

How To Create The Perfect Saturday At Ponce City Market

Whether you prefer to shop for plants or apparel or munch down on vegan food or beef jerky, there are shopping, food and entertainment options for everyone at the historical Ponce City Market.

Ponce City Market is a significant, cultural structure in downtown Atlanta located adjacent to The Beltline. It was named for the street it resides on, which was dubbed Ponce De Leon Avenue after Spanish explorer, Juan Ponce De Leon – the guy who intently searched for The Fountain of Youth.

The 2.1 million square foot construction is a mixed-use development formerly known as the Sears, Roebuck & Company warehouse. It now contains a lounge, speakeasy, restaurants, retail stores and even beautiful loft style residential spaces. A couple of years after Ponce City Market opened in 2014, it was added to The National Register of Historic Places.

When traveling with family or a large group, it can be difficult to find activities everyone will enjoy. The eateries, shops and entertainment offered will leave every demographic exceptionally satisfied. Start the day off by grabbing grub from one of the 40 restaurants in the two story structure. Many are run by award winning chefs including Anne Quatrano of Bacchanalia/Star Provisions. Ponce City Market likens the food hall to the noteworthy Chelsea Market in New York City.

The variety of choices is substantial including a pho noodle house, French bakery and vegan bar. If your taste buds aren't tantalized by any of those options, there are simple eats like H&F Burger, Pizza Jeans and Fish Camp. If brunch is more your speed, check out 9 Mile Station located on the rooftop. It was voted Atlanta's "Best Brunch."

After indulging your appetite, burn a few calories by visiting some of the shops with products ranging from crystals to athletic equipment, paper goods, home decor, apparel and so much more. There are national retail stores like Nike, Lululemon and West Elm as well as several local retailers selling handcrafted jewelry and art.

Skyline Park, constructed atop Ponce City Market, is considered Atlanta's "ultimate rooftop destination". The massive freight elevator takes patrons from the ground floor to a beautiful panoramic view of the city. The layout will make you feel as if you were transported back in time to a 1940's seaside boardwalk. Partake in a round of mini golf, a nostalgic game of ring toss or experience one of the carnival style rides. Although they are not the most exhilarating rides, the 3 story slide and tower drop possess a certain charm that will surely produce a Cheshire cat grin.

You can drink as you play thanks to a bar coined "Sideshow" or you can simply find a cozy spot to sit and enjoy the incredible scenery. Walk around the entire park to view the Buckhead, downtown and Midtown skylines. There's also a chic lounge area and indoor bar for parents and grandparents who want to relax as the kiddos play. The rooftop transitions to

an adults only atmosphere after 5pm on Fridays and Saturdays — regulating the entry age to 21 and older.

If you want more of a lounge vibe, you can venture back into the market to Atrium or Bar Vegan. Although they are listed as restaurants on Ponce City Market's website, they provide swanky couches for non-diners and place a heavy focus on cocktails and music.

No matter your pace or preference, Ponce City Market delivers a Saturday worth savoring.