

## ***Early 19th Century: 1800-1850***

**Americans Settle the Area-** In the early 1800's, the areas surrounding modern day Atlanta had not been completely settled by the United States and still belonged to the Native tribes of the land, the Creek and the Cherokee. In the next half of a century American settlers would move in, and through several wars and treaties, would claim the land for the United States. At this point in time, Atlanta would begin to take shape and become the gem of the "Old South" that it was viewed as in the 19th century.

- 1813: The Creek War begins. Conflict broke out in the surrounding areas between the United States and the Creek tribe. The area slowly became somewhat populated with non-Natives, when United States set up several forts around the territory to deal with conflict issues.

- 1822: As the Creek ceded to the surrounding areas, settlers began to move into the portion of land that is now Atlanta more, to assemble what would be the first permanent American settlements in the area.

- 1830: Whitehall Inn was built, leading to first stages of urbanization of the land. This particular area later developed into one of the larger neighborhoods in Atlanta, now known as the West End.

- 1835: After much conflict between the United States and the Cherokee Nation, both parties signed the Treaty of New Echota. In this treaty, the Cherokee people agreed to give the land to the United States in exchange for land west of the area. This later contributed to the Trail of Tears.

**Railroad Work-** The United States railroad system was once the main thing that connected the country and helped the economy flourish. This mass, country-wide construction took place throughout the mid-1800's. The territory that is now Atlanta ended up becoming a very important part of the railroad system, when it was picked to hold the terminus to the Western and Atlantic Railroad. This was a major step towards the development of the territory from being a small settlement to a highly important city. The population of the area quickly increased and where the the "zeromilepost" of the rail hub was located would be where the Five Points section of Atlanta's downtown area, was centered around. - 1837: Area that is now Atlanta is chosen to be the Terminus for the Western and Atlantic

Railroad and the territory receives the name "Terminus". - 1843 & 1845: The city's name changes to Marthasville, which was then changed to Atlanta in

1845 - 1844: After development continues in the city, Jonathan Norcross opens up the first

manufacturing establishment, a sawmill, which was followed by a string of similar establishments that, combined with the railroad, generated more trade and thusly jobs. This lead to an increase in population and the continued urbanization of the area.

## ***Second Half of the 19th Century: 1850-1900***

**Civil War-** During the Civil War the railroads in Atlanta became an important tool for

the

Confederacy. The city, although very small in population at the time, was a key supply route for the Confederate army. This in turn made Atlanta a big target of the Union and in 1864, it was invaded. The Battle of Peachtree Creek, the Battle of Atlanta and the Battle of Ezra Church all took place in Atlanta during this time. The Union was able to take the city and continue to hold it until the end of the war. The city suffered a lot of physical damage throughout this time and much of it would need to be rebuilt in the years to come.

- 1861: The American Civil War begins and Atlanta becomes an important supply route for the Confederacy.

- 1864: Union General William T. Sherman invades Atlanta. Up to 70 % of Atlanta's buildings are burned down in the process and the Confederacy loses the city to the Union.

- 1865: The war ends with the Union victorious and Atlanta in ruins.

### **Reconstruction-**

Atlanta was devastated by the Civil War and went through many changes in the years to follow. There was a sudden increase in the population directly following the war, due to the new

surplus in men not fighting, looking for work. Migrant workers from surrounding counties rushed in to look for work, which included many newly freed African Americans slaves. This led to the increase of diversity within the city and the overall population vastly, for example in Fulton County the population both grew from 14,427 to 33,336 and from 20.5% of the population being African American to 45.7% of the population between 1860 and 1870. The population more than doubling in most areas, combined with the economic troubles and a bad harvest, contributed heavily to the turmoil of overpopulation, starvation, and homelessness, that would take place in Atlanta during Reconstruction. This all, however, did contribute greatly to the development of the area into the city it would become in the 20th Century.

### **“The New South”-**

By the 1870's the mending of Atlanta as a whole was beginning to show solid progress and would continue to be built up for the next couple decades and eventually flourish. The city was not only rebuilt aesthetically, but economically and academically as well. Besides the city being in ruins, the biggest problem facing Atlanta at the time, as well as the rest of the South, was the economy. With the use of slavery gone from their repertoire, many of the businessmen that generated a large sum of the counties' goods production and wealth, were in need of a new business structure. The societies focus on more things like technology began to replace the focus on agriculture, the way it had been before the war. The creation of Georgia Institute of Technology and the establishment of the company Coca-Cola, are good examples of this taking place. People took this time to begin developing a strong education system as well; universities and colleges were developed all around the area. This academic push also included a focus on the education of African Americans as well, in which many schools were created intended specifically for African Americans, such as Clark University, in 1869, and modern day Spelman College, in 1881. A local newspaper, the *Atlanta Constitution*, called Atlanta “The New

South”, when describing these major changes. Planned suburbs began to develop in the land surrounding the city, at this time as well.

- 1865: Atlanta University is established. - 1889: Georgia Institute of Technology, then called Georgia School of Technology, is created.

- 1886: John S. Pemberton invents Coca-Cola in Atlanta, where the company would eventually be established.

### ***The 20th Century: 1900-2014***

#### **Issues at Turn of the Century-**

By the early 1900’s, Atlanta’s race issues had been growing since the abolition of slavery and seemed to only be getting more intense. General turmoil between white and black residents of Atlanta was made worse by intense competition for jobs. This mutual aggression of the groups towards one another, was pushed over the edge when news of black men raping white women was spread around by a newspaper. This contributed heavily to what is now known as the “Atlanta Race Riot” of 1906, in which 70 people were left wounded, with 27 left dead, 25 of whom being African Americans. This incident, along with many other similar incidents, caused a large increase in segregation throughout the city. Daily life for black residents during this time, became increasingly difficult; laws were made to inconvenience them, public facilities were closed to them, and the fear of an unwarranted attack was always present.

- 1917: A massive fire that spread over about 300 acres of the city, burned down 2,000 buildings, leaving 10,000 residents homeless. This is the most devastating thing to happen to the city since the being over taken during the Civil War.

- 1941: The headquarters of Delta Air Lines moves to Atlanta

#### **Civil Rights Movement & Moving into the New Century-**

At the same time that aggression between the two races was continuing to rapidly intensify, an era of social change sparked a movement that would eventually lead to the end of segregation by law completely and calm down the violent radicals of both sides. This began with the case of Brown Versus Board of Education, which sparked long streak of violent riots. The entire south experienced this change, however Atlanta had a personal stake in the whole movement; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born and raised in Atlanta and would make the city one of the leading cities in the entire Civil Rights Movement. Through the next few decades Atlanta would experience turmoil within their society, but after pushing on for peace, equality would reign supreme, and even with some left over racial issues, the city continued to strive, in peace.

#### **Neighborhoods of Atlanta**

Atlanta, Georgia is considered the economic and cultural capital of the south.

Atlanta is divided in 242 officially defined neighborhoods that center around the

“intown” districts that make up the most urbanized central part of the city. This

urbanized core includes the high-rise districts of Downtown, Midtown and Buckhead. From these dense urbanized cores, sprawling, shaded, medium density residential neighborhoods composed of single-family homes fan out.

Atlanta neighborhoods have a strong tradition in community organization. There are over forty neighborhood associations established to advise city authorities on zoning among other issues. These grassroots efforts have greatly contributed to the health of Atlanta's neighborhoods. Several districts, most notably West midtown and Atlanta's the east side, have in recent years become models of successful urban revitalization. Gentrification and the reordering of Atlanta's public housing projects have enabled this growth, providing positive results economically and culturally for Atlanta, but also contributing to the displacement of large portions of the lower class population. This has been a trend in many American cities in recent years, as cities struggle to balance the positive results gentrification has on urban renewal with the negative effects on the original population.

## Map of Intown Atlanta

Including Downtown, Midtown and historic east side neighborhoods.



# Map of Buckhead Atlanta



## **High Rise Districts:**

Atlanta's is home to 256 completed high-rise buildings. The tallest of these being the fifty five-story Bank of America building located at 600 Peachtree Street in Midtown, the center of the three high-rise neighborhoods. It currently is the 9<sup>th</sup> tallest building in the United States and holds the title of being the first tallest outside of New York or Chicago. The three high-rise districts run on along a north-south axis along Peachtree Street that forms the nucleus of the city. The majority of Atlanta's high rises were constructed between the 1980's and 90's and have a classical post modernist aesthetic.

Downtown Atlanta holds the seats of both the State and City governments. It is also a major hub of transportation, as all four of Atlanta's rapid transit rail lines converge at the 5 points station. Though not a residential neighborhood, it has several anchoring institutions such as Clark Atlanta University and Georgia State University. These provide a staple population for what would otherwise be merely a commuter used neighborhood. Additionally the constant influx of young people sustains local businesses such as bars, restaurants and other nightlife that cater to the college population.

Midtown Atlanta is considered to be the economic and cultural center of Atlanta. It is home to the majority of Atlanta's law firms as well as several large corporations such as Coca-Cola. With its gridded streets and dense buildings, it is by far the most urbanized place in the low-density city of Atlanta. Besides containing the tallest buildings in Atlanta, it also contains the majority of the cultural attractions the city has to offer. These include: The Fox Theater, the High Museum of

Art, the Woodruff Arts Center, the Museum of Design Atlanta, and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Additionally MidTown is home to Georgia Institute of Technology, the John Marshall Law School and the Atlanta campus of Savannah College of Art and Design. As the artistic and cultural center of the city, midtown may be Atlanta's most successful mixed-use neighborhood and most likely the most desirable address for both businesses and residents. However Midtown has only in recent decades become the center of concentrated development. Urban renewal projects such as the opening of the downtown connector highway and a near by mall pushed the area into decline during the 1960s. These projects cut off Midtown from the west side and caused Midtown's shopping centers to fail. However with the opening of the Atlanta rapid transit system in the 1980's, the area saw a major boom in development of office and residential buildings. In just two decades the area was transformed from dilapidated unoccupied buildings and parking lots into the thriving center of the city.

The Buckhead district comprises the northern section of the city. Characterized by large upscale homes and mansions in the rolling hills just north of Atlanta's center, Buckhead has also been the center of recent high rise development along Peachtree Street. Additionally Buckhead is home to the majority of Atlanta's bars and nightlife, also centered around Peachtree Street. As one of the wealthiest communities in the country, Buckhead is also home to many upscale boutiques and restaurants.





Midtown Atlanta looking north. Notice the strip of high rises along Peachtree Street, surrounded by wooded residential neighborhoods.



Broad Street Downtown Atlanta.

## **West Midtown**

In recent years West Midtown has become an icon of new urbanism. Situated between Midtown and Atlanta's historic rail yards West Midtown was historically the center of Atlanta's economy, containing the warehouses that stored the goods transported to and from Atlanta's rail yards. Until recently, West midtown was zoned for industrial usage and had fallen into disrepair. However in recent decades the neighborhood has become the center of mixed-use development. The 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial architecture and availability of warehouse space has attracted many furniture companies as well as artists, restaurants and most importantly residents. These new inhabitants are drawn by the original industrial architecture that has given the neighborhood the appeal to its new trendy inhabitants. Additionally Georgia Tech is located along the boarder of West Midtown, making it popular amongst college students

**Demographics:**

Population: 432,427  
Races: Black- 54%  
White- 38%  
Asian- 3%  
Hispanic- 5%

Socioeconomic:  
Median household income- \$45,946  
Persons below poverty level- 23.2%

Atlanta Crime Data  
**CRIME INDEX**

**1**

(100 is safest) Safer than 1% of  
the cities  
in the US.

**Atlanta Annual Crimes**

| VIOLENT | PROPERTY | TOTAL  |
|---------|----------|--------|
| 6,304   | 32,382   | 38,686 |

annual crimes per 1,000 residents

|       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 14.58 | 74.88 | 89.46 |
|-------|-------|-------|

**Violent Crime Comparison** per 1,000 residents

NATIONAL MEDIAN **3.9**  
MY CHANCES OF BECOMING A VICTIM

in Atlanta **1 in 69**  
in Georgia **1 in 268**

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 14.58   | 3.73    |
| Atlanta | Georgia |

Population 432,427 Atlanta violent crimes

|                | MURDER | RAPE | ROBBERY | ASSAULT |
|----------------|--------|------|---------|---------|
| REPORT TOTAL   | 89     | 171  | 2,437   | 3,607   |
| RATE PER 1,000 | 0.21   | 0.40 | 5.64    | 8.34    |

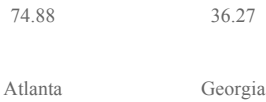
Population 311,591,917 United States violent crimes

|                | MURDER | RAPE   | ROBBERY | ASSAULT |
|----------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| REPORT TOTAL   | 14,612 | 83,425 | 354,396 | 751,131 |
| RATE PER 1,000 | 0.05   | 0.27   | 1.14    | 2.41    |

Property Crime Rate Comparison per 1,000 residents

NATIONAL MEDIAN **29.1**  
 MY CHANCES OF BECOMING A VICTIM

in Atlanta **1 in 13**  
 in Georgia **1 in 28**



Population 432,427 [Atlanta property](#) crimes

|                | BURGLARY | THEFT  | MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT |
|----------------|----------|--------|---------------------|
| REPORT TOTAL   | 7,658    | 19,243 | 5,481               |
| RATE PER 1,000 | 17.71    | 44.50  | 12.67               |

Population 311,591,917 United States property crimes

|                | BURGLARY  | THEFT     | MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| REPORT TOTAL   | 2,188,005 | 6,159,795 | 715,373             |
| RATE PER 1,000 | 7.02      | 19.77     | 2.30                |

Crimes Per Square Mile

NATIONAL MEDIAN **39.6**

289

34

Atlanta

Georgia

### Violent crime rate in 2011

Atlanta: 734.2

U.S. Average: 213.6

### Property crime rate in 2011

Atlanta: 714.9

U.S. Average: 273.7

Nightlife: <http://www.hotlanta.com/>

Things to do: <http://www.atlanta.net/>

### Religion:

Religion in Atlanta, while historically centered around Protestant Christianity, now involves many faiths as a result of the city and metro area's increasingly international population. While Protestant Christianity still maintains a strong presence in the city, in recent decades Catholicism has gained a strong foothold due to migration patterns. Atlanta also has a considerable number of ethnic Christian congregations, such as Korean Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian Churches, the Tamil Church Atlanta, Telugu Church, Hindi Church, Malayalam Church, Ethiopian, Chinese, and many more traditional ethnic religious groups. Large non-Christian faiths are present in the form of Judaism and Hinduism. Overall, there are over 1,000 places of worship within Atlanta.