



Atlanta, Georgia



Atlanta, the capital of Georgia, was named in the feminine form of Atlantic because it was founded at the end of the Western & Atlantic railroad line. Atlanta was the site of the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games.

Centennial Olympic Park, which was developed for the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in downtown Atlanta, is surrounded by the World of Coca-Cola, Georgia Aquarium, CNN studios in Atlanta, and Imagine It! The Children's Museum of Atlanta. Other Atlanta attractions include the Jimmy Carter Library & Museum; Fernbank Museum of Natural History; Stone Mountain Park; the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site; the Breman Jewish Museum; Robert C. Williams Paper Museum; Atlanta History Center; Georgia Capitol Museum; the NAMES AIDS Project, site of The AIDS Memorial Quilt; the Margaret Mitchell House; and Bulloch Hall.

In addition, Atlanta offers a variety of cultural entertainment, including theater productions at The Fox Theater and Alliance Theatre, the Center for Puppetry Arts, the Atlanta Ballet, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and the Atlanta Opera.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Atlanta offers over 120 apartment, loft, and condominium options located in new and renovated buildings. In the Castleberry Hill neighborhood, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, historic warehouses have been converted into residential lofts, restaurants, pubs, art galleries, salons, and coffee shops. South of North Avenue (SoNo) is one of the downtown's earliest redeveloped residential areas and offers a mix of single-family homes, town homes, apartments, and high-rise and garden-style condominiums. In recent years, Centennial Hill has become home to new residential condominium buildings. Much of the Fairlie-Poplar area is designated as a National Register Historic District, and many of the high-rise buildings have recently been converted to condominiums and apartments or higher-education uses by Georgia State University. The Old Fourth Ward is an emerging area that is experiencing mixed-use development, including mid-rise and high-rise condominiums. One of the oldest residential areas, this neighborhood also has many single-family homes.

North of the downtown, the Midtown area is home to many cultural activities and has many high-rise condominiums as well as suburban neighborhoods built along winding roads. Further north, Buckhead is a large district that includes more than 40 distinct neighborhoods; many feature single-family residences in forested areas. Atlanta's Peachtree Road, which originates in the downtown area and runs through Buckhead, has become a major focus of high-rise construction.

Although most of Atlanta is located in Fulton County, some neighborhoods, such as East Lake, are located just inside the eastern border of the city in DeKalb County. East Lake consists of smaller, older single-family homes and was constructed originally as a recreational area to escape the city's pollution.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Atlanta has 85 parks with a variety of facilities, such as recreation centers, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, ball fields, ball courts, playgrounds, paths, trails, and tracks. Piedmont Park, the city's largest green space, has many amenities, including a new aquatic center, dog park, tennis courts, playgrounds, running track, soccer and softball fields, sand volleyball courts, fishing in Clara Meer, and picnic facilities. The Atlanta Botanical Gardens is adjacent to the park. Grant Park is the oldest surviving city park in Atlanta and is home to Zoo Atlanta; the Atlanta Cyclorama, which is a large cylindrical painting that depicts the Battle of Atlanta; picnic

facilities; historical structures; athletic fields; children's play areas; and landscaped and natural areas. Centennial Park offers the Fountain of Rings; water gardens; Quilt Plaza, which commemorates the Centennial Olympic Games; many monuments to the Olympic Games; a children's garden and playground; sheltered picnic areas; and a large amphitheater.

Atlanta has many professional sports teams, such as the Atlanta Braves (men's baseball), Atlanta Dream (women's basketball), Atlanta Hawks (men's basketball), Atlanta Thrashers (men's hockey), Atlanta Falcons (men's football), Atlanta Xplosion (women's football), Atlanta Silverbacks (men's soccer), Atlanta Silverbacks Women (women's soccer), and Atlanta Beat (women's soccer).

EDUCATION

Atlanta Public Schools educate approximately 50,000 students in 55 elementary schools, 16 middle schools, and 21 high schools. Two middle schools are single-gender schools. The high schools are being reconfigured into two models: small schools that focus on specific disciplines and small learning communities that focus on specific disciplines. In addition, the city has seven charter schools.

Atlanta has many opportunities for higher education at private and public colleges and universities, including American Intercontinental University, Brown Mackie College, Clark Atlanta University, Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, Oglethorpe University, Morehouse College, Morris Brown College, Savannah College of Art and Design Atlanta, and Spelman College. Emory University and Morehouse College have schools of medicine.

HEALTH CARE

Atlanta has almost 4,000 acute-care hospital beds spread among seven facilities. In addition, the city has three dedicated pediatric facilities with a combined 520 beds; a 100-bed geriatric hospital, which offers long-term acute care, psychiatric care, rehabilitation therapy, and medical acute care; a 132-bed facility for spinal cord and brain injuries; and additional long-term acute-care facilities. Other hospitals are located in the surrounding suburbs.

CITY STATS

2008

City Population	537,958
Metropolitan Statistical Area	5,385,586
Per Capita Personal Income, Atlanta—Sandy Springs—Marietta, GA (MSA)	\$38,336