

Southbound

THE ISLANDS ISSUE

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WAYS TO
CELEBRATE
THE SOUTH'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

ROAD TO THE CROWN

MISS AMERICA'S SMALL-
TOWN GEORGIA ROOTS

BARNSTORMING

SKIP THE HOTEL
AND STAY
ON A FARM

BIRMINGHAM'S REBOOT

THE MAGIC CITY
CASTS A NEW SPELL

Art in Bloom

Spring's warmer temps and colorful flowers mean one thing: outdoor art festivals. Here, we highlight a few favorite Southern fests where art and atmosphere come together for a weekend to remember.



Art in the Pass

WHEN

April 2-3

WHERE

War Memorial Park,
Pass Christian,
Mississippi

WHY

Location, location, location. Nearly 100 artists converge at this picturesque setting overlooking the Gulf. Added bonus: The hands-on Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival runs concurrently at the adjacent park.

INFO

artinthepass.com



Atlanta Dogwood Festival

WHEN

April 8-10

WHERE

Piedmont Park,
Atlanta, Georgia

WHY

Atlanta's official kickoff to spring turns eighty. Special live performances covering iconic eighties tunes will commemorate the milestone—cue the Police, Duran Duran, and Madonna.

INFO

dogwood.org



Artisphere

WHEN

May 13-15

WHERE

Greenville,
South Carolina

WHY

Offerings go beyond recycled glass jewelry and hand-painted signs found at other festivals. The stringent artist selection process guarantees that the caliber of work is top-notch.

INFO

artisphere.org

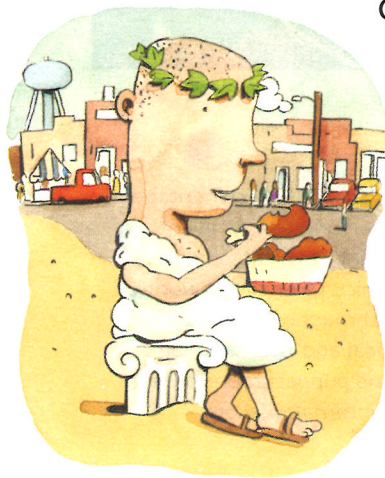


A River City "Safari"

Heading to Chattanooga for your kids' spring break? Don't miss the city's **Spring Break Safari** (March 12–April 10), which helps visiting families maximize their experiences at eleven popular attractions. Each spot offers child-friendly keepsakes (such as maps and costumes) and two scavenger hunts.

Playing pretend is encouraged: Don a conductor's cap and ride a vintage train along the Tennessee Valley Railroad, sign up for the Chattanooga Zoo's "Zookeeper for a Day" program, or become a high-tech animal tracker at the Tennessee Aquarium. Marvel over fascinating rock formations when you journey underground as a speleologist at Ruby Falls beneath Lookout Mountain. And imagine you're a sword fighter at Rock City's "Fairy Tale Nights," a nightly event featuring costumed characters from a faraway kingdom. Pick up a free Safari journal at any of the participating sites, and visit chattanooga4fun.com/spring for all the details.

Grease is the Word A quirky nod to Southern food culture, the **Athens Grease Festival in Athens, Alabama**, is a "celebration of all things fried." Come for the fried bacon-banana-Nutella sticks; stay for the fried ravioli and fried candy corn. Chefs compete in categories such as "Best Fried Meat" and "Best Fried Dessert"; one year, the "Most Outrageous Fried Food" winner was "Mount Olympus," created from a pile of fried candy bars. (Nutrition cops, take note: The festival's unofficial tagline is "Eat responsibly the other 364 days of the year.") June 11. athensgreasefestival.com



Nosh

Fuel up for your adventures with fluffy blueberry pancakes at **Blue Plate**, a polished, retro diner on the downtown riverfront, or indulge in a stellar bacon cheeseburger at **Urban Stack**, located in a one of Chattanooga's oldest buildings.