

Miss Lola Cola's Guide to Transgendered Atlanta

(with judicious editing and inserts by St. Teresa of Attitude)

Welcome to Atlanta! I love this city, it's a wonderful place to live and has a great community. If you feel good about yourself and have confidence, you will have a marvelous time on the town. Be safe & have fun! Y'all come back now, heab? Love, Lola

ATLANTA LIFE

We are certainly welcome at Atlanta's many gay establishments, and I am unaware of any problems at straight places. Groups of local T-people and legions of gender conventioners have been shopping, dining out and socializing all over Atlanta for some years now without any serious incident that I've heard of. Midtown and downtown establishments are particularly nonplused. Recently, for instance, Sabrina Marcus & I spun around on top of the Hyatt Regency in its revolving restaurant/lounge and had a perfectly lovely time.

Do keep your wits about you, however. Atlanta is a big city and suffers from its share of crime and other woes of contemporary metropolitan life. Any visitor, transgendered or not, should observe those rules of urban common sense that keep us all safe. Solo strolls through Piedmont Park after dark are ill-advised, for instance. Absolutely, do not drink and drive here!

GETTING AROUND

Welcome to the Sunbelt, where everyone has a car and uses it! There are two MARTA subway stations within walking distance of the Sheraton (at 15th & 10th streets off Peachtree). MARTA's clean, safe (compared to NYC, say) and a tremendous bargain for getting to the airport. Other than that, MARTA is convenient for going north to Lenox Square Mall and south to downtown and not much else.

Taxis are plentiful throughout the city and are a great way to get around town, especially when nightclubbing.

NIGHTSPOTS

PIEDMONT ROAD/CHESHIRE BRIDGE ROAD AREA is home to many of Atlanta's best alternative nightclubs (and some great restaurants as well). It's 10 minutes by car from the hotel north on Piedmont Road.

Ansley Square, on Piedmont Road just south of Monroe Drive, is home to three gay clubs:

Spectrum, a new dancebar & restaurant

Burkhart's, a long-time dance & cruise bar &

Scandals, a friendly neighborhood pub.

The Otherside, 1924 Piedmont Rd 875-5238. (\$4 cover after 10 pm) A lesbian bar that a favorite of many T-folks. Three separate areas inside: The Key Club is a cozy, quiet piano bar with fireplace & sofa seating. Large main bar is very disco. Back terrace is country/western bar with covered outdoor line dancing. Amber Richards, a nationally prominent female impersonator, is the manager as well as the emcee & Star of the weekend floor show.

The Chamber 2115 Faulkner Rd 248-1612. (\$5 cover) A "fetish club", young, cutting edge & kinky. Open Thu, Fri, Sat nights only at 10 pm. Very loud music! Dancing, "scenes", go go girls & boys. Lately, *the* place. Very mixed gay, straight and fetish crowd - T-people are ho-hum here.

The Heretic, 2069 Cheshire Bridge. Gay dance club, leather & denim back room.

Hoedowns, 1890 Cheshire Bridge. Gay country/western dance club. Buddies Cheshire Square, 2345 Cheshire Bridge. Friendly gay cruise pub.

MIDTOWN is the neighborhood surrounding *The Sheraton*. Atlanta's most colorful & diverse part of town, it's chockablock with gay bars and nightclubs.

Heading south on Peachtree from the hotel:

(Club Anytime at Peachtree & 11th is *not* recommended.)

Chaps 917 Peachtree @ 9th or so. Country/western gay dancing.

Bulldogs 893 Peachtree St @ 8th or so.. Long-lived gay dance club.

Backstreet 845 Peachtree St. @ 6th or so. (enter huge parking lot from Juniper St), 873-1986 is *the* all-night gay bar in Atlanta. \$7 cover week-ends after 10 pm. In the third floor cabaret Charley Brown emcees her

XXX-rated show. (Continuous from 11 pm.) Not fabulous, but may be the last drag show in Atlanta. The all-night dance floor throbs with shirtless clones. There's a line to get in at 5 a.m!

The Amory 836 Juniper., 881-9280. Accessed from the same parking lot as Backstreet. Popular dance club. Drag shows some nights.

Odella's 1231 West Peachtree (at 15th St). Elegant dance club with beautiful outdoor patio. Easy walk from the hotel.

Loretta's 708 Spring St. (at 3rd). Black Atlanta's top gay club. Fabulous drag divas.

Shahan's Saloon 735 Ralph McGill Blvd., 523-1535, a ladies' bar, kind of a VFW-type place, pool tables. Just your basic quiet, friendly neighborhood lesbo tavern.

Fetish Club Wednesdays at Masquerade, 695 North Ave., 577-8178

This is the once-a-week event that birthed *The Chamber*. Young, loud, funky. Tattoos and pierced tongues. Industrial dance, pool

Model T 699 Ponce de Leon Ave., 872-2209. Smoky, quiet, friendly gay tavern with a pool table, occasional drag contests.

DOWNTOWN Mostly quiet after dark

Velvet 89 Park Place 681-9936. Ultra-hip dance club (VIP room et. al.). Mixed crowd most nights. Sunday is gay night.

BUCKHEAD is party central for straight Atlanta and while transgender folks are not unknown in Buckhead clubs, it's not our home turf. The occasional run-in with drunken frat boys can be annoying.

Revolution 293 Pharr Rd., 816-5455. "Atlanta's premier dance club for women" is the lone queer outpost in this upscale neighborhood.

COBB COUNTY The home of *Newt Gingrich* became national news two years ago when the County Commission passed a resolution condemning "the gay lifestyle".

Players 800 Sandtown Rd., Marietta. 429-9115. Home of Cobb County Queens of the Night, it's a charmingly corny drag bar nestled in the bosom of America's most famously intolerant suburb.

SHOPPING

Atlanta is loaded with malls and for the most part they like anyone's money.

Perimeter Mall on the north side is especially used to T* folks due to the proximity of hotels which have hosted many gender events.

Lenox Mall & Phipps Plaza straddle Peachtree Street in Buckhead, The city's most glamorous shopping district, with Macy's, Rich's, Neiman Marcus, Sak's Fifth Avenue and a billion specialty stores.

Little 5 Points is our "arty" section, green & chartreuse hair are not uncommon, nor are T-folk. Lots of boutiques for fierce shoes, and funky and vintage fashions. Any portion of personal anatomy can readily be pierced or tattooed here.

Throb 1140 Euclid Ave 522-0355 Corsets, fetish wear & hardware, funky fashions, wigs, jewelry, leg wear.

Junkman's Daughter 464 Moreland Ave. 577-3188 10,000 sq. ft of freaky clothes, Doc Marten & other great footwear.

Urban Tribe Euclid Ave clubwear, footwear, tattoos & piercing

ELSEWHERE & OTHERWISE

The Poster Hut 2175 Cheshire Bridge Rd. 633-7491 is packed with fetish gear and clothing.

Elegant Trash 3180 Roswell Rd (Buckhead) 233-3877 "Clothes for Fetish, Crossdressing & Dancers, Fun Things, Custom Made Costumes"

Underground Atlanta / World of Coca-Cola is a much-bally-hooed shopping/eating/sightseeing attraction downtown at the crossroads of the MARTA lines (Five Point Station). Strictly for the tourists and generally not worth it. Often full of teenagers with too much time on their hands.

BOOKSTORES

Brushstrokes 1510 Piedmont (in Ansley Square), 876-6567. Gay gifts and books.

Outwrite Books 931 Monroe Dr. (in Midtown Promenade), 607-0082. Gay bookstore with small coffee bar..

Charis Books 1189 Euclid Ave. (in Little Five Points), 524-0304.

Lesbian/gay bookstore.

HAIR

Headlines 1147 Euclid Ave., (L5P) 577-5970 A friendly & small shop.

Marty is a genius styling wigs and overnight turnaround is available.

Wig Villa 2957 N Druid Hills Rd. (Toco Hills) 633-6147. They are "used to us", but you may not be overwhelmed with their service or selection.

World of Wigs 3253 Buford Hwy. 636-4550. Grudgingly T-friendly. Overpriced.

Parisienne Wigs 11060 Alpharetta Hwy. Ste 164, (Roswell) 988-1788. Large selection, friendly and fairly priced.

NEWSPAPERS

Creative Loafing Atlanta's weekly alternative newspaper.

Tremendous listing of recommended restaurants each week, specializes in funky, intown places. Also, complete listing of movies, music, clubs and other events, places, etc. Classified include list professional

Doms, etc. Available free around town.

ETC magazine Weekly gay entertainment magazine, lists events, bars, etc. Free

Southern Voice Weekly gay newspaper, serious news of the community as well as events, bars, etc. Free

LOCAL GENDER ORGANIZATIONS:

Sigma Epsilon (Atlanta Triess Chapter) meets 2nd weekend of the month. Info (404) 552-4415. Or write: PO Box 272, Roswell, GA 30077. email: sc5@prism.gatech.edu

AEGIS (American Educational Gender Information Service). Info line (404) 939-0244. Or write: PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724, email: aegis@random9.randomc.com

Atlanta Gender Explorations (AGE) Info: PO Box 77562, Atlanta, GA 30357

Montgomery Institute. Info: (404) 603-9426. Or write, PO Box 33311, Decatur GA 30033.

TERRY'S DINING GUIDE

SHORT WALK FROM SHERATON (within 5 blocks)

Colony Square is a shopping and office complex attached to the hotel. Its food court is a bargain, though it will be crowded for lunch during the week. **Country Place** is a popular buffet style restaurant.

California Pizza Kitchen 14th Street across from hotel. Fun, bright national gourmet pizza chain. Great spot for lunch or dinner. Moderate.

Gorin's Peachtree @ 14th. Coffee shop menu with accent on ice cream. Eh - its close by, I guess. Moderate to cheap.

Veni Vidi Vici 14th St just west of Peachtree (in IBM tower) Extremely pricey, precious nouvelle cuisine. Much celebrated debut four years ago. Uneven since.

Bistango Peachtree @ 12th. Very pricey, expense-account nouvelle Italian.

Frijoleros Peachtree @ 11th. Great cheapo burritos, quesadillas, etc. Very funky. Barely hygienic, in fact. I eat here all the time.

Puchinello's Peachtree @ 11th. New pasta spot. Reported to be great, cheap Italian. Might be worth a try.

Jock's & Jill's Peachtree @ 10th. Sports bar. Mediocre and not terribly friendly.

Cha Gio Peachtree @ 9th. Classic & contemporary Vietnamese. Moderate.

Touch of India Peachtree @ 9th. Passable tandoori. Moderate.

LONGER WALK FROM HOTEL (5 - 12 blocks)

Bridgetown Grill Peachtree at 3rd. 873-5361. Great Caribbean food. Moderate.

Wendy's Peachtree @ 3rd. Fast food. Cheap.

Alon's Peachtree @ 3rd, across from Fox Theatre. Wow! Fantastic gourmet sandwiches. Great salads. Killer homemade daily soup. A tad pricey for sandwiches, but well worth it. Fantastic take-out bakery.

Agatha's Mystery Dinner Theatre Peachtree @ 3rd. Venerable Atlanta spot. IFGE outing here Thursday night.

Vickery's Grill 1106 Crescent (one block west of Peachtree @ 11th) Charming neighborhood bistro with outdoor tables under the shade of an enormous tree. Moderate.

Mystic Pizza 1136 Crescent (just up from Vickery's) Great pizza & pasta. Cheap to moderate.

La Bamba 1139 West Peachtree (two blocks of Peachtree @ 11th or so) Reliable Mexican & margaritas. Large outdoor patio.

ELSEWHERE INTOWN BUT STILL NEARBY

Silver Grill Monroe Dr @ 8th St. Best fried chicken in the world! Real mashed spuds & gravy! Meat & 3 for \$6.25. (For you Yankees that's meat with choice of three vegetables and all the ice tea - sweet or unsweet - you can drink.) I eat here at least once a week.

La Fonda Latina 1150 Euclid (across from Headlines Salon in L5P)

With a special emphasis on value/proximity -
(liberal borrowings from Creative Loafing's listings)

Fantastic paella served in cast iron skillets. Great Cuban sandwiches. Cheap.

South of France 2345 Cheshire Bridge Rd, 325 6963. Charming, highly recommended French bistro menu. Moderate.

Mick's 557 Peachtree / 2110 Peachtree / Lenox Mall & other locations. Fabulous local chain. Great soups, burgers, chicken. Moderate.

PONCE DE LEON (THAT LEE-ON, AS IN SPINKS) CORRIDOR IN MIDTOWN

Eats 600 Ponce de Leon (across from City Hall East). "Good food, cheap." Sez it all.

Eat Your Vegetables 438 Moreland in L5P. 523-2671. Great vegetarian. Moderate.

Zesto 544 Ponce de Leon Ave. Amazing retro-style building. Super ice cream treats and fast food. Cheap.

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS (VIRGINIA & N. HIGHLAND AVENUES) *Yuppie enclave filled with great spots - moderate to pricey.*

Indigo Grill & Partners, pricey, but best in Atlanta!

Murphys or **Chow** for weekend brunch.

Surin Thai.

Mambo Cuban.

SLIGHTLY FARTHER AFIELD, BUT STILL INTOWN:

Dusty's 1815 Briarcliff Rd. 320-6264. Tasty Carolina-style, vinegar-based barbecue. (For you Yankee's that slow-roasted, shredded meat bathed in sauce - not meat grilled outdoors!) Cheap.

Marra's Seafood 1782 Cheshire Bridge Rd 874-7347. Favorite group outing spot for Sigma Epsilon girls. Pricey.

Alfredo's 1989 Cheshire Bridge Rd. 876-1380. Family style Italian. Another Sig Ep fave. Moderate.

"CHAMBODIA" is the local name for the collection of authentic oriental restaurants have sprung up along & near Buford Highway in the Chamblee section of town.

Honto 3295 Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd 458-8088. City's best Chinese. Great dim sum.

Oriental Pearl 5379 New Peachtree Rd. Close second.

Little Szechuan Buford Hwy. at Shallowford Rd. Delicious.

Pung Mie 5145 Buford Hwy. Great Chinese by way of Korea.

Yeh Lai Hsiang 5285 Buford Hwy. Breath-taking Korean/Chinese.

ALL NIGHT EGGERIES *Late night partiers who want breakfast on the way home have three good choices.*

Dunk n'Dine 2277 Cheshire Bridge Rd @ LaVista. All the queer bars empty into here at 4 am - a.k.a. the Dyke n'Dine. Cheap greasy spoon.

Majestic Diner Ponce de Leon @ N. Highland Ave. Very greasy spoon. Fascinating all-night people watching.

RJ Thomas Deluxe Grill 1812 Peachtree Rd in Buckhead. Very eclectic, friendly all-night spot. A step up in price and quality. *Good luck & good eatin'. Tip well it's hard word waitin' tables!*