

Accessibility Guide for Atlanta, GA CCCC 2011

Submitted by Margaret Price, Spelman College
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Transportation

Atlanta Airport

- The airport is arranged in one long line, with terminals appearing along the line in the following order: Baggage Claim/Entrance – T – A – B – C – D. (Don't ask me why "T" comes before "A" in this world; it confuses everyone.) All terminals can be reached by walking/rolling indoors or by taking the wheelchair-accessible shuttle. Do not be stressed by references to the "North" or "South" sides of the airport; they're adjacent, and only about 50 yards apart from each other, across a flat, indoor lobby area.
- Gates are located one level above the shuttle level. The general assumption is that travelers will ascend/descend to gates via escalator; elevators are fairly slow and will require that you plan for about 5-10 minutes' extra travel time.
- Reports from my wheelchair-using friends say that the roll-you-where-you-need-to-go service at the airport is pretty good, and is provided up to the baggage claim area if desired.
- The airport is almost always very crowded; plan for enough time to navigate through crowded terminals and long security lines. FYI, the longest security line I've been in at this airport has been about 45 minutes. My usual time through security is more like 10-15 minutes.

Taxis

- Checker Cab (404-351-1111). Call ahead to request an accessible van, or visit http://www.atlantacheckercab.com/taxicabs_handicap-accessible-vans.html.

Rail and Bus System

- MARTA is Atlanta's rail and bus system (<http://www.itsmarta.com>). Reviews are mixed. All buses are supposed to kneel or have wheelchair lifts, but I have heard from friends that this isn't always the case. However, the rail line is reliably wheelchair-accessible.
- MARTA's rail line from the airport will drop you off right at Peachtree Center, which has a skyway that connects to the Marriott Marquis. Their website also has quite an extensive section on access (<http://www.itsmarta.com/marta-accessibility.aspx>).

Lodging and Conference Site

Alternative Hotels Near the Marriott

- Holiday Inn Downtown Atlanta, 101 Andrew Young International Blvd, Atlanta GA 30303 (<http://www.hidowntownatlanta.com>)
- Days Inn Atlanta Downtown, 300 Spring Street NW, Atlanta GA 30308
- The Ellis Hotel, 176 Peachtree Street NW, Atlanta GA 30303 (<http://www.ellishotel.com>)

Marriott Marquis

- All sessions will take place in the Marriott; there is no separate conference center or other sites.
- I have gathered photos of the site, including captioned descriptions, subjective observations, and measurements, on a Flickr album (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/15199294@N02/sets/72157625250006957>). This album includes photos of the meeting spaces as well as accessible and non-accessible rooms.
- You do not need to contact anyone in particular to get an accessible room or suite; just make the request when making your reservation. If you have questions that need to be answered by someone on-site, you can contact Na'Tasha Pritchett, Event Coordinator, at 404.586.6068 / natasha.pritchett@marriott.com.
- The Marriott staff has agreed to cease all use of chemicals in meeting and CCCC guest rooms for four days prior to the conference. Most lighting in meeting rooms is fluorescent. Non-fluorescent alternative lighting is available, but is quite dim.
- The CCCC Local Arrangements Committee and Program Chair Malea Powell are currently working on establishing a space as a quiet room.
- The Marriott Marquis is located on a steep hill. If you want to avoid the hill when seeking a place to eat, a good bet is to take one of the skyways (accessible from the Marquis level) to the adjacent Peachtree Center Mall or SunTrust Building.

Attractions (relatively near the Marriott Marquis)

- Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. PDF map of all locations, including the King Center and Ebenezer Baptist Church, located here: <http://www.nps.gov/malu/planyourvisit/upload/malumap2.pdf.pdf>
- Sweet Auburn Curb Market. Mostly wheelie-accessible; however, it will probably be crowded. It's most crowded after about 3 p.m. on weekdays, and on weekends.
- Atlanta Aquarium. Super cool and brand-new, wheelie-accessible.
- Atlanta Zoo. Mostly wheelie-accessible; designed with strollers in mind. The only zoo I've ever been to where you can buy a beer to carry around while you look at the animals.
- Freedom Park. A large, grassy open space with asphalt paths throughout. Many steep hills, which are not avoidable—the whole thing is hilly.
- Piedmont Park. Huge lawns, great people- and dog-watching, a farmer's market on Saturday mornings. Asphalt paths throughout; hills are present but avoidable. Use any entrance *except* the Park Drive entrance, which has a number of rough raised surfaces which are hard to wheel over.

- Botanical Garden. Most of it is on one level and includes asphalt paths to get around to all garden spaces. Scooters available for rental. The orchid house is absolutely jaw-dropping. A very cool place.

Restaurants

Distance noted for each restaurant is from the Marriott Marquis, according to Google Maps. All restaurants are listed as wheelchair-accessible. See listings for other specific notes, such as vegetarian / vegan / gluten-free / queer-owned / type of food served.

Canyon Grill (0.1 miles) (Mexican)
303 Peachtree Center Ave, Atlanta, GA 30308

MarketPlace / Nikolai's Roof (0.2 miles) (French/Russian)
255 Courtland St, Atlanta, GA 30303

Mama Ninfa's Mexican (0.6 miles)
231 Peachtree St, Atlanta, GA 30303

Mary Mac's Tea Room (1.1 miles) (Southern)
224 Ponce de Leon Ave, Atlanta, GA 30308

Ecco Atlanta (1.3 miles) (European; gluten-free dishes available)
40 7th St NE, Atlanta, GA 30308

Paschal's (1.5 miles) (Soul)
180 Northside Dr NW, Atlanta GA 30314

Tamarind Seed Thai (1.7 miles)
1175 West Peachtree St, Atlanta, GA 30309

Ria's Bluebird Café (1.9 miles) (Vegetarian; breakfast/lunch; queer-owned/operated)
421 Memorial Dr, Atlanta, Georgia 30312

Mellow Mushroom (3.1 miles) (Pizza)
1770 Peachtree St NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30309

R. Thomas (3.2 miles) (Vegetarian/vegan)
1812 Peachtree Rd NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Soul Vegetarian (3.4 miles)
879-A Ralph D. Abernathy SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30310