UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

VISITORS GUIDE

ATHENS COMMUNITY THEATER

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ATHENIANS TO KNOW

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SHOPS BARS &

RESTAURANTS







SPRING / SUMMER 2025





ATHENS MUSIC WALK OF FAME

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SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS





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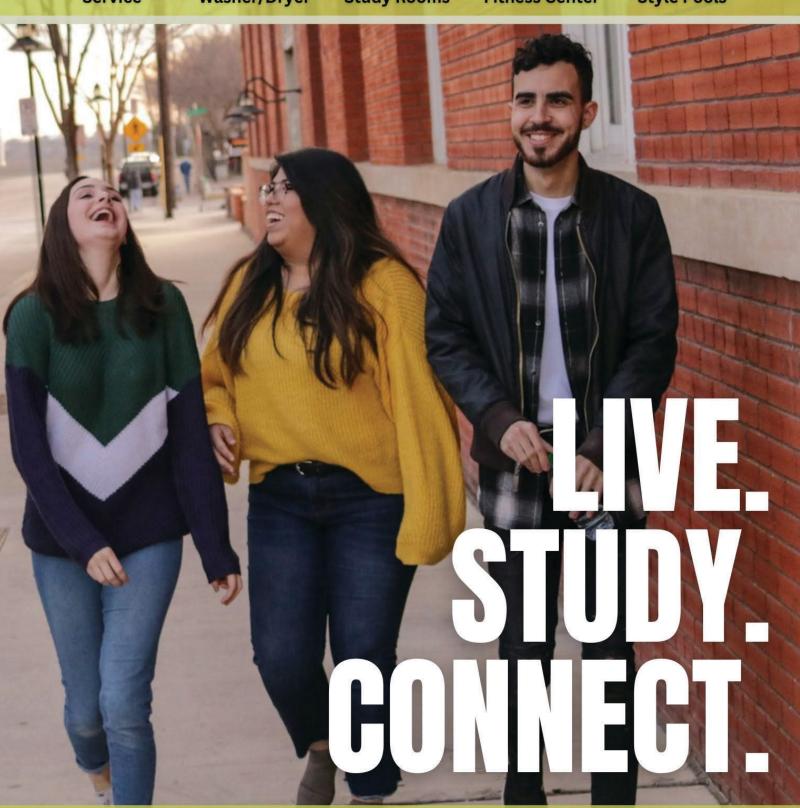
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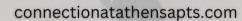




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VISITORS GUIDE

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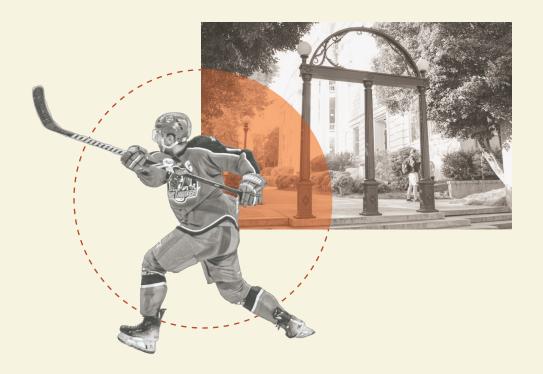
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NAVIGATE

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Did you know that public higher education in America has its roots here in Athens? The University of Georgia was founded in 1785 when Abraham Baldwin and members of the Georgia legislature chartered the first publicly funded institution of higher learning. The school was originally named Franklin College, in honor of Benjamin Franklin, and is considered one of the oldest public universities in the country. It was renamed the University of Georgia in 1859 after the founding of the institution's college of law.

To contribute to the building of the campus, lawmakers sold 40,000 acres of state land rolling, riverside terrain — and received a generous donation of 633 acres from John Milledge, an early politician and a founder of the city. The campus was officially built in 1801, and the original area is now part of what's considered North Campus, a leafy hilltop quad of neoclassical buildings perched above the Oconee River.

That same year, Clarke County was established and named in honor of a Revolutionary War Brigadier General Elijah Clarke, who was also a Georgia legislator. The city of Athens was officially incorporated shortly after in 1806, named by Milledge for Greece's classical city of higher learning.

As the school grew, so did the city of Athens, and it became a hub of both culture and industry, with textile mills, brickworks and the railroad as primary facets of the economy. With the university, it was able to weather the Civil War and Reconstruction and prosper again.

In the 20th century, the city was home to a thriving Black middle-class community with businesses centered around Washington and Hull streets, and came to host numerous civil rights protests in the 1960s. This period saw the integration of the university by Black students Charlayne Hunter-Gault and Hamilton Holmes in 1961, and UGA came to be known as a significant part of the Civil Rights Movement.

The local music scene hit the national stage in the 1970s and 1980s with the rise of major bands like R.E.M. and the B-52s. The Georgia Theatre and the 40 Watt Club became landmark venues, and the culture of music continues to shape and define the city. In the 1990s. downtown Athens saw a \$100 million revitalization that restored its vibrant, small-town vibe, with storefronts filled with local shops and cafes that draw visitors from all over. In 1990, the city and county unified their governments to become Athens-Clarke County.

It was during that time that UGA experienced a great increase in recognition and enrollment as the state of Georgia established the HOPE Scholarship. This encouraged Georgia high school students to stay here for college and help build up Georgia's educational system. The school, and thus Athens itself, also received national attention with the increasing success of the school's athletic program, especially its champion football team, which draws more than 90,000 fans to the town on Saturdays in the fall.

But Athens remains a draw on its own, laying claim to a lively music culture, an abundance of art, activist movements, festivals, outdoor activities, eclectic restaurants and more.

UGA TIMELINE

From 1785 to today

1785

The University of Georgia becomes the birthplace of public higher education in the U.S. when Georgia charters a state-supported university.

1801

John Milledge purchases and then donates 633 acres above the Oconee River for the college, now known as North Campus.

The first class of students graduates from the university, which was known as Franklin College.

1806

The city of Athens is incorporated.

The law school is founded and the school is renamed the University of Georgia.

1862

Congress passes the Morrill Act to raise money for colleges to teach agriculture and mechanical arts. When UGA receives these funds a decade later, it expands its curriculum.

1892

UGA plays its first football game against Mercer on North Campus' Herty Field. (They won.)

White women are now allowed to enroll at UGA.

1929

Sanford Stadium was built, with expansions in later years.

A Navy preflight training program operates on campus as part of the wartime effort.

Charlayne Hunter and Hamilton Holmes become the first Black students to attend UGA. The Holmes-Hunter Academic Building on North Campus is later named for them.

1964

Stegeman Coliseum, originally named the Georgia Coliseum, is built for basketball and agricultural events.

1980

R.E.M. plays its first show at a friend's birthday party in the old St. Mary's Episcopal Church building.

Athens forms a unified government with Clarke County, creating Athens-Clarke County.

1992

The HOPE Scholarship encourages Georgia high school students to remain in state for college. UGA's first-year enrollment increases five-fold in the following three decades.

Sanford Stadium is repurposed as a soccer venue for the Olympics. The U.S. Women's team won the gold medal between the hedges.

2015

The UGA College of Engineering opens, bringing the total of colleges and schools within the university to 18.

2019

The field at Sanford Stadium is named after Vince Dooley.

2020

The College of Education is named in honor of Mary Frances Early, the first Black UGA graduate.

2023

The UGA football team wins its second consecutive national championship, the fourth in its history.

2024

Construction begins on UGA's School of Medicine.

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MAIN CAMPUS

Map + Key

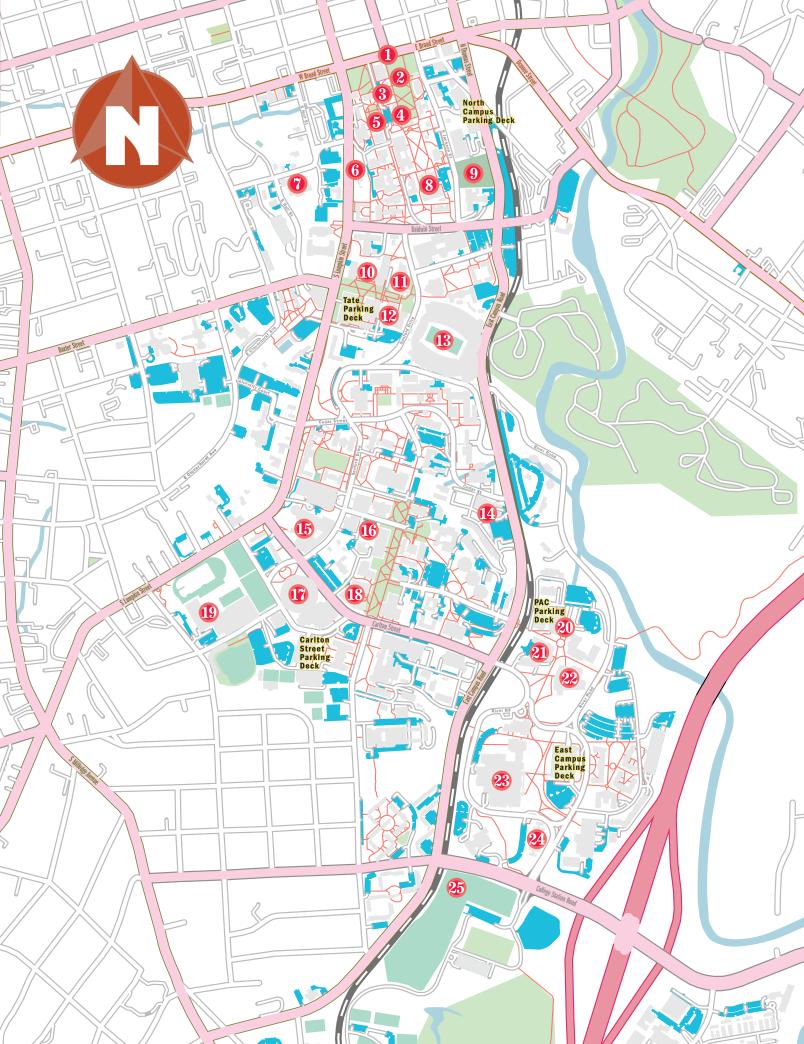
- 1. The Arch
- 2. North Campus Quad
- 3. The Chapel
- 4. Old College
- 5. Herty Field
- 6. Founders Memorial Garden
- 7. Special Collections Libraries
- 8. Main Library
- 9. Jackson Street Cemetery
- 10. Zell B. Miller Learning Center
- 11. Campus Bookstore
- 12. Tate Student Center
- 13. Sanford Stadium
- **14.** Georgia Museum of Natural History
- 15. The University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education and Hotel
- 16. UGA Trial Gardens
- 17. Stegeman Coliseum
- 18. Science Learning Center
- 19. Butts-Mehre Heritage Hall
- 20. Performing Arts Center
- 21. Georgia Museum of Art
- 22. Lamar Dodd School of Art
- 23. Ramsey Student Center
- 24. UGA Visitors Center
- 25. Intramural Fields Area

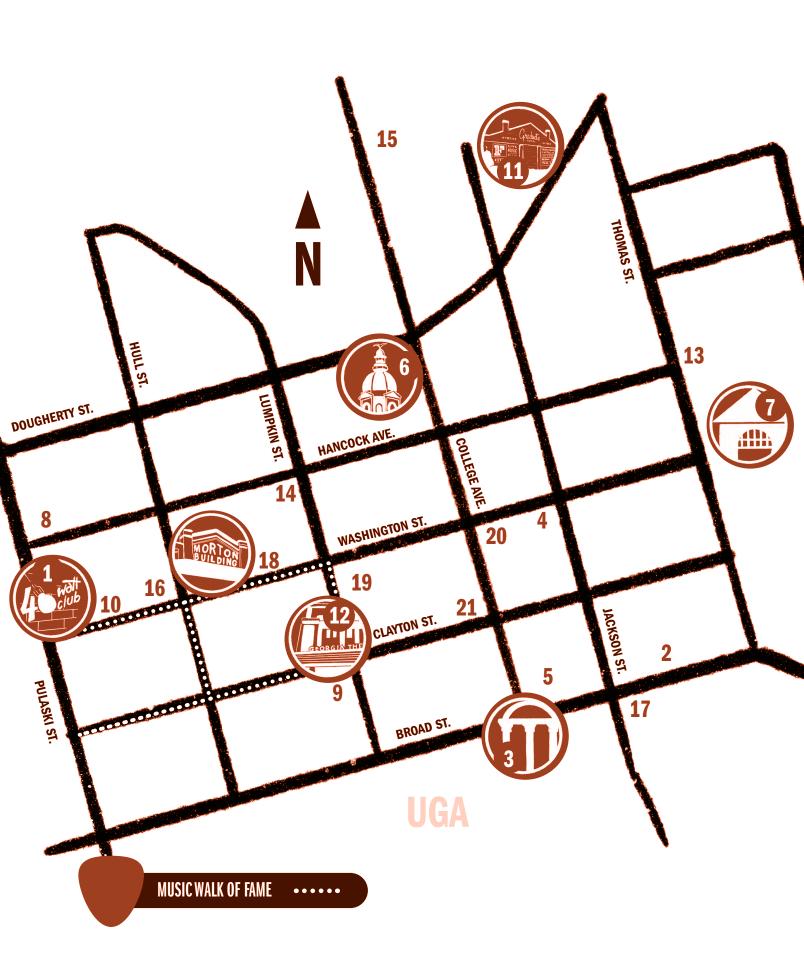






VISITOR PARKING DECK **UGA BUILDING** SURFACE PARKING **FOOTPATH**





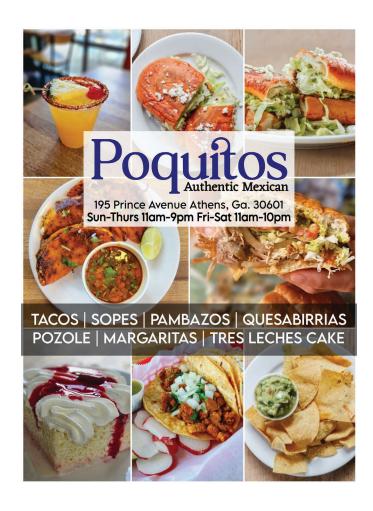
DOWNTOWN ATHENS

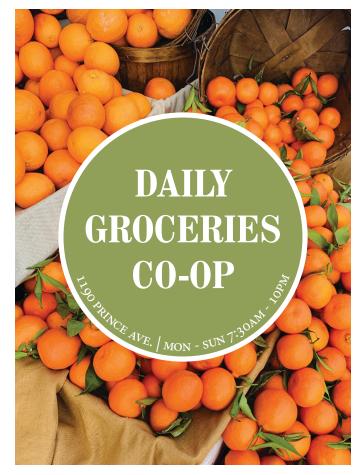
Map + Key

- 1. 40 Watt Club
- 2. Allgood Lounge
- 3. The Arch
- 4. Boar's Head Lounge
- 5. Blue Sky Bar
- 6. City Hall
- 7. Classic Center
- 8. Creature Comforts
- 9. Cutters Pub
- 10. Flicker Theatre & Bar
- 11. The Foundry

- 12. Georgia Theatre
- 13. Hybar
- 14. Little Kings Shuffle Club
- 15. Lyndon House
- 16. Manhattan Cafe
- 17. Magnolias
- 18. Morton Theatre
- 19. Nowhere Bar
- 20. Wonderbar
- 21. Wuxtry Records







SUITE LIFE

Athens hotels near UGA

Georgia Gameday Center 0.2 miles from UGA

If you're traveling to Athens for a Georgia game or just want to be immersed in school spirit, this complex in the heart of downtown Athens rents one- two- and three-bedroom condos decked out in red and black. Units include kitchens, washers and dryers, access to a fitness center, parking garage and free Jittery Joe's coffee.

Holiday Inn Express 0.4 miles from UGA

Just off West Broad Street, the Holiday Inn Express has single and double rooms, onsite parking, hot breakfast and a pool.

Homewood Suites by Hilton 0.3 miles from UGA

This Broad Street hotel with larger suites offers several family-friendly features like free breakfast, connecting rooms and kitchens. You'll also find a courtyard, gym and meeting spaces.

Hotel Abacus 0.6 miles from UGA

Formerly Graduate Athens, this beautifully renovated hotel is a bit further from campus, but still only a 10-minute walk from The Arch. Features include an outdoor pool, Wes Anderson-level eclectic decor and The Foundry, a restaurant and venue that hosts live music and trivia. Iron Works Coffee, the lobby-level cafe, serves breakfast, lunch, coffee and tea (see page 24).





Hotel Indigo

0.4 miles from UGA

This upscale, environmentally friendly hotel has a wide range of suites featuring modern farmhouse furnishings. Hotel Indigo also houses a concert venue, art gallery, restaurant, courtyard and electric car charging stations. Its private event spaces host meetings, conferences and even weddings.

Hyatt Place 0.3 miles from UGA

This 190-room hotel on North Thomas Street, adjacent to the Classic Center, has a variety of different suite layouts. Amenities include free breakfast, a restaurant and Hybar, a rooftop bar with panoramic views of downtown Athens. Hyatt Place also offers meeting and event spaces, as well as catering done in-house.

SpringHill Suites by Marriott 0.2 miles from UGA

This downtown hotel offers one- and two-room suites that include sleeper sofas and work areas. Enjoy complimentary breakfast, a fitness center and a cafe.

University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education and Hotel On campus at UGA

If you want to be in the heart of campus, there's no better spot than this UGA-operated complex near Myers Quad and Stegeman Coliseum. It includes a 200-room hotel with large suites, two restaurants and a shuttle service.





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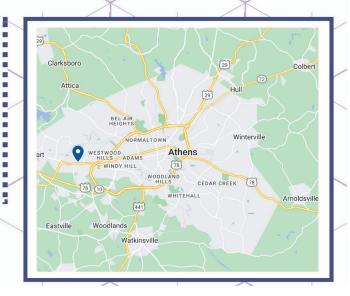
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GETTING HERE

While most visitors drive to Athens, many flying in from out of state arrive at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, 70 miles away, then rent a car or hop on a shuttle. Flights to the local Athens-Ben Epps airport, a few miles east of downtown, are available through charter service only.

Charter Flights

If you're planning on flying private, Aero Center Atlanta, Wheels Up, Georgia Jet and AirStar Charter all service Athens-Ben Epps airport. Visit accgov.com/airport for more information.

Groome Transportation

This shuttle service runs throughout the day from Hartsfield-Jackson to Athens and back. There are several pick-up and drop-off spots around town, including at the Georgia Center, the Classic Center and many downtown hotels. Fares range from \$25 to \$60, and one pet is allowed to travel with you for an additional \$15 fee. Online booking discounts are available.

GETTING AROUND

Campus Transit

The UGA bus system can save you the time and expense of looking for parking, and it travels far beyond campus, just download the UGA app for route information. Regular bus services do not run during home football games, when the university is closed or the weekend immediately before or after a holiday.

Athens-Clarke County Transit

Athens Transit is a free city bus with 20 different routes. Hours of operation end at 9:45 p.m. during the week and at 6:45 p.m. over the weekend. Buses don't run on major holidays. Download the MyStop app for route tracking and additional information.

Downtown Parking

Parking downtown can be tricky for visitors and locals alike, but you'll usually have better luck finding a spot on side streets and farther away from the Arch. Metered parking is \$2.00 an hour with a twohour maximum from Monday to Saturday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and all meters take credit cards. After 10 p.m., the meters are not monitored.

You can find city-operated decks on College Avenue, a few blocks from the Arch, and on West Washington Street, closer to restaurants and music venues. Parking in these lots is typically free for the first 30 minutes, and \$1 per additional hour. The downtown area has several ParkMobile spots and lots that can be reserved and paid for via the ParkMobile app, which is also utilized by several UGA decks. Most street parking is free on Sundays and major holidays and is not monitored after 10 p.m. Many UGA lots are free and unrestricted on non-game weekends.

VISITORS CENTERS

UGA Visitors Center 405 College Station Road

Here you can schedule campus tours, get directions and find answers to all your UGA-related questions. The Visitors Center is open Monday through Friday and on select Saturdays. Student-led campus tours consist of an admissions presentation, a ride on a UGA bus and an hour-long walking tour of historic North Campus. Registration is required for all guests, but self-guided tour maps are also available.

Historic Athens Welcome Center 280 E. Dougherty Street

Open seven days a week, stop by the Church-Waddel-Brumby House, which is considered the oldest surviving residence in Athens, to grab a map, sign up for tours and get Athens-themed gifts. The welcome center offers both guided and self-guided tours about Black history, local music, historic homes and more.





HOCKEY SCHEDULE

The Athens Rock Lobsters at Akins Ford Arena

February 28	vs. Monroe Moccasins
March 1	vs. Monroe Moccasins
March 2	vs. Monroe Moccasins
March 16	vs. Blue Ridge Bobcats
March 18	vs. Monroe Moccasins
March 19	vs. Monroe Moccasins
March 20	vs. Monroe Moccasins
March 28	vs. Baton Rouge Zydeco
March 29	vs. Baton Rouge Zydeco
March 30	vs. Baton Rouge Zydeco
April 2 \	vs. Binghamton Black Bears
April 3	s. Binghamton Black Bears









EAT & DRINK

 RESTAURANT GUIDE **22** ON CAMPUS CLASSIC ATHENS RESTAURANTS 24 COFFEE AND TEA 26 BARS GUIDE BREWERIES



VEGAN AND VEGETARIAN

Maepole • \$

At the laid back Maepole — a brainchild of Peter Dale, the chef/owner behind the likes of Seabear and The National — diners select from bases, sides and proteins to create new twists on meat-and-three standards.

Mannaweenta • \$

The idea to open Mannaweenta came to owner Haregu Bahtu in a dream, and now the Ethiopian and Eritrean restaurant is nearing a decade in business. Praised as one of the best international eateries in Athens, the menu includes meat and veggie plates featuring chicken, lamb, beef, lentils, chickpeas and more. It's also a great place to try injera or Ethiopian coffee and tea.

Taste of India • \$-\$\$

This East Side restaurant has been serving authentic Indian food since 2005. Entrees include korma, saag, curry, tikka masala and biryani with your choice of protein served with basmati rice. Their menu also features a huge selection of starters, sides, vegetarian and specialty dishes.

LUNCH MEETING

Big City Bread Cafe • \$-\$\$

This cafe is open for breakfast, lunch and Friday night dinner. There's burgers, sandwiches, salads and baked goods to enjoy in the spacious dining area or on the shaded patio.

Birdies • \$-\$\$

A newer addition to Prince Avenue, Birdies is a gourmet grocery store with a deli and coffee bar. Get a sandwich, soup, salad or latte and grab a seat at a table, on the patio or at the counter with a view of Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

The National • \$\$-\$\$\$

This Mediterranean-influenced restaurant on West Hancock Avenue was co-founded by Hugh Acheson and Peter Dale. With serene decor and stellar service, it's ideal for lunch meetings and family celebrations. Check out the expanded patio.

Trappeze Pub • \$\$-\$\$\$

Famous for its enormous craft and imported beer selection, this pub at the corner of Hull and West Washington streets serves superior bar fare, catering to carnivores with dishes like the Double Pig (braised pork plus bacon), with plant-based options like the veggie Reuben. Don't leave without trying the signature raspberry ketchup.

FANCY DINNER

Chuck's Fish • \$\$\$

Operating in a renovated former Greyhound station, this upscale restaurant features seafood fresh from the owner's Destin, Florida dockside wholesale market. Along with daily specials, Chuck's serves sushi and classics like seared scallops and stuffed shrimp.

The Expat • \$\$\$

This venture from Jerry and Krista Slater, housed in a cozy Five Points cottage, emphasizes inventive cocktails and an Italian cafe-inspired menu, with dishes like cacio e pepe and salads full of seasonal produce.

Five & Ten • \$\$\$

Before "Top Chef," Hugh Acheson made his name here with innovative takes on Southern fare (think fried catfish with saffron beurre blanc and cornbread with fennel pollen). Located in a historic home on South Milledge Avenue, this is a popular spot for special occasions. It's also available for private event booking.

Seabear Oyster Bar • \$\$

Go for the namesake shellfish; stay for the fried clam strips, lobster roll and fish po'boy. Sit at the bar or the outdoor patio; a drinks ledge allows you to set your cocktail down while you wait for a table.

BRUNCH

Cafe Racer • \$

Cafe Racer got its start as a popular food truck in Oglethorpe County. Its newest location on West Broad Street has a drive-thru and walk-up window serving Counter Culture Coffee alongside their signature potato donuts and a variety of breakfast food. They

recently introduced a dinner menu as well, which includes burgers, fries, chicken tenders and more.

The Farmcart • \$-\$\$

A family-run business that started as a farmers market food truck, The Farmcart expanded into a brick-and-mortar restaurant on Baxter Street in 2019 thanks to the popularity of their flaky biscuit sandwiches full of local ingredients.

Ideal Bagel Co. • \$

Operated by Luna Baking Co., Ideal Bagel serves a variety of bagels loaded with housemade cream cheese spreads. Add-ons like eggs, lox and bacon are also available.

Mama's Boy • \$-\$\$

Consistently voted Best Brunch in Athens by Red & Black readers, Mama's Boy serves indulgent breakfast fare like salmon cakes Benedict and Georgia peach French toast. There are two locations in Athens and one in Watkinsville now, too.

CASUAL LUNCH

Em's Kitchen • \$

Owner Emily Ullrich started working at the Hawthorne Drugs soda fountain in 1998, and expanded it into a restaurant 12 years later. A true hidden gem, Em's Kitchen serves breakfast and lunch on weekdays, and it's definitely worth a morning visit. Swing by for biscuits, omelets, grits, salads, sandwiches or homemade desserts.

Dawg Gone Good BBQ • \$

Serving recipes passed down from his grandmother, owner William "B.J." Hardy keeps things simple but tasty at his restaurant on West Hancock Avenue. Chow down on classics like pulled pork, mac and cheese and brisket inside the shop or on the outdoor patio.

Poquitos • \$-\$\$

Birria, carnitas, posole and more are available at this Mexican restaurant in the old Go Bar space from the former owners of The Grit and Pedro de Paz of Ted's Most Best. Bonus: A sunny corner patio.

Tamez Barbecue • \$-\$\$

At Alejandro Tamez's Texas-style barbecue spot with retro decor, homemade tortillas and brisket take center stage. Breakfast burritos with bacon and eggs are also a hit.

GROUP GATHERING

Shokitini • \$-\$\$

This downtown sushi restaurant is a popular spot for parties. It has a huge menu, full bar and several private karaoke rooms.

Ted's Most Best • \$

Families flock to this casual pizza and pasta place with one of the best patios in town featuring a sandbox. Pizzas are light with thin crusts and salad dressings are made in house.

Tlaloc • \$

This beloved family-owned restaurant serves Mexican and Salvadoran food in a bright orange building on North Chase Street. Keep an eye out for drink specials and taco Tuesdays.

BEFORE A SHOW

Clocked! • \$

This American diner on Washington Street is approaching 25 years in business. Eclectic decor and retro branding adorn the dining room and patio, while the menu ranges from

burgers and hot dogs to fried pickles and blackberry milkshakes. Plus: they can make almost anything vegetarian.

FIVE Athens • \$\$-\$\$\$

Five Bar is perfect for indecisive diners. Their menu offers five entrées, wines and cocktails to choose from, with a focus on local ingredients and generous portions. Dinner options include a 12 oz. ribeye, panéed chicken and a gourmet cheeseburger, while brunch ranges from shrimp and grits to breakfast burritos. Don't forget to greet the Beatles mural on your way in and out.

Thai Spoon • \$-\$\$

Voted best family-owned international restaurant by our readers, Thai Spoon is nearing two decades in business between Little Italy and The Globe. Their extensive menu features dozens of authentic Thai rice, noodle, soup and curry dishes.

TRY SOMETHING NEW

Osteria Olio • \$\$-\$\$\$

Located inside the Rivet House boutique hotel, Osteria Olio is a brand new upscale Italian restaurant. Their menu features regionally inspired dishes, wine, beer and cocktails. Stop by or make a reservation for dinner or weekend brunch.

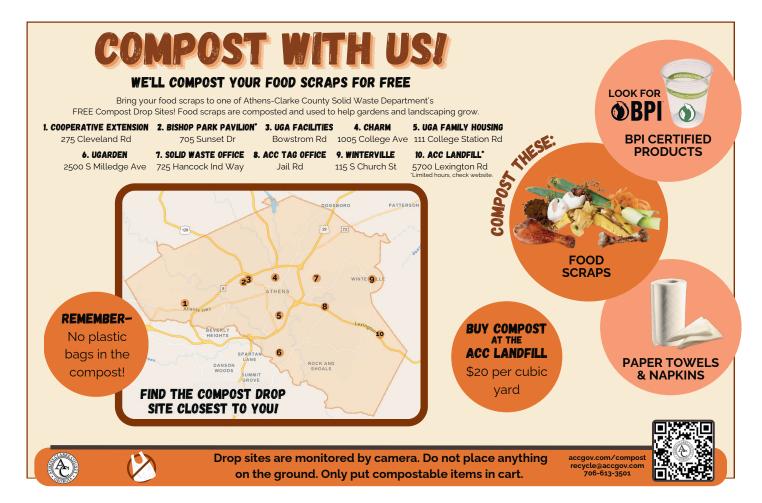
Puma Yu's • \$\$-\$\$\$

This Thai-inspired restaurant serves small plates like pork dumplings and eggplant agebitashi. Stop by their stylish space in the historic Southern Mill complex for lunch, dinner or a creative cocktail.

Pretty Boy • \$\$-\$\$\$

Chef Kenny Nguyen recently opened this modern Vietnamese restaurant on Prince Avenue following a series of pop-ups and an appearance on "Top Chef." Sharing plates range from mushroom rice paper pizza and Vietnamese street corn to coconut-braised ribs and chicken salad. There's four kinds of pho. desserts and Vietnamese coffee.





CAMPUS CAFES

Where to eat without leaving campus

Bulldog Bistro

This restaurant within the Georgia Center for Continuing Education and Hotel complex is open to hotel guests and visitors alike, with offerings ranging from coffee and ready-made salads and wraps to a full lunch and dinner menu updated each week.

Campus Market Express

There are 11 self-serve micro markets across campus that stock grab 'n go meals, snacks, drinks and drugstore-type essentials. Certain locations also offer frozen foods and treats, and they're open any time the academic buildings are.

FujiSan

While FujiSan sushi is available in various campus markets and UGA dining halls, the main location in Joe Frank Harris Commons on East Campus offers the full range of rolls, poke bowls and gyoza. It's also the only place to get boba tea on campus.

Niche Pizza Co.

UGA's personal pizza kitchen originated in the Niche Dining Commons in Normaltown, but the location in the Tate Student Center offers the same oven-fired thin crust pizzas as well as Sambazon acai bowls and craft sodas.

Tate Student Center

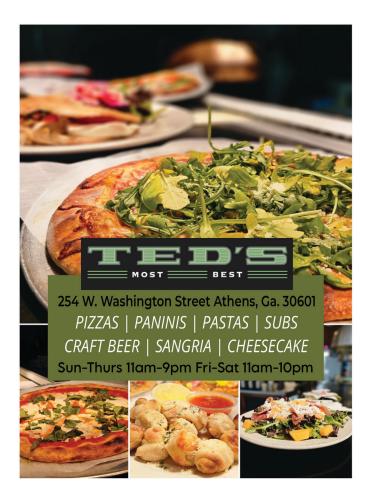
The Tate food court features familiar chains like Starbucks, Panda Express and Chick-fil-A. Head to the Market at Tate to get burritos, tacos, quesadillas and salads from Barberitos.





Rothenberger Cafe

Located on the second floor of Amos Hall in the Terry College of Business, the Rothenberger Cafe serves sandwiches, salads and grab 'n go snacks. Breakfast offerings range from pastries and muffins to a peanut butter and banana sandwich, while lunch options include a grilled chicken caesar salad, a turkey sandwich and a grilled cheese. Thanks to a recent revamp, they also now offer a limited Starbucks coffee menu.





CLASSIC CITY CLASSICS

Beloved Athens restaurants that have stood the test of time

ADD Drug • \$

Athens Discount Drug opened in 1961, and both the pharmacy and old-fashioned lunch counter are both still serving patrons today. Swing by in the morning or early afternoon for breakfast, sandwiches, burgers, hot dogs, milkshakes and more.

Cali N Tito's • \$-\$\$

The Five Points location is close to campus with patio seating and a BYOB policy, while the larger East Side location has a full bar, gelato counter and arcade games. Both spots are beloved by locals, students and families alike, have great atmospheres and some of the best food in town. Favorites include the empanadas, tostones and smoothies.

DePalma's Italian Cafe • \$-\$\$

DePalma's has been serving pizza, pasta and other Italian classics since 1988, with a different menu to try at each of its three Athens locations. Pizza is served by the slice or by the pie, and the gelato flavors change daily.

The Globe • \$-\$\$

Closed for two years during the pandemic, The Globe was refurbished during the downtime and reopened in mid-2022. Traditional pub menu items like fish and chips are complemented by vegetarian options like elote corn ribs and a hummus bowl. The selection of whiskeys has been a hallmark since it opened in 1989.

The Grill • \$-\$\$

The Grill is back! The downtown diner first opened its doors in 1981 and reopened them after pandemic closures. Dine on burgers, feta fries, malts and milkshakes among vintage memorabilia and the iconic red neon lights.

Last Resort Grill • \$\$-\$\$\$

Founded as a music venue in 1966, Last Resort hosted acts like Jimmy Buffett and Towns Van Zandt before it started serving its signature southern fare. Steaks, praline chicken and crab cakes are all on offer, but don't leave without a slice of white chocolate cheesecake.

Little Italy • \$

Regularly open until 3 a.m., Little Italy has been serving thick and thin crust pizza to Athens' late-night diners since the '90s. Calzones, Italian subs and stromboli are also available.

Strickland's Restaurant • \$

Opened on Broad Street in 1960, the family-owned restaurant eventually settled on Atlanta Highway in 1995. Specializing in southern dishes like ribs, catfish and green beans, Strickland's is open for breakfast, lunch and all your catering needs, with a rotating menu of specials that changes daily.

Weaver D's Delicious Fine Foods • \$

Made famous for owner Dexter Weaver's slogan, "Automatic for the People," which became an R.E.M. album title, this bright green restaurant on East Broad Street is popular for juicy fried chicken and signature meat-and-three plates. Try the sweet potato souffle or broccoli casserole.

COFFEE AND TEA

Where to find coffee and tea in Athens

1000 Faces Coffee

Inspired by its founder's decades of international travel, this fair-trade roasting company prioritizes sustainable coffee production and consumption. The cafe on North Thomas Street has become an Athens staple, offering artisanal brews and baked goods. Their chai latte was also voted best in Athens by our editors. The tea blend comes from 3 Porch Farm in Comer (see page 53).

Bubble Cafe

String lights and floral garlands welcome you into this cozy cafe offering over 40 flavors of Taiwanese tea drinks and a full lunch and dinner menu including rice bowls, noodles, tofu and poke bowls. People go to Bubble Cafe for the food and drinks alike, but it's also a comfortable spot to work or study just steps from North Campus.

Buvez

This Euro-style cafe on Barber Street serves coffee, tea and craft sodas during the day, then cocktails, wine and beer at night. Their breakfast bagel menu is also a highlight. Buvez doubles as a music venue, hosting local bands and improv shows every week.

Choco Coffee

This Baxter Street cafe (formerly known as Choco Pronto) frequently collaborates with other Athens businesses. Alongside its selection of Ecuadorian coffee, Choco Coffee serves Independent Baking Co. pastries and Figment Kombucha. Keep an eye out for occasional vintage clothing pop-ups.





Condor Chocolates

The predecessor and sister business of Choco Coffee, Condor is known for its Ecuadorian chocolates and truffles. They also serve coffee, gelato and baked goods at their cafes in Five Points and downtown.

Daydreamer Coffee

Athens's newest coffee shop is located in the lobby of The Rambler, a high-rise apartment complex on West Broad Street. It's open to the public, but also has resident-only study areas.

Hendershot's

This Prince Avenue staple is a coffee shop by day, bar by night and a popular spot for live music, comedy and open mics. The menu features coffee roasted in-house, specialty lattes and dozens of tea flavors. Breakfast and lunch is available until 12:30 p.m., after which cocktails, mocktails, local beer and appetizers are served.

Jittery Joe's

The Classic City's best known coffee brand has expanded to over a dozen locations since 1994. Jittery Joe's serves a full range of coffee (hot, iced and frozen), chai, matcha and baked goods. They also carry a range of custom blends in colorful tins, made in collaboration with local bands, businesses and even the Georgia Bulldogs.

Molly's Coffee Company

This cafe on Macon Highway offers a place to linger and enjoy your coffee away from the bustle of downtown. Molly's serves coffee from 1000 Faces and pastries from Kiki's Bakeshop as well as specialty mochas, matcha and chai.



Iron Works Coffee

Hotel Abacus's (see page 14) lobby-level cafe is open to the public daily until 11 a.m. Enjoy coffee, tea, breakfast and lunch surrounded by eclectic decor. Their menu includes sandwiches, waffles, avocado toast and more.

Sips Espresso Café

Voted best coffee shop in Athens by our readers in 2024, Sips offers seasonal specialty drinks, latte art and a selection of baked goods. Order from their takeout window or enjoy your drink on their Normaltown patio.

Sunroof Coffee Company

Sunroof's co-founders dreamed of opening their own business as roommates at UGA and now they serve coffee, chai and more out of their walk-up window in the Mill District.

Walker's Coffee and Pub

A popular bar across from the Arch on College Avenue, Walker's doubles as a coffee shop during the day. It has a selection of coffee, tea and baked goods, as well as a covered patio. Wednesday night bingo is a regular occurrence.



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WHERE TO WATCH A GAME

Cutters Pub

This downtown bar has TVs, skee-ball, pool, a photo booth and a huge selection of craft beer and bourbon. If the main floor is crowded, head upstairs to the tiki bar.

Paloma Park

Happy hour deals and daily menu discounts make this stylish Tex-Mex restaurant and teguila bar on Washington Street a popular spot for date nights and group outings, while its outdoor beer garden is a great place for live music and watch parties.

The Royal Peasant

Watch the week's top Premier League matches while dining on bangers and mash or "proper plates" like fish and chips at this Five Points British pub with a huge beer list.

WHERE TO CATCH A SHOW

Nowhere Bar

Laid-back and known for darts, pool and live music, this bar was opened by Craig "Sky" Hertwig, a former Georgia All-American who returned to Athens after a stint in the NFL.

The World Famous

"This is it!" proclaims the sign above the door of this tiny bar with a massive following thanks to its eclectic interior, good food and fun cocktails. Check their instagram for upcoming shows.

WHERE TO GO ON A NIGHT OUT

Blue Sky Bar

This downtown bar has a speakeasy vibe and boasts more than 100 beers and a substantial whiskey list. If you bring a vinyl on Wednesday nights, they'll play it for you and take a dollar off your drink.

Magnolias

This classic college-town bar at the edge of campus is known for happy hour specials, Long Island iced tea and shots.

Tropical Bar

Patrons can enjoy dancing, karaoke and more at this downtown Latin bar. Look out for regular events with drink specials and DJs.

FUN AND GAMES

Wonderbar Athens

Grab some friends to play classic arcade games and drink creative cocktails at this popular downtown bar. You can also play multiplayer video games projected on the wall.

The Rook & Pawn

Have a house cocktail and a snack while competing with friends at this downtown board game cafe. Their impressive selection of over 600 games ranges from classics like Scrabble and Clue to strategy challenges like Catan and Ticket to Ride. Cranium and The Chameleon are favorites for larger parties.

LOCAL FAVORITES

Little Kings Shuffle Club

Catering to the local crowd, this bar has plenty of craft beers and a spacious outdoor area. Keep an eye out for special events like craft markets and dance parties.

Manhattan Cafe

One of Athens' best-kept secrets, this hidden gem is a local favorite thanks to the chill atmosphere and cocktails served with zero pretentiousness. Plus: There's always free popcorn.

Normal Bar

A mellow bar catering to Normaltown locals, this spot has an enormous main room and a small outdoor area perfect for date night. Don't miss trivia every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

SIT N SIP

Hidden Gem

This new Barber Street spot was designed to look like an old dive bar, complete with random antiques, wood-paneled walls and a photo of the bathroom inside of the bathroom. Their menu features beer, cocktails, wine and perhaps the greatest bar snack of all time, a cup of vegan instant ramen.

Nighthawks Lounge

This art deco lounge opened in 2023 and offers cocktails, wine, beer and old-fashioned bar snacks like pimento cheese and tinned sardines.

The Old Pal

Wood-paneled and serious about mixology, this Normaltown bar has a nice selection of whiskeys. Always wanted to try Absinthe or Pastis? This is the place for it.

WHERE TO GET FOOD

Bar Bruno

This Five Points spot describes itself as a "choose your own adventure bar" led by wine expert Greg Smolik and the team behind ZZ & Simone's. Menu items include Italian wines, cocktails and tapas-style dishes.

Hi-Lo Lounge

This Normaltown spot is a neighborhood favorite thanks to a cozy vibe, sizable beer list and creative cocktails. Plus, they have a full lunch and dinner menu.

The Pine Bar

This upscale Five Points bar offers a substantial selection of wine, as well as tapas, charcuterie and entrees like wood-fired oysters.

BREWERY CRAWL

Breweries, wine shops and distilleries in Athens

BEER

Akademia Brewing Company

In addition to over two dozen original beers and guest brews, Akademia serves wine, cocktails, brunch, lunch and dinner at its combination restaurant and brewery just off Atlanta Highway. The taproom opens up into a spacious bar and dining area, but patrons can also sit outside on the large patio. Don't skip the giant pretzel with ale cheese and honey mustard.

Athentic Brewing Company

This newer addition to Athens' brewery scene is located in Normaltown and offers a variety of beers, from Irish stouts to tropical IPAs. Athentic features indoor and patio seating and also sells cans of beer to take home. They regularly host trivia nights, food trucks and local restaurant pop-ups.

Creature Comforts Brewing Co.

Creature Comforts is a local favorite with a decade of success behind them. Their

downtown taproom is located in the old Snow Tire Co. factory, where you can find year-round favorites like Athena or Tropicália, or try spring and summer offerings like Belgian-Style White Ale and Lemon Shandy. Patrons can also sit outside under the brewery's large covered patio or take a 4- or 6-pack to go.

Normaltown Brewing Co.

This small-batch brewery in the historic Chase Street Warehouses offers a constantly changing selection of beer on tap and the occasional live set from a local artist. It was the fifth brewery to open in Athens and the first in the Normaltown neighborhood. They also occasionally host local chef pop-ups, so keep an eye out for the chance to grab drinks and dinner.

Terrapin Beer Co.

Since it opened its doors in 2002. Terrapin has become Athens' most widely distributed beer. Stop by this Newton Bridge Road brewery with a lush greenspace to find popular beers





like Hopsecutioner and Luau Krunkles. The recipient of multiple sustainability awards, the solar panels on their roof provide all the energy used during the brewing process.

WINE

The Lark Winespace

Both a tasting room and a wine shop, this Prince Avenue store from Krista Slater specializes in sustainable wine and cocktail ingredients. Its rotating menu showcases a variety of foreign and domestic wines, while appetizers like charcuterie boards and tinned fish help round out any cocktail party.

Tapped Athens

Putting a futuristic twist on your typical wine bar, Tapped allows you to buy wine by the ounce from soda fountain-style dispensers. They stock over 200 labels to choose from with a rotating selection of 24 wines on tap to try before you buy. Recurring events include Wine 101 (a tasting class for beginners) and mimosas and biscuits on the first Saturday of every month.

SPIRITS

Five Points Bottle Shop

No crybabies! This liquor store has been a neighborhood staple for over 30 years,

with a huge selection of beer, wine, spirits and local drinks. It's an Athens tradition to swing by on your 21st birthday to get a free t-shirt.

Oak House Distillery

Founded in 2020 by UGA food scientists, Oak House is the first legal distillery in Athens since the 1860s. Located in the historic Henry Bishop House on Macon Highway, the distillery produces botanical gins and Jamaican-style rums in a relaxing space featuring a cocktail bar and lounge. Classes on distilling and mixology are also offered.

KOMBUCHA

Figment Kombucha

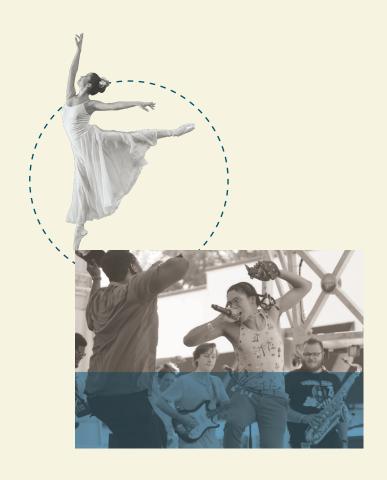
If you're looking for some non-alcoholic brews, head to Figment on Baxter Street. Opened in 2018, Athens' only kombucha brand uses local ingredients and prioritizes innovative flavors and sustainability (it comes in aluminum cans instead of the usual glass bottles).

Their signature flavors include Orange Blossom, Strawberry Meyer Lemon, Mango Ginger and Blueberry Lavender. Stop by their tasting room to pick up a can, taste seasonal flavors on tap and shop local goods at The People's Pantry.









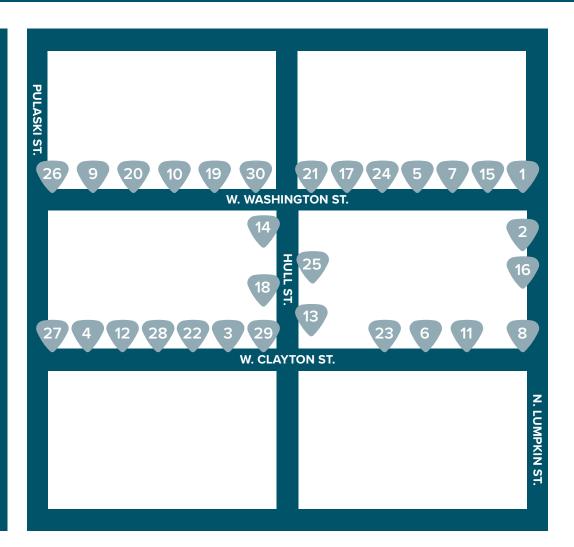
ARTS & CULTURE

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ATHENS MUSIC WALK OF FAME

Downtown Athens Map + Key





OUR MUSIC LEGACY

A brief history of music in Athens

Athens burst onto the national music scene in the late 1970s with the emergence of new wave band the B-52s and remained in the spotlight through the 80s thanks to groups like R.E.M. and Pylon. "Love Shack" and "Losing My Religion" remain some of the most iconic songs to come out of Athens.

The landmark 1986 documentary "Athens, GA: Inside/Out" further showcased the town's legendary music culture to the world, and the scene was bolstered by Elephant 6 bands like Neutral Milk Hotel and Of Montreal gaining prominence in the 90s and 2000s.

But the roots of musical innovation in Athens go back decades before then, from the groundbreaking opening of Morton Theatre in 1910, which provided a venue and platform for African American performers, to the influential work of composer Hall Johnson, who was known for arrangements of Black spiritual music. In more recent years, musicians have continued to forge new ground in the Classic City, with work spanning genres from country to hiphop and an explosion of new bands thanks to the ever-growing student population.

During the annual AthFest Music & Arts Festival, launched in 1997, artists have the ability to come together and perform all weekend long with crowds of thousands surrounding multiple stages. New groups make their debut and experienced performers strengthen the connection with their fans.

Visitors can trace the city's musical history by strolling the Athens Music Walk of Fame, a series of bronze sidewalk plaques installed in 2020 that honors those who have contributed to the town's powerful musical legacy. The route will also take you by some of the town's most notable music venues.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Concerts in Athens this spring and summer

Of Montreal March 20 40 Watt Club

April 16 Georgia Theatre

STRFKR

Flipturn

Julien Baker & Torres April 28 Georgia Theatre

Brantley Gilbert March 21 Akins Ford Arena

April 17 Georgia Theatre Riley Green Mav 1

Akins Ford Arena

Gillian Welch & David Rawlings April 3

April 23 Georgia Theatre

Evan Honer

Houndmouth May 2

Georgia Theatre

The Classic Center

Charley Crockett April 23

Health

May 13

Georgia Theatre

49 Winchester

April 3

Nightly

April 10

The Classic Center

Georgia Theatre

Megan Moroney April 4-5

Hey, Nothing April 24 Georgia Theatre JJ Grey & Mofro & The Marshall Tucker Band May 20

The Classic Center

Akins Ford Arena

Georgia Theatre

Daniel Donato's

Cosmic Country

April 26 Georgia Theatre The Dirty Guv'nahs

August 29 Georgia Theatre











ART AROUND TOWN

Athens galleries, museums and historic homes

GALLERIES

Ace/Francisco Gallery

Located inside the Thrasher Photo + Design studio in the historic Leathers Building, this gallery hosts seasonal solo exhibitions and sells prints that benefit organizations chosen by the artists. Spring exhibitions include Beneath the Sky and Sea, paintings by Louise Haynes Hall inspired by South Carolina's Lowcountry, and Playing House by Cecilia Reynolds, a collection of mixed media pieces created in Cortona, Italy. Ace/Francisco is open on the third Thursday of every month, for special events and by appointment.

The Athenaeum

UGA's downtown creative space features a contemporary gallery room, workspace and reading room full of books and albums to facilitate socialization and discussion around art. Renovated by Katie Geha, the director of the galleries at the Lamar Dodd School of Art, the space also hosts educational programming each semester. Sculptures, collages and paintings by Matt Keegan will be on display until March 22.

ATHICA

The Athens Institute for Contemporary Art, or ATHICA, is a gallery that hosts exhibits and performances year round. The main location is in the historic Leathers building in Pulaski Heights, while its second location is at Ciné.

Lyndon House Arts Center

Operated by Athens-Clarke County, this downtown center hosts contemporary gallery exhibitions, classes and workshops as well as festivals and events. An annual highlight is the juried showcase of work by local artists. Admission is free to the public.

Tiny ATH Gallery

This smaller space occupies a renovated one-time grocery store at the edge of Pulaski Heights and showcases a different local artist every month, accompanied by artist talks and makers markets.

HOUSE MUSEUMS

Church-Waddel-Brumby House

Believed to be the oldest home in Athens, this former residence of UGA president Mo-

ses Waddel was built in the 1820s and has been meticulously restored. It's also the home of the Historic Athens Welcome Center.

Taylor-Grady House

Athens's only National Historic Landmark, this 1840s home is named for original owner Robert Taylor, a cotton merchant and planter, and Henry W. Grady, the famed newspaperman, whose father bought the house from Taylor. It's now a formal event venue managed by the Junior League of Athens.

T.R.R. Cobb House

The distinctive pink mansion is the former home of Thomas Reade Rootes Cobb, a Georgia lawyer, politician and Confederate brigadier general. Cobb was a controversial figure in Athens history; when he died, 25 enslaved people lived on the estate. The lower level of the house showcases life in the mid 1800s while the upper level holds exhibitions that include more contemporary interpretations of history.

Ware-Lyndon House

The Ware-Lyndon House, built in the 1840s, is a city-owned house museum downtown. The antique furnishings reflect the lives of the two prolific doctors the house is named for, while a new exhibit shares ongoing research about the enslaved families that lived on the Ware Plantation. Next door is the Lyn-



don House Arts Center, a community visual arts complex that includes galleries and studios.

MUSEUMS AT UGA

Georgia Museum of Art

Opened in 1948, the state's official art museum occupies a contemporary building on UGA's East Campus. It holds nearly 17,000 pieces, including 19th- and 20th-century American paintings, artwork from the Italian Renaissance and a growing collection of Southern decorative arts. The monthly Family Day events allow kids and parents to spend a Saturday morning learning about a specific exhibit. Plus: admission is free.

Georgia Museum of Natural History

The specimens at the official state museum of natural history include 1.3 million insects, over 325,000 species of fishes and nearly 50,000 reptiles and amphibians. To visit the South Campus museum, schedule a tour; open Tuesday through Thursday.

Lamar Dodd School of Art

Painter Lamar Dodd came to the university as a resident artist in 1937. Before long, he became art department chair, consolidating all visual arts teaching and enrolling the first visual arts master's students. At the school named for him on River Road, see emerging and student artists' work on display throughout the year.



Performing Arts Center

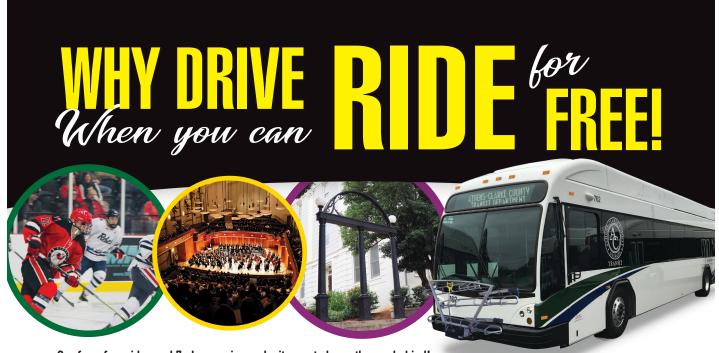
The Performing Arts Center on East Campus is home to the Hugh Hodgson Concert Hall and the Ramsey Concert Hall, venues that host national and international performers year-round as well as UGA music students and faculty.

Special Collections Libraries

This 115,000-square-foot building on Hull Street holds the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, which includes more than 250,000 books about Georgia history, 120,000 rare books and over two centuries of UGA history in the form of publications, artifacts, official records and more. The facility also houses the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies and the Walter J. Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection, which preserves over 250,000 works in film, video, audiotape, transcription disks and other formats.

PUBLIC ART

Keep your eyes peeled for public works of art around town, from murals to colorfully painted fire hydrants, sculptural bus stops and the famous bulldog statues. If you're downtown, make your way to the intersection of West Washington and North Lumpkin streets to see the Hot Corner Mural, which marks the heart of Black commerce and culture in the early 20th century. For a unique photo op, check out "Rainbow Forest," a sculpture garden consisting of 36 towering neon columns on the North Oconee River Greenway.



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40 Watt Club

While the 40 Watt Club has changed locations several times (and upgraded its lighting — it used to only have one light bulb, giving it its name), it's a classic Athens venue. The current location, at the corner of Washington and Pulaski Streets, hosts both local bands and bigger acts, showcasing everyone from Of Montreal to The Strokes. It's also the first venue to earn a plaque on the Athens Music Walk of Fame.

Akins Ford Arena

Located behind The Classic Center, Athens' newest and biggest venue opened in December 2024 following two years of construction. With a capacity of 8,500, the arena's calendar features artists like Megan Moroney and Riley Green and events from Disney on Ice to Monster Jam. It's also the home of the Rock Lobsters, Athens' pro hockey team.

The Classic Center

This downtown event space opened in 1995 and now encompasses 11 venues, including the 2,122-seat theater and the 22,000-squarefoot 440 Foundry Pavilion. The complex holds more than 600 events each year, from Broadway musicals to A-list comedians to sold-out concerts.



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The Georgia Theatre

One of Athens' most prominent music venues with an iconic marquee, this downtown theater hosts acts that draw in townies, students and visitors alike. Grab a drink from the bar, climb up to the second floor balcony or secure your spot in front of the stage while you wait for your show to begin. The rooftop doubles as a concert stage and an event space.

The Morton Theatre

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, The Morton Theatre was built in 1910 by Monroe Bowers "Pink" Morton. Located in the historic "Hot Corner" Black business district of downtown Athens, the theater is housed in the Morton Building, which also held offices for Athens' Black professionals in the early 1900s. Today, the theater hosts concerts, comedy, dance, plays and more.

SMALLER VENUES

Boar's Head Lounge

Indoor and outdoor spaces allow this bar to double as a venue for local bands.

Buvez

Buvez is a Euro-style cafe that many people use as a workspace during the day. At night, the small stage hosts local bands, singer-songwriters and weekly improv.

Ciné

This beloved independent movie theater also hosts live bands in its comfortable downtown space, where snacks, drinks and creative cocktails are available at the bar.

Flicker Theatre & Bar

This bar has an adjoining stage where you can see local bands and film screenings. There's a large patio out front and board games towards the back, making it a popular spot whether there's a show going on or not.

The Foundry

Located in Hotel Abacus (formerly Graduate Athens), this historic venue has live music, trivia, comedy, karaoke and more.

Hendershot's

This Prince Avenue coffee shop and bar hosts musicians, comedians and open-mic nights, with an intimate space inside and overflow spilling onto the patio.

Live Wire

This former warehouse is now a modern venue with three event spaces. Live Wire hosts bands, private events and even weddings.

The Roadhouse

See local bands at this dive bar nestled between Little Italy and Thai Spoon.







TOWN & GOWN

Explore community theater in Athens

BY JAXON MEEKS

Town & Gown Players is Athens' oldest theater company run entirely by volunteers. Both beloved classics and original shows are performed, produced, directed and sometimes even written by local artists.

"Athens has some tremendous talent," said Amy Miller, Town & Gown President. "You're able to see members of your community who you might know as your barista or your professor."

That talent has enabled the troupe to stay in operation since 1953. Town & Gown moved into the Athens Community Theater in 1968, and now the playhouse off Prince Avenue serves as a performance venue, rehearsal space, materials warehouse and set workshop.

Each Main Stage season includes six productions, while the four annual Second Stage performances showcase experimental works helmed by upcoming writers and directors.

"Second Stage [plays] are smaller, more creator-driven projects," Miller explained. "Anybody in the community, whether they have ties to Town & Gown or not, can put in a proposal to do a show here. It just gives people a place to put up something that maybe they wouldn't be able to do otherwise."

Between both kinds of production, the Town & Gown stage sees over 50 performances every year. It's important that the process runs smoothly, especially when a new combination of volunteers makes up the cast and crew each time.

Shows and directors are approved by a rotating board of directors. Next, auditions are attended by both first-time actors and veteran thespians.

Then an entire crew must be assembled, from costume and set designers, to light and sound operators, to ushers and box office man-

agers. Everyone is free to find what role fits them best, and even alternate between being backstage and on stage.

"We don't have an artistic director that directs all the shows, so all the members have a chance. If they want to direct, or want to costume, or want to design sets, that is open," Miller said. "Any way you want to participate here, you can."

"ANY WAY YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE HERE, YOU CAN."

AMY MILLER, PRESIDENT

Derek Adams is one of these members who made his directorial debut at Town & Gown. He works in sales and business development during the day, and as a writer at night.

When the board had a December slot open in the 2024-2025 season, Adams proposed his magical musical "A Spell for Winter." The play follows





a student struggling at a college for wizards, with music composed by Jonathan Sparks.

Town & Gown often hires local musicians and music directors to accompany shows live, rather than play a backing track. "A Spell for Winter" was no different, with Sparks himself on piano.

Neither Sparks nor Adams were new to the organization. While some volunteers stay for a season, others come back year after year. Even after writing and directing his own musical, Adams still covets any role that keeps him connected to the theater community.

"If I want to be in a show, I want to be the smallest part," Adams said. "Because then it's not a lot of work, and I get all the social benefits of hanging out with people and going to parties and all that."

Town & Gown has three Main Stage productions coming up this spring and summer: "Emilie: La Marquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight" in April, "Bright Star" in June, and "Rumors" in August.

Ready to see a show — or be in one? Visit townandgownplayers.org to buy tickets and find more information about auditions, crew calls and volunteering.

EMILIE: LA MARQUISE DU CHATELET DEFENDS HER LIFE TONIGHT

Written by Lauren Gunderson Directed by Abigail Jenkins

April 11-20, 2025

BRIGHT STAR

Music & Lyrics by Edie Brickell Book & Lyrics by Steve Martin Directed by **Drew Doss** Music Directed by Jonathan Sparks

June 13-22, 2025

RUMORS

Written by Neil Simon Directed by Vivi Guerra

(Last Main Stage show of the 2024-2025 season)

August 8-17, 2025





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FASHION & ACCESSORIES

Agora Vintage

If you're into designer bags, clothes and accessories, explore owner Airee Edwards' extensive collection of authentic secondhand pieces from Gucci and Chanel to a wall of Birkin bags.

Cillies Clothing

Overflowing with vintage finds, Cillies has a diverse array of secondhand clothing, shoes, accessories, gifts and decor from dozens of vendors. It's also a great place to find gifts.

Cheeky Peach

For concert and gameday wear, this stylish boutique offers a wide selection of accessible trends and free personal styling sessions.

Community

This North Jackson Street shop not only designs sustainable fashion, but also alters clothing, hosts sewing classes and offers a curated selection of local gifts. Fun fact: this store repairs the UGA football jerseys when they are damaged.



Boutique for vintage, upcycled, and handmade clothing, local gifts, alterations, and sewing classes. Home of The Athens Gift Box. We sew for the Dawgs!

> Address: 260 N Jackson Street Phone: (706) 316-2067 Website: shopcommunityathens.com

Duke's Clothier

This high-end, vibrant boutique offers a variety of preppy women's styles. Stop by the store for a unique shopping experience, which includes a cup of frosé and a visit from their pug, Mr. Pickles.

Dynamite Clothing

This colorful, jam-packed North Jackson Street vintage store offers one-of-a-kind finds, from retro t-shirts to wool sweaters, Gunne Sax dresses to statement earrings.

Empire South

This preppy boutique carries favorite co-ed brands like Peter Millar and Patagonia, stylish clothing for all ages and unique gifts.

Epiphany

This downtown lifestyle boutique is woman-owned and offers affordable fashion while donating profits to local and global charities.

Heery's Clothes Closet

Since 1959, Heery's has outfitted generations of students and alumni in high-end clothing and UGA merch.



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> Address: 3701 Atlanta Hwy, Ste. 10 Phone: (706) 850-5942 Website: getsunmed.com

The Indigo Child

This colorful boutique is ready to fulfill all your going out needs. Find statement tops, neon dresses and sorority-themed accessories.

K. A. Artist Shop

This Jackson Street store has a huge selection of art supplies, gifts and locally-made pieces. They also host classes, events and summer camps.



The K. A. Artist Shop sells art supplies, gifts, local art, and stationery. We host camps, classes, clubs, workshops and parties. Other services include art photography and printing. Come visit us!

> Address: 127 N. Jackson St. Phone: (706) 850-1224 Website: kaartist.com

Kempt

From California surf brands to timeless pieces your grandpa may have in his closet, Kempt focuses on modern menswear in earth tones and playful patterns.

Kum's Fashions

Since 1978, this eclectic shop has provided students with sunglasses, shoes, tees and more from brands like Ray-Ban, Coyote, Vans and Dr. Martens.











Onward Reserve

Founded by a UGA alum, this clothing store carries a wide selection of gameday goods and casual, preppy menswear.

The Swank Company

Looking for a statement piece? Choose from a selection of ruffle dresses, sherpa jackets, two-piece sets, platform shoes and more.

MUSIC, GIFTS & MORE

Archer Paper Goods

Adorable stationery, mugs, wall decor and art supplies fill this charming Clayton Street shop.

Bear Hug Honey Company

Bear Hug stocks local and internationally-sourced honey along with body care products, jewelry, candles and even Taylor Swift merch.

Low Yo Yo Stuff Records

This Washington Street store carries vinyl, CDs and cassettes. Don't miss the book section in the back.

Margo Metaphysical

A mineral, jewelry and home decor store that's operated for more than two decades, Margo carries incense, beads, crystals and meditation tools to help you elevate (or cleanse) your space.

Musician's Warehouse

This Lumpkin Street shop has served Athens musicians for more than 25 years and carries brands like Fender, Martin, Epiphone, Yamaha and many more.

Native America Gallery

Known for their handmade jewelry and gemstones, this store also sells accessories, clothing and gifts inspired by nature. If you're feeling crafty, they have a huge selection of individual jewelry beads towards the back.

Wuxtry Records

Founded in 1976, this iconic record shop describes itself as "a user-friendly retail outlet and walk-in museum of the greatest music of the last century." Bizarro Wuxtry, its sister store on the second floor, is packed with comics and collectibles.



Shop in person and online

Absynia

absynia.info

Absynia offers artisan jewelry inspired by the African diaspora handcrafted by designer Elle Lewis. Lewis got her start by repurposing broken jewelry, and soon began making her own using ethically sourced materials. Eyes, suns and ginkgo leaves are common motifs in her designs.

Chalises Heavenly Inspired

chalises.com

Founder Adrienne Chappell makes natural skin and hair care products like homemade soaps, bath bars, sugar scrubs, men's grooming goods and more. Chalises has a permanent location in Winterville and can often be found at pop-ups and farmers markets around Athens.

MEplusTEA meplustea.com

Precious Jones has been perfecting her curation of loose-leaf tea since 2017. Her company, MEplusTEA, combines high quality tea from around the world with locally grown herbs to create a wide range of flavors. You can find their loose-leaf tea, as well as gift sets, iced teas, brewing tools and their medicinal Tea.pothecary line at the Athens Farmers Market every Saturday. They also offer tea tasting for private events, allowing guests to sample their flavors and take a gift set home.

Shalom Silkies shalomsilkies.com

UGA senior Gabrielle Adekogbe founded Shalom Silkies in 2020, turning her passion for sewing into a custom bonnet brand. They offer adjustable and reversible silk bonnets, pillowcases and scrunchies in dozens of colors, all made by hand.

Charles Pinckney charlespinckney.com

Charles Pinckney is a metalsmith from South Carolina. Mostly selftaught, he crafts jewelry and small sculptures out of metal, wood and stone, mediums he first began using at only nine years old. Find him at local festivals and markets.







Boulevard Historic District

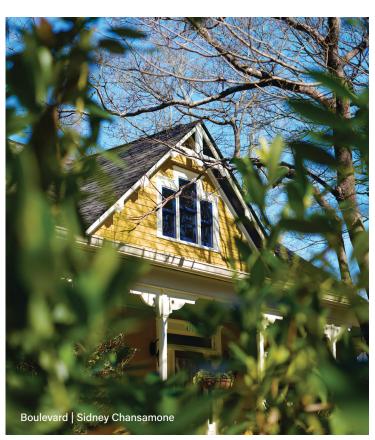
Founded in the late 1800s, this neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places is named after its widest street. When a streetcar line was built in the 1880's, the land north of the Prince Avenue mansions was developed around it. Greek Revival, Queen Anne and Neoclassical-style houses line Boulevard, while brightly painted wood cottages — the former residences of textile mill workers — dot the side streets. Many of these historic homes are still shaded by the same trees planted when the suburb was first laid out. While it remains a mostly residential area popular with artists and musicians, it's also home to Boulevard Woods Park and local businesses like White Tiger Gourmet.

Chicopee-Dudley

Located along the Oconee River between Third Street and Oconee Street, Chicopee-Dudley is named for the Chicopee building, a historic former mill that now houses UGA offices, and Dudley Park, the trailhead for both the North Oconee River Greenway and the Firefly Trail. The area is also home to several R.E.M. landmarks, like the steeple of St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Weaver D's Delicious Fine Foods of "Automatic for the People" fame. If the sightseeing and nature trails aren't your thing, it's still worth a visit for the Mama's Boy breakfast.

Cobbham

Known as Athens' first planned neighborhood, the area surrounding Prince Avenue is populated by historic homes and storefronts in varying architectural styles. Antebellum houses and Gothic Revival cottages stand alongside some of the top locally-owned restaurants, making it a picturesque setting for shopping and dining if you're looking to explore beyond downtown. (CONT. ON 46)



MEET MARY HALLAM PEARSE

BY MARY RYAN HOWARTH

Anyone passing by Mary Hallam Pearse's historic Boulevard home will be greeted by the disco balls and pink horse adorning the yard. Past her screened-in front porch, you'll find two scruffy white dogs, a painting of Rihanna and sculptures made by her former students.

Pearse is a jewelry professor and the Director of Space and Technology at the University of Georgia. She relocated to Athens nearly 20 years ago to work at UGA, first living in an apartment before eventually settling in her eclectic house.

"This is crazy, but I bought the house so I could keep the dog," Pearse laughed, as she recalled that her previous apartment didn't have pet insurance.

Her prospective neighbors, a community of shop owners, musicians and artists, helped convince her that the move was a good idea.

"I could sort of feel that it was about to explode. I could tell there was just really good energy and things were starting to happen," Pearse said.







She also appreciates her outdoor space. With a huge backyard and front patio, her dogs can roam freely while she gets some fresh air.

Proximity to local businesses is also a plus. Pearse often walks to Sips Espresso Cafe in Normaltown, and the Barber Street shops and restaurants down the road are constantly growing in number.

"The food scene, all the young chefs that are here, I feel like that's where all the risks are being taken," Pearse explained. "Athens is like this incubator town. people can come here and try things and take some risks."



Five Points

Named for the intersection of Milledge Avenue, Lumpkin Street and Milledge Circle, Five Points is a 1920s-era neighborhood known for its unique restaurants and boutiques. Dining ranges from nationally-recognized upscale locations like Five & Ten and The Expat to relaxed local favorites like The Royal Peasant Pub and The Café on Lumpkin. Condor Chocolates and Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams have dessert covered too. Stop by Avid Bookshop to pick up some new reading material or locally made gifts. Just south of Five Points are Memorial Park and Bear Hollow Zoo, which are favorites among families with kids.

Normaltown

Known for its alternative crowd, Normaltown was originally nicknamed for the State Normal School, a teachers' college founded in 1891. Its former grounds are now home to UGA's Health Sciences Campus. Locals flock to the retail strip on Prince Avenue for casual dining (Agua Linda, Automatic Pizza, Marti's at Midday) and quality bars (Hi-Lo Lounge, Normal Bar, The Old Pal). Bishop Park hosts tennis courts, trails, fields, and on Saturdays, the Athens Farmers Market.

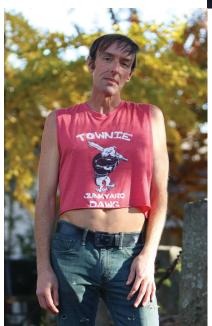
Pulaski Heights/North Chase

Originally a multi-use neighborhood home to clerks, blue-collar workers and craftsmen, Pulaski Heights developed along with the local railroad and commerce industry in the 1800s. Today, renovated cottages and modern homes line the neighborhood's hilly streets less than a mile from downtown. The adjacent North Chase Industrial District includes a number of industrial buildings — some still in business and others converted for retail or residential use. The Chase Park Warehouses, former cotton storage facilities, house a variety of businesses including artists' studios. The Tree Room offers an opportunity to take a break from exploring and get a sense of the neighborhood's history. What once served as a shelter for people traveling by freight train is now a courtyard and event space built around towering trees. The Pulaski Heights Trail connects the area to downtown.

COREY LOOMIS

BY MARY RYAN HOWARTH

You may not know Corey Loomis, but if you live here, you've probably seen him. Loomis is known for walking circles around Athens. He averages 10 to 15 miles per day, and is usually seen power walking to music in a pair of denim cut-offs and a crop top.





After arriving in town in 1998, Loomis didn't start walking regularly until a health scare necessitated it. His liver was failing, and he was told he might need a transplant.

"I started wearing crop tops and walking on Milledge to try and get as much direct sunlight on my liver itself as possible," Loomis explained. "It kind of gets people's attention."

Loomis found that walking not only improved his physical health, but provided him with a great way to commute to work along South Milledge Avenue.

"I try to do things that I would be doing at home if I were just sitting there. So I'll talk on the phone a lot of times, or I listen to music. It's almost like walking around having a music video playing," Loomis said.

While Milledge is one of Loomis's most pop-

ular routes, the historic Boulevard neighborhood is also one of his favorites, with the canopy of trees and flat roads. Overall, he enjoys the landscapes and people that all of Athens has to offer.

"It's just different from pretty much anywhere else that I've been. I've seen a lot of people leave and end up coming back. More than just being a college town, or like Neverland, you can sort of stay feeling young for a long time," Loomis said.

Becoming recognizable around town has had its pros and cons, but Loomis appreciates that his frequent walks (and iconic uniform) have motivated strangers to be active.

"I have people tell me they ran half marathons and stuff, just from watching me walk," Loomis recalled. "That's worth any of the negative energy that I get from people."



CAT BOBON

BY MARY RYAN HOWARTH

Cat Bobon can be found working the front desk of her vintage store Cillies, feeding stray cats down Atlanta Highway or decorating her North Athens Airbnb with colorful finishes. Bobon wears many different hats every day, but that's what living in Athens is all about for her.

"It's a great little town," Bobon said.

Bobon has been an Athens resident for decades. She initially worked as a server at DePalma's, until she saw a flyer advertising an opening at Cillies back in 2010.

Fifteen years later, Bobon runs the store, and has made deep connections with its many vendors. Junkman's Daughter's Brother has its own section, and a few Athens musicians bring their clothes to Bobon too. When B-52s singer



Cindy Wilson cleans out her closet, all the good finds make their way to Cillies.

Her time outside of the store is dedicated to perfecting the Airbnb she rents to Athens visitors. The 1935 farmhouse was a gift from her beloved neighbor, Mr. Malcolm, who left his home to her after he passed.

Every week, Mr. Malcolm and Bobon would feed cats together and go out to dinner at Plantation Buffet, Red Lobster or Pulaski Heights Barbecue. "He was like a father figure," Bobon said.

The house sat empty for three years before Bobon decided to update it, tackling much-needed renovations and even adding Wi-Fi for the first time.

"It had one outlet," Bobon laughs.

Even with Malcolm gone, Bobon still enjoys caring for local cats as well as her own. Her perfectly-named nonprofit, Cats Kitty Cats Inc., helps trap, neuter and return strays and keeps them fed.



ROAM

Alice H. Richards Children's Garden South Milledge Avenue

Located at the State Botanical Garden, this children's garden offers an interactive area with edible landscapes, hands-on garden plots and themed spaces. Kids can learn about nature and have fun while doing it. There's also a canopy walk with observation decks, the Theatre in the Woods, an underground adventure area and a bog garden. Families can attend the annual Questival on March 16 to explore the grounds and learn about natural history.

Bear Hollow Zoo

Five Points

Located in Memorial Park, Bear Hollow Zoo rehabilitates and cares for native animals like otters, alligators, birds and black bears that cannot survive in the wild. Kids can learn each animal's story and attend special events for hands-on encounters. Admission is free.

Sandy Creek Nature Center **East Side**

This nature center allows kids to learn about the outdoors through immersive activities. It features reptiles, amphibians, marine and freshwater aquariums, interactive natural history museums and a resource library. The Frog Pond gift shop carries locally-made educational toys.

Washington Farms Oconee County

A popular destination in fall, Washington Farm opens for strawberry picking season in April. About half an hour from downtown Athens, activities include playgrounds, a petting zoo, gem mining and more.

Skate Park of Athens

Southeast Clarke Park

With a series of bowls, ramps and rails, this 14,000 square foot facility is open daily for public use. Older kids can enjoy the ample space for skateboarding, roller skating and BMX biking.

VISIT

Athens Regional Library System Multiple locations

Each of the Athens libraries carries a wide selection of children's books. The main branch on Baxter Street near campus offers morning programs like storytime several days a week.

Avid Bookshop Barber Street

This former Five Points bookstore has a new location on Barber Street. Avid carries popular books from around the country and has an extensive kids section. They host hundreds of events and book clubs every year, many of which are for young readers.

Georgia Museum of Art East Campus

Georgia's official art museum offers free admission and multiple events for kids and families. Set up a "backpack tour" at the front desk for young visitors to get a backpack full of activity cards, touring tips and a bag of goodies. Check out the monthly Family Day events where kids and parents can spend a Saturday morning learning about a specific exhibit.

Treehouse Kid & Craft Barber Street

This wonderland of a store has creative toys, craft supplies, books and costumes as well as an in-shop studio with art classes and a DIY station. It has something for kids of all ages, as well as popular collectors items like Jellycat plushies and Sonny Angel dolls. There's even a gourmet ice cream shop inside the store with allergen-free options.

EAT

Buvez

Newtown

While the kids enjoy snow cones and watch the train go by, adults can sip a coffee or cocktail at this cozy railroad-side joint which often hosts live performances in the evenings. It's also conveniently located next door to Treehouse.

Cali N Tito's East at La Puerta del Sol Five Points/East Side

Both Cali's locations offer casual Latin fare in lively locations, but the East Side restaurant is especially popular with families, thanks to the huge dining area, coin-operated rides and frozen treats.

The Rook & Pawn

Downtown

This London-style board game cafe has over 600 games to play. Game passes are \$7, but they also have a menu full of sandwiches, charcuterie, snacks and sweets. Coffee, local beer and custom colorful Italian sodas are also available.

Ted's Most Best

Downtown

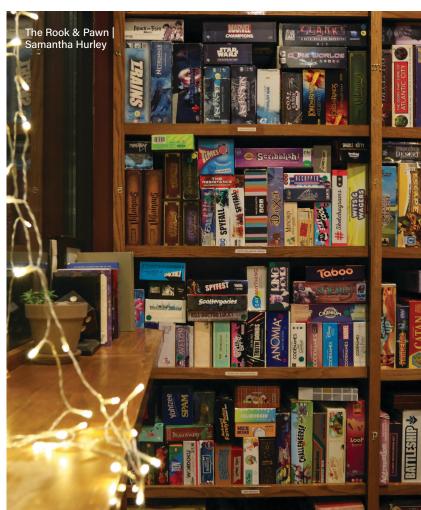
With a giant sandbox and shady patio, families are drawn to this casual Italian spot with thin-crust pizzas, pasta and draft beers.

Classic City Eats

Oconee County

This Watkinsville restaurant serves southern cuisine in a casual atmosphere. Just 20 minutes from downtown Athens, diners can enjoy starters like fried green tomatoes and hush puppies, mains like burgers, wings and wraps and an arcade full of games.







PARKS

Ben Burton Park West Side

Located on Mitchell Bridge Road, this 32-acre park features a 1.4-mile trail following the Middle Oconee River. It has 14 picnic tables, two charcoal grills, fishing access and a boat launch for non-motorized vessels.

Bishop Park Normaltown

This 33-acre city park is close to UGA's Health Sciences Campus and has walking trails, tennis courts, a swimming pool, a playground and an event pavilion. It also hosts the Athens Farmers Market every Saturday morning.

Dudley Park Fast Side

A short walk from campus, this 32-acre park provides access to two paved trail networks, the North Oconee Greenway and the Firefly Trail. Picnic tables and grills are also available.

Founders Memorial Garden North Campus

Opened in 1939, this garden is dedicated to the 12 founders of the Ladies' Garden Club of Athens, the first garden club in the U.S. The site is managed by the UGA College of Environment and Design, housing over 300 species on its 2.5 acres. Features include a formal boxwood garden, a sunken perennial garden, two courtyards, arboretum areas and a terrace. It's also a popular spot for graduation and formal photos.

Latin American Ethnobotanical Garden North Campus

This garden is managed by the UGA Latin American and Caribbean Studies institute and contains roughly 150 culturally significant plants. Opened in 1998, it was created in collaboration with El Colegio de la Frontera Sur in Mexico to research medicinal plants used by the Tzotzil and Tzeltal Maya.

Memorial Park Five Points

Just west of campus, Memorial Park's 72 acres cover hiking trails, basketball courts, a dog park, a playground, a recreation center and a fishing pond. It also offers access to Bear Hollow Zoo, Birchmore Trail and Athens Creative Theatre.

Oconee Forest Park Intramural Fields Area

This 60-acre park is managed by the UGA Warnell School of Forestry. Populated by century-old trees, the grounds offer access to Lake Herrick, picnic facilities, a hiking area, a dog park and tennis courts. The IM Fields have parking, but UGA and Athens Transit stop there too.

Sandy Creek Nature Center North Athens

With 225 acres of wetlands and woodlands and more than four miles of trails, this is a popular spot for hiking and birdwatching. Located off Old Commerce Road, the nature center houses reptiles, amphibians, marine life and immersive wildlife exhibits.

Sandy Creek Park North Athens

This massive outdoor recreation area just north of Athens encompasses 782 acres surrounding Lake Chapman. It has over 16 miles of dog-friendly hiking trails with private and public dog parks. Entry is \$2 per person, and free for children under 4 and adults over 65.

State Botanical Garden of Georgia at UGA South Milledge Avenue

Operated by the university, the State Botanical Garden has more than 300 acres of themed gardens, greenhouses, a tropical conservatory and over five miles of trails. There's plenty on offer year-round, but be sure to catch the spring 'Questival' in March and their plant sale in April.

Trial Gardens at UGA South Campus

Located behind Snelling Dining Commons, these gardens serve as

the site of a contest for the Classic City Award, where annual and perennial plants from all over the world are judged for their endurance and beauty against southern heat and humidity. Students and visitors can come see these plants year-round.

UGArden

South Milledge Avenue

The UGArden offers students hands-on experience in sustainable food systems. Crops produced there are used by its partner nonprofit, Campus Kitchen, and its Georgia school outreach program: "Grow it. Know it." UGArden offers five annual classes and occasionally hosts workshops from UGA Extension. Tours can be customized for people of different ages and interests. To plan a tour, email ugarden@uga.edu.

Walker Park **East Side**

This 113-acre park is located just off Loop 10 on Trail Creek Street. It has a large picnic area, a playground and a splash pad for family outings, as well as sports fields, hiking areas and mountain biking trails.

TRAILS

Birchmore Trail Memorial Park

Length: 1.25 miles | Difficulty: Moderate

Located in Memorial Park, this walking trail offers a look at local art as it brings you through forests, creeks and bridges to get to the Great Wall of Athens. This rock wall was built by Fred Birchmore, beloved Athens local, in his 70s. It took five years to complete and now stands tall for all hikers to see.

Firefly Trail

Athens and Winterville

Length: 39 miles planned | Difficulty: Easy

This 14-foot-wide concrete trail is suitable for wheelchair users, strollers and wagons. It's planned to run from Athens to Union Point, but for now, the completed paved sections are in Athens, Winterville, Maxeys and Greene County. Our stretch includes a 500-foot-long bridge with an expansive view of the North Oconee River. Look out for 5K races in the spring, like Pounding for Paws in March and Maxeys Model Mile in May. For more information and construction updates, visit fireflytrail.com.

Lakeside Trail Sandy Creek Park

Length: 7.5 miles | Difficulty: Moderate

Sandy Creek Park's Lakeside Trail runs around the edge of Lake Chapman, which encompasses 260 acres. Along the trail, you'll see plenty of wildlife as well as the park's beach area, boat ramps, fishing spots and picnic shelters. This trail also connects with the park's Buckeye Trail.





Nature Trail

Watson Mill Bridge State Park

Length: 2 miles | Difficulty: Moderate

See the historic covered bridge and the remains of the old grist mill along the Nature Trail at Watson Mill Bridge State Park. About a half hour drive from Athens, it's the closest state park to UGA. After your walk, you can cool off in the Broad River. There's a \$5 daily parking fee and annual passes are available.

North Oconee River Greenway Athens-Clarke County

Length: 8 miles | Difficulty: Easy

This trail system has multiple access points throughout Athens and includes a wetland trail, wildlife areas and 8 miles of paved multi-use trails perfect for walking and biking.

White Trail

State Botanical Garden of Georgia

Length: 3.6 miles | Difficulty: Hard

Popular for its gardens and birding, White Trail is one of seven color-designated trails with a good mix of flat and hilly terrain. Good to know: Dogs aren't allowed at the Botanical Garden, with the exception of service animals.

RIVERS

Big Dogs on the River **Atlanta Highway**

Big Dogs is located on the Middle Oconee River, just an eight-minute drive from Athens. Visitors can rent both single and tandem kayaks and take a leisurely paddle 3.5 miles downstream. The complimentary shuttle will pick you up when you're done and take you back to your car.

Broad River Outpost Danielsville

Twenty minutes northeast of town, Broad River Outpost offers a range of activities, from beginner whitewater kayaking to scenic canoe trips, as well as free campsite access for all paddlers.

Lake Chapman **North Athens**

This 260-acre lake includes a half acre of water and a beach with 28,000 square feet of sand. There are boat ramps for non-motorized vessels, fishing spots and kayak rentals. Sandy Creek Park access is \$2 per person.

Middle Oconee River **Ben Burton Park**

At this park, you can launch canoes or other non-motorized boats on a system of water trails along a meandering 39-mile stretch of the Oconee River.





Athens Farmers Market athensfarmersmarket.net

Every Saturday morning, more than 40 vendors set up shop on the tennis courts at Bishop Park to sell seasonal produce, meats and cheeses, baked goods, fresh flowers and handmade crafts. The weekend market runs all year, but Creature Comforts hosts a smaller market downtown on Wednesday nights from March to November.

The Culinary Kitchen of Athens culinarykitchenathens.com

Founded by Rashe Malcolm of Rashe's Cuisine, The Culinary Kitchen hosts seasonal markets, business classes and food safety workshops. Its mission is to support the Athens food industry, from restaurants to farmers to entrepreneurs. Keep an eye on their social media pages for market announcements.

Marigold Farmers Market marigoldcollectivewinterville.com

Head to the historic bank building in Winterville on Monday mornings to shop for fresh food, produce, eggs, honey and more from nearby farms. You'll also find coffee, baked goods, jewelry and homemade decor. The market is hosted by The Marigold Collective, a group of farmers, small business owners and local leaders serving the Winterville and East Athens communities. The weekly Saturday market at Pittard Park starts in April.

West Broad Farmers Market athenslandtrust.org/wbfm

Operated by the Athens Land Trust, the West Broad Farmers Market provides seasonal products and artisanal goods, including produce grown at some of the land trust's own community gardens. It's open every Saturday at Rocksprings Park starting April 20. Online ordering is also available if you're short on time or like to plan ahead. This year, the market is running through December.

DAY TRIP

Explore restaurants, farms, parks and shops in these nearby towns

Comer

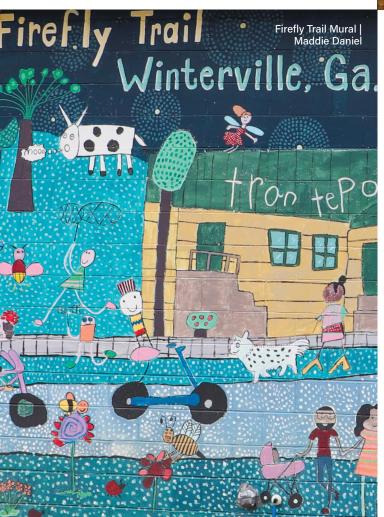
17 miles northeast

If you're a coffee drinker or a whiskey collector, Comer has some spots worth checking out. Head there to pick up custom coffee blends from Comer Coffee Co. or grab a bottle of Georgia-made whiskey from Soldier of the Sea Distillery. Nearby, stop by the 3 Porch Farm store (open seasonally) to browse candles, gardening tools and of course, farm-fresh flowers. Comer is a 6-mile drive away from Watson Mill Bridge State Park, where visitors can explore trails along the Broad River. Oasis Asian Market sells Asian snacks and grocery staples.

Lexington

20 miles east

History buffs should head east to Lexington, in rural Oglethorpe County. On your drive, you'll pass through Crawford, where you can stop by the William H. Crawford Cemetery and grab fruits and veggies from Strickland Pride Produce. In Lexington, visit the historic 1887 Oglethorpe County Courthouse. On Fridays and Saturdays, visit the Rowdy Rooster for a sandwich, scone, slice of pie or piece of local art before heading to Shaking Rock Park, which earned its name from a perfectly balanced boulder that moved when it was pressed by a hand. The rock no longer moves, but the park is still worth checking out.





Lake Oconee

48 miles south

Lake Oconee is the perfect day trip if you're looking for a change of scenery. The lake is located in Oconee County, about an hour drive from Athens. With water activities, concerts, markets and more, the lake and its surrounding area offer plenty of entertainment. With boat and watercraft rentals available at Young Harris Watersports & RV's, the water is easily accessible for a lake day. Reynolds Lake Oconee provides a sprawling, scenic golf course. You'll also find retailers like the Greensboro Antique Mall, Ripe Thing Market and Empire South.

Watkinsville

9 miles south

Classic City visitors shouldn't miss out on all that Oconee County has to offer. Visit downtown Watkinsville to try favorites like Jittery Joe's away from the crowds, or grab steak and seafood at Chops & Hops. Visit donation-based Let It Be Yoga for a session in the barn. For something a bit more adventurous, take a tree climbing class at Wild Rice Adventures. If you're missing The Varsity in Athens, Watkinsville is where the newest location is currently under construction.

Winterville

Winterville began as a railroad town, and today, it's the only municipality within Athens-Clarke County. The Marigold Farmers Market (see page 52) offers produce, food and artisan goods on Mondays and Saturdays. Visit the Front Porch Bookstore, a nonprofit that sells donated books to raise money for the library. Sweet Olive Farm, an animal rescue, allows volunteers to help maintain the grounds. You can also walk, run or bike the Winterville section of the Firefly Trail. Then head to Little City Diner, Big City Bread Cafe's sister restaurant, for brunch.







MARCH

Flight of the Fireflies Lantern Parade March 8

Dudley Park

Hosted by Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services, this parade invites the community to enjoy live music, performers and huge illuminated art pieces. Bring lanterns or flashlights to help light up the path to Dudley Park.

Great Southland Stampede Rodeo March 13-15

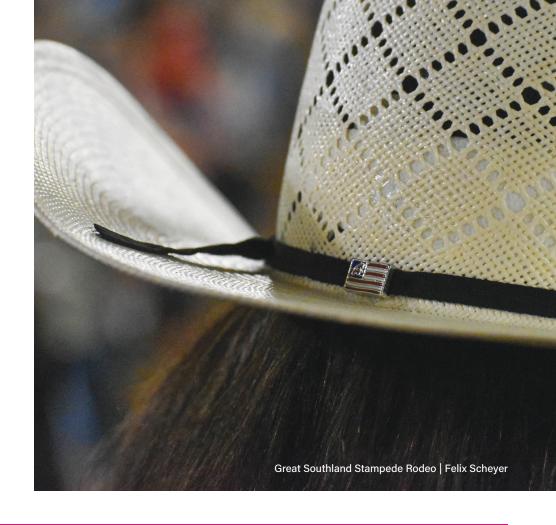
UGA Livestock Instructional Arena

Hold onto your hats at the Great Southland Stampede Rodeo hosted by the University of Georgia Block and Bridle Club. One of the largest rodeos in Georgia, it draws crowds of thousands to watch cowboys and cowgirls from all over the country ride, rope and hold on tight.

Annie March 18

The Classic Center

A new production of the beloved 1976 musical is coming to the Classic Center. Tickets range from \$25 to \$87 with group discounts available.







TEDxUGA: Destination March 28

Morton Theater

UGA hosts this annual TED event where speakers from the Athens community offer a glimpse into their research, scholarship and experience that shapes our future. Tickets are \$15 for students and \$20 for non students.

APRIL

UGA International Street Festival April 5

Downtown Athens

Created in 1999, this annual event allows Athenians and visitors to explore different cultures. Student and family friendly, this free event has live performances, activities and food from countries around the world.

Athens Beer Festival April 6

Foundry Pavilion

This annual event enables attendees to sample the latest beer from local breweries. Grab a glass, stop by a food truck and enjoy live music.

Georgia Rodeo

April 11

Athens Fairgrounds

One of the most popular events in Athens, the Georgia Rodeo is a one-day music festival and Nationally Sanctioned Rodeo. See The Red Clay Strays, Zach Top, Cameron Whitcomb, Maggie Antone and Gabriella Rose. Tickets start at \$90.

Emilie: La Marquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight April 11–20

Town & Gown Players

Town & Gown, Athens' longest-running volunteer community theater, performs the Lauren Gunderson play about an 18th century scientist.





Dear Evan Hansen April 19

The Classic Center

This Tony-winning musical follows Evan Hansen, a high schooler who becomes involved in a lie after a letter he wrote is found by grieving parents. It's recommended for ages 12 and up. Tickets range from \$25 to \$87 with group discounts available.

Athens Twilight Criterium April 25–26

Downtown Athens

Athens Orthopedic Clinic hosts the annual professional cycling race. The surrounding celebrations include a family-friendly festival, food vendors and BMX demos. Twilight draws thousands of athletes and spectators to downtown Athens, so arrive early.

MAY

UGA Spring 2025 Commencement May 8-9

Mark your calendars now! On May 8 and 9, UGA will hold commencement ceremonies for undergraduate and graduate students. Undergraduate commencement will be held in Sanford Stadium while masters and doctoral ceremonies will take place in Stegeman Coliseum.









Indie South's Springtacular Makers Market May 10-11

Downtown Athens

One of the largest makers markets in Athens, this annual event features over 100 vendors selling original art, handmade goods, and vintage items. There are also food trucks and kids craft activities.

Winterville Annual Marigold Festival May 10

Pittard Park

Featuring one of the oldest 10K races in Georgia, this small-town spring festival also has a parade, vendors, family-friendly activities, a classic car show and live music going all day long. Lyndon House Art Mart

Lyndon House Art Mart May 17

Lyndon House Arts Center

The Lyndon House Arts Foundation hosts this annual indoor artist market featuring Athens' finest craftsmen and artisans. Browse and buy paintings, pottery, jewelry and more.



JUNE

Bright Star June 13–22

Town & Gown Players

A musical by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell set in post-World War II North Carolina. Directed by Drew Doss, with music direction by Jonathan Sparks.

AthFest Music and Arts Festival June 20–22

Downtown Athens

This annual three-day festival brings local musicians, food vendors, artists and fans to downtown Athens. One of the biggest events in town, AthFest is gives attendees the chance to see dozens of bands. The event is part of a larger effort to raise money for AthFest Educates, a nonprofit that supports music and arts education for Athens K-12 students.



The Red & Black

OFFICIAL CHARITY PARTNER Saturday, April 26, 2025



run • ride • volunteer





Please use code l'andb25 to register

Registration ends 4/22. Be sure to follow & tag @athenstwilight. Invite your friends to register! More info at athenstwilight.com





- **X** AD DESIGN
- ***** PHOTOGRAPHY
- **X** BRANDING
- **CANVA TEMPLATES**

APRIL 25-26 athenstwilight.com



PRESENTED BY ST. MARY'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

THE SES ATERS

- **World-Class Bicycle Racing**
- 5K + Twiathlon
- **510K Mile Run**
- 50K or 100K Gambler Bike Ride
- **Athens Favorite Bands**
- Kids Zone

- **Open Container Festival Zone**
- **Concert & Start/Finish Line VIP**
- **Charity Fundraising**
- **BMX Shows**
 - Register
- **Vendor Expo**
- **Food Court**



E Washington St

Participate, Watch, Enjoy! @athenstwilight























