



Atlanta, Georgia



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Capital of New South Beckons Visitors with Old-Fashioned Charm

Welcome to Atlanta, a modern city with a rich history where the gracious traditions of America's Old South fuse with the excitement of a vibrant 21st-century urban center.

Your Atlanta experience is exactly what you choose to make it, as this "Brave and Beautiful City" offers an impressive legacy of leadership, progress and inspiration — and welcomes you with open arms.

Then and Now

The future city of Atlanta was first settled in 1821 but did not become a commercial center until

it was chosen in 1837 as the site of a new railroad terminus connecting Georgia with Chattanooga, Tennessee, and points west.

Dubbed first "Terminus" and then briefly "Marthasville," it became "Atlanta" in 1845. By 1861, the beginning of the U.S. Civil War, it was the transportation hub of the Southeast and a valuable prize for Union forces. In 1864, Union General William T. Sherman burned Atlanta to the ground, destroying about 70 percent of its buildings, but residents gradually rebuilt the city's homes and businesses.

The city's burning was vividly immortalized in the award-winning

film *Gone With the Wind*, which premiered in Atlanta in 1939.

City history includes these other milestones:

- 1886 — Jacob's Pharmacy began selling a new headache and hang-over tonic called Coca-Cola. The patent for the tonic, invented by John S. Pemberton, was purchased in 1891 by entrepreneur Asa Candler, who founded The Coca-Cola Company the following year.
- 1929 — The railroad hub of the South embraced new transportation technology in 1929 with the city's purchase of Candler Field (now the site of Hartsfield-Jackson

Atlanta International Airport), which was handling 16 passenger and airmail flights daily.

- 1946 — With a focus on fighting malaria, the Communicable Disease Center (CDC) was established in Atlanta. While it is still known by the initials CDC, the agency today is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- 1964 — Martin Luther King Jr., minister, civil rights activist and Atlanta native, won the Nobel Peace Prize. Four years later, following his assassination in Memphis, Tennessee, he was buried in Atlanta.
- 1996 — Atlanta hosted the Centennial Olympic Games. Visitors can still enjoy the fountains at Centennial Park.



The Olympic Rings fountain at Centennial Olympic Park is a legacy of the 1996 Olympic Games.

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The People

More than 5.5 million people live in the Atlanta metropolitan area. The city is more racially diverse than the nation as a whole, and also younger, with an average age of 34. It is the fastest-growing city in the United States.

The Land

Atlanta has no natural boundaries, so the metropolitan area is large, encompassing more than 22,000 square kilometers to the southeast of the Chattahoochee River in the heart of the southeastern United States.

The Weather

Atlanta experiences all four seasons but temperatures stay mild, with ice and snow rare. That means you can enjoy more than 100 golf courses, 200 public tennis courts and hundreds of kilometers of hiking and biking trails more than 300 days a year.

- 2001 — Shirley Franklin was elected Atlanta's first female African-American mayor, the first black woman to be elected mayor of any major Southern city.

Atlanta is America's most accessible city, with direct or nonstop service to more than 155 U.S. destinations from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the second-busiest U.S. airport for international flights.

The city offers a wide range of activities for visitors of all ages and interests.

The Georgia Aquarium inspires your imagination with a 38 million-liter playground for manta rays, beluga whales, dolphins and sharks.

At the World of Coca-Cola, your taste buds can take a tantalizing tour with more than 60 different products from around the world.

The CNN Studio Tour invites you to get an up-close look at global news in the making as you watch broadcasting in action from the global headquarters of an international reporting giant.

At the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, you can discover ancient fossils, enjoy interactive science exhibits, marvel at the world's largest dinosaurs and explore the great indoors with Fernbank NatureQuest.

Looking for the Old South? The Atlanta History Center lets you step back in time with guided tours of the 1860s Smith Family Farm, the 1928 Swan House and more than 13 hectares of beautiful, historic gardens and trails.

It is easy to fall in love with this beautiful city's cultivated charm. Come explore Atlanta and discover what moves you.

