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A View to A Thrill

“5 Unique And Fun Things To Do That Will Keep Georgia On Your Mind”

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There is something special about my hometown, Atlanta, GA. People tend to be friendly, helpful and believe in taking time to smell the roses. That means, we find really cool things to do to keep us busy:

1) Take a day trip to Helen, Georgia



Lederhosen lives! Celebrating Oktoberfest 2009 in Helen, Georgia! Photo credit: helenga.org



Enjoying a carriage ride in the town square. Photo credit: helenga.org

Located just a mere 90 minutes north of Atlanta in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Helen is a Bavarian treat for young and old alike. If you want to be whisked back to simpler times and experience what life must have been like in early 1800's Germany, this re-creation of an Alpine village is the place to be. Helen is in close proximity to the Chattahoochee River and the Appalachian Trail which lends itself to various outdoor activities that you can enjoy while you are there like: horseback riding, rafting, mountain biking and viewing one of the 30 waterfalls in the area. I will be visiting Helen in March, so I will have a full report for you then.

2) Experience the Sundial Revolving Restaurant



Situated at the summit of the Westin Peachtree Hotel, the Sundial gives you a 360 degree view of the Atlanta skyline!



It takes about an hour for the circular dining room to complete a revolution.



This is absolutely the best salad that I have ever had...to this day!



This meal did all Southern cooks proud....delicious!



Looking out at the breath-taking view from our dining table at the Sundial

We got to enjoy a stellar lunch at the Sundial last summer. I enjoyed a scrumptious peach pecan crusted summer salad with baby greens, gorgonzola cheese, pecans and freshly cubed peaches and port wine vinaigrette. The main dish was the Blue cornmeal crusted trout with tasso cheese grits cake, sauteed garlic spinach and corn cream. The food was excellent and mid-priced, the view was fantastic and we never got dizzy as the restaurant revolved. Amazingly, only two short years ago, the hotel was significantly damaged by a tornado, but the Sundial managed to escape unscathed.

3) Dahlonega Wineries



One of metro Atlanta's best kept secrets is the picturesque city of Dahlonega, GA. Most people don't know this, but the first major gold rush in the US took place here in 1828 long before the (18)49'ers struck gold in California. In fact, the Georgia State Capitol Dome is covered with gold mined from the city. Dahlonega is also the gateway to the Appalachian Trail where you can literally hike from Georgia to Maine. It is also the heart of Georgia's wine country. Here you can find five outstanding wineries:

- BlackStock Vineyards**
- Montaluce Vineyards and Estates**
- Frogtown Cellars**
- Three Sisters Vineyards & Winery**
- Wolf Mountain Vineyards & Winery**

4) Stay a spell at The Martyn House in Ellijay, GA



Ever heard of the term, “Glamping”? It simply means Glamorous Camping which takes the tried and true ways of camping to another level. Here you get to stay in real beds, while camped out in vibrantly colored hand-painted luxury tents imported from India. The main house on the property is a century old farmhouse located on 30 acres. The property is very green as they use Eco-friendly toilets and showers. So, if you are looking for that happy medium, give these folks a call. You can enjoy all of the comforts of home and still be able to say that you slept in a tent with a straight face.

5) Tour the CNN Center in downtown, Atlanta



Queuing for the tour after paying the entry fee.



Yes, the anchors will continue reporting as if you weren't there staring at 'em



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Now it's your turn. Imagine a friend is coming to visit your hometown. What special place would you want them to see above all else and why?