



Attractions

- Butts-Mehre Heritage Museum, containing memorabilia from UGA's athletic history
- Founders Memorial Garden, which recognizes the first garden club in America
- State Botanical Garden, with over 300 acres of forested trails and specialized gardens
- Georgia Museum of Art, with American painting as the primary focus of its collection
- The restored Morton Theatre, which was America's first African-American built, owned and operated vaudeville theatre
- Taylor-Grady House, a National Historic Landmark
- The Double Barreled Cannon, a one of a kind Civil War relic
- The Tree That Owns Itself, a tree that legally owns itself and all the land within 8 feet around it

Athens, The Classic City

Athens, with a population of just over 110,000, truly is the quintessential “college town.” The University’s campus borders downtown Athens where there is always something going on. Known as the Classic City because of its name and neoclassical architecture, Athens is located about 60 miles northeast of Atlanta in the forested foothills of northeast Georgia. The founders of the University of Georgia chose this once remote site for the University, naming the town after its Greek counterpart, a great center of learning. Even today there is little distinction between the city of Athens and the University of Georgia.

Dining If you get hungry, stop at one of the many coffee shops, ice cream parlors, smoothie stands or restaurants (you can find just about anything – Italian, Indian, Asian, Mexican, American, Japanese...) downtown, which range from very inexpensive (great if you are on a student’s budget) to more upscale establishments. Downtown Athens also has restaurants that are open 24 hours.

Music/Nightlife At night, you can experience the thriving music scene in the town that Rolling Stone Magazine ranks in the top ten in its list of “Schools that Rock.” Bars in downtown Athens come to life at night with students from the University taking a break from their studies. You can visit local night spots where famous bands R.E.M. and Widespread Panic launched their musical careers. Athens is also home to AthFest, a non-profit annual music and arts festival in downtown Athens designed to display the talents of local and regional musicians and artists: www.athfest.com. If you want to experience the big city life, metropolitan Atlanta is just a short drive away.

Recreation Campus and community parks support a variety of recreational activities. In addition, the nearby Appalachian Mountains, north Georgia lakes and Atlantic coast beaches provide a range of outdoor adventures. There is truly something for everyone in Athens.

Shopping Shopping in downtown Athens is an exciting experience. Small clothing boutiques, music stores, shoe shops and art and jewelry stores line the streets – all infused with the unique downtown Athens flavor. The Georgia Square Mall is located only a few miles from the University.

Theatre/Art Theatre thrives in the Classic City with frequent performances at the Performing Arts Center and the Athens Classic Center, as well as an abundance of community theatre and dance performances. Athens, with galleries, museums, local writers, painters, potters and sculptors, is a very supportive community for artists and writers.

Weather Athens enjoys a moderate climate year-round with average low and high temperatures ranging between 33° to 51°F (1° to 11°C) in January, the coldest month, and 69° to 90°F (21° to 32°C) in July, the warmest month.



Resources

Athens Banner-Herald
www.onlineathens.com

Athens-Clarke Chamber of Commerce
www.athenschamber.net

Athens-Clarke County Government
www.athensclarkecounty.com

Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau
www.visitathensga.com

Athens Welcome Center
www.athenswelcomecenter.com