



MAGIC[®] The Gathering[®] GRAND PRIX ATLANTA

Welcome to Atlanta! This is our updated guide to help judges new to the Atlanta area get around, and make the most of GP Atlanta!

If there are any questions or concerns, you can reach out to Adam Blaylock (georgiamagicjudge@gmail.com).

(Some of this guide is shameless stolen from CJ Shrader. He has been made aware.)

November 2-4 | Cobb Galleria Centre | Atlanta, GA

Transportation

Public Transportation

MARTA is Atlanta's public transportation system with both bus and rail service. To ride MARTA, you'll need a Breeze card, which costs \$1.00 and can be bought at any rail station. You can load money on it and use it for both rail and bus service.

Fares are not based on distance, but rather trips. A one-way trip (for example, from the airport to the venue) is \$2.50. Transfers are free.

For more information on MARTA (and operating hours if you're coming in late), visit itsmarta.com. There are no trains that go to the GP site, though you can bus there.

From the Airport

MARTA: Using Marta to get to Cobb Galleria from the airport, you will take the Gold Line to the Mid Town station. From here, board Bus 12 to Akers Mill@Cumberland Blvd. It is about a 10 minute walk from the bus stop to the Galleria

UBER and Lyft pickups are located outside the airport in the Economy Lot. Your driver cannot meet you anywhere else. It is about a 5 minute walk from the baggage claims to the pickup location, but signs are posted.

Parking

There are several paid lots around Cobb Galleria, and several free lots associated with local hotels. There is a large open parking lot near the venue tied to a strip mall. It is about 5 minutes walking from the venue.

Cobb Galleria

2 Galleria Pkwy SE
Atlanta, GA 30339



Within Walking Distance

There are several restaurants in the area near the venue. Across the street in the Akers Mill Shopping Center are several fast food and dine in options. Grub makes great burgers and has a large selection of beer, and is my suggestion for a break time meal.

The venue also has several locations to grab a bite, including an all you can eat stir fry restaurant. There is a Subway stand in the lobby area that will likely be crowded, and a sports bar/restaurant near the main entrance of the venue.

Worth Traveling To

The Vortex

438 Moreland Ave., 404.688.1828, thevortexbarandgrill.com

If you can only go to one Atlanta restaurant, this is the one I recommend. It has a burger called the Double Coronary Bypass that has grilled cheese sandwiches instead of buns! You can't eat better than that.

(Note: There are two Vortexes, and one is closer than the one I list here. However, I think the Moreland Avenue one is simply better. It's in a weird/cool part of town called Little Five Points, and the entrance is a giant skull!)

Six Feet Under

437 Memorial Dr. SE, 404.523.6664, sixfeetunder.net
685 11th Street, 404.810.0040

This is one of the better seafood locations we have in Atlanta. I'm not going to lie, I've only been once and needed to fill a spot for a different restaurant that closed. But it's seafood. What more can I say? Want to take a bunch of things out of the ocean, potentially fry them, and then eat them? Hey you should go here then!

It doesn't hurt that they are open until 2 am on Friday and Saturday also.



The Varsity

The Varsity

61 North Ave., 404.881.1706, thevarsity.com

The Varsity bills itself as the “world’s largest drive-in restaurant.” I don’t know who is really trying to take the title, but this place is an Atlanta staple. It’s the kind of place where you get to go in, get yelled at to order, and then get some food that isn’t all that great. But it is greasy, and that’s what’s important.

The atmosphere and sheer size of the Varsity make it well worth a visit. And since it is effectively just fast food, the prices are very cheap.

Mary Mac’s Tea Room

224 Ponce de Leon Ave., 404.876.1800, marymacs.com

As a connoisseur of sweet tea, when I say Mary Mac’s has the best sweet tea I’ve ever had, it means a lot. This stuff is the greatest. You can feel the grains of sugar entering your mouth; it is magical.

Mary Mac’s Tea Room is a pure Southern dining experience, and the food is amazing, from the fried chicken to the ribs. As a bonus, a creepy lady sometimes comes by and rubs your shoulders. (Seriously, it’s her job; her official title is “Goodwill Ambassador.”)

The Battery

800 Battery Ave SE #130, Atlanta, GA 30339, batteryatl.com.

The Battery is part of the new Atlanta Braves complex, and is loaded with dining options that are worth trying. Since baseball season is done, the area isn’t too busy. The Terrapin Tap Room and Sports & Social are decent choices for post GP dining. There are lots of great options out here, and it is less than a mile from the venue. That said, because of traffic and parking, this is not a good option for lunch breaks.





Atlanta Botanical Garden

World of Coca-Cola

121 Baker St., 404.676.5151,
worldofcoca-cola.com, Admission: \$16

Atlanta is famous for being the birthplace of Coke, and at the World of Coca-Cola you can learn all about the history and legacy of the company and the man who invented it.

But that's booooring. The real draw is the Taste It! room where you can try Coke's products from all around the world. Be sure to try the one called Beverly; it literally tastes like you threw up in your mouth!

Bonus: You get a commemorative Coke of your own to take home! Value!

Atlanta Botanical Garden

1345 Piedmont Ave, 404.876.5859,
atlantabg.org, Admission \$21.95

The Atlanta Botanical Gardens is a 30 acre green space in the middle of the city. It is a fantastic quite place to visit, and they are doing their fall line of programs now.

There are lots of paths to take and enjoy the flora, and currently have a SCARECROW GARDEN. I don't think there is anything else you need to know about this place. Scarecrow Garden.

SkyView Atlanta

168 Luckie St., 678.949.9023,
skyviewatlanta.com, Admission: \$13.89

This is the newest in every city's trend of building a giant Ferris wheel. If you want to get a great view of Atlanta while subliminally thinking "Is the floor supposed to be shaking?" then this is the place for you. You can even upgrade to a VIP gondola with leather seats and a glass floor if you're feeling extra fancy! VIP tickets are \$50, and up to five people can ride in a VIP gondola.

It doesn't hurt that it's right outside Centennial Olympic Park, so it's also extremely close to the venue.



Georgia Aquarium

225 Baker St., 404.581.4000,
georgiaaquarium.org, Admission: \$35

It's an aquarium. There are a bunch of fish and weird-looking Beluga whales, and that tunnel thing where you walk through and fish are swimming all around you. And a dolphin show where dolphins do trained things while preparing to take over the world.

Listen. If you like fish, this is the place for you. It even has a seafood restaurant, which seems morbid to me, but whatever, people like it.

Little Five Points

Intersection of Moreland, Euclid and
McLendon avenues

Little Five Points (Don't confuse it with Five Points!) is difficult to describe. Do people still use the word "hip"? Hip might be the word. Everyone who hangs out there wears real tight pants and has at least three tattoos.

Little Five Points is full of cool bars, unique shops (Junkman's Daughter is a big one), interesting restaurants (Vortex!) and sometimes a dude who will panhandle free-verse poetry. Honestly, I've never seen another area quite like it in Atlanta. If you can find the time to visit, then I recommend it.

Bonus: It is about a mile from my office, so I go there for Indian food a lot.

Center for Puppetry Arts

1404 Spring St NW, 404.873.3089,
puppet.org, Admission: \$10.50

Do you like puppets? Of course you don't, they are terrifying and move when you aren't looking at them.

Well why not an entire museum dedicated to puppets! This special layer of Hell has exhibits on puppets from around the world, Jim Henson, and last time I was there a special exhibit on the Labyrinth.

They don't have long hours and are closed on Mondays so make sure to check the website before going!