

Athens in 72 Hours

RICH IN HISTORY AND CULTURE

By Mary Charles Howard

Athens, Georgia is a small town with big ideas, always ready to serve up good music, food and fun! Most outsiders find this seemingly sleepy little city very surprising once they spend time getting to know the nooks and crannies of our artsy town. We recommend you take your time, 72 hours to be precise, to check out the town, see what it has to offer and fall in love. We'll start you out slowly, in Watkinsville, a beautiful historic town on the outskirts of Athens:



Wednesday 5 p.m.:
Ashford Manor Bed & Breakfast, Main Street, Watkinsville
www.ashfordmanor.com

A luxury Bed and Breakfast complete with fountain, gardens and pool, Ashford Manor is perfect for sipping a signature mint julep cocktail by the pool.

Wednesday 7 p.m.:
Chops & Hops, across from Ashford Manor, Watkinsville
www.chopsandhops.com

Simply put, it's just a good southern steakhouse.

Wednesday 9 p.m.:
Downtown Historic Watkinsville, self-guided walks
www.antebellumtrail.org

Discover local historic sites at your leisure.

Thursday 8 a.m.:
 Ashford Manor breakfast in bed. Peaceful perfection.

Thursday 9 a.m.:
Chappelle Gallery, Main Street, Watkinsville
www.chappellegallery.net

Enjoy pottery, glass and drawings from over 125 craft artists.

Thursday 10 a.m.:
Washington Farms, Hog Mountain Road, Watkinsville
www.washingtonfarms.net

Pick your own strawberries, blueberries, blackberries and pumpkins!

Thursday noon:
The State Botanical Gardens of Georgia, South Milledge Avenue.
www.uga.edu/botgarden

With over 300 acres to explore, beauty is around every bend!

Thursday 2 p.m.:
Hotel Indigo, College Ave. downtown Athens
www.hotelindigo.com

Settle in at this beautiful eco-friendly hotel.

Thursday 6 p.m.:
Wuxtry Records, Clayton Street, downtown
www.wuxtry-records.com

Not just a record store but also a living museum of the greatest bands of the last century.

Thursday 7 p.m.:
Cine, Hancock Avenue, downtown
www.athenscine.com

Locally owned Cine Bar/Cafe/Cinema is a beautiful movie theatre featuring films worth seeing, with a full bar and popcorn for \$1.

Thursday 9 p.m.:
The National Restaurant, next door to Cine
www.thenationalrestaurant.com

A relaxed environment with a Mediterranean inspired, locally sourced menu.

Friday 8 a.m.:
Jittery Joe's Roasting House, East Broad Street, downtown
www.jitteryjoes.com

See where the coffee roasting magic happens, then grab a cup of Joe and relax on the front porch.

Friday 9 a.m.:
Mama's Boy, Oak Street, near downtown
www.eatatmamasboy.com

It's Southern dining with a mean mimosa and sawmill breakfast. Don't forget to ask the staff about local R.E.M. landmarks.

Friday 10 a.m.:

Georgia Museum of Art, UGA campus
www.georgiamuseum.org

Kick off your tour at the official art museum of the state of Georgia.

Friday noon:

Lindsey's Culinary Market,
 Prince Ave., near downtown
www.lindseysculinarymarket.com

Have Lindsey pack you a picnic lunch with southern favorites such as chicken salad or pimento cheese.

Friday 1 p.m.:

Watson Mill Bridge State Park,
 Comer, Ga., 20 miles northeast
www.gastateparks.org

Home of the longest covered bridge in Georgia and a beautiful setting for your perfect picnic.

Friday 3 p.m.:

Shiraz Fine Wine & Gourmet,
 Pulaski St., near downtown
www.shirazathens.com

Enjoy a wine tasting at this locally owned wine shop.

Friday 4 p.m.:

UGA North Campus,
 Broad St., downtown
www.uga.edu/profile/campus.html

Walk and enjoy its historic structures and gardens. Check out the UGA Arch, Founder's Garden and Stanford Stadium.

Friday 7 p.m.:

George's Lowcountry Table,
 South Milledge Ave., Athens
www.georgeslowcountrytable.net
 Dinner, Cajun-style.

Friday 9 p.m.:

Georgia Theatre, Lumpkin St., downtown
www.georgiatheatre.com.

A legendary music venue, complete with the only rooftop bar and restaurant in Athens. Show schedule is available online.

Friday midnight:

McCoy's Bourbon Bar, three doors down from the Georgia Theatre
www.facebook.com/mccoysbb

Late night drinks just a quick stroll away.

Saturday 8 a.m.:

The Local Jam, South Lumpkin St.
www.thelocaljam.com

Serving hand-kneaded Mexican sweet bread, mac-n-cheese and homemade pepper jam.

Saturday 9 a.m.:

Athens Farmer's Market,
 Bishop Park on Sunset Ave.
www.athensfarmersmarket.net

Enjoy bluegrass music while shopping for local cheese, honey, breads and veggies.

Saturday 11 a.m.:

NONA, New Orleans N' Athens Restaurant, Broad St., downtown
www.neworleansnathens.com

Pickled Okra, Bloody Mary's and oysters.

Saturday noon:

Shopping Downtown
www.downtownathensga.com

We suggest Native American Gallery, Community Vintage, Heery's Two, Encore and Masada Leather.

Saturday 2 p.m.:

Last Resort Grill, W. Clayton St. Downtown
www.lastresortgrill.com

Have a late lunch at a local staple where you'll find fried green tomatoes, crab cakes and handcrafted salad dressings.

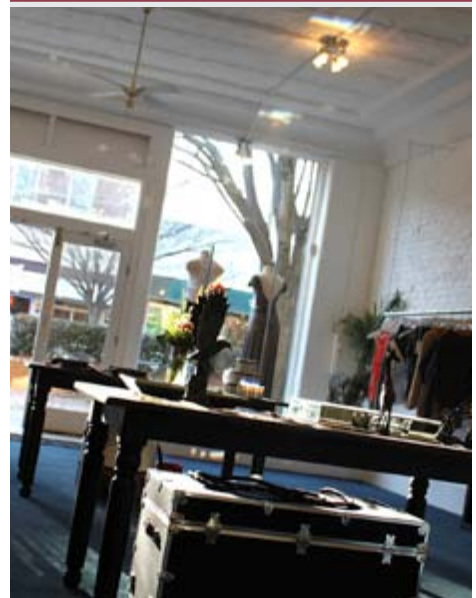
Saturday 5 p.m.:

UGA Trial Gardens. UGA South Campus, next door to the Pharmacy Building
www.ugatrial.hort.uga.edu

This is free and open year round. Take home inspiration from these gardens and stretch your legs before the road trip home!

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