

A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR YOUR GENERATION

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LIVING WELL *50 Plus*

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TRAVEL

A Weekend Getaway to Atlanta

IF GEORGIA IS ON YOUR MIND, HERE'S SOME HELP FOR PLANNING YOUR TRIP



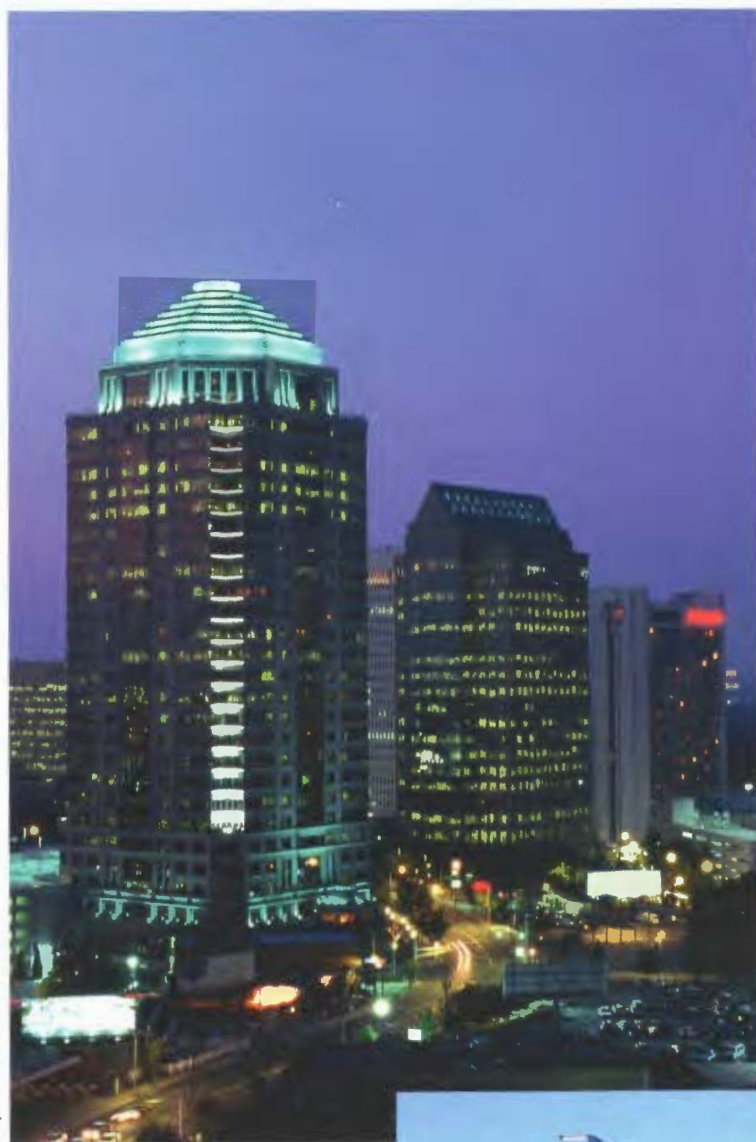
by Jan Ross,
Staff Writer

Nicknamed "Hot-lanta" for its warm weather, Atlanta

is the capitol of Georgia and the seventh most visited city in the United States, with over 35 million visitors a year. Once you have visited this lovely Southern city, you will see why it is a popular vacation destination.

Atlanta has many beautiful, historic neighborhoods and a vibrant downtown area with plenty of shops, restaurants, concerts and sporting events to attend. The Melia Atlanta Hotel on Peachtree Street is a great location with easy access to everything you might want to see and do. Stay in one of "The Level" rooms and you will not only have a balcony to enjoy those beautiful city views but you will also have a continental breakfast and an evening reception complete with an open bar and hot hors d'oeuvres. A fitness center, rooftop pool and a beautiful European/Spanish influence in the furnishings make this hotel stand out.

To really see Atlanta up close and personal, try biking the city with Bicycle Tours of Atlanta. Owner Robyn Elliott will outfit you with the perfect size bike and show you exactly how to change gears and brake – handy information for those who have not biked in years. The tour also includes bottled water, a snack and close-up views of locations such as the gorgeous Oakland Cemetery and beautifully restored historic neighborhoods. You will see the famous Underground Atlanta, which has dozens of shops and restaurants, and bike along sidewalks downtown with soaring skyscrapers beside you.



After your bike tour, be sure to stop for lunch or dinner at The Varsity, the world's largest drive-in restaurant. It has been serving great milkshakes, burgers and fries since 1928.

There's plenty to do in Atlanta, but one of the most popular outings, especially for families, is the Georgia Aquarium, the world's largest. It features an incredible array of sea life. Offering a number of events as well as dozens of exhibits, this is the

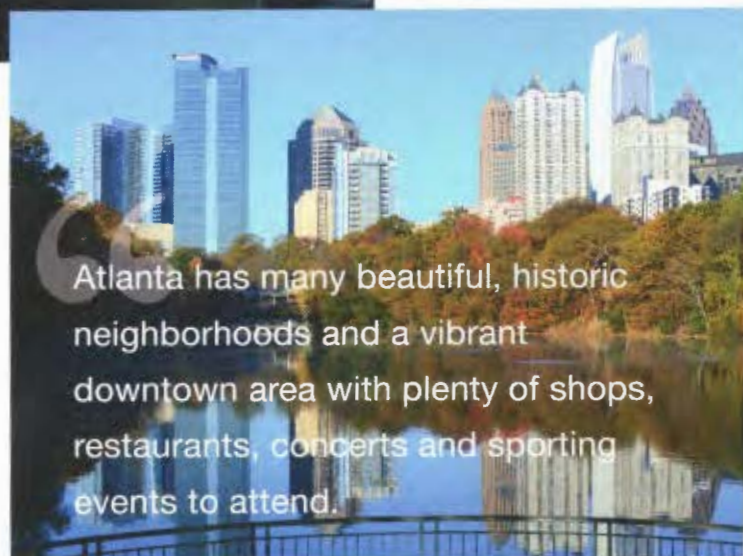
perfect place to spend an entire day.

Baseball, basketball and football games can all be on the agenda – just choose which sport sounds best to you. At Road Atlanta, you can watch car racing, but if you want to be more of a participant, check out Andretti Indoor Karting and Games where you can race your own go kart.

No matter what time of year you go, the Atlanta Botanical Garden is a lovely place to visit. With 30 acres of indoor gardens, a children's garden, a canopy walk through Storza Woods and an edible garden with an outdoor demonstration kitchen, it can take a day to see it all.

There is so much to see and do in Atlanta that you are going to need more than a weekend – so you'd better start planning your next trip.

Jan Ross is a freelance travel writer who publishes in a variety of venues, both print and online. You can contact her at janross53@gmail.com or check her travel blog at www.wanderlustwander.com.



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