

The Atlanta Chapter YLD's Local Guide to the ATL



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Greetings from Atlanta, the 2017 host of the Federal Bar Association Annual Meeting and Convention. We think you will enjoy the ATL, a perfect combination of Southern charm and world-class amenities, and I cannot encourage you enough to come and visit! True to our Southern roots, the Atlanta Chapter wants to make sure each attendee experiences the best that Atlanta has to offer. Thus, we want to provide our fellow YLD members (and those who may have ‘matured’ out of our section) a local’s guide to the ATL.

When you come into Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, we encourage you to walk between the terminals (as opposed to taking the Plane Train) to baggage claim. Though it may seem strange, the walk between the terminals is actually a wonderful experience due to the Airport Art Project. Currently on exhibit, a quick walk to your bags can provide you a brief history of Atlanta or allow you to experience the

\$4.1 million dollar Flight Paths light and sound forest exhibit.

Once checked into your hotel, you can easily walk to any of the main tourist attractions: the World of Coca-Cola, Georgia Aquarium, College Football Hall of Fame, CNN Center, and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, which will be the site of the Convention’s Friday evening reception hosted by the Atlanta Chapter.

But if you are looking to experience Atlanta like the locals, we encourage you to take a quick walk, Uber, or the Atlanta Streetcar (if feeling more touristy) to the Irwin Street entrance of the Atlanta Beltline’s Eastside Trail in the Old Fourth Ward. The Beltline is a multi-use trail on the former rail corridor and provides access to the City’s best experiences by foot or by bike (hourly bike rentals are easily accessible at this entrance at the Atlanta Bicycle Barn). The distance between the Irwin Street entrance to the end of the Eastside Trail at Piedmont Park (discussed below) is roughly two miles. Below I review a few of the many sites of interest in between.

Very near that Irwin Street entrance to the Beltline’s Eastside Trail are the Krog Street Market—home to local shops and delicious eats including Superica, Hop City (a craft beer retailer), and Rathbun’s (premier dining located on the Beltline). From there, stop in for a craft cocktail on the patio at Ladybird Grove & Mess Hall, some oysters at Beetlecat, or a glass of wine and charcuterie at Barcelona – each of them either on, or a block or two off of, the Eastside Trail.

Next up on the Beltline, stop in to Ponce City Market (“PCM”)—a 1.1 million square foot redevelopment of retail, office space, and residences in what was once a Sears, Roebuck & Company distribution center, originally built in 1926. PCM houses great shopping (national chains, including Sephora, J. Crew, and Lululemon), eating (cult burger-establishment H&F Burger, craft popsicle-maker King of Pops, and wine-tasting stop City Winery), and nightlife (Skyline Park, an adults-only, carnival-style amusement and beer garden after 5 p.m.). PCM has a convenient bike valet located under the building on the walkway from the Eastside Trail. This is also a great gathering place after the official events on Thursday and Friday nights!

From PCM, the Beltline’s Eastside Trail will take you on through Virginia Highland, an historic neighborhood filled with tons of great local eateries and shops, to Piedmont Park—Atlanta’s “Common Ground” since 1904. The Park has gorgeous views of Midtown, offers tennis and running trails, lake Clara Meer, bridges, and Park Tavern—at the Park’s edge—is a great spot to relax after a long journey. The Park is also home to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens and Orpheus Brewing, a craft brewery, which is open to tastings and brewery tours every Thursday through Sunday. Atlanta also offers a number of other intown craft breweries, including Monday Night Brewing and SweetWater Brewing Company, if a brewery tour is more your style.

For those wanting to get out a little further from the hotel, Decatur (easily accessed from MARTA on the East-West Blue line) offers a dozen more eateries. Kimball House

is the go-to in town for craft cocktails, and the Brick Store Pub is known for its draught beer offerings. For those looking for late-night food, Victory Sandwich Bar in Decatur and Inman Park (on the Beltline) can’t be beat.

As both an Atlanta Chapter and National YLD Board Member, I cannot encourage you enough to make the trip to the ATL. We can’t wait to see you soon!