



Downtown Atlanta's historic landmarks and modern buildings glow with color at dusk

72hoursin... Atlanta

Steeped in history, dynamic Atlanta is also the place to come for wonderful food, a vibrant arts scene, and top-level sports

BY CAROLINE EUBANKS

Discover some of Atlanta's highlights, including its surprisingly eclectic arts scene, walkable neighborhoods, abundance of green spaces, and unmissable restaurants, with this itinerary that spans three days.

DAY 1: DISCOVER THE SOUTHERN CAPITAL

10 a.m. Visit the 1996 Olympic Games venue of Centennial Olympic Park near sporting venues Mercedes-Benz Stadium and State Farm Arena, both world-class sporting spaces that host local events and global extravaganzas. Nearby is the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, a museum honoring multiple movements through its exhibits. At an interactive lunch counter, hear what the Civil Rights sit-ins were like from the people who experienced them.

12 p.m. Make your way to Sweet Auburn, where a young Martin Luther King Jr. grew up. The National Historic Park-managed neighborhood includes King's boyhood home and the church where he served as preacher. He and his wife are commemorated in a reflection pool across the street at The King Center. Exhibits include his key from Lorraine Motel, where he was assassinated in 1968, and the Grammy he received for Best Spoken Word Recording.

3 p.m. In summer, the Municipal Market in Sweet Auburn, the city's oldest food hall, is the place to find juicy Georgia peaches. Use this as a chance to try a little bit of everything that the city's diverse cultural background has to offer, like traditional Southern grilled fare from Fire in Smoke BBQ, jerk chicken from Afrodish, and a vegetarian *banh mi* spicy sandwich from Mattchews.

8 p.m. An easy way to navigate the city is to follow the Beltline, 22 miles of former railroad tracks circling the heart of the city. The paved path, used by pedestrians, cyclists, and skaters, has restaurants with walk-up patios and, intriguingly, a speakeasy-style cocktail bar – The James Room – with a secret entrance behind a daytime coffee shop. Vibe out to the live music and DJ-spun tunes over an Old Fashioned.

DAY 2: SAMPLE THE ARTS AND OUTDOORS

10 a.m. Start your day with a brew from Portrait Coffee in the historic West End. It features blends inspired by the city's heritage, including Atlanta-based politician and lawyer Stacey Abrams and writer Toni Morrison.

12 p.m. Stop by the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum, which honors the longest-living president, who hailed from

Georgia. Highlights include his Nobel Peace Prize and a replica of the Oval Office to snap photos in. Then head to the Old Fourth Ward and check out the shops at Ponce City Market, a retail and dining complex in a former Sears warehouse with food hall and local boutiques. Quintessential Atlanta bar Manuel's Tavern offers a warm Southern welcome and is the place for a casual lunch. Enjoy the French dip with a local brew and Manuel's special ambiance.

3 p.m. Rent a bike in Midtown's Piedmont Park or step into Atlanta Botanical Garden, set inside the park, for its orchid collection and Dale Chihuly's glass sculptures. Midtown is also home to the High Museum of Art, a world-class institution with more than 20,000 works. Don't miss the regional folk art, including pieces from Georgia's own Howard Finster.

8 p.m. Holeman and Finch is the place for fine dining and craft cocktails. The restaurant merges classic steakhouse fare with Southern dishes, sourcing ingredients from local farms. Tucked behind a door at the back



The exquisite Earth Goddess plant sculpture overlooks Cascades Garden in Atlanta Botanical Garden

WHERE TO STAY / ATLANTA



Chateau Elan, Braselton

A grand chateau experience with its own vineyard.



FORTH Hotel & Club, Atlanta

A contemporary urban resort in Atlanta's creative Old Fourth Ward District.



72 HOURS IN . . .

The High Museum of Art features Renaissance triptychs, early American furnishings, and contemporary photography

of a food hall, Jojo's Beloved is a cocktail bar and lounge with intimate booths and neon lights. Here, you'll enjoy a great soundtrack and a creative drinks menu.

DAY 3: EXPERIENCE THE PAST AND PRESENT

10 a.m. Dive into city's earliest days at the Atlanta History Center. Rotating exhibits from the permanent collection include 1996 Olympics memorabilia and the original zero-mile post from the railroad, marking its end point and where the city was founded – hence, its original Terminus name. Give yourself plenty of time to see Swan House, the Southern belle of a beautifully restored residence of a local family until the 1960s. Browse antiques inside, then step out to the terraced gardens, a favorite spot for photos.

12 p.m. Blandtown's Twisted Soul Cookhouse & Pours serves up Michelin-recommended Southern soul food from James Beard-nominated Chef Deborah VanTrece. Try the hot favorites on the decadent brunch menu: etoufee crawfish frittata and hoisin oxtails.

3 p.m. Spend time in the fresh air while diving into the city's connections to the world of TV and film production at Westside Reservoir Park. Set in the site of a former quarry, its accessible paved trails offer the chance to learn about locations that have featured in well-loved movies and TV shows, including *Stranger Things* and *The Walking Dead*.

8 p.m. Westside is bursting with sushi and omakase restaurants, including several highlighted by the Michelin Guide. Hayakawa is among them, open since 2008 with the finest ingredients sourced straight from Tokyo. Reservations are hard won, but you won't regret it.

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