



Atlanta Insiders' Guide

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GSA @ Applied Linguistics & ESL
Georgia State University

Welcome to Atlanta!

Atlanta has a lot to offer even for a short stay. This guide includes insiders' tips and recommendations for ***transportation (p.2)***, ***attractions (p.3-4)***, and ***food & drinks (p.5)***.

Background photo from: bitcoinist.com

TRANSPORTATION

MARTA - Train, Bus, Streetcar

Trains and buses in Atlanta are operated by MARTA. Marta also runs the Atlanta downtown *Streetcar*.

Trains & Buses:

- Riding the trains and buses requires a *Breeze Card* or a *temporary ticket* which can be purchased at Train stations. The cost of one trip is \$2.50 (plus \$1 to purchase a reloadable Breeze card). Daily passes and per-ride purchases are available.
- You can get the “MARTA On the go” app to plan your commute
- Routes and schedules:
 - o Train: <https://www.itsmarta.com/train-stations-and-schedules.aspx>
 - o Bus: <https://itsmarta.com/bus-schedules.aspx>
- Trains and buses may not always be punctual.

Streetcar:

- This is a quick above-ground transit between downtown locations. It's a large trolley on rails (they're usually blue) with the *Streetcar* logo on their side →
- Streetcars DO NOT accept Marta cards. Tickets can be purchased at streetcar stops (\$1.00). Click [here](#) for more purchasing options.
- Click [here](#) for Route and schedules
- It goes around a one directional loop. Be aware of the direction of travel at your stop.



Airport Travel

If you are flying in, it is very easy to take the MARTA train from the airport to the conference hotel: take either the Gold or Red Line train north, and get off at **Peachtree Center Transit Station**.

Scooters & Bikes

Fun alternatives for getting around town with easy drop-offs

Electric Scooters

- You can quickly scan a QR-code to rent an electric scooter for short-distance excursions. There are at least three brands of scooters in Atlanta. You will need to **download the app** from any of these companies to use their respective scooters:
 - o **BIRD**: for [Android](#); for [iOS](#)
 - o **LIME**: <https://www.li.me/>
 - o **JUMP** with Uber: <https://jump.com/>
- Here's a short how-to video: <https://youtu.be/zOMYOBBRtM8>

Bike Share

- You can also get a Relay Bike Share:
<http://relaybikeshare.com/>
- It's simple to use →



Reserve
Book a Bike

1



Release
Quick & Easy

2



Ride
Get Around

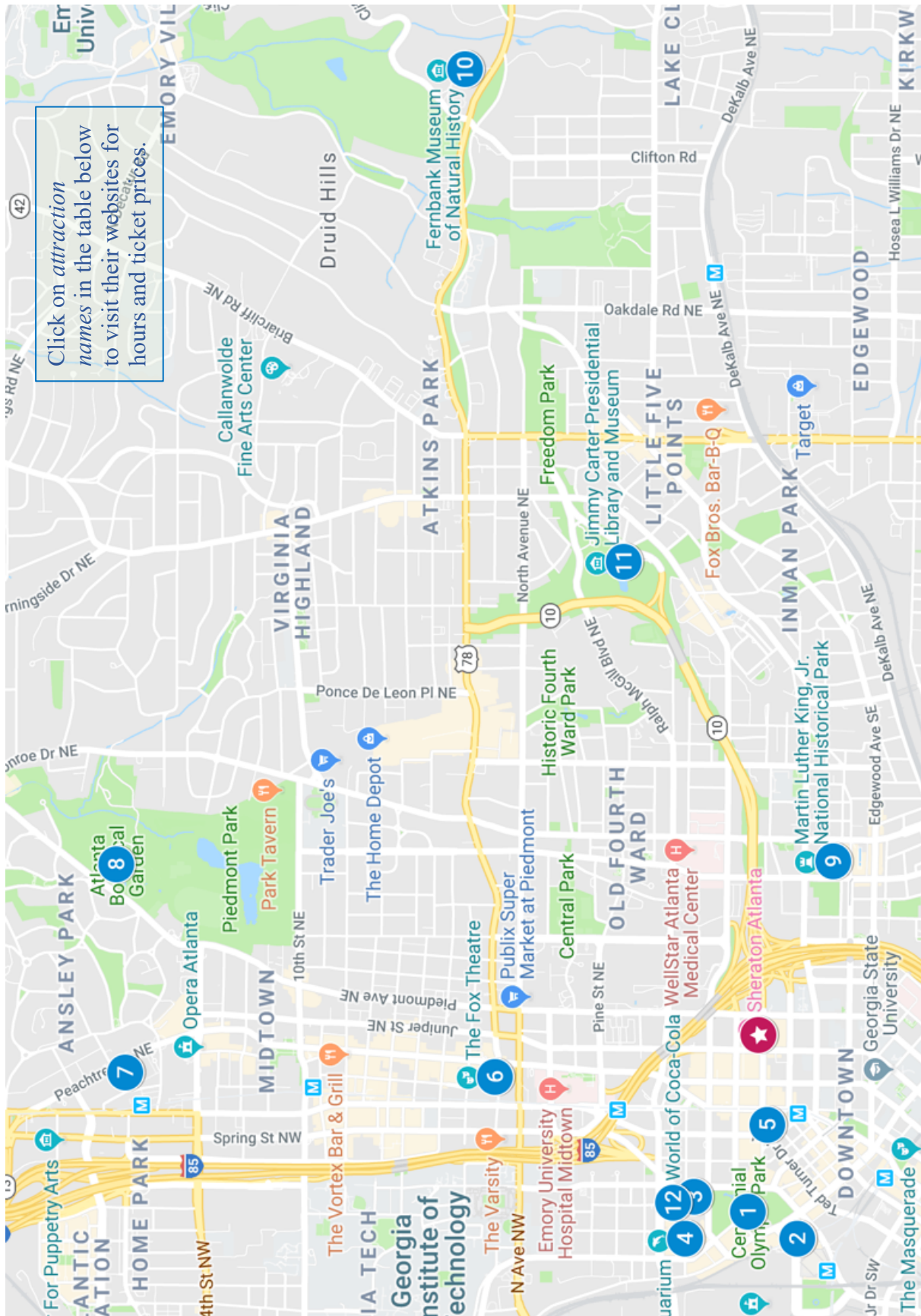
3



Return
Lock & Go

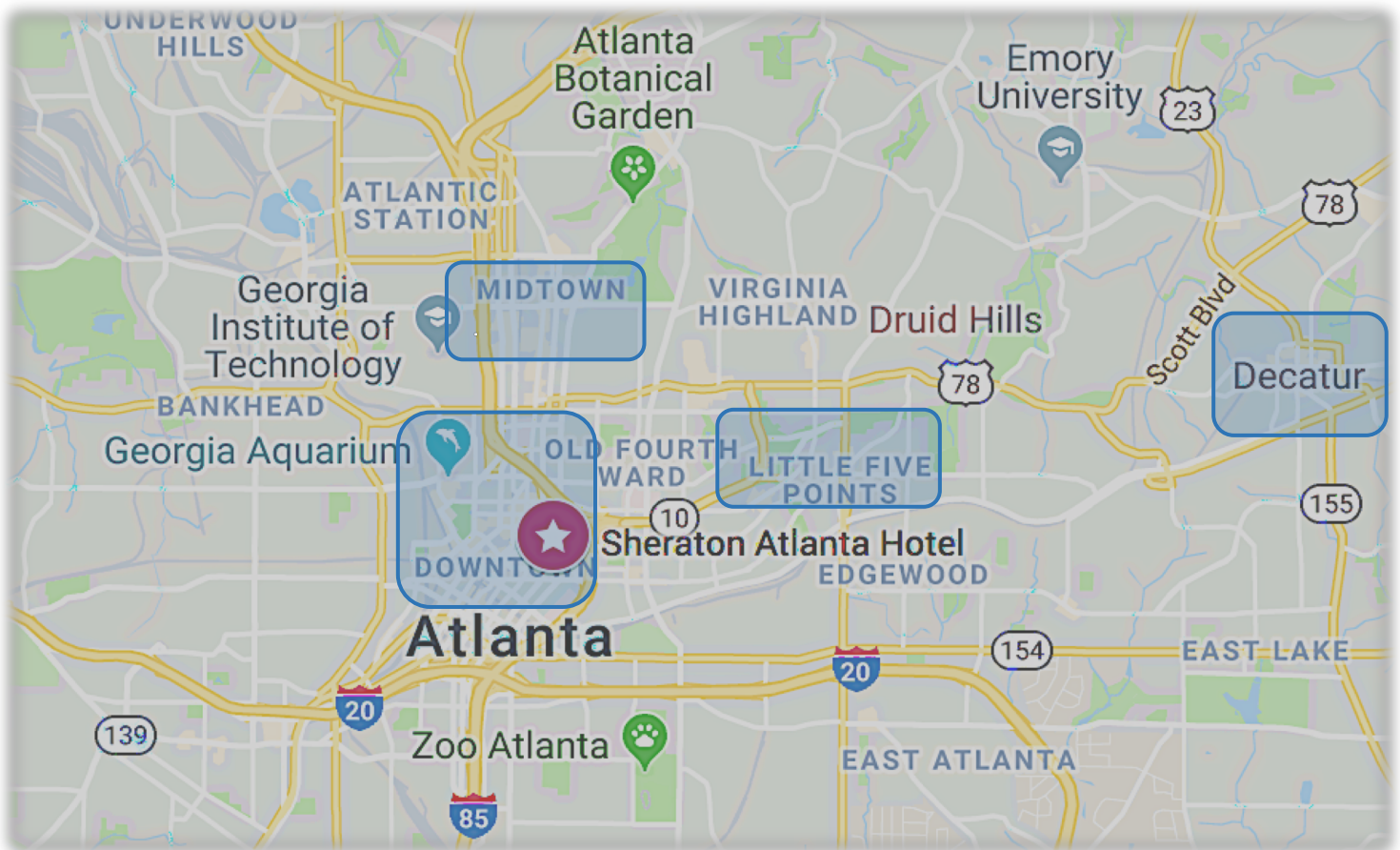
4

Attractions at a Glance



	Attractions	Insiders' ratings	Insiders' comments
1	<u>Centennial Olympic Park</u>	☹☹☹	Commemorates Atlanta's hosting of the 1996 Olympic games, it serves today as a downtown park & adjacent to the 20-story high <u>skyview Ferris wheel</u> . The experience can be different night and day depending on the weather. Worth pairing up with nearby attractions.
2	<u>CNN Studio Tours</u>	☹☹☹	As a world's famous media corporation, Cable News Network (CNN) offers a 50-minute walking tour through its Atlanta broadcasting studio.
3	<u>World of Coca-Cola</u>	☹☹☹	You may take a tour and learn the history behind this famous beverage, see Coca Cola merchandise from around the world, taste Coca Cola products sold worldwide, and receive your own collectible Coke bottle at the end. A fun experience for kids.
4	<u>Georgia Aquarium</u>	☹☹☹☹☹	This world's largest indoor aquarium is home to numerous aquatic creatures; it also offers a live dolphin show and swim/dive tours. Ticket prices vary by days and times. Make sure to check online!
5	<u>Sun Dial</u>	☹☹☹☹	Sun Dial is a revolving bar atop the Westin Hotel with views of downtown Atlanta. The Sun Dial is actually free if you just <i>go to the restaurant</i> and tell so to the front-desk at the elevator.
6	<u>The Fox Theatre</u>	☹☹☹☹	The Fox Theater's Moorish-Egyptian façade is hard to miss; Atlanta's historic Fox theater still hosts live Broadway shows, headliners, dance companies, and comedy stars; tours are available as well.
7	<u>High Museum of Art</u>	☹☹☹☹☹	Home to a permanent and rotating collection of classic and contemporary art. Check their Spring events online for a fuller experience!
8	<u>Atlanta Botanical Garden</u>	☹☹☹☹	This 30 acre botanical garden features outdoor and indoor collections, as well as the 25,000-square-foot Fuqua Orchid Center and a 600-foot Canopy Walk with views of the city's last remaining urban forests.
9	<u>MLK National Historical Park</u>	☹☹☹☹☹	Tour the house where King was born, see his life retraced at the Visitors' Center; also open to viewing is the Old Ebenezer Baptist Church where King, his father, and his grandfather preached.
10	<u>Fernbank Museum of Natural History</u>	☹☹☹☹	Boasts a number of permanent and rotating exhibits, as well as a mounted skeleton of the largest dinosaur ever found, the Argentinosaurus. Fernbank After Dark is for ages 21+.
11	<u>Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum</u>	☹☹☹☹	This self guided museum covers President Carter from birth through his present testimony of what a retired president should do. Loved that they showed the volunteerism that he is renowned for. If time allows, don't miss a visit to the gardens!
12	<u>The Center for Civil and Human Rights</u>	☹☹☹☹☹	This interactive and informative museum brings history to life with significant connection to Atlanta's past. A must-do cultural experience.
	• <u>Zoo Atlanta</u> (to the south of the map)	☹☹☹☹☹	A fun place for a family outing. Kids will enjoy the free petting zoo. You can see pandas here! It took 2-3 hours to walk through the whole zoo.

CityPASS: for those with enough time and interest, Atlanta offers CityPASS, an affordable way to visit up to 5 major attractions, see <http://www.citypass.com/atlanta>



Food and Drinks

For food and drinks, we picked out four areas that you can get to fairly easily from public transportation. Each of them is a microcosm of different restaurants, cafes, bars, shops, attractions, and more. These are wonderful choices for a short visit.

Insiders' Tips

Downtown Area

The Downtown Atlanta area is the closest to the Sheraton Conference Center, but many stores may not open on weekends. The authentic Sweet Auburn Market is within walking distance.

Midtown Area

The upbeat and active social heart of the city. Many places remain open on the weekends. Check out the Ponce City Market, its iconic entertainment on The Roof and the beltline!

Little Five Points

As one of Atlanta's hippest neighborhoods, the eclectic Little Five Points offers an urban vibe with diverse businesses. Parking may be a bit tricky.

Decatur

Ranked as one of the safest neighborhoods in GA, Decatur is "one of the few parts of the sprawling Atlanta area that blends a small-town feel with an open-minded, freewheeling, artsy sensibility". Plan your trip in Decatur with TripAdvisor's 15 best things to do in Decatur.