The city of Athens, named after the ancient Greek center of higher learning, was chartered in 1806. Athens and the University developed a uniquely urbane culture that visitors can experience through historic districts, house museums, and historic landmarks. Athens boasts 15 neighborhoods on the National Register of Historic Places, including four distinctive house museums along its Museum Mile. Daily guided tours, an audio tour, and several self-guided walking tours give today's visitors a glimpse of Athens' past.

Nestled below the Blue Ridge Mountains – yet just hours away from seaside beaches and 65 miles from Atlanta – Athens is a harmony of old and new: wedding-perfect Antebellum architecture, contemporary art and eclectic nightlife, a Victorian-era downtown teeming with funky shops and one of the South's most progressive culinary scenes.

The creative energy of Athens, Georgia, is alive and well in local restaurants, with masterful artwork on both the walls and the plate. Dozens of unique, independent eateries offer a distinctive culinary experience, from traditional Southern soul food to trendsetting nouveau Southern cuisine. Relax in ambient settings from sidewalk and courtyard cafés to dining rooms overlooking the University of Georgia's historic North Campus, with menus that feature exceptional wines and Italian, sushi, steak, Cajun, and farm fresh offerings from local Athens growers.

By night, Athens, Georgia, is alive with a variety of music clubs and bars that offer entertainment suited to every taste. No visit would be complete without sampling a bit of Athens' world-renowned music scene.

From a few bands – The B-52's, Pylon, R.E.M., and Widespread Panic – that started something different and gave Athens national attention, there are now hundreds of active bands, over 10 recording studios, and several independent record labels. World-famous venues, such as the 40 Watt Club and the Georgia Theatre, continue to attract up-and-coming musical acts as well as old favorites. With jazz, classical, blues, country, and rock performances occurring on a regular basis, Athens provides one of the most diverse and affordable music scenes in the world.
Discover Athens

America's best college town

You may think Athens is a typical Southern town — and in many ways it is — but Athens, Georgia, isn't a typical college town.

A music and cultural hub

Home to R.E.M., the B-52's, the state museum of art, and a world-class concert hall, Athens is a haven for artists, musicians, athletes, chefs, and scholars. There's always something going on.

Historic

Athens is a harmony of old and new: Antebellum architecture, contemporary art and eclectic nightlife, a Victorian-era downtown teeming with funky shops and one of the South's most progressive culinary scenes.

HOW OTHERS SEE ATHENS, GEORGIA

- **The 10 Best Midsize Cities for College Graduates** by [My Life](http://www.mylife.com) (July 2014)
- **First Place: The South's Best Foodie Cities for Groups, South-East Region** by [ConventionSouth](http://www.conventionsouth.com) Magazine (March 2014)
- **The 7 Best Cities for Organic Food** by [Safe Organics](http://www.safeorganics.com) (November 2013)
- **Hot Editor's Pick - South's Historic College Towns With Hip Group Appeal** by ConventionSouth Magazine (September 2013), featuring only one city per state.
- **Top 10 College Towns - for Grownups** by [MSN Real Estate](http://www.msn.com) (August 28, 2013)
- **America's Prettiest Towns** by [Forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com) (August 2013)
- "Retire Here, Not There," [Wall Street Journal](http://www.wsj.com), April 8, 2013
- **Green Meetings Approved, 2013-2014**, ConventionSouth Magazine (February 2013)
- "7 Up and Coming Food Cities Around the U.S.," [Zagat](http://www.zagat.com), March 6, 2013
- UGA: "Amazing but Overlooked: 25 Colleges You Haven't Considered but Should" (best music scene), [TheDailyBeast.com](http://www.thedailybeast.com), February 26, 2013
- **#19 of the Top 25 Best Places to Retire** by [CNNMoney](http://www.cnnmoney.com) (October 2012)
- **#8 in Top 10 College Towns** by [Livability.com](http://www.livability.com) (August 2012)
- The Milliken Institute named Athens-Clarke County **#1 in the Small Metros Best Cities for Successful Aging** (#45 for ages 65-79, #45 for ages 80 ) in the United States. Athens was the first small metro in Georgia (July 2012)
- Athens was listed as one of 10 cities in "The Next Big Scene" in [Gourmet](http://www.gourmet.com) (June 2012)
- **#1 in Top 10 Cities with the Best Music Scenes Outside of Nashville, NYC, and LA** by [Livability.com](http://www.livability.com) (June 2012)
ANNUAL EVENTS

- February
  - Wine Weekend
  - Taste of Athens
- March
  - Slingshot festival
- April
  - UGA International Street Festival
  - Plantapalooza!
  - Piedmont Gardeners Garden Tour
  - Classic City BrewFest
  - Antebellum Trail Pilgrimage
  - Boybutante Ball
  - Athens Americana Festival
  - Athens Twilight Criterium
- May
  - Human Rights Festival
- June
  - AthFest Music and Arts Festival
  - Flagpole Athens Music Awards
- July
  - Classic City American Music Festival
- August
  - UGA Football Games (Saturdays through December)
- September
  - Insect-ival
  - Athens Intensified
- October
  - North Georgia Folk Festival
  - Athens-to-Atlanta Road Skate
  - Athens PopFest
  - AthHalf Half Marathon
  - Halloween in the Clubs
- November
  - Spotlight on the Arts festival
- December
  - Downtown Athens Christmas Parade of Lights
  - Museum Mile Holiday Home Tour
- Seasonal
  - Athens Farmers Market
  - Sunflower Music Festival
  - Indie South Fair
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Real Estate
MLS listing
Homes & Land
Athens Area Association of Realtors

Cost of Living

Chamber of Commerce
Athens Chamber of Commerce
Oconee Chamber of Commerce

Visit Athens: Clarke and Oconee Counties
Athens Welcome Center
Athens Clarke County Information
Visit Athens
Visit Oconee

Education
Athens Area Public Schools:
Clarke County School District
Oconee County School District
Jackson County School District
Madison County School District
Barrow County School District
Oglethorpe County School District

Athens Area Private Schools:
Athens Academy
Athens Christian School
Athens Montessori School
Cornerstone Christian Academy
Monsignor Donovan Catholic High School
Prince Ave Christian School
St Joseph School
Westminster Christian Academy
Location
Approximately 65-70 miles southwest of Athens

About Atlanta

- Metro Population: **5,490,000**
- Major Industries: **Financial services, Technology, Telecommunications**
- Gross Metro Product: **$269.3 billion**
- Median Household Income: **$56,024**
- Median Home Price: **$101,300**
- Unemployment: **5.6 %**
- Job Growth (2012): **1.9 %**
- Cost of Living: **1.6% below national average**
- College Attainment: **34.5 %**
- Net Migration (2012): **32,500**

Here is what others are saying about Atlanta, Georgia:

- Forbes magazine’s “The Best Places for Business and Careers” (2013)
- Movoto Real Estate Blog’s “America’s 10 Best Cities for 2013” – Ranked #3
- Sperling’s Best Places - #1 for “Most Energetic Cities”
- Atlanta is home to many [Fortune 500 & Fortune 1000 Companies](#)

Attractions

- Atlanta has several professional sports teams, including the Atlanta Braves, Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta Hawks, Atlanta Dream, and Atlanta Silverbacks
- [The Georgia Aquarium](#)
- [Stone Mountain Park](#)
- [Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site](#)
- [50 Fun Things to Do in Atlanta](#)

The Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

- Hartsfield-Jackson serves 150 U.S. destinations and more than 75 international destinations in 50 countries.
- Hartsfield-Jackson averages more than 250,000 passengers a day.
- On average, there are almost 2,500 arrivals and departures daily.
Atlanta Area Photo

From top to bottom left to right: Atlanta skyline seen from Buckhead, Fox Theatre, Georgia State Capitol, Olympic Centennial Park, Millennium Gate, Canopy Walk, Georgia Aquarium, The Phoenix statue, and Midtown skyline from Piedmont Park

UGA Search Group
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