



## Atlanta's Neighborhoods

Just beyond the striking skyline and bright lights of Atlanta lie the city's neighborhoods. These destinations represent Atlanta's history, and summon visitors to experience the many unique areas that create the landscape of this city.

**Ansley Park** is about three miles from downtown, just off Peachtree Street at 15<sup>th</sup> Street, and was home to *Gone with the Wind* author Margaret Mitchell most of her life. Atlanta's first driving suburb began in 1904 and has always been one of Atlanta's premier residential areas. Large, beautifully renovated homes of early American heritage are surrounded by majestic trees and several forest parks in this National Historic District.

Just east of Ansley Park is **Virginia-Highland**, known because of its location at the intersection of Virginia and North Highland avenues. Developed in the early 1900s, Virginia-Highland's 60-to 80-year-old homes are interspersed with seven shopping villages with one-of-a-kind restaurants, pubs and retail stores.

**Little Five Points**, Atlanta's most bohemian district, is home to independently owned boutiques and is the best place in town for kitschy, vintage clothes, vinyl records or a new tattoo. Located along the boundary between Inman Park and Virginia-Highland, Little Five Points features pubs and bars that include the Star Community Bar with its shrine to Elvis, and many casual dining destinations that pair well for a night out before going to 7 Stages Theatre, Horizon Theatre, or Variety Playhouse.

West of Little Five Points is **Inman Park**, Atlanta's first planned suburb and a nationally celebrated example of historic preservation. Built in 1889, the neighborhood originally provided residents transportation downtown via trolley. Inman Park was once the home of prominent figures including Asa Candler and Ernest Woodruff, both of The Coca-Cola Company. During the mid-1900s, the area was abandoned but in the early 1970s, Inman Park became a center of restoration once again. Inman Park is now one of Atlanta's most prestigious neighborhoods with shady trees and authentic Victorian-period architecture, complete with gazebos and scalloped awnings.

One notable neighborhood located in southwest Atlanta is **West End**. West End is actually older than the city of Atlanta itself. Settled in 1835, West End was established 10 years before the city of Terminus became Atlanta. The most notable of the restored Queen Anne- and Victorian-style houses built in West End during the 1860s and 1870s is the **Wren's Nest**, once home to author Joel Chandler Harris, famous for his Uncle Remus tales.

East of Atlanta is **Grant Park**, built from 1895 to 1915. The actual 100-acre park was a gift to the city from Colonel L.P. Grant, and the neighborhood avoided destruction during the Civil War's burning of Atlanta, and you can still see Confederate fortifications in the park. Like Inman Park, Grant Park became a center for restoration in the mid-1970s. The neighborhood houses Zoo Atlanta and the Atlanta Cyclorama.

West of Inman Park is Atlanta's **Sweet Auburn** district. This area was the center of African-American commerce at the turn of the century. The neighborhood's Auburn Avenue was

once hailed as the richest black street in America. Today, Auburn Avenue features the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, the Martin Luther King National Park Service Visitors Center, King's birth home, his and his wife's Coretta Scott King's tombs, and Ebenezer Baptist Church, where he and his father preached.

One of Atlanta's most prominent neighborhoods, **Buckhead** is located north of Midtown and Downtown. Known as the "Beverly Hills of the East," this neighborhood is comprised of many high-rises and mansions from the 1950s and 1960s. West Paces Ferry Road in Buckhead is the location of the Governor's Mansion and the Atlanta History Center. Buckhead also features some of the city's most popular upscale restaurants.

**Downtown** is Atlanta's newest neighborhood. The William Oliver Building and the Metropolitan Building, once prestigious office buildings, have been converted into loft apartments, as has the former Muses department store. In addition, a number of small commercial buildings have been converted to loft space, art galleries and shops. Friendly, helpful Downtown Ambassadors patrol the streets offering security and assistance for visitors and residents.

**Midtown** offers a blend of dining, cultural attractions and nightlife in an urban setting with comfort of an increasingly residential area. Known as the heart of the arts in Atlanta, Midtown houses the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Piedmont Park, the Woodruff Arts Center, the Fox Theater, bungalows, skyscrapers, restaurants and churches.

Walking tours are available of many of these neighborhoods through the [Atlanta Preservation Center](#).

Established in 1913, ACVB is a private, nonprofit organization created to favorably impact the Atlanta economy through conventions and tourism. [www.atlanta.net](http://www.atlanta.net)

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