



## **Celebrate Freedom this Fourth of July in Atlanta**

ATLANTA (June 21, 2002) – Atlanta’s sky will light up this July Fourth. With several locations and additional activities, concerts and exhibits to choose from, there’s something for everyone sparking up around the city.

On Wednesday, July 3, **Chastain Park Amphitheatre** presents a Stars & Stripes Spectacular with special guest, New York City Police Officer Daniel Rodriguez in concert with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra at 8:30 p.m. Hailed as “America’s Tenor” for his moving performances at New York memorial services after September 11, Rodriguez joins the celebration for a special salute to our country. Located in Buckhead, Chastain Park Amphitheatre permits outside picnics, providing the ultimate dining experience in a unique gathering place under the stars.

For a traditional Fourth of July in Atlanta, look no further than Lenox Square. Festivities begin at the sound of the starting gun at 7:30 a.m. for the **Peachtree Road Race**. In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year, the race is the largest 10K in the world with 55,000 runners, from world-class competitors to amateurs competing in their first road race. Return that evening for the 43 year-old **4<sup>th</sup> of July at Lenox Square** fireworks extravaganza. Lenox Square will light up Atlanta with the largest fireworks show in the Southeast, including a unique, patriotic laser and video show. Entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m. in front of Lenox Square’s main entrance on Peachtree Road and the fireworks begin at 9:40 p.m.

The celebration begins early downtown with the annual **WSB Salute 2 America Parade**. Beginning in Centennial Olympic Park and traveling down Peachtree Street, this year’s grand marshal will be Daniel Rodriguez. Afterwards, head to **Centennial Olympic Park** for a family day full of patriotic entertainment at “July Fourth in the Park.” Activities begin at 3:00 p.m. and include a children’s area with interactive arts and crafts and musical and dance performances throughout the day. Grammy-award winning artist The Charlie Daniels Band will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. and the festivities will conclude with a spectacular fireworks show at 9:30 p.m.

**Stone Mountain Park** celebrates independence with its “Fantastic Fourth Celebration,” an exciting four-day salute to America. During the day, enjoy Georgia’s most popular attraction featuring a variety of scenic, historic, recreational and leisure activities for the whole family. Afterwards, pack a picnic and relax on the lawn while the mountain is transformed into a natural amphitheater for the Lasershow Spectacular. Beginning at 9:30 p.m., the show features a dazzling display of neon laser lights with characters and stories choreographed to popular music, ending with fireworks and a liquid flame cannon.

Cool off in the waters of **Lake Lanier Islands** this holiday at the “Light Up The Sky July 4 Celebration.” The daylong celebration will feature a water ski and wakeboard stunt show, a live concert and the Beach & Waterpark’s fireworks show.

Celebrate American independence at a French chateau in the North Georgia foothills at **Château Élan**. Sit on the Château’s lawn for spectacular fireworks on Thursday at dusk. To make the most of the holiday weekend, stay three nights at the Château with a special holiday hotel package including a private poolside party, listening to calypso music and breakfast for two each morning.

Only a few minutes north on I-75 is **Marietta Square** where a celebration of “The Fourth in the Park” kicks off with a parade through the streets of this charming suburban city. Families can enjoy musical acts throughout the day and fireworks begin right over the square after dark.

Add a few sparks to the day at the second annual **Mall of Georgia’s Fabulous Fourth**. Mall of Georgia will light up Gwinnett with a festivity-filled day beginning at 11:00 a.m. including free concerts throughout the day at the Pepsi Pavilion, children’s activities and a fireworks finale at 9:30 p.m.

Looking for a bang for your buck over the holiday weekend? Head to the **North Georgia Premium Outlets** for their annual July 4 Summer Sale, complete with live musical entertainment. Deuces Wild, a popular five-piece southern rock and country band, will play all the favorites on Thursday, July 4 in the Clock Court from 2-5 p.m. On Friday, June 5, enjoy live entertainment and a DJ provided by Bose in the Clock Court from 1-4 p.m. The Summer Sale, being held at the center July 4-7, will feature savings of up to 70 percent off retail prices at such stores as Off 5th – Saks Fifth Avenue Outlet, William-Sonoma Company Marketplace, Hugo Boss, Escada, Lenox Factory Outlet, Mikasa and many more.

For those looking to celebrate the history of our freedom this year, Atlanta has plenty to offer. Also at Lenox Square, this year’s celebration will pay tribute to freedom and the American spirit with a special interactive photographic exhibit “**Ordinary Heroes**,” honoring recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Through July 5, the **Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum** will display “Freedom’s Journey: The Declaration of Independence and Beyond.” The exhibit showcases an original copy of the Declaration of Independence, explains how the Declaration was developed and lets visitors experience the road to freedom with rare documents and artifacts from the Colonial era.

For a bird’s eye view head to **Nikolai’s Roof** atop the Atlanta Hilton hotel on July 4. Enjoy a four or five-course prix-fixe dinner menu while watching the fireworks shows from Lenox Square and Stone Mountain light up the sky.

Whether its Atlanta tradition, U.S. history, or a great holiday getaway, there is something for everyone celebrating freedom this Fourth of July in Atlanta. For more information about these and other great events, visit [www.atlanta.net](http://www.atlanta.net).

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