





# 4 things

words and photos **Laura J. Moss**

additional photography **Anna Mitchell**

**While the city may be known for such popular attractions as the Georgia Aquarium and the World of Coca-Cola, Atlanta is home to numerous hidden gems you won't find in a guidebook.**



# 1



## Walk Doll's Head Trail.

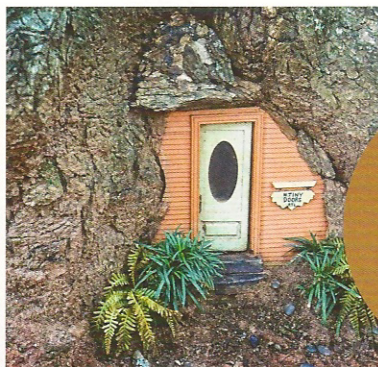
Nestled in southeast Atlanta off Moreland Avenue is Constitution Lakes Park, a nature preserve unlike any other. Once the site of a brickyard, the area is now home to wetlands, wildlife and a unique, ever-evolving art walk known as Doll's Head Trail that's equal parts creepy, quirky and enchanting. In 2011, regulars at the rarely visited park began crafting bizarre sculptures and poignant displays entirely from objects they found there. Brick pieces, hubcaps, fishing lures, tires and an astonishing number of doll heads have been assembled into works of art that run the gamut from humorous and absurd to philosophical and political. Numerous signs instruct you to "see the springs," which turns out to be a collection of rusty bedsprings. There's the "Rinky Dink Circus," which features a variety of miniature delights, including a group of plastic animals "caged for your amusement." There's even the wing of a toy airplane strung from a tree that includes a hand-scribbled note from the president to Vladimir Putin, thanking him for the "swell drone." The exhibits at Doll's Head Trail are constantly changing and expanding, so no two trips are the same. If you visit, grab one of the Sharpies left along the trail and scrawl a message onto one of the many bricks that are scattered about, or pick up an object you find in the woods and create some art of your own. In addition to the trail itself, you can also stroll the boardwalk around the lakes and keep an eye out for herons, kingfishers and hawks.

## See the skyline from Grant Park.

Thanks to the popularity of TV's "The Walking Dead," many people are familiar with the iconic view of the Atlanta skyline from the Jackson Street Bridge, but there's a less-visited and much greener look at the skyline in Grant Park, the city's oldest. Located in the southeast corner of the green space near Boulevard and Delmar Avenue is the highest natural point in Atlanta, and there's a bench perched at the peak where you can sit to watch the sunset over the city. While you're there, be sure to check out one of Atlanta's many Tiny Doors art installations at the trunk of a nearby tree. Tiny Doors ATL is an art project intended to bring "big wonder to tiny spaces," and the city is home to dozens of 6-inch-tall doors that are located in strategic places to highlight the neighborhoods and landmarks that make Atlanta special.



PHOTOS BY LAURA J. MOSS



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## Eat your way down Buford Highway.

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Take a culinary tour of the world along this stretch of highway in northeast metro Atlanta and enjoy the restaurants, bakeries and markets from more than 20 international communities. Sample the dim sum at Royal China, feast on tacos at El Rey Del Taco, and don't miss the delights at 8 Fahrenheit Ice Cream, which makes frozen desserts inspired by Thai street vendors. And if you love Korean cuisine, you're in for a treat. Metro Atlanta is home to one of the largest Korean populations in the country, so you'll find no shortage of delicious restaurants serving up bulgogi, bibimbap and naengmyeon. SoKongDong Tofu & BBQ is an authentic Korean restaurant, tucked into a shopping center, that serves up boiling tofu soups, dumplings and an endless variety of small side dishes known as banchan. Once you've had your fill, sing your heart out at one of the many private-room karaoke bars situated along Buford Highway.



PHOTOS BY ANNA MITCHELL















## **Participate in a citywide scavenger hunt every Friday.**

You don't have to visit a gallery or fork over cash to get your hands on one-of-a-kind creations by some of Atlanta's biggest artists. You simply have to be social media savvy and fast on your feet. Every Friday, a citywide scavenger hunt known as Free Art Friday occurs when artists hide their work throughout Atlanta and post photos of it on Instagram with the hashtag #FAFATL. Whoever gets there first gets to keep what they find. Similar treasure hunts have fizzled in other major cities, but Atlanta's free-art community is thriving, with more than 72,000 photos posted since 2012 using the #FAFATL hashtag. In addition to taking home your own masterpiece by Squishiepus (who specializes in all things pink), Catlanta (who creates adorable cat-themed street art) and Evereman (who's known for the simple robotic face he's been stenciling onto wood for more than a decade), you'll also get to know Atlanta as only a local can. Artists often hide their work in their own favorite places, including parks, restaurants, bars and stores that are well off the beaten tourist path. 🍷