

P A R A C H U T E



Adventurous Excursions Near Atlanta

by Cassie Kaye | September 13, 2016

I may be biased, but I like to think Atlanta is the greatest city in the South. It's home to everything you could want from city life, from museums to street art to more fantastic restaurants than you could possibly visit in a lifetime, but being in Atlanta also puts you incredibly close to some great opportunities for adventure.

All within a short drive of Atlanta, you can find ghost tours, incredible hikes, water sports, and amusement parks. So the next time you're itching for an adventure, grab some friends, jump in the car, and head to one of my five favorite spots.

Get Hiking

About an hour and a half north of Atlanta, you'll find Amicalola Falls State Park, which happens to be the beginning of the Appalachian Trail. If you aren't up for leaving the world behind for six months while you hike to Maine, you can get a taste of trail life by hiking the approach trail — nearly 16 miles roundtrip from the falls to Springer Mountain. It's a moderate level hike, but be prepared for some angry feet and sore muscles if you aren't in hiking shape.

Sail through the Treetops

Up for zip lining and a ropes course? Head to either Buford or Dunwoody for a day at Treetop Quest. This tree park will give let you test your balance on their ropes course that take you up to 60 feet in the air. You'll navigate Tarzan swings, tight ropes and zip lines all on your own — once you have your equipment, they turn you loose to have a blast with your friends and figure out the course on your own. If you're feeling extra adventurous, you can even do a night climb once the sun goes down.

Walk with Ghosts

If you're a fan of spooky things (especially with Halloween coming up), head to downtown Decatur for a walking ghost tour. Your guide will take you to places known to have paranormal activity, from old homes to the Old Decatur Cemetery. You're encouraged to take photos — just in case you capture an orb or apparition.

Test Your Problem Solving Skills

Atlanta's Escape the Room adventure has been popular for friends and work groups in the city. You can participate in one of three different real life adventure games, where you and your team have to solve clues in order to make it out of the room. You get a whole hour, but it goes way faster than you think. Bring your best puzzle-solving friends to this one — you're going to need them.

Satisfy Your Need for Speed

Head to Atlanta Motor Speedway to practice your getaway driving and feel a rush of adrenaline as you race around the track. There are several driving school programs that let you get behind the wheel (or just sit in the passenger seat) to take on the 1.5-mile track at speeds over 150 mph. You may not be the next Richard Petty, but you can at least pretend — and maybe even catch a race later in the day.

Cassandra Kaye has lived in and around Atlanta her entire life. She considers herself a full-time writer and a part-time traveling gypsy, and she takes both jobs very seriously. She's also written about beer, watching college football in Atlanta, and catching local bands in town.