Why Atlanta Matters

Atlanta is a mixed bag. It is tremendously spread out and suffers from a lot of poorly planned sprawl. But it also has some great urban districts. Midtown and Virginia Highlands are my favorite neighborhoods. Buckhead is good for shopping. Downtown is a fairly un-diverse central business district, but it is well suited for sporting events at the Mercedes Benz Stadium (formerly the Georgia Dome) or conventions at the large downtown hotels. Atlantic Station is a significant urban infill project that is interesting to visit, although it has a lot of flaws. Atlanta is an example of a city that has enough density and different uses to be interesting, but much of it is not laid out or organized well. You sort of have to play "connect the dots" to experience the good places. There are some really neat restaurants worth checking out. Overall, Atlanta is a case study in what Orlando will most likely become (a sprawling and largely disconnected region), but with some bright spots that show how unique neighborhoods, new developments, and traditional communities can be integrated to make desirable places. Atlanta is big and has some strong points, but it makes you realize the pitfalls of a sprawling, auto-dependent and poorly planned large city. Make sure to explore Ponce City Market, the Beltline and West Midtown.

Hotels

Westin, Downtown (only stay downtown for Georgia Dome or business trip) 210 Peachtree Street 404.659.1400 www.starwoodhotels.com

The Ellis Hotel, Downtown Peachtree Street Northwest 404.523.5155 www.ellishotel.com

Renaissance Atlanta Midtown Hotel 866 West Peachtree Street Northwest 678.412.2400 www.marriott.com/renaissance-hotel

Loews Atlanta Hotel, Midtown 1065 Peachtree Street Northeast 404.745.5000 www.loewshotels.com

Hyatt Atlanta Midtown (great location) 125 10th Street Northeast 404.443.1234 atlantamidtown.hyatt.com

Hotels (continued)

Four Seasons, Midtown (extremely luxurious) 75 14th Street 404.881.9898 www.fourseasons.com/atlanta

St. Regis, Buckhead (same as Four Seasons, very expensive) 88 West Paces Ferry Road 404.563.7900

www.starwoodhotels.com

Restaurants

Miller Union 999 Brady Avenue 678.733.8550 www.millerunion.com

JCT Kitchen & Bar 1198 Howell Mill Road Suite 18 404.355.2252 www.jctkitchen.com

The Optimist
914 Howell Mill Road
404.477.6260
www.theoptimistrestaurant.com

King + Duke 3060 Peachtree Road Northwest at West Paces Ferry Road 404.477.3500 www.kinganddukeatl.com

Rathbun's 112 Krog Street - Suite R 404.524.8280 www.rathbunsrestaurant.com

Kevin Rathbun Steak (CTU favorite) 154 Krog Street 404.524.5600 www.kevinrathbunsteak.com

Restaurants (continued)

Two Urban Licks 820 Ralph McGill Boulevard 404.522.4622

www.twourbanlicks.com

South City Kitchen 1144 Crescent Avenue Northeast 404.873.7358 www.southcitykitchen.com

Chops/Lobster Bar
70 West Paces Ferry Road Northwest
404.262.2675
www.buckheadrestaurants.com

Bone's Steakhouse (old school steakhouse) 3130 Piedmont Road Northeast 404.237.2663 www.bonesrestaurant.com

Empire State South
999 Peachtree Street
404.541.1105
www.empirestatesouth.com

Lure
1106 Crescent Avenue Northeast
404.817.3650
www.lure-atlanta.com

Ray's in the City (best restaurant downtown) 240 Peachtree Street Northwest 404.524.9224

www.raysrestaurants.com

Superica 99 Krog Street Northeast 404.524.9224 www.supericaatl.com

Restaurants (continued)

Ecco 40 7th Street Northeast 404.347.9555 www.ecco-atlanta.com

BeetleCat
299 North Highland Avenue Northeast
678.732.0360
www.beetlecatatl.com

5 Church 1197 Peachtree Street Northeast #528 404.400.3669 www.5churchatlanta.com

Lunch or Other Fun Places

R. Thomas 1812 Peachtree Street Northwest 404.872.2942 www.rthomasdeluxegrill.net

Murphy's 997 Virginia Avenue Northeast 404.872.0904 www.murphysvh.com

Einstein's (not the chain bagel place) 1077 Juniper Street 404.876.7925 www.einsteinsatlanta.com

The Varsity
61 North Avenue Northwest
404.881.1706
www.thevarsity.com

Fat Matt's Rib Shack 1811 Piedmont Avenue Northeast 404.607.1622 www.fatmattsribshack.com

Lunch or Other Fun Places (continued)

Fellini's Pizza 2809 Peachtree Road Northeast 404.266.0082 www.fellinisatlanta.com

Yeah Burger – West Midtown 1168 Howell Mill Road, Suite E 404.496.4393 www.yeahburger.com/west-midtown

Bartaco 969 Marietta Street Northwest 404.607.8226

www.bartaco.com

D.B.A. Barbecue 1190 North Highland Avenue Northeast 404.249.5000 www.dbabarbecue.com

Fox Brothers Bar-B-Q 1238 DeKalb Avenue Northeast 404.577.4030 www.foxbrosbbq.com

Pure Tanquria
300 North Highland Avenue Northeast
404.522.7873
www.puretaqueria.com

Eat + Drink

Rira Irish Pub, Midtown 1080 Peachtree Street Northeast 404.477.1700 www.rira.com

Marlow's Tavern Midtown 950 West Peachtree Street 404.815.0323 www.marlowstavern.com

Eat + Drink (continued)

Stats Sports Bar, Downtown (before events at Georgia Dome) 300 Marietta Street Northwest 404.885.1473

www.statsatl.com

Highland Tap, Virginia Highlands 1026 North Highland Avenue Northeast 404.875.3673 www.highlandtapatlanta.com

Terrace at the Ellis Hotel 176 Peachtree Street Northwest 877.702.1085 www.ellishotel.com/terrace

Bar Margot at Four Seasons Hotel Atlanta 75 14th Street Northeast 404.881.9898 www.barmargotatl.com

Hudson Grille, Midtown (Sports Bar) 942 Peachtree Street Northeast 404.832.0892 www.hudsongrille.com

www.dantannas.com

Dantanna's, Buckhead (Upscale Sports Bar) 3400 Wooddale Drive Northeast #304 404.760.8873

Things to Do

Krog Street Market
Ponce City Market
Beltline Trail/Eastside Trail
Atlanta Streetcar
High Museum of Art
Georgia Aquarium
World of Coca-Cola City
Segway Tours
Drinks at top of Westin, Downtown
Centennial Park
Braves Game at SunTrust Park
Piedmont Park
Chastain Park and Amphitheater
Lenox Square Mall and Phipps Plaza
Climb Stone Mountain

Neighborhoods

Virginia Highlands
Buckhead
Midtown
Downtown
Atlantic Station
Westside Provisions District and West Midtown
Old Fourth Ward and Inman Park