

Georgia

By Tom Kirvan

PEACH STATE FEATURES SOUTHERN CHARM, SCENIC BEAUTY

Georgia, located in the southeastern United States, is a state rich in history, diverse geography, and vibrant culture. Known as the "Peach State," Georgia offers visitors a delightful mix of cosmopolitan cities, historic towns, lush landscapes, and Southern hospitality.

Georgia is home to approximately 10.8 million people, making it the eighth most populous state in the U.S. The population is diverse, with African American, White, Hispanic, and Asian communities contributing to the state's cultural richness. This diversity is reflected in the state's cuisine, festivals, and arts.

Geographically, Georgia is characterized by its varied landscapes. The northern part of the state features the Appalachian Mountains, offering scenic views and outdoor adventures. Central Georgia consists of rolling hills and fertile farmland, while the southern region boasts flat plains. The state's eastern border touches the Atlantic Ocean, providing beautiful coastal areas and beaches. The Chattahoochee River runs through much of the state, originating in the Blue Ridge Mountains along the northern border of the state. Georgia's warm climate makes it an attractive year-round destination.

Georgia has played a crucial role in American history. Founded in 1733 as the last of the original Thirteen Colonies, it was named after King George II of Great Britain. The state was a key battleground during the American Revolutionary War and later became one of the original Confederate states during the Civil War.

In the 20th century, Georgia was at the heart of the Civil Rights Movement. Atlanta, the state capital, was home to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the city played a pivotal role in advancing civil rights. Today, visitors can explore numerous historical sites and museums dedicated to this important chapter in American history.

Georgia boasts a robust and diverse economy. The state is a hub for industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, logistics, and film production. It ranks among the top states for agricultural production, particularly in peanuts, peaches, and poultry. The Port of Savannah is one of the busiest ports in the nation, supporting international trade.

Atlanta is a major economic engine, home to the headquarters of global corporations such as Coca-Cola, Delta Air Lines, and The Home Depot. The city is also a growing center for the film and television industry, earning it the nickname "Hollywood of the South."

Atlanta, the largest city in Georgia, is a dynamic metropolis known for its cultural institutions, diverse culinary scene, and significant historical landmarks. The city played a central role in the Civil



Fast Facts

Capital: Atlanta

Population: 10.8 million

Highest Point: Brasstown Bald Mountain (4,784 feet)

Longest River: Chattahoochee River (430 miles)

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Rights Movement and remains a hub of social progress and innovation. Attractions such as the Atlanta History Center, Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park, and the Georgia Aquarium make Atlanta a must-visit destination. Atlanta also is home to the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum in honor of the nation's 39th President, who died at the age of 100 on December 29, 2024.

Top 5 Must-See Tourist Destinations

- **Savannah's Historic District:** Savannah, Georgia's oldest city, is renowned for its cobblestone streets, historic homes, and picturesque squares shaded by oak trees draped in Spanish moss. The city's Historic District features well-preserved architecture, charming boutiques, and Southern hospitality. Forsyth Park, with its iconic fountain, is a great spot for a leisurely stroll.
- **Stone Mountain Park:** Located just outside Atlanta, Stone Mountain Park is home to the largest exposed granite dome in North America. The park offers hiking trails, scenic train rides, and a cable car that provides panoramic views of the surrounding area. The park's light shows and historical exhibits add to its appeal.
- **Blue Ridge Mountains:** For nature lovers, the Blue Ridge Mountains in northern Georgia offer breathtaking scenery and outdoor recreation. The region is perfect for hiking, mountain biking, and fishing. The Appalachian Trail begins at Springer Mountain in this area, making it a popular starting point for long-distance hikers.
- **Jekyll Island:** Part of Georgia's Golden Isles, Jekyll Island is known for its serene beaches, historic landmarks, and natural beauty. The Jekyll Island Club, once a retreat for America's wealthiest families, now serves as a luxury resort for all. Visitors can explore Driftwood Beach, bike along scenic trails, and learn about the island's history at the Jekyll Island Museum.
- **Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park:** Located in Atlanta, this park preserves the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Visitors can tour his childhood home, visit Ebenezer Baptist Church where he preached, and reflect at his final resting place. The park provides profound insights into the life and work of one of America's most influential leaders.