standing Atlanta institution beloved for its no-frills comfort food, including tender pot roast, seafood platters, and more than two dozen sides.

In **Doraville**, look for **El Rey del Taco**, which serves authentic Mexican dishes. Adults will love trying items like octopus tacos on corn tortillas, refreshing agua fresca, or frozen margaritas, while the kids chow down on tried-and-true options like cheese quesadillas.

And don't forget dessert: try inventive scoops at **Morelli's Ice Cream** (think ginger-lavender and coconut-jalapeño) or grab a sweet treat from **Sublime Doughnuts**, where s'mores and sweet potato cake creations sit alongside traditional favorites.



PONCE CITY MARKET, ATLANTA | EXPLORE GEORGIA

PONCE CITY MARKET



TAKE A PIECE OF GEORGIA HOME WITH YOU

Want to savor your trip a little longer? Stop by Xocoatl in Kroger Street Market to share sweet reminders of your time together with delights like handmade bonbons, rich drinking chocolate, or one of their signature bars. (The Dark & Salty is a fan favorite!)

MUSEUMS & SPORTS

In Atlanta, museums aren't just for looking – they're for doing and playing. Whether your extended fam prefers ancient fossils, high-flying planes, or game-day thrills, you'll find exciting ways to learn.

You don't need to be a sports fanatic to enjoy the **College Football Hall of Fame's** AI-powered exhibits and legendary stories. The experience begins as soon as you walk in, where a three-story wall of helmets greets you. Fun fact: there are more than 775 school teams represented here! Grandparents will remember the legends of their heyday, young fans can practice fight-song karaoke, and parents can see what it takes to be a successful coach. Then, meander to the **Peach Bowl Field** with your aspiring players and test everyone's skills on the 45-yard indoor playing field.

In **Roswell**, the **Mimms Museum of Technology and Art** connects families across generations with stories about digital innovation. As you weave through displays and artifacts like former supercomputers, data punch cards, and transistor radios, younger generations will marvel at the technology of

the past while parents and grandparents share tales of life before Wi-Fi and smartphones. For an added wow factor, see the computers that helped NASA first send astronauts into space, like a massive IBM 3420.

More to explore

At **Fernbank Museum of Natural History**, grand halls and winding trails reveal towering dinosaurs, unexpected treehouses, and Earth's powerful natural forces. Meanwhile, the **Delta Flight Museum** invites aviation lovers to admire vintage and modern aircraft, test their flying skills, and even step inside a Boeing 747.



Accessible Georgia

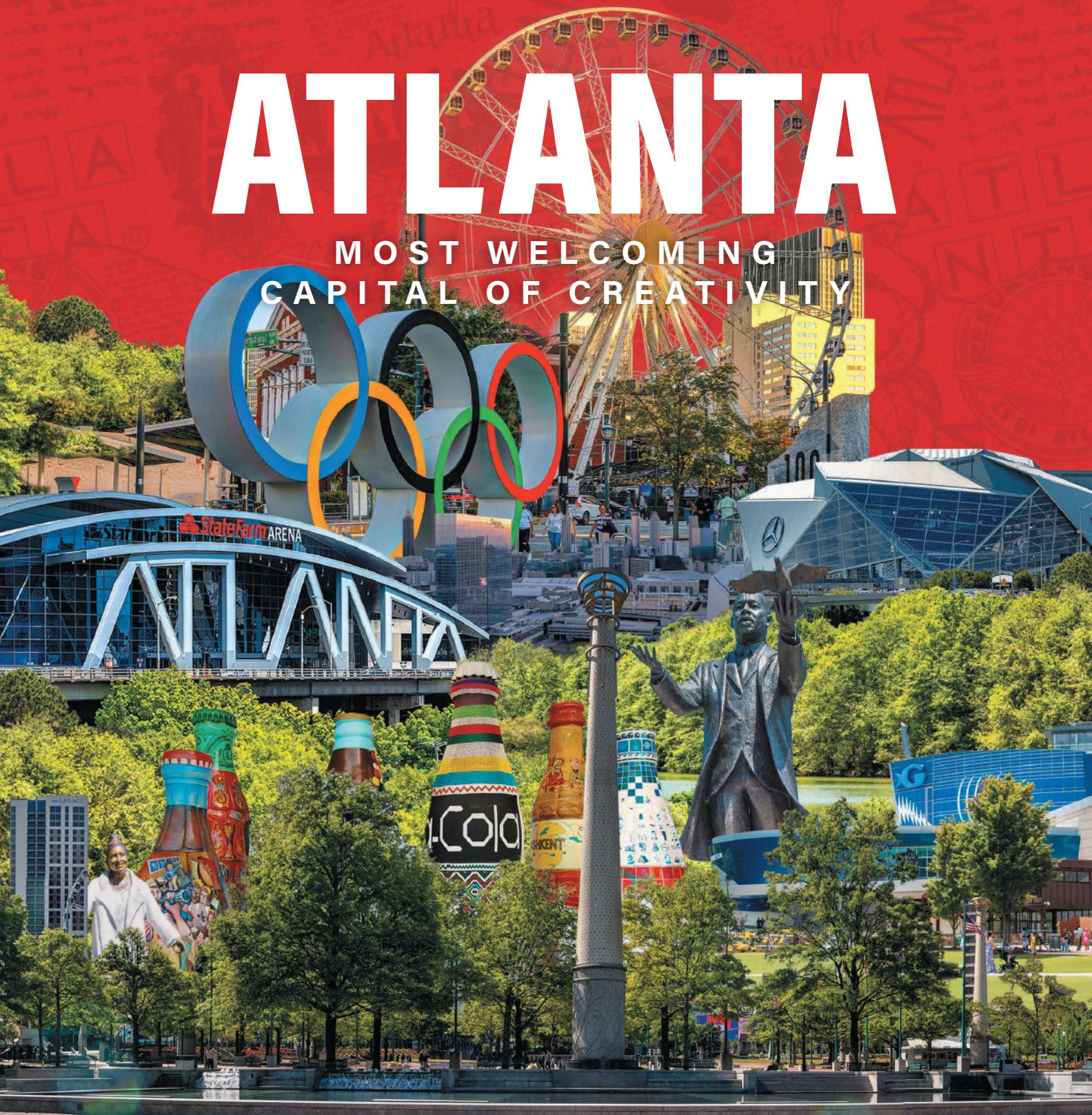
Want a trip that works for everyone in your group without compromise? SCAN CODE to learn more about accessible travel around Georgia.



FERNBANK MUSEUM, ATLANTA | EXPLORE GEORGIA

ATLANTA

MOST WELCOMING
CAPITAL OF CREATIVITY



SCAN AND
DISCOVER
MORE

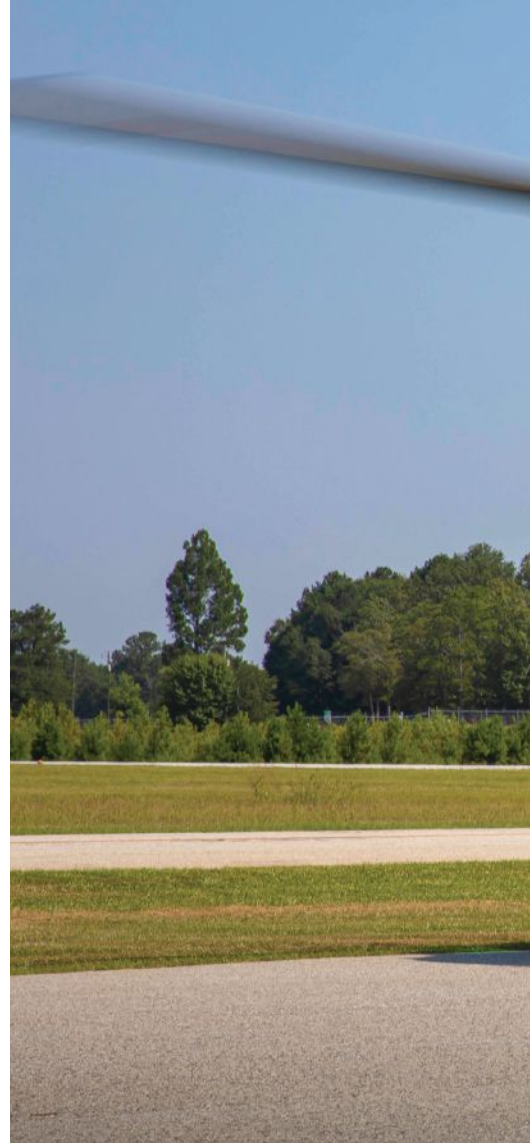
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GREEN FRONT CAFE, STOCKBRIDGE



Each of Henry County's four cities has a distinctive flair, offering visitors something just their speed.

Plan your trip at [VisitHenryCountyGeorgia.com](https://www.visithenrycountygeorgia.com)
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HAMPTON HAS THRILLS

EchoPark Speedway (formerly Atlanta Motor Speedway) offers track tours where you can experience the 28-degree bank, and the energy during a NASCAR race weekend can't be beat. Next to the Speedway, the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation offers rides in military Cobra and Huey helicopters. Fly with military veterans and enjoy the wind in your hair – on the Huey ride, the doors stay open! Tier-1 Helicopters is a pilot-training school, but instructors also provide private tours. Request to fly over famous film sites or take a sunset flight for stunning views of the Atlanta skyline. For those who want to catch air while staying closer to the ground, the Hampton Skate Park offers a challenging series of ramps, rails, and jumps.



ARMY AVIATION HERITAGE FOUNDATION, HAMPTON

LOCUST GROVE HAS GOOD DEALS

Tanger Outlets is a staple of Locust Grove's shopping scene – delivering an array of brand names at affordable prices, with a rotating selection of more than 70 stores. Cavender's Horsetown South offers Western wear, equestrian supplies, and Western-themed decor. Beyond their incredible selection of boots and cowboy hats, visitors can have their hats shaped or their boots stretched and repaired. For those who love the thrill of the hunt, Planter's Walk Antique Mall offers unique vintage finds. Prefer books to clothing racks? ConversationStarters Bookstore will feel like home, with its selection of bestsellers, paint-and-sip events, book clubs, game nights, writers' workshops, and even a podcast studio.

McDONOUGH HAS FAMILY FUN

Southern Belle Farm is the perfect place for families. Pick fruit, visit farm animals, navigate the corn maze, browse the country market – and try their famous strawberry shortcake with homemade strawberry ice cream. Heritage Park is home to the Veterans Museum, the Veterans Wall of Honor, and a historic village. Don't miss the Kindness Mural and the mural at the Community Gardens. To help kiddos burn energy, McDonough's trifecta – SkyZone Trampoline Park, Urban Air Adventure Park, and Starlite Family Fun Center – offers bouncing, climbing, skating, and playing. Opening in summer 2026, the new Aquatic Center will feature an outdoor water park plus indoor pools for rainy days and winter weekends.

STOCKBRIDGE HAS ARTS & CULTURE

The VyStar Amphitheater at the Bridge comes alive with performances spring through fall. On a quiet side street stands Floyd Chapel Baptist Church, where a dream became a national movement. Martin Luther King, Sr. grew up attending this church with his mother. It's where he first heard Civil Rights leaders speak and where he preached his first sermon. The Green Front Café, true to its name, anchors the corner of a historic neighborhood where the legacy of founder Carrie Mae Hambrick lives on through burgers, shrimp, and grits, and other Southern staples. Panola Mountain State Park – home to a rare and delicate ecosystem – offers wildflower hikes, bike paths, archery, and bouldering.



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES

Adventure is **closer** than you think



Cottages, camping & yurts at beautiful Georgia State Parks.

Plan your escape today.



— ONLY IN — GEORGIA

Beyond Peach State icons like the World of Coca-Cola, Georgia Aquarium, and Stone Mountain Park, Georgia's special character shines brightly in places you won't find anywhere else. Think driftwood beaches shaped by the tides, mountain towns with Bavarian flair, and soulful small cities. These aren't just scenic stops – they're uniquely Georgia through and through.



DRIFTWOOD BEACH: A SPECTACULAR ISLAND ESCAPE

On the northern end of **Jekyll Island**, **Driftwood Beach** presents a hauntingly beautiful scene, where ancient oaks and pine trees, weathered and gnarled, are natural monuments along the shoreline. Sculpted by wind and surf, this eerie yet elegant landscape offers a surreal setting for photography, contemplation, or connection with nature – and it’s the best part of the island for witnessing a colorful sunrise. Salt-bleached branches twist against the sky like something out of a dreamscape – perfect for an afternoon siesta in a hammock. To make the most of your visit, be sure to check the tide schedule. This special beach is only accessible at low tide.



TOP TO BOTTOM: DRIFTWOOD BEACH, JEKYLL ISLAND | CALEB JONES; ROOSEVELT’S LITTLE WHITE HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE, WARM SPRINGS | EXPLORE GEORGIA



LITTLE WHITE HOUSE: A PRESIDENTIAL SANCTUARY

Drawn to **Warm Springs** for rest and relaxation, President Franklin D. Roosevelt found it so special that it became his annual retreat, now known as **Roosevelt’s Little White House State Historic Site**. The town’s tranquil setting – along with soaking in the area’s warm natural springs – offered President Roosevelt relief from his debilitating polio. You can now tour the modest cottage where America’s 32nd president spent his final days. In the historic site’s museum, you can view his hand-controlled Ford convertible, a 1930s radio, and the famously unfinished portrait of FDR that captured a nation’s grief.





PROVIDENCE CANYON: GEORGIA'S LITTLE GRAND CANYON

Known as the “Little Grand Canyon” in west Georgia, **Providence Canyon State Park** showcases a striking range of hues. With soil in shades of pink, red-orange, buff-yellow, and lavender, it’s a captivating spectacle caused by an unintended legacy of poor 19th-century farming practices and erosion. The unusual geological formations make you feel like you’ve stepped into a painting and remain an unexpected marvel of the Deep South. Hiking trails along **Providence Canyon**’s rim offer panoramic vistas that are a testament to nature’s resilience. Watch for relics from 1950s America as you trek. You may spot what’s left of old cars abandoned at the park’s former homesteads, including a classic two-door Ford Fairlane.

PROVIDENCE CANYON STATE PARK, LUMPKIN | CALLIE THOMPSON



SCAN CODE
to discover more
uniquely Georgia
destinations.



OKEFENOKEE SWAMP: WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

Spanning more than 400,000 acres, the **Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge** is North America's largest blackwater swamp – and it's one of the wildest places in the nation. It's no surprise this wildlife-rich area is home to more than 10,000 alligators – keep watch and you may see one swimming or basking in the sun. Encounter rare birds like the red-cockaded woodpecker, or spot furry creatures like the river otter, black bear, or gray fox from a distance. Alive with floating islands and densely tangled forests, the Okefenokee – a Native American word meaning “trembling earth” – teems with lush flora, including carnivorous plants like pitchers and sundews. Explore its winding waterways by boat or kayak, or hike one of the boardwalk trails through ancient cypress trees to get a true sense of the ecosystem that defines this natural wonder. Then, camp at **Stephen C. Foster State Park** for the promise of glittering stars – it's Georgia's only certified International Dark Sky Park.





HELEN: ALPINE CHARM IN THE APPALACHIANS

Nestled in the foothills of the **Blue Ridge Mountains**, **Helen** transports you to a Bavarian village that celebrates all things German. With cobblestone streets, alpine architecture, and a festive atmosphere, this fairytale town blends Old World charm with Southern hospitality and outdoor recreation. Catch the longest-running **Oktoberfest** in the country, involving multiple weeks of traditional polka dancing, food, beer, and a lot of lederhosen. In summer, it's also the perfect backdrop for zip lining through evergreen forests, tubing down the **Chattahoochee River**, and climbing the eight-story **lookout tower** at **Uhurgurg, the Eagle Owl Castle**, for rugged Blue Ridge views. Discovering Helen means you may forget for a moment you're in Georgia at all.





ATHENS: A HAVEN FOR INDIE SOUTHERN MUSIC

Athens pulses with creativity, and as one of America's first influential small-town music scenes, it's celebrated as a trailblazer. In the late 1970s and early '80s, the city helped define the new wave and alt-rock movements, launching international sensations like R.E.M. and The B-52s. That spirit endures, with iconic venues like the **40 Watt Club** and **Georgia Theatre** anchoring a scene where punk, folk, hip-hop, Americana, and experimental performers all thrive together. Outside of catching a concert, take a self-guided **Athens Music History Walking Tour** to gain insights into the city's deep-rooted past.



TOP TO BOTTOM: WUXTRY RECORDS, ATHENS | EXPLORE GEORGIA; CONDOR CHOCOLATES, ATHENS | EXPLORE GEORGIA



TAKE A PIECE OF GEORGIA HOME WITH YOU

Fuel your road trip – and memories – with a bag of locally roasted beans from one of **Jittery Joe's** coffeehouses in and around Athens. Or, pick up a box of assorted truffles and bean-to-bar chocolate from **Condor Chocolates**. Thoughtfully crafted, these edible keepsakes bottle the spirit of Georgia – ready to bring a little Southern comfort wherever you roam.





ROCK CITY: ENCHANTED LOOKOUTS & HIDEAWAYS

Perched atop **Lookout Mountain**, **Rock City** lures explorers to the summit of its ancient rock formations and staggering cliffs. Ready to be awed? Stop on a clear day for unmatched views at the “**See Seven States**” panoramic overlook, 1,700 feet above sea level, and **Lover’s Leap**, a jutting rock formation that promises sweeping views all around. For whimsical gardens dotted with gnomes, emerald green moss, and funky fungi, wander down the **Enchanted Trail**. Cross the swinging suspension bridge and discover a 100-foot waterfall cascading into natural pools below. Should you stumble upon the **Fairyland Caverns Path**, expect winsome fairytale and nostalgic nursery rhyme scenes, which give way to a truly magical adventure.





COLUMBUS: WHITEWATER RAFTING & ZIP LINING

Venture to **Columbus** for exhilarating adventures: raft the world's longest urban whitewater course, soar across two state lines on a zip line, or navigate the **Chattahoochee River** via kayak. You'll traverse rapids that range from chill to thrilling, then dry off and head downtown. Cycle or stroll the scenic **Chattahoochee RiverWalk** that hugs the banks of one of the most vital rivers in Georgia. Nearby the RiverWalk, dive into the expansive **Banks Food Hall** for a bounty of local vendors. Here, you can dig into build-your-own poke bowls, piled-high hot dogs, and crispy Filipino pork egg rolls – ideal fuel after a long day playing outside.



WHITEWATER RAFTING ON THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER, COLUMBUS | EXPLORE GEORGIA

From conquering the world's longest urban whitewater course to exploring renowned galleries, museums, and historic landmarks, Columbus, GA is where adventure meets culture. Discover a vibrant arts scene, savor chef-driven dining in Uptown, and catch a world-class performance in this lively riverside city. It's no wonder we were named one of *Southern Living's* **Best Weekend Getaways**.

ALL OUT **Skill.**

ALL OUT **Thrill.**



 VisitColumbusGA Go All Out

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  Plan your visit!



ROCK CITY



TAKE AN **ENCHANTED JOURNEY**
THROUGH SPECTACULAR NATURAL WONDERS

Experience Wonder

- ◆ Lover's Leap & See Seven States
- ◆ Swing-A-Long Bridge
- ◆ Fairyland Caverns
- ◆ Seasonal Programming
- ◆ Dining & Shopping with Scenic Views

Make it a Year of Adventure 

EXPLORE THE TRAILS THROUGH ALL FOUR SEASONS WITH A ROCK CITY 2026 PASS

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, GA
SeeRockCity.com

See
**Clayton
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G E O R G I A

**WHERE HISTORY, CULTURE, AND FLAVOR
COME TOGETHER JUST SOUTH OF ATLANTA.**



OPEN TO THE WORLD



Just 15 miles south of Atlanta, you'll find a destination that blends unforgettable attractions with local charm. Stroll the **Newman Wetlands Center** and experience the bustling **Atlanta State Farmers Market**, one of the largest of its kind in the world. Dive into creativity at **Arts Clayton Gallery** and uncover fascinating stories at the **Hattie McDaniel Legacy Experience at the Road to Tara Museum**. From natural beauty to rich history, vibrant culture, and international flavors, every visit serves up something new to discover.



Plan your getaway!

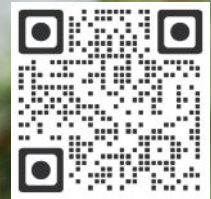
Home of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport | SeeClaytonCountyGA.com

AWAY FROM IT ALL ISN'T SO FAR AWAY

Looking to get away? You've picked the right place. Just 90 minutes north of Atlanta lives a weekend where time wasted together is time well spent.

Ellijay, GA invites you to wander historic hiking trails, sip amongst the vineyards and reconnect with nature.

PickEllijay.com | [@PickEllijay](https://www.instagram.com/PickEllijay)



WINE COUNTRY IN YOUR BACKYARD

Sip the weekend away while surrounded by sprawling vineyards nestled within the Appalachian foothills. Ellijay offers more than a dozen vineyards and tasting rooms so there is always something new to savor.

📍 [Ott Vineyards & Winery](#)



GEORGIA'S MOUNTAIN BIKING CAPITAL

Whether you want to cruise through the trail or shred down it, Ellijay's mountains are yours to conquer. Ride famous regional trails like the Pinhoti or Bear Creek and then grab a brew at one of Ellijay's breweries – it's all thrills and hills when mountain biking in Ellijay.

📍 [Cohutta Wilderness](#)



SMALL TOWN, BIG PERSONALITY

Tucked between the mountains lies Downtown Ellijay, where the sidewalks are perfect for strolling. Savor Southern-style dishes made with fresh and local ingredients or shop for souvenirs at Ellijay-owned businesses. Experience the warmth and hospitality that draw people to the North Georgia Mountains.

📍 [Downtown Ellijay](#)



HIKE AMERICA'S OLDEST MOUNTAIN RANGE

Hike amongst the rolling hills or climb to mountain peaks. Whether you're a beginner looking for a family-friendly trail or a seasoned hiker ready to take on the Southern Terminus of the Appalachian Trail, Ellijay has a trail for everyone.

📍 [Tumbling Waters Trail](#)

COZY UP TOGETHER

Find yourself right at home in one of Ellijay's 1,500 cabins that dot the scenic North Georgia Mountains. Whether you want to keep it cozy beside the fireplace or wander into the great outdoors, Ellijay's cabins are the ideal place to reconnect with those you love.

📍 [North Georgia Mountains](#)



FARM FUN IS IN HARVEST

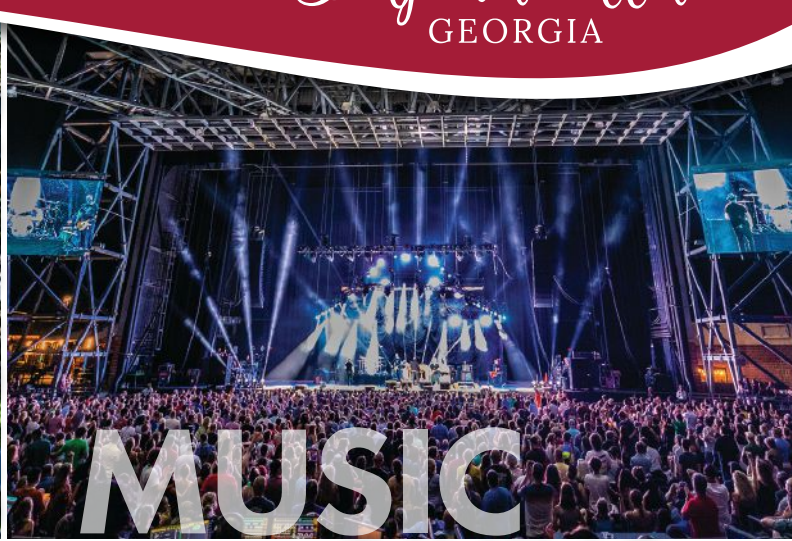
Ellijay is known for its apples – after all, we are the Apple Capital of Georgia – but we have good pickings all year 'round! Experience farm adventures such as petting sheep and touring a mushroom farm that supplies some of Atlanta's best restaurants. Build your bouquet of local flowers at our U-Pick farms or get lost in corn mazes. Ellijay has a bounty of options for fun on the farm!

📍 [R & A Orchards](#)





SHOPPING

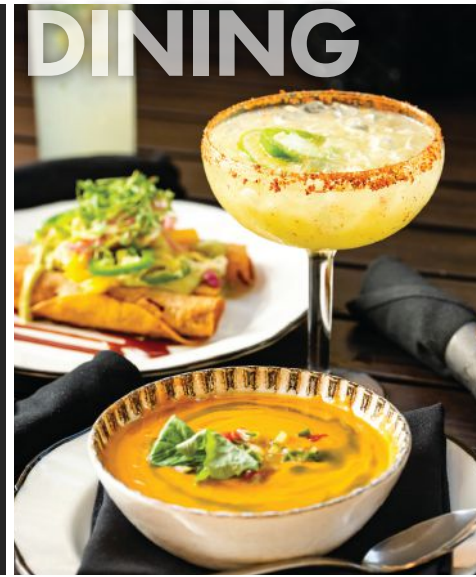


MUSIC



OUTDOORS

AWESOME
ALPHARETTA'S
RECIPE FOR
FUN!



DINING



EVENTS



ADVENTURE

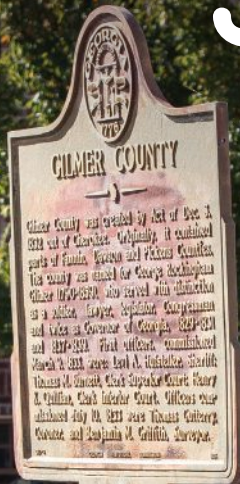


ARTS



GEORGIA: ALWAYS IN SEASON

Experience all four seasons in Georgia, from delicate spring flowers and blazing summer sunsets to the radiance of fall and cheerful winter activities. Enjoy a new season – or enjoy them all – for exceptional events, flavors, and outdoor adventures only found in Georgia.



PICK YOUR PERFECT *SPRING ACTIVITY*

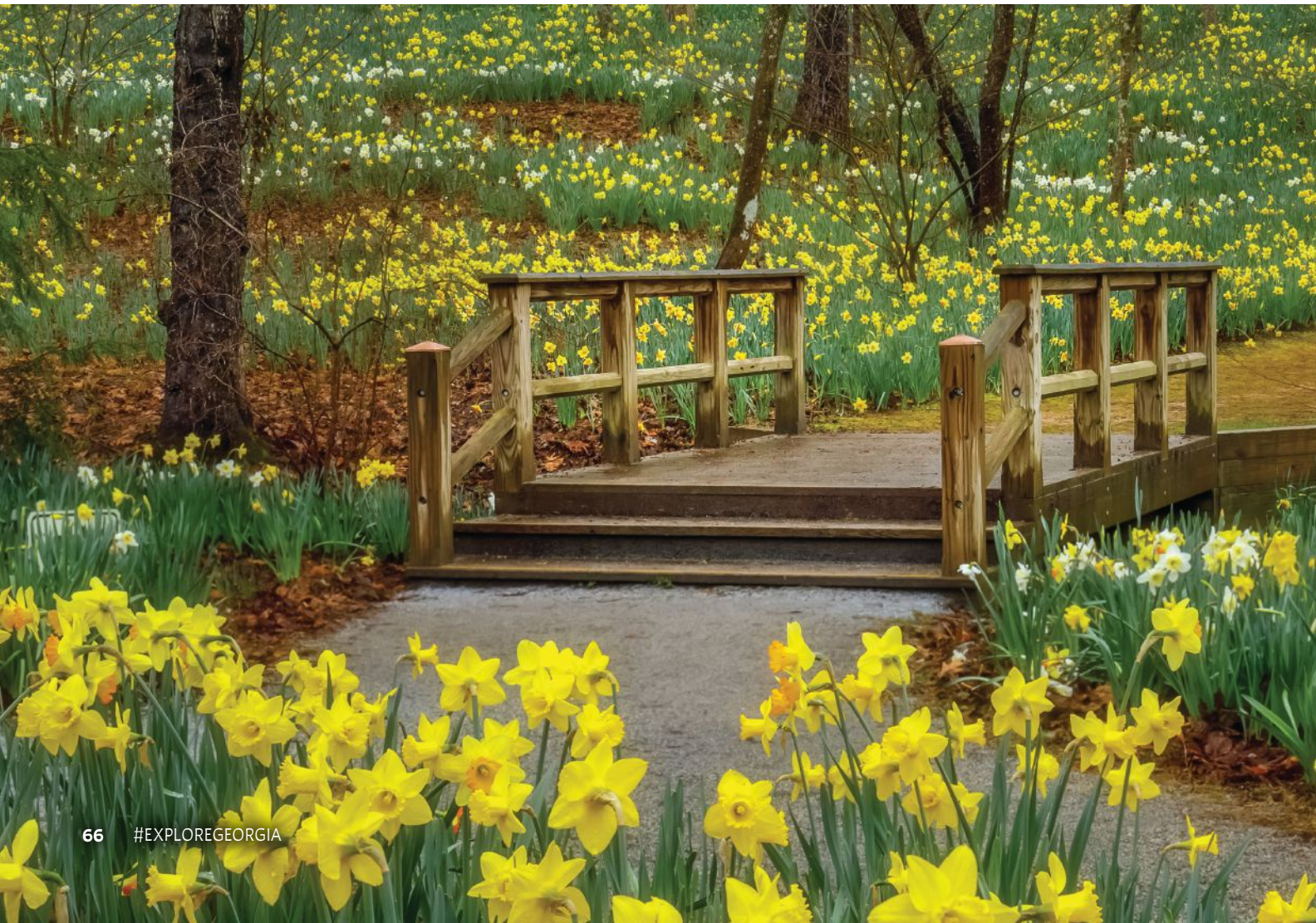
The arrival of springtime is your cue to experience newly bloomed flower gardens, freshly grown peaches and strawberries, and our bounty of enticing spring festivals. These activities – plus Georgia’s mild spring temperatures – are why visitors and residents alike love to get outside and enjoy the state’s beautiful natural playground.

Georgia’s long growing season and rich assortment of native plants make it a prime spot for botanical gardens – and there’s no better time to explore them than in spring, when it’s boasting a kaleidoscope of fresh flora. As Georgia warms up, our botanical gardens undergo their annual glow-up. Admire everything from our iconic dogwoods to rainbows of tulips reawakening.

At the **State Botanical Garden of Georgia** in Athens, explore themed landscapes like the International Garden, which traces the history of plant cultivation since the Middle Ages, and the Dunson Native Flora Garden, showcasing hundreds of Southeastern U.S. plants such as lady slipper orchids and bloodroot.

There’s also plenty of opportunity for outdoor amazement in North Georgia at **Gibbs Gardens** in **Ball Ground**, when the early March to mid-April **Daffodil ColorFest** blankets the landscape in a frothy, vibrant yellow. With more than 20 million perfectly planted bulbs dotting 50 rolling acres, this is the largest daffodil display in the U.S. – voted best in the nation in 2025 by USA Today’s 10Best Readers’ Choice Awards.

The centerpiece of the **Savannah Botanical Gardens** is a dazzling rose garden – think crimson, blush, coral, and golden-yellow blooms cultivated by local garden clubs. Nearby, the historic 1840s **Reinhard House**, with its gingerbread trim, anchors the 12-acre site as the garden’s visitor center. But it’s the roses that command all the attention.





TOP TO BOTTOM: SOUTHERN BELLE FARM, MCDONOUGH | @SOUTHERNBELLEFARM
GIBBS GARDENS, BALL GROUND | @DOLF_BOTHA_PHOTOGRAPHY

In Georgia, you can harvest and enjoy your juicy peaches, fresh veggies, and tart strawberries – spring’s finest. Keep your eyes open for information about sweet Vidalia onions’ “pack date,” too, signaling when you can pick some up to bring home with you.

Dickey Farms in **Musella**, Georgia’s oldest peach packinghouse, is revered for its fuzzy Clingstone peaches each May. (Fun fact: did you know that the Columbus Clingstones Minor League Baseball team, named for the same peaches, is part of the Southern League and the Double-A affiliate of the Atlanta Braves?) **Southern Belle Farm** in **McDonough** delivers a bounty of early-spring strawberries so good you’ll crave this sweet and juicy fruit year after year. Or, spend time at **Fort Valley’s Lane Southern Orchards** to pick more gorgeous strawberries and even some spring peaches.



*Georgia grows more blueberries than peaches! You can pick them fresh at farms statewide but remember, choose berries that are fully blue – they won’t ripen after picking. **SCAN CODE** for a map of U-pick farms and more from Georgia Grown.*

Georgia's spring festival season is a special time – a fun invitation to step outside as temperatures warm, dogwoods and azaleas burst into bloom, and communities come alive with festivals celebrating music, food, and art. Mid-to-late March is your chance to hear live tunes, eat delicious food, and see **Macon's** beautiful Yoshino cherry tree blossoms during the **International Cherry Blossom Festival**.

At the **Savannah Music Festival**, spanning late March to mid-April, see lively jazz, blues, and Americana performances at eight distinct venues across the city, including the historic **Lucas Theatre for the Arts** and expansive **Johnny Mercer Theatre**. Past artists at Georgia's largest annual musical arts event include Jason Isbell, Rosanne Cash, and Warren Haynes

Band. (Another fun fact: did you know Warren Haynes was the longtime guitarist for Georgia's own Allman Brothers Band and a Gov't Mule founder?)

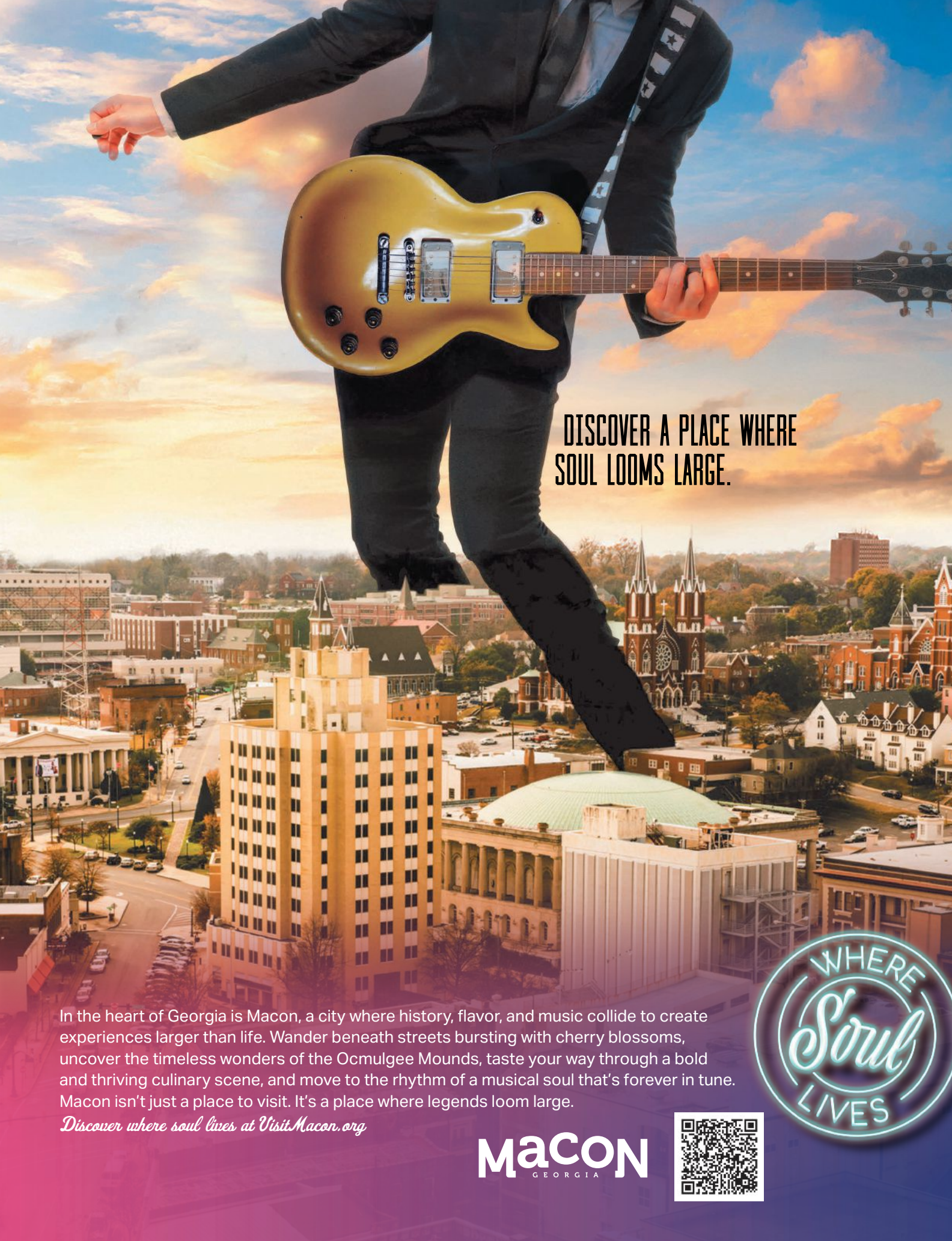
The **Vidalia Onion Festival** in, you guessed it, **Vidalia** salutes the official state veggie with creativity and country songs in late April. Visit the world's sweet onion capital for revelry like the ever-popular **Onion Run**, inspirational cooking demonstrations, a kids' carnival, tethered hot-air balloon rides, and the sparkle of fireworks. Or, honor Georgia's shrimping community with another cherished annual event: the **Blessing of the Fleet** in **Darien**. For three days in April, along the town's scenic waterfront, you can taste locally sourced seafood, tour a vintage car show, and witness the shrimp boat blessing for which the event is named.

CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY

The Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade is one of America's largest processions honoring "the apostle of Ireland," where thousands of green-attired revelers watch marching bands, bagpipe players, and floats. Savannah isn't the only locale where St. Patrick's Day is observed, however. With deep Irish roots and lots of Irish pride, Dublin's monthlong celebration features over 40 events. In Augusta, the Irish American Heritage Society puts on a parade with festive floats and marching bands, followed by an after-party with libations and Irish music.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION, SAVANNAH | VISIT SAVANNAH



DISCOVER A PLACE WHERE
SOUL LOOMS LARGE.

In the heart of Georgia is Macon, a city where history, flavor, and music collide to create experiences larger than life. Wander beneath streets bursting with cherry blossoms, uncover the timeless wonders of the Ocmulgee Mounds, taste your way through a bold and thriving culinary scene, and move to the rhythm of a musical soul that's forever in tune. Macon isn't just a place to visit. It's a place where legends loom large.

Discover where soul lives at VisitMacon.org

macon
GEORGIA





DUNGENESS RUINS, CUMBERLAND ISLAND | EXPLORE GEORGIA

STAY COOL

ALL SUMMER LONG

There's no wrong way to spend summer in Georgia. With so many options for unforgettable amusement – from splashing around in a lake to kicking back for live music – our state makes the most of it with all sorts of summer activities.

Ready to cool off? Explore the splendor of Georgia's abundant natural allure and beauty by sunbathing on our coastal beaches and getting out on the water, including our vast assortment of lakes.

Bring your family to laid-back **Tybee Island**, a classic beach experience beloved since the 1800s. Beginning as a cluster of 400 summer cottages for **Savannah** locals, this coastal gem now draws visitors from everywhere for ocean activities like dolphin spotting and Southern-style seafood.

For miles of shell-strewn beaches and famed wild horses, ferry to **Cumberland Island National Seashore** on Georgia's largest and southernmost barrier island. See the roaming horse herd graze amid the remnants and roadways of **Dungeness Ruins**, which was once the mansion of Thomas Carnegie. Built in 1884, it was the grand winter retreat of the successful industrialist, and cherished by his wife Lucy long after his untimely passing. Next, meander maritime forests promising mature oak trees and curly Spanish moss. Remember: the horse herd is feral, so please do not approach.

With a mild year-round climate and over 400 miles of scenic shoreline, **Lake Sinclair** in **Milledgeville** offers way more than its many boating and watercraft options, including Jet Skis, paddleboards, and kayaks. You can come here to hike, bike, cast a line, and play games like pickleball at **The Club at Lake Sinclair** and disc golf at **Walter B. Williams Park**. Or, frolic at resort-style waterparks like **Statesboro's Splash in the Boro!** and lakeside **Margaritaville at Lanier Islands** in **Buford**. While both locations promise fun with wave pools and waterslides, Margaritaville ups the ante with easy boat rentals and its very own beach.

With spring's festivals in the rearview, Georgia's summer season shifts to concerts and outdoor performances. Whether it's a sunset amphitheater performance or a weekend of musical fun, there's always a reason to get outside. New to the scene, **Atrium Health Amphitheater** in **Macon** is already carving out its place in the city's storied musical heritage. From its massive stage to impeccable sound quality to comfortable seating, this hot spot offers box and suite accommodations with VIP perks, like private parking and bar access, for fans wanting to elevate their experience.





Find live music wherever you're going. **SCAN CODE** to see live music venues across the state.



SYNOVUS BANK AMPHITHEATER AT CHASTAIN PARK, ATLANTA | SYNOVUS BANK AMPHITHEATER

Tucked in the mountain town of **Hiawassee**, the **Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds** strikes a chord with music lovers of all kinds. Here, a year-round lineup performs everything from bluegrass to classic rock. **Synovus Bank Amphitheater at Chastain Park** in **Atlanta** welcomes big-name acts, including heroes like the late Johnny Cash and current artists like John Legend, James Taylor, Teddy Swims, and local stars like the Indigo Girls. Come for a “table/cooler event” that allows attendees to pack in their own goodies for a picnic to remember.

Get outside Atlanta’s hustle and bustle at the intimate **Frederick Brown Jr. Amphitheater**, aka The Fred, in **Peachtree City**. Here, concertgoers across three decades have soaked in tunes by greats like Huey Lewis and the News and the late B.B. King. Touted for its laid-back vibe, comfy seats, and sublime acoustics, The Fred hosts music all season long during its Summer Concert Series. Make a day of it with a leisurely hike amid lush foliage at **Flat Creek Nature Area**.

Set on the **Douglasville Town Green**, the **GreyStone Amphitheater** brings in performers like LeAnn Rimes, Stokley, and Leela James. This jewel of a venue promises close proximity to eateries with Southern delicacies, too, like **Gritz Brunch Bar** and **Gumbeaux’s, A Cajun Cafe**. Or, pick **Sweetland Amphitheatre** in **LaGrange**, where legends like Willie Nelson and Gladys Knight wowed fans from the stage of a one-of-a-kind venue carefully carved into the gentle slant of a hillside surrounded by a vast green space.

FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVITIES

*As one of the Thirteen Original Colonies, Georgia throws festive Fourth of July celebrations all over the state, and they promise to be even more spectacular for America’s 250th birthday in 2026. Yet, one event is recognized as one of the best in the U.S. Don’t miss **Stone Mountain Park’s Fantastic Fourth Celebration**, a spectacular Independence Day fireworks, drone, and lights show that, with ticket purchase, offers access to more park attractions like scenic hikes and 1940s-era train rides.*



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DELIGHT IN GEORGIA'S GOLDEN DAYS

Cooler temperatures and brilliant foliage make autumn a great time to experience some of our best activities. From leaf peeping to train rides to wine tasting to harvest festivals, crisp weather accompanies annual pleasures we anticipate all year long.

Few activities are more quintessentially autumn than getting out into the mountains for viewing the vivid shift from vibrant green leaves to golds, coppers, and russets. In Georgia, one of the most spectacular ways to soak in the fall colors and stunning landscape is via train, like the leisurely 26-mile round-trip trek along the **Toccoa River** aboard the **Blue Ridge Scenic Railway**.

Craving sweeping mountain and misty waterfall views? **Amicalola Falls State Park** in **Dawsonville** delivers both in dramatic fashion – it's where you can see the Southeast's tallest cascading waterfall! Plus, here you can journey along a portion of the **Appalachian Trail** – the southern terminus is found at **Springer Mountain**, just 9 miles away from **Amicalola Falls**. For more views in the North Georgia mountains, head to the Bavarian-inspired village of **Helen**, a fun stop for families seeking fall activities like zip lining and horseback riding. It's also home to the longest-running annual **Oktoberfest** celebration in the U.S. Starting in September and running through October, it features German food and beer, traditional costumes, plus dancing to live polka music in the festhalle.

After raising a stein at Oktoberfest, keep the celebratory spirit going with a wine-centric escape to North Georgia's scenic vineyards. Sip the Scarlett blend at **Habersham Vineyards & Winery** in **Helen**, let the team at **Fainting Goat Vineyards & Winery** in **Jasper** pack you a gourmet picnic accompanied by a bottle of pinot grigio, or take a tour of the only known wine cave in Georgia at **Yonah Mountain Vineyards** in **Cleveland**. Don't feel like organizing tour stops or designating a driver? **North Georgia Wine Tours** can take care of all the details, making for a perfect couple's or girls' trip.



TAKE A PIECE OF GEORGIA HOME WITH YOU

*Pick your own apples from numerous varieties offered at **Mercier Orchards** in **Blue Ridge** and shop for treats, from hard cider to apple-cider donuts.*



*Ready to chase
fall colors?
SCAN CODE
for our best
mountain road
trip ideas.*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: LULA LAKE LAND TRUST, LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN | CALEB JONES, JAEMOR FARMS, ALTO | @MPWHIBBY: GEORGIA APPLE FESTIVAL, ELLIJAY | EXPLORE GEORGIA





Autumn in Georgia isn't complete without indulging in apple-flavored goodies, exploring kid-friendly pumpkin patches, and celebrating the season at one of our bountiful harvest festivals. Start with a visit to **Ellijay** – the state's self-proclaimed "Apple Capital" – home to U-pick orchards like **B.J. Reece Orchards** and **Red Apple Barn**. Time your trip to coincide with the **Georgia Apple Festival** in October, which honors the almighty apple with family-friendly arts and crafts, a lively parade, and a bounty of treats, of course.

No matter where you are in Georgia, you're sure to find a pumpkin patch or corn maze perfect for kids – and the young at heart. With six generations of history in the North Georgia mountains, **Jaemor Farms** in **Alto** puts on an annual **Harvest Celebration** mid-September through early November, where you can pick the perfect pumpkin and lose yourself in the corn maze all in one afternoon.



GHOSTS & GRAVESTONES TOUR, SAVANNAH | HISTORIC TOURS OF AMERICA

The **Pumpkins at Callaway Resort & Gardens** event in **Pine Mountain** brings fall festivities to dazzling new heights with its **Harvest Sky** canopy, an enchanting installation of hundreds of shimmering gold streamers. Children and adults alike will be captivated by how they dance and sparkle in the autumn sunlight.

Georgia embraces the Halloween spirit with mysterious celebrations and paranormal tours come fall. In **Savannah**, historical squares shaded by great live oaks and magnolia trees set the stage for America's most haunted city. Whether you believe in the paranormal or not, a ghost or cemetery tour

here means you'll be intrigued by spooky stories set around area hotels, restaurants, and attractions.

Set jetters will adore **Covington Ghost Tours**, whose guides spin spooky stories against the backdrop of **Covington**, where "The Vampire Diaries" was filmed. In **Americus**, tour the grand and historic **Windsor Hotel** to hear eerie tales of ghost sightings within. State parks in Georgia offer Halloween fun, too, like rustic hayrides at **A.H. Stephens State Park** in **Crawfordville** and spooky entertainment and themed wagon rides at **Hard Labor Creek State Park's Haunted Village** in **Rutledge**.

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FIND YOUR WINTER WONDERLAND

Georgia's mild winters and joyful festivities make it a special destination. Find holiday pleasures across the state, from lights and ice skating to Christmas markets, and New Year's celebrations.

What is more wonder-inducing than being dazzled by millions of sparkling holiday lights? Get your fill of immersive displays synchronized to holiday songs at **Fantasy in Lights at Callaway Resort & Gardens** in **Pine Mountain**. Honored in Forbes' "7 Spectacular Christmas Light Displays That Offer Holiday Magic" list, the 7-mile drive is a memorable winter treat.

At **Hiawassee's Mountain Country Christmas in Lights**, arts and crafts and hot chocolate accompany the glittering spectacle best enjoyed on foot. Capture frame-worthy images of your kids meeting Santa Claus, then stock up on gifts at the bustling craft market filled with ornaments and keepsakes.

Take the fully accessible **Winter WonderLights** tunnels-of-lights tour at the **State Botanical Garden of Georgia** in **Athens** for shining displays with fun names like Winter Wondercave and Cone Tree Forest. Pause from the half-mile stroll to roast chocolatey s'mores over flickering flames.

Wild Adventures Christmas in **Valdosta** dazzles with thousands of synchronized lights dancing across floating trees in the **Carol of the Animals Lake Show**. In between holiday cheer, meet exotic animals like tigers, giraffes, and bears, or hop on kid-friendly rides and thrilling coasters throughout the theme park.



FANTASY IN LIGHTS AT CALLAWAY RESORT & GARDENS, PINE MOUNTAIN | JIM HENDERSON



Georgia offers plenty of festive – and quirky – ways to ring in the New Year. **SCAN CODE** to find the state's most unique ball drops.



SKATE THE STATION AT ATLANTIC STATION, ATLANTA | ADDISON HILL

On the coast, **Holly Jolly Jekyll** transforms the island into a dazzling holiday heaven – one of the very best in Georgia. Hop aboard a festive trolley or cruise in a classic Ford Model T through the historic district decked out in dazzling holiday lights.

Georgia might not have frequent snow, but that won't stop you from enjoying our outdoor activities, like ice skating, train rides, and seasonal pop-ups. Head to **Snow Island at Lanier Islands** in **Buford**, where you'll find an eight-story snow slide and freshly made powder for snow angels. Lace up your skates for pristine rinks at **Atlanta's Skate the Station at Atlantic Station** or the annual **Evans on Ice** near **Augusta**. Stroll **Savannah's** European-style **Christmas Market** at **Plant Riverside District** for garland-strewn decor and photos with Santa. Or, hop on the **Georgia Coastal Railway** in **Kingsland** for the **Santa Special Christmas Train**, where the great St. Nick himself and his trusty elves greet passengers along the way.



INDIAN MOUND COTTAGE, JEKYLL ISLAND | JEKYLL ISLAND AUTHORITY



Next, experience the full enchantment of Georgia’s holiday season in towns that go all out with festive charm.

In **Thomasville, Victorian Christmas** transforms the already picturesque downtown into a wonderland inspired by the 19th century. Enjoy strolling carolers, carriage rides, visits with Santa, and shopping for gifts from local boutiques – like puzzles and brain teasers at **Imagination Emporium** and Georgia authors at the indie bookseller, **The Bookshelf**.

Framed by the Blue Ridge Mountains, **Dahlonega** inspires holiday cheer with its own **Old Fashioned Christmas**. Search for artisanal treasures at the **Dahlonega General Store**, admire decorated storefronts that look straight out of a Hallmark movie, watch the joyful Christmas parade, and see the town sparkle at the annual **Lighting on the Square**.

In **Madison**, a historic town with farming roots just an hour from Atlanta, architecture takes center stage during the **Holiday Tour of Homes**. Grand residences are decorated with shimmering lights, evergreen garlands, ruby-red poinsettias, and perfectly tied bows.

 **TAKE A PIECE OF GEORGIA HOME WITH YOU**

*Stock up on **Dahlonega**-made sparkling wines for a midnight toast or special celebration. At **Wolf Mountain Vineyards**, the Blanc de Blancs Brut is described as a dry, sparkling chardonnay that’s light, crisp, and a bit fruity. The **Three Sisters Vineyards & Winery’s** Georgia Cuvée Rosé features complex berry flavors and notes of apple and strawberry. At **Accent Cellars**, the Insider Sparkling Apple promises an apple-y aroma and malted flavor and is best served cold. Or, stock up on sparkling cider from **Mercier Orchards** in **Blue Ridge** for effervescent non-alcoholic sips.*



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Four Real-Life Towns for **FILM FANS TO VISIT**

From Savannah's cinematic squares to the cutting-edge studios of Trilith in Fayetteville, Georgia's film locations invite travelers into the scenes of iconic movies and beloved TV shows. Explore captivating coastal towns, bustling college campuses, and vibrant creative hubs – all while retracing the footsteps of stars and discovering the stories behind the camera.

★ SAVANNAH & TYBEE ISLAND

With its attractive riverfront, picturesque parks, and historical architecture, **Savannah** is one of Georgia's most popular filming locations. The coastal city provides backdrops for recent movies as well as classic blockbusters.

See the dignified statuary and moss-draped oaks of **Bonaventure Cemetery**, the setting for late-night drinks and other scenes from "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," starring John Cusack and Jude Law. The crime drama was also filmed at the elegant **Mercer Williams House Museum**, with its soaring ceilings, ornate plasterwork, and period furnishings, as was the war film "Glory" with Morgan Freeman. While you're at it, don't miss the original "Forrest Gump" bench, where Tom Hanks' character waited for the bus to see Jenny. The famous "life is like a box of chocolates" scene was filmed in the oak-shaded **Chippewa Square**, and the bench

was moved to the **Savannah History Museum** – alongside other memorabilia from the movie – to preserve it.

While in Savannah, check out **Plant Riverside District**, a 1912 power plant-turned-entertainment district, for art galleries, boutiques, restaurants, and **Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park**. You can even stay right on the water at the cozy **River Street Inn**, trendy **Thompson Savannah**, or – across the Savannah River – the family-friendly **Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa**, the location of a few scenes from "The Do-Over" with Adam Sandler.

Grab bananas Foster French toast, biscuits and gravy, or shakshouka for brunch at **The Collins Quarter**, a filming site for the live-action "Lady and the Tramp," voiced by Tessa Thompson and Justin Theroux. There's also a location in **Forsyth Park**, home

to a Parisian-style fountain framed by moss draping from the oaks, that is one of Savannah's most photographed locations. Or, dine at **The Grey**, a converted Greyhound bus terminal serving local favorites like oysters, pimento cheese, and the catch of the day.

Then, visit Savannah's beach and stroll the popular **Tybee Island Pier**, where parts of "Fly Me to the Moon," featuring Scarlett Johansson and Channing Tatum, and "The Last Song," starring Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth, were filmed. It's a prime location for fishing, listening to live music under the pavilion, or feeling the sea breeze as you watch the sunset change colors. Before heading back to the mainland, stop by the **Tybee Island** location of **Zunzibar** for live music and beachy cocktails like the frozen Mango Tango with tequila and a Tajín rim.



"FLY ME TO THE MOON" SET | DAN MCFADDEN, COURTESY OF APPLE STUDIOS

TAKE A PIECE OF GEORGIA HOME WITH YOU



Visit the flagship **Savannah Bee Company store** on **Broughton Street** for honey with add-ins from lavender to bourbon as well as body care like honey-almond beeswax hand cream. Then, hit **River Street Sweets'** original location on the cobblestones of River Street for pralines, fudge, and more.



JULIETTE

About an hour south of **Atlanta** sits **Juliette** – but if you’ve seen “Fried Green Tomatoes” starring Kathy Bates as Evelyn Couch, you may recognize it as Whistle Stop. Hand-lettered signs outside wooden storefronts welcome visitors to this once-bustling railroad town that today is more of a quiet hamlet with storybook charm.

Stop into **The Whistle Stop Cafe**, where fried green tomatoes – crispy on the outside, juicy on the inside – are the top seller; another favorite is the Bennett’s BBQ sandwich (“secret’s in the sauce!”). While on **McCrackin Street**, the town’s shop-lined main drag, pick up local honey from **The Honeycomb** and peruse **Verna Cora’s**, so chock full of antiques that they spill onto the covered front porch. Tip: superfans should time their visit for the town’s annual **Green Tomato Festival**, held the fourth weekend of October – especially in 2026, which marks the film’s 35th anniversary.

After exploring the town, head to the **Juliette Dam**. Water rushes through the gates when the dam is open, splashing against the riverbed and hissing when it hits the surface. Ruth, Buddy, and Iddie walk along the dam in a scene from “Fried Green Tomatoes,” and today the location is popular with photographers – especially if they can get its cascading white waters and nearby grist mill in the shot. Then, retreat to **Dames Ferry Campground** to rent an aquacycle from the park; fish for crappie, bass, and perch; or set up a picnic or camp alongside **Lake Juliette**, which reflects the trees along its shore and the sky above. Not far from the lake is **Georgia Power Plant Scherer**, which stood in for NASA’s Cape Canaveral launch site in “First Man” about the life of Neil Armstrong, played by Ryan Gosling.

Other options for staying near Juliette include elevated cabins, complete with a private front porch, set along the lazy **Ocmulgee River** at the nearby **Towaliga River Retreat** and national brand hotels in neighboring **Forsyth**.

While in Forsyth, explore **Hamlin Hills Farm**, home to a petting zoo, U-pick crops (juicy Georgia peaches are in season starting mid-May), and antique farm equipment like the lineup of red tractors outside the barn. Or, take in a Backlot Players community theater performance of a timeless musical or holiday classic in the historic **Rose Theater**.



TOP TO BOTTOM: WHISTLE STOP CAFE, JULIETTE | ANDREA DAVID / LAKE JULIETTE | EXPLORE GEORGIA



SCAN CODE
to see more of
what's filmed
in Georgia.

BERRY COLLEGE, ROME | EXPLORE GEORGIA

ROME

Tucked in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, **Rome** sits at the convergence of three gently flowing rivers: the **Etowah**, **Oostanaula**, and **Coosa**. It's where you can paddle peaceful waters, stroll brick-lined streets, and see why this town looks like it's straight out of a movie.

Rome borders **Berry College**, the world's largest campus, making it a hot spot for film production. Its rolling fields, misty lakes, and hushed forests serve as the backdrop for a number of notable film scenes. Stand outside the castle-like **Ford Dining Hall**, and you may be reminded of a shot from the sports drama "Remember the Titans" with Denzel Washington, which was also shot at nearby Swan Lake and the Old Mill.

Also on campus, tour **Oak Hill & The Martha Berry Museum**. The Greek Revival-style Oak Hill was the home of

Martha Berry, the college's founder, and where Reese Witherspoon's character pretends to live in "Sweet Home Alabama." Tour the home and see Martha's photos, letters, and books, then head out to the gardens – some geometric, some seasonal and colorful, and some splashing with fountains and koi.

When in Rome, walk or bike the **Kingfisher** and **Silver Creek trails**, where outdoor scenes for "The Originals" vampire drama were filmed. Part of the city's rails-to-trails system, these paved paths – ideal for walking and biking – connect **Myrtle Hill Cemetery** with **Historic Downtown Rome** along the Etowah River. The cemetery was the site of a "Need for Speed" funeral scene, starring Aaron Paul and Dakota Johnson.

Dining options in Rome include brisket pizza or spring-pea risotto at **Aventine**,

Blossom Hill BBQ & Burgers (its name speaks for itself!), or a meat and three at **Harvest Moon Cafe** – all downtown. Another popular option is **Provino's Italian**, a longtime family favorite.

Drive by the **Claremont House**, which served as the Creel House in "Stranger Things." The bed-and-breakfast sold to a private buyer, but you can still snap a shot of the Victorian exterior. Stay the night at a hotel like the comfortable, convenient **Courtyard Rome Riverwalk** or **Fairfield Inn & Suites Rome**.

Every November, up-and-coming filmmakers and movie fans converge on the town for the **Rome International Film Festival**, spotlighting independent and international films over three days of screenings, workshops, and networking events.



The next generation in moviemaking has come to the **Town at Trilith**, a planned community in **Fayetteville** that's a living film set: colorful cottages, brick row homes, and modern lofts side by side; a buzzing town center surrounded by shops, eateries, and tons of green space for community gatherings; and a world-class production studio.

Trilith Studios consists of soundstages and backlots best known for producing movies and TV series within the Marvel Cinematic Universe, including "Thunderbolts," "Black Panther," "Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 2," and "WandaVision." It was also the home base for filming the highly anticipated new version of "Superman."

Learn how those movies and other blockbuster hits are made on the **Studio**

Tour Experience, a trolley tour of the studio and town (a bike tour and art scavenger hunt are also available), then refuel at **The Studio Cafe Operated by Hanna Brothers**, veterans of on-set catering and craft services. The menu varies daily, and cuisines include Mediterranean and Southern staples. Other places to eat in Trilith include **ENZO Steakhouse & Bar**, known for its wood-fired grilled branzino, and **Greystone Local Eatery**, serving Southern breakfast favorites like grits and pecan waffles. Both are within walking distance of shops like **Scholar & Scribe**, an independent bookstore with a welcoming yellow facade.

Explore more of the town, a walkable community with a focus on green living – meaning lots of gathering spaces

like **Central Park**, complete with a playground for the kids to climb and swing, and **The Great Lawn** for movie nights and other events. End your day at **Trilith Guesthouse**, which carries on the community's theme of creativity and storytelling through touches like bookshelves in the lobby and the aptly named **Prologue** restaurant.

Extend your trip, and spend a night where "Megalopolis" actor Adam Driver stayed – at the **All-Movie Hotel** in **Peachtree City**, about 15 minutes away. While shooting "Megalopolis" at Trilith Studios, Francis Ford Coppola fell in love with the area and designed the hideaway to suit both travelers and filmmakers, including amenities like kitchenettes with luxury touches, a 30-person theater, and editing suites.



"MEGALOPOLIS" SET AT TRILITH STUDIOS, FAYETTEVILLE | PHOTO COURTESY OF LIONSGATE



THIS PAGE: STAPLEHOUSE, ATLANTA | EXPLORE GEORGIA. OPPOSITE PAGE FROM TOP: POLLOS ASADOS AUTENTICO SINALOENSE, DORAVILLE | EXPLORE GEORGIA; FRESH AIR BARBECUE, JACKSON | EXPLORE GEORGIA.

10

GEORGIA DISHES WORTH THE TRIP

Mia Orino, chef and co-owner of Filipino restaurant **Kamayan ATL** in **Doraville**, moved to **Atlanta** in 2018 with her husband, Carlo Gan. She was quickly in awe of how varied the food scene is. “We drive for food, and it’s really diverse here. Back then, people were not as aware how diverse it is, you just have to look for it,” she says. Orino and Gan opened their restaurant in 2022, but they still take the time to explore the state’s culinary gems.

It’s not just Atlanta, either, that houses an array of dishes for any palate. For food enthusiasts, Georgia is a treasure chest containing all sorts of culinary delights. Thanks to Georgia’s fertile landscape and mild climate, farmers can grow myriad produce, from peaches to okra, and many of the state’s chefs make use of this seasonal bounty. Similarly, fishermen catch shrimp and crabs just off the coast, which means we don’t need to go very far to enjoy the best of what the sea has to offer. Access to so many locally sourced ingredients and a melting pot of cultures has made Georgia one of the best states for gourmands. Whether you want a high-end, MICHELIN-starred meal or a decadent bite in a setting with no frills, here are 10 dishes that Georgian chefs think are worth traveling for.

Grilled chicken at Pollos Asados Autentico Sinaloense

📍 DORAVILLE

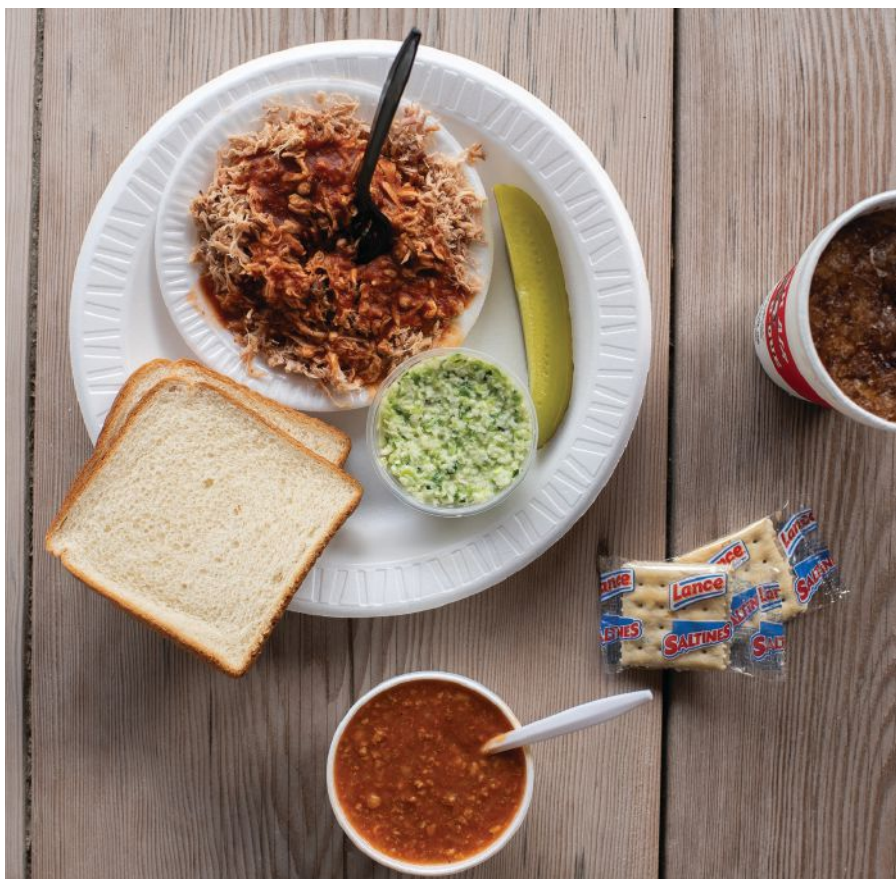
Located on Buford Highway in **Doraville**, **Pollos Asados Autentico Sinaloense** is true to its name and serves succulent grilled chicken prepared in the style of Sinaloa, a state in Mexico. For Orino, it's close to her restaurant, but the chicken is also a hit for her staff. "Everybody eats chicken. We have it for lunch, and the whole chicken can feed a family of four and still have some left over," she says. Pollos Asados's building is easily distinguished by its red and yellow accents, and a row of smokers welcomes guests with an aroma of smoky chicken on the grill. The juicy, smoke-kissed chicken comes in whole, half, or quarter portions and is served alongside salsa, tortillas, salad, rice, and beans. The portions are large, so plan on sharing and maybe even taking some home with you.



Pulled pork at Fresh Air Barbecue

📍 JACKSON

Located in **Jackson**, about an hour southeast of **Atlanta**, **Fresh Air Barbecue** has the unique distinction of being Georgia's oldest pit barbecue restaurant still in its original location. The restaurant opened in 1929, and what it lacks in frills it makes up for with delicious barbecue and reasonable prices (a barbecue sandwich is less than \$4). Orino and Gan visit Fresh Air frequently on the way to their lake home, and Orino was immediately smitten with its retro charm, found in its red brick walls, old photographs, and wooden accents. "It's very nostalgic," she says. "You could see three generations eating together." While Orino enjoys the Brunswick stew, the star is the pulled pork, which is smoked overnight and served in house-made barbecue sauce. Gan can't leave without a slice of something sweet, whether that's a slice of key lime or pecan pie. "It's just the feeling of going there. Everybody knows everyone," says Orino.



Oxtails at Climmie's H&M Bar-B-Que and Soul Food

📍 THOMASVILLE

The meat-and-three is a traditional Southern combination that seems to have fallen by the wayside, but Tyler Bailey, the chef at **Liam's** in **Thomasville**, knows where you can find it. Bailey grew up in the City of Roses, leaving only briefly for a stint in Atlanta. One of his favorite restaurants in town is a relative newcomer: **Climmie's H&M Bar-B-Que and Soul Food**. Owned by Climmie Mosley, a pit master, and his wife, Ashley Mosley, Climmie's got its start as a backyard pop-up at the couple's home on Saturdays and Sundays. After operating as a pop-up, the couple finally opened a brick-and-mortar in town in 2021. "They have all the Southern hits," says Bailey of the restaurant that serves fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, and cornbread. His favorite dish there, however, is the braised oxtail with rice and brown gravy, which comes with two sides. "It's the more comforting things that I grew up eating that you don't really see on Southern restaurant menus," he adds.



Bún bò hué at Pho Dai Loi

📍 FOREST PARK

Though Bailey is usually found in **Thomasville**, he occasionally takes weekend jaunts to the North Georgia mountains, and one of his favorite stops is **Pho Dai Loi** in **Forest Park**. Forest Park is part of Clayton County, which has one of the largest Vietnamese populations in Georgia outside of Atlanta, and Pho Dai Loi is a family-owned restaurant that's been open since 1997. It has expanded to other locations, but this is the original. It's a casual atmosphere with a minimalist design made cozy with wood accents and traditional Vietnamese decor. Guests go for signature dishes like pho and spring rolls, but Bailey favors the bún bò hué, a rice noodle soup with a rich, spicy broth, pig's blood, pig feet, and boiled beef. "It's my favorite bowl of noodles," he says of the flavorful, complex dish.



Goopy burger at Spirits Tavern

📍 DAHLONEGA

For Sean Fritchle, the executive chef of the **Mountain Top Lodge**, it's hard to beat **Dahlonega**. He's called the area home since he was a child, having left a couple of times only to come back. Now he and his wife are raising a family there. "The weather's nice, the people are great. There's really good community," says Fritchle. When he and his wife go out for dinner without the kids, they head to **Spirits Tavern**, a bar on Main Street known for its elevated American fare and live music. Standout dishes include the trash pile (a bunch of tater tots topped with chopped beef, lettuce, tomatoes, and cheese) and cocktails like the blood and fire sour with bourbon, blood orange puree, and lemon juice. When Fritchle goes, he orders the goopy burger, topped with a trio of cheeses (white American, pepper jack, and gouda), mac 'n' cheese bites, and secret sauce. Don't forget a side of tater tots accompanied with comeback sauce for dipping.



10 GEORGIA DISHES



FROM TOP: SPIRITS TAVERN, DAHLONEGA | SPIRITS TAVERN | ROUNDABOUT DELI, DAHLONEGA | EXPLORE GEORGIA

Maestro sandwich at Roundabout Deli

📍 DAHLONEGA

Owned by husband and wife team Greg and Marsha Cornelius, **Roundabout** brings a nostalgic vibe to **Dahlonega**. Vinyl records plaster the walls in the petite space where the deli counter stands front and center. "In the morning, they do biscuits and breakfast pastries and croissants and cinnamon rolls," says Fritchle. "Then they flip over to sandwiches." The sandwich menu is tight and includes cold sandwiches, a hot section, and a "Cubano Corner" section with twists on the classic sandwich. Fritchle's go-to order is the Maestro, their version of an Italian with Genoa salami, ham, capicola, provolone, garlic aioli, lettuce, tomato, and basil balsamic vinaigrette. "It's heated and super melty," says Fritchle.



Seasonal fare at Staplehouse

📍 ATLANTA

Located in **Atlanta's Old Fourth Ward**, **Staplehouse** was the product of a dream held by chef Ryan Hiding, who passed away in 2014. Under the guidance of his sister, Kara Hiding, and her husband, chef Ryan Smith, the restaurant opened in 2015 and was quickly revered for its seasonally driven tasting menu. In 2024, it was awarded a MICHELIN star. The restaurant has evolved in the years since opening and now serves a tasting menu at a communal table as well as lunch service in their market and cafe. For Fritchle, the tasting menu is an inspiration with its innovation and seasonal approach found in ever-changing dishes like the oyster with popcorn butter or the wagyu steak with sunchoke. If you can't catch one of their communal dinners, plan on visiting for lunch when they serve wood-fired pizzas in creative combinations like jamón ibérico, pesto, whipped ricotta, and eight-year balsamic.

Whole chicken dinner at Brochu's Family Tradition

📍 SAVANNAH

When Annie Coleman, the pastry chef behind **Flora and Fauna**, moved to **Savannah** in 2022, she was pleasantly surprised by the food scene. "It's definitely more robust and has a lot more depth of quality and variety than I was expecting," she says. Coleman grew up in Beaufort, South Carolina, and had visited Savannah often, but noted that Savannah has grown in the past decade. One of Coleman's go-to dishes in the city is the chicken dinner at **Brochu's Family Tradition**. Found in the **Starland District**, not far from Flora and Fauna, Brochu's specializes in golden, crispy fried chicken spiced with chamomile. The whole chicken dinner includes a fried thigh, a charred breast, chicken salad, biscuits, gravy, honey butter, pickles, and a house-made sunchoke hot sauce. "I like that it's not overly breaded," says Coleman. "I feel like I'm biting into it and getting chicken in every bite."





Meatloaf at PhatGirlz

📍 POOLER

Sometimes the best eats hide in unsuspecting places – like gas stations. That’s what Coleman discovered when she visited **PhatGirlz**, a soul-food restaurant that resides in a Chevron near the outlet mall in **Pooler**. Helmed by Willa Dukes, a single mother chasing her dream of cooking delicious soul food, the restaurant specializes in classics like barbecue ribs and fried shrimp. Coleman, however, is a fan of the meatloaf. “I’m not really a meatloaf person, but I really love this one,” says Coleman. It’s served thick and smothered in a savory brown gravy and comes as a combo with mashed potatoes, green beans, and macaroni and cheese.

Anything at The Grey

📍 SAVANNAH

When Orino moved to **Atlanta** in 2018, she and Gan took a trip to **Savannah** to dine at **The Grey**. Owned by Johno Morisano and chef Mashama Bailey, the restaurant resides in a former Greyhound bus station built in 1938 and has racked up national accolades since it opened in 2014, including a James Beard award for Best Chef Southeast in 2019. “I love when you don’t demo something and you turn it into something beautiful and useful,” says Orino. “In our culture, we never throw anything away. We try to preserve, and they turned this space into something really beautiful and kind of sexy, too.” It’s hard to pinpoint just one dish on The Grey’s menu, which changes frequently with the seasons, but it’s known for its thoughtful approach to Southern cuisine with dishes like foie and grits (made famous on Bailey’s appearance on Netflix’s “Chef’s Table”) and whole fish topped with salsa verde. Brunch serves playful dishes like crab beignets and duck pastrami served with potato rosti.



FROM TOP: PHATGIRLZ, POOLER | EXPLORE GEORGIA; THE GREY, SAVANNAH | EXPLORE GEORGIA

Feel the MOVEMENT

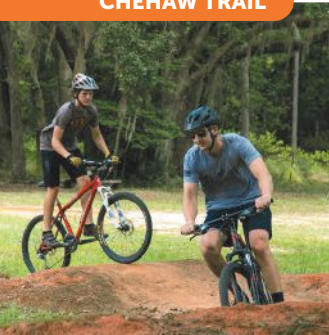
EXPLORE A DESTINATION THAT MOVES YOU!

Discover the vibrant story of Albany, intertwined with the national Civil Rights Movement. Listen to the inspiring voices that transformed a movement, follow in the footsteps of Martin Luther King Jr. and immerse yourself in the history of legends.

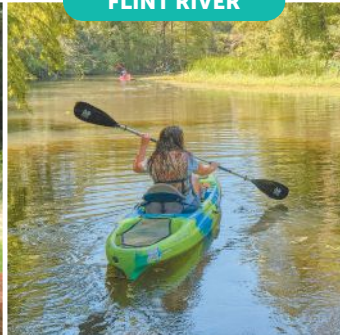
Feel the rhythm of nature by checking out our beautiful outdoors, home to one of Georgia's Seven Natural Wonders. Spend your day kayaking along the Flint River or exploring the local ecosystem and its unique inhabitants!



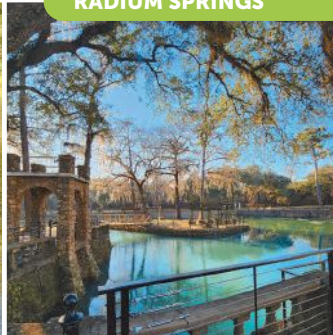
CHEHAW TRAIL



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IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF GIANTS:

THE U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL IN GEORGIA



Spanning 15 states and more than 100 landmarks, the U.S. Civil Rights Trail is a self-guided journey through the marches, speeches, and struggles that shaped the nation's history. The walls of these schools, churches, courthouses, museums, and other sites do indeed talk – coming together to tell the stories of the people and places that shaped a movement. In Georgia, the journey includes both official stops along the U.S. Civil Rights Trail and additional sites whose stories further deepen our understanding of the Civil Rights Movement and underscore the state's pivotal role in its history.



LEFT TO RIGHT: BIRTH HOME, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, ATLANTA | EXPLORE GEORGIA; MADAME C.J. WALKER MUSEUM, ATLANTA | THE MADAME C.J. WALKER MUSEUM



LOUD & CLEAR

*New to the Trail in 2025: see Atlanta's **Madame C.J. Walker Museum**, which celebrates the extraordinary contributions of the entrepreneur, philanthropist, and activist. Housed in the building that launched Walker's thriving beauty business – and later, **WERD**, the first U.S. radio station owned and operated by African Americans – this eclectic collection highlights the ingenuity and grit of Walker's journey to becoming America's first self-made female millionaire. You'll see memorabilia like Jim Crow-era cameras, obscure activist photos, vintage hair tools, and an unrivaled collection of rare vinyl from artists like Sam Cooke, Aretha Franklin, and others.*

ATLANTA: A LIVING LEGACY

As the birthplace of Martin Luther King, Jr. – and the Civil Rights Movement itself – Georgia offers an intimate, experiential glimpse into the lives and accomplishments of its proudest and most pivotal figures. This is the figurative “room where it happened,” and the state's high concentration of significant landmarks provides depth and detail that can only be found here. Add to this the layered, lively culture of modern Georgia, and visitors can expect to bolster their beautiful travel memories with moments of real meaning.

Your journey embarks in **Atlanta**, where history comes to life through vibrant neighborhoods, engaging museums, and important cultural landmarks. For anyone seeking a deeper understanding of Black America's fight for equality, a journey through Atlanta's many milestones is essential. Start from the beginning in the **Sweet Auburn District**, where Dr. King was born, raised, and began his life's work.

As you explore the 35-acre **Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park & Preservation District**, you'll have the opportunity to walk in the young activist's footsteps and learn more about the milestones of his early life. Get your bearings at the Visitor Center and see what's on exhibit at the attached D.R.E.A.M. Gallery before heading outside to take in the thought-provoking “Behold” Monument that commemorates the historic principles that guided Dr. King's work.

“It is quite easy,” said Dr. King in 1950, “to think of a God of love, mainly because I grew up in a family where love was central and lovely relationships were ever present.” On your tour of **Dr. King's Birth Home**, you'll see where these foundational values were built while absorbing an illuminating ranger-led presentation about the leader's boyhood.

The son, grandson, and great-grandson of Baptist preachers, Dr. King would one day minister to

his neighborhood flock at nearby **Ebenezer Baptist Church**. During your tour here, you'll hear recordings of his most stirring speeches. Before you leave the district, pay your respects at **The King Center**, where Dr. and Mrs. King rest side by side, then take a stroll through the **“I Have a Dream” World Peace Rose Garden**: a living symbol of their shared legacy.

Just a short drive away is the **Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum**, where you can experience a day in the life of the late 39th president – including a life-sized replica of Carter's Oval Office, a glimpse of his Nobel Peace Prize, and a variety of interactive exhibits highlighting his lifetime of humanitarian work. Then, it's time to pause for soul food and conversation at **Paschal's Restaurant & Bar**. Flouting the city's strict segregation laws, this iconic eatery provided a safe space for paradigm-shifting dialogue between Black and white civil rights leaders.



DUBLIN: A DREAM IS BORN

Though Dr. King was born in Atlanta, his Dream was born in **Dublin**. It was here, in the **First African Baptist Church**, that the budding leader gave his first public speech at the age of 15. To stand with the charismatic student on the threshold of greatness, reserve a spot in “One Day: Dublin’s Civil Rights Experience” – a reader’s theater that chronicles young Dr. King’s inaugural passion play, with you and other visitors reenacting the events of this historic day. Guided church tours are available.

Just across the street, at **Martin Luther King, Jr. Monument Park**, you can hear a moving reenactment of Dr. King’s first speech, with the church’s humble facade in view. The park’s immersive, multisensory assemblage commemorates key moments in the Movement with painted murals, photographic displays, kinetic sculpture, and an informative audio tour.

On your way out of Dublin, you may also want to swing by the **Dudley Motel and Retreat Cafe**, which served as an informal – but important – headquarters for Dr. King’s meetings with like-minded leaders. Today, the classic mid-century buildings, awaiting upcoming preservation efforts, are not open to the public. But they’re worth a peek from the outside, if only to imagine the history-making conversations that took place here over pie and coffee.

ALBANY: GATHERING MASS

Throughout the Movement, powerful moments unfolded across Georgia in towns large and small. A series of anti-segregation protests in 1961–62, now known as the Albany Movement, drew the national spotlight and made **Albany** a must-see stop on the Civil Rights Trail.

Start your deep dive into this period at the **Charles M. Sherrod Civil Rights Park**, where a fountain honors the student activist’s role in the fight for Black voting rights. At the **Albany Civil Rights Institute** (call ahead for hours), a collection of artifacts and multimedia exhibits brings this era to life; you can read Dr. King’s personal handwritten letters and even listen to extraordinary firsthand accounts of this pivotal time from the Institute’s oral history database.

The Institute is housed in the **Old Mount Zion Baptist Church**, where Dr. King spoke to a crowd of thousands before leading his famous march to the Trailways Bus Station for a sit-in condemning the company’s segregation policies. As you exit through the “White” or “Colored” doorway, look for Dr. King’s footsteps, symbolically portrayed in the sidewalk cement.

MIDWAY: BUILDING MOMENTUM

The lessons learned in Albany were soon applied in **Midway**, your next stop along the U.S. Civil Rights Trail in Georgia, where Dr. King and his deputies laid the foundation for his history-making March on Birmingham.

Midway's **Dorchester Academy** was founded after the Civil War to provide freed slaves with the opportunity for an education, and ultimately became an important way station for civil rights leaders as they traveled throughout the area. Visit the on-site museum, where three large murals

depict the school's history in living color, and make an appointment to tour the restored dormitory, where you'll find Dr. King's room exactly as he left it – with his personal Bible open for reflection.

If you're visiting in June, you can take part in the annual **Walk to Dorchester** – physically walking in the footsteps of these groundbreaking students as you follow their 12-mile trek to class and learn more about the academy's historical significance.





TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUGUSTA | EXPLORE GEORGIA

AUGUSTA & SAVANNAH: TENDING THE FLOCK

Raised in the church as the son, grandson, and great-grandson of Baptist preachers, Martin Luther King, Jr. would be ordained himself, ministering at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta – so it’s not surprising that much of the Movement’s community organizing took place in houses of worship.

Many church leaders were also pivotal players in the fight for civil rights, and sanctuaries like **Augusta’s Tabernacle Baptist Church** served their congregations and communities alike. In a powerful 1962 speech here, Dr. King called for unity and action. Today, the church is a stop on the **Golden Blocks Walking Tour**, led by local historian Corey Rogers. You’ll get his expert perspective while standing in the space where Dr. King’s voice once echoed.

Savannah, too, provided a sanctuary for Dr. King and others fighting for civil rights. Founded in 1773, **First African Baptist Church** – the oldest continuously operating African American church in the country – was also an important stop on the Underground Railroad. On your free guided tour, walk in the footsteps of history over the subfloor that sheltered runaways, sit in timeworn pews handcrafted by enslaved people, and take in the Nine-Patch Quilt Ceiling: a moving tribute to the church’s role in shepherding escaped slaves to their new lives.

AMERICUS: MARCHING FORWARD

In 1961-62, the Civil Rights Movement was gaining essential mass and momentum. By 1963, the Movement had landed in **Americus** – and finally found its forward motion. It was here, in the **Sumter County Courthouse**, that Dr. King was jailed after his arrest in Albany. This arrest, along with a massive spike in local Black voter registrations, brought attention to the work being done in Sumter County and its role in turning the national tide. Today, visitors can see the historical marker at the rebuilt courthouse and the preserved door from Dr. King’s jail cell, a poignant symbol of a fight that changed history.

From sacred churches to city streets, these Georgia sites along the U.S. Civil Rights Trail offer more than lessons from the past – they offer inspiration for the future.

Accessibility Along the Trail

*Are you or a member of your group traveling with limited mobility? All of the open landmarks mentioned in this article accommodate wheelchairs in most areas, and some larger facilities, like the **Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park & Preservation District** and the **Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum**, also offer a limited number of wheelchairs for patrons to use, free of charge.*

THE LOW-DOWN ON WHERE TO **GET DOWN**

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EMBRACE THE JOY OF MISSING OUT

The best vacations aren't always about ticking off a milelong to-do list. This year, consider a getaway that will let you linger over a second cup of coffee, read an entire book on the beach, or lose track of time watching the sun dip behind the mountains. Whether you prefer truly rustic escapes surrounded by nature, luxury retreats with every convenience, or somewhere in between, discover some of Georgia's best places to get away from it all.

Tip: we've ranked our list for you, in order from most rugged to most refined.



Discover Your Ranch-Style Sanctuary

Just outside **Lyons, Wild Mustang Ranch** offers a different kind of therapy – wide-open skies, rolling pastures, and the quiet company of rescued mustangs to help you recharge. You'll be greeted by the soft rustle of grass and distant whinnies – an invitation to slow down and breathe deeply in rural Georgia.

Settle into the ranch's quiet guest houses, where everything you need is nearby, like a handy kitchen, soft couches, and the surrounding beauty of nature just outside. Once you arrive, there's little reason to leave, except to stock up on food. Try **The Market on Church** in nearby **Vidalia** for delicacies like locally sourced beef and seasonally harvested produce. On the edge of town, **Tappas** serves up hearty sammies piled high with roast beef, pastrami, turkey, and bacon. Dine inside or eat alfresco on the front porch patio amid pots of draping greenery and strings of shimmering lights.

Each day, wake up to birdsong and the whisper of the wind. This is a place to pause, slow down, and take it all in. Wi-Fi is available, but you probably won't need it because you'll be deep into a good book, stargazing from the porch, or trying something new, like horsemanship classes or **Golf on the Ranch**. Enjoy a leisurely experience with golf lessons along with special visits from inquisitive, attention-seeking equines.

Immerse Yourself in a Nature-Filled Island Escape

Reachable only by boat for a limited number of guests, **The Lodge on Little St. Simons Island** is a truly secluded island getaway experience. And while it may be located on a small barrier island, this location packs a punch with all-inclusive amenities, abundant natural beauty, and simple-yet-stunning lodging.

Want marsh views? Opt for a room in the **Cedar House** to see sweeping vistas of the coastal salt marshes as you sip iced tea and sway on a cushioned porch swing. Prefer privacy? Reserve a room at the charming, two-bedroom **Michael Cottage**, where you can listen and watch for local critters on an expansive deck beneath centuries-old oaks with thick

tresses of Spanish moss. No matter which accommodations you choose, you'll find ways to slow down, admire the scenery, and appreciate the moment.

Your accommodations aren't the only place with jaw-dropping panoramas. Explore **Little St. Simons Island's** undeveloped beaches and verdant old-growth forests on self- or naturalist-guided tours included with your stay. Imagine paddling along winding tidal creeks surrounded by tall marsh grasses as you watch pods of breaching dolphins. Or, bike along miles of beach with crashing waves and calling shorebirds as the soundtrack. At different times of the year, you can participate in special

programs like birding events around annual migrations or wildflower-spotting activities; the island is home to rare perennials like swamp rosemallow, loved for its fluttering pink blooms.

Mealtimes at the lodge do more than satisfy hunger – here you'll experience tantalizing feasts sourced from the on-site garden. Tip: ask about taking a tour with its gardener to learn more about your dinner's ingredients. Savor delectable oysters harvested from **Eagle Creek** during the September through April oyster season, drizzle golden honey on handcrafted cheeses sourced from local farmers, and taste hints of citrus and herbs snipped from the garden.





Escape to Georgia's Lake Country

Nestled on 100 acres, **The Farmhouse Inn** in **Madison** offers a gently unplugged escape not quite off the beaten path – where peacocks strut, fireflies glimmer, and a Dutch baby pancake doused in blackberry syrup is waiting for you in the morning.

Here, you can wake to the hum of bees, feel the sun warm your skin, smell flowers, and kick back in a sweet wooden rocker. Make time to meet the furry local residents, from grazing horses, cows, and goats to feathered friends like chickens, turkeys, and ducks. Or, meander along one of the inn's three walking paths, hugged by wild grass and trees for a peaceful walk, before launching a kayak on the pond.

Whether you're a solo traveler, in a couple, or a big family group, the inn has a place for you. Pick the accessible **Americana Room** for its picturesque views of the verdant garden and a red-brick courtyard strewn with fairy lights. Or, opt for the two-bedroom **Hillside Cottage**, where you can laze on the front porch with your furry best friend (it's the inn's only pet-friendly option). The five-bedroom **Farmhouse** is fully equipped for a family or friend group of 12, boasting farm-chic furnishings and a big, welcoming kitchen.

Before your day begins, fuel up with a complimentary garden-to-table breakfast. You'll relish the fluffy omelettes (the eggs were laid right here!), crispy bacon, and blueberry-laden French toast. Not only are these meals homemade by the inn's chef, but they also use ingredients from a network of local farmers and the inn's thriving garden.



BOTH PHOTOS: THE FARMHOUSE INN, MADISON | EXPLORE GEORGIA



CALLAWAY RESORT & GARDENS, PINE MOUNTAIN | EXPLORE GEORGIA

Rejuvenate at Scenic Pine Mountain

If you'd rather kick back with some frills, **Callaway Resort & Gardens** offers all kinds of relaxing fun, like spa treatments, private flower gardens, and rambling trails. The resort is as expansive as it is accommodating, too, sprawled across the Appalachian foothills in **Pine Mountain**.

In spring, the air is perfumed with thousands of azaleas – pink, red, lavender, and white – spilling across the **Callaway Brothers Azalea Bowl** in full color. Stroll wide and welcoming paths surrounded by blooms, or quietly reflect on a bench amid the subtle fragrance of the **Thornhill Hydrangea Garden**. Then, step inside the glass-enclosed

warmth of the **Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center** to appreciate lush greenery, the faint burble of a waterfall, and fluttering butterflies.

Choose to bike or hike past rushing streams and reflective ponds, over bridges, and through shady stands of pine along the **Discovery Bike Trail**, keeping your eyes peeled for turtles and herons along the 10 tranquil miles. Tip: you can rent wheels from the **Virginia Hand Callaway Discovery Center** or bring your own.

Between nature excursions, book pampering body and skin treatments at **The Spa at Callaway Gardens**. Bask

in the warmth of the **Himalayan Salt Room**, try a tension-melting Swedish massage, or feel your skin moisturized and rejuvenated with an organic facial. No matter which you pick, you'll feel relaxed and ready for more.

Nestled in the woods, Callaway's cozy cottages and spacious villas are more than just a place to rest your head; they're a place to recharge and spend time with loved ones. Embrace the no-agenda getaway with low-key hangouts in your home away from home – like snuggling up on plush couches for movie night or reminiscing over hot cocoa and wine in your private patio space.

Unwind in Luxury at Lookout Mountain

Perched atop **Lookout Mountain**, **Cloudland at McLemore Resort, Curio by Hilton** promises mountainous panoramas and amenities like golfing, fine dining, and a luxuriant spa.

This golfer's paradise features two 18-hole courses, a six-hole short course, a putting green, and a driving range. Of these, the most acclaimed is the challenging **Highlands Course**. Its design – created by masterminds Bill Bergin and Rees Jones – boasts astounding cliff-edge holes.

Even if you're not a golfer, there are many ways to unwind with North Georgia's rugged mountains as the backdrop. Throw on a buttery-soft robe and head to **Selah Spa** to lounge in a eucalyptus-scented steam room, followed by a grounding essential-oil wrap or cleansing hydrotherapy ritual. Then, trade the spa for wide-open skies – sip wine on **Skyside's** open-air deck for big views of the mountains from all sides. As dusk deepens, step into **Auld Alliance** for French and Scottish flavors fused together in dishes like toasted brioche topped with escargot and parsley butter, or a foie gras-style haggis.

For even more mountain views, head to nearby **Cloudland Canyon State Park**: saddle up on a bike or lace up your hiking boots for paths that carve through dense forests and along cliffside terrain, leading to Instagrammable overlooks just begging to be shared. Each season brings its own beauty in Georgia's mountainscape, from vibrant summer greens to ruddy crimsons and golds.



BOTH PHOTOS: CLOUDLAND AT MCLEMORE RESORT LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, CURIO BY HILTON, RISING FAWN | EXPLORE GEORGIA



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NEXT EXIT: Worthy Georgia Detours

If you're driving through Georgia, it's natural to base your stay in popular destinations like Atlanta and Blue Ridge. Just beyond our most well-known spots are rising stars deserving of a detour. These nearby towns are within easy reach of popular Georgia destinations and each offers its own distinct appeal. So, plan ahead to extend your stay – then take the next exit to the unexpected.

BELL MOUNTAIN, HIWASSEE | EXPLORE GEORGIA



SCAN CODE
to explore more
of Georgia – off
the beaten path.

Destination: Atlanta

DETOURS: DULUTH & WOODSTOCK

As the state capital and an undisputed cultural keystone, Atlanta is known for its wide sphere of influence. But less than an hour away, you'll find two under-the-radar cities with their own subtle sway. Here's why they're worth a detour.





Duluth: Diverse Delights

About 40 minutes northeast of Atlanta off Interstate 85, Duluth is a delightful study in contrasts, offering big-city sophistication with small-town vibes. It's also home to one of the largest Korean populations in the U.S., which means there's a distinctive cultural flavor you simply won't find anywhere else.

Seoul of the South™

Since the establishment of its Korean Consulate in the 1970s and the arrival of Kia and other Korean-born companies, Atlanta and its suburbs have become colorful multicultural enclaves. Today, **Duluth** holds "Seoul of the South™" bragging rights, with nearly a quarter of its population hailing from Korea.

For a flavorful dive into Duluth's thriving Korean culture, cruise the aisles at the local **H Mart**; this legendary Korean-owned supermarket chain is a reliable feast for the senses and our perennial favorite for road-trip snacks. Then, adjourn to **JeJu Sauna & Spa**, the traditional Korean wellness center that's attracting accolades from Buzzfeed, The New York Times, and others.

Of course, Korean cuisine is everywhere in the area. While it's difficult to make a bad choice, we're especially fond of **Jang Su Jang** and **678 Korean BBQ**. For travelers who like to plan ahead, the **Seoul of the South™ Food Tour** is a solid centerpiece for any trip. Offered just a few times a year, these unforgettable

four-restaurant experiences sell out very quickly. Free-range foodies can download the free **Seoul of the South™ Mobile Pass** to earn points and prizes for exploring the area's food scene on their own.

Authentic Southern soul

Of course, we are still in Georgia – and Duluth has its own version of Southern soul that's worthy of discovery. The town's welcoming, walkable **Downtown District** invites all kinds of exploring with an eclectic mix of tempting independent boutiques and family-run restaurants.

Like the local residents, you'll be tempted to gather on the **Town Green**, a bustling open-air HQ for families, picnickers, and music lovers. Food trucks envelop the green with enticing aromas, splash-pad fountains sprinkle the scene, and free concerts fill the air with enticing sounds. Nearby, the beat always goes on at **Eddie Owen Presents: Red Clay Music Foundry** – where you might find yourself discovering

a talented up-and-comer or face-to-face with a legend like Jason Isbell.

The visual arts are also very much at home here. Swing by **Eye Candy Art Studio** for a handmade memento, including pottery, jewelry, and artwork from regional makers. And, as you discover downtown Duluth, keep an eye out for the dozens of murals, sculptures, and interactive installations that transform the district into an open-air gallery.



TAKE A PIECE OF GEORGIA HOME WITH YOU

*Founded by a mother-daughter team with a shared love for treasure hunting, **Personify Shop** stocks a wide selection of whimsical wares, including embroidered tops, "what's-she-wearing?" fragrances, and sunny prints from local artists.*

Woodstock: Welcome to Wander

Woodstock, about 30 minutes north of Atlanta via Interstate 75, is small enough to escape the notice of the average travel guidebook. But there are good reasons this railroad town is in regular rotation on national “best places to live” lists, and they all make it a wonderful place to visit as well.

Though **Woodstock** has been chugging along since 1897, a sudden growth spurt nearly 100 years later paved the way for its present-day popularity. In an effort to combine historical appeal with modern conveniences, the entire city center was reimagined in the early aughts with striped-awning boutiques, charming eateries, and entertainment spots all connected by trails. The result is a carefree community that puts all its wonders within easy walking distance.

Get your bearings at **Century House Tavern**, a culinary landmark in downtown Woodstock’s beloved “little yellow house.” Housed in the 1894 **Hubbard House**, this inviting spot blends heritage and modern flair. Enjoy inventive Southern dishes, craft cocktails, and the warm sense of community that defines Woodstock’s creative spirit. As you wander around this easygoing area after dinner, you’ll find so many amiable hyphenates springing to mind – family-friendly, pet-friendly, pedestrian-friendly, etc. – that “just plain friendly” ultimately seems most accurate.

Woodstock is so laid-back that it’s legal to walk around with an open container – something the city’s creative craft beer scene will surely tempt you to try. Sip and stroll with **Reformation Brewery**’s Panther Creek Falls (an outdoors-inspired

IPA with notes of pineapple, pear, and mango). Or, swing by **Truck & Tap**, a brick-and-mortar brewery pouring a rotating menu of Georgia beers paired with an ever-changing lineup of standout food trucks.

Additional musts in downtown Woodstock include **MadLife Stage & Studios**, where live music and local flavors come together on a welcoming patio; **The Sweet Read**, where used books blend perfectly with coffee, tea, and fresh-baked pastries; and **Blue Ghost Arcade**, where vintage arcade games can connect with a new generation of passionate players.

Then, when it’s time to commune with Mother Nature, you’re just minutes from tranquil **Lake Allatoona**. Pack up the family, pick up sandwiches from **Rally Point Grille**, and head to **Victoria Beach** for a lazy afternoon of sunning and swimming.



TAKE A PIECE OF GEORGIA HOME WITH YOU

*Commemorate your detour in Woodstock with mementos from **Made Mercantile** – a collaborative retail space for creative companies like **Beau Paper Co.**, **Silver Lining Jewelry Co.**, and other maker-centric shops.*



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: REFORMATION BREWERY, WOODSTOCK | EXPLORE GEORGIA; THE SWEET READ, WOODSTOCK | EXPLORE GEORGIA





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EXPLORE
CANTON
GA



Destination: Savannah

DETOURS: SKIDAWAY ISLAND & DUBLIN

It's natural to gravitate toward a show-stopping city like Savannah – it's an only-in-Georgia experience, where Gothic mansions and cobble streets are just a stone's throw from the coast. But your trip to the “Hostess City of the South” should also make time for a detour to Skidaway Island and Dublin, each offering its own unique interpretation of “warm welcome.”



Skidaway Island: Naturally Awesome

When you're strolling Savannah's cosmopolitan avenues, it might be hard to imagine that there's actual wilderness within reach. But with just a quick jog south on Interstate 95, that's exactly what you'll find: Skidaway Island, a haven of salt air and wild things.

Part of Georgia's Intracoastal Waterway, this barrier island is a living mosaic of salt marshes, tidal creeks, and maritime forest. This is nature at its most diverse, and **Skidaway Island State Park** gives you access to nearly 600 acres of it – with campsites, cabins, playgrounds, picnic shelters, and a host of other amenities to ensure that everyone in your crew is a happy camper.

Take your time exploring the trails, for there's much to reward the observant hiker. On any given day, you might be treated to a glimpse of deer or raccoons in the lush underbrush – or fiddler

crabs, reptiles, and the occasional gator bobbing quietly in the marsh. Part of the **Colonial Coast Birding Trail**, the island is also home to around 200 bird species, so you might see a flash of bright feathers from the dapper wood duck, the stately American bald eagle, and many avian creatures in between.

Prefer a bit of education with your exploration? Stop by the park's **Visitor Center** to sign up for one of several ranger-led interpretive programs offering insight into the island's ecology and the fascinating history of the Guale, Indigenous people who lived on the

islands centuries ago. More of a hands-on learner? Visit the **University of Georgia's Marine Education Center and Aquarium**, where touch tanks encourage connection with sea stars, whelks, and a variety of local crabs.

During your detour, don't forget to sample the catch of the day at one of the area's many local eateries. Score fresh-caught seafood with Southern flair at **Driftaway Cafe**, fall in love with Lowcountry cuisine at **Sandfly BBQ**, or quash your Caribbean cravings at **Tortuga's Island Grille**.

Dublin: Feel Like Family

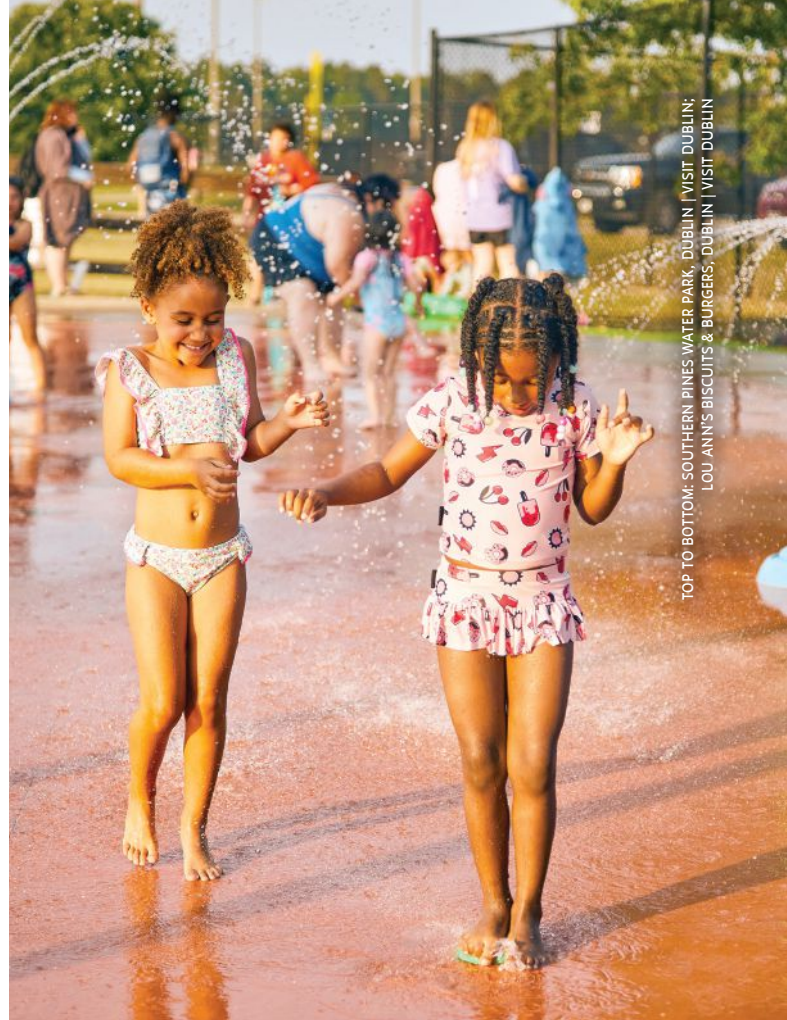
Savannah is known as the “Hostess City of the South” for good reason. Here, hospitality is everywhere, as natural as the Spanish moss on live oak trees. But you’ll soon learn that Georgia’s friendliness is more of a statewide thing – it just takes on a different character from town to town. So, when you make the detour to Dublin, just off Interstate 16, you’ll be treated to a more casual, scaled-down version of our world-famous warmth.

As any traveling parent knows, the secret to a smooth group getaway is plenty of pint-sized fun – and **Dublin** has that in spades. Start with a visit to **Stubbs Park**: while little ones explore the playground or splash in the creek, parents can picnic on the sprawling, shade-dappled lawn. Or, go with the flow at **Southern Pines Water Park**, home to water slides, a lazy river and lots of splashy, sprinkly fun.

Of course, nothing makes one feel at home like a lovingly crafted meal. At the old-school diner **Lou Ann’s Biscuits & Burgers**, the buttery biscuits are said to be the biggest in the state – on their own or as part of a decadent sandwich, they’re guaranteed crowd pleasers. **Crooked Finger Brewing** likewise knows how to cater to families, with fryer-forward meals for kiddos, craft brews for grown-ups, and a year-round patio, either heated or shaded depending on the season. The barbecued-smothered Dirty Truck Fries alone are worth a trip.

Take the plunge at **Saltwater Fishery**, which serves up fresh-caught seafood on a breezy rooftop patio that feels like a backyard fish fry with acclaimed Chef Lorenzo Klink. The sweet hush puppies, served light and crispy with housemade butter, will become instant favorites. Or, for the warmest welcome in town, head over to **Dublin Farm Bed and Breakfast**. The friendly proprietors invite guests to unwind in the picturesque countryside, where recent renovations have blended modern touches with timeless beauty. The innkeepers also own **Moe’s on Madison**, one of downtown Dublin’s newest dining gems, giving guests a taste of their warm hospitality both in the country and in the heart of town.

Before you go, there’s one final stop on your Dublin detour: **Strickland’s Boots**. Famously friendly, it’s a place where customers still feel like they’re part of the family. Married founders Rodney and Martha are still walking the walk, well into their 80s, and are happiest when helping you search their impressive selection of blue-chip brands – including Danner, Laredo, Dan Post, and of course, Georgia Boot – for the perfect fit.



TOP TO BOTTOM: SOUTHERN PINES WATER PARK, DUBLIN | VISIT DUBLIN;
LOU ANN’S BISCUITS & BURGERS, DUBLIN | VISIT DUBLIN



SNELLVILLE

Snellville, Where Everybody's Proud to Be Somebody



Crooked Can Brewing Company, The Grove at Towne Center



Elizabeth H. Williams Library



The Grove at Towne Center is a large scale, mixed-use town center property, comprised of 18 acres in the heart of Snellville.

The Grove's first phase includes 50,000 square feet of retail, 288 multi-family luxury apartments and a 25,000-square-foot, two-floor Market Building with unique event space.

The City of Snellville along with their public-private partners CASTO and MidCity Real Estate Partners, signed a long-term lease with Crooked Can Brewing Company at the signature Market Building in the The Grove at Towne Center. Crooked Can prides itself on producing distinctive craft beer with consistent quality and unparalleled taste.

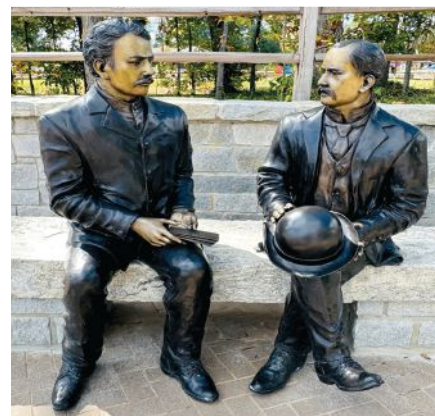
Parkside at The Grove (from operator of Parkside District in Lawrenceville), The Grove Taqueria, Marble Slab Creamery/Great American Cookie and Allure Nail Bar are among the first restaurants and retail establishments in The Grove.

The beautiful new 24,000-square-foot Elizabeth H. Williams Library is a state of the art library with a second floor housing THRIVE/Coworking, an Atlanta-based hybrid workspace.

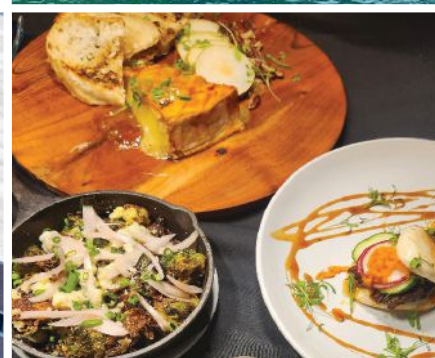
Sitting prominently in front of the library on the promenade are the bronze statues of Thomas Snell and James Sawyer, the founders of Snellville and boyhood friends from England whose retail stores were the building blocks of the city.

Shop, Dine, Stay and Play in Snellville!

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T.W. Briscoe Park



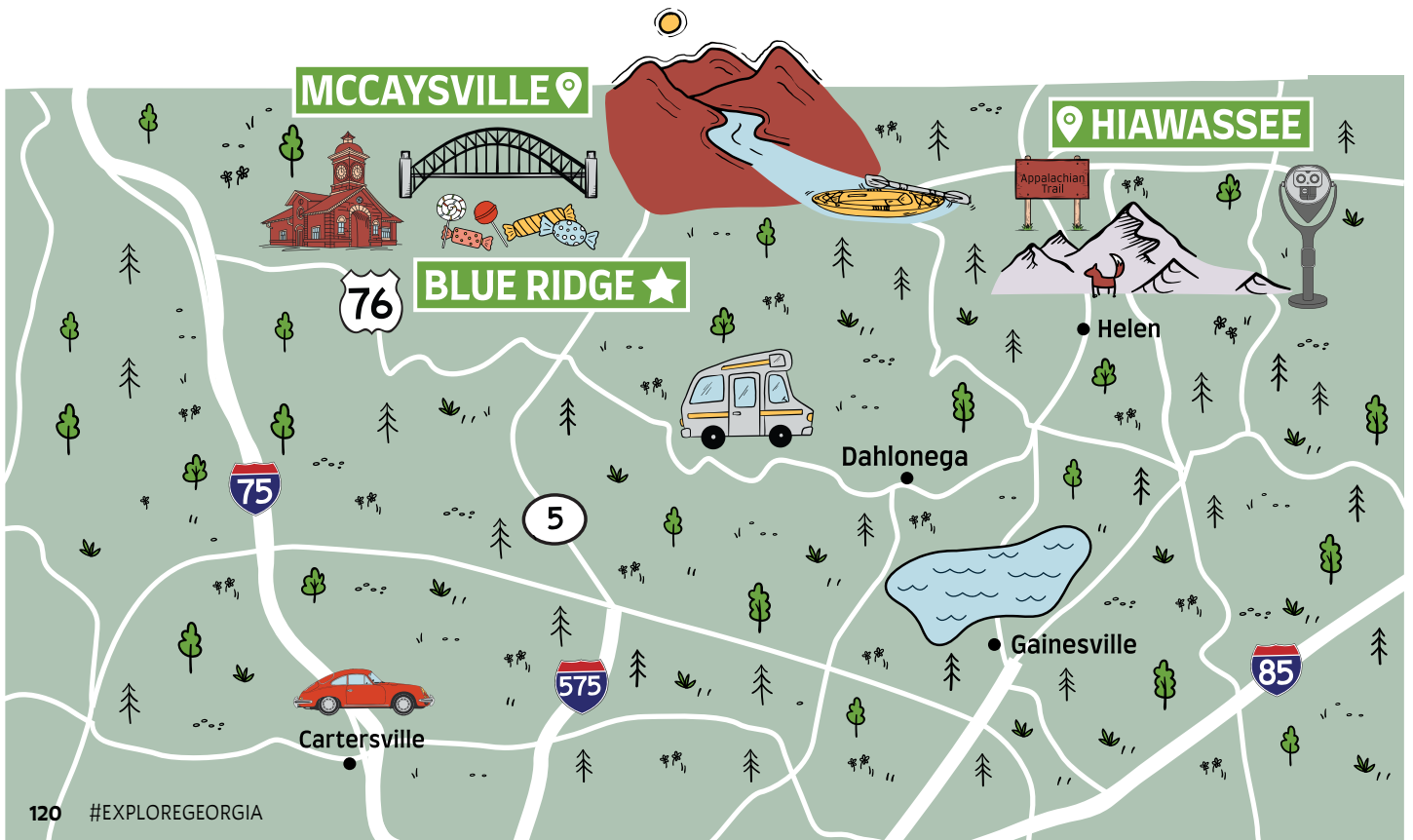


BELL MOUNTAIN, HIAWASSEE | EXPLORE GEORGIA

Destination: Blue Ridge

DETOURS: HIAWASSEE & MCCAYSVILLE

Blue Ridge is consistently among the most-visited cities in Georgia for a reason – quite a few, actually. But if you'd like to expand your mountain-town horizons with fewer crowds, these two detours promise their own “peak experiences.”



Hiwassee: Altitude Adjustment

There's no wrong route to take through the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. The hour-ish detour from Blue Ridge to Hiwassee via U.S. Route 76 is part of the Lookout Mountain Scenic Highway, a balanced blend of rolling mountain scenery and tempting roadside attractions.

Once you arrive in **Hiwassee**, it's hard to miss the state's highest peak, **Brasstown Bald**, in the distance. Fuel up for your ascent at **Tilted Cafe**, a beloved brunch spot serving Southern comfort food like shrimp and grits before choosing a route to the top. Hikers can get there via the paved half-mile **Summit Trail**, or take the **Jacks Knob Trail** or **Arkaquah Trail** for a longer trek to the summit through breathtaking Appalachian scenery.

Still stuffed from your epic brunch? There's also a shuttle service to the top, departing from the parking area and visitor center. But no matter how you get to the mountain's peak – 4,784 feet above sea level – you'll be rewarded with stunning vistas in every direction from the cloud-level observation deck. On

clear days, you can see four states; when it's cloudy, you'll enjoy views of moody, fog-filled valleys.

For mountaintop vistas that also include paragliders and picturesque lakes, it's an easy drive to **Bell Mountain Park** and the **Hal Herrin Scenic Overlook**, nearly 3,500 feet in the air. For a short hike with a spectacular payoff, try the **High Shoals Scenic Area**; following a rustic trail and tumbling creek by the same name, you'll encounter five cascading waterfalls with an estimated vertical drop of 300 feet.

Given its woodsy magnetism and proximity to the **Appalachian Trail**, Hiwassee hits all the right notes to be a gracious and fun-forward festival host. Visit the **Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds** for the popular **Georgia Mountain Fair** every August or the

Georgia Mountain Fall Festival each October; both offer live music, handcrafted goods from local makers, carnival rides, and of course, piping-hot funnel cakes.

If you're staying overnight, check into the **Hiwassee River Retreat**. This adults-only riverside resort is tailor-made for romantic weekends, with perfectly appointed "glam cabins," gourmet meal plans, and cozy extras like claw-foot tubs and s'mores kits. Should you prefer a different kind of waterfront view, stay at **The Ridges Resort** on nearby **Lake Chatuge**; this is luxury on a slightly larger scale, with a range of family-friendly lodging options and Appalachian-inspired farm-to-table dining on-site at **The Oaks Lakeside Kitchen**.





McCaysville: Rapid-Onset Joy

Outdoorsy border village McCaysville, a quick 20-minute drive from Blue Ridge via State Route 5, is a river town through and through, with its culture driven by rushing water since its mining days in the 1800s. Today, McCaysville's most precious resource is not copper but adrenaline – with a whitewater rafting industry that draws paddlers of all levels, from all over the world.

Thanks to its dam-controlled flow, the **Ocoee River** offers a continuous stretch of Class III and IV rapids – a roiling, mist-sprayed romp through storied sections like “Humongous” and “Godzilla.” Take a guided half- or full-day river trip with the experienced guides at **Rolling Thunder River Company**; whether you're an absolute beginner or a seasoned rafter, you'll be in for the ride of your life.

Craving a more relaxed river experience? Much of the river is slow and glassy, and **Toccoa River Tubing Company** puts it within easy reach. Your tube rental includes a life jacket and a ride up the river, so you can float at your own pace back to the car. Picnic stops, shore exploration, and naps in the sun are encouraged.

River time is virtually guaranteed to make you ravenous, so take a seat on the patio at **Twisted Tomato**, where you can bite into

a fresh, fired-to-order Neapolitan pizza. Locals love the Pepe Le Pew pie, with housemade marinara, mozzarella, Parmesan, crumbled meatballs, peppadew peppers, and fresh garlic.

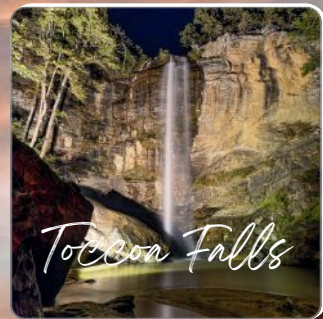
Afterward, walk off your meal at the **Riverwalk Shops**, a bustling alfresco retail center brimming with locally owned boutiques. Pause at **Riverwalk Sweets** to secure a suitable sugar buzz for the road tomorrow, then head over to **Tooneys Music Venue**, a great place to see live music on weekends or have an ice-cold beer, anytime.



TAKE A PIECE OF GEORGIA HOME WITH YOU

Don't miss **Chooch**, an eclectic artisan marketplace and oddities shop offering hundreds of unique, only-in-Georgia mementos – each a friendly reminder to stay on “mountain time.”

experience tooccoa



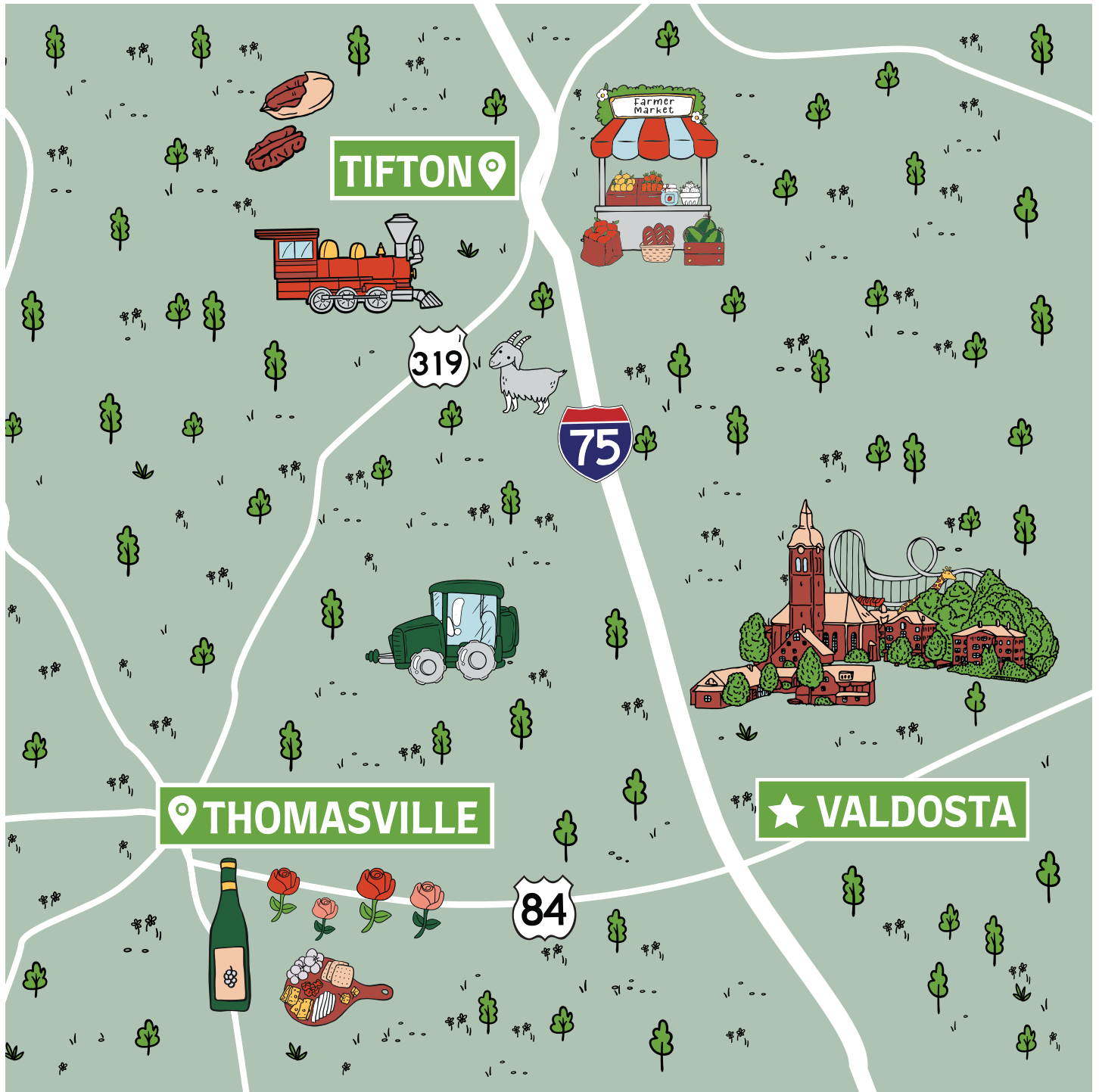
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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Destination: Valdosta

DETOURS: THOMASVILLE & TIFTON

Headed for Valdosta? You're in for a treat. South Georgia is full of natural beauty, cultivated charm, and small towns with serious personality – and like a farmers-market sampler, each one offers something unique. Two of our freshest picks for a detour: Thomasville and Tifton.





SWEET GRASS DAIRY, THOMASVILLE | EXPLORE GEORGIA



TAKE A PIECE OF GEORGIA HOME WITH YOU

*On your way out of town, swing by **Sweet Grass Cheese Shop** for a to-go cheese board, including four Sweet Grass Dairy cheeses, two Blackberry Patch preserves, house B+B pickles, roasted Schermer pecans, and crackers. Their nationally acclaimed Green Hill (double-cream soft) and Thomasville Tomme (semi-soft farmhouse) cheeses both pair well with the open road.*

Thomasville: Roses & Rosés

On your way to Valdosta, the “Azalea City,” via U.S. Route 84, Thomasville is a detour dedicated to a different flower. Georgia’s “Rose City,” a popular winter destination generously adorned with Victorian details, bursts brilliantly into bloom each April for the annual Rose Show & Festival – a Thomasville tradition for over 100 years. The roses can remain in bloom through July, so you’ll want to explore Thomasville Rose Garden no matter when you’re in town.

For two diverse perspectives on **Thomasville’s** fascinating history, pair tours of the **Lapham-Patterson House** and **Jack Hadley Black History Museum**. The former is a monument to the opulence and innovation of Gilded Age architecture and engineering; the latter is a thought-provoking journey through the lives of Thomasville’s Black history, from Buffalo Soldiers to Heisman Trophy winners and much more.

Next, sample Thomasville’s finest local flavors. Start with the Saltwater Gypsy Rosé at **Farmer’s Daughter Vineyard & Tasting Room**, a three-generation family winery known for smooth, flavorful sips. Then, queue up for a meal at **Jonah’s Fish & Grits**, a local eatery known for its hush puppies and other

from-scratch specialties. There’s often a wait for this popular spot, but you’ll stay busy scanning your surroundings for the 18 bronze quail statues that are hidden around town.

You’ll wrap up your time in Thomasville with a bit of Southern-style retail therapy. If you visit only one shop here, make sure it’s **SouthLife Supply Company**. This heirloom outfitter crafts exquisite leather goods for astonishingly reasonable prices. Their signature croc-embossed cowhide pieces are enduring standouts, but – fun fact – they’re also happy to create a one-of-a-kind custom piece from your “personally harvested alligator hide.”

Tifton: Cultivated Charm

In a state known for its hospitality, you have to go the extra mile to earn the nickname “The Friendly City.” But that’s exactly what Tifton does, just an easy detour off Interstate 75. Get ready to fall under its bucolic spell.

Agriculture is **Tifton’s** bread and butter, so your day begins with a visit to a working farm. If you’re looking for fresh, grab-and-go berries to enjoy with your gourmet cheese, **Berry Good Farms** is your best bet. For the full family-fun experience, choose **The Market at Rutland Farms**. You’ll need at least an hour to pick your own berries, stroll through the sunflower fields, make some feathered and furry friends at the petting zoo, and reward yourself with homemade ice cream.

No trip to farm country would be complete without a jaunt to the **Georgia Museum of Agriculture at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College**. Here, you’ll step back in time to rural 19th-century America, experiencing an authentic day in the life of a Georgia farmer. Knowledgeable costumed docents bring history to life throughout the site: you’ll learn about the typical farmer’s daily routine in the recreated Historic Village, ride the rails on the preserved steam locomotive, and stop at the drugstore for a nose-tickling root beer float.

Of course, agriculture isn’t the only culture in this fertile community. As a railroad junction and later a crossroads town, Tifton has been treated to a steady stream of outside influences

since its founding in 1872. Much of the inviting downtown area is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, with an appealing clutch of meticulously restored buildings certain to transport you back in time.

Don’t miss the **Syd Blackmarr Arts Center**, where you can enjoy quarterly exhibitions by local artists in a 1900 Romanesque church with soaring stained glass windows. Then, stroll the short distance to **Fresco Italiano** for authentic Italian cuisine served with Southern flair, including the dolce del giorno, made with love by the in-house pastry chef.



TAKE A PIECE OF GEORGIA HOME WITH YOU

*Did you know: Georgia is the most prolific producer of pecans in the U.S.? We hope you saved some room in your luggage for your trip to **Adcock Pecans**, a Tifton institution for over 75 years. Whether you like 'em roasted, salted, glazed, or spiced, this is the place to stock up.*





LET THE GOOD TIMES GROW



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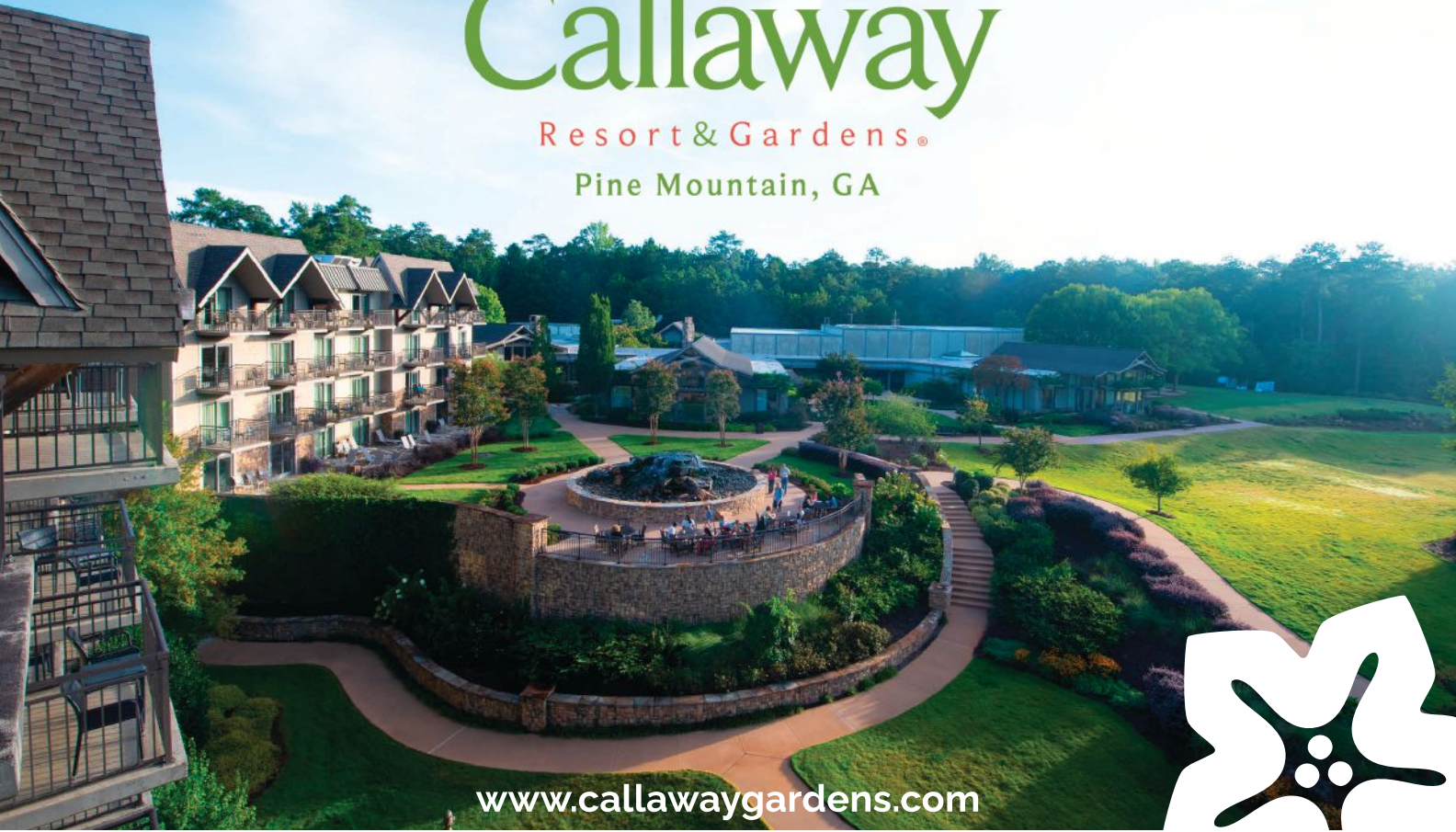




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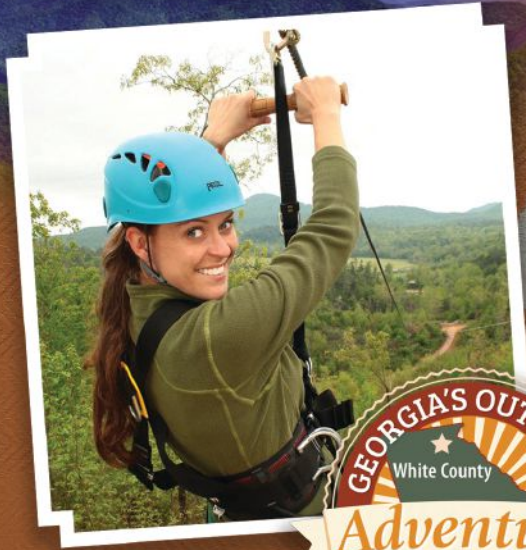
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