

Athens: The Classic City

In 1785, the University of Georgia was chartered as America's first state chartered college. Athens has developed a uniquely urbane culture that visitors can experience through historic districts, house museums, historic landmarks and gardens.

Heritage Story Ideas:

- **Classic City Tours:** Featuring Athens' 16 historic districts on the National Register, Classic City Tours offers daily guided bus tours of Historic Athens, plus audio, self-guided and specialty tours.
- **"Museum Mile" House Museums Interiors Tour:** These four homes reflect a variety of architectural styles and periods. Church-Waddel-Brumby House (ca. 1820), Federal style • Ware-Lyndon House (ca. 1856), Italianate • T.R.R. Cobb House (ca. 1850s) • Taylor-Grady House (ca. 1844), Greek Revival
- **T.R.R. Cobb House** (ca 1850s): This home, with its distinctive octagonal wings, was moved to Stone Mountain Park in 1985, and then returned to Athens in 2005 to a site near its original Prince Ave. location. The historic site opened to the public in August 2007 as a house museum with Civil War exhibits. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in August 2013.
- **Georgia's Civil War Sesquicentennial, Antebellum Trail:** Explore the lives and legacies of Confederate leaders along Georgia's Civil War Heartland Leaders Trail and the Antebellum Trail, two regional self-guided heritage trails.

Gardens Story Ideas:

- **America's 1st Garden Club:** The first American garden club, The Athens Ladies Garden Club, was founded in 1891. The group is memorialized at Founders Memorial Garden, on the University of Georgia campus.
- **The State Botanical Garden of Georgia:** The 313-acre preserve features trails, extensive themed gardens and a stunning tropical conservatory. The grounds also feature the headquarters of the Garden Club of Georgia, Day Chapel, gift shop, café and art exhibit space. The Sunflower Concert Series of outdoor summer concerts is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy music in the Garden. The winter's Evergreen Concert Series takes place in the tropical conservatory. Twilight Toasts combine live music, horticultural information, wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres in a relaxed atmosphere within the conservatory.
- **Horticulture Trial Garden:** Home gardeners will relish the opportunity to observe this hands-on research and teaching garden at the University of Georgia that cultivates new, obscure and favorite species specifically for the Southern gardens

Media kit, available online: high-resolution images, virtual tours and visitor information.