

Houston Style Magazine

Discover Atlanta: The Ultimate Girlfriends Getaway

[Rebecca Briscoe](#) | 6/4/2015, 9:24 a.m. | Updated on 6/4/2015, 9:24 a.m.



Many times we as ladies ponder when it comes to a girlfriend getaway because we want the best bang for our buck, enjoy chic nightlife and dining experiences, sightsee and shop until we drop. Initially when you think of the perfect Girlfriends Getaway weekend, many Houstonians think of LA and Vegas to the West, NYC to the East, or South Beach Miami. My favorite "girlfriends getaway" destination is none other than Atlanta, Ga. Going to Atlanta is perfect because your girlfriends can enjoy the best of both worlds with affordable tourist attractions, non-stop nightlife, delicious delectables, and non-stop southern hospitality.

Hotel

Loews Atlanta

Walking into this property is a dream!! Yes I have to pinch myself because I was greeted by name from the bellman in one hand, and received a champagne flute in the other. Our personal concierge Johnathan Vedrick took such great care of us, that he tailored an itinerary fit for a queen. This luxury hotel is centrally-located in Midtown Atlanta and is a 10-minute walk from Piedmont Park. This 4-star hotel features a restaurant, modern fitness center, fitness center and spa, along spacious guest's rooms. The hotel lobby is a must see attraction to watch beautiful people enter and exit the building. You never know who you will bump into literally, from Hollywood A-Listers, professional athletes, to political masterminds who make this their hotel of choice.

When I walked into my suite, it overlooked downtown and Centennial Olympic Park. The amenities of free Wi-Fi, a comfy robe, two big screened TVs, a king size bed with fluffy pillows, and fine wine gave me goose bumps.

@loews_hotels

www.loewshotels.com/Atlanta

Dining

Busy Bees Cafe

Ladies when you want great "soul food", you have to come to Busy Bees Cafe. This West End eatery has been an Atlanta tradition since 1947. Yes this place is very busy for lunch, but trust me it is definitely worth the wait for the best fried chicken in the city.

<http://www.thebusybeecafe.com>

Saltwood

I was treated like a "Rockstar" when I entered Saltwood. I can honestly say I couldn't wait to dine at the new restaurant in the Loews Hotel after I got a selfie with the world renowned Executive Chef Olivier Gaupin.

The new restaurant follows the increasingly popular trend of focusing on small plates and charcuterie. Saltwood is so committed to cured meats that it has a charcuterie station, where diners can pull up a chair to sample the house made options, serving as the centerpiece of the restaurant. I dined on grilled chicken breast, buttered noodles, and the freshest broccoli and asparagus one could ever imagine. Dessert left a lasting impression as well where I ate banana pudding served in a mason jar. The vanilla wafers were home made, and the pudding melted in your mouth.

Bantam and Bidy

Walking from the hotel Bantam + Bidy was just a block away. Bantam + Bidy provides Atlantans with a casual, family-friendly eatery featuring regional, all-natural and pastured poultry. I couldn't wait to enter because I heard the breakfast was simply divine. I ordered the French toast which was made from French bread that was topped with fresh berries and fruit. The orange juice was freshly squeezed, the grits were rich and creamy and the scrambled eggs were extra fluffy. I definitely left with a smile along with engaging conversations from patrons and staff.

@bantamandbidy

www.bantamandbidy.com



FLIP Burger

This boutique Burger Bar gets four stars!!! FLIP Burger is an upscale full service American restaurant with a location in Buckhead. The menu includes eighteen different hamburger variations. Side orders include vodka-battered onion rings, French fries, fried pickles, sweet potato tater tots, potato salad, pan roasted Brussels sprouts, and thai bouli. Several specialty milkshakes, such as the Krispy Kreme milkshake in which doughnuts comprise half the drink, are also offered.

Can you believe I had a peaches and crème moonshine milkshake?? Yes, moonshine, like the drink bootleggers made during the Prohibition Era. As I enjoyed the upscale decor, I ordered the traditional cheeseburger with homemade pickles, fresh buns made in house, and a hamburger patty seasoned to perfection.

@flipburger

www.flipburgerboutique.com

Tin Lizzy's Cantina

Another joy of staying at the Loews Hotel is walking to Tin Lizzy's Cantina. Tin Lizzy's Cantina offers thirst-quenching cocktails, friendly service, lively music and unique FlexMex cuisine. FlexMex resembles Tex-Mex, but is comprised and influenced by many cultures, and is an attitude or experience that evokes a feeling of pure awesomeness. I had to try their famous strawberry margarita on the rocks paired with an appetizer of spring rolls and fajita tacos for the main course.

@TinLizzys

www.tinlizzyscantina.com

Culture/Shopping/Nightlife

Don't forget to purchase a City Pass where you can enjoy the World of Coca Cola, The Georgia Aquarium, and the Center for Civil and Human Rights. If you like football like I do, you will want to make a touchdown pass to the College Hall of Fame and Fan Experience.

If you like movies, film, and reality TV nut like me don't forget to book the Atlanta Movie Tour where you can check out the actual locations of great films such as: Fast and the Furious 7, Driving Miss Daisy to Real Housewives of Atlanta.

@atlantamovietours

www.altantamovietours.com

Shopping

When Houstonians think of shopping in Atlanta we think of Buckhead, Lenox Mall, or Phipps Plaza. Yes that is prime real estate for luxurious pieces but don't hesitate to visit Atlanta's local boutiques like Junkman's Daughter in Little Five Points, or French art, antiques, and furnishings at Paris on Ponce in Midtown.

Nightlife

Ladies you just can't go wrong in Buckhead whether it's for people watching, club hopping, or cocktail sipping. Check out these ATL staples such as: The Ivy Buckhead which is a casual bar converted into a mansion, Ormsby's, a tavern located in Atlanta's westside with a full bar and hangout sport, or The Sound Table in Old Fourth Ward provides service until 2:30 a.m., and combines gourmet food, artisanal cocktails and good music for a trifecta of fun.

For our jazz hounds don't miss out on Taipan-Buckhead located inside the beautiful Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Taipan is the place to be on Friday nights to enjoy live music featuring Atlanta's top jazz performers. Taipans provides the perfect setting for drinks and gourmet appetizers, or you can enjoy an upscale bowling bar and 20 bowling lanes at The Painted Pin – Miami Circle in Buckhead

Spa

I just couldn't leave my hotel without enjoying the pampering services from Exhale Spa. Escape into a relaxing sanctuary designed to balance and restore the mind and body, without ever leaving the comfort of your hotel. Exhale's complete menu of spa therapies offers everything from facials and massages to waxing and healing, and their multi award-winning proprietary fitness classes will sculpt, lengthen, and transform your body. This is another one of Loews golden nuggets where patrons can go in stressed and leave out totally refreshed. I had the best massage in the world from David, and I am on countdown until I return. Revive. Restore. Exhale.

Ladies before you break the bank on the ultimate "Girlfriends Getaway" to the east or west coast, feast your eyes on a city that has the best of both worlds: Atlanta. With a direct flight from HOU, you can enjoy the spoils of Southern hospitality, upscale shopping, and down home comfort.

@discoveratlanta

www.atlanta.net

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