

Southern in the City Fall Escape

From stylish restaurants to boutique hotels, this Atlanta, GA getaway will have you packing your bags.



The Optimist

Photo: Robbie Caponetto



Designer Billy Reid's new digs

Photo: Robbie Caponetto

Why we're packing our bags: Atlanta's burgeoning Midtown neighborhood has a whole new crop of hearty and stylish restaurants, shops, and museums. Spend a weekend in this Georgia Peach for all the panache of the Big Apple, sans tacky street vendors.

Perfect for: Epicureans and style-setters looking for a big-city getaway.

On the itinerary: Midtown, home to the High Museum of Art (high.org), is the heart of Atlanta's art scene. New to the 'hood, the Museum of Design Atlanta (museumofdesign.org) celebrates the design of items from handbags to skateboard graffiti. Stock up on fall tweed at Billy Reid's (billyreid.com) new outpost in the Westside Provisions District (westsidepd.com), a collection of boutiques in a former meatpacking plant.

Save room for: Oysters on the half shell from The Optimist (theoptimistrestaurant.com), chef Ford Fry's new seafood joint. The Lawrence (thelawrenceatlanta.com) serves suppers with Southern touches such as pork belly with sweet-tea jus. Try chocolate-chip cookie dough cheesecake from Café Intermezzo (caffeinintermezzo.com), an Atlanta favorite opening November 1 in Midtown.

Rest your head: The Artmore Hotel is a boutique foil to Midtown's towering chains, with comfy rooms nestled in a 1920s building. (Rates from \$129, artmorehotel.com)

Bring it back: A dress shirt (\$125-\$175) from the eponymous shops of Midtown power couple Sid and Ann Mashburn (sidmashburn.com, annmashburn.com).

Don't miss: The hush-hush happy hour at Empire State South. Follow them on Twitter (@ESSouth, empirestatesouth.com) for the daily secret word; whisper it to the bartender for a sweet deal.

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