



A GUIDE TO ATLANTA

Featuring top restaurants, sightseeing spots and walking tours. Make every moment count!

TOP 10 RESTAURANTS YOU CAN'T MISS

These selections reflect diversity in cuisine, reasonable pricing, and appearances on reputable "best of" lists like *Eater Atlanta*, *Thrillist*, *Atlanta Magazine*, and the James Beard Foundation.

Busy Bee Café | 810 Martin Luther King Jr Dr SW | [Menu](#)

An Atlanta institution since 1947, known for fried chicken, collard greens, and cornbread.

- **Cuisine type:** Southern Comfort
- **Recognitions:** Featured on *Thrillist's* "Best Restaurants in Atlanta" and honored by the James Beard Foundation as an America's Classic.

Staplehouse | 541 Edgewood Ave SE | [Menu](#)

Elegant tasting menu in a casual setting with a great cause – profits support The Giving Kitchen nonprofit.

- **Cuisine type:** Modern American.
- **Recognitions:** Named "Best New Restaurant in America" by Bon Appétit (2016); consistently appears on *Eater* and *Atlanta Magazine* top lists.

Ponce City Market Central Food Hall | 675 Ponce De Leon Ave NE | [Visit](#)

A one-stop shop for Atlanta's culinary diversity, with vendors like H&F Burger, Botiwalla (Indian street food), and El Super Pan (Latin).

- **Recognitions:** Named a must-visit by *Eater* and *Condé Nast Traveler*.

Twisted Soul Cookhouse & Pours | 1133 Huff Rd NW | [Menu](#)

Inventive takes on Southern cuisine by Chef Deborah VanTrece.

- **Cuisine type:** Contemporary
- **Recognitions:** Named one of *Thrillist's* Best Restaurants; James Beard-nominated chef.

Little Bear | 71 Georgia Ave SE | [Menu](#)

Creative small plates and playful menu themes with locally sourced ingredients.

- **Cuisine type:** Eclectic, new American.
- **Recognitions:** Featured in *Atlanta Magazine's* "Top 50 Restaurants" and *Eater Atlanta*.

El Tesoro | 1374 Arkwright Pl SE | [Menu](#)

An authentic taco haven with some of the best chilaquiles and horchata in town.

- **Cuisine type:** Mexican.
- **Recognitions:** *Eater Atlanta* "Top Restaurants" 2024; *Atlanta Journal-Constitution's* best tacos list.

Krog Street Market | 99 Krog St NE | [Menu](#)

A vibrant indoor market with food stalls representing global cuisines: dumplings, ramen, barbecue, and more.

- **Recognitions:** *Zagat's* and *Eater* top food hall destination.

Heirloom Market BBQ | 2243 Akers Mill Rd SE | [Menu](#)

Combines Korean flavors with classic Georgia barbecue – totally unique to Atlanta.

- **Cuisine type:** Korean-southern fusion
- **Recognitions:** *Thrillist*, *Southern Living*, and *Food Network* picks for top BBQ.

Ticonderoga Club | 99 Krog St NE (Inside Krog Street Market) | [Menu](#)

Hidden gem in Krog Street Market with coastal vibes and creative dishes.

- **Cuisine type:** Seafood and cocktails.
- **Recognitions:** *Bon Appétit* and *Eater* top restaurant picks.

Mary Mac's Tea Room | 224 Ponce De Leon Ave NE | [Menu](#)

A traditional meat-and-three experience and a crash course in Southern cuisine and hospitality.

- **Cuisine type:** Classic Southern dining.
- **Recognitions:** Atlanta legacy restaurant, frequently mentioned in *Southern Living* and *Eater*.

LUNA LUNA: FORGOTTEN FANTASY

The world's first art amusement park opens this Fall!

Pullman Yard | **225 Rogers Street NE** | **Tickets**

The most fantastical fairground the world has ever known, a spectacular showcase you must see to believe.

TOP 10 TOURIST SITES - PERFECT FOR DOWNTIME SIGHTSEEING

These spots highlight Atlanta's history, culture, and charm.

National Center for Civil and Human Rights | **100 Ivan Allen Jr Blvd NW**

Exhibits tracing the civil rights movement and global human rights struggles.

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park | **450 Auburn Ave NE**

Includes MLK's birth home, Ebenezer Baptist Church, and his resting place.

World of Coca-Cola | **121 Baker St NW**

Celebrate Atlanta's most famous export. Explore Coca-Cola history, memorabilia, and tasting stations with beverages from around the globe.

College Football Hall of Fame | **250 Marietta St NW**

A must for sports fans—interactive exhibits, a 45-yard indoor field, and tributes to legendary players and coaches.

Georgia Aquarium | **225 Baker St NW**

One of the world's largest aquariums, featuring whale sharks and manta rays (and the location for the INFORMS Annual Meeting General Reception).

High Museum of Art | **1280 Peachtree St NE**

Striking architecture and exhibitions from global artists to regional Southern talent.

Oakland Cemetery | **248 Oakland Ave SE**

A historic and beautiful Victorian-era cemetery where notable Atlantans rest.

- **Fun Fact:** Offers guided twilight and ghost tours in October.

Trap Music Museum | **630 Travis St NW**

Created by rapper T.I., this interactive space celebrates Atlanta's influence on hip-hop.

Atlanta History Center & Swan House | 130 West Paces Ferry Rd NW

Learn Atlanta's story, from the Civil War to Coca-Cola and the 1996 Olympics.

- Bonus: Swan House is a "Hunger Games" filming site.

Fernbank Museum of Natural History | 767 Clifton Rd

Giant dinosaurs, a walk-through old-growth forest, and interactive science exhibits.

WALKING TOUR 1: HISTORIC ATLANTA + CIVIL RIGHTS LEGACY TOUR

Civil Rights, Atlanta's Role in U.S. History.

Start Point: King Memorial MARTA Station or Auburn Avenue

Estimated Time: 2.5–3 hours

Stops

1. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park – Start at the visitor center, then visit:
 - MLK's birth home.
 - Ebenezer Baptist Church.
 - Reflecting pool and tomb of MLK & Coretta Scott King.
2. Sweet Auburn Curb Market – Grab a snack or lunch (try Miss D's Pralines or AfroDish).
3. Atlanta Daily World Building + John Wesley Dobbs Plaza – Learn about Black journalism and civic leadership.
4. Jackson Street Bridge – One of the most iconic skyline views of downtown Atlanta.

Optional Stop

Auburn Avenue Research Library – Civil rights archives and exhibitions.

Pro Tip

Guided tours of the King site are free, but timed entry is required for MLK's birth home.

WALKING TOUR 2: BELTLINE + PONCE ADVENTURE

Modern Atlanta, Public Art, Food Halls.

Start Point: Ponce City Market | Estimated Time: 2–2.5 hours

Main Stops

1. Ponce City Market – Coffee or lunch at Central Food Hall (El Super Pan or H&F Burger).
2. BeltLine Eastside Trail – Head south along the trail. Admire dozens of public art installations and murals.
3. Krog Street Tunnel – Famous for its ever-changing graffiti and art; it is a living canvas.
4. Krog Street Market – Small but excellent food stalls and local vendors.

Optional Detour

Walk 10 minutes to the Historic Fourth Ward Park, a beautifully landscaped urban green space with a water feature.

Pro Tip

Rent a scooter or bike if you'd like to extend your exploration farther down the BeltLine.

WALKING TOUR 3: MIDTOWN CULTURE + ARCHITECTURE WALK

Art, Culture, Architecture, Green Spaces.

Start Point: Arts Center MARTA Station | Estimated Time: 1.5–2 hours

Stops

1. High Museum of Art – World-class collection and beautiful Renzo Piano architecture.
2. Atlanta Symphony Hall (optional) – Check for daytime rehearsals or concerts.
3. Woodruff Arts Center Plaza – Open-air sculptures and good people-watching.
4. Peachtree Street Stroll – Walk south toward Margaret Mitchell House (author of *Gone with the Wind*).
5. Piedmont Park (10 min. east) – End with a stroll through the park with skyline views. Grab a drink at Park Tavern on the edge of the park.

Pro Tip

If time allows, explore Colony Square, a revamped plaza with restaurants and outdoor seating.

HOP-ON HOP-OFF BUS TOURS: CITY SIGHTSEEING ATLANTA

These bus tours are a terrific and accessible way to visit and explore Atlanta highlights.

- Tickets can frequently be purchased online in advance from a variety of touring companies.

Why It's Great for Attendees

- Covers many of your Top 10 Tourist Sites in one day.
- Lets you choose where to linger — perfect for fitting sightseeing between conference sessions.
- Live narrated tours give context and fun facts about Atlanta's history, culture, and neighborhoods.

Popular Stops on the Route

1. World of Coca-Cola – Explore the history of Coca-Cola and taste beverages from around the world.
2. Georgia Aquarium – One of the world's largest aquariums, home to whale sharks and manta rays.
3. College Football Hall of Fame – Interactive exhibits and sports history fun for all ages.
4. National Center for Civil and Human Rights – Civil rights history and modern human rights stories.
5. Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park – Birth home, Ebenezer Baptist Church, and memorial site.
6. CNN Center – Inside look at a global news network (self-guided experiences currently available).
7. Centennial Olympic Park – Created for the 1996 Olympics, now a beautiful green space.
8. Midtown Arts District – High Museum of Art, Woodruff Arts Center, and cultural attractions.

Pro Tip

Start early in the day to make the most of your ticket — or use the tour as a relaxed way to see the city in the evening after a full day at the conference.