

Bargain

The city's best deals.

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Fear Riverwalk. (Offer ends October 29.)

If you book the **Largo Mar beach house compound** (includes two houses; sleeps seventeen) in Destin before November 1, you'll get a **\$200 gas card**. The houses have 2,800 square feet of combined living space; are separated by a private, heated pool; and have Gulf views and beach access. Fall and winter rate is \$2,775 per week. For more information, visit largomar.homestead.com.

STUDY THE SECRETS OF SMYRNA'S COUPON QUEEN

When Anika Bozeman reaches the grocery store register she sometimes has to grab a last-minute item to make up the difference—because her bill rings up in the negative numbers. The stay-at-home mother has turned her coupon-clipping obsession into a local, bimonthly workshop dubbed The Cuttin' Edge. "It's like a game. I love it," says Bozeman, a former industrial engineer who's also shared her expertise on *Good Morning America*. "I get an adrenaline rush every time I step into Kroger." Her top five tips:

- 1 **Only use coupons on sale items.** That's how you get your rock-bottom price.
- 2 **Don't wait until you need something to purchase it.** Buy items in bulk and on sale; otherwise you're at the store's mercy. Stay stocked up.
- 3 **Try new brands.** I'm a Clorox person, but one time Lysol's spray cleaner was half price, so I had to try it. After I redeemed my coupons, it ended up being a quarter.
- 4 **Know your store's policies.** Check the website or speak directly with a manager to ensure you understand the store's coupon rules. Ask about things like whether or not they honor competitor and Internet coupons. You also need to know if they take manufacturers and store coupons—there is a difference. More importantly, will they allow you to double them?
- 5 **Be organized.** There's no point in clipping coupons if you can't find them. Keep your coupons in a three-ring binder in your car at all times.

According to Bozeman, follow these rules and each week **SAVE \$50-\$125**

Creative Outlets



North Georgia Premium Outlets

Don't show up with anything less than a full stomach and empty afternoon. A day of shopping could yield, for instance: a signature cashmere scarf for \$179 at Burberry (the same at Lenox would set you back \$350); \$79 terry track pants at Juicy Couture; a wicker settee from Restoration Hardware for \$875 (40 percent off MSRP); \$30 men's denim from Sean John; walls of \$39 polo shirts at Ralph Lauren; a rack of \$89 dresses from BCBG, to be paired with \$29 pumps from across-the-way Nine West. Decorators on a budget will love Pottery Barn Outlet, with 30 to 50 percent off most items and a great selection of bedding; and Williams-Sonoma, where you can stock up on kitchen essentials, including a broad Apilco selection. In the market for a new bag? Browse Coach, Cole Haan, and Michael Kors. Work separates? Try Calvin Klein, Tahari, or Hugo Boss. Leave plenty of time for Saks Fifth Avenue/Off 5th, where you'll dig through a bounty of designer goods. 800 Highway 400 South, Dawsonville, premiumoutlets.com

Discover Mills

This mall was clearly designed with restless chil-

dren and spouses in mind. In addition to a movie theater, Woodward Skatepark, a huge arcade, Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, carousel, kiddie train, and giant food court, there are Adidas, Nike, and collegiate logo outlets—plus OshKosh B'Gosh, Gymboree, Limited Too, Strassburg, KB Toys, LEGO, and more for the kids. Teens will love Steve & Barry's (which carries lines by Sarah Jessica Parker and Venus Williams) and Forever 21—neither is technically an outlet, but if prices were reduced any further, stuff would be free.

Put Dad in charge of the rug rats, and Mom can concentrate on Neiman Marcus Last Call and Saks Fifth Avenue/Off 5th. The department stores offer real steals—we found a ladies Armani jacket, originally \$2,995, reduced to \$1,197.90 at Off 5th, and a Nicole Miller dress, originally \$320, for \$60 at Neiman's Last Call. Although there are nice Kenneth Cole and Guess outlets, the discounts aren't quite as steep. Men will score deals on brands like Hickey Freeman and Hugo Boss. 5900 Sugarloaf Parkway, Lawrenceville, simon.com

Nordstrom Rack

Though couture finds may be rare, the selection and prices on great brands

like Michael Kors, BCBG Max Azria, Dolce, Paige Premium Denim, Izod, Ben Sherman, and Joe's Jeans make this an outlet worth driving for. There's a wide shoe selection, too, but not much jewelry. 3205 Woodward Crossing Boulevard (near Mall of Georgia), Buford, 678-482-0123, shop.nordstrom.com

Ballard's Backroom

One of Atlanta's best-kept secrets, these showrooms offer overstocks, samples, and damaged items from the popular Ballard Designs online and catalog merchandise—at up to 80 percent off retail. The intown store offers some new items and fewer damaged goods. The Roswell warehouse is larger and stocks lots of furniture. 1670 DeFoor Avenue, 404-603-7033; 1475 Holcomb Bridge Road, Roswell, 770-594-1671, ballarddesigns.com

Beverly Hall Too

Look for discontinued or slightly damaged merchandise from Beverly Hall's upscale furniture lines. Recent examples included an oversized Federal-style Baker sofa at \$2,199 (MSRP \$6,650) or a Martha Stewart Signature buffet at \$899 (MSRP \$2,175). Limited hours. 780 Holcomb Bridge Road, Roswell, 770-594-5661, beverlyhall.com



FIND A FRIED CHICKEN ALTERNATIVE



If you can't swing \$19 for Scott Peacock's award-winning fried chicken special dinner served every Tuesday at **Water-shed**, go to **K&K Soul Food** (881 Donald Lee Howell Parkway, 404-685-1073), where you'll get a huge serving with delicious vegetable sides for \$6.20. **SAVE \$12.80**

TAKE THE TRAIN TO NOLA

While **Amtrak** (amtrak.com) doesn't offer many other deals out of Atlanta, it's definitely the cheapest way to get to **New Orleans**. The roundtrip fare for a coach-class ticket is always \$116. Compared to the least expensive roundtrip airfare found at press time for an October flight from Atlanta to New Orleans on AirTran (\$249), you will **SAVE \$133**

SAVE ON A LUXE HOTEL ROOM—JUST BY BEING A GEORGIAN

If you're a Georgia resident (and have a driver's license to prove it), you can get **15 percent off** a room at the **W Atlanta-Midtown** (404-892-6000, starwoodhotels.com), and have more money to spend on a Fully Loaded Facial at the hotel's **Bliss Spa**. With rooms starting at \$285, you will **SAVE AT LEAST \$42.75**

WORK OUT AT THE HOSPITAL

Hospital fitness centers can be a good way to avoid paying high membership prices at local gyms. **The Wellness Center at DeKalb Medical** is 18,000 square feet and includes an indoor pool and track as well as classes such as aerobics, kickboxing, weight training, and prenatal yoga. Health-related specialty classes are a bonus; try the personal grocery store program, where you learn how to choose healthy foods. Unlike many gyms, you don't have to pay a steep

membership fee. Monthly dues range from \$38 to \$44, with discounts if two or more from the same household sign up. The cheapest price is a *yearly* membership, which runs only \$423, or just \$365 for seniors. Compared to local dues at \$600-plus, you can expect to **SAVE \$177**

WORK OUT AT YOUR ALMA MATER

At the **Georgia State University** student recreation center (404-413-1750, gsu.edu/~wwwrec), a membership is \$84/semester or \$252/year for faculty and staff, and \$102/semester or \$306/year for alumni and retirees. Also, for members, a spousal/domestic partner membership is available for \$102/semester or \$306/year, and only \$25.50/semester for children ages eight to eighteen. "I chose this gym because it's convenient—about five blocks from home—and it has everything you could possibly want," says Whitney Rusert, who lives Downtown. "I also like the professional way it's run. It's always clean and the equipment is readily available." There's plenty to choose from at the four-level, 161,000-square-foot facility, including an exercise room, free weight area, aquatic center, thirty-five-foot climbing wall, fitness center, one-eighth-mile track, gymnasium, and more.

A membership to the **Georgia Tech** recreation center (404-385-7529, campus-recreation.gatech.edu) is only \$24/month (\$288/year) for faculty and staff, affiliates, and retirees and \$30/month (\$360/year) for alumni. The 300,659-square-foot facility includes a fitness center with weight machines, free weights, cable

motion machines, cardio machines, an aquatic center, and more. There is no cost for children under eighteen, and spouses may be added for \$10/month.

Keep in mind university fitness centers may limit hours during breaks. "My only complaint is the center is closed whenever the campus is closed, and there are

restricted hours during the summer," says Rusert. "But that's the trade-off in having a great facility with an affordable membership—one that I'm happy to make." **SAVE UP TO \$350**

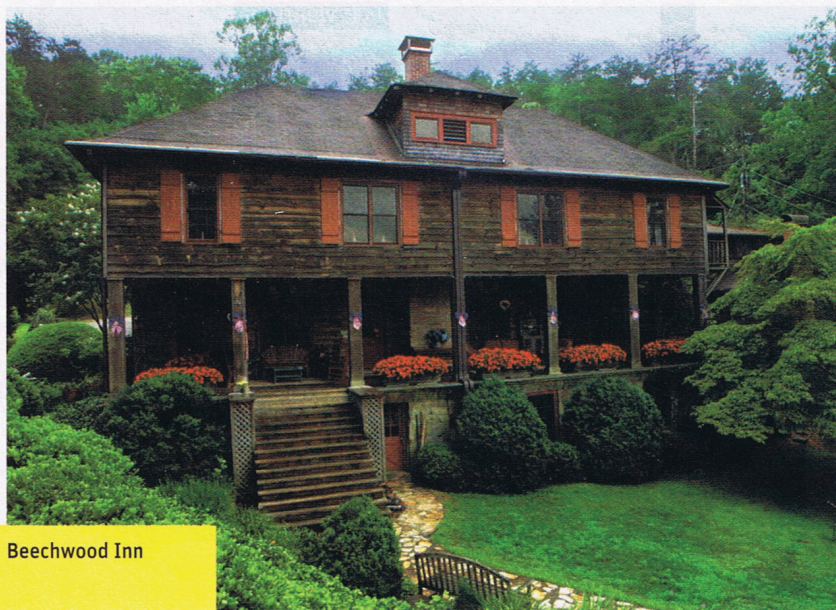
BUY YOUR CAR THROUGH A BROKER

Whether you're looking to replace that gas-guzzler with a more fuel-efficient model or just want a sweet deal, **Manheim Atlanta** may be a good option. Tucked along a tree-lined street in Red Oak, Georgia, this auto emporium—complete with a food court and

AHH!

>> During Spa Week (October 13–19) participating spas across the city will offer selected services at \$50.

For the list of participating spas, including Bliss Spa at the W Hotel, go to spaweek.org.



Beechwood Inn

hotel-quality business center—is metro Atlanta's largest private auto auction house and the place where big-name dealers go to purchase pre-owned vehicles at discount. Manheim is a subsidiary of Cox Enterprises (which owns the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*) and has more than 34,000 employees and twelve service centers worldwide.

You don't have to be a dealer to take advantage of these auctions. You can hire an auto broker to find the car of your choice. "[Dealers] have the overhead of leasing showroom space and paying a sales staff, and I don't," explains Kieron Kinard, owner of Lawrenceville-based Top Wheels Auto Brokers, which purchases vehicles at wholesale rates on behalf of individual clients. Using an independent broker means paying a flat fee (typically 8 percent of the vehicle cost) and arranging your own financing. You tell the broker what you're looking for, and he bids when one comes up for auction. The savings can be significant. For example, the "no haggle" price for a 2005 Honda Accord Sedan with 47,000 miles on it at a nearby CarMax dealership was \$20,016 (including \$18 for the title). Kinard would bid a maximum of \$14,500 on the same vehicle. Add in the \$250 auction fee, title costs, and his fee, and the Accord is yours for \$15,962—a savings of \$4,054. On the average used car, you will at least **SAVE \$3,000**

SAVE ON A HOTEL STAY BY GETTING THERE IN A HYBRID

North Georgia's **Beechwood Inn** (220 Beechwood Drive, Clayton, 866-782-2485, beechwoodinn.ws) offers a **\$25** discount to anyone who drives a hybrid to the inn and stays for two nights (dou-

bles from \$189). Offer ends November 30.

Get **15 percent off** your room if you drive a hybrid to **Callaway Gardens** (17800 U.S. Highway 27, Pine Mountain, 800-225-5292, callawaygardens.com), which added a luxurious Lodge and Spa to the historic resort. Guests should ask for the hybrid discount when making a reservation. Based on the average \$267 room at the Lodge and Spa, you will **SAVE \$40.05**

WASH YOUR CAR ON THE WAY TO WORK

With the weekday 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. **Early Bird Special at Cactus Car Wash**, you save \$2 on any package, including the \$12.95 "Full-Service Wash" (vacuuming, rim cleaning, soft cloth wash, hand dry, window cleaning, and dusting). The offer is good at both intown locations (2980 Piedmont Road, 404-846-4040, in Buckhead; and 575 Ponce de Leon Avenue, 404-876-3232, in Poncey-Highland, cactuscarwash.net). Good news for SUV drivers: The early-bird special takes care of the \$2 surcharge usually levied on SUVs and vans. If you are a weekly washer, you'll

SAVE \$104 A YEAR

FREE FOR ALL

» **Tour and beer tasting at Atlanta Brewing Company** from 6–8 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. 2323 Defoor Hills Road, 404-355-5558, atlantabrewing.com

» **Hors d'oeuvres at The Grape** from 5–7 p.m. on Wednesdays. Multiple locations including 3500 Peachtree Road, Phipps Plaza, 678-990-9463; for all locations, visit grape.com

» **Appetizers in the lounge at Aqua Blue** from 5:30–7 p.m. on Thursdays. 1564 Holcomb Bridge Road, Roswell, 770-643-8886, aquablueatl.com

» **Wine tasting at Sherlock's Wine Merchant** from 3–5 p.m. on Saturdays. Only at the Brookhaven and Decatur locations; for all locations, visit sherlocks.com

» **Get a free entree** on your birthday or anniversary (must have party of two or more and show proof of birthday/

anniversary) at **Lumiere Atlanta**, the fine dining restaurant run by student chefs at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts Atlanta. 1927 Lakeside Parkway, Tucker, 770-723-3507, lumiereatlanta.com

» On the first Saturday of each month, residents of Fulton County can enjoy **free admission to the High Museum of Art**, a savings of \$18 per person on regular admission. 1280 Peachtree Street, 404-733-4444, high.org

» The new **World of Coca-Cola** offers **free admission** every day of the week to all active and retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces. A valid military ID is required. (Savings: \$15) 121 Baker Street, 404-676-5151, woccatlanta.com

» Get a **free spa service at Entebello** if you buy any two other services. Good for Tuesdays and Wednesdays. 324 East Paces Ferry Road, 404-477-2933, entebello.com

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID G. DARUGH

THE DAILY SPECIAL

SUNDAY

\$4 double Bloody Marys, Bellinis, and mimosas at **Fritti**. frittirestaurant.com

\$10 bottomless glass of sangria at **Eclipse Di Luna** from 5:30–10 p.m. eclipsediluna.com

\$10 all-you-can-eat tapas at **Twist** from 4–10 p.m. heretoservertaurants.com

\$1 sushi (go for the nigiri) at **Prime** from 4–9 p.m. heretoservertaurants.com

Half-price select sushi at **Geisha House** from 5–11 p.m. dolcegroup.com

MONDAY

\$5 Mojitos at **Pura Vida**. puravidatapas.com

Half-price entrees for dine-in customers at **The Corner Pub** all day. pubalicious.com

\$10 all-you-can-eat tapas at **Noche** from 5:30–10 p.m. heretoservertaurants.com

TUESDAY

Three small plates for **\$20** at **Bistro VG**. sedgwickrestaurantgroup.com

\$15 wine tastings and free appetizers at **Vita** from 6–8 p.m. vitaatl.com

WEDNESDAY

\$10 Scotch and cigars at **Cabernet Steakhouse**. cabernetsteakhouse.com

\$5 glasses of selected wines at the bar at **Aqua Blue**. aqua-blueatl.com

THURSDAY

\$1 deviled eggs, grilled cheese sandwiches, and oysters in the upstairs bar at **JCT Kitchen & Bar**. jctkitchen.com

\$4.50 mai tais from 8 p.m. to midnight at **Trader Vic's**. tradervicsatlanta.com

\$2 champagne at **East Andrews Cafe & Bar**. east-andrews.com

Half-price champagne (by the bottle or glass) at **Blue-pointe** from 5:30–11 p.m. buckheadrestaurants.com

FRIDAY

Three pints of beer, pint glass, and brewery tour for **\$8** at **Sweetwater Brewery**. sweetwaterbrew.com

"Bubble Friday" (half-price champagne by the bottle or glass) at **Pano's & Paul's** from 5:30–11 p.m. buckheadrestaurants.com



Bistro VG

SATURDAY

Four wines for **\$10** at **The Grape** all day. Multiple locations, yourgrape.com

EVERY DAY!

Half-price steaks at **Prime** from 5–6:15 p.m. every day. heretoservertaurants.com

The "20/20" at **Vine**: A two-course meal for **\$20** plus a **\$20** bottle of wine if you order before 7 p.m. Monday–Saturday. vinerestaurant.com

\$3 tapas happy hour at **Pura Vida**, 5:30–6:45 p.m. on weekdays. puravidatapas.com

Get a **\$4** glass of select wine at **JavaVino** all day, every day. javavino.com

Rainy day special: When it rains, **Park Tavern** pours select draft (microbrewed) beer for **\$1**. tavern.parktavern.com

IS IT WORTH IT?

Car Facts

HIGH GAS PRICES HAVE MANY of us considering different strategies on what to drive. Auto expert Adam Goldfein, host of the radio and television programs *AutoScoop* (Saturdays from 8 to 10 a.m. on V-103 and twice weekly on CW 69), weighs in on three common trade-in scenarios.



Should I trade my Honda Civic for a Toyota Prius?

Considerations: It depends on what your overall goal is for getting a hybrid. Is it to improve fuel economy? Is it to get low emissions? Is it a status symbol? There's a big misconception that all hybrids give amazing mileage, but the reality is there are plenty of cars that have great fuel economy. If you have a Honda Civic, you're already getting about 30 miles to the gallon. That's great.

Final Word: Do your research on the hybrid to see how it stacks up to your current car. If you're happy with your car, trading it wouldn't be the most economically wise thing to do. On average, hybrids cost \$3,000 to \$5,000 more than other vehicles.

Is it worth it to park my SUV in hope gas prices will come down, or should I take a loss and trade it in?

Considerations: It depends on the negative equity you'll acquire in doing so. Negative equity is when the value of your car is lower than the amount you owe on it. If you'll have to end up paying out of pocket to get rid of the SUV, in many cases it might be cheaper for you to lease an inexpensive car—like a Versa, which you can get for \$200 a month—to commute. An SUV gives you about 15 miles per gallon; a Versa gives you 30.

Final Word: If you have negative equity, even if gas goes up to \$5 or \$6 a gallon, in most cases it wouldn't justify turning in an SUV at a loss. You may as well keep it.

Should I replace my car with a scooter?

Considerations: You can't put a price on safety. You have to pay attention to the fact there's nothing between you and what you hit. You've got to consider your lifestyle. What distance will you be traveling? Do you commute at night? What's your plan for bad weather? These factors should be part of your decision.

Final Word: The typical person in Atlanta drives a long distance. I don't think you should ever take a scooter on the highway. If gas prices are that much of a problem, it's a better solution to take MARTA or to carpool. If you're dead set on ditching your vehicle, I'd rather you ride a bike and get the exercise!