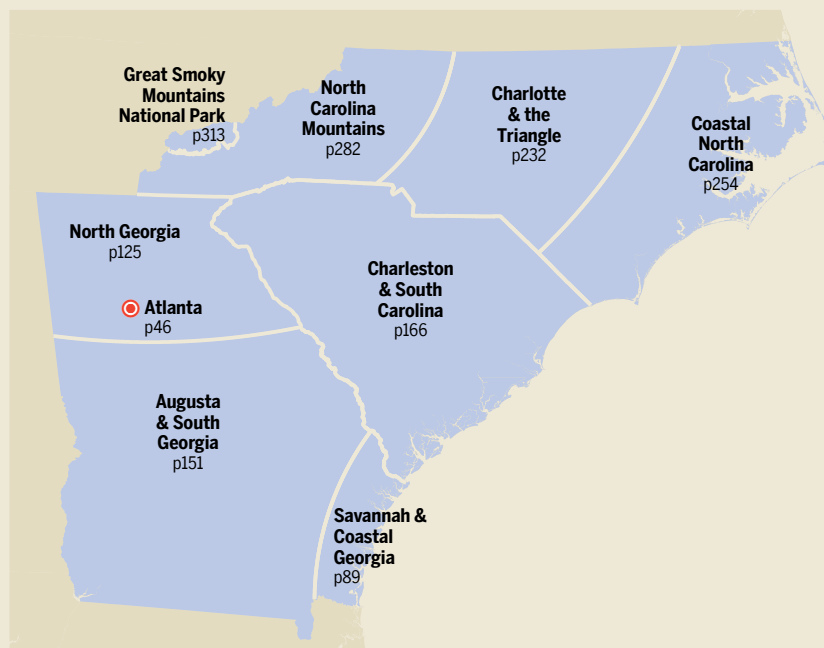




Georgia & the Carolinas



Amy C Balfour, Jade Bremner, Ashley Harrell,
MaSovaida Morgan, Kevin Raub, Regis St Louis, Greg Ward

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ST PHILIP'S CHURCH,
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Itineraries



2
WEEKS

Georgia & the Carolinas Highlights

You'll have to hit the ground running for this one. Start in **Atlanta** for three nights, spending two full days on the city's excellent museums and the Martin Luther King Jr National Historic Site. Take time to walk, bike or jog the Atlanta BeltLine and drink or dine along the way at spots like Krog Street Market. On day three head east through **Athens** in time for an afternoon stroll and early dinner at the outstanding Home.made from Scratch; catch some live music if you can before hopping over to **Greenville**, two hours away. Get outdoors on the Swamp Rabbit Trail or take a walk through Falls Park on the Reedy and enjoy a good meal or three before heading on to the Triangle. Pick from **Raleigh**, **Durham** or **Chapel Hill** and spend a day and night – then it's time to hit the beach. **Wilmington** is good for a relaxing day or two, or a fun night out on the riverfront. Then head south to **Charleston** for at least three days, meandering around the Historic District, visiting sights such as the Old Slave Mart Museum and the Nathaniel Russell House and, of course, hitting the city's hot dining scene. Then it's south to **Savannah** to check out the artsy vibe at places like the Jepson Center for the Arts and unwind under the Spanish moss-draped live oaks in Forsyth Park. Conclude your trip by driving back to Atlanta with a break in **Macon** or **Senoia** if time permits.



South Carolina Sampler

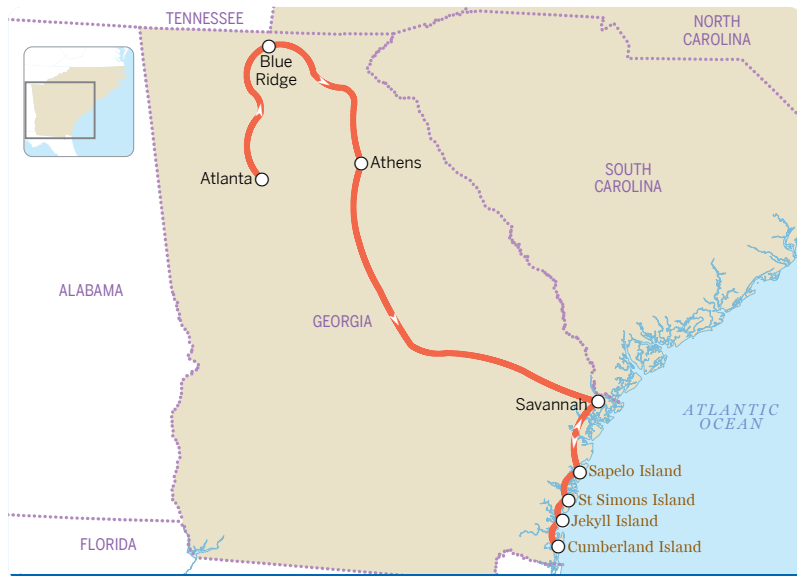
For those hungry for a taste of the whole dang state, including Upcountry hiking, Low-country adventuring, capitol crashing and even a stopover in tacky Myrtle Beach.

Begin in **Myrtle Beach**, so you can get your putt-putt and deep-fried-seafood hankerings out of the way (it only gets better from here). It's usually cheap to fly in. Base your number of nights in Myrtle on how much you love America, and continue on to the state capitol, **Columbia**, which is far more interesting than it usually gets credit for. You can tour the State House and party with college students at Five Points before continuing on to 'it city' **Greenville**.

Spend a few nights here, giving yourself time for day trips to the nearby state and national parks, which offer superb hiking. Be sure to also stroll over the stunning Liberty Bridge in Falls Park on the Reedy and take a peek at up-and-coming art galleries and locavore restaurants in West Greenville. Try a few craft beers but not so many that you can't drive back through Columbia to **Beaufort**, South Carolina's most darling little town. Spend at least two nights relaxing by the waterfront and paddleboarding out to the sandbar. On neighboring **St Helena Island**, visit the Penn Center and hop on a Gullah tour for a wonderful introduction to the Gullah people, who have fought for centuries to keep alive the customs of their enslaved ancestors brought from West Africa.

Finally, finish the trip with South Carolina's crown jewel, **Charleston**. Spend at least five days here exploring the downtown, wandering the Historic District's cobblestone and brick alleyways and admiring the meticulously preserved antebellum mansions and historic churches. Pop over to **McLeod Plantation** for an inside look at a typical Sea Island cotton plantation, which was at one time occupied by both the Confederate and Union forces, along with a federal agency that helped transition emancipated slaves.

Head back up the coast to Myrtle Beach if you've got a round-trip flight, and be sure to stop for lunch along the way at TW Graham & Co in **McClellanville** for the best fried seafood in the state.



The Best of Georgia

From cosmopolitan Atlanta and artsy Athens in the north to historic Savannah and the barrier islands of its pretty and protected southeastern coast – Georgia is chock-full of diverse geography and storied history. This long Atlanta to Atlanta loop will hook y'all with city, sand and Southern hospitality.

Land at the world's busiest airport in **Atlanta** and spend a few days putting a little South in your mouth in the city's top restaurants. Immerse yourself in all things MLK at the Martin Luther King Jr National Historic Site and visit the world-class museums. At night, take a stroll along the Atlanta BeltLine Eastside Trail, drinking and eating your way through its good-time breweries and restaurants. Head north from the city to the Blue Ridge Mountains and the appropriately named **Blue Ridge**, North Georgia's most charming mountain town – consider a ride on its scenic railway. You're in Appalachia, so woodland warriors might want to delay their departure to explore many of the hikes in the surrounding area.

Heading southeast, spend a day in **Athens** enjoying its bustling and bohemian downtown – take in a University of Georgia football game if you can – then make a break for the coast. First stop: **Savannah**. Wander its moss-draped public squares taking in historic museums and drool-worthy Southern food for at least two days. Just south of Savannah, Georgia's sea islands beckon. Take a culturally rich night on the Gullah-Geechee **Sapelo Island** – you must make prior arrangements and bring your own food – then head south to **St Simons Island**, the largest and most developed of the Golden Isles, full of pretty beaches and wonderful golf courses. Further south is **Jekyll Island** – the historic Jekyll Island Club Hotel was the stomping ground of Gilded Age millionaires. Continue the southern trajectory to **Cumberland Island**, home to the wild and remote Cumberland Island National Seashore. Only 300 people per day are allowed to visit, so you'll have (mostly) your own little piece of paradise here.

1
WEEK

Lowcountry Cruiser

With a good set of wheels and an appreciation for seafood, history and natural beauty you'll be covered on this little trip.

Chances are you'll fly into **Charleston**. Many of the state's best experiences and restaurants are concentrated in and around the city, so spend three days visiting top sights and a couple of the plantations either on the Ashley River or over on **James Island** (hit the Charleston Tea Plantation on **Wadmalaw Island** while you're at it). Then roll over to laid-back **Folly Beach** for a night, where you can get a fabulous rental house or stay in a charming B&B right on the water.

Venture south the next day, with a stop at **Edisto Island** to explore some unadulterated coastline at **Botany Bay**. Double back and make a stop at the seductively swampy **ACE Basin** to look for whooping cranes before pressing on to **Beaufort**, South Carolina's friendliest, most delightful small town. It's sort of like a mini-Charleston, with an adorable downtown and abundant antebellum mansions in The Point neighborhood (see them by carriage). Stay two nights before retracing your steps to Charleston.

1
WEEK

Blue Ridge to the Smokies

Above all – literally – it's the magnificent mountains that make North Carolina special. To savor their full splendor, spend a week driving the Blue Ridge Parkway, hiking and biking and staying in cool college towns such as Asheville and Boone.

Start your road trip with two nights in funky **Boone**, a couple of hours' drive from either Charlotte or the Virginia state line. While in the area, hike up to the Mile High Swinging Bridge at **Grandfather Mountain**, and out to **Linville Falls**, breaking for lunch in **Blowing Rock**. Now cruise on west, and in under half a day you'll reach the mountains' 'capital,' **Asheville**. Allow a (very) good three nights to do Beer City's breweries justice, slurp up some barbecue, and swoon at the opulent Biltmore Estate, plus take a day trip south to **Chimney Rock**. Then follow the parkway west again, pausing to learn about the Trail of Tears in **Cherokee**, and a morning's drive will bring you to your final two-night stop, **Bryson City**. While there, be sure to cycle the lake-shore in the nearby **Tsali Recreation Area**, or raft at the **Nantahala Outdoor Center**, and venture into Great Smoky Mountains National Park before you head home.

Behind the Scenes

SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

We love to hear from travelers – your comments keep us on our toes and help make our books better. Our well-traveled team reads every word on what you loved or loathed about this book. Although we cannot reply individually to your submissions, we always guarantee that your feedback goes straight to the appropriate authors, in time for the next edition. Each person who sends us information is thanked in the next edition – the most useful submissions are rewarded with a selection of digital PDF chapters.

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THIS BOOK

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- Drinking & Nightlife
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- Shopping

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- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



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OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



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Great Smoky Mountains National Park Amy practiced law in Virginia before moving to Los Angeles to try to break in as a screenwriter. After a stint as a writer's assistant on *Law & Order*, she jumped into freelance writing, focusing on travel, food and the outdoors. She has hiked, biked and paddled across the United States and authored or coauthored numerous titles for Lonely Planet. She has also written for *Backpacker*, *Every Day with Rachael Ray*, *Lonely Planet*

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