



My Drift

Title: Atlanta

Written By: Jerry D. Petersen

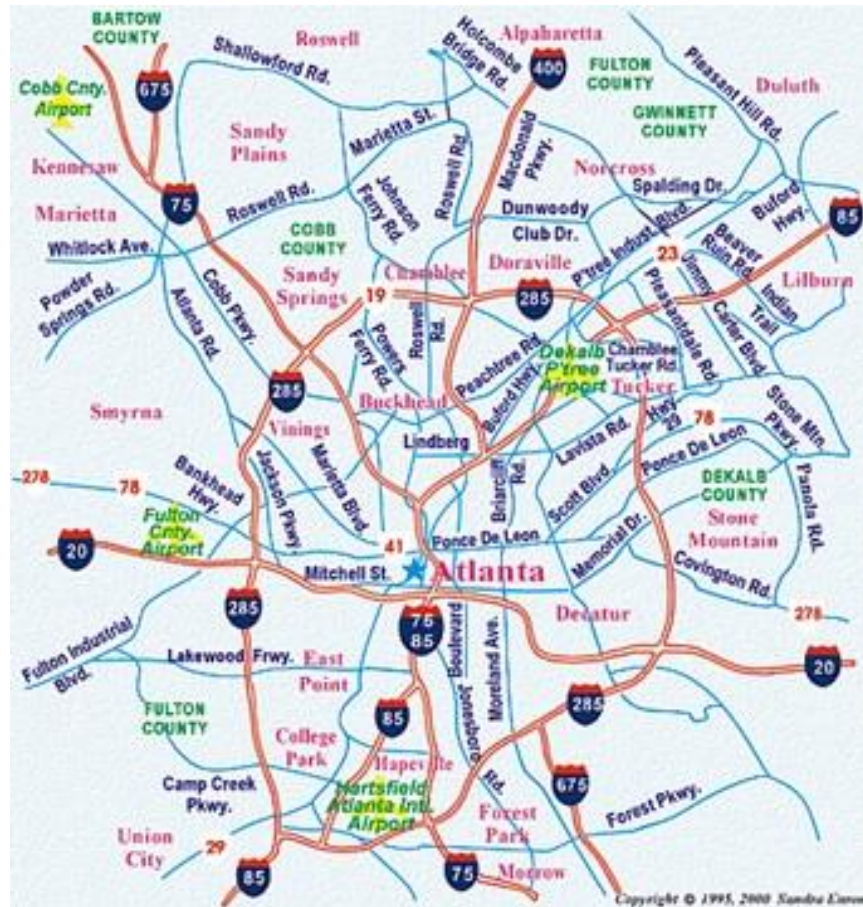
Date: 22 Aug 2024

Article Number: (468-2024-27)



Atlanta, Georgia





Metro Atlanta

Atlanta is the capital and most populous city in the state of Georgia. It is the seat of Fulton County, and a portion of the city extends into neighboring DeKalb County. With a population of 510,823 living within the city limits, Atlanta is the eighth most populous city in the Southeast and 38th most populous city in the United States according to the 2020 U.S. census. It is the principal city of the much larger Atlanta metropolitan area, the core of which includes Cobb, Clayton and Gwinnett counties, in addition to Fulton and DeKalb. Metro Atlanta is home to more than 6.3 million people (2023 estimate), making it the sixth-largest U.S. metropolitan area. Situated among the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains at an elevation of just over 1,000 feet above sea level, Atlanta features unique topography that includes rolling hills, lush greenery, and the densest urban tree coverage of any major city in the United States.

Atlanta was originally founded as the terminus of a major state-sponsored railroad, but it soon became the convergence point among several railroads, spurring its rapid growth. The largest was the Western and Atlantic Railroad,

from which the name "Atlanta" is derived, signifying the city's growing reputation as a major hub of transportation. During the American Civil War, it served a strategically important role for the Confederacy until it was captured in 1864. The city was almost entirely burned to the ground during General William T. Sherman's March to the Sea. However, the city rebounded dramatically in the post-war period and quickly became a national industrial center and the unofficial capital of the "New South". After World War II, it also became a manufacturing and technology hub. During the 1950s and 1960s, it became a major organizing center of the American Civil Rights Movement, with Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph Abernathy, and many other locals becoming prominent figures in the movement's leadership. In the modern era, Atlanta has remained a major center of transportation, with Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport becoming the world's busiest airport by passenger traffic in 1998 (a position it has held every year since, except for 2020), with an estimated 93.7 million passengers in 2022.

Some Top Atlanta Attractions



Atlanta Botanical Garden

The Atlanta Botanical Garden is a lush, urban oasis. Enjoy the views walking through the Orchid Display House or across the Canopy Walk, a 600-foot suspension bridge. Also featured are special events such as Cocktails in the Garden, the summer music series or one of Atlanta's most famed holiday lighting displays



Atlanta History Center

The Atlanta History Center is where you can watch the past come to life. Housing the largest collection of Civil War memorabilia in the Southeast, the Atlanta History Center guides you through Atlanta's fall and rise as an International City.



Centennial Olympic Park

Centennial Olympic Park, housed in the center of Atlanta's downtown convention and entertainment district, serves as Atlanta's legacy from the 1996 Olympic Games. Visit the urban green space and make a splash in the Fountain of Rings or have a picnic in the lush grass. Centennial Olympic Park is a true must-see attraction!



College Football Hall of Fame

Find your team on the Helmet Wall, punt a football to score a field goal, and view sports history from the 52-foot touch screen wall at Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame. The Hall honors its inductees while engaging fans through celebration of their favorite teams and love for the game.



Georgia Aquarium

Escape into an underwater paradise at Georgia Aquarium where you can see the world's largest fish, whale sharks, as well as belugas, dolphin, otters and more. Take a behind the scenes tour or indulge in one of the animal encounters where you can swim with the whale sharks, pet a beluga or get up close with a penguin.



High Museum of Art

Mingle with the masters at the High Museum of Art, the foremost art museum in the Southeast. The High, located in the middle of Midtown Atlanta's Arts District, features several permanent collections as well as high-profile traveling exhibits. Make the High Museum of Art a stop on your Atlanta visit!



MLK Jr. National Historical Park

Take a journey through Martin Luther King Jr.'s storied life as the leader of the Civil Rights Movement. Start with a guided tour of his birth home, then make a stop in the original Ebenezer Baptist Church and the theater where visitors can view Civil Rights films.



Stone Mountain Park

There is a reason Stone Mountain Park is the most-visited attraction in Georgia! Go hiking, biking or jogging, take in 18 holes of golf, complete the ropes course, catch a movie projected onto the mountain and enjoy the spectacular nightly laser show! Stone Mountain offers something for everyone!



World of Coca-Cola

What do you get when the world's most iconic brand builds a museum dedicated to a soft drink? Well, the World of Coca-Cola of course! Take in tons of Coca-Cola memorabilia and visit the tasting room, where guests travel the globe by sipping more than 60 varieties of Coca-Cola from around the world.



Zoo Atlanta

Lions, tigers and bears! Oh my! But if you're at Zoo Atlanta, you also get a chance to see twin giant pandas, elephants and maybe even a kangaroo! Animal lovers of all ages unite to explore the habitats of more than 1,000 animals. Zoo Atlanta is a must-see destination for the animal lover in all of us.

Underground Atlanta

Well, I have only been to Atlanta once – that was for some kind of computer conference for a week back in the early 1990s. One of the big attractions back then was the Underground Atlanta. Here is a short history:





Underground Atlanta - "The City Beneath the Streets" - is a historic arts and entertainment district in the heart of Downtown Atlanta. The buildings comprising Underground Atlanta were constructed in 1866 around the Zero-mile Post located at the property, later becoming present day Atlanta. In 1929, what would be considered street level was essentially moved one story up; stores set up shop on the second floor. Original first floors became basements (and a speakeasy here and there during Prohibition). Cobblestone streets became frozen in time and gas-lit street lamps dimmed, and the area was largely sealed off until the late 1960s, when city leaders turned the original streets and stores into a nightlife and entertainment district with bars and restaurants. For a brief shining moment, the novel approach lured revelers—Underground's best year drew 3.5 million visitors and \$17 million in sales.

However, during the 1970s people stopped going to the Underground due to increased crime, homeless people, and troublemakers. The city shut the doors in 1980 and reopened them with retail and restaurants nine years later, and now, the development waits for yet another rebirth as a mixed-use complex by Lalani Ventures, a South Carolina real-estate developer. Since its purchase in 2021, Underground Atlanta has reemerged as the center of gravity for Art, Culture and Entertainment. In 2022, Underground Atlanta hosted over 150 events including the iconic "Peach Drop" New Years celebration and hosted several music and art activations including Art of Banksy Exhibit, Atlanta Fashion Week, Atlanta United Block Party and several music concerts.

Atlanta Pro Sports



Baseball



Football



Basketball

Beautiful Scenery



Bigdrifter44@gmail.com

Bigdrifter.com