



Athens is "Live Music Central"

Over two decades since Athens burst on the music scene with the legendary B-52's, R.E.M. and Widespread Panic, the vibe is as energetic as ever. In naming Athens the No. 1 Music Mecca in America, *Rolling Stone* magazine raved that "the density and diversity of bands still teeming in downtown Athens keep it the alpha and omega of the college music scene." The *New York Times* calls Athens "Live Music Central." There are literally hundreds of bands that currently call Athens home, playing jazz, classical, blues, country, hip hop, rock and every kind of alternative genre.

Story Ideas:

World-famous clubs: By night, Athens is alive with a variety of music clubs that offer entertainment suited to every taste. World-famous venues such as the [40 Watt Club](#) attract up-and-coming musical acts as well as established headliners. [The Foundry](#), an intimate concert venue located on the grounds of Graduate Athens, was named one of *Paste* magazine's "40 Best Venues in America" and the world-famous fabulous 40 Watt Club was named among the "Best Clubs in America" by *Rolling Stone* magazine.

Music History Tours: [Self-guided tours](#) explore the roots of Athens music at spots such as the railroad trestle featured on the cover of R.E.M.'s album *Murmur* and various incarnations of the 40 Watt Club. Or, reserve a specialty tour for your group through [Classic City Tours](#).

AthFest: The annual June showcase of Athens music and art features over 150 bands playing all weekend on outdoor stages and in the clubs. An artists' market and Kids Fest activities complete the festival's offerings. [AthFest](#) attracts over 20,000 fans annually, and offers a perfect opportunity for music fans from all walks of life to enjoy this renowned music scene. AthFest was named a "Top 20 Event" by the Southeast Tourism Society.

Georgia Theatre Rises: After a devastating June 2009 fire, then-owner Wilmot Greene, with the help of the Georgia Trust, musicians, and loyal fans, reopened the legendary [Georgia Theatre](#) in August 2011. While music-lovers enjoy concerts within the sleek, renovated space, the prominent music venue continues to preserve its signature marquee and local history. The stage that launched the careers of many talented artists, including the B-52's, R.E.M and Widespread Panic, is again buzzing with many local and national acts.

Craft Breweries: Breweries in town are winning awards and visiting Athens for the beer is worth it. Terrapin Beer Co. is the oldest brewery in town and was named one of [10 Awesome Breweries in College Towns](#) by *Paste* Magazine. The brewery is open for tours and tastings Wednesday through Sunday and live music by local artists brings the entertainment on each of these days. Creature Comforts Brewing Company opened in downtown Athens in April of 2014 and was named one of the [Best New Brews in the U.S.](#) in January of 2015. [Southern Brewing Company](#) just opened in May of 2015.

Other Sounds: Athens is more than just alternative. Catch the world's best symphonies at the UGA Performing Arts Center and headline performers at The Classic Center.

Music Bites: [Weaver D's Fine Foods](#) serves up soul food under the slogan "Automatic for the People," the inspiration for the title of R.E.M.'s 1992 album. Nouveau Southern cuisine that satisfies all the senses is at [The Last Resort Grill](#), in a building noted for memorable performances from the B-52's, Jimmy Buffett, Guadalcanal Diary and Steve Martin. [The Grit](#) has gained fame for its vegetarian fare, best-selling cookbook and its loyal following among musicians.

Media Contact: Khyra Walker, media@VisitAthensGA.com
Available online: media kit, high-resolution images, video, virtual tours, and visitor information