



Don't Let Summer Days Slip Away

ATLANTA –Savor the summer days before they melt away. Atlanta is a great destination for families looking to take a last minute vacation. Check out www.atlanta.net for information on themed summer packages for a fantastic city getaway starting at only \$54 per person. In addition to exciting attractions, there are many special events and festivals abound at parks and other popular venues to help you relish the rest of summer.

Nothing fits into a vacation budget better than free events. **Centennial Olympic Park** has a variety of special events planned for all ages and at a great price - free. The Wednesday Wind Down is each Wednesday evening from 5:30-8 p.m., now through September, and features everything from jazz to reggae. Fourth Saturday Family Fun Days are held on the fourth Saturday of each month, through September, from noon-4 p.m. Each Fun Day has a different theme aiming to create a day of interaction, entertainment and education; activities include street performers, specialty displays, demonstrations, shows and more.

On the Bricks annual summer concert series, sponsored by Star 94, brings chart-topping artists downtown each Friday night to Centennial Park. Running every Friday until August 22 from 6-10 p.m., tickets are only \$3. Acts still to come include Nickel Creek, Tonic, Goo Goo Dolls, Liz Phair and George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic.

Cinema lovers will enjoy an Atlanta tradition at the annual **Coca-Cola Summer Film Festival** at Atlanta's fabulous Fox Theatre. Running through Aug. 19, enjoy classics and current blockbuster hits at Atlanta's extravagant Moorish-architectural theater. Titles for this year's festival include Oscar-winning "Chicago," "Lawrence of Arabia," "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers," and "This Wizard of Oz." Reserved tickets are available for \$10, while \$7 tickets go on sale one hour prior to show time.

Get moo-ving around town and check-out **Cow Parade Atlanta**. The world's largest public art display features 150 decorated fiberglass cows. These cows will graze throughout the Atlanta area until September 26.

For an insider's look at Atlanta's history and the people who led the city to prominence as the capital of the New South, take a walking tour of Atlanta neighborhoods and historic sites offered by the **Atlanta Preservation Center**. Guides provide an informative look into the history of the city through tours of The Fox Theatre, Sweet Auburn/Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District, historic Downtown and Druid Hills, the well-known neighborhood featured in the popular movie *Driving Miss Daisy*.

Commemorate the 40th anniversary of Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. The MLK Center hosts an event on Aug. 28, which begins in Woodruff Park at 11 a.m. At noon participants will march to the historic site, where at 1 p.m. there will be a rally, featuring civil and human rights leaders.

Culture seekers will find a bang for their buck at the **Atlanta Botanical Garden's** "Cocktails in the Garden." On the last Wednesday of every month from 7-9 p.m. the Garden offers a special cocktail paired with a featured flower or plant of the season to highlight different, unique locations within garden grounds. From Dogwoods and Daiquiris and Magnolias and Manhattans to Roses and Rubies, guest bartenders from the city's top bars and restaurants will be on hand to serve up the libations while the garden brings the theme to life via entertainment, decoration and light hors d'oeuvres. Enjoy the sounds of singer Shawn Colvin when she performs at the final "Concerts in the Garden." The garden's intimate setting will provide a unique atmosphere for the show, which begins at 7 p.m. on Aug 13.

For visitors and locals alike, come downtown to enjoy Atlanta cuisine during **Downtown Restaurant Week**, August 4-10. More than 30 downtown restaurants have come together to launch this six-day dinner promotion. Fine dining restaurants will offer a three-course (appetizer, entrée and dessert) meal for \$20.03, excluding tax and tip, and casual dining will offer two three-course meals for the same price, excluding tax and tip. For a menu visit: http://www.atlantadowntown.com/HavingFun_RestaurantWeekMenus.asp.

Go to **Stone Mountain Park** to catch the Last Blast of Summer Concert on Sunday, Aug. 31. The show features Marty Stuart and Merle Haggard and begins at 5:30 p.m. The new 20th Anniversary Lasershow Spectacular at 9:30 p.m. will follow the concert. Both are free with park admission.

Roll over to **Six Flags Over Georgia** and add thrills to the dog days of summer. Soar on Superman-Ultimate Flight ride, or play in Bugs Bunny World. Weekends Aug. 30- Sept. 14, join in Six Flag's "Country Star Jamboree." Scheduled performers include SHedaisy, John Montgomery and Neal McCoy. With a variety of rides and entertainment, squeezing in a day at Six Flags will please the whole family.

End summer on a high note with **Callaway Garden's** 5th annual "Sky High Hot Air Balloon Festival." During Labor Day weekend, Callaway offers a variety of activities celebrating the fun of hot air balloons. The festivities begin Friday night with a barbeque and a balloon glow, when the balloons are inflated and neighboring Robin Lake reflects their colors. On Saturday and Sunday the balloon launch happens at 7:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. The day will also include fun activities such as children's games, tethered balloon rides, a classic car show and live music. Spend the weekend at Callaway's Mountain Creek Inn with special packages starting at \$159.

For other great deals, head north of the city and visit the **North Georgia Premium Outlets**, which offers the best of both worlds – shopping and golf all summer long, with their "Shop, Stay and Play" packages. North Georgia Premium Outlets feature more than

140 stores showcasing leading designers and manufactures and offering savings of 25 to 65 percent everyday. After shopping for new fashions, enjoy one of the nearby golf courses at Gold Creek Resort and Golf Course and Birch River. It will be a relaxing and enjoyable weekend excursion for everyone.

For sports fans, Atlanta heats up the summer with the **Atlanta Braves** baseball at Turner Field, **Atlanta Beat** women's soccer at Herndon Stadium.

By far, Atlanta has something for everyone whether it's golfing and shopping or arts and culture. Visitors and locals are sure to soak up the final sunny days by enjoying the variety and splendor that Atlanta has to offer. For more information on these and other end of summer events in Atlanta, visit www.atlanta.net.

Established in 1913, the ACVB is a private, nonprofit organization created exclusively to market metro Atlanta and Georgia as premier conventions, meetings and leisure destinations in the regional, national and international marketplace and to favorably impact the Atlanta economy through conventions and tourism.

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