Driving Tour of ATLANTA

This tour will take about an hour if you make no stops and if traffic is not a problem.

From the main entrance of Emory, turn right on **North Decatur Road**. Get in the left lane, and turn left at the flashing yellow light on **Lullwater Road**. You are driving through **Druid Hills**. Frederick Law Olmsted, designer of NYC’s Central Park and Boston’s Emerald Necklace, laid out the neighborhood in 1893; Lullwater served as the location for the filming of Driving Miss Daisy. At **Ponce de Leon Avenue**, turn right. At the intersection with **Briarcliff/Moreland Road**, turn left.

(If you were to continue on Moreland, you would reach **Little Five Points**, a gathering spot for the young, the hip, the cool, and the pierced.)

Turn right at the second light on **Freedom Parkway**. You will pass the **Carter Center** on your left. It is home to art exhibits, mementos from Jimmy Carter’s presidency, and his presidential library. The **Carter Center of Emory University** is also located in the facility; it is a center for public policy research, for global conflict resolution, and for human rights advocacy. At the light after the Carter Center, turn left following the signs toward Interstate 75/85. Turn left at **Boulevard**; then turn right on to **Auburn Avenue**.

(If you were to continue on Boulevard, you would drive by the neighborhood of **Cabbagetown** on the left and **Oakland Cemetery** on the right. Since 1850, Oakland has been the final resting place for many of Atlanta’s more famous citizens including Margaret Mitchell and Bobby Jones. Boulevard will also take you to **Grant Park**, home to **Zoo Atlanta** and the **Cyclorama**.)

After you turn on Auburn, you will see the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Center** on the left. Farther down the street on the left is Dr. King’s **Ebenezer Baptist Church**; the headquarters for the **Southern Christian Leadership Conference**, his civil-rights organization, is on the right. After you cross Piedmont Avenue, the **African-American Panoramic Experience (APEX)** is on the left along with the **Auburn Library**.

Once you cross Pryor Street, you will drive through **Woodruff Park**. When you cross Peachtree Street, Auburn’s street name will change to **Luckie Street**. This neighborhood is **Fairlie-Poplar**, one of the residential portions of downtown. On the left is the **Rialto Theater**, Georgia State University’s performing arts facility. Further down Luckie is the **Tabernacle**, a popular concert venue.

Luckie will end on **Techwood Drive**, turn left. Before you is **Centennial Olympic Park**, a popular gathering place during the ’96 games. At **Marietta Street**, turn left. **CNN Center** is at the corner of Techwood and Marietta. Behind CNN is the **Georgia Dome**, home to the NFL’s Falcons, and the **Phillips Arena**, home to the NBA’s Hawks and NHL’s Thrashers.

Drive down **Marietta Street**. Once you cross Peachtree Street, you will drive through the campus of **Georgia State University**. At **Jesse Hill Jr. Drive**, turn right; then turn right on **Martin Luther King, Jr Drive**. On your right, you will see the **Georgia State Capitol**. The dome is covered in gold mined from Dahlonega, Georgia, site of America’s first gold rush in 1828.
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(If you were to drive around the capitol and drive down Capitol Avenue, you would reach Turner Field, the site of the 1996 Olympic Stadium and now the home of the Atlanta Braves.)

As you drive down MLK Drive, the World of Coca-Cola museum and the Underground shopping complex will be on the right. At Peachtree Street, turn right. At the intersection, you can see the Georgia Dome in front of you. On Peachtree, you will drive through the central business district. The High Museum at Georgia Pacific Center will be on your right. Peachtree Street is the most famous street in Atlanta. Instead of having one clustering of skyscrapers, Atlanta’s skyline stretches the length of Peachtree from downtown to Buckhead, in part because everyone wants a “Peachtree Street” address. If you cannot have Peachtree Street, one might choose one of the more than 100 other streets in the Atlanta area with “Peachtree” in its name.

When you cross the interstate system, you are in Midtown, the city’s arts district. On your left at Linden and Peachtree, you will see Emory’s Crawford Long Hospital, one of six healthcare facilities operated by the University. Also on your left at North Avenue, Bank of America Plaza is the tallest building in Atlanta and in the Southeast. (If you were to turn left on North Avenue, you would reach the world famous Varsity drive-in and the campus of Georgia Tech.)

On the left at Peachtree and Ponce de Leon Avenue is the Fox Theater. The circa 1929 Art Deco/Exotic Revival building hosts concerts, films, and shows. Across the street is the circa 1911 Georgian Terrace Hotel. This grand hotel hosted the cast and the premiere party for Gone With the Wind. The Margaret Mitchell House, where she wrote Gone With the Wind, is located on your left at 10th and Peachtree. (If you were to turn left on 10th Street or 14th Street, you would reach Piedmont Park, the city’s largest park. If you were to turn left off 10th or 14th on Piedmont Road, you’ll reach the Atlanta Botanical Gardens.)

On the left after 15th Street is the Woodruff Arts Center, home to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Alliance Theater, and the Atlanta College of Art. On your right at 1447 Peachtree is the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia. Rhodes Hall, home of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, is on the right at 1516 Peachtree in a beautifully preserved 1904 Romanesque Revival mansion. At one time, homes like Rhodes Hall lined the length of Peachtree Street.

When you again cross the interstate system, you will enter the area of the city know as Buckhead. It includes a number of smaller neighborhoods; you will drive through Brookwood, Peachtree Battle, Peachtree Hills, and Garden Hills. When you see street names like Peachtree Battle, remember that much of Atlanta is built upon Civil War battlefields. Plaques are scattered across the city to explain what took place during the siege of the city.
You will drive several miles though residential and commercial areas before you reach the Buckhead Triangle, after the intersection with Pharr Road. Here, the blocks to either side of Peachtree are a dense grouping of restaurants, clubs, and music venues.

(If you were to turn left on West Paces Ferry Road, you would reach the Atlanta History Center and the Governor’s mansion.)

Continue on Peachtree for about a mile; you will reach Lenox Square Mall on the right. Phipps Plaza is on the left after the intersection with Lenox Road. These two malls together create one of the most popular shopping complexes in the region.

This is where our tour ends. If you would like to return to the interstate system, turn right on Lenox Road. Lenox will intersect Interstate 85. Exit right to access I-85 South as well as I-75 and I-20. Exit left for I-85 North.