

Flights, tickets, accommodations still available in Atlanta

■ **OLYMPICS:** Discount rates are plentiful, but plan on bringing money

By Marc Rice
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — No tickets? No plane reservation? No hotel room? No problem.

Despite all the dire warnings that latecomers would be shut out, it's still pretty easy to see the Olympics in person — even one day before the games begin.

Procrastinators, c'mon down!

And bring money: one day at the Atlanta Games could cost a family of four more than \$500 when tickets, meals, souvenirs and lodging are figured in.

Tickets to the games and seats on airlines are discounted and plentiful. Hotel rooms, a little bit tougher to come by, are available.

Atlanta organizers put about 7 million tickets on sale to the U.S. public in May 1995 with such a mad rush of hype that thousands of people lined up before dawn the first day to get order forms.

Fearful of a quick sellout, customers sent in hundreds of millions of dollars, which the organizing committee was able to bank during the long processing of orders.

An Olympic record was set for early ticket sales, and those who ordered early naturally got the best seats.

But they didn't get them all. The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games still has about 3 million unsold tickets.

They're not only the dregs. Some prized seats to the opening and closing ceremonies — for \$636 apiece — and some medal



THE 1996
OLYMPICS

rounds of track and field are now on sale along with the expected surplus of field hockey and soccer.

About 100 people braved the sun at high noon Wednesday to stand on line for a shot at the box office.

Amy Slate, who works at an Atlanta law firm, was making her second trip of the day for last-minute tickets. Earlier, she scored some wrestling tickets and now she was back to get seats to boxing, weightlifting and wrestling.

"My boss sent me here to get some tickets for a client," she said. "They called us yesterday."

Box office sales have been increasing over the past week, said Jack Tyson, ACOG ticket sales director. A surge is expected

Saturday, the first day of competition.

You've got to work at it, but hotel rooms can be had reasonably close to the Olympic action. There wasn't supposed to be any rooms by now.

Early on, ACOG took control of 80 percent of the rooms in the Atlanta area to ensure that VIPs and corporate sponsors would have a place to sleep. The remaining few were snapped up by tour group operators and companies buying large blocks.

But ACOG overestimated how many rooms it needed, and released thousands to the market. Late cancellations added more.

While rooms in downtown Atlanta are about as scarce as Pepsi stands, many suburban hotels have vacancies.

"It's not like we anticipated. A lot of rooms have opened up," said Kim Arculeo, spokeswoman for the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau. "We want to encourage as many people who want to come to the games to come."

A spot check Wednesday found hotels within 20 minutes of downtown Atlanta had a limited number of rooms still available. About an hour from Atlanta, there were plenty.

"We have 25-inch color TVs. The swimming pool is fantastic. Come take a look," said Dawn Green, front desk manager at the Hayes Hotel in Decatur, just outside At-

lanta. She said 19 of her 116 rooms were available, for \$125 to \$150 a night.

There's also a glut of private homes and apartment owners trying to rent rooms to Olympic visitors. The classified ads in Wednesday's Atlanta Journal-Constitution included two full pages of Olympic rentals.

The easiest part of all this is flying into Atlanta.

"We still have seats available for every day, even on the peak days," said Jackie Pate, a spokeswoman at Delta Air Lines. Delta handles about 80 percent of the flights at Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport.

To fill up Olympic-bound planes, Delta is offering buy-one-get-one-free fares from several Southeastern cities to Atlanta during the games. For \$168, for example, a couple can fly round-trip to the Olympics from Columbia, S.C.

"We did it because we knew people were going to make last-minute plans," Ms. Pate said.

Other airlines that serve Atlanta also said seats were plentiful, though buying tickets on less than seven days notice usually means high fares.

"Seats are available. The thing is, now they won't qualify for advance purchase discounts," said Dave Messing, a spokesman for Continental Airlines.

Oregon Daily
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Please call 346-4343 for BUSINESS RATES.

Horoscope by Frances Drake

For Thursday, July 18, 1996

ARIES

(March 21 to April 19)

The creatively inclined among you will feel inspired. Your ability to read between the lines is an asset in business. At night, things go very much your way.

TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)

Your intuition is right on target where business is concerned. Follow those special hunches. Financial interests turn out for the better.

GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)

It's a good time for making progress from behind the scenes. Good news comes concerning a personal matter. At night, you gladly help out someone in need.

CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)

A negotiation you've been working on for a while has a successful outcome. Where partnership interests are concerned, happiness continues. Some could be making plans for a trip away together.

LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22)

It's not a wise idea to lend money to someone who's unreliable. You meet with wonderful social opportunities. Be sure to follow through on invitations.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

Although new job opportunities are likely to arise, you need extra tact to get along with that stubborn co-worker. After all is said and done, a goal is happily realized.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Valuable insights come concerning career interests. An opportunity to your liking is apt to fall right into your lap. With loved ones, there's a need to compromise.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

Romance comes from an unexpected quarter for singles. Spur-of-the-moment pleasure outings are favored. However, it's not the best time for shopping expeditions.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

Something occurs on the job that causes some slight irritation. However, your social life should more than meet your expectations. Have fun in the evening!

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

An appointment is subject to change. On the job, there are loose ends to contend with. Some are inspired to add a decorative touch to the home.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

News you receive during morning hours puts you in a happy frame of mind. You have big plans, and it's time to act on them. Proceed with single-minded determination.

PISCES

(Feb. 19 to March 20)

There are mix-ups and miscommunications galore during the morning. However, opportunities to improve your income arise. You derive more pleasure from home life than socializing in the evening.

YOU BORN TODAY have a great need for financial security in order to be happy. At the same time, your finances are subject to fluctuation, as you alternate between being careless and thrifty with your money. You have good business acumen in dealings with real estate, food and domestic goods. You like to organize people and projects as long as everyone adheres to your strict standards. You know how to make the best use of limited resources.

Birthdate of: Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio; James Brolin, actor; Hume Cronyn, actor.

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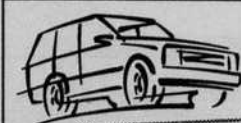
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