

Sophisticated Southern Culture and Dining

No community of comparable size in the Southeast can boast richer cultural resources than Athens. A night out on the town can include a touring Broadway production, one of the world's best symphonies, local theatre as only a college town can offer, or a gallery exhibition. Compliment your evening's entertainment with fine dining at one of Athens' distinctive eateries, which feature works of local artists on both the walls and the plate.

Performing and Visual Arts Story Ideas:



- **The Georgia Museum of Art:** The GMOA is the state's official museum and hosts a permanent collection of more than 9,000 works of art as well as a variety of traveling exhibitions to showcase emerging and established artists over a wide range of cultures and historical periods. The only free-admission major museum in Georgia.
- **The Lyndon House Arts Center:** Originally housed within the historic Ware-Lyndon House, the community visual arts complex includes large, airy galleries with ongoing exhibits of local and regional artists.
- **Local Galleries:** A plethora of local galleries exhibit works from the thriving local arts scene, including ATHICA (Athens Institute for Contemporary Art), Aurum Studios, Mercury Art Works and the Gallery at Good Dirt.
- **Canopy Studio:** A varied exhibition and performance schedule showcases movement education and performance arts. Flying dance trapeze classes are also offered at this venue.
- **Classic Center Theatre;** This lovely 2,050 seat theatre hosts Broadway productions, headline entertainers, The Robert Osborne Classic Film Festival and the Athens Symphony.
- **UGA Performing Arts Center:** One of the country's most popular on-campus performing arts venues.
- **The Morton Theatre:** One of the first vaudeville theatres in the U.S. built, owned and operated by an African-American has been fully restored and presents a range of performances.

Dining Story Ideas:

- **Chef Hugh Acheson, Five & Ten and The National:** Since being named one of the "Top 10 Best New Chefs in America" by *Food and Wine* magazine in 2003, Hugh has continued to receive national acclaim. He is a two-time 2012 James Beard Award winner as "Best Chef: Southeast" and for his cookbook, *New Turn in the South*. He has appeared as a contestant and judge on Bravo TV's "Top Chef Masters" In addition to Five & Ten, Acheson co-owns The National with chef Peter Dale, who was named "Best New Chefs in America; People's Choice Southeast" by *Food and Wine* magazine in spring 2012.
- **Athens Food Tours:** Athens Food Tours provides a multi-course sampling of seasonal, local and sustainable culinary creations on their tours. In addition to ongoing downtown walking tours, the inventive itineraries include seasonal Agro Cycle Tours of local farms and Bloody Mary Tours on Sundays following home football games.
- **Downtown Dining:** Innovative menus in restored downtown buildings decorated with local artwork are the rule, not the exception.



Media kit, available online: high-resolution images, virtual tours and visitor information.