

Places to Eat, Drink and Do Wonderful Things

Atlanta – CACE Conference, August 2023

Midtown Atlanta Eateries

There are literally dozens of restaurants in Midtown walkable from the Loew's Hotel – offering almost any cuisine you want. Here is a sampling of some that have been successful for many years, many with capacity to host small to medium-sized groups, or provide outdoor COVID-safe dining.

\$ - entrees are mostly less than \$20

\$\$ - most entrees are \$20-\$30

\$\$\$ - more than \$30

Price Range	Name	Style	Description	Private Events/Outdoor Seating
\$	Flying Biscuit	Breakfast/ Lunch	Iconic Atlanta eatery doing breakfast and lunch. Lines can be long at times, especially Saturdays.	
\$	Mary Mac's Tea Room	Southern comfort food	This somewhat problematically themed restaurant is still super-popular. Interestingly, despite its history, it's now a black-owned restaurant.	Good choice if you need a private room, for they have many in all sizes.
\$	Papi's	Cuban and Caribbean	Classic Cuban fare located on southern edge of Midtown	
\$	Sweet Hut Bakery	Taiwanese	Amazing pastries and Taiwan street food	
\$	Taco Mac	Sports Bar	150+ beers and a ton of TVs to watch sports. The wings are locally famous.	No outdoor seating, but they will cordon off parts of the restaurant for small groups.
\$	The Varsity	Burgers and Dogs	Iconic, famous walk-in and drive-thru Atlanta institution. Know what you want before you step up to order, or you will be shamed.	Not really for group dining, but they do have separated self-seating dining rooms.
\$	Umma's House	Korean/ Japanese	Rice dishes, bento boxes, bibimpap, etc.	
\$	Vietvana	Vietnamese	Straightforward SE Asian fare. Multiple locations, but this one is at 6 th and Spring.	
\$\$	South City Kitchen	Southern Gourmet	Mountain trout, fried chicken, shrimp and grits	They will reserve a wing of the 2 nd floor for groups of 10-20 that

This guide was created for CACE attendees by the staffs of AIA Atlanta and AIA Georgia. Have fun!!

				can be classified as semi-private.
\$\$	Torched Hop Brewing	Gastropub	Gourmet sandwiches, seafood, power salads	Downstairs game area is available for private parties of 15-50.
\$\$	Zocalo	Mexican	Very high quality classic Mexican fare. Most entrees in the \$15-25 range.	Some outdoor seating. Groups can reserve the outdoor deck, or parts of the restaurant.
\$\$	5Church	New American	Flatbreads, gourmet salads, seafood, southern classics	Lots of private dining options for groups. outdoor area on 2 nd floor
\$\$\$	Ecco	Seasonal, Continental	Flatbreads, pastas, seafood, shareables	They can curtain off a private room in the back that can seat 20-25.
\$\$\$	Nan Fine Dining	Thai	VERY gourmet Thai food, and often considered one of the best restaurants in the city. Expect most entrees north of \$35.	Private dining room can accommodate groups of 50+. They also have a private Chef's Table for special experiences.
\$\$\$	Rumi's Kitchen	Persian	Incredibly good food. Most entrees are \$30 - \$45, and lots of shareables.	Glassed in area that can be used as a private dining room. Fixed menus for groups.

Accessible by MARTA Subway

There are three MARTA transit stations in Midtown. Use the subway to visit other parts of the city and eat well.

Price Range	Name	Style	Description	Transit Stop
\$	The Brickstore	Gastropub	Excellent service, great desserts, order the fish and chips. Always rated as among the best beer bars in America. If it's not too hot, the fresh air beer garden in the back is nice. A few outdoor tables out front.	Decatur
\$	Hattie Marie's	Texas BBQ	Texas-influenced slow-smoked meat, Cajun-spiced fried seafood & sides.	College Park

\$\$	Kitty Dare	Mediterranean	Brings together a dozen different cuisines from around the Mediterranean Sea into one menu. Right next to the MARTA station.	Inman Park
\$\$	Wahoo!	Seafood and Southern	Solid restaurant with consistent quality. Great shaded, outdoor dining in the back. Small private room in the front for groups of 10-20. Outdoor space can also accommodate groups of 10-20	East Lake
\$\$\$	Bistro Niko	French	High end cuisine in Ritzy Buckhead neighborhood	Buckhead
\$\$\$	Dantana's	Steak	High end cuisine in Ritzy Buckhead neighborhood	Buckhead
\$\$\$	Iberian Pig	Spanish Tapas	For the group that likes to share, with lots of wine. Plenty of outdoor tables on the city square.	Decatur

Worth the Uber Ride

Many of the city's most interesting restaurants are outside of Midtown and not on transit. A short Uber/Lyft will get you to any of these. Consider a Zip Car for something like a Buford Highway food crawl (which is a highly recommended experience – see below).

Price Range	Name	Style	Description	Neighborhood
\$	Daddy D'z	BBQ ribs	Long-serving hole in the wall, but much-loved BBQ joint, with specialty in ribs	Auburn Avenue Historic District
\$	Fat Matt's Rib Shack	Memphis BBQ	Atlanta institution, with some outdoor dining space. Blues music on Friday and Saturday nights.	Ansley Park
\$\$	Ormsby's	Gastropub	This one-of-a-kind place is just a couple of miles from the hotel. Upstairs is a traditional bar and restaurant, but the cellar is a sprawling space with a private room, pool tables, shuffleboard, darts, and two bocci ball courts (which can be reserved for private groups). The adjacent private room can be reserved and accommodates 15-20 people.	West Midtown
\$\$	Antico	Naples Style Pizza	Easily the best pizza in Atlanta. Very casual, limited seating, with tables in the kitchen itself. Check out the gelato shop next door.	West Midtown/Georgia Tech area
\$\$	Café Sunflower	Vegetarian	Well done menu and priced to match. Always has great service.	Buckhead
\$\$	Desta	Ethiopian	This incredibly good restaurant is super popular and always reliable. Good for social groups;	Briarcliff Heights

			some outdoor seating (but may be warm in August). Try the kitfo roll as an appetizer.	
\$\$-\$\$\$	Mojave	Gourmet Mexican	Located about 15 minutes northwest of Midtown, and nowhere near transit – it’s still worth the ride. Be sure to order the blue cornbread with honey butter. Outdoor seating, and the back room can be made to work for large groups.	Smyrna

Little 5 Points: Technically, this area is near enough to the Inman Park MARTA station to walk, but it’s a mile in the August heat. It’s Atlanta’s counter-culture, punk, hippie neighborhood, with great shopping and restaurants. Try The Wrecking Bar, Vortex, Hattie B’s Fried Chicken, Savage Pizza, or El Myr Burritos.

Buford Highway is a 5 mile stretch of road northeast of Midtown that is home to an amazing diversity of ethnic restaurants. Atlantans like to do a group food crawl and eat a shared dish or two at one restaurant before moving on to the next. You are unlikely to find much outdoor seating or private rooms here, but all of these establishments are super affordable (except the Korean BBQ). It’s not really transit-friendly, but rent a ZipCar, grab some colleagues and go explore. Or do an Uber XL to The Food Terminal.

Name	Style
Batavia	Indonesian
Bismillah	Bangladeshi
Biswas Grocery and Cafe	Indian
Bobo Garden	Pan Asian
Canton House	Cantonese and Dim Sum
Food Terminal	Malaysian and Asian Street Food
Gu’s Bistro	Szechuan Chinese
Han Il Kwan	Korean BBQ
Harmony Vegetarian	Chinese
Havana Sandwich Shop	Cuban
La Churreria	Columbian
La Mei Zei	Taiwanese
La Pastorcita	Tacos, flautas and ceviche
Lanzhou Ramen	Japanese

Name	Style
Mamak	Malaysian
Marisqueria El Veneno	Mexican Seafood
Warung Halal	Indonesian
Yummy Spicy	Chinese
Mi Managua	Nicaraguan
Man Chung Huong	Chinese/Korean
So Kong Dong	Korean
Pho Dai Loi #2	Vietnamese
Roc South	Southern Soul Fusion
Natarica Grill	Venezuelan
Northern China Eatery (an Anthony Bourdain favorite)	Chinese Dumplings and comfort foods
Pupuseria Mi Tierra	Salvadoran
White Windmill	Korean Bakery
Rincon Latino	Salvadoran

Plaza Fiesta: At a whopping 350,000-square-feet, Plaza Fiesta is filled with over 140 shops and a food court offering everything from unexpected desserts and tacos to spicy seafood dishes and Venezuelan fare. Make your way to the back of the mall and find Carnitas Michicoan for their Mexican/French inspired tortas.

Atlanta's Beer, Wine and Cocktail Scene

Breweries, Beer and Wine Bars

Barcelona Wine Bar
City Winery (in Ponce City Market)**
El Viñedo Local ^
Halfway Crooks Brewing
Highland Tap
Larakin Wine and Tapas ^
New Realm Brewing**
Ormsby's (West Midtown)
Pour Taproom Midtown ^
Pour Taproom Beltline **
Scofflaw Brewing
Three Taverns Imaginarium**
Torched Hop Brewing ^
White Street Brewing District in the West End
(Hop City, Wild Heaven, Best End Brewing, and
Monday Night Garage)
Wrecking Bar Brewery and Restaurant

Great Cocktail Bars

12 Cocktail Bar
Aziza
Bar Margo ^
Bar Vegan **
Beetlecat**
Biltong Bar (in Ponce City Market)**
Bon Ton ^
Holeman and Finch (Midtown) ^
Nine Mile Station (roof of Ponce City Market)**
The James Room **
The Lawrence ^
The Waiting Room ^

^ Located in Midtown, walkable from CACE hotel

** Located along the east side Beltline

Both The Wrecking Bar and Halfway Crooks Brewing have been on lists of the best breweries in America in recent years. The former is also a fantastic seasonal restaurant in a really interesting building with a history tied to the architecture profession.

Cool Self-Organized Things to Do in Atlanta

WHAT	WHAT ELSE	WHERE
Bike Tour of Atlanta Civil Rights History	Civil Bikes is a minority-owned company that takes tourists and locals on bicycle trips to key locations in the MLK District, the Atlanta University Complex, and elsewhere, exploring and learning about the city's rich and important history in the struggle for Civil Rights. https://civilbikes.com/	All over Atlanta
Krog Market	An award-winning adaptive reuse success, this old warehouse is now a food court of great offerings, attached to an impressive beer and wine market (Hop City), and next to the brand new Patagonia retail store. On the east side Beltline, and about a mile from the quirky Little Five Points community.	Auburn Avenue Historic District/Old 4 th Ward
Martin Luther King National Historic Park	This excellent museum is part of the National Park Service. Includes tours of the MLK birth home and historic Ebenezer Baptist Church. Note that the family-owned MLK Center is not part of the national park.	Auburn Avenue Historic District/Old 4 th Ward
Serenbe Community	This master planned community 45 minutes south of the city incorporates many of the principles of New Urbanism, along with some wonderful residential architecture. Rent a Zipcar and take some friends down for a visit.	Chattahoochee Hills
Downtown Decatur	This charming community (which is older than Atlanta) has great restaurants, excellent shopping, and a good city planning story. Sits on top of the Decatur MARTA station. Check out Agnes Scott College, have a beer at the Brickstore, tapas at the Iberian Pig, stop in HomeGrown Gifts, Savvi Provisions, try the french fries at Leon's Full Service, anything at Las Brasas Venezuelan, The Marlay Irish Pub, Chai Pani Indian Street Food, a fish taco at Tacqueria del Sol, and a walk through the historic Decatur Cemetery.	Decatur
Michael C. Carlos Museum – Emory University	An Atlanta treasure, this museum in the heart of Emory University will be in the last few days of its highly reviewed Egyptian exhibit at the time of the CACE Conference. Next door is a Paul Rudolph masterpiece – the Cannon Chapel.	Decatur
Center for Civil and Human Rights	Designed by the late Phil Freelon, this amazing museum and building highlights the history of the American struggle for equal rights for minorities, LGBTQ+, and other groups.	Downtown
Little 5 Points	This counter-culture neighborhood is the place to go for quirky shopping, great shoes, used clothing, good inexpensive food, and people watching. Stops include Junkman's Daughter, the Wrecking Bar, Savage Pizza, Sevananda Foods, Rag-o-Rama, Criminal Records, Wax 'n' Fax, The Vortex, Psycho Sisters consignment, and Abbadabba's Shoe Emporium. It's only a short Uber from Midtown, or 1 mile from the Inman Park MARTA station.	Little 5 Points

<p>Ansley Park</p>	<p>Located just a few blocks north of the CACE hotel, this is a neighborhood of stunning 1920s mansions and small parks. It makes for a great walk/run, and the scenery is excellent. From the hotel, go north on Peachtree Street, right on 15th St., then stay left at the fork. Take next right on Lafayette, then keep the park immediately on your left all the way down the hill until you reach the road called The Prado. Go left and travel all the way back to the second traffic circle, then go right, then left on Peachtree back to the hotel. Have fun.</p>	<p>Midtown</p>
<p>Colony Square</p>	<p>This mixed-use development at the corner of Peachtree and 14th is excellent. The original architect was the first openly gay architect in Georgia AIA history. Recently renovated by Lord Aeck Sargent, it is a fun, bright space with a great interior courtyard, restaurants at all price points, a couple of great bars, and plenty of outdoor seating.</p>	<p>Midtown</p>
<p>Isamu Noguchi's Architectural Playscape</p>	<p>Architect and furniture designer Noguchi made his fortune with his self-named coffee table, but his real dream was designing playgrounds. This one in Piedmont Park was a predecessor for the world-renowned one that appeared in Japan years later. Near the 12th Street entrance.</p>	<p>Midtown</p>
<p>Midtown Architecture Walking Tour</p>	<p>Some of the Midtown architecture highlights that are walkable from the CACE Conference hotel include The High Museum of Art (Renzo Piano and Richard Meier), One Museum Place (Mack Scogin and Merrill Elam), the Christian Scientist Church, One Atlantic Center (Philip Johnson), Rhodes Hall, SCAD Forty Student Dorms (Christian Sottile), Federal Reserve Bank (Robert Stern), Historic Academy of Medicine (Philip Schutze), the Interface Global Headquarters (P+W), and the Museum of Modern Design (MODA).</p>	<p>Midtown</p>
<p>Piedmont Park</p>	<p>This is Atlanta's largest park, just a few blocks from the CACE hotel. Best entered at 12th Street and Piedmont Avenue – you will find miles of great paved trails to run/hike, large athletic fields, a few historic buildings, and access to The Beltline. Be sure to check out the links to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, too.</p>	<p>Midtown</p>
<p>Walking Atlanta's East Side Beltline with a brewery crawl</p>	<p>When completed, the Beltline will circle the city, providing 15 miles of trails connecting diverse neighborhoods, farmers markets, breweries, retail and more. Long term plans would add a transit feature. Right now, the East Side and West End portions are complete. Take an Uber to the Imaginarium Brewery on the south end of the East Side Trail, get a beer, then walk north all the way to Ansley Mall (4 miles). Make stops at Hop City in Krog Street Market, Brew Dog, POUR Beltline, and New Realm Brewing on your way. Other cool stops include Ladybird Café, the Patagonia Store, Ponce City Market, all the artwork along the Beltline, Ben & Jerry's, or a burrito at Bell Street.</p>	<p>Multiple</p>
<p>Ponce City Market</p>	<p>This amazing adaptive reuse project has transformed the old Sears Building (still the largest building by square footage in</p>	<p>Poncey Highlands</p>

	Atlanta) into an icon. Apartments, retail, entertainment, and more. PCM is a short Uber ride from the Loew's Hotel.	
Arabia Mountain County Park	This has to be one of the most impressive municipal parks anywhere in the country. Traversed by the 25 mile Arabia Mountain Trail System - one side of the road has a 1,000 foot tall granite monolith that visitors can hike, and the other side is a stone quarry and wooded trails. Very cool place. Rent a Zipcar and park at the Arabia Mountain Davidson Nature Center.	Stonecrest/ DeKalb County
Westside Reservoir Park	Atlanta's newest public park, it will one day be part of the Beltline. For now, it's a sprawling park of both paved and unpaved trails, built around an old stone quarry that now serves as a city water source. Uber ride to get here.	West Atlanta
White Street Brewery District	Atlanta's Beltline is also substantially complete on the southwest side of the city. This area in the West End neighborhood is home to three breweries next to each other and on the trail (Monday Night Garage, Wild Heaven and Best End) and one world class beer retailer (Hop City). Walk the trail, stop at the pop-up retailers, then do a beer crawl to all three breweries. Thursday nights are when the inline skate crowd shows off in the parking lot. An Uber is the best way to get here.	West End
Chattahoochee Food Works	This adaptive reuse project on the west side of town is huge amounts of fun. One-part innovative food court mixed with two parts retail (design and home furnishings heavy) is absolutely worth a Lyft ride over for you and your colleagues.	West Midtown
Georgia Tech campus walk	From the hotel, walk west to West Peachtree St, then walk south to 5 th Street. Walk across the bridge (which doesn't look like a bridge) onto the campus. Be sure to check out the net-zero Kendeda Building at 422 Ferst, the statue of John Heisman at the football stadium, and the John Portman, FAIA obelisk at the Student Center.	West Midtown

Other cool things to consider: Center for Puppetry Arts (Midtown), Atlantic Station (shopping and entertainment District at 17th Street) Bremen Jewish Museum, SCAD Museum of Fashion, Atlanta History Museum, Auburn Avenue Research Library, and the Atlanta History Center/Swan House (Philip Schutze).