

GUIDE TO AUGUSTA & SURROUNDING AREA



Meybohm

THE AUGUSTA METRO



HISTORY

The Augusta Metro is comprised of 5 counties (Richmond, Burke, Columbia, Lincoln and McDuffie) in Georgia and 2 counties (Aiken and Edgefield) in South Carolina. The principal city of the metro area is Augusta, GA, the second largest city in the state. Augusta was founded in 1735 and became a major trading spot due to its location along the navigable portion of the Savannah River.

LANDMARKS

Augusta National Home of The Masters Tournament, the Augusta National was founded by amateur golfer Bobby Jones and Clifford Roberts and open-ed for play in January 1933. The Masters Tournament is the only PGA Major that is held in the same location every year. The economic impact of the tournament is estimated to be over \$120 million annually.

Augusta Canal Built in 1845, the canal has been a constant source of power, water and transportation for the area. The city began using the water power from the canal to drive electric powered equipment.

By 1892 Augusta was the first Southern city to have both electric streetcars and street lights. Presently the canal is listed on the National Historic Registry and used more for recreation. North Augusta Greenway Over 7 miles of paved recreational rails wind through North Augusta along the abandoned railroad right of way owned by the city. There are three public accesses to the trails that meander through the city and many of its neighborhoods. Pets are permitted so long as they are leashed. The Greenway is open from dawn to dusk.

Hitchcock Woods One of the largest urban forests in the nation (2.5 times larger than Central Park) Hitchcock Woods encompasses 2,100 acres and 70 miles of trails. The woods are a favorite of hikers, equestrians, dog walkers, runners and more. Hitchcock Woods is also known for holding fox hunts.

DID YOU KNOW

Augusta is home to The Academy of Richmond County which was chartered in 1783 and is the oldest educational institution in the state and one of the oldest in the nation.

594,300
AUGUSTA METRO
POPULATION

80.2 °F
AVERAGE
HIGH

50.1%
HOUSING COSTS
NATL. AVG.

47.2 °F
AVERAGE
LOW

AUGUSTA - RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA

Augusta, GA was established as a township in 1736 by General James Edward Oglethorpe. The city was declared capital of Georgia two different times. The city was named after then princess of Wales, Princess Augusta. Augusta is nicknamed the Garden City due the large number of private gardens throughout the city. The construction of the canal made Augusta the second largest inland cotton market in the world during the cotton boom.

Currently, Fort Gordon is the city's largest employer followed by Healthcare, which accounts for 14% of the total workforce, is expected to increase by 12% by 2020 and has an economic impact on the community of \$1.8 billion annually and has economic impact on the community of \$1.8 billion annually

The housing market in Augusta is diverse. It offers urban style living downtown, neighborhoods throughout the city, waterfront properties and country living. The median sales price of homes in Augusta - Richmond County is \$151,550, which is significantly lower than the national average of \$232,933.

The U.S. News and World Report ranks the Augusta metro area as #91 on their list of Best Places to Live and #57 on their list of Best Places to Retire. The area is consistently noted as a retirement hotspot because of the low cost of living, accessibility to healthcare, mild climate and the abundance of entertainment, shopping and dining that the area has to offer.





COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA

Columbia County was established in 1790 when the state legislature took a part of Richmond County to form the new one, in response to area residents who were in need of a more convenient place to hold court sessions than those being held in Augusta.

Over the past 10+ years, Columbia County has experienced a remarkable surge of population growth. It is one of the top 25 fastest growing counties in the nation and one of the 5 fastest growing counties in Georgia. In 2000 the US Census noted the population of the county to be 89,288 people. Ten years later the population was nearly 125,000, a nearly 40% increase. Today the population is estimated at 156,714.

The area is sought after by business because of its highly educated workforce, with nearly 37% of the county's residents having earned a bachelor's degree or higher. The top 3 employers in Columbia County are the Board of Education, the Board of Commissioners and John Deere Commercial Products.

The county is in the midst of creating a new downtown located in Evans that will serve all of Columbia County. Currently residents enjoy Evans Towne Center Park which is a great recreational facility for residents and visitors. Across the street from the park sits The Meybohm Building, a mixed use building that has business, retail and restaurant space available for lease. The new Performing Arts Center is under construction and is due to open in 2021. The Plaza at Evans Towne Center will create a place for residents to live, work and play all within walking distance.

EVANS	GROVETOWN	HARLEM	MARTINEZ
37,114 Population	14,053 Population	3,143 Population	34,844 Population
\$101,000 Median Household Income	\$61,152 Median Household Income	\$54,674 Median Household Income	\$68,743 Median Household Income
38.5 Median Age	31.4 Median Age	34.8 Median Age	40.4 Median Age
\$241,000 Median Home Price	\$227,500 Median Home Price	\$177,086 Median Home Price	\$227,500 Median Home Price
84.9% Homeownership Rate	56% Homeownership Rate	71.4% Homeownership Rate	74.5% Homeownership Rate

CYBER CITY

Augusta was named by Forbes as one of the "7 cities that could become the world's cybersecurity capital." By 2020, 4,700 high-tech military personnel were relocated to Fort Gordon in support of military intelligence, cyber security, and the NSA.

Fort Gordon's Cyber Center of Excellence is the Army's epicenter for training and development of cyber warriors.

Phase 1 of the Hull McKnight Georgia Cyber Center for Innovation and Training opened in Downtown Augusta in 2018. This is a state-owned facility intended to bring industry leaders from academia, private industry and government together to establish cybersecurity standards across state and local agencies.

FORT GORDON

Fort Gordon is a multi-service military installation that permanently hosts and directly supports Army, Marine, Navy, Air Force and DOD activities and missions. The base is home to the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence which provides training in communications to the U.S. and foreign military personnel on a continuous basis.

Fort Gordon's key missions include cyber security, communications and information technology and the integration, security and defense of all Army communication networks within the continental U.S.

Fort Gordon is the area's largest employer and continues to grow.



AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA POPULATION 30,955

Aiken was founded in 1835 by William Aiken, President of the South Carolina Railroad, who was instrumental in bringing the railroad through the town. Aiken was originally part of the Edgefield district but as the population rose, the need to split became evident.

The town later became a winter destination for elite northerners looking to escape harsh winters. Notable winter residents include members of the Vanderbilt family, Evalyn Walsh-McLean, owner of the Hope Diamond, and Dorothy Knox Goodyear Rogers, heir to the Woolworth fortune.

In the 1950's President Truman requested that Dupont design and construct a nuclear facility in South Carolina. Dupont built the Savannah River Site just outside the city of Aiken. The plant is the largest employer in the area, employing over 11,000 people.

Aiken is also known for its equestrian community. The mild climate and sandy soil have proven to be a haven for horse trainers and enthusiasts. Belmont Stakes winner and Kentucky Derby runner, Palice Malice trained at Aiken's Dogwood Stables.

Downtown Aiken is the pride of the community. Residents and visitors enjoy locally owned shops and restaurants as well as The Alley, where you can mingle through the pedestrian only walkways while listening to live music or enjoying your favorite food and beverage.

Aiken was voted "Best Small Town" by Southern Living Magazine in 2018.





NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA
POPULATION 24,133

North Augusta South Carolina – nestled between Augusta, Georgia & Aiken, South Carolina – With quick access to downtown Augusta via 13th Street bridge, it is easy to commute to area businesses and the vast medical community on the GA side of the Savannah River.

The North Augusta downtown area has an expanding riverfront community and is experiencing new growth along the river consisting of housing, hotels and restaurants. North Augusta was also just accepted into the SC Mainstreet downtown revitalization program with aggressive interests from the local community to attract additional businesses to the downtown district. Plans are underway for a brand new Public Safety building and new fire stations which will be a great addition to the growing community.

For outdoor enthusiasts, North Augusta offers several choices. One of the most popular attractions is the North Augusta Greenway. Or, take a stroll to Riverview Park which consists of 150 acres of outdoor activities that hosts several baseball, softball, soccer games and Frisbee football throughout the year. The recently remodeled Riverview Activities Center has an indoor gym and walking track.

North Augusta downtown offers several events throughout the year including BBQ cookoffs, Return to Bethlehem during the Christmas season and the wildly popular Jack O'Lantern Jubilee at the end of October. This event hosts thousands of people in a two-day period celebrating the fall season with great music, food and local vendors selling unique merchandise.

DID YOU KNOW

The Augusta GreenJackets call the area home, recently moving from Augusta to the new state of the art SRP Park in North Augusta. The Braves own the GreenJackets now.





THE MASTERS

People from all over the world converge on Augusta and the surrounding areas every year during the first full week of April for The Masters Tournament, the first of the four PGA Majors of each season. The week of Masters is known for more than just golf, it is full of events to entertain residents and visitors alike. Some of the best known events that week include: Rock Fore! Dough which raises money for The First Tee of Augusta, ParTee on the Green which is a dance party held at The Augusta Common and The Major Rager which brings a big name band to The Lady A Pavillion in Evans.

AIKEN TRIPLE CROWN

The Triple Crown is comprised of three weekends of equestrian events that for the last 53 years has brought people from all over the world to Aiken. The first weekend is the Aiken Trials. Second is The Steeplechase which has become the largest of the 3 events. This event is reminiscent of the Kentucky Derby in its revelry and fashion. The last event of the series is Pacers and Polo, which took the place of the Harness Races in 2003. This event brings Polo to a larger audience

as well as benefiting scholarships for student athletes at the University of South Carolina Aiken.

BANJO-B-QUE

This music festival began in 2010 to honor Joe Pond, a local business owner who passed in 2006, and is held over Memorial Day weekend every year. The Banjo-B-Que combines barbeque, beer, bluegrass music and activities as a means to raise money for the Joseph R. Pond Memorial Fund, which supports local charities in the Augusta Metro.

WESTABOU FESTIVAL

The Westabou Festival is an annual tradition in Augusta that began in 2008. The event was named after the Westobou River, as the Savannah River was formerly known as after the Westo Indians. The festival is held over 5 days in Autumn and is a multi-arts festival dedicated to enriching the cultural, economic and social vitality of the region. The Westabou Festival showcases performances and exhibitions in music, dance, film, spoken word and visual arts.

GREEN JACKETS BASEBALL

Though Augusta has had a baseball team on and off for over a century the current team has been a mainstay since since 1994 when they were named the Augusta GreenJackets and moved into their new home field at Lake Olmstead Stadium and are affiliated with The Braves. In 2018 they began their season at SRP Park, a state-of-the-art facility that was built just across the river in North Augusta, SC. The GreenJackets season spans from April to September.

AMP THE ALLEY

A relatively new event that occurs every Thursday in The Alley in Downtown Aiken, Amp the Alley combines live music, great food and spirits with a great atmosphere to hang out with friends or make new ones. Live music begins at 7:00 pm, however it is a good idea to head down early to grab a seat outside of your favorite restaurant or to walk through the Farmer's Market that is set up from 6:00 - 8:00 pm during the month of June.

PERFORMING ARTS



AIKEN COMMUNITY THEATER

Beginning in 1952 as Aiken Community Playhouse, which was housed in a small building on the grounds of the H. Odell Weeks Park this theatre has experienced many changes. In 2002 a new theatre was built on Newberry St. in Downtown Aiken which made it possible to expand their reach into the community with a larger venue and space for educational programs for youth and adults. Since then the organization has been able to put on large scale productions on their main stage as well as more intimate productions in the theatre's Black Box Theatre.

AUGUSTA PLAYERS

The Augusta Players have been a mainstay in the Augusta Arts Community since 1945, making them the oldest performing arts group in Augusta. The non-profit theatre works diligently to produce Broadway caliber musical productions on Augusta's Imperial Theatre stage. They have a mission to serve the community through outreach projects and strive to open up the arts to those who volunteer, perform and attend their shows.

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ETHERREDGE CENTER

The Etherredge Center is located on the campus of the University of South Carolina Aiken and serves as the main

stage for their Theater Department, but productions put on by the school are not all you will see here. Their mission is to promote the arts to the community by attracting prominent artists, support other community arts groups, and provide arts related educational opportunities.

LE CHAT NOIR

One of the youngest performing arts groups in the area, Le Chat Noir has proven to be a place of quality productions and great entertainment. They opened in 2006, produced 7 shows their first season and hosted 100+ events. To date the numbers have grown to over 100 shows and 1000 events. The company also works to cultivate the arts within the community through education programs.

THE MILLER

The Miller Theater opened in 1940 and at one time was the second largest theater in the state. It was opened for over 40 years until it closed in 1984 due to neglect. It reopened in 2018 after a public/private partnership made it possible to renovate the theater to its previous glory. The Miller Theater functions as the home of the Augusta Symphony as well as hosts a variety of performing arts including ballets, standup comedians and of course concerts.



PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Performing Arts Center is currently under construction in Evans, GA and will be a prominent part of the new Downtown that is underway. The center will be a state of the art facility with 2,000 seats that will be capable of hosting Broadway touring shows. The center is also slated to be a place where the community can take classes in various disciplines of the performing arts. The facility is estimated to open in the fall of 2020.

AIKEN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Aiken Center for the Arts is located in Historic Downtown Aiken. The center offers a variety of outreach and awareness programs for adults and children, they host exhibits and competitions, lectures and instruction. The year round exhibit that is housed at the center features artists from all over the world. The Aiken Center for the Arts does focus on local and regional talent of the South and visitors can purchase works from local artisans in their store. The building is also available for event rentals.

ARTS & HERITAGE CENTER OF NORTH AUGUSTA

With two exhibit spaces the AHCNA showcases the artisans and history of the region. The goal of the exhibits that rotate through the center every 6 to 8 weeks is to introduce the visitor to the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor showcasing the character and history of Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell and Orangeburg counties. Special events are held at the center throughout the year as well.



AUGUSTA RIVERWALK

Stretching between 6th and 10th Streets in Downtown Augusta the Riverwalk consists of two levels and is accessible from different locations. It includes a number of popular venues such as the 8th St. Bulkhead where the weekly Saturday Market is held, the Jessye Norman Ampitheater which is a popular live music destination and the Japanese Gardens on the lower level which is a great spot for wedding photos. Beyond events, the Riverwalk is a great location to take a stroll and enjoy the view of the river.



LADY A PAVILLION

The amphitheater located at Evans Towne Center Park in Evans is named after famous Country Music artists Lady Antebellum, of whom two of the founding members - Charles Kelley and Dave Haywood - hail from the area. The Josh Kelley Stage is named after Charles Kelley's brother who is also a famous musician. This is a great outdoor venue that has hosted many famous artists such as Zac Brown Band, Keith Urban and of course Lady Antebellum.

MORRIS MUSEUM OF ART

Located on Augusta's Riverwalk and founded by William S. Morris III, the museum opened up in 1992. The permanent collection housed in the museum holds nearly 5,000 works. Throughout the year the museum is host to several traveling exhibits as well. The Morris Museum of Art is dedicated to the artists and art of the American South and features paintings, photographs, works on paper, and sculptures dating back as far as the 18th century.

SACRED HEART CULUTRAL CENTER

The Sacred Heart Cultural Center was once a Catholic Church that was built in 1897. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of the most architecturally stunning buildings in the area, featuring twin spires and 94 stained glass windows. It is a wonderful venue for cultural and social events such as art exhibitions, theatrical productions and choral concerts to name a few. The center can be rented for events throughout the year.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

SAVANNAH RAPIDS

This park sits on 33 acres and is set along the Augusta Canal and Reed Creek waterfall. It is a great place for a run or bike trip along the canal trail or put in your kayak and float down the canal to Lake Olmstead. Bring your family to the park for a picnic and let the little ones play on the playground. If you don't have a bike or kayak but still want to experience the canal don't worry the park offers equipment rentals.

LAKE THURMOND

Located just outside the Augusta area is Lake Thurmond (also known as Clarks Hill Lake), which is the largest Corps of Engineers lake east of the Mississippi River.

The lake has 1,200 miles of shoreline, 70,000 acres of water and 80,000 acres of land. There are 10 campground areas and five major day use areas along the lake.

The lake is well known to fisherman for its excellent striper and largemouth bass fishing.

FORKS AREA TRAIL (FATS)

The Forks Area Trail System is located just outside of North Augusta and provides some of the best trails for hiking and mountain biking in the area. In 2009 FATS was awarded the IMBA Epic status and in 2010 was the host trail for the annual IMBA World Mountain Bike Summit. The trail system offers something for every level of rider. The Great Wall is 7.5 miles long and is best suited for an experienced biker, while Skinny Loop is good for beginners.

CITIZENS PARK

The premier athletic facility in Aiken, Citizens Park has 15 lighted fields, 8 AstroTurf batting cages, a two mile walking track and a splash pad. This facility host many of the league sports offered by the City of Aiken including baseball, softball, soccer and flag football which are available to both youth and adults. The facility is the home of the Aiken Soccer Cup which is in its 24th year and will host the Junior Dixie Boys World Series.

LANGLEY POND

Just shy of being large enough to be classified as a lake, Langley Pond is known as the worlds largest pond. It features a 2000 meter rowing course, beach and swimming area, a playground, picnic area, boatramp and dock. Langley Pond was once a training facility for the US Olympic rowing team. It is still used as a training facility for many rowing teams around the country. * The pond is currently closed for maintenance and is scheduled to reopen in 2020.

BLANCHARD WOODS

Opening in 2007 in Columbia County the park holds 4 regulation soccer fields, an additional stadium soccer field and a certified cross country course for high school and college competition. It has served as the annual home of the Peach Belt Conference soccer and cross-country championship as well as the NCAA II Men's and Women's Soccer National Championships. It also offers BMX Biking and a skatepark.



AIKEN GOLF CLUB

This golf course has been a mainstay in Aiken since 1912, and was expanded from its original 11 holes to 18 in 1915 by John Inglis, a founding member of the PGA. This golf course was the first in the nation to have women's tees. Though it has seen its shares of ups and downs throughout its storied history, the course remains open and sits among the rolling hills near Aiken's Historic Downtown district. The Highland Park Grille is a great place to watch the sunset over the 18th green.

AUGUSTA NATIONAL

Known the world over as the home to The Masters Tournament the Augusta National is a members only club located in the heart of Augusta. Membership to this prestigious golf club is by invitation only. The club was founded by amateur golfer Bobby Jones and his business partner Clifford Roberts. The first tournament at the club was held in 1934 and has been held every year with the exception of 1943 - 1945 due to the war. The green jackets were given to members to distinguish them from spectators so they could be easily identified if a guest had a question. The famous green jackets were not awarded to tournament winners until 1949 and are required to stay on the premises at all times.

CHAMPIONS RETREAT

Tucked behind the gates of Riverwood Plantation sits the Champions Retreat Golf Club. This course is made up of 3 nine hole courses and is the only club in the world to feature three individually designed courses by Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus. In 2019 Champions Retreat played host to the first two rounds of the Augusta National Women's Amateur Tournament.

PALMETTO GOLF CLUB

Palmetto Golf Club was founded in 1892 in Aiken, SC. It is the oldest continually operated 18 hole golf course in the Southeast and believed to be the second oldest in the nation. It was originally constructed with four holes and was finished by some of the same men who had constructed the Augusta National and excess materials from the Augusta National were used to complete the course. Palmetto Golf Club serves as the home course to current PGA player Kevin Kisner.

RIVER CLUB

The River Club in North Augusta sits along the Savannah River and is one of the areas newer courses, opening in 1998. The course was designed by Jim Fazio. Players will experience numerous lakes, wetlands and dramatic bunkers on this course along with five sets of tees, creating a challenging but fair round of golf.

SAGE CREEK

This private golf club located in Graniteville, SC opened in 2001, was designed by Tom Fazio and built to rival The Augusta National. The club is set on 500 acres, but is surrounded by 1,000 additional acres of Carolina Pines to give the club a complete feel of seclusion and exclusivity. Many pro golfers play this course prior to their start at The Masters.



AUGUSTA COMMON

The Augusta Common is a 1 Acre open space owned by the City and sits between Broad St and Reynolds St. between 8th and 9th Streets. The space is landscaped with park benches and is a perfect venue for weddings, parties, concerts and more. The city often holds events here as well, such as ParTee on the Green, Movies on the Common and the Candlelight Music Series.

BOECKH PARK

This park is a great place to slow down and enjoy the views of the river. The six acre park features a 1.5 mile extension of the Greenway that crosses the fall line of the Savannah River that separates the piedmont from the coastal plain. The rustic pavillion at Boeckh Park features wood and brick columns a large fireplace and bench seating with a tin-roof overhead. The pavillion is often used as an event space.



EVANS TOWNE CENTER PARK

Sitting in the heart of Columbia County sits Evans Towne Center Park. This recreational facility features playgrounds, ballfields, a dog park and is the host location to many events throughout the year, including holiday events such as the Easter Egg Scramble, Boom! in the Park and various Christmastime festivities.

HOPELANDS GARDENS

Sitting just outside Aiken's Historic Downtown District lies a 14 acre estate that was given to the city and opened as a public garden in 1969. Hopelands is a popular destination for wedding and prom photos. The park can be rented to host a wedding which is often held near the reflecting pool. At Christmas the park is decked out with thousands of lights and visitors walk through the wonderland while sipping hot chocolate. During the summer the amphitheater hosts the summer concert series.



LIVING HISTORY PARK

Managed by the Olde Towne Preservation Society the Living History Park in North Augusta serves over 20,000 visitors a year who come to see what Colonial American living was like. It is used during the school year by teachers who bring their students to see first hand what life was like during the colonial era through living exhibits and demonstrations. The park was designed to be a passive greenway space reminiscent of 18th Century North Augusta.

PENDLETON KING PARK

This park is a 64 acre bird sanctuary that sits just outside the center of the City of Augusta. The park includes a children's adventure playground, 18-hole golf course, tennis court, workout course and nature trails for walking and cycling. There are also open spaces perfect for picnics and outdoor games.



