



## **Alive After 5 Nightlife and Entertainment Guide to Atlanta**

When five o'clock rolls around, Atlanta nightlife heats up with world-class night clubs, concerts, comedy shows, lounges and more. Whether you're in the mood for Virginia-Highland's laid-back vibe, chic style in Buckhead or a trendy, cosmopolitan scene in Midtown, Atlanta nightlife suits every style of letting loose.

### **Lounges and Dancing**

#### **Buckhead:**

Along with a diverse martini selection, [Beluga Martini Bar](#) invites classy clientele to enjoy the days of the Rat Pack with its baby grand piano and live jazz most nights of the week beginning at 10:30 p.m.

[Sanctuary](#) is the Latin music dance club that appeals to both young and old wishing to spin about on the dance floor. Plush couches surround this dance club's floor for great people-watching and a respite from moving to the DJ's beats. Complimentary salsa classes are offered every Friday from 9-10 p.m.

[The Blackbear Tavern](#) is a friendly, casual bar in south Buckhead that has a full menu, wine tastings, live music and trivia nights and plays host to various dart leagues.

Located in Lindbergh City Center off Piedmont Road, [Tongue & Groove](#) caters to an upscale crowd that enjoys fashion, music, art and nightlife. Mondays feature a sophisticated hip hop and R&B night, Wednesdays continue the club's 13-year tradition of the hottest Latin Night in town, and Thursdays are dedicated to the locals who run food, beverage and nightlife in the city. On the weekends, DJs program a Top 100 music soundtrack.

Rande Gerber and the Gerber Group bring their trademark design, fashionable clientele and signature cocktails to W Atlanta-Buckhead's [Whiskey Blue](#) rooftop bar destination. Whether star-gazing with a few friends or listening to the hottest beats from the DJ, sky is truly the limit at Atlanta's second Whiskey venue.

#### **Downtown:**

[DRINKSHOP](#), which is located inside the W Atlanta-Downtown, features classic Southern cocktails using brown spirits and local fruit. Developed by cocktail wiz Sasha Petraske, the city's first-ever haute-cocktail beverage program is complete with a fruit juicing, vegetable extracting, and ice cutting station visible behind the bar. Start early, chic and relaxed, and move on to eclectic DJ spins and talk-of-the-town trendy later.

Underground Atlanta features six historic blocks in the heart of Atlanta. Its nightclub district, [Kenny's Alley](#), is a favorite with its late-night hours and easy access to MARTA. Bars located in Kenny's Alley include [Motion](#), [Jamaica Jamaica](#), [Irish Bred Pub](#), [Sugarhill](#), [Gold Bar & Restaurant](#), [Banana Wind](#), [House Nightclub](#) and [Frequency](#).

[M Bar at Castleberry Hill](#) is a boutique lounge with some of the latest innovations in technology. The music at M Bar varies with DJs spinning hip hop, jazz, R&B, multi-cultural, and more.

[Pulse](#) is the new iconic symbol of Atlanta Marriott Marquis, as its 50-foot-tall sail projects a daily color-changing light show inside the interior of the contemporary-designed atrium hotel. Stop by throughout the day to enjoy noshes like the shrimp shooters, salmon crisps or lump crab dip. At 6:00

p.m., Pulse's audible heartbeat will alert the entire hotel to welcome the beginning of an eight-hour social hour as Pulse transforms into a vibrant lounge.

In the long-established Fairlie-Poplar area of Atlanta, unwind at [The Mark](#), a chic ultra-lounge where well-known entertainers hold their after-parties for hot concerts downtown. Enjoy disco, funk and dance music in this urban lounge with indoor waterfalls and interactive plasma televisions.

After hours at [Thrive](#) shifts from a gourmet restaurant to a hip lounge spot. Your experience will be complete with Thrive's late night sushi bar. Enjoy live music and half priced sushi rolls during Jazz Sundays, every Sunday from 6-10 p.m.

Hip, honky-tonk, urban and imaginative, [TWO. urban licks](#) has a lush, open-air garden alight with sparkling fountains. Beyond the bar is a massive wine wall housing 42 barrels of wine produced exclusively for the restaurant.

Part restaurant, part bar and part lounge, [255 Tapas Lounge](#) in Castleberry Hill offers an inviting and casual dining experience while specializing in small plate items and gourmet mini burgers.

Be your own bartender at [STATS](#), a sports bar that features four high-top "beer" tables with personal beer taps. Or, find your favorite beer, cocktails and wine at one of five bars while enjoying your favorite sporting event on one of the 70 high-definition television.

[Utopia: Martinis and Tapas Lounge](#) is a trendy tapas lounge specializing in sushi, cocktails and specialty entrees. Monday through Friday from 5-8 p.m., enjoy a selection of specialty prepared tapas and refreshing martinis prices at only \$5 each. On Friday and Saturday nights, the lounge features a live DJ and the party doesn't stop until 3 a.m.

#### **Midtown:**

[Bazaar](#) is a chic, European Midtown lounge. It has two floors that include an eccentric living room with vintage sofas, flowing drapes, international art and candlelit tables, and a loft with tiny nooks and sexy sounds.

[Beleza](#) features Brazilian inspired cocktails made with local and exotic fruit juices and sweetened with agave nectar.

Fashioned from a series of separate structures and linked by a minimalist courtyard that surrounds a reflecting pool, [Compound](#) is an Atlanta hotspot comprised of several venues. Relax amid artwork and DJ-spun tunes in the lounge or unwind in the expansive dance club whose music and visuals envelop patrons in a sensory interplay of light and sound. Throughout the week, different nights focus on dance, international, and Asian music. ***The club is closed for renovations and will re-open in spring 2009.***

Dress to impress at [Cosmopolitan/Lava Lounge](#), boasting an impressive three levels, five bars, VIP accommodations and the hottest DJs in the city. Sip tasty libations while mingling on the "tropical deck" nestled in the Midtown skyline or dance the night away with world-class DJs spinning the latest Top 40, 80's, Funk and Hip-Hop.

Located under the historic Biltmore, [Halo](#) is one of the best laid-back lounges for socializing, mid-tempo music and classic cocktails. Five dollar covered and secured parking is available on Cypress Street.

Let the ambiance wash over you as you step into [Leopard Lounge](#), a romantically historic site complete with polished hardwood floors, stone fireplaces, plush couches and exquisite, original oil paintings on every wall. Enjoy the mood here, or make your way down the leopard covered stairway to "The Den of Sin" where the groove is louder and sexier or mingle with friends on the veranda while enjoying the gorgeous Midtown skyline.

[Loca Luna](#) is your one stop shop for dining on tasty tapas with Spanish, South American and Caribbean influences; drinking tropical drinks; and dancing the night away to Samba, Salsa, and Merengue. There is always plenty of free parking with complimentary valet available.

Once known as the funky eleven50 nightclub, which opened in 2000 and closed six years later; the new and improved [Opera](#) boasts more than \$2 million in renovations, including elegant chandeliers, VIP booths that resemble opera boxes, a multilevel dance floor, and a 20-foot waterfall in the adjoining Cabana outdoor space.

[Shout](#) attracts sexy singles to its 18,000-square-foot space, which houses a sushi lounge, intimate dining areas and several bars. Sip fruity cocktails from the rooftop lounge complete with private cabanas, a dance floor featuring a live DJ Wednesday through Saturday.

[Steamhouse Lounge](#) is a popular spot for those seeking a relaxing time under the shade of a 100-year-old oak tree on a large outdoor patio. This lounge's menu features oysters and the atmosphere has a New Orleans style. Steamhouse is also lively for a casual cocktail social mixer.

[Sutra Lounge](#) was voted one of the Top 100 nightclubs in the United States by Restaurant and Nightclub magazine. Sutra recently underwent a complete remodel and features deep red and gold curtains, warm ambient lighting, custom woodwork and an amazing outdoor patio. Relax, mingle and dance while enjoying nightly DJs and a VIP lounge in a sophisticated, stylish and seductive environment.

With dramatic, oversized chandeliers inside and a rich botanical ambience on its outdoor terrace, [Whiskey Park at W-Midtown](#) infuses a touch of rock & roll with lots of glam and a dose of allure. Where the fashionable elite mingle with avant-garde hipsters over delectable signature cocktails against a backdrop of cutting-edge interiors, this haute spot is Hotlanta's go-to scene to be seen.

[404 Lounge's](#) tag line, "Where Sophistication Meets Spice," directly reflects the spicy and flavorful Caribbean and Latin -influenced cuisine with a warm Miami-themed ambience. The delectable menu boasts a bold array of island fare including the house favorites, Sugar Cane Shrimp, Lamb Kabobs, Fish Tacos, and Sweet Plantain Crusted Grouper.

### **Casual bars in Atlanta**

#### **Buckhead:**

Those in the mood for a martini and outdoor music stop by the [Tavern at Phipps](#). Tasty favorites are the Tavern's steak and barbeque along with the Tavern Chips and dip.

An international and Gaelic crowd is attracted to the [Fado Irish Pub](#) for some of the best Irish fare in town with eclectic Irish memorabilia on the walls. The pub's specialty is "boxty," an Irish rolled potato pancake stuffed with a choice of seafood, Cajun meats, steak or veggies.

[East Andrews Neighborhood Bar](#) has a semi-sports bar, semi-casual café appeal with great blue-plate specials. Its diverse menu offerings vary from mashed potatoes in 13 different styles and filet mignon with Georgia Vidalia onion rings and garlic butter.

From its opening in 1946, **The Pool Hall** is still one of Buckhead's best and oldest bars known to many of the locals as the best dive in town. Salty peanuts are available around the bar with shells thrown on the ground. This cheap beer hangout also allows its patrons to write with colored chalk on its walls.

Almost as vintage as Pool Hall and not far from it is [Five Paces Inn](#) which opened in 1955. This bar attracts those from the local business crowd to unwind at this happening bar scene after work.

[Churchills English Pub](#) attracts both the after-work crowd and the nighttime party crowd. The pub's fireplace has seats for guests to sit while enjoying cider, and pool tables and darts keep this cozy pub a local favorite.

[Treehouse Pub](#) is known for its tropical feel, Miami style, and great people-watching on its patio. An intimate fireplace sets the mood inside where a diverse list of microbrews and martinis can be enjoyed. Lobster specials are also a treat on Mondays and Tuesdays when in season.

*Midtown:*

At [Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant](#), celebrate with international flavors and unique dishes complimented by authentic German-style lagers brewed on premises.

[Joe's on Juniper](#) features 32 beers on tap, more than 132 bottled beers from around the world, 35 single malt scotches, as well as cocktails and martinis. Joe's has a patio and great sunset city views.

Relax on the largest patio in Midtown at [Park Tavern](#), bordering Piedmont Park. This popular spot offers hand-crafted beers, \$1 pints when it rains, and has live music events to keep the party going.

[Blake's on the Park](#) serves up gay southern hospitality like no other. Enjoy two levels of food, DJs, and drag shows. Located on 10<sup>th</sup> Street in the heart of Midtown, Blake's on the Park is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

**Flip Flops** is a Jimmy Buffet Caribbean style neighborhood bar that resides in a two story old southern house on Crescent Avenue, next to South City Kitchen and directly across the street from Opera nightclub. Flip Flops brings the beach to you with a frozen daiquiri bar featuring nine flavors on tap, tiki huts, palm trees and a great outdoor patio. It is a casual atmosphere where you can relax and listen to the best live music downstairs or join the dance floor upstairs.

At [TAP](#), glassware varies from beer to beer, each with its own unique size or shape, allowing beer connoisseurs to properly savor their favorite brew's aromas and flavors. The micro brew is stored in kegs that float above guests' heads in a 72-barrel, glass-enclosed vault suspended from the top of the ceiling.

For a casual pit stop after clubbing on the weekends, [Twisted Taco](#) has tasty Tex-Mex, margarita pitchers and late-night snacks like barbeque chicken nachos.

[Front Page News](#) feels like New Orleans taverns, with great food and strong drinks in a laid-back and inviting atmosphere. Cocktails are served in the shadow of 12-foot-tall cast iron fountains, flickering gaslights and lush foliage.

***Virginia-Highland:***

*Known to some as The Highlands, this neighborhood is known for nightlife and dining.*

Since 1922, [Atkins Park Restaurant & Tavern](#) is Atlanta's oldest continuously licensed tavern and showcases a Creole influenced menu. Its bar menu is served until 3:30 a.m. making it a great place to end a long night out on the town.

Vintage 50s and 60s booths and antique registers can be found inside [Moe's and Joe's](#) where cheap beer and great bar food have attracted people since 1947. This bar is known to its patrons for having the best wings in the city and delicious goose liver.

At [Fontaine's Oysterhouse](#), a traditional New Orleans-style oyster house has been re-created with a cozy atmosphere for good conversation. The menu boasts Big Easy black and blue oysters with black olive spread and crumbled bleu cheese.

To experience a traditional British pub, head to [Hand in Hand](#). Along with typical pub fare, vegetarian options are included and British ales are on hand for all.

Sample [Darkhorse Tavern](#), one of Virginia-Highland's popular club spots. Everyone crowds its antique bar, then heads downstairs to **10 High** for live band karaoke.

With 13 beers on tap and 15 bottled ales, [Neighbor's Pub](#) is a popular hangout for those looking to enjoying a sports game in a place packed with friendly locals on the patio deck, or fun times like Monday karaoke nights.

[Highland Tap](#) is known for its cozy feel as the neighborhood bar and grill and is famous for its prime rib.

**Downtown:**

[Agatha's](#) presents original mystery comedy with audience participation six nights a week, served with a five-course dinner.

[Barley's Sports Bar & Lounge](#) features billiard tables, an extensive menu and live music every Thursday through Saturday.

[Hard Rock Café](#) features the hottest rock memorabilia, cool tunes and all American favorites. In 2011, Hard Rock will bring the hotel brand downtown with a 270-room Hard Rock Hotel which promises to be a rock-star experience.

[Sidebar](#) is Downtown's true neighborhood bar, serving locals, workers and Georgia State University Students in addition to out-of-town visitors. Sidebar is walking-distance to all the major Downtown hotels and attractions and features Cuban-inspired cuisine.

[Gibney's Pub](#) features a dance floor, pool tables, plasma TVs in every booth, and a 50-foot bar. The kitchen is open until is served until 2 a.m. Both bars are accessible from the MARTA Peachtree Center Station.

Located in the Stove Works complex near its father restaurant, gregarious chef Kevin Rathbun's namesake, [Krog Bar](#) is a wine and tapas bar specializing in Mediterranean small plates.

As one of the largest in Downtown Atlanta, [High Velocity](#) at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis is taking sports bars to a whole new level, featuring 21 plasma TVs and serving 24 varieties of beer fresh from the tap, delicious appetizers, sliders, burgers, chicken wings and more. High Velocity's media room is defined by its 40-foot matrix theatrical projection screen, where guests can watch sports in the comfort of cozy leather reclines or casual seating areas.

**Atlanta's Live Music**

**Downtown:**

[Studio 281](#) is an intimate listening room housed inside a jazz spot within the Castleberry Hill Loft District. Escape the boundaries of every day and revel in the elegant ease of the mainstream jazz performance in the luxury of a smoke-free environment.

A former church and, during the 1996 Olympics, The House of Blues, the [Tabernacle](#) is an amazing multi-level venue to see a show.

**Buckhead:**

[Andrew's Upstairs](#) is a music and entertainment venue featuring live music from regional and national acts and some of Atlanta's hottest DJs. You may hear your favorite 80's tunes from one of the excellent cover bands that often appear here.

[Dante's Down the Hatch](#) specializes in complete dinners, fondue style. The John Robertson Jazz Trio plays along with other live entertainment, seven nights a week.

Located in the heart of Buckhead, [Sambuca](#) is the place to dine, drink and dance the night away. This rockin' dinner club offers an eclectic-American menu in a casually sophisticated atmosphere, accompanied by live music seven nights a week. The music spans a variety of styles like sultry vocals, jazz, R&B, and funky dance hits.

At [The Lobby Lounge](#) (The Ritz-Carlton Buckhead), a live Jazz trio and soloists play during the night while guests enjoy cocktails, wine and cordials. The lounge is conveniently located near MARTA Buckhead Station.

**Midtown:**

Friday jazz at the [High Museum of Art](#) in an evening of art and music every third Friday of the month from 5-10 p.m. View world-class art at the most unique jazz venue in Atlanta; dinner, desserts and drinks are available for purchase.

Considered to be the home of the blues in Atlanta, [Northside Tavern](#) is a super-casual hangout for fans and performers. Audience members should be prepared for participation, because patrons of this tavern have been known to end up on stage jamming with the band.

Offering some of the best jazz in the city, Tuesday-Saturday, [Churchill Grounds](#) is known for introducing local talent as well as featuring jazz legends.

Enjoy the taste of Tex-Mex, the sounds of jazz, and a few open mike performances at the bohemian style [Apache Café](#) when it turns from restaurant to club at night.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the [Fox Theatre](#) hosts a wide range of performances, plus a summer movie series and year-round tours.

**Little Five Points:**

[Dad's Garage Theatre Company](#) showcases Atlanta's hottest new comedy improvisation show.

The best neighborhood dive bar with nothing but Elvis and rock n' roll, [Star Community Bar](#) boasts three full-time bars and live alternative country and hard rock music. Enjoy the local, regional and national acts from the red leather Little Vinyl Lounge or come on Mondays for 15 Minutes of Fame Karaoke.

Contrasting the hard rock scene of Star Bar, [Five Spot](#) blends soul, funk, R&B, reggae and jazz in its warehouse-style environment. On the few occasions when live music isn't being played, party-goers can enjoy a live DJ spinning tracks from hip-hop albums.

[Variety Playhouse](#) in an intimate theater and nightclub presenting live concerts that feature national acts representing roots rock, indie, jazz, world music and more.

**Virginia-Highland:**

At [Blind Willie's](#), blues fans can enjoy this tiny venue's full bar and music scene with national and local acts performing regularly. Named after well-known Georgia blues musician, Blind Willie McTell, this club has a true blues experience.

Sing-alongs are held Wednesday to Saturday at [Limerick Junction](#). Local folk musicians perform on Sundays and open mike night occurs on Tuesdays. Traditional bar food can be enjoyed along with free self-serve popcorn, and Irish favorites such as Shepard's Pie and Irish Stew.

Fans of house, U.K. garage, hip-hop, and drum n' bass congregate at [MJO Concourse](#). This welcoming space has cozy couches featuring two rooms with bars and DJ booths.

Boasting its songwriter showcases on Monday nights and performances by up-and-coming national acts, [Smith's Olde Bar](#) is a small but sizzling live music venue. The menu has an array of appetizers and sandwiches including barbeque daily.

**Decatur:**

[Eddie's Attic](#) is a popular live music venue for aspiring and accomplished performing songwriters. Artists such as John Mayer, Sugarland and Shawn Mullins all got their start here. The Attic welcomes all varieties of original live music and embraces the diversity that allows independent music to thrive. The Attic also has a full menu and bar.

At [Fernbank Museum of Natural History](#), enjoy Martinis & IMAX on Friday nights, (January-November from 5:30-10 p.m.) with live music, cocktails, dinner, desserts and films in the IMAX Theater.

### **Atlanta's Comedy Scene**

#### **Buckhead:**

[Showcase Comedy Lounge](#) features comedians who have performed all over the world. And with a great location inside Buckhead's famous Landmark Diner, you will have a great meal while enjoying the show.

#### **Sandy Springs**

Winner of numerous local and national awards, the [Punchline](#) has been Atlanta's number one comedy club since 1982. Some of the country's best comedians, such as Jeff Foxworthy and Eddie Murphy, have performed at this Sandy Springs hot spot, and locals also get to take the stage for various shows and competitions. A dinner menu is available.

#### **Midtown:**

Named Atlanta's "Best first date" by Atlanta CitySearch, [Whole World Theatre](#) has been making Atlantans smile since 1994. With improv shows five days a week and a convenient location in the heart of Midtown, Whole World Theater has shows for children and adults.

[Relapse Theater](#) features several different performance spaces to accommodate both long and short form theater, live music and comedians. Enjoy stand-up, improv and open mike at this great Midtown playhouse.

[Atlanta's Original Uptown Comedy Corner](#) is Atlanta's premier urban comedy club and one of the top clubs in the country. Don't be surprised if celebrities like Bernie Mac or Wanda Sykes show up to test their new material. The Marietta Street location is convenient to Downtown attractions and hotels.

#### **Virginia-Highland/Inman Park:**

Located in historic Inman Park, [Dad's Garage Theatre Company](#) has been voted Atlanta's best theater company and improv group by Creative Loafing for five years in a row. Home of the Theatresports improv competition on Saturday nights, Dad's Garage also features funny plays for adults and children.

[Laughing Matters](#) comedy troupe has performed in Atlanta longer than any other improv group. They host monthly public shows at Manuel's Tavern in Virginia-Highland and the Academy Theatre in Avondale Estates.

#### **Decatur:**

[Sketchworks](#) is an original, cutting-edge sketch comedy troupe featuring Atlanta's top working professionals. The high-energy, outrageous shows have pleased audiences since 2001 at this Decatur theater. Sketchworks is located just minutes from downtown Atlanta and near Decatur Square's excellent restaurants and boutiques.

Established in 1913, Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau 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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