



**Plan a Backyard Vacation to Atlanta and Save**  
*Hotels and Attractions offer discounts to metro Atlantans*

**ATLANTA (June 24, 2009)** – This year 58 percent of people who normally take vacations away from home will shrink their vacation spending, according to a recent USA Today/Gallup Poll. Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau (ACVB) has created vacation packages for Georgia residents to stretch their vacation dollar and create memorable experiences close to home.

Hotel packages on Atlanta.net offer reduced rates and discounted admission to the city's top attractions. Whether it's unwinding in a private cabana outside the W-Atlanta Buckhead's glamorous heated outdoor pool, taking a breathtaking 50-story elevator ride to the top of the iconic Atlanta Marriott Marquis, or ordering room service and watching a Dive-in movie at the Grand Hyatt Buckhead, visitors will find fun, family-inspired vacations on ACVB's Web site.

"As people are reevaluating plans for a summer vacation, there is no better time for metro Atlantans to get out and explore the new and exciting hotels, attractions, restaurants and exhibitions right in their own backyard," said William Pate, president and CEO of ACVB.

From July 8 through Aug. 5, residents of Atlanta's 28 metro counties are encouraged to submit photos or videos that depict their favorite Atlanta pastimes. The week of Aug. 5, a panel of judges will select three semi-finalists from different metro Atlanta counties. The semi-finalists video or photograph entry will be displayed online at 11Alive.com and on Atlanta & Company Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to Noon. The week of Aug. 6, the public will be invited to vote on the winning entry at 11Alive.com.

The semi-finalist with the most online votes will have the unique opportunity to appear as a guest on WXIA-TV's Atlanta & Company to share how he/she ATL'd. The grand prize winner will also receive a Backyard Vacation trip package to Atlanta which includes a two-night stay at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in downtown Atlanta, four CityPass booklets for front-of-the-line access to six of the city's top attractions, and a \$100 gift certificate to New York Prime in Buckhead.

For more information about the contest, visit Atlanta.net and click the *How do You ATL?* icon on the center of the homepage. Also on the [page](#), play the *How do You ATL?* game to design a personalized, interactive picture of Atlanta based on your unique style and preferences, and turn your custom getaway into a reality by exploring the exclusive backyard vacation offers that pique your interest.

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For more information, please contact ACVB Public Relations:

Lauren Jarrell  
Director  
404.521.6649  
[ljjarrell@atlanta.net](mailto:ljjarrell@atlanta.net)

Sarah Solomon  
Specialist  
404.521.6645  
[ssolomon@atlanta.net](mailto:ssolomon@atlanta.net)

Suzanne Forte  
Specialist  
404.521.6632  
[sforte@atlanta.net](mailto:sforte@atlanta.net)

Amanda Latson  
Coordinator  
404.521.6398  
[alatson@atlanta.net](mailto:alatson@atlanta.net)