2009 Atlanta City Guide
From the Atlanta Alumni Chapter

Atlanta Elon Alumni Chapter

- Atlanta Chapter President – Josh Felix ’00, jfelix@atlantahospitalnews.com
- The Atlanta Chapter regularly posts events and news to Facebook and E². Join these groups to stay connected with what’s going on in the Atlanta area!
  - Join the Facebook Group: “Elon Atlanta Alumni Chapter”
  - Join the E² Group: “Atlanta Alumni Chapter”

Elon Alumni Association   alumnirelations@elon.edu   336-278-7500
Areas of Atlanta

Despite having a metro area population of nearly 4.1 million people, Atlanta can feel small and intimate because of the numerous smaller areas that make up the vast city. Those areas are:

- **Downtown**: Like all major cities, Atlanta has a Downtown, which contains a number of the major tourist attractions, municipal buildings and other businesses.

- **Midtown**: Just north of Downtown is Midtown, home to Piedmont Park (the Grand Central Park of Atlanta), the Fabulous Fox Theater, the Woodruff Art Center, and untold number of restaurants.

- **Buckhead**: Further north you will find Buckhead – once the heart of Atlanta’s nightlife the area has recently been re-zoned to provide for high-end shopping, eating and entertainment.

- **Other ITP Locations**: To the west of Midtown you will find the unique neighborhoods of Virginia Highlands, Little Five Points, and Decatur and to the east of Midtown you will find the “EastSide” a developing area home to Georgia Tech and a number of new restaurants. All of these neighborhoods make up what is referred to as “ITP” or “Inside the Perimeter” (i.e., inside the perimeter created by Interstate 285).

- **OTP**: There are a number of suburban communities “OTP” or “Outside the Perimeter” including Marietta, Alpharetta, Smyrna, Vinings, Chamblee, Gwinnett, and Tucker (just to name a few). If you are looking for lots of space and a long commute consider any one of these communities.

Finding an Apartment

- **Promove**: (http://www.promove.com) helps people find apartments in Atlanta. Just tell them your budget, where you want to live, and other basic information about what you are looking for (1 bedroom/2 bedroom, pet friendly, washer dryer hookups) and they provide you with a list of apartment complexes, rental rates, and availability. The best part – the service is FREE. All you have to do is tell the apartment complex that “Promove sent you.” This service is ideal if you are looking for a basic apartment in and around Atlanta.

- **Craigslist**: If you are looking for something more unique you may want to check out Craig’s list at http://atlanta.craigslist.org. Craigslist, an online network of classified ads, is a great place to find the basement apartment in Midtown or the roommate in the Highlands. It is also a GREAT place to look for used furniture for your apartment.
Unfortunately, “options” and transportation are not words used together frequently in Atlanta. Unlike New York, D.C. or Chicago, Atlanta does not have a robust public transportation system. Instead we have “MARTA.”

MARTA is made up of a north and south and east and west trains that run through the city and then a number of buses to supplement the system. As you can see, the trains are limited in their routes and the buses can be confusing. The city is attempting to do better – and there are a number of places that MARTA can take you conveniently, including the Airport, Phillips Arena, and the High Museum of Art.

If you are looking for a compute alternative to driving you may want to check-out the CleanAir Campaign at www.cleanaircampaign.com which provides monetary incentives to individuals who commit to a commute alternative.
Local Airports – Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

- An advantage to living in Atlanta is having access to Delta’s major hub – Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. You can fly direct to almost anywhere in the World from Atlanta. You will quickly become spoiled from the luxury of never having to book connecting flights again. **(Tip:** If you are looking for a credit card with a rewards program you may want to consider the Delta American Express Card that allows you to earn Delta Frequent Flyer Miles for the Dollars you spend. **Another Tip:** Always pay off your balances at the end of each month!!)

- Air Tran, a major discount carrier, also has a hub in Atlanta providing price competition for Delta and discounted flights. Unfortunately, Air Tran does not have as many check-in points as Delta, so if you are checking bags **be sure to arrive with plenty of time** to wait in line.

- If the MARTA train does ANYTHING right it is getting you to the Airport. Get on any train going South and you will be dropped off in the Airport. It’s the last stop - you can’t miss it! And at the $1.75 price (one-way) you will not find a better deal in Atlanta - especially when compared to the price of daily parking or a cab.

### Average Cost of Living

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># Bedrooms</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>3 Month % change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studio</td>
<td>$788</td>
<td>$783</td>
<td>$803</td>
<td>-1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Bed</td>
<td>$882</td>
<td>$907</td>
<td>$915</td>
<td>-3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Bed</td>
<td>$1,103</td>
<td>$1,148</td>
<td>$1,160</td>
<td>-4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Bed</td>
<td>$1,442</td>
<td>$1,506</td>
<td>$1,504</td>
<td>-4.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Atlanta is it is an affordable city (especially when compared to New York or D.C.). Like most big cities it costs more to live in-town (or “ITP”) then it does to live outside the city (“OTP”), but the cost of ITP living is not unreasonable.

Unfortunately, it is nearly impossible to survive in Atlanta without a car and no matter where you live the cost of acquiring, maintaining and insuring a car will always have to be considered in your budget.

**Tip:** If you are young and single and don’t mind giving up space you should seriously consider living ITP – which will likely keep you close to your job, the social scene and cut down on your daily fuel costs.

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1 As of April, 2008, Delta has reported it will maintain Atlanta as a major hub upon the completion of the recently proposed merger with Northwest.
Year-Round Average Temperatures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Temperature by Month (°F)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41.0</td>
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Area Attractions

**The Fabulous Fox Theater**: is one of the grand movie palaces built in the United States in the 1920s. It is located at the corner of Peachtree Street and Ponce de Leon Avenue in Midtown Atlanta. The theatre's unique origin and Moorish design sets it apart from others of the era. It currently hosts a variety of cultural and artistic events including a summer film series and performances by national touring companies of Broadway shows.

**Piedmont Park**: Piedmont Park is considered the focal point of the vibrant Midtown community of Atlanta. The park is home to various annual celebrations and events, including Atlanta Pride Festival, the Atlanta Jazz Festival and the Atlanta Dogwood Festival. A summer series of classic films, Screen on the Green, is also aired in the park for local residents.

**The Coke Museum**: The World of Coca-Cola is a permanent exhibition featuring the history of The Coca-Cola Company and its well-known advertising as well as a host of entertainment areas and attractions. It is located in Atlanta, Georgia at Pemberton Place (named in honor of John Pemberton, the inventor of Coca-Cola), a 20 acre complex located across Baker Street from Centennial Olympic Park that also includes the Georgia Aquarium. It opened to the public on May 24, 2007, replacing a 17-year-old smaller museum located a few miles away.

**The Georgia Aquarium**: The Georgia Aquarium, located in Downtown Atlanta is billed as the "world's largest aquarium" with more than 8.1 million US gallons of marine and fresh water housing more than 100,000 animals of 500 different species. The aquarium's notable specimens include four young whale sharks and beluga whales. Funded mostly by a $250 million donation from Home Depot founder Bernie Marcus, the aquarium was built on a 20 acre site north of Centennial Olympic Park in downtown Atlanta.
Sports Teams & Venue Information

- **Football** – the Atlanta Falcons, play at the Georgia Dome (also home to the SEC College Championship Game & the Chick-fil-A Bowl). [www.atlantafalcons.com](http://www.atlantafalcons.com)
- **Baseball** - the Atlanta Braves play at Turner Field located Downtown (Tip: great fireworks display when the braves play a series over the 4th of July holiday). [http://braves.mlb.com](http://braves.mlb.com)
- **Hockey** - The Atlanta Thrashers also play at Phillips Arena. [http://thrashers.nhl.com](http://thrashers.nhl.com)
- **Soccer** – The Atlanta Silverbacks. [www.atlantasilverbacks.com](http://www.atlantasilverbacks.com)

Malls / Shopping Areas
If there is one thing to do in Atlanta, we can shop! You can enjoy high-end retail or boutiques.

- Major Atlanta Malls include: Lenox Square, Phipps Plaza, and The Perimeter Mall.
- Buckhead generally is known for its high-end shopping. If you are looking for a unique boutique store check-out Virginia Highlands, Little Five Points or Decatur.

Popular Restaurants & Bars

- **Too many to mention** – A great investment for anyone moving to Atlanta would be a Zagat guide. The 2007-2008 Zagat guide features 755 restaurants – and this is just a preview of the great eats Atlanta has to offer.
- **Tip:** New arrivals to Atlanta should also go to [www.opentable.com](http://www.opentable.com) and create an account. Opentable allows users to make on-line reservations at restaurants in major U.S. cities. Users get points for every reservation they make and can eventually cash in their points for gift cards to use at participating restaurants.
**Local Area Newspapers & Websites**

Numerous resources for finding information about Atlanta including:

- **Creative Loafing** - An alternative (and very liberal) news source. Offered free at local businesses and any local coffee shop. [http://atlanta.creativeloafing.com](http://atlanta.creativeloafing.com).
- **www.kudzu.com** - Providing a searchable list of area services with user ratings and reviews.
- **AroundMidTown.com** - There are a number of blogs available including my favorite ([http://aroundmidtown.com](http://aroundmidtown.com)) reporting new, hip and exciting things in and around Midtown Atlanta.
- **Tip:** sign-up for Daily Candy – available in a number of major cities. The Atlanta version is an insider's guide to what's new and cool in Atlanta including up-and-coming fashion designers, sample sales, restaurants, and useful services. [www.dailycandy.com/atlanta](http://www.dailycandy.com/atlanta).