

Not-For-Tourists Tourist's Guide

YOUR MAP TO LOCAL GET-AWAY-FOR-A-DAY TRIPS

Day Trippin'

by Leslie Collins

WIZARDS AND BAR-B-QUE

We're off to see the wizard, the wonderful wizard of Pasaquan. This particular Sunday drive may take a little longer than your usual trek, but, trust us, it's worth every mile. So grab the kids, put the car in drive, and head south.

Swing down I-185 past Peachtree City and onto GA-26. On your way, stop off in Hogansville for an early lunch at Roger's Pit-Cooked Bar-B-Que, www.rogersbarbque.com. They pride themselves on, of course, their Bar-B-Que but also offer "great artifacts for you to enjoy with plenty of animals to look at and study." There's also a goldfish pond outside and a catfish pond where your dinner is raised and grain fed. Now that's organic.

Heading on down the road, get ready to experience the wild and wacky. Pasaquan, Home of the Wizard of Buena Vista, is definitely infamous in its own right. Townspeople say he, real name Eddie, "used to come to town dressed like a wizard...danced naked atop the Empire State Building...trained snakes to guard his home...let his mule starve to death, because the mule wouldn't go into the barn with all the crazy mirrors and wild colors." Interested yet?

Pasaquan is a four acre site with carved walls, African-style sculptures, and mystic hex symbols all created by the artist himself, a former merchant seaman, waiter, bartender, dancer, male prostitute, pimp, and drag queen. All of these "professions" kept him away from Georgia until his parents died in 1957 and a voice told him to return to Georgia and stay. He did just that.

Eddie, or Saint EOM, began to build what now stands with cement, hub-caps, and Tupperware. He and his German Shepherds would cruise town telling

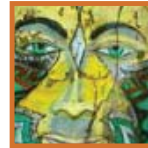
people's fortunes. His hair, when not kept down with a turban, was often styled high to serve as a spiritual antenna. This antenna may be what alerted him to build an antigravity levitation suit he believed people of the future would wear, currently on display at Pasaquan.

His vision was cut short with a cancer diagnosis in the early 1980's and then suicide. But, he left Pasaquan to the Marion County Historical Society where it's cared for and repaired as they see fit. Approximately 3,000 visitors make the pilgrimage each year. For diehards: watch the eyes of St. EOM's sculptures... they're said to follow you wherever you go.

Before heading back into the big city, swing by Columbus and grab a late lunch at Café 222, www.thepoundhouseinn.com. It's located in the Rothschild-Pound Inn & Village, a historic building from 1890. Open for breakfast and lunch until 2:30, Café 222 serves up the best in southern food. Dine on fried chicken, meatloaf, Coca-Cola ham, broccoli casserole, and your choice of apple, peach, strawberry, or blackberry cobbler.

With your belly full and your eyes sure they've seen everything there is to see, make your way back to the city...with tales of the wild and weird country.

Pasaquan



Pasaquan



Café 222



Enjoy inspired cuisine in sophisticated surroundings.

VIII
fifty
Restaurant & Lounge



1/2 OFF
Bottles of Wine Every Thursday!*

Serving Dinner:

Monday – Thursday | 5 PM – 11 PM

Friday & Saturday | 5 PM – Midnight

Late Night & Lounge:

Friday & Saturday | 9 PM – 2 AM

Closed Sunday

(*Does not include Reserve Wine List; Not Valid on Holidays)

1570 Holcomb Bridge Road | Suite 850

Roswell, GA 30076

850atlanta.com

For reservations, please call 678.206.0850

VIII fifty Restaurant & Lounge has the perfect setting for your private dining needs. We invite you to celebrate your special occasions with us.