

# Georgia<sup>®</sup>

2025 OFFICIAL STATE TRAVEL GUIDE



Toccoa Falls

**MOUNTAINS**

**CITIES**

**SMALL TOWNS**

**BEACHES**





CITIES





**SMALL TOWNS**





**BEACHES**

# YOU ARE

# HERE



**Delta  
Flight  
Museum**



**The  
Breakfast  
Boys**



**Porsche  
Experience  
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# Welcome to Georgia

## **BEST TRIPS OF 2025**

*Make this the year you venture deep into Georgia's wonders, as far away from your everyday as you can imagine. [page 9](#)*

## **READY, SET, OUTDOORS**

*Discover all the ways to explore Georgia State Parks – from waterfall-peppered hikes to stargazing at night to panoramas showcasing some of our most startling natural wonders. [page 35](#)*

## **TRAVEL MORE, SPEND LESS**

*Get ideas for making the most of your travel budget, whether you're adventuring solo, with your friends or family group, or on a romantic couple's trip. [page 53](#)*

## **GEORGIA FOR ALL SEASONS**

*Pick Your Perfect Spring [page 64](#)*

*Get Summer on Your Mind [page 70](#)*

*Find the Dazzle of Fall [page 76](#)*

*Make a Date With Winter [page 82](#)*

## **THE ULTIMATE SET-JETTING ROAD TRIP**

*Chances are good you're a fan of Georgia-made television shows and movies whether you know it or not. Come see where your favorites are filmed in spots like Atlanta, Senoia, and Jackson. [page 89](#)*

## **GEORGIA CITY GUIDES**

*Sojourn to the Mountains in Ellijay [page 105](#)*

*Find Your Favorite Neighborhood in Atlanta [page 111](#)*

*Explore Small-Town Fun in Greensboro [page 115](#)*

*Beeline for the Beach on St. Simons Island [page 119](#)*

## **WAG YOUR WAY ACROSS GEORGIA**

*Don't leave your pup behind when vacationing in the Peach State. From Alpharetta to Columbus to Thomasville, this off-the-beaten-path travel route is one for the dogs. [page 123](#)*



📍 Driftwood Beach



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## GEORGIA'S OFFICIAL STATE TRAVEL GUIDE

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# Governor's Welcome

Greetings,

Welcome to Georgia! On behalf of Jarrett, Lucy, Amy Porter, and the entire state, we want to say thank you for choosing to travel in our great state. Over the last six years, our family has visited all four corners of Georgia, experiencing the unique qualities each community has to offer. From small towns to major cities, with natural wonders and great attractions at every turn, we know you'll find a reason to keep Georgia on your mind.

Whether you're a first-time visitor or a lifelong Georgian, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Embark on new adventures in the North Georgia mountains, relax on the pristine beaches of the Golden Isles, and discover the charming towns in between. Our state parks and natural resources offer exciting activities and breathtaking scenery, while museums and historic sites bring Georgia's past and contributions to our present to life.

From Atlanta to Savannah, Georgia's cities offer quality dining and entertainment. Our vibrant music and arts scenes can be felt from Macon to Athens, including filming locations in towns everywhere in between. World-class sports venues that bring fans from all over the nation and world beckon across the state, from Augusta to Columbus.

We want to say thank you again for choosing to explore Georgia. No matter where your travel takes you in the Peach State, you'll be greeted with new memories and our world-famous Southern hospitality. The hardworking people who give Georgia our identity and make us who we are stand ready to greet you. Enjoy your time here!

Sincerely,

**BRIAN P. KEMP & MARTY A. KEMP**  
GOVERNOR & FIRST LADY OF GEORGIA



# We're So Glad Georgia's on Your Mind



**SCAN CODE**  
to learn more  
about all nine of  
our welcoming  
information  
centers.

One of the best ways to find things to see and do in Georgia is to stop into our nine Visitor Information Centers, where the staff knows the state better than anyone. You'll get a warm and friendly welcome, travel ideas, directions, and the chance to snap your pic with our "Georgia On My Mind" signs. Here are just a couple spots to stop:



## COLUMBUS

If you're a history buff, don't miss the National Infantry Museum in Columbus. The exhibits feature life-sized dioramas, insightful displays, historical artifacts, and various galleries that honor American soldiers throughout the nation's history. Outside, you can visit memorials that provide a space for reflection and paying tribute to those who served.

## ST. MARYS

Lace up your walking shoes and step into history with Molly's Old South Tours in St. Marys. They offer themed walking tours that bring the 18th century to life. Try Molly's Murder, Mayhem, and Martinis Walking Tour on Thursdays for real crime stories and discounted cocktails at Seagle's Saloon. Nature lovers, the Cumberland Island Walking Tour is a must for ancient oaks, white dunes, and wild horses.

## WANT TO WIN THE ULTIMATE EXPLORE GEORGIA PRIZE PACK?

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\*The prize pack will include the following Explore Georgia-branded items: a tote bag, a water bottle, a wireless speaker, a hammock, a hat, and beverage cozies. Eligibility is subject to terms and conditions.

# EXPLORE GEORGIA

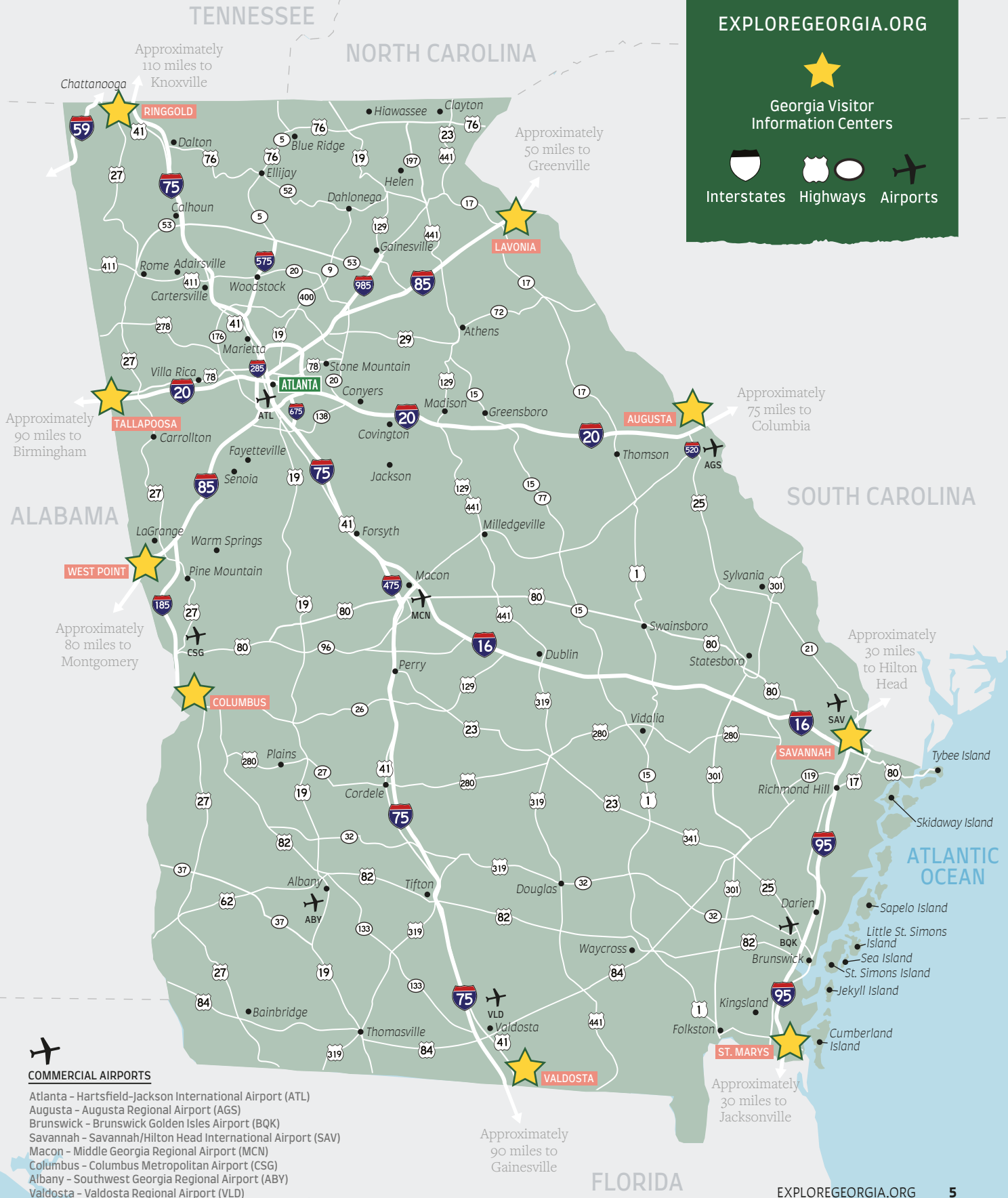
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Georgia Visitor Information Centers



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# UnCover GEORGIA

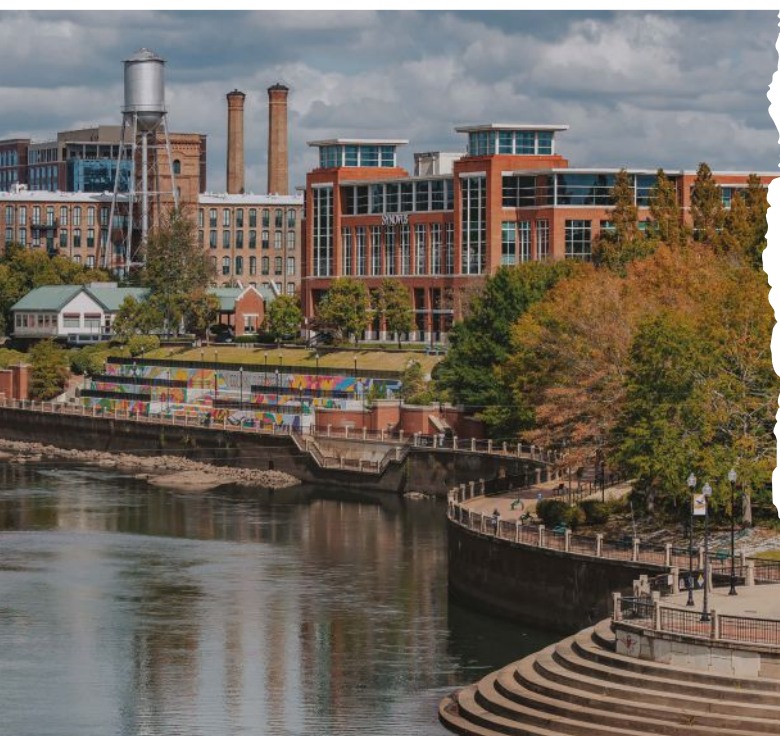
Embark on your next great adventure spanning vast landscapes and extraordinary moments – from early morning mountain mists and energizing city afternoons to the day’s last rays bathing historical squares and starlit skies covering the coastal isles. Let the 2025 Official State Travel Guide inspire your Georgia experience.



## 1

### CHASE WATERFALLS IN MOUNTAIN TOWNS

Nestled in the foothills of Northeast Georgia, the cascading **Toccoa Falls** is a siren song to nature lovers in search of peaceful escape. Sundrenched and surrounded by a rustling forest, this towering waterfall welcomes visitors to hear its hypnotic roar as wispy tendrils freefall gracefully. Every easy step along the ADA-friendly trail leads you to lush and natural beauty – and leaves you yearning to explore more. Make forever memories with Georgia’s lush and rolling landscape as the backdrop. *Turn to page 105 for mountain-town fun.*



## 2

### SAVOR CITY VIBES SURROUNDED BY NATURE

Spend an afternoon in **Columbus**, where vibrant streets buzz with excitement – and the reflective magnificence of the Chattahoochee River adds a serene touch to city life. Take in the energy of Uptown, where trendy boutiques, local art, and diverse dining beckon you to explore. As you stroll the RiverWalk, you’ll feel the heartbeat of a destination in motion, harmonizing with the river’s steady flow and kaleidoscope of nature’s pigments. Seek Georgia’s thriving cities for endless discoveries, energy, and sophistication. *Head to page 111 for city adventures.*

TOP TO BOTTOM: TOCCOA FALLS/CALEB JONES; CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERWALK, COLUMBUS/CALEB JONES



## 3

### SEE TANTALIZING SUNSETS IN SMALL TOWNS

As the sun begins its fiery descent, **Covington's** celebrated square comes alive in a soft, golden glow. This town's storied streets and historical architecture serve as the backdrop for both real-life fun and memorable television tales like "The Vampire Diaries" and "The Originals." Twilight in Georgia's small towns makes you feel like you're stepping into a movie as you uncover hidden gems and special haunts. Stroll quiet paths for the charms of Georgia hamlets steeped in tradition – you'll feel like you're already home. *Find small-town trip ideas on page 115.*

LEFT TO RIGHT: HISTORIC COVINGTON SQUARE, COVINGTON/CALEB JONES;  
LIGHT STATION, SAPELO ISLAND/BENJAMIN GALLAND



## 4

### SPEND A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS ON THE COAST

When night falls on **Sapelo Island**, the swirling cosmos glitter like diamonds on indigo velvet – and it feels like the entire world is standing still waiting for a shooting star. The island's lighthouse – a sentinel of Coastal Georgia – stands as a beacon for those seeking quiet reflection near the rippling Atlantic Ocean. As you gaze upward, wiggling your toes into a stretch of sand, waves rhythmically beat the seashell-peppered shore. Choose Georgia's unspoiled beaches for idyllic quiet and otherworldly beauty. *Seek ideas for beach vacations starting on page 119.*

# Come Join the Fun

Whether you're petting alpacas, taking a scenic drive down a winding mountain road, shopping in some wonderful boutiques, hiking to a waterfall or savoring some farm-fresh cuisine, you'll discover what locals already know . . . Dade County is too much fun for just one day!



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EXPLORE GEORGIA'S

# Best Trips of 2025

Georgia's diverse landscapes, history, and cultural attractions offer a trip for every kind of traveler. Whether you are looking for an epic outdoor adventure, to relax with the family by a pristine lake, or to eat and drink your way through the city, there is a fitting itinerary to keep you busy all year long. Start planning your 2025 travels with this year's list of the best trips in Georgia.

THIS LIST OF 8 BEST TRIPS WILL BE YOUR TRAVEL CHECKLIST STARTING ON PAGE 10.

1. *Elevate Your Family Vacation at McLemore*
2. *Camp on Cumberland Island*
3. *Score a Goal in Atlanta*
4. *Relive Your Love Story at Barnsley Resort*
5. *Cool Off on the Lake in Milledgeville*
6. *Find Your Serenity at Serenbe*
7. *Feel the Frights in Savannah*
8. *Cozy Up for the Holidays in Dahlonega*

DRIFTWOOD BEACH, JEKYLL ISLAND/JEKYLL ISLAND AUTHORITY



There's more to see!  
**SCAN CODE**  
to unlock the full list of our 12 best trips of 2025.

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Cloudland at McLemore Resort has a wide range of activities for every age and interest. From the Songwriter's Series to Creature Connections with wildlife to holiday events and more, this picturesque Georgia getaway offers fun additions to your family's vacation.*



## 1. ELEVATE YOUR FAMILY VACATION AT MCLEMORE

Ready for some nonstop, adrenaline-pumping adventures on a mountaintop? Be prepared to immerse in nature and acquire new skills on your trip to **Lookout Mountain** in the heart of northwest Georgia. Wake up early, feel the morning mist, and be ready to push your limits with a different adventure each day. Go deep inside mysterious caves, or explore dozens of hiking and biking trails along the unique topography.

Want to know what a cloud tastes like? Soar high above the Appalachian Mountains on a thrilling tandem hang-glider or paraglider experience with **Lookout Mountain Flight Park**. Venture out to **Lula Lake** (reservations required) for a 4.2-mile-long hike through beautiful hardwood forests and impressive, 120-foot **Lula Falls**. Take an easy-to-moderate trail to cast your wishes at the three DeSoto Falls (where you can camp, too), and plan to spend a couple of hours at the enchanting **Rock City Gardens**. The leisurely trails will take you through 200-year-old rock formations, narrow caverns, and lush gardens. Get a panoramic view of the surrounding seven states and take a dramatic photo at **Lover's Leap** on Lookout Mountain. You will have a spellbinding experience trying to recognize your favorite childhood characters at the **Mother Goose Village** and **Fairyland Caverns**.

During three weeks in June and July, you can pick your own lavender from family-run **Lookout Lavender Farm**, or visit the farm store through the summer to shop for homemade lavender products. No matter what your mountain adventure brings, you can rock it out completely with the entire family.

And when you are ready to get some rest, pamper yourself with a luxurious stay at the resort community of **McLemore**. Spread out at one of the homes or villa rentals, where you will find cute bunk beds, energetic game rooms, and mellow firepits. For the most amazing views of the canyon and surrounding valley, book one of the balcony rooms at **Cloudland at McLemore Resort Lookout Mountain, Curio by Hilton**. Spend the afternoon swimming in the dramatic, cliffside infinity-edge pool, indulge in a tranquil massage at Cloudland's world-class spa, **Selah**, and cuddle up with a good book at the expansive resort library. There's hardly a better place to perfect your swing than at one of the mountaintop, world-class golf courses – **McLemore's Highlands Course**, **The Cairn short course**, and **The Keep** – each offering sweeping views of the Georgia mountains and cooler weather through the summer months.

When you're hungry, you don't need to go too far – dine at the hotel's four outlets to sample unique flavors from locally sourced farm ingredients and take in unparalleled views of Cumberland Plateau and McLemore Cove. At **Auld Alliance**, you'll find Scottish classics such as boudin blanc with lump crab and truffle butter, 12-hour braised venison, and orange-scotch pie served with a touch of French elegance. Enjoy a high-country picnic of pimento-cheese canape and oat biscuits at **Croft**, or grab fresh-baked pastries and coffee from **The Pocket Café**. Watch the sunset over the mountains with a handcrafted cocktail from the stylish, poolside, open-air **Skyside**. You'll find yourself reliving a new definition of "elevated dining" at 2,300 feet above sea level at **The Creag** restaurant near the **Highlands Clubhouse**.

**WONDERING  
WHEN TO CAMP?**

*Pitch your tent on Cumberland Island for startling beauty and delightful temperatures during Georgia's mild fall and winter seasons. All that perfect weather puts campsites in high demand, however – so reserve your spot early!*



## 2. CAMP ON CUMBERLAND ISLAND

There is only one place on Earth where you can sleep among wild horses, retreat to secluded white beaches, and explore the skeletal remains of a once-grand mansion. The **Cumberland Island National Seashore**, the southernmost and largest barrier island on the Georgia coast, is just that place. Home to nearly 10,000 acres of Congressionally designated wilderness and historic sites ranging from a one-room church to early 20th-century mansions, Cumberland Island is one of the country's most intriguing national seashores. Although you can get a taste of the island's magic on a day trip, the best way to truly immerse yourself in the island's beauty is on a multiday camping trip.

Being among the 300 visitors permitted on Cumberland Island daily is a treasured experience requiring some planning. That includes making reservations up to six months in advance for campsites and the ferry that leaves from **St. Marys**. As Cumberland Island remains mostly undeveloped, there is no store on the island and no camp host, so plan to pack in and pack out, including all your trash. Choose your campground from the island's five options, which range in amenities from beginner-friendly to primitive, according to your skills and appetite for adventure.

**Sea Camp** is great for families and novice campers, offering amenities like bathrooms with electrical outlets, showers, and access to a boardwalk through the dunes that leads to a truly secluded, pristine beach. **Stafford Beach Campground**, located a short 3.5-mile hike from the ferry dock, has 10 well-spaced-out sites sharing a bathhouse with electrical outlets, plumbing, and cold showers.

Or, choose to go off the beaten path and set up camp at one of three remote campgrounds located in the island's designated wilderness: **Hickory Hill**, 5.5 miles from the ferry dock; **Yankee Paradise**, 7.5 miles from the ferry dock; or **Brickhill Bluff**, the island's northernmost wilderness campground located 10.5 miles from the ferry.

Once on the island, more than 50 miles of trails and roads wait to be explored. Walk or bike in any direction, and you'll uncover natural wonders, from salt marshes full of fiddler crabs to a vast maritime forest that serves as a migration stopover for more than 300 bird species. Plan to stop at **Dungeness Ruins** for a picturesque scene of wild horses against the backdrop of the Carnegie family's Queen Anne-style estate.

To cover more ground, join the **Lands and Legacies Tour**, a guided tour shuttling visitors to some of Cumberland Island's cultural and natural landmarks, including properties like **Plum Orchard Mansion** and **First African Baptist Church**, which was built in 1893 by the area's Black residents and families – many of them formerly enslaved.

Round out your stay marveling at the nearly 18 miles of white, sandy beaches where you can find tons of seashells and, if you search hard enough, fossilized shark teeth. If your visit is during sea turtle nesting season, you might even spot a few hatching turtles at night.

## TAKE A WINNING BITE

*Mercedes-Benz Stadium isn't only known for its thrilling sporting events – it's also a top contender in the NFL food game. Recently named one of the best stadiums for delicious and affordable eats (think \$2 classic hot dogs and \$2 freshly popped popcorn), it's also home to food stalls from Atlanta restaurateurs. You'll love delicious bites from the likes of Chef Linton Hopkins of H&F Burger and Hop's Chicken, as well as Bravo's "Top Chef" alumnus Kevin Gillespie, the mastermind behind Gamechanger.*





### 3. SCORE A GOAL IN ATLANTA

**Atlanta** is the epicenter of soccer in the United States and will again take its place on the world stage during the biggest sporting event in history, the 2026 FIFA World Cup. In June and July 2026, the **Mercedes-Benz Stadium** will host eight matches – including five group-stage matches, a round of 32 match, a round of 16 match, and a semifinal match. With direct access to more than 40 countries, **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport** offers easy connectivity and a home base for sports fans from around the world. Plan a few days in the city to attend sought-after sporting events and follow your favorite teams to other destinations so you don't miss a single game of the season.

Atlanta United FC has established itself as one of the most successful franchises in Major League Soccer's history. The team holds nearly every attendance record and has won every major trophy in the league.

If you are in Atlanta, watch a home game at the state-of-the-art, retractable-glass-ceiling-covered Mercedes-Benz Stadium. For some fun and education, take a guided, 90-minute public tour of the stadium with stops at champion locker rooms, the playing field, Window to the City, Sky Bridges, and clubs. Then, head next door to **The Home Depot Backyard** for an ongoing calendar filled with free art, sports, and cultural events.

That's not all when it comes to major sporting events happening in Atlanta. In addition to the College Football Playoff National Championship and Major League Baseball's All-Star Game, there's also an opportunity to watch the National Collegiate Athletics Association men's basketball regional in March 2025 at **State Farm Arena**.

While visiting Atlanta for sports, you may be able to hobnob with some of the world's greatest athletes at world-class venues, accommodations, and eateries. Stay at **Signia by Hilton Atlanta**, the city's largest downtown hotel conveniently located next to the stadium. Snag a table overlooking stellar, city-skyline views at one of the hotel's eight restaurants and bars. Grab beers, milkshakes, and short rib poutine at **Nest on Four** at Signia, which puts a unique twist on traditional ballpark favorites. With a view of 45 television screens at the bar and patio, as well as an impressive infinity screen that mimics the one at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium, you'll never miss a score.

Watch even more sports nearby at the multi-level **STATS Brewpub**, featuring 70 high-definition television screens and a constant flow of homemade brews. This ultra-large, 16,000-square-foot bar features a beer-tap system where you can pour your own glass. For a post-game nightcap, head to the neighborhood favorite, **Park Bar**, offering spectacular views of **Centennial Olympic Park**.

## 4. RELIVE YOUR LOVE STORY AT BARNESLEY RESORT

Only an hour's drive from the big city of **Atlanta**, you will find yourself in the midst of a charming, English-countryside setting at **Barnesley Resort** in **Adairsville**. The luxurious family estate was built two centuries ago as a testament of love by affluent Liverpool, England, native Godfrey Barnesley, for his beloved wife, Julia. Now, the resort and gardens are a popular destination among those who want to rekindle romance surrounded by Southern hospitality and peaceful nature. Walk around the 3,000-acre grounds while admiring the Manor House Ruins constructed with marble from Italy and France, decorated with furniture from around the world, and boasting modern plumbing ahead of its time.

Today, the museum at Barnesley Resort showcases photos, artifacts, and information about the Barnesley family. Learn about the resort's historical past – which includes a few ownerships and tragedies – with a **Guided History and Wine Tour**, on which you can also sample the resort's new, custom wine labels as you hear astonishing stories.

As you hold hands with your loved one and meander through cottage-style residences surrounded by symmetrical gardens modeled using the manuals of the father of American landscape architecture, Andrew Jackson Downing, make sure to stop and smell the many flowers. More than 200 types of roses were planted in 1988 by then-owner Prince Hubertus Fugger of Bavaria and made for fairytale wedding backdrops. There are plenty of outdoor activities to bond over, too, such as hiking, sporting clays, golf, and wing shooting. One of the best ways to enjoy the natural beauty of Barnesley is on a guided horseback trail ride.

Rekindle the romance with a couple's treatment at **The Spa at Barnesley Resort**. Or, if you want some quiet time to mentally reset, take a Forest Bathing Journaling Walk together and create your own nature-inspired art. Settle in with a Barnesley Tea-LC treatment designed exclusively for the resort in collaboration with the Atlanta-based tea company, **The Chai Box**. You'll notice your skin glowing after a firming, tea-laced masque that's nourished with creamy, tea-infused body butter. Sip on a harmonious Chai Box Barnesley Tea Blend of loose-leaf black tea, lavender, cardamom, and mint – inspired by the resort's serenity – as you soak in the relaxing landscape and inhale the signature scent.

For dinner, grab a seat on the patio overlooking the surrounding hills and Fazio-designed golf course. The decadent pimento-cheese beignets with red-pepper-bacon jam, buttermilk-fried lobster, and Georgia-style pecan pie served at the resort's keystone restaurant, **Woodlands Grill**, will surely warm your heart and soul. Finally, retreat into **The Wine Library** for an intimate nightcap in an old-world lounge.



**DESTINATION STEALS  
HEARTS YEAR-ROUND**

*Barnsley Resort often makes the top Valentine's Day lists in magazines each year, but it's the perfect retreat for writing your own love story no matter the date. Plus, its origin story is rooted in romance – Godfrey Barnsley built it for his beloved bride, Julia.*

## 5. COOL OFF ON THE LAKE IN MILLEDGEVILLE

With a year-round mild climate, **Lake Sinclair** in **Milledgeville** offers a laid-back yet vibrant atmosphere perfect for a family vacation. Created by Georgia Power in 1953, the 500-mile scenic shoreline in the heart of Baldwin County offers travelers tons of options to hike, bike, fish, boat, Jet Ski, and play disc golf and pickleball. If you don't have your own boat, simply head to **Sinclair Wild Watersports** to rent boats, kayaks, Jet Skis, and stand-up paddleboards. **Sinclair Marina** also drops off and picks up watercraft rentals from lakefront vacation rentals.

After a fun-filled day on the lake, enjoy modern Southern specialties like Southern gentleman rolls and pecan-crusted Carolina trout at **Aubri Lane's at the Club** at Lake Sinclair. Or, for something more laid-back with a deck bar featuring live music, opt for brisket nachos and reel oysters at **Taylor's Cove**. Stay at one of the lakeside vacation rentals that can accommodate large families and groups with docks, decks, and firepits. Or, if you want to be closer to town, reserve a room at the adorable and homey **The Inn on North Jefferson**.

Take a self-guided walking tour and visit more than 40 locations in downtown Milledgeville, or hop onboard a bright-red **Historic Trolley Tour** to learn about the small town's rich cultural heritage and architecture. Along the way, you will hear local historians point out a variety of architectural styles, periods, and preservation styles, including Victorian, Greek Revival, and Federal. The tour stops at **Statehouse Square**, where you can see **Georgia's Old Capitol Building** and the interior of **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**. Also, take a guided tour of **Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion** for its regal facade and opulent interiors.

Milledgeville was home to famous author Flannery O'Connor, whose short stories and novels about religion and experiences in the American South are cornerstones of the Southern Gothic literary genre. O'Connor also inspired the 2023 movie "Wildcat." At her former home, **Andalusia Farm**, you can see her personal belongings, learn about her work at the farm, and visit the remaining resident peacocks.

Make time to enjoy the diverse cuisines, music, and shopping in the revitalized downtown. The **Local Yolkal Café** is a staple for breakfast, serving the best homemade biscuits and gravy and buttermilk pancakes in town. For something truly unique, **Bollywood Tacos** is a must-visit for its colorful murals, top-notch margaritas, and Indian-Mexican fusion food. Also, check out their new sister restaurant, **Metropolis Café**, serving Mediterranean and Indian cuisine. Before you leave, shop for women's fashions at **Firefly Boutique** and rustic clothing and gifts at **Southern Roots**.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

*Andalusia Farm, the well-loved former home of Flannery O'Connor, boasts a unique pair of residents – Astor and Mrs. Shortly, a coupled peacock and peahen named in tribute to birds O'Connor cherished during her lifetime. The novelist's love for birds was vast. At one time, she cared for more than 40 birds of different species.*

**CRÈME DE LA  
CRÈME OF ZEN**

*Retreat into tranquility at the Spa at Serenbe for indulgent self-care services, from Swedish massages and luxuriating facials to moisturizing seaweed wraps and the ancient art of reflexology.*



## 6. FIND YOUR SERENITY AT SERENBE

Imagine a place filled with green pastures along a granite outcrop, 15 miles of hiking trails, friendly farm animals, and the singsong of birds just 30 minutes from the world's busiest airport. Tucked away in **Chattahoochee Hills**, the luxe, 1,000-acre countryside community of **Serenbe** literally translates to “be serene” – and it champions health, wellness, and wholesome living.

Soak in the hot tub, dry off on a rocking chair while enjoying a good book, or spend the afternoon playing a game of croquet at **The Inn at Serenbe**. It's not only a boutique bed-and-breakfast – it's a place to sit back, relax, and soak in the calmness of the surroundings. Walk or drive your personal golf cart around Serenbe's many hamlets, each focusing on a different aspect of life. The wellbeing-focused hamlet, **Mado**, offers a state-of-the-art gym, fitness classes, a yoga studio, and a newly expanded 3,198-square-foot spa where you can detox and renew. Try a massage, body wrap, or facial using organic and holistic health care products, and feel your stress melt away at the Helo Infrared sauna and steam rooms.

On Saturday mornings, enjoy connecting with Nigerian Dwarf goats at fun-loving goat yoga classes. The human-animal interaction will bring you lots of laughter and release endorphins. Also, a trail ride along the rolling hills and winding paths of Serenbe on horseback is a great way to get outside in nature, stretch your muscles, and bond with **Serenbe Trail Riding**'s gentle horses and skilled wranglers.

Kids ages 3-12 will find the programs at **Camp Serenbe** educational, entertaining, and socially stimulating. From animal feedings, scavenger hunts, hayrides, and nature walks to canoeing, archery, and building campsites, there are plenty of organized activities to keep young travelers busy all summer long.

At Serenbe, you will have plenty of ways to nourish yourself with certified organic foods sourced from **Serenbe Farms** and served at farm-to-table restaurants – **The Farmhouse at Serenbe** and **The Hill Restaurant**. Over 60,000 pounds of produce are harvested from the farm each year and thoughtfully incorporated into the restaurants' menus by Celebrity Chef Nicolas Bour. Take a behind-the-scenes, guided farm tour on Saturday afternoons to learn about organic farming, pest and disease control, composting, cover cropping, crop rotation, and the importance of eating locally grown produce.

On Saturdays, from April to October, gather with community residents and visitors on the **Grange Green** for the weekly **Serenbe Farmers Market**. Here, you can purchase fresh vegetables and flowers, pasture-raised eggs, artisanal olive oils, jams and jellies, handmade arts and crafts, and eco-conscious products to take home.

**SPOOKY, NO MATTER  
THE SEASON**

*In Savannah, Halloween vibes aren't limited to October. Spirit seekers can find year-round tours to hear about all the city's eerie, spine-chilling, and uncanny happenings – and the destination's haunted hotels always offer a ghostly good time for visitors.*



## 7. FEEL THE FRIGHTS IN SAVANNAH

**Savannah's** squares – shaded with live oak and magnolia trees interlaced with Spanish moss and antebellum architecture – make it an idyllic city for romance in the South. But don't be fooled by the rosy backdrops of America's most haunted city. Savannah is center stage for paranormal happenings, and – whether you believe in the paranormal or not – you will surely find some amusement in the intriguing stories centered around the city's hotels, restaurants, and attractions.

Once the darkness settles in and night's shadows deepen, tour Savannah's haunted neighborhoods, cemeteries, and even a Revolutionary War battlefield with **Ghost City Tours**. The tour starts at **Johnson Square**, where you hear the story of Little Gracie who still greets visitors coming to Savannah long after her death in 1889. The guides weave in historical education, spooky thrills, and lively encounters to set a chilly tone for your trip. Most tours are open to all ages and even pets. If you are keen on chasing more aggressive spirits and darker hauntings, however, take the two-hour-long, adult-only ghost tour with more mature language and themes, or the **Ghost City Haunted Pub Crawl**, where the nerve-racking images may appear more vivid with an adult drink in hand.

Arrive early to visit the picturesque **Madison Square**, where the famous Battle of Savannah was fought and soldiers were buried en masse – many of whom were not dead when they were buried. Around the square are several of Savannah's most haunted houses open for tours, including **Sorrel Weed House** and the **Green-Meldrim House**, where General Sherman stayed.

Also, visit **Bonaventure Cemetery**, located on a scenic bluff of the Wilmington River east of Savannah. With elaborate statues and gravestones, this is considered to be one of the most photographed cemeteries in the country, made famous by the 1994 novel "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" and the subsequent Georgia-lensed movie based on the book. Here, you will also find a life-sized statue of Little Gracie Watson, along with other departed inhabitants.

For a more realistic experience, take the **Savannah Underground** immersive and interactive tour, where you will be part of three grim-yet-true, dark, and terrifying stories. Be prepared for real frights during this 60-minute-long show that brings the hauntings of Savannah's surroundings to life on a 360-degree set with real actors, surround sound, and strobing lights.

Share your dinner with invisible ghoulish friends at **The Pirates' House**, a gathering place for pirates and sailors in the 1700s, many of whom still linger in the Captain's Room. You may see doors opening and closing mysteriously, or eerie apparitions, as you savor crispy-scored flounder and sip on signature cocktails at **The Olde Pink House**, a historic 1771 mansion where the expired owner's presence makes a regular appearance.

If you can manage to get yourself to bed after all that fright, snuggle up at an elegant inn, **The Marshall House**, centrally located within walking distance to shopping and dining on **Broughton Street**. But, keep your eyes and ears open as the historic hotel, once used as a Union hospital during the Civil War and through two yellow fever epidemics, is often cited as one of the most haunted hotels in Savannah. Don't be surprised if you hear children running through hallways and people screaming in the foyers, especially on the fourth floor.



GHOSTS & GRAVESTONES TOUR, SAVANNAH/HISTORIC TOURS OF AMERICA



**A PERFECT BACKDROP FOR CHRISTMAS**

*Unsurprisingly, Dahlonega has been the setting for a few holiday-themed movies on the Hallmark and Lifetime channels. Get in the spirit of the season by watching movies like “Christmas in the Smokies,” “Christmas in Homestead,” and “A Taste of Christmas.”*





DAHLONEGA GOLD MUSEUM, DAHLONEGA/CALEB JONES

## 8. COZY UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS IN DAHLONEGA

With thousands of twinkling lights, brightly decorated Christmas trees, a main square bustling with festive parades, and North Georgia mountains as the backdrop in the cool midst of the winter, you are bound to get into a jolly-good holiday spirit in **Dahlonega**. With its quaint 1800s storefronts and charming local businesses, the picturesque town is worth a visit any time of the year, but it really sparkles during the holiday season. Each year, the town hosts a monthlong holiday celebration with an **Old Fashioned Christmas** entailing joyful caroling, an entertaining live nativity, and romantic carriage rides starting the day after Thanksgiving and lasting until mid-January. Watch a live performance of seasonal musicals like “Elf, The Musical” or “A Christmas Carol” at the restored **Holly Theater**, a community movie theater from the 1940s. You can also shop for artisanal products, homemade chocolates, and unique gifts during the **Christmas Market on Candy Cane Lane** and at **Hancock Park**.

To create your own cozy memories in Dahlonega, stay at one of many charming accommodations only steps away from the square. Choose from five well-appointed rooms with abundant historic charm and modern amenities at **Hall House Hotel**. Dating back to 1881, Hall House is the second-oldest building in Dahlonega’s historical square. The newly opened **Dahlonega Inn on Main** is a renovated Colonial inn from 1846 converted into a seven-bedroom bed-and-breakfast. You can interact with other guests in the welcoming common living room with inviting leather couches and a fireplace, recline with a good book in the rocking chairs on the patio, and admire the original heart-pine wood floors.

Delight in the heartfelt hospitality from local business owners as you make your way into **Jethro’s Coffee & Public House** for a cup of Golden Nugget espresso with turmeric and honey, or **Picnic Café and Dessertery** for a sweet Georgia peach chicken salad and a slice of decadent carrot cake. End your evening with a cup of hot Costa Rican coffee, a holistic yoga class in a serene glass studio, and live spoken word and music performances at the beautiful social venue **Canopy + The Roots**. Delight in Dahlonega Nuggets (pecans dipped in caramel and chocolate) at **The Fudge Factory**, and shop for sweet treats for everyone on your holiday shopping list at **Paul Thomas Chocolates**. There’s no better way to spend the holidays than with the comforts of a hot beverage and a warm and welcoming community.

On your way out, stop by the family-run **Barn Hill Tree Farm** to choose and cut your own Murray Cypress and Caroline Sapphire Christmas tree to take back from the North Georgia mountains. Gather around their open firepit and take some s’mores for the road.



GOLDEN ISLES



## Discover the Best Islands in the U.S.

Cozied along the southern coast of Georgia, the Golden Isles awaits. Made up of four barrier islands—St. Simons Island, Jekyll Island, Sea Island and Little St. Simons Island—and the historic port city of Brunswick, the experiences you find here are abundant, always charming and forever memorable with serene vistas.

Once again voted number one Best Islands in the Continental U.S. in Travel + Leisure's 2024 World's Best Awards, the Golden Isles is a world-class destination for all. Each of the five unique locations offer a wide range of activities, unspoiled landscapes and modes of relaxation, making each visit feel fresh and warmly familiar.

*From simple pleasures to extravagant experiences,  
the Golden Isles is a world of discovery and charm.*



**St. Simons Island** is an idyllic, moss-draped setting for couples, families and friends. Experience signature Golden Isles delights—from horseback riding on pristine beaches to kayaking along historic sites, and ambling through inviting shops and savoring bites at delectable restaurants.

Experience **Sea Island's** internationally acclaimed Forbes Five-Star resort and enjoy exquisite accommodations and service. Play three world-class championship golf courses, or embark on a sunset cocktail cruise and sail through the pristine marshes and waterways.

On **Jekyll Island**, cruise along miles of shoreline that's home to native wildlife and the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, and marvel at the opulent mansions of the Gilded Age. Whether by bike, car or on foot, this timeless island is a treasure trove of discoveries for families and nature lovers alike.

Accessible only by boat, **Little St. Simons Island** is a lush, unspoiled paradise. Whether taking a day trip or staying in one of their 16 rooms, situated in 6 charming cottages and lodges, time spent on the island lets you connect with nature. Join a naturalist-led expedition, relish garden-fresh meals with fish you caught that day, birdwatch in serenity or go on a peaceful shell walk along 7 miles of private beaches.

The city of **Brunswick** is steeped in culturally rich scenes of history, art and cuisine. Take a bicycle tour, charter a fishing boat or simply sip on a Golden Isles IPA at Silver Bluff Brewing Company. Brunswick is the perfect gateway to the islands that await you.



## *2025 Signature Events*

### *St. Simons Land Trust Oyster Roast*

Mollusk memories are yours—along with a Lowcountry boil and chefs' signature dishes and desserts—at St. Simons Land Trust Oyster Roast, a January event supporting the organization's mission to preserve the scenic character of the area.

### *Blessing of the Fleet*

This time-honored tradition is the oldest in the country. Beautifully decorated shrimp boats line Brunswick's waterways as they prepare for this Portuguese tradition celebrating the local shrimping industry.

### *Fourth of July*

Cheer for the red, white and blue as fireworks fill the sky at Independence Day celebrations on St. Simons Island, Sea Island, Jekyll Island and Brunswick.

### *The RSM Classic*

Hosted by local PGA pro Davis Love III, this four-day tournament has become a highlight of the PGA Tour in which top names on the pro circuit drive, chip and putt on one of the most revered courses in the Southeast.

### *PorchFest*

Local musical groups perform gratis on the front porches of Brunswick's Old Town Historic District during PorchFest each fall. Savor the sights, sounds and bites as you stroll among Victorian architecture.





WITH SO MANY OPTIONS, ONE TRIP WON'T BE ENOUGH

## An All-Season Destination

There's something special about every season in the Golden Isles, so there's never a bad time to visit. The islands reside in a perfect location on the coast, allowing mild temperatures in the winter, warm seaside summers and cool spring and autumn mornings. Below is a taste of what awaits you in the Golden Isles, but to discover the depth of experiences you can find, visit [goldenisles.com](http://goldenisles.com).

Surrounded by rich marshlands, inviting beaches and ancient maritime forests, the Golden Isles boasts an unspoiled natural environment which fosters an incredibly diverse ecosystem. When you aren't soaking in the sun on the beach or listening to the spirited calls of shorebirds, opt for a stroll through the iconic St. Simons Pier Village or Brunswick's picturesque historic downtown district. Experience the Golden Isles' long-standing culinary traditions at many restaurants which celebrate local seafood and fresh ingredients. Between dreamy sunsets and mouthwatering dishes, you'll be planning your return trip long before your vacation is over.



### Stay in the Heart of St. Simons

#### THE INN BY SEA ISLAND

They say location is everything. The Inn by Sea Island's desirable setting in the heart of St. Simons Island puts guests within easy access to historic sites, beaches, shopping and dining. The Inn offers casual, comfortable lodging which is perfect for families, golfers and wedding parties. Spacious, airy rooms invite relaxation along with the heated outdoor pool. Complimentary amenities include breakfast, bicycles, a fitness center and a laundry room on-site. Plus, visitors enjoy access to three championship golf courses at Sea Island when booking the Sea Island Golf Package.



[theinnbyseaisland.com](http://theinnbyseaisland.com) • 866.976.6523



# An Icon Reimagined



## JEKYLL ISLAND CLUB RESORT

The newly renovated Jekyll Island Club Resort stands as the quintessential emblem of the Golden Isles in Georgia, offering an enduring allure of timeless elegance and Southern charm. With its perfect blend of waterfront lifestyle, captivating grounds, exquisite dining options, inviting pools and direct oceanfront access, the resort creates an idyllic sanctuary for guests. Beyond beauty, it provides the ideal escape from the hustle and bustle, immersing visitors in a tapestry of rich history, relaxation and coastal charm.



## JEKYLL OCEAN CLUB

Jekyll Ocean Club, the contemporary all-suite extension of the renowned historic Jekyll Island Club Resort, offers a modern take on luxury living on Jekyll Island. As an AAA Four Diamond resort, it sits along an exclusive stretch of pristine shoreline, providing 40 elegant suites and an expansive outdoor pool deck with a cozy fire pit, hot tub and comfortable lounge chairs. Guests can also enjoy the ocean view terrace and savor delectable dishes from Eighty Ocean Kitchen and Bar, the resort's beachfront restaurant, all embodying the essence of the Jekyll Ocean Club lifestyle.



## More Than a Getaway

### DAYS INN & SUITES JEKYLL ISLAND

The award winning Days Inn & Suites is centrally positioned on stunning Jekyll Island, supplying the ideal setting for leisure or business travel. Guests enjoy a complimentary deluxe continental breakfast, free WiFi, two pools, a hot tub, a kiddie pool, a pickleball court, a firepit and bike rentals on-site.

[daysinnjekyll.com](http://daysinnjekyll.com) • 912.635.9800

## Dishing Out Deliciousness

### HALYARD RESTAURANT GROUP

Enjoy the tastes of the Golden Isles—from Halyards’ southern coastal favorites to Tramici’s Italian-inspired cuisine to the island’s best tacos and ‘ritas at La Plancha.

[halyardrestaurantgroup.com](http://halyardrestaurantgroup.com) • 912.638.3158

## An Oasis of New Adventures

### SEA PALMS RESORT

Sea Palms Resort is an enchanting haven where nature’s beauty seamlessly blends with casual luxury and personalized service. Nestled in the heart of St. Simons Island, our marshfront resort is a sanctuary of tranquility, designed to provide an escape from the ordinary and a lifetime of unforgettable memories.



[seapalms.com](http://seapalms.com) • 912.638.3351





## Experience Coastal Luxury at The Westin Jekyll Island

### WESTIN JEKYLL ISLAND

Whether you are looking for a beachfront escape, family retreat or destination event, The Westin Jekyll Island ensures an outstanding experience characterized by flawless style and adept service. Relax in your serene guestroom or head next door to explore the quaint shops in the Jekyll Island Beach Village.

## THE WESTIN JEKYLL ISLAND

[westinjekyllisland.com](http://westinjekyllisland.com) • 912.635.4545



## Where the Wild Things Are

### LITTLE ST. SIMONS ISLAND

Explore 11,000 acres of wilderness and enjoy all-inclusive accommodations at The Lodge on Little St. Simons Island. Experience enriching guided adventures, Lowcountry cuisine, and warm hospitality on the island where nature is the luxury.

[littlessi.com](http://littlessi.com) • 912.638.7472



## Making You Feel Right at Home

### VILLAS BY THE SEA RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Adjacent to Driftwood Beach on Jekyll Island, this condo-hotel is perfect for your next vacation or meeting. With an award-winning restaurant and many amenities, there's plenty for you to enjoy.

[villasbythesearesort.com](http://villasbythesearesort.com) • 912.635.2521



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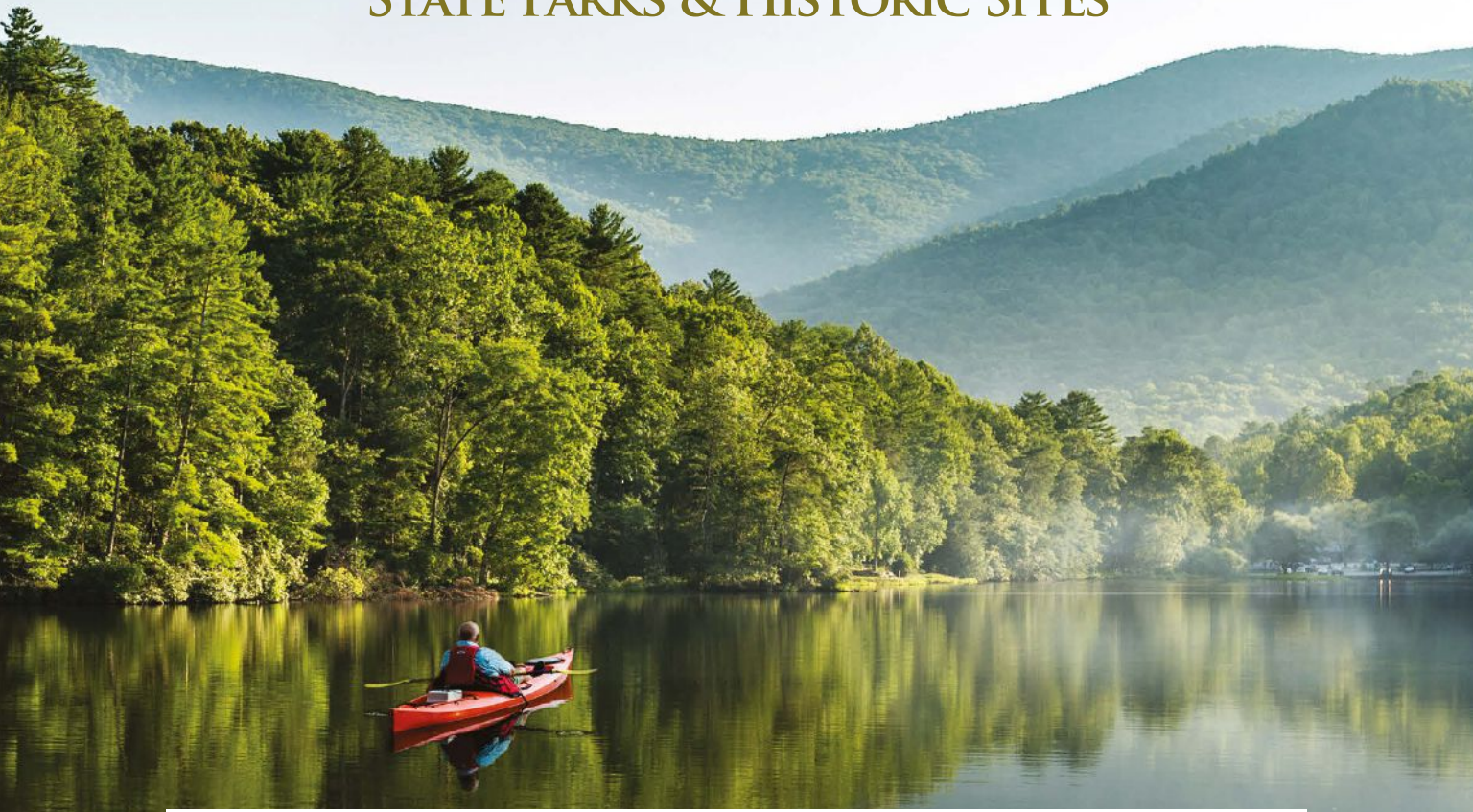




# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES



**Adventure in Luxury**  
at Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites



# READY, SET, OUTDOORS

Georgia's diverse landscape offers a multitude of outdoor activities that will get you out in nature, and state parks provide unforgettable moments of serenity, adventure, and exploration. Whether you're looking to hit the trails, sleep under the stars, or spend a day on the water, Georgia State Parks invite you to leave the real world behind.



SKIDAWAY ISLAND STATE PARK, SAVANNAH/RALPH DANIEL



#### DISCOVER MORE STATE PARKS

*With 48 state parks and 17 state historic sites across Georgia, there's plenty more to see and do. Scan the code to learn about all of them, and get trip ideas to plan your next outing.*



SKIDAWAY ISLAND STATE PARK, SAVANNAH/RALPH DANIEL

# Park an RV at Skidaway Island State Park



## SAVANNAH

Bordering **Skidaway Narrows** – part of Georgia’s **Intracoastal Waterway** – on a barrier island, **Skidaway Island State Park** is a uniquely picturesque place to make a stop in your RV.

Roll in and hook up the camper van at Skidaway Island’s well-appointed campground, nestled under live oaks and Spanish moss. With 6 miles of hiking trails winding through lush maritime forest and pristine salt marshes, the park’s paths are mostly flat, making them great for families or those avoiding anything too strenuous. Wildlife abounds here, too, so keep an eye out for fiddler crabs, deer, raccoons, egrets, and other animals. Skidaway is part of the **Colonial Coast Birding Trail**, making it popular for birders looking to spy osprey, painted bunting, warblers, and even bald eagles.

At the park’s **Visitor & Interpretive Center**, you’ll find binoculars, reference books, a window for bird viewing, and a variety of displays to learn about the surrounding coastal ecosystem. Kids are sure to love the turtle habitat, butterfly garden, and 20-foot replica of a giant ground-sloth skeleton. There are also two playgrounds on-site, bicycles available to rent, covered picnic shelters, and a nearby boat ramp for additional recreational fun.

Among Skidaway Island State Park’s 87 RV, trailer, and tent sites with electrical hookups – some with sewer hookups – nearly 30 sites are considered “premium” for their expansive size and pull-through options. For comfort and convenience, there are also multiple picnic tables, grills, fire rings, laundry facilities, showers, and restrooms, making it an ideal spot to spend a few days.

Looking for a primo camp spot? Do a little research online. Not all sites at this RV-friendly campground are created equally, and you can review each location’s details like max vehicle length, available amenities, and even photos. Insider tip: some say Site 30 is the best of the best for being spacious, shaded, and level.



## Take a day trip: Darien

Want to explore more of the area? Head 63 miles south to **Darien**, where you can visit the oldest remaining English fort on Georgia’s coast. Tour the reconstructed barracks, officers’ quarters, and more at **Fort King George State Historic Site**, then make your way to the **Old Jail Art Center and Museum** to admire historical Darien architecture along with artifacts and art spanning the centuries. It’s one of the earliest structures still standing in the heart of town. Enjoy a waterfront meal at **Skippers’ Fish Camp** before or after a wine-tasting boat tour on the Darien River with **Georgia Tidewater Outfitters**.



# Revel in Cloudland Canyon State Park's Scenic Views



## RISING FAWN

Tucked on the western edge of **Lookout Mountain** among dense forests and tumbling creeks, **Cloudland Canyon State Park** is a hiker's paradise. You'll trek through some of Georgia's most spectacular surroundings, including deep chasms, rugged sandstone cliffs, secret caves, and plunging waterfalls.

To get the most Instagram-worthy canyon views, check out the 5-mile **West Rim Loop**. This moderate route was named one of the best day hikes in the country by Backpacker magazine for its unparalleled mountain, canyon, and forest spectacles. Up for more of a challenge? The short but strenuous **Waterfalls Trail** may be just under 2 miles in length, but it includes 600 heart-pumping steps. Your well-earned reward is the lovely sight of two cascades – **Hemlock Falls** and **Cherokee Falls** – tumbling into small pools.

There are plenty of activities to enjoy at Cloudland Canyon, but taking in the beauty of this marvel is a highlight no matter what. Spreading across 3,538 acres, there's a lot to discover throughout 60-plus miles of trails amid enchanting passages, intriguing sandstone cliffs, and phenomenal overlooks showcasing miles of verdant hillsides.

Find a moment of solitude to appreciate gorgeous views and spot boundless wildlife from the park's observation deck, which overlooks a small fishing pond in a quiet area. It's not far from the disc golf course, one of the park's more amusing amenities in addition to playgrounds, picnic shelters, and geocaches. Planning to travel on two wheels? Check out **Five Points Recreation Area** for its network of singletrack mountain biking and multi-use trails. Cloudland Canyon's scenery isn't just above ground, either. Ranger-led tours into the wild **Sitton's Cave** put the fascinating subterranean world on display – be prepared to get dirty.

For the best hiking adventure, explore the trails on weekdays to feel like you have all this natural beauty to yourself. Favored for its easy 1-mile round-trip path and two viewpoints, the **Overlook Trail** boasts impressive canyon and woodland vistas as it meanders along the rim of Cloudland Canyon.

There's no need to pack all your activities into one day. For a unique overnight stay, reserve one of the 10 canvas glamping yurts, outfitted with rustic furnishings, a clear dome skylight, electricity, air conditioning, and front and rear decks. The yurt village, tucked in a peaceful woodsy area, has convenient bathroom facilities and fire rings, too. If you have small kiddos, try Yurts No. 2-6 due to the proximity to the playground and pavilion. Need something wheelchair-accessible? Go with Yurt No. 10.





## Stargaze at Stephen C. Foster State Park



### FARGO

Surrounded by North America's largest blackwater swamp in the heart of **Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge**, **Stephen C. Foster State Park** offers visitors some of the darkest skies in the Southeast. In fact, it's the first state park in Georgia to be certified as an International Dark Sky Park, and astronomy events like nocturnal hikes, guided meteor-shower spotting, and star-viewing with telescopes are held regularly.

Thanks to minimal light pollution, you can see the shimmering depths of the Milky Way's 100 billion stars or spot the sparkly streak of a meteor zipping swiftly by. Late summer is prime time for viewing this faraway galaxy. The monthly new moon, when moonlight is all but non-existent, is the best time to view remote star clusters with only binoculars as aid. Or, time your visit to the blossoming of the full moon when the park is bathed in an ethereal glow. Top spots for stargazing include unencumbered views from the parking lot across from the trading post and from the elevated boardwalk; other hiking trails close after dusk.

During daylight, gear up to explore this natural wonder. As the primary entry point to **Okefenokee Swamp**, you'll be treated to views of Spanish moss-laced trees reflecting off the glass-like surface of the water. There's no shortage of wildlife to see here, from turtles, herons, and wood storks to raccoons, black bears, and deer. Of course, the most famous inhabitant is the American alligator, with an estimated 12,000 living in the 402,000-acre refuge. The best and safest way to view them is from a distance in a boat. Rent a motorboat, canoe, or kayak to venture on your own, or sign up for a guided pontoon-boat tour of the swamp to learn about its wildlife, history, and ecology.

The best way to ensure you see as many celestial bodies as possible is to pitch a tent at the park's **Pioneer Campsite**. With everything from a handy grill and fire ring to multiple picnic tables and shelters, this group site is a convenient spot to soak up the brilliance of Georgia's night sky. Remember to bring insect repellent and to wear long sleeves and pants. Bring binoculars if you don't have a telescope, and the park staff recommends red-light headlamps to preserve the Dark Sky ambiance.

# Venture Into the Backcountry of Providence Canyon State Park



## LUMPKIN

Known as “Georgia’s Little Grand Canyon,” **Providence Canyon State Park** is a notable natural wonder. The series of massive gullies formed due to poor farming practices in the 1800s, but the layered pink, orange, red, and purple hues of the soil create a beautiful setting for backcountry exploration.

Visitors can hike into Providence’s canyons or enjoy views from above. Access to the floor of the nine canyons begins at the visitor center, as you descend switchbacks on part of the **Canyon Loop Trail**. After exploring the base of the canyons, adventurous types have the option to embark on a 7-mile loop of rugged terrain along the **Backcountry Trail**, which winds through stands of fluttering river birch and follows an abandoned logging road. This trek is rated extremely difficult, so it’s not for the faint of heart, but you’ll see some extra-special canyons beyond what the typical visitor experiences if you’re ready to rough it. Just remember: always stick to the trail, dress for the weather, wear sturdy and waterproof footwear, and bring everything you need, such as a backpack, water, snacks, sunscreen, rain protection, a first-aid kit, your cell phone, sunglasses, and a headlamp or flashlight in case you’re out there after dark. Fall is also the ideal time to visit, when temperatures are cooler and fall foliage peaks.

Test your mettle with an overnight backpacking trip along the ever-scenic Backcountry Trail. You’ll hoof it along a narrow path overhung with branches to six primitive tent-only campsites surrounded by trees. All six offer developed fire rings and are located 2 to 3 miles from the parking lot. Come prepared to carry all your supplies, including enough water and food for everyone in your adventure group, up and down steep hillsides, and sometimes through swaths of orange-clay mud. You’ll be rewarded with startling, sandstone rock formation views as you go; campsites No. 1 and 2 are nearest to some of the trail’s prettiest views. Leave enough time to arrive at your campsite well before dusk so you have plenty of time to pitch your tent and gather firewood. Reservations for campsites are required.



## Take a day trip: Plains

Whether you need to reconnect to the grid or are looking for more places to see, make a quick trip to **Plains**, less than 35 miles away. Home to former Georgia Governor and President Jimmy Carter, the town is filled with historical landmarks related to his life and presidency. Visit the **Jimmy Carter National Historical Park** to see the **Plains Depot**, originally constructed in 1888. It’s a museum dedicated to the signs, slogans, sounds, and souvenirs of Carter’s political campaigns. The **Boyhood Farm** takes visitors back in time while showcasing an enduring agricultural spirit. Make a stop at **Plain Peanuts and General Store** to pick up a package of the town’s most famous export, then have a bite at the local **Buffalo Cafe** in an old bank building.



PROVIDENCE CANYON STATE PARK, LUMPKIN/CALLIE THOMPSON



# Trek Through F.D. Roosevelt State Park



## PINE MOUNTAIN

**F.D. Roosevelt State Park** – the largest state park in Georgia – sprawls more than 9,000 acres through lush forestland boasting hardwood and pine, creating a haven for hikers, water lovers, horseback riders, and beyond in the rolling mountains only a 1.5-hour drive from the state capital.

Many of the 40-plus miles of trails are part of the **Pine Mountain Trail**, home to a series of tumbling waterfalls with names like **Cascade**, **Csonka**, **Big Rock**, and **Slippery Rock**. This well-maintained trail system is one of the state’s best and is designed for maximum enjoyment of both day and overnight hikers. The main route measures 23 miles, but seven side-loops along the way provide a variety of trails and sections waiting to be explored. For sweeping valley views mixed with history, drive up to **Dowdell’s Knob**. This geologic feature, at 1,395 feet above sea level, is a spur that projects into the Pine Mountain Valley, providing a panoramic look at the expansive treescape below. Former President Franklin D. Roosevelt used it as a respite for contemplation and picnics, which is commemorated by a life-size memorial statue of him. Snap a “sculpture selfie” before setting out on the 4.3-mile **Dowdell’s Knob Loop Trail**.

The park has a variety of amenities to enjoy between hikes, including the **Liberty Bell Pool**. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and fed by spring water, it’s a welcome summertime oasis. For guided horseback rides, head to the privately operated **Roosevelt Stables** to saddle up and see the park from a different perspective. Around **Lake Deleanor**, rent a kayak, canoe, Jon Boat, or Aqua Cycle to get out on the water for fishing or sightseeing.

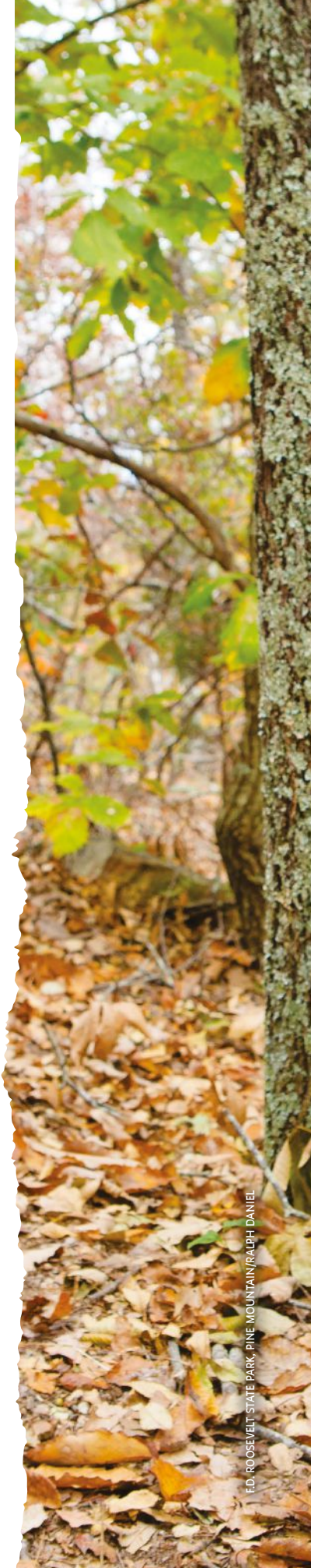
If you’re seeking solitude, skip the most popular **Wolfden Loop**, and instead take the 3.2-mile **Mountain Creek Nature Trail**. This less-strenuous loop starts behind the main campground and passes through multiple plant habitats. Those looking for an all-day hike should tackle the 7.8-mile **Big Poplar Loop**, named for an especially lovely tree near the mile 10 marker of the **Pine Mountain Trail**. With a number of earthy rock outcroppings and creeks to cross, it’s a favorite for many hikers.

The assortment of charming, one-of-a-kind cottages built in the 1930s – both one and two bedrooms – include homey touches like artisan-crafted fireplaces, buttery pine paneling, and the delightfully modern chill of air conditioning. The four original cottages (No. 1-4), made of rough-hewn stone, are tucked along a high ridge facing east toward the soft glow of a Georgia sunrise. Sip a steaming cup of joe on your outdoor deck for the first rays of morning overlooking an expanse of flourishing forestland. Rather have your own water view? Cottages No. 13-16 are snuggled up to a placid lake, ringed by mature trees, which you can see from the screened porch.



## Take a day trip: Warm Springs

To learn more about the park’s namesake, visit the nearby **Roosevelt’s Little White House State Historic Site** in **Warm Springs**. Franklin D. Roosevelt first visited this part of Georgia in 1924 to swim in the buoyant springs that offered relief from pain caused by polio. Today, visitors can tour his former home, now a museum, and the pool complex.





PINE MOUNTAIN TRAIL  
0.5  
Buzsard Roost 0.9  
Kings Gap 1.6  
Dead Pine Campsite 4.1  
Big Knot Campsite 3.7  
Country Store 19.3  
WJSP-TV Tower

← FDR PARK HQ 0.1

◇ LONG LEAF LOOP 6.9 ◇

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BROKEN TREE CAMPSITE 1.6 ←





## Go With the Flow at Seminole State Park

### DONALSONVILLE

**Seminole State Park** surrounds a small cove on the stunning 37,500-acre **Lake Seminole** in southwest Georgia. Here you can see the winding Chattahoochee River empty into a vast body of sky-reflecting water. It's home to everything from great egrets to American alligators and thick swaths of delicate lily pads.

The smooth water of Lake Seminole is perfect for water skiing and tubing, and there's nothing like seeing the sunset's kaleidoscope of rosy colors mirrored on the water during an evening boat ride. Rent a kayak or canoe at the state park to paddle through peaceful coves while appreciating the forested scenery. Pack your tackle box and a picnic lunch for a day of angling from the large fishing dock, where you might catch catfish, crappie, or bass. Or, enjoy the scenery by foot from a boardwalk that crosses over a picturesque water-lily pond.

The sandy beach – with a designated swim area – is also a big draw for water lovers and families. Little ones can make sandcastles by day and s'mores at night around the fire. There are also two playgrounds to burn off some energy, plus a miniature golf area.

Choose from 50 tent, trailer, and RV electric campsites or 14 two-bedroom cottages with bathrooms and kitchens to make your temporary home. Many of the sites are near the water's edge, offering excellent views and easy access to the lake.

# CLOUDLAND LODGE



Cloudland Lodge at McLemore Resort, Curio Collection by Hilton sits 2,300 feet above sea level atop Lookout Mountain, Georgia; an easy two-hour drive from Atlanta, Nashville, Birmingham, Knoxville, and Huntsville. Come see why HGTV.com says McLemore is “*one of the best Mountain Town Resorts in America*” and what *Golf Digest* says is “*golf’s next emerging destination.*”

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McLEMORE

THE RESORT ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN



# Fall in LOVE with Pine Mountain



With more to do and surprising places to explore, Pine Mountain offers unique shopping, great local restaurants, outdoor fun and *“ya’ll come back now”* hospitality

*Pine Mountain*  
The Gateway to Callaway Gardens

#explorepinemountain



**Whether you're running with the wolves or partying with a packed house, we've got plenty of ways to play.**



**D**ive into fun at Great Wolf Lodge's 100,000-square-foot indoor water park. Catch top performers at Sweetland Amphitheatre. And explore LaGrange's top breweries, wineries, chef-driven local cuisine, and endless outdoor adventures. Plan your trip at [VisitLaGrange.com](http://VisitLaGrange.com).



*Oh, The Stories You'll Tell*

Tours, Tastings & More





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City Springs



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# PLAY OUTSIDE ATLANTA.



**VISIT**  
**SANDY SPRINGS**  
GEORGIA



# TRAVEL MORE, SPEND LESS

Get the most out of your Georgia vacation – and your budget – for all types of travel. Explore ways to save along the way, whether you’re going on a memory-making family adventure, an intimate couple’s getaway, an excursion with your closest friends, or a solo city escape.



QUEEN SQUARE, BRUNSWICK/CALEB JONES



**SCAN  
CODE**  
*to discover  
more budget-  
friendly  
travel tips.*

## ★ DISCOVER FAMILY FUN IN PINE MOUNTAIN

Pack up the kids and head to **Callaway Resort & Gardens**, a one-stop, family-friendly vacation spot.

Nestled amid the forests and rolling hills of **Pine Mountain**, at Callaway you'll be surrounded by manicured gardens, rainbows of blooming flowers, and cozy lakefronts. Make the most of your budget by cooking family meals in the cottages' fully equipped kitchens. Or, opt for a suite in the lodge and dine at on-site restaurants like **Country Kitchen**, known for its flavorful chicken pot pies.

Access to The Gardens – home to scenic woodland trails and sites for exploration and learning – is included in the cost of your reservation. Stroll over to the **Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center**, where orange, azure, and lemony-yellow butterflies flutter inside a glass-enclosed, sub-tropical jungle.

Your mini-me can meander along the paved paths to find trickling waterfalls, turtles sunning themselves on rocks, and butterfly feeders. Be ready with your camera – you never know when a butterfly may land on one of you to take a rest.

On your garden explorations, keep an eye out for the **Ida Cason Callaway Memorial Chapel**. Set along the banks of **Falls Creek Lake** and hidden among towering, leafy trees, it's easy to mistake this simple structure for a charming stone cottage. Aim to see it on a sunny day when its glorious stained-glass windows light up in a kaleidoscope of colors. It's also a picturesque opportunity to snap a Christmas card-worthy family photo.

For a healthy dose of exercise, try one of Callaway's eight walking trails that wind across the grounds through shaded woods and along tranquil lake shores. Make it a two-wheel adventure by renting or bringing your own bikes, and pedal the extensive **Discovery Bicycle Trail**, which traverses almost the entire resort.





Nestled in the shelter of the forest on the edge of **Mountain Creek Lake**, the **Callaway Discovery Center** is an excellent place for edu-tainment. Inside, you can browse nature-themed art exhibits, learn about the wild critters that call Georgia home, or watch a presentation in the auditorium. Adventure outside the center, where **MegaBugs** await. Come face-to-face with more than 73 giant insects, including a 15-foot emperor dragonfly, a taller-than-dad praying mantis, and a 20-foot-long hissing cockroach. Attend a Birds of Prey show at the **Discovery Amphitheater**, where golden-eyed hawks glide overhead and wide-winged owls swoop silently through the crowd.

Planning your family trip for the spring? Don't miss the **Callaway Brothers Azalea Bowl**. At peak season, you can see a spectacular petal parade with peachy pinks, vibrant magentas, and dazzling reds.

Another draw of Callaway is **Robin Lake Beach**, open late May through early September, and admission to both the beach and lake is included in your stay. Parents and kids alike will love spending an afternoon here – or even the whole day – building sandcastles, playing beach volleyball, and swimming. Cool off with an icy beverage and beachy treats like hot dogs and burgers at **The Beach Pavilion**. It's home to an ice cream truck for the kiddos, and The Beach Bar and The Sand Bar for moms and dads.



FROM TOP: CALLAWAY BROTHERS AZALEA BOWL, PINE MOUNTAIN/KRYSTAL WEIR, CECIL B. DAY BUTTERFLY CENTER, PINE MOUNTAIN/CALEB JONES

#### TIPS TO SAVE

*When you book your stay during seasonal events, your lodging reservation will include access to Callaway's special programming, like **Fantasy in Lights**, the **Pumpkins at Callaway**, or **Hot Air Balloon Glow**.*

★ RELAX ON A  
COUPLE'S TRIP  
TO BRUNSWICK

Known for sandy beaches and serene coastal waters, the **Golden Isles** is a dreamy romantic escape. In **Brunswick**, the mainland port city between **Jekyll** and **St. Simons** islands, you can enjoy the benefits of town and still appreciate the beauty of the ocean. Stay at **The Kress Brunswick** for charming suites with plush sofas, tons of natural light, and sleek, modern kitchens. Set in the heart of the historic downtown just minutes from the waterfront, you can ditch your car and walk almost everywhere.

Amble down the city's scenic, sunny sidewalks – you'll love the coastal vibes as you pass large-frond palms and lush flowering trees. Stop in local boutiques selling everything from gemstone pendants to fishing-themed sun shirts. When you're ready for a break, meander over to **Richland Rum** for a complimentary tour to learn about the rum-distilling process – add a rum-tasting experience for a low cost. At **Silver Bluff Brewing**, sip a cold Golden Isles IPA beneath shaded pergolas or compete in a friendly round of corn hole.

Stroll hand in hand through town toward the intersection of Albany and Prince streets, where you'll find the massive, long-limbed **Lover's Oak**. This thriving, 900-plus-year-old tree has been a meeting spot for lovers over the centuries. Share a smooch and snap a selfie in the deep shade of this magnificent oak where so many other adoring couples have stood.



THIS PAGE: SILVER BLUFF BREWING; BRUNSWICK/CALEB JONES. OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KRESS BRUNSWICK; BRUNSWICK/THE KRESS; RICHLAND RUM; BRUNSWICK/CALEB JONES.





BUDGET-FRIENDLY

#### TIPS TO SAVE

*The Kress offers guests condo-style suites, including full kitchens as well as washers and dryers. Here you can make your own meals for a day – maybe even pack a beach picnic – to fully maximize your vacation food budget.*

Take a day trip to the beach for a peaceful day in the sand – the northern tip of St. Simons Island to **Gould's Inlet** is the perfect spot. Listen to the soothing calls of shore birds, and let the gentle waves lap over your feet as you and your partner make footprints down the beach. Tote your paddleboard along and catch some waves, or cuddle up on a bench as the sun sinks below the horizon and the sky is painted shades of pink, yellow, and purple.

Plan for at least one evening out – a date night to remember. At **Indigo Shanty**, American classics merge with Mexican and Caribbean flare for decadent plates, like sesame-crust catfish and fresh-caught seafood glazed in housemade jerk sauce and topped with pineapple salsa. Request a patio table to dine in an enchanting outdoor atmosphere complete with strings of twinkling fairy lights and a towering oak. Order a thick slice of their sweet Georgia peach pound cake topped with vanilla-bean ice cream, spiced pecans,

and a drizzle of bourbon-caramel sauce. You may want to order individual slices of this cake (it's that good).

Simple yet sophisticated, **Reid's Apothecary** serves a mix of classic Southern treats, like shrimp and grits, and fusion dishes like pulled-duck nachos topped with crispy wontons, creamy brie, grilled cabbage, and more. Just remember to plan ahead – a locals' favorite hangout, Reid's is best enjoyed with a reservation. After your meal, secret away to the restaurant's hidden lounge, **The Study** – you'll need a password to enter! Indulge in a handcrafted cocktail or two as you listen to live music and gaze at each other across a low-lit table.

Down the street, a lit-up, marquee-style sign tempts you to sample local culture and history at the stately **Historic Ritz Theatre**. Sit back in cushy red seats on the balcony level and watch retro films flit across the silver screen, laugh or cry from the first row at a theatrical performance, or admire the latest art exhibition.

## ★ SOLO ADVENTURE IN SAVANNAH

Travel down to the coastal city of **Savannah** and luxuriate in some well-deserved “you” time. You’ll love wandering the historic cobblestone streets lined with ancient oaks and people watching as you meander.

At the **DeSoto Savannah**, lounge on your comfy bed and admire city views filled with charming red-brick buildings and local sites, like the white spires of the neo-Gothic **Cathedral of St. John the Baptist**. Or, request a poolside room for direct access to the hotel’s rooftop oasis. Swim a few laps or sip and mingle with other travelers at the covered patio bar.

Park your car and join a hop-on/hop-off tour with **Old Town Trolley Tours**. Entertaining guides narrate the storied past of Victorian- and Colonial-era buildings and noteworthy landmarks. Get out and investigate at stops you’d like to explore more – like **River Street**, the **Bull Street** corridor (an independent shopping district also celebrated as the birthplace of Girl Scouts founder Juliette Gordon Low), and the said-to-be-haunted **Madison Square** – and climb back aboard the next trolley when you’re ready to continue.

A few blocks from the DeSoto lies the lush, 30-acre **Forsyth Park**. Along with free entrance, you’ll love roaming through

the park’s beautiful **Fragrant Garden** and admiring the 150-plus-year-old fountain with its trumpeting mermaids and swans. Sit on a shaded bench beneath trees dripping with Spanish moss and listen to the sounds of a park concert, watch people play on the open green, or gaze at the stately historical homes framing the park. Seek refreshment on **Collins Quarter at Forsyth’s** sunny patio. Its menu boasts everything from bubbly peach bellinis to spirit-free mocktails and local brews – not to mention a raved-about brunch if you come early enough.

Near the Savannah riverfront, **City Market** is a buzzing local gem for souvenir shopping and Southern cuisine, like shrimp and grits and fried shrimp po’boys. Get a history lesson at its **American Prohibition Museum**, then toast to your vacation with a tart Gin Rickey cocktail from the on-site speakeasy.

Seeking something unexpected? Stop by the **Savannah Bee Company** for a **Bee Garden Tour**. On this behind-the-scenes glimpse into honey making, you’ll get to wear the iconic beekeeper’s mesh-net hat (don’t forget to snap a photo), learn about hive life, and meet the honeybees themselves. Afterward, peruse the store for tasty treats, like whipped honey and honeycomb, and pollen-, beeswax-, and honey-based products.

On the marshy outskirts of Savannah, **Pin Point Heritage Museum** offers insights into its tightly knit Gullah Geechee



## INSIDER TIP

Visit during off-season (January through February) – exploring Georgia this time of year means guaranteed pleasant temperatures perfect for wandering Savannah destinations in comfort. Plus, you're more likely to find alluring lodging deals.



community. Many guides are descendants of the region's formerly enslaved people and grew up among these reedy waterways. Hear their personal stories and learn about the Gullah language, religion, and life working in this former oyster and crab factory that now houses the museum.

Wander through the white-walled galleries of the **Savannah College of Art & Design's Museum of Art**, where rotating exhibitions showcase the hems and ruffles of contemporary fashions and striking canvases with bold splashes of color. Attend special events where you can meditate amid the artwork or take a tour with an American Sign Language interpreter.

For more history and art, snag a ticket for the **Telfair Museums**. Explore the manicured garden and period interiors at the **Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters**, the sculpture gallery at the **Telfair Academy**, and the interactive art exhibitions at the **Jepson Center**. Your ticket is valid for a full week and gives you entrance to all three locations. Come for the **Georgia History Festival** in February, which includes a day of free access to museums and historical sites called **Super Museum Sunday**. Nearby Telfair is **Leopold's Ice Cream**, a sweet Savannah tradition serving scoops since 1919.

When hunger strikes, dine in revamped shipping containers at **Starland Yard** – a food-truck park and social hub for live music and weekly events, like prize-winning bingo. Try everything from handmade flautas and tender pulled-pork sandwiches to fresh-baked cookies and Georgia drafts.



FROM TOP: CITY MARKET, SAVANNAH/CALEB JONES; FORSYTH PARK, SAVANNAH/CALEB JONES



## OUTDOORSY FRIENDS' TRIP TO CLAYTON

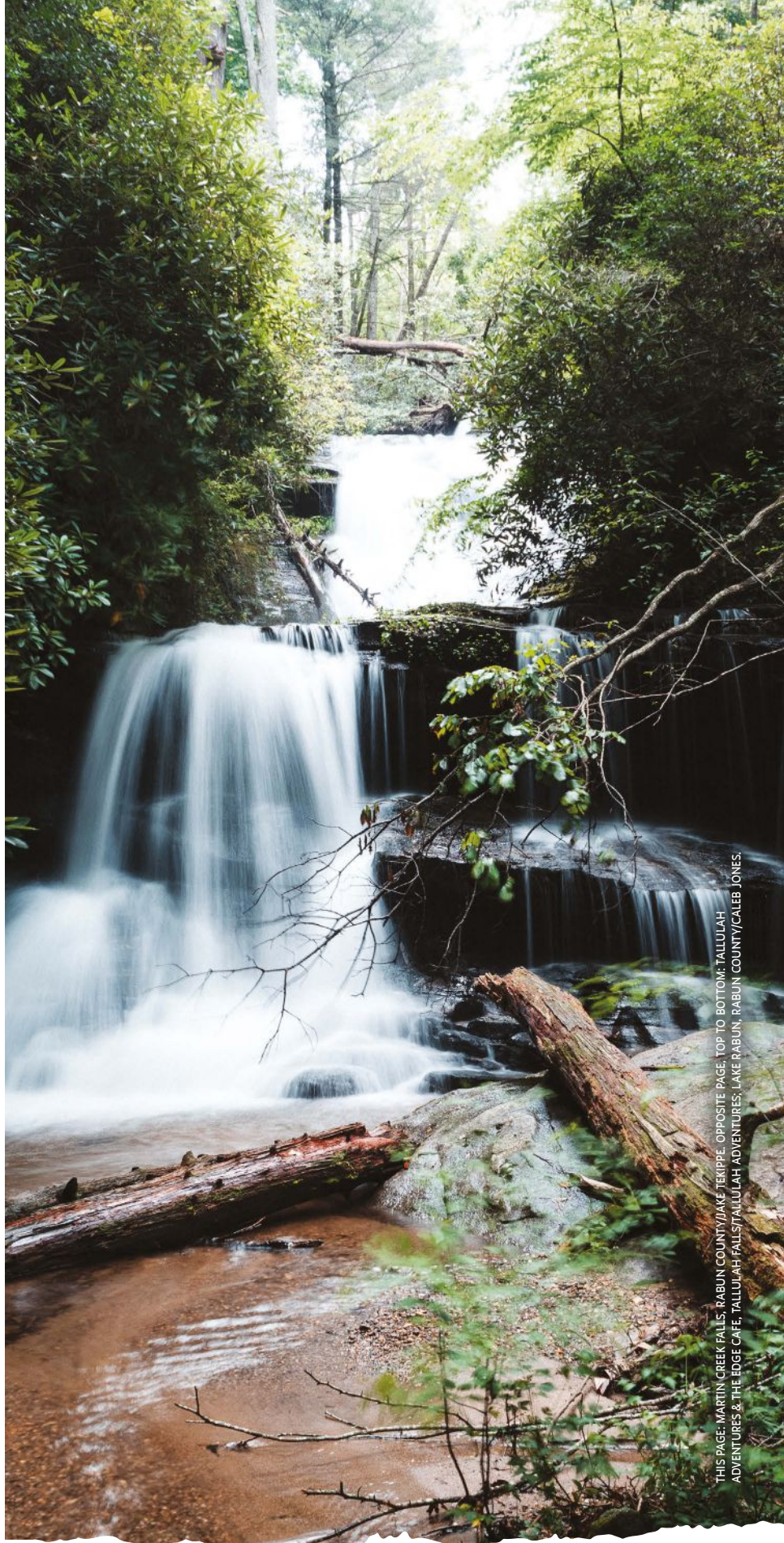
Surrounded by lush, forested valleys, misty peaks, and cascading waterfalls near the Blue Ridge Mountain Range, **Clayton** is an incredible setting for exploring with friends in nature.

Stay in town and be close to the local shops by reserving a row of rooms at the charming **White Birch Inn**. Your entire posse will fall in love with nature-themed touches, like stone fireplaces, wood-paneled walls, and tree-branch bed frames. Breakfast features fluffy quiches, fruit-filled scones, and fresh-squeezed orange juice.

For something more secluded, book a group stay at the **Beechwood Inn**. Located in a quiet, residential area surrounded by mature trees, this spot is perfect for luxuriating outside. Snooze on a hammock beneath a leafy canopy, cozy up to the firepit and listen to birdsong, or lounge on the back porch to admire majestic peaks.

Begin your outdoor adventures at **Black Rock Mountain State Park**, where everyone can romp along 11 miles of trail dotted with scenic overlooks and babbling creeks, or hike to the lofty summit. See the resident ducks as you paddle and fish together at the serene, aquamarine lake, or hunt for geocaches.

Hidden away between mountain crags and veils of verdant trees are Clayton's beautiful tumbling waters. Trek your team up to **Martin Creek Falls**, a two-tier waterfall with a weeping rock wall where fuzzy mosses and aquatic plants cling



THIS PAGE: MARTIN CREEK FALLS; RABUN COUNTY/JAKE TERKPE. OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM: TALLULAH ADVENTURES & THE EDGE CAFE, TALLULAH FALLS/TALLULAH ADVENTURES; LAKE RABUN, RABUN COUNTY/CALIB JONES.



between the rocks. Or, cruise through the mountains on a scenic drive toward the **Chattahoochee National Forest** for a visit to the crashing waters of **Dick's Creek Falls**. Hike to the trail's end to appreciate the beautiful cascade with a small shoal that's ideal for wading. Pose for a group selfie to celebrate a successful ascent. Rather go straight to the view? Skip the hike and caravan up to the falls' parking lot.

Watersport enthusiasts will delight in the winding waterways of the massive **Lake Rabun**. At the southern end lies **Lake Rabun Beach Recreation Area**, complete with boat ramp. For a small fee, your group can launch your motorized and non-motorized boats. You can also sunbathe on the sandy beach, splash in the lake, or cast a line from the fishing dock. Visit **Bear Gap Outfitters** to rent stand-up paddleboards, Jet Skis, and pontoons.

Head over to **Tallulah Adventures**, a lodge-style social and recreational hub complete with an outdoor rock wall, a

restaurant and bar, and a spacious lawn. Breathe in the fresh mountain air as everyone downward dogs in a yoga session, compete against your travel buddies in corn hole, or dance to groovin' music performances. Or, pause at **Blue Ridge Honey Company** to sample locally produced honey, see live bees buzzing, and explore dozens of fantastic souvenirs like honey shampoo, beeswax candles, and themed home decor.

Experience movie night the old-fashioned way at **Tiger Drive-In** theater. Claim your spot in the grassy field and lay out on a thick blanket piled high with squishable pillows. Set up a late-night picnic spread complete with fresh, buttery popcorn to nibble on as your movie flickers onto the oversized screen.

When it's time to refuel, chow down on tender sauced wings, veggie-topped pizzas, and juicy wagyu burgers from **Fortify Pi**. Afterward, chill out at **Currahee Brewing Company's** taproom – lounge in side-by-side Adirondack rocking chairs as you chat and sip hazy IPAs, brown ales, and rye porters.

*Enchantment is a leap away!*



*See*  
**ROCK  
CITY**



# *Georgia for all* SEASONS

AS THE SEASONS SHIFT IN GEORGIA, THEY BRING WITH THEM UNIQUE EVENTS,  
EXCITING OUTDOOR ADVENTURES, AND MORE.



## *Pick Your Perfect* **SPRING**

**SPRINGTIME IN GEORGIA IS AN ANNUAL REMINDER OF THE MANY AMAZING REASONS FOR VISITORS AND RESIDENTS ALIKE TO GET OUTSIDE AND ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL NATURAL PLAYGROUND OF THE PEACH STATE.**

There's no shortage of blooming flora this time of year, which means Georgia's garden wonderlands make for a blooming-great getaway. At the **State Botanical Garden of Georgia** in Athens, a rainbow of daffodils, roses, snapdragons, and cherry blossoms kicks off the season, and heirloom roses, fruit crops, and native species give you a peek at the state's agricultural history. There's also plenty of opportunity for outdoor amazement in North Georgia at **Gibbs Gardens** in Ball Ground, when the early March to mid-April **Daffodil ColorFest** blankets the landscape in a frothy, vibrant yellow. Take an unhurried stroll through **Atlanta Botanical Garden's** gorgeously manicured paths and sculptural plant installations. Sit beside the pond to absorb the peaceful garden sounds and fresh aromas at **Savannah Botanical Gardens**, or participate in a Lunch & Learn at the intimate **Columbus Botanical Garden**. Not far away is the expansive scenery of **Callaway Resort & Gardens** in Pine Mountain, whose sprawling landscape – covered with thousands of gem-colored



UNICOI STATE PARK & LODGE. HELEN/TIMBERLINE GLAMPING



azaleas – offers tennis, golf, ziplining, the **Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center**, and the resort’s luxurious lodge and spa.

Georgia’s coastline isn’t the only area where you can find vast vistas of the state’s many beautiful bodies of water. Hike, picnic, or camp out along the maritime forest of the Intracoastal Waterway at **Skidaway Island State Park** in **Savannah**, or find a great place to spend a night outdoors with the scenic campgrounds, access to the vast **Lake Allatoona**, and miles of nature trails at **Red Top Mountain State Park** in **Acworth**. You can also find a serene place to lay out for a night or two after earning your sleep with an invigorating day of hiking and backpacking at **Vogel State Park** near **Helen** – the 13-mile **Coosa Backcountry Trail** is a top accomplishment – or **F.D. Roosevelt State Park** in **Pine Mountain**, where the 23-mile **Pine Mountain Trail** passes waterfalls, travels over creeks, and moves through a winding forest. If you’re less into roughing it outdoors and more into fanciful forest relaxation, go for a night of luxury at **Timberline Glamping Co.** near Georgia’s tallest

waterfall in **Amicalola Falls State Park** in **Dawsonville**. If someone accuses you of cheating because your heated or air-conditioned tent has electrical outlets, a coffee maker, and a minifridge, just invite them in for a visit. Together, you can trek a portion of the **Appalachian Trail** from the waterfall’s 8.5-mile approach trail to **Springer Mountain**.

It’d be quite a shame to spend time in this gorgeous agricultural state without taking advantage of every chance available to pick and enjoy your own veggies, fruit, and other produce – and berries are spring’s finest. Head to **The Market at Rutland Farms** in **Tifton** to pick them (and gobble up their strawberry ice cream), and do some bass fishing. During picking hours at **Southern Belle Farm** in **McDonough**, fill your own bucket with some of their sweet berries, ride the cow train, and meet the farm creatures in Belle’s Barnyard. Or, spend time at **Fort Valley’s Lane Southern Orchards** to pick more gorgeous strawberries (and even some peaches as early as mid-May!).



SCAN  
CODE  
for more  
spring  
goodies.



## 📍 IDEAL DESTINATION

Springtime in **Augusta** is pure Georgia magic, with the return of sunnier skies and warming temperatures. There's no better time to experience Georgia's "Garden City" than when it's shaded in newly sprouted leaves and bedazzled in blooms. Go bass fishing at **Mistletoe State Park**, home to **Clarks Hill Lake** – one of the largest lakes in the Southeast. Then, take a pedaling tour with **Bike Bike Baby** to see the downtown district's public art, churches, cemeteries, and other important spots related to African-American culture, including – of course – the soulful areas of town that inspired Augusta's own James Brown. For an evening of amazing entertainment, buy tickets to one of many concerts or festivals hosted at the **Jessye Norman Amphitheater**, which sits alongside the Savannah River. And, give your perfect spring evening a proper Augustan nightcap with an old fashioned and panoramic views of the city's streetscape at legendary rooftop bars **Edgar's Above Broad** or **Six South Rooftop Bar** at **Partridge Inn**.

## 🏠 DON'T-MISS EVENTS

Mid-to-late March is your chance to hear live music, eat delicious food, and see **Macon's** beautiful Yoshino cherry tree blossoms during the **International Cherry Blossom Festival**.

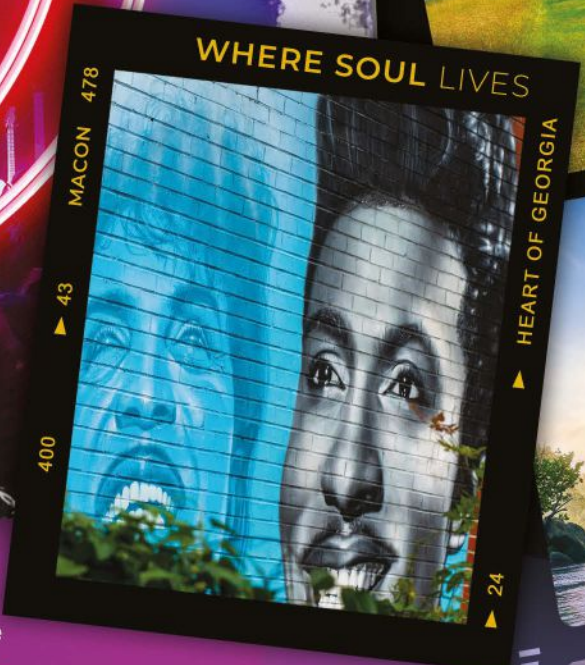
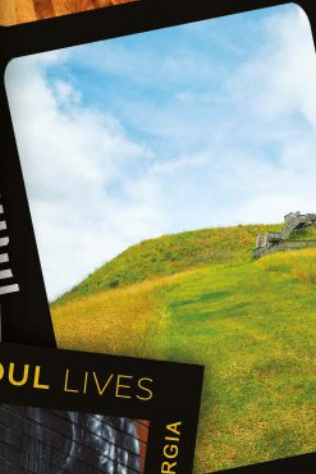
Atlanta's beloved **Piedmont Park** has been hosting the **Dogwood Festival** in April for more than 80 years, where local arts and crafts are sold, musicians share their songs, and festival delicacies like fried pickles, mushrooms, and okra are sampled.

The **Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade** is one of America's largest processions honoring "the apostle of Ireland," where thousands of green-attired revelers celebrate the holiday while watching marching bands, bagpipe players, and floats.

PHINIZY SWAMP NATURE PARK, AUGUSTA/CALEB JONES



# SOUNDS OF Macon SOUL



Named in countless 'Best of Travel' lists this year, Macon offers the chance to experience captivating history while exploring a thriving culinary scene, vibrant nightlife and the city's rich musical legacy. From savoring Southern flavors to walking the sacred land of Ocmulgee Mounds, you'll experience the perfect blend of culture and charm.

**Discover 'Where Soul Lives' and plan your trip today at [visitmacon.org](http://visitmacon.org)!**

# MACON

GEORGIA





# DON'T DRIVE THROUGH, DRIVE TO HENRY!

*Have you ever been to Henry County? Chances are you have driven through on a trip to Savannah or Florida while cruising down Interstate 75. Henry County is “Better Explored,” meaning when you leave the interstate behind, you find hidden gems that are the real heart of Henry.*

STOCKBRIDGE AMPHITHEATER



## FOODIE FINDS

On a visit to Locust Grove, stop for breakfast at Southern Fusion Dining. Whether it is the colossal cinnamon rolls or Chef Paul’s legendary shrimp and grits, you’ll leave full and feeling like family. Eat lunch at a family-owned and operated restaurant more than 50 years in the making. Green Front Café’s new owners offer soul food with a Jamaican flair in Stockbridge. If you want a blend of lunch, dinner, coffee and drinks after work, visit Black Rose Café in Locust Grove where you can get authentic Mexican cuisine, a latte or a mixed drink from the bar alongside homemade baked goods. In Hampton, enjoy homemade soups and sandwiches at Rutabaga’s Market and Cafe before taking a few steps down the street for award-winning banana pudding ice cream at Welcome Home Creamery. When dinner calls for date night with a glass of wine, the newly renovated Serafino’s Italian Bistro will deliver not only delicious food, but upscale ambiance.



## SHOPPING PARADISE

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You probably already know about the more than 70 brand name outlets available at Tanger Outlets, but Locust Grove also offers western wear at Cavender's Horsetown, vintage finds at Planter's Walk Antique Mall, and new and used books at Birdsong Books for children and adults. If boutiques are your love language, head over to Hampton to visit A'More Uniquely Me or Stockbridge to shop at Doll'd Up Boutique and McDonough to check out Inside Tag Boutique. Audiophiles can browse the thousands of records, 8-tracks and vintage video games at Media Mania.

## THRILL-SEEKING

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Fast cars and helicopter rides await thrill-seekers in Henry County. Atlanta Motor Speedway features the thrill of two NASCAR races, track tours and hosts the Bobby Ore Motorsports Stunt Driving School. Learn to make 180 degree turns or slide into a parallel parking space during the class. Just behind Atlanta Motor Speedway, the Atlanta Speedway Airport offers not one, but two opportunities to take to the sky. Tier-1 Helicopters offers customized helicopter tours, including a sunset tour to view the Atlanta Skyline. The Army Aviation Heritage Foundation offers a monthly ride program where you can book a ride in a Cobra helicopter or the icon of the Vietnam War – the Huey – where the wind whips through the open doors and gives you “Huey hair.” For a different kind of thrill, get your tickets to see music legends perform live at the Stockbridge Amphitheater.



## FAMILY-FRIENDLY

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Children are certainly not left out of the fun in Henry County. Noah's Ark Animal Sanctuary in Locust Grove offers an opportunity to see tigers, bears, monkeys and more, each in their own large, natural habitat. In addition to the “You-Pick” strawberries, peaches, blackberries, blueberries and flowers, Southern Belle Farm's fall season offers pig races, jumping pillows, a corn maze and so much more. Take the kids tree climbing at Panola Mountain State Park. This is not the tree climbing of your childhood. Here, you are strapped into a safety harness with a reverse pulley system where you “climb” into the treetops without ever having to set foot on a single branch.

Plan your trip to Henry County at [VisitHenryCountyGeorgia.com](http://VisitHenryCountyGeorgia.com)



# GET SUMMER

*on Your Mind*

**THERE'S NO WRONG WAY TO SPEND SUMMER IN GEORGIA. WITH SO MANY OPTIONS FOR UNFORGETTABLE TIMES, WHETHER OUT IN THE SUN OR STAYING COOL INSIDE, BE SURE TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE SEASON WITH SOME OF THE STATE'S BEST SUMMER ACTIVITIES.**

Getting out on the water is one way to explore the splendor of North Georgia's abundant natural charm and beauty. **Toccoa River Tubing Company** in **McCaysville** offers tube rentals for floating fun just outside Blue Ridge, and **Cartecay River Experience's** tube and kayak rentals get you three hours of deep-water floating with a few rapids that'll make your heart race in **Ellijay**. At **Cool River Tubing**, you can take a quick trip on the Chattahoochee River with the family

(including tubes for pets!) before hopping out to grab a bite to eat in **Helen**. **Nantahala Outdoor Center** in **Atlanta** serves up canoe trips, whitewater-rafting adventures with lunch, stand-up paddleboarding, and kayaking on the Chattahoochee River, with excursions for all skill levels and ages.

Water activities aren't exclusive to North Georgia. There's plenty of splashy action farther down state, including the Man o' War attraction at **Summer Waves Water Park** on **Jekyll Island** and **Statesboro's** resort-style **Splash in the Boro!** with its lazy river, wave pool, and more. If you're closer to **Valdosta**, you'll find acres of wild and wet slides, drops, and waves at **Splash Island Waterpark at Wild Adventures**. **Whitewater Express** in **Columbus** features rollicking river rafting on the Chattahoochee – from classic adventures for beginners to The Carnage Trip for wild Class V rapids. Or head down to **LaGrange's Great Wolf Lodge Water Park**, a massive indoor water park full of giant slides and expansive pools (always kept at a perfectly warm 84 degrees), where you can also stay the night and do it all again the next day.



JEPSON CENTER, SAVANNAH/CALEB JONES



SUMMER WAVES WATER PARK, JEKYLL ISLAND/JEKYLL ISLAND AUTHORITY



SCAN  
CODE  
for more  
hot  
summer  
ideas.

After all that summer sun, head indoors to cool off. Visit the **Telfair Museums'** three **Savannah** locations, including the stunning architecture of the Moshe Safdie-designed **Jepson Center** and its **ArtZeum** interactive children's activities. **Telfair Academy** features 19th- and 20th-century art from both Europe and America. Tour Telfair's Regency-style **Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters** to learn about the complicated contrast between the free and formerly enslaved peoples. See the meticulously maintained archives at the **Atlanta History Center**, including the Native Lands exhibit that showcases stories and the history of Georgia's original inhabitants. The **High Museum of Art** is another can't-miss **Atlanta** institution loved for its expansive collections of American, African, European, and folk art, among other world-class offerings.

Theaters such as **The Grand Opera House** in **Macon**, **District Live** in Savannah, and the **Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre** just north of Atlanta provide entertainment of all sorts, from concerts to off-Broadway plays and other live shows to wind down your evenings. Or, tour some of the state's marvelous historical homes, including **Hay House**, a Renaissance Revival mansion in Macon, and the magnificent **Hills & Dales Estate**, overlooking dreamy 19th-century gardens in **LaGrange**. Visit **Milledgeville** to stand on the grounds of **Andalusia**, Southern author Flannery O'Connor's rural farmhouse.

## IDEAL DESTINATION

Nestled in the heart of the North Georgia mountains in **Hiawassee, Lake Chatuge** is the ideal summer getaway. Stay lakeside at **The Ridges Resort**, where you'll enjoy a slower pace and simple pleasures like strolling along the lake, lounging with games, and enjoying a picnic by the water. The resort's marina features a variety of pontoon and speed boats for a day on the lake with access to a gas dock, **Dockside**, a new grab-and-go snack station, and a friendly staff of marina professionals ready to assist with any boating needs.

Higher above ground, the steep but short half-mile hike to **Brasstown Bald** is not to be missed. At 4,784 feet high, the mountain is Georgia's highest peak, with an observation deck that offers 360-degree views of the Southern Appalachian Mountains as well as four states on a clear day. Or, venture to other area highlights including the scenic overlooks at **Bell Mountain**, wine tours and tastings at **Crane Creek Vineyards** in nearby **Young Harris**, and events including the **July Fourth Fireworks**, concerts, fairs, and more at the **Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds**.

## DON'T-MISS EVENTS

The extended holiday feeling of summer is perhaps best experienced the week of July Fourth, and Georgia has several ways to celebrate.

At **Stone Mountain Park**, don't miss the **Fantastic Fourth Celebration**, a spectacular Independence Day fireworks and lights show that, with ticket purchase, offers access to more park attractions like scenic hiking and 1940s-era train rides.

Park your car at the **Great Dunes** or **Oceanview Beach** parks, and watch an exciting waterfront pyrotechnics display on **Jekyll Island**.

**Callaway Resort & Gardens'** multiday party of American pride in **Pine Mountain** offers a nightly **Fireworks Extravaganza**, preceded by fun activities, including beach volleyball, watersports, and mini golf.

The annual July Fourth burst of colorful **Fire in the Sky** over **Lake Blue Ridge** in North Georgia makes for a magical celebration best seen from a boat or along the shoreline.



FIREWORKS IN THE SKY OVER LAKE BLUE RIDGE/STEVE TUCKER



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## » DISCOVER

Discover Georgia's Blue Ridge, the perfect destination for a peaceful weekend retreat or an adventurous weeklong vacation. Nestled in the heart of the Georgia mountains, surrounded by 100,000 acres of the Chattahoochee National Forest, Blue Ridge's landscape offers expansive mountain vistas, lush green valleys, and pristine lakes and rivers. The town of Blue Ridge has an artsy vibe with upscale shopping and galleries, wineries, breweries and an impressive culinary scene. It is also the home of the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway and Mercier Orchards, the largest family-owned orchard in the southeast.



GEORGIA'S

*Blue Ridge*

[BLUERIDGEMOUNTAINS.COM](http://BLUERIDGEMOUNTAINS.COM)



## » STAY

For a complete mountain getaway, rent a cozy cabin and spend some quality time with family and friends. Choose a cabin with a view, beside **Lake Blue Ridge** or the **Toccoa River**, near town or in the woods. A downtown stay at a hotel, loft or B&B allows more time for exploring, shopping, eating and drinking like a local.

## » PLAY

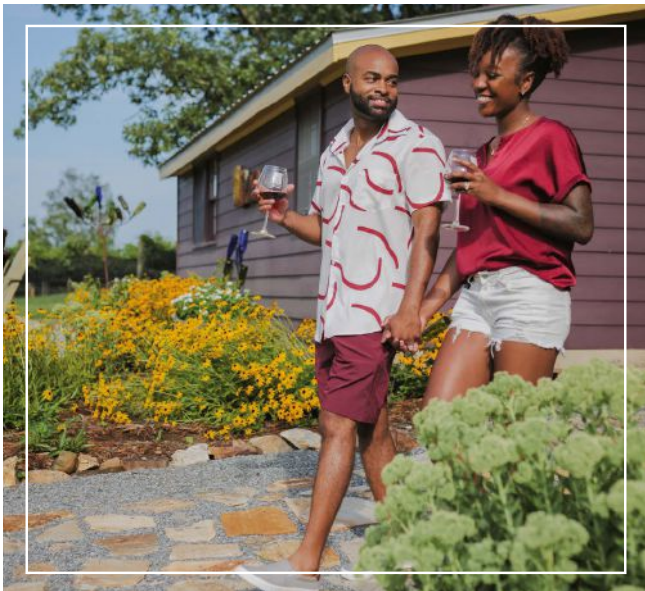
Hike with the family to a local waterfall, skip some rocks in the Toccoa River rapids, or go tubing or rafting. Ride the **Blue Ridge Scenic Railway** to the mining town of **McCaysville**, on the Georgia-Tennessee line. Take a tractor tour of **Mercier Orchards**. See a movie the old-fashioned way at the **Swan Drive-In**. Go gem mining, horseback riding and see **Expedition Bigfoot!** Have some fun together and create lasting memories.

## » EXPLORE

Hike to the beginning of the **Appalachian** and **Benton MacKaye Trails** at nearby **Springer Mountain**, or to the **Swinging Bridge** on the **Toccoa River**, **Long Creek Falls** or **Falls Branch Falls**. You can tube, kayak or raft the **Toccoa River**, rent a pontoon or paddleboard on **Lake Blue Ridge**, or go whitewater rafting on the **Ocoee River**. Be sure to cast a fly in the **Trout Capital of Georgia**.

## » SHOP

In the early 1900s, visitors took the train to **Blue Ridge** to escape the heat, enjoy the cool mountain air and rejuvenate in the mineral waters. Today, a stroll through town reveals an eclectic blend of old and new, with an array of upscale shops and galleries. Take home a locally made keepsake to remind you of your **Blue Ridge Mountain** getaway.



## » WINE & DINE

Sip some local brews at one of six craft breweries, including **Grumpy Old Men**, **Tipping Point** and **Angry Hops** breweries in downtown **Blue Ridge**. Spend a relaxing afternoon at a local winery like **Bear Claw Vineyards**, **Serenberry Vineyards**, or **Mercier's Hard Cider and Winery**. Local eateries range from laid-back, like **Carroll's Barbeque** and **Sue's Burgers**, to upscale, like **Harvest on Main** and **Grace**. Eat in a historic home at **The Black Sheep**, an old bank building at **The General Ledger**, or on the water at **Toccoa Riverside** or **Burra Burra**.

A visit to **Blue Ridge** is like a step into a simpler time and place, but with all the creature comforts of a much larger destination. You'll be planning your return trip before it's time to go home.



## Find the Dazzle of **FALL**

COOLER TEMPERATURES AND BRILLIANT FOLIAGE MAKE AUTUMN THE PERFECT TIME TO EXPERIENCE SOME OF THE STATE'S BEST ACTIVITIES. FROM LEAF PEEPING TO CORN MAZES TO HARVEST FESTIVALS, CRISP WEATHER ACCOMPANIES SOME OF THE ANNUAL PLEASURES WE ANTICIPATE ALL YEAR LONG.

Few activities are more quintessentially autumnal than those happening on the farm. Get in the spirit with **Washington Farms'** 6.5-acre corn maze, a pick-your-own patch of pumpkins, and wagon rides in **Bogart**. Hop on a hayride and pick out a jack-o'-lantern in the making at **Burt's Pumpkin Farm** in **Dawsonville**. Don't miss **Pine Mountain's Pumpkins at Callaway Resort & Gardens**, whose **Enchanted Pumpkin Forest** stars forest creatures carved from grand gourds.

Pass eye-catching landscapes of brilliant red, vibrant orange, and bright yellow aboard some of Georgia's iconic trains. Take the leisurely 26-mile round-trip trek along the Toccoa River aboard the **Blue Ridge Scenic Railway**. Step onto an open-air train car pulled by a 1940s locomotive along the **Stone Mountain Scenic Railroad** for leaf peeping on a 5-mile mountain loop.



BLUE RIDGE SCENIC RAILWAY, BLUE RIDGE/SEBASTIAN STARK

Celebrate harvest season with a trip to Georgia's burgeoning wine country. Sip award-winning blanc de blancs brut at **Wolf Mountain Vineyards** in **Dahlonega**, taste the beloved Scarlett blend at **Habersham Winery & Vineyards** in **Helen**, and let the team at **Fainting Goat Vineyards & Winery** in **Jasper** pack you a gourmet picnic accompanied by a bottle of vino. Or, take a tour of the only known wine cave in Georgia at **Yonah Mountain Vineyards** in **Cleveland**. Don't feel like organizing tour stops or designating a driver? **Pop the Cork Wine Tours** can take care of all the details.

Autumn in Georgia isn't complete without indulging in apple-flavored goodies. Pick your own from more than 20 varieties at **Mercier Orchards** in **Blue Ridge** and shop for treats, from hard cider to apple-cider donuts. Don't

miss a visit to the state's self-proclaimed "Apple Capital," **Ellijay**, where **B.J. Reece Orchards** and **Red Apple Barn** stand ready to satisfy your apple cravings. The **Georgia Apple Festival** in Ellijay celebrates the almighty apple with family-friendly arts and crafts, a parade, and – of course – a bounty of apple-y treats each October. U-pick options abound at nearby orchards during the festival.

Finally, experience classic autumn at the historical **Oakland Cemetery** in **Atlanta** with a guided fall tree walk, a rotating variety of spooky seasonal activities, or the Capturing the Spirit of Oakland Halloween Tour (book in advance). This special Halloween-season destination always seems to have something new and spine chilling to offer.





HELEN/ANNIE JIANG

## 📍 IDEAL DESTINATION

The Bavarian-inspired village of **Helen**, tucked into the northeast Georgia mountains, is an ideal fall destination for its annual **Oktoberfest** celebration. Starting in September and running through October, the beer-centric event features German delicacies, traditional costumes, plus dancing to live polka music in the festhalle. Outdoor lovers will revel in picturesque hikes with dazzling fall colors for all ability levels at nearby **Unicoi State Park & Lodge** and **Smithgall Woods State Park**, as well as a host of spectacular waterfalls waiting to be discovered. Prefer to see the views with a side of adventure? Settle into a cart on the **Georgia Mountain Coaster**, an alpine rollercoaster where you control the speed – leave the brake off to hit up to 28 miles per hour. Round out your experience by perusing more than 200 specialty boutiques, and cool down with a brew and bratwurst at **King Ludwig’s Biergarten**.

## 📅 DON’T-MISS EVENTS

The six-week **Stone Mountain Park Pumpkin Festival** features a family-friendly pie-eating contest, party parade with glowing scenes, pumpkin-themed drone show, and more starting in mid-September.

From livestock shows and barrel racing to leather art, sewing, and soap carving, there’s something for every age and interest at the 11-day **Georgia National Fair**. It’s held at **Perry’s** 628-acre **Georgia National Fairgrounds** in October.

The annual **Gold Rush Days**, an October weekend festival celebrating the 1828 Dahlonega gold discovery, is set against a backdrop of brilliant fall color.

 SCAN CODE for more fall fun.



# Perfectly PERRY



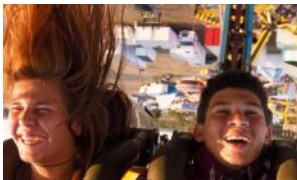
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Indulge your senses with savory gallettes, seasonal vegetable soup du jour, enticing entrées, melt in your mouth crêpes, and paired award-winning wines as you explore Braselton's authentic French cuisine.





## WINE LOVERS' GETAWAY

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Escape to the rolling vineyards and wooded forests of Chateau Elan Winery and Resort, North Georgia's premier destination resort offering winery tours and tastings, golf, a spa and world-class dining. The award-winning winery is open daily and features tours where a senior wine steward guides you through the entire winemaking process, from grape-to-glass. Surrounded by nature and endless activities, Chateau Elan Winery and Resort is a truly unrivaled experience.

The Resort offers an array of luxurious accommodations, including inn rooms and suites, spa suites, and villas. Customizable packages are available to create the perfect getaway.

## SMALL-TOWN CHARM

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The heart of Braselton, Historic Downtown Braselton, is a quaint, walkable city center with locally owned restaurants, bars and boutiques. Stroll hand in hand through downtown while shopping for unique antiques and artisanal goods. Located in the newly restored historic Braselton Brothers Store building, The 1904 is a collection of shopping and dining spaces with an active live entertainment and events calendar that make it a hotspot downtown.

Hop aboard the vintage-styled Braselton Trolley on Fridays 4 to 11 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. for a fun, fare-free ride around town. The Braselton Trolley is a great way to see the area, shop or dine. Trolley tours and private rentals are also available.



## ADRENALINE JUNKIES

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Smell the racing fuel, hear the roar of engines, and witness the world's fastest and most technologically advanced sports cars as drivers test their speed and endurance in Braselton, Georgia, at Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta. The Raceway has an excellent annual lineup of spectator events including its iconic race, the Motul Petit Le Mans. Recognized as one of the world's best road courses, it has been hosting sports car racing for more than 50 years.

Get on the track at Caffeine and Octane's Lanier Raceway Karting Experience. They also host regular Friday night drifts and various car meets throughout the month.



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*Braselton*

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## Make a Date With **WINTER**

GEORGIA'S TEMPERATE WEATHER AND A HOST OF EXCITING ATTRACTIONS MAKE IT AN IDEAL DESTINATION TO EXPLORE DURING THE YEAR'S COLDEST MONTHS. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL TRULY FROSTY TO FIND THE CHARM OF THE WINTER SEASON ACROSS THE STATE, FROM LIGHTS AND ICE SKATING TO HOLIDAY MARKETS AND MORE.

What is more wonder-inducing than millions of sparkling holiday lights? Get your fill of dazzling, immersive displays at **Fantasy in Lights** at **Callaway Resort & Gardens** in **Pine Mountain**. At **Hiwassee's Mountain Country**

**Christmas in Lights**, arts and crafts and hot chocolate accompany the glittering spectacle, and revelers pause their tunnels-of-lights tour at **Winter WonderLights** at the **State Botanical Garden of Georgia** in **Athens** for a s'mores break. The **Garden Lights, Holiday Nights** event sets the **Atlanta Botanical Garden** aglow with magic; **Enchanted Garden of Lights** in **Rock City** illuminates an Arctic kingdom and magic forest; **Wild Adventures Christmas** in **Valdosta** peppers thousands of shimmering lights across a lake and through a walkable tunnel; and the **Boat Parade of Lights** in **Savannah** reflects the season's joy against the wintry water of the Savannah River.

Georgia might not have frequent snow, but that won't stop you from enjoying winter's outdoor delights. Head to **Snow Island** at **Lanier Islands** in **Buford**, where you'll find an eight-story snow slide, carnival rides, and fresh powder for snow angels. Lace up your skates for pristine rinks at **Atlanta's Skate the Station** at **Atlantic Station** and the annual **Evans on Ice** near



FANTASY IN LIGHTS, PINE MOUNTAIN/CALLAWAY RESORT & GARDENS



**SCAN  
CODE**  
*for more  
winter  
wonders.*



SKATE THE STATION AT ATLANTIC STATION, ATLANTA/ADDISON HILL

**Augusta**, where you can also roast marshmallows for a warm up. Or, hop aboard the historic **SAM Shortline Excursion Train** in **Cordele** for the **Candy Cane Express** holiday ride.

Whether those on your list have been naughty or nice, find their perfect gifts at the holiday markets spread across the state. At **Thomasville's** annual **Victorian Christmas**, strolling carolers, carriage rides, and visits with Santa accompany the one-of-a-kind, boutique-shopping experience downtown. Search for artisanal treasures at the **Savannah Christmas Market**, **Helen's Christmas Market**, or **Dahlonega's Old Fashioned Christmas**.

No holiday season is complete without the perfect Christmas tree, and there are plenty of family-run farms ready to help you find the right evergreen. Cut your own – and score a fresh wreath – at **Berry's Tree Farm & Nursery** in **Covington**, **Webster's Christmas Tree Farm** in **Darien**, or **Sleepy Hollow Farm** in **Powder Springs**. Whether you're looking for a fragrant Fraser fir or a festive Leyland cypress, you'll make family memories while you explore the farms (and may even spot Santa Claus himself!).

## 📍 IDEAL DESTINATION

There's more to love on **Jekyll Island** than balmy weather and having beaches to yourself. A winter visit to the southern end of Georgia's **Golden Isles** means you may spot migrating wildlife, like bald eagles and endangered North Atlantic right whales. Experience the island's nature with a park ranger-led walk to explore the maritime forest and pristine shoreline. Explore **Mosaic, Jekyll Island Museum** for its captivating local history and eye-popping fashion exhibit. Depart from the museum for a guided trolley tour to glimpse centuries-old Gilded Age homes. Venture out on your own for a self-guided walk along the educational **Wanderer Memory Trail**, where you'll follow the true story of Umwalla, an African boy on one of America's last-known slave ships, as he journeys from capture to freedom. Search the island for hand-blown glass globes during the **Island Treasures** event (held daily throughout January and February), then take home what you find from the artistic scavenger hunt. Try your hand

at fishing and crabbing along miles of shore, with stops at panoramic **Jekyll Island Fishing Pier** and meandering Clam Creek. Finally, wander the hauntingly beautiful **Driftwood Beach**, an ideal place for a keepsake photo where sun-bleached wood spreads like fingers across the sand.

## 📅 DON'T-MISS EVENTS

**Holly Jolly Jekyll** turns the island into a winter wonderland, with trolley rides beneath light-covered trees, drive-in holiday movies, a market, and much more.

**NYE Live! at The Battery Atlanta** celebrates with a bubbly toast and midnight balloon drop, plus all sorts of New Year's revelry, including a live DJ, confetti cannons, and games.

Let **Atlanta Ballet** delight you with a magical performance of **"The Nutcracker,"** with choreography by Yuri Possokhov, fanciful costumes, and high-tech sets.



HOLLY JOLLY LIGHT TOUR, JEKYLL ISLAND/JEKYLL ISLAND AUTHORITY



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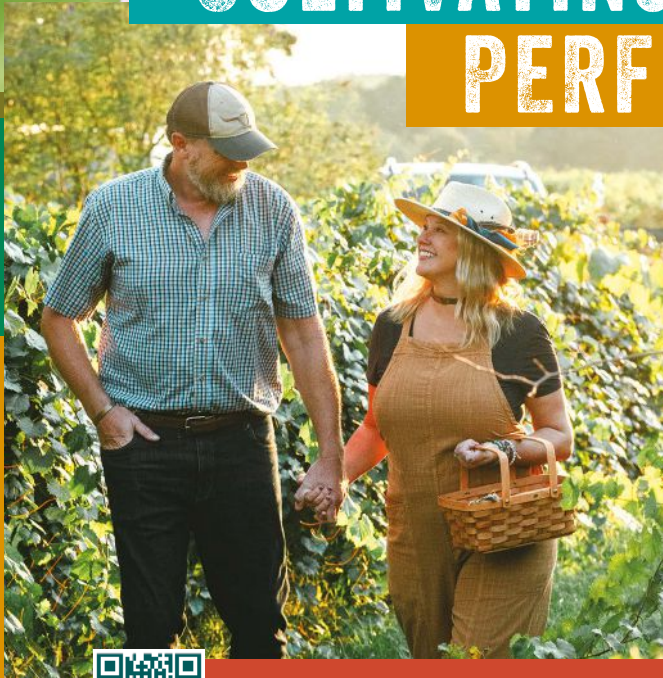
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# CULTIVATING THE PERFECT GETAWAY

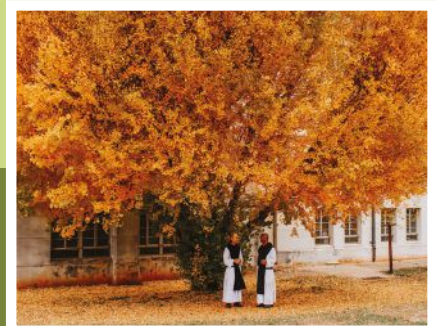


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  - Camp Westminster
  - Pickleball & Tennis Courts
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**SCAN CODE**

*to uncover  
more film fun  
in Georgia.*



GEORGIA TOUR COMPANY - SENOIA (HOME OF THE WALKING DEAD)/KEVIN GARRETT



# THE ULTIMATE SET-JETTING ROAD TRIP

Fans of movies and television – new and old – have a lot to love about Georgia. See for yourself where all that magic happens, with a set-jetting road trip through the many unique filming locations across the state.



## BEGIN IN ATLANTA

Start your film journey in **Atlanta**, a hotbed for pop culture favorites like “The Walking Dead,” along with blockbusters such as “Black Panther” and “Spider-Man: Homecoming.” The film locations are as diverse as the city itself. From **Clark Atlanta University**, where Nick Cannon fought to be recognized as the best drummer on campus in “Drumline,” to the **Georgia Aquarium**, where “Alvin and the Chipmunks: Road Chip” was filmed, the number of pit stops to make on your movie trek are plentiful.

Stop by the **Porsche Experience Center** in Atlanta, where Captain America and his Avengers allies had their epic showdown in “Captain America: Civil War.” Then, stroll through **Piedmont Park**. Spend the day at Atlanta’s largest greenspace and check out where “What to Expect When You’re Expecting” and “Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues” were filmed.

Consider taking time to explore locations from Donald Glover’s award-winning FX series, “Atlanta.” Visit **The Original J.R. Crickets** on North Avenue, where Paper Boi gets his “lemon pepper wet,” or see the **Cobb Civic Center**, where he plays a celebrity basketball game.

**The Atlanta Marriott Marquis** hosted Jennifer Lawrence and “The Hunger Games” cast during the popular sequel, “Catching Fire.” Since its opening in 1985, the hotel’s distinctive architecture by John Portman has caught the eye of many filmmakers. It served as the backdrop for the victors’ Capitol Housing in “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire,” too – remember Johanna Mason’s infamous elevator scene? Beyond Panem, Denzel Washington’s character had a drink in the hotel lobby in “Flight,” and scenes from “Spider-Man: Homecoming” were also filmed on the premises.

The **Swan House** at the **Atlanta History Center** was another backdrop for “The Hunger Games” series. The former residence of the Inman family, it was built in 1928 by architect Philip Trammell Shutze, and its majestic, stately design made it feel like home for President Snow’s mansion in “Catching Fire” and “Mockingjay: Part 1.”

With its timeless Beaux-Arts architecture, **The Georgian Terrace** has been an iconic landmark in Atlanta for decades. Beyond its historical allure, the hotel has also taken center stage in a variety of films, ranging from 1974’s “Cockfighter” to modern-day comedies such as “Identity Thief,” “The Change-Up,” and “Die Hart.”



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SWAN HOUSE AT ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER/ANDREA DAVID; PIEDMONT PARK/ANDREA DAVID; ATLANTA/ANDREA DAVID



## HEAD TO SENOIA

Take a day-long film tour in **Senoia**, home to various filming locations of popular series. Kickstart your adventure at **The Woodbury Shoppe**, whose owners include the executive producer, graphic novel creator, and former studio co-owner of “The Walking Dead.” Grab memorabilia such as signed posters and officially licensed products by AMC and Skybound.

While in town, an outing with the **Georgia Tour Company** is a must. The company offers guided film tours, including A Marvelous Adventure, where you can drop by popular locations in Marvel films; Y’allywood tours, offering peeks at locations used in “The Walking Dead,” “Fried Green Tomatoes,” “The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It,” “Pet Sematary II,” and more; and the Southern Fried Films tour, which traces the paths of Southern film classics, like the locales where Morgan Freeman chauffeured Jessica Tandy in “Driving Miss Daisy.”

When your appetite takes center stage, pot pies made with fried chicken, gourmet burgers, and brisket nachos are all on the menu at **Nic & Norman’s**, owned by “The Walking Dead” actor Norman Reedus and executive producer and master of special effects Greg Nicotero. At **Lisa’s Crêperie**, decadent and delectable crepes take the spotlight alongside a variety of specialty teas, coffees, wines, beer, and shakes.



## EXTRA STOPS FOR YOUR FILM TOUR

Have some extra time? Add more iconic stops to your Georgia road trip while exploring the state's Hollywood roots.

- Do the self-guided **Douglas County Film Trail** to see spots where “The Hunger Games,” “The Walking Dead,” and “Stranger Things” filmed, among others.
- “Fried Green Tomatoes” fans shouldn’t miss **The Whistle Stop Cafe** in **Juliette**. Try its Southern favorites like the movie’s hand-sliced namesake seasoned with top-secret spices.
- See **Savannah’s Chippewa Square**, made famous for scenes in “Forrest Gump,” where actor Tom Hanks tells Forrest’s story from the comfort of a bus bench. A replica bench – perfect for a photo op – is located at the **Georgia Visitor Information Center** at **Port Wentworth**. Looking for the real thing? An original bench used in the film is on display at the **Savannah History Museum**.
- Hop on a Segway with **Adventure Tours in Motion**, also in Savannah, to see filming locations in “Forrest Gump,” “Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil,” and “Something to Talk About.”

## OVERNIGHT IN FAYETTEVILLE

Done exploring Senoia? Travel to nearby **Fayetteville** – it’s a quick 30-minute drive – to post up at **Trilith Guesthouse**, a boutique hotel beloved for its lofty rooftop bar near **Trilith Studios**, where everything from indie films to blockbuster hits are crafted.

While you’re there, take the **Trilith Experience Tour** to get a behind-the-scenes peek at this filming location where “Spider-Man: No Way Home” and “Avengers: Endgame” came to life. You’ll also get to see how an actual working town was built around the film studio. Pause for a chef-inspired buffet lunch at **The Studio Café**, where you can nom on savory Southern staples like blackened catfish.



## STOP IN JACKSON

Celebrate your love for “Stranger Things” – and keep watch for those pesky demogorgons – with a stop in **Jackson**, also known as Downtown Hawkins to superfans. Jackson’s local businesses relish the hit Netflix series, too, so there’s plenty of Hawkins-related fun to fill your day.

**Stranger Tours’** expert guides can show you memorable destinations, like the drugstore used for filming scenes at Melvald’s General Store (it employs Joyce Byers, played by Winona Ryder). At **Jackson Escape Games**, you can choose from a handful of “Stranger Things”-themed puzzles, like how to get out of the Upside Down (it’s a supernatural alternate dimension!) or break free from the super-secretive Hawkins Laboratory. Sip on coffee concoctions named for “Stranger Things” characters – past drinks include the Demogorgon Frappé – at **Lucy Lu’s Coffee Cafe**. Then, stroll **Jackson Square** in search of souvenirs and colorful murals (there’s one on Third Street outside of **Roots Outdoors** and one at **Buddy Blu’s Cool Licks**).



## ★ STAY IN COVINGTON

For a cinematic journey, head to **Covington**, where classics like the Denzel Washington sports drama “Remember the Titans” and the more recent Netflix series “Sweet Magnolias” came alive. Take the self-guided **Walk of the Stars**, located in the **Historic Downtown Covington Square**. See if you can spot pavers celebrating actors like Paul Wesley from “The Vampire Diaries” and Phoebe Tonkin from “The Originals.”

Get your fill of both food and fantasy at the **Mystic Grill**, inspired by the tales of “The Vampire Diaries.” Or, head to **Mystic Mercantile** to tour a hauntingly accurate representation of the old Salvatore Mansion living room.

From there, dive into the **Mystic Falls Tour**, which guides you through the haunts and hangouts featured on the show, including the exclusive Lockwood Mansion. Later, climb aboard the **Main Street Trolley**, which takes you to more than 40 iconic filming spots, including the yee-hawing roads found on “The Dukes of Hazzard.”

Grab a bite at **City Pharmacy**, a former 1920s drugstore, and try the chef-prepared dishes and cocktails. Top it all off by indulging your cravings with a scoop of vibrant-blue Cookie Monster ice cream peppered with chocolate chips at **Scoops**. Rest in a Covington-themed suite at the **Twelve Oaks Bed & Breakfast** – where “The Vampire Diaries” once filmed and cast and crew have stayed – before road-tripping to your next stop. Twelve Oaks is also said to be the inspiration for Ashley’s home in the epic classic film, “Gone With the Wind.”



TOP TO BOTTOM: TWELVE OAKS BED & BREAKFAST, COVINGTON/CALEB JONES; COVINGTON VISITORS CENTER, COVINGTON/CALEB JONES



## TRAVEL TO CONYERS

For film aficionados looking for the next destination to explore iconic filming locations, consider **Conyers**. It's teeming with television and movie landmarks.

Join **Filmed in the South** guided tours to familiarize yourself with cinematic spots, such as **Olde Town Conyers**, recognizable from television series like "In The Heat of The Night," "Cobra Kai," and "The Originals." Check out Filmed in the South's new location, which includes souvenirs, an interactive museum, and a content creation studio featuring real show props from "The Originals," where you can take selfies galore. Before the tour, grab a satisfying snack, like chocolate-dipped pretzels, at **The Sweet Treat Depot**.

Enhance the experience by reserving a spot at **The Celtic Tavern** – known on-screen as Gillespie's Pub in "The Originals" – for a taste of on-set dining after your tour. Or channel your inner conjurer with a trip to **The Boo-Tique**, where you can add to your ever-growing crystal collection from the store used as the backdrop for the Jardin Gris Voodoo Shop, also in "The Originals." (Did you know malachite can be used as a protection talisman?)



TOP TO BOTTOM: COVINGTON/EXPLORE GEORGIA/CALEB JONES; THE SWEET TREAT DEPOT, CONYERS/CALEB JONES

# ATL AIRPORT DISTRICT

Convention & Visitors Bureau



## HAPEVILLE, COLLEGE PARK & UNION CITY

*Some travelers like to follow the breeze. But for those who prefer to have their Atlanta-area exploration plotted in advance, [ATLdistrict.com](http://ATLdistrict.com) offers itineraries developed by bona fide Southside locals.*

## EXTENDED LAYOVER

Itineraries are categorized by theme and duration of stay, starting with the briefest of all, Extended Layover. When you're hanging around with only a few hours on your hands, the District has everything you need to pass the time. Sip and watch the trains roll by at Coffee Man before crossing the colorful bridge to the Hapeville Depot Museum, where you can explore over a century of artifacts and a gallery of local art. Then walk to any of several nearby restaurants and grab a to-go order to enjoy al fresco at Jess Lucas Park (there's a playground)! To stick even closer to the airport, hop a single MARTA stop for Gullah Geechee soul food from Virgil's or succulent BBQ from Tom, Dick and Hank.



Hapeville's Butterfly Lantern Parade & Porsche Experience Center are just a couple of the things to do in the District.



Come in the spring for Spin the District, or the summer for an Atlanta Dream game.



## SPEND THE DAY

The District shines from sunup to sundown! Those waking up in Hapeville will begin at the eclectic JPresso Café for an expertly brewed latte and breakfast made with love, while College Park accommodations put you near Buttermilk Biscuit for Southern breakfast favorites served all day. The day's itinerary will take you on a whirlwind tour of art, history and culture destinations like the Porsche Experience Center and Atlanta Printmakers Studio. Choose from a list of delectable on-the-way restaurants to fuel up for an evening of remarkable theatre, comedy or sports—and finish the night with some planespotting at the Kimpton Overland's rooftop bar.

## STAY THE WEEKEND

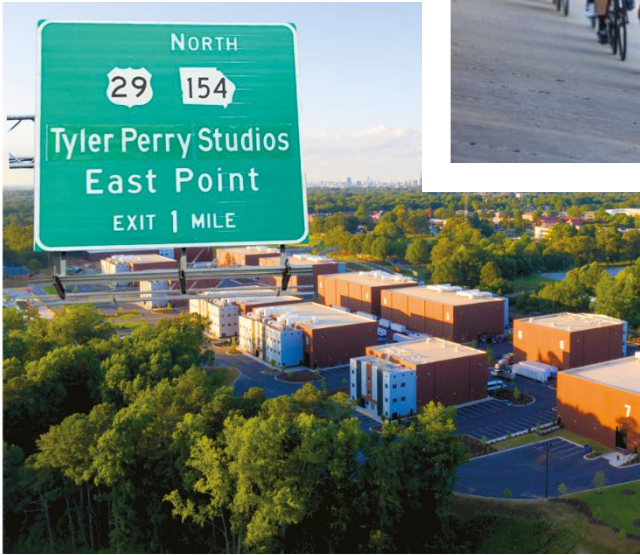
Now that you've got time to stop and smell the mimosas, start at The Breakfast Boys, a happening spot where brunch is served all day. Then hop an easy train up to Midtown to appreciate the incredible collections at the High Museum and MODA. Each ATLdistrict.com itinerary is loaded with insider info and pro tips, including which days are best for these high-traffic destinations. Head back for lunch and a whole list of District attractions to peruse at your own pace, and then slow down with a chill dinner at The Corner Grille before resting up. On Day Two, we'll show you the best of Downtown Atlanta!

## HERE FOR A WEEK

The five-day itinerary takes you across the District and beyond, exploring local history, fascinating wildlife, exhilarating outdoor activities and indulgent relaxation—and even includes a drive to nearby Decatur for a change of scenery. Each day, you'll head back to your home base in the District, where you're connected to the airport, the highways, and the metro transit system—and there's really no beating the District's prices on accommodations. Depending on when your visit is scheduled, you may even be fortunate enough to take in a seasonal celebration! New itineraries are added regularly, so be sure to check the website before every ATL visit.

[ATLdistrict.com](https://ATLdistrict.com) | 404.334.7500

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# FEEL FREE TO BELONG HERE

Avoid the routine dining experience and delve into true international flavors along Buford Highway. Gather your festival folks to join you at the Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival in March. Don't worry, Fido is absolutely welcome here. Brookhaven is your haven within Atlanta.



Download Our Guide



NATIONAL CENTER FOR CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS, ATLANTA/CALEB JONES



## GEORGIA ITINERARY

*The U.S. Civil Rights Trail is a collection of landmarks across 15 states that played a pivotal role in advancing social justice in the 1950s–1960s. Visit these Georgia sites, and learn about the transformative role the Peach State played in the Civil Rights Movement.*

### DAY ONE: ATLANTA

Prepare for your trip on the U.S. Civil Rights Trail in Atlanta with lunch at **Pascal's**, the “meeting place” for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his lieutenants. After lunch, take the short drive to the **National Center for Civil and Human Rights** and spend the afternoon exploring exhibits featuring powerful imagery and storytelling – including the “Rolls Down Like Water: U.S. Civil Rights Movement” exhibit that presents the fight for civil rights in America – from the Jim Crow era through 1968. End the day with dinner at James Beard-nominated chef Deborah VanTrece’s **Twisted Soul Cookhouse & Pours**. Call it a night at the **Hyatt Regency Atlanta**, known as one of the first hotels in the city to welcome Black travelers and civil-rights activists.



## DAY TWO: ATLANTA

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Next, explore Atlanta's **Sweet Auburn Historic District**, home to several stops along the U.S. Civil Rights Trail. **The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park** reflects the life of this great leader across 35 acres and several sites – including sites like **Dr. King's birth home** and **Ebenezer Baptist Church**. Visit **The King Center** and pay your respects at Dr. and Mrs. King's crypt. Take a short walk for an ice-cream treat at **Sweet Stack Creamery**, then wrap up your visit at the **Municipal Market** for lunch. Spend the rest of the afternoon at the **Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum** learning how the former president worked to advance civil and human rights throughout, and after, his presidency.

## DAY THREE: ALBANY

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Head south to Albany where, in 1961, local activists formed the Albany Movement. Start at **Charles M. Sherrod Civil Rights Park** to view the memorial fountain that commemorates Albany's pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement. Visit the **Albany Civil Rights Institute** to learn about the legacy of foot soldiers of the movement. The museum tour ends in the **Old Mount Zion Baptist Church Sanctuary** where Dr. King spoke to a crowd of 1,500 people. While in town, drive through **Albany State University**, a historically black college and university where the Freedom Singers formed. Grab dinner at **The Flint**, then rest up for the night at **Hilton Garden Inn**.

## DAY FOUR: MIDWAY

---

For the last leg of your trip, take a three-hour ride across the state to coastal Georgia. Stop at **Old School Diner in Townsend** to fuel up with the famous "wheelchair platter," an assortment of the chef's best daily menu items. After fueling up, head north to Midway to visit the **Dorchester Academy and Museum**. The academy was founded after the Civil War as a school for freed enslaved people and, by 1917, the high school had 300 students. This historic site hosted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s planning meetings for his 1963 march on Birmingham.



**SCAN CODE**  
*to discover more  
of Georgia's  
Civil Rights  
history.*

Come See  
**AUGUSTA**  
★ The **FEEL GOOD** City ★



**ART & HISTORY**



**DINING**



**OUTDOORS**

THE LOW-DOWN ON WHERE TO  
**GET DOWN**

[VISITAUGUSTA.COM](http://VISITAUGUSTA.COM)

PLAN YOUR **STAY**





# GEORGIA CITY GUIDES

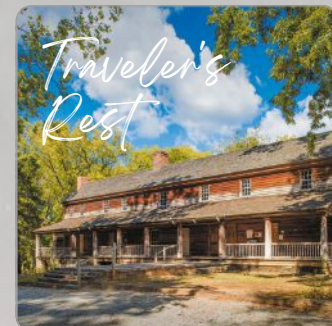
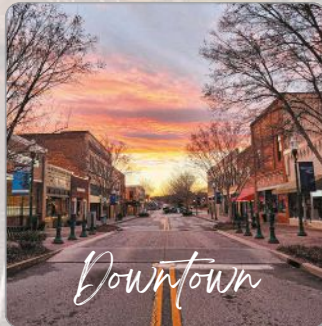
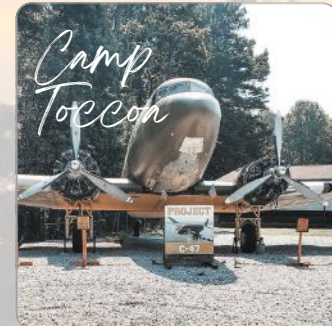
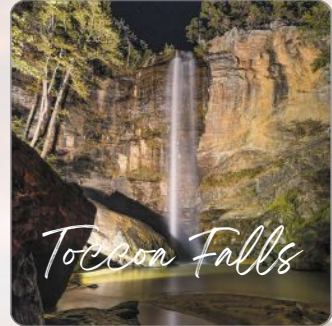
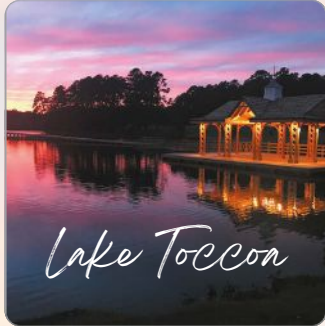
From rugged mountains to sandy beaches, from big cities to small towns, Georgia's varied landscapes and thriving culture centers have something for everyone.



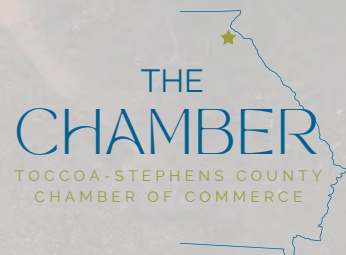
SKYLINE PARK AT PONCE CITY MARKET, ATLANTA/CALEB JONES

# lets go

EXPERIENCE TOCCOA-STEPHENS COUNTY



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## Sojourn to the Mountains in Ellijay

**Ellijay**, the state's Apple Capital, draws thousands of visitors each fall, but the appeal of this small northwest Georgia mountain town extends well beyond harvest season. Families can look forward to year-round fun at the area's many popular outdoor destinations.

Ellijay's name purportedly derives from a Cherokee word meaning "many waters," and the town is a jumping-off point for trips to nearby waterfalls as well as outings on rivers and **Carters Lake**'s shimmering waters. Mountain biking is big here, too. A popular pick is the **Bear Creek Trail**, which winds past the **100-foot-tall Gennett poplar**, reputedly Georgia's second-largest tree.



THIS PAGE: CARTERS LAKE/SILVER CHAMBER. OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NORTH GEORGIA GLAMPING/RICK LUCAS; THE ROOF, ELLIJAY/OUTLIVE CREATIVE; MULBERRY GAP – ADVENTURE BASECAMP/OUTLIVE CREATIVE.

## Eat

**The Shack of Ellijay** serves a selection of bubble teas, from peach-coconut to cotton candy, and an Asian-fusion menu featuring poke and noodle bowls. For excellent coffee and pastries served surrounded

by books, visit **Mountain Town Coffee at Hemlock Bazaar**, nestled in a restored 1940s building. End the day back in town at **The Roof**, a rooftop bar with panoramic views of downtown Ellijay and the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains.

## Sleep

Glamping, anyone? Bed down in a geodesic dome or Airstream trailer at **North Georgia Glamping**, a nature-loving lodging destination. Looking for homelike amenities surrounded by nature? You'll be well served by **Blue Sky Cabin Rentals**, **Talona Ridge RV Resort**, and **Dragonfly Dreams Luxury Cabin Rentals**.



## Do

Visit the new Ellijay River location of **Cartecay Bike Shop Brewery**, a cyclist's dream boasting its very own suds. Then, head to woodsy **Mulberry Gap**, an adventure base camp boasting singletrack, gravel, and road routes. Just 4 miles from downtown Ellijay is **Roo Mountain Vineyards**,

where you can sip fragrant reds and hard ciders after a long day at play. There are nearly 10 wineries within 30 minutes of Ellijay, among them **Cartecay** and **Engelheim** vineyards. More of a fine-spirits lover? Head to Ellijay's new **House of Applejay** distillery for artisanal cocktails

infused with local liqueurs in flavors like winter cherry and juniper. For those who come for the apples, pick your own or grab a bag (and a cider donut) at one of a number of nearby apple houses, including **R & A Orchards** and **Hillcrest Orchards**.

“

# THE APPLE CAPITAL OF THE PEACH STATE

*Looking for a fresher perspective on life? You've picked the right place. Just 90 minutes north of Atlanta, Ellijay sits nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Long known as the "Apple Capital of Georgia," families flock to Ellijay to pick apples, reconnect with nature, and experience life less complicated.*



## APPALACHIAN MYSTERIES

Ellijay brims with mystery and folklore, especially when it comes to that large-footed mountain wanderer, Bigfoot, also known as Sasquatch. At Expedition: Bigfoot, skeptics and believers can explore the history, culture, and research technology around this mystical cryptid, along with possible recordings and footprints.



**PICK**   
**ELLIJAY**



Ready to start planning your adventure in Ellijay? Scan here to get started.



## VINEYARDS, ORCHARDS, & MORE

Bachelorettes and anniversaries are more fun in Ellijay, where you can take advantage of more than 17 vineyards, distilleries, and cideries. Enjoy delicious sips and food at **Roo Mountain Vineyards** or see where art and drinks combine at downtown's **29 North**. For seasonal goodies, Ellijay's farm stores can't be beat – with fresh mushrooms from **Ellijay Mushrooms**, tender pork and mutton from **Cress Creeks Farm**, and grass-fed beef from **Mountain Valley Farm**. Of course, you can't forget Ellijay's nine orchards, like **B.J. Reece** and **Hillcrest**, for apple picking, wagon rides, petting farms, and other can't-miss autumn fun.

## FUN FOR ALL SEASONS

No matter what time of year, Ellijay has something to celebrate. Bring in the fall weather with sensational music and wine at **Blue Ridge Mountains Wine & Jazz Festival**, feel the joyous spirit at **Holiday Lights of Ellijay**, join the pet party at the springtime **Woofstock**, or savor summer's bounty during the **Ellijay Farmers' & Artisans' Market**. Vino fans can participate in grape-stomping at **Cartecay Crush Fest**, while bacon lovers can sample pork-themed dishes at **Ellijay Bacon Fest**. And of course, it wouldn't be the Apple Capital of Georgia without the **Georgia Apple Festival** and **Apple Arts on the Square**.



## REDISCOVER THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Where there's a will, there's a way. And in Ellijay, that means that anyone looking for outdoor adventures won't leave disappointed no matter their experience level. For hiking enthusiasts, Ellijay is home to everything from beginner-friendly trails to **Springer Mountain's Southern Terminus of the Appalachian Trail**. Avid mountain bikers will find more than 100 miles of trails just begging to be explored, from the lakeside **Amadahy Trail** to the bike park at **Cartecay Bike Shop Brewery**. For water adventures, set out from **Carters Lake Marina & Resort** for a day of paddling and splashing or take it easy on a lazy-river tubing excursion with **Cartecay River Experience**.

## THE PERFECT PLACE TO RECONNECT

With more than 1,500 rustic and luxury cabins spread out amid some of the most beautiful places you'll find in North Georgia, you are sure to find the perfect place to cozy up with your crew. Whether you want to relax by the waterfront, watch the sun dip behind forested peaks, or snuggle by a fireplace with your pup on a snowy day, Ellijay cabins are the ideal place to reconnect with those you love.



WE'RE

# Atlanta

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## SEE OUR CITY IN THE FOREST

Home to gardens, parks, trails and pathways, Atlanta is full of green space that allows you to discover the beauty in our city.

We welcome you to explore our perfect urban oasis.



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More



ATLANTA BELTLINE, ATLANTA/BENJAMIN GALLAND



## *Find Your Favorite Neighborhood in Atlanta*

Georgia's capital city offers a wealth of activities, from world-class arts and major league sports to top-notch shopping and inventive dining. Even with all the big-city amenities, the state's largest metropolis manages to exude down-to-earth charm, thanks in large part to its many unique neighborhoods.



The **MICHELIN Guide Atlanta** gives food enthusiasts a lot more to explore in Georgia's capital city. In 2023, its inaugural year, five restaurants were awarded a coveted MICHELIN One Star (high-quality cooking that's worth a stop), two earned MICHELIN Green Stars (for restaurants leading the industry in sustainability efforts), 10 received a Bib Gourmand rating (exceptional quality food for moderate prices), and 30 were named Recommended eateries (above-average food made with high-quality ingredients).

SCAN  
HERE  
for the  
full list of  
awards.



## Eat

Immerse yourself in **Atlanta's** international dining scene along Buford Highway. Try Vietnamese pho at **Lee's Bakery**, Szechuan dumplings at **Gu's Kitchen**, and Mexican seafood at **Mariscos El Veneno**. Make dinner plans at Chef Deborah VanTrece's **Twisted Soul Cookhouse & Pours**,

a consistent standout in Atlanta's robust foodie scene for its soul-food-fusion-inspired flavors. Try the blackened chicken wings with Cajun butter sauce, fried green tomatoes served with truffle-burrata cheese, and bourbon-peach cobbler to satisfy your cravings for comfort food.

## Sleep

Rest up at the new **Kimpton Shane Hotel**, a fresh take on all things boutique and chic in vibrant Midtown, or **The Candler Hotel Atlanta**, an art deco wonder built downtown in 1906 by Coca-Cola founder Asa Candler.



OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: TWISTED SOUL COOKHOUSE & POURS/ATLANTA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU; PONCE CITY MARKET, ATLANTA/ MELISSA MCALPINE; NATIONAL CENTER FOR CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS, ATLANTA/CALEB JONES. THIS PAGE: GEORGIA AQUARIUM, ATLANTA/GEORGIA AQUARIUM.



## Do

A stroll or bike ride on the **Atlanta Beltline**, a 22-mile redeveloped path of former rail tracks circling intown Atlanta, will take you through some of the city's most storied communities. Explore **Old Fourth Ward**, home to **Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park**. Don't miss **Ponce City Market**, either, for hip shopping and towering views of Buckhead, Midtown, and downtown all from

the rooftop at **Skyline Park**. Then, experience world-class downtown attractions like the **World of Coca-Cola**, where you can sip beverages from around the world, guess the ingredients by their scents, and see the hypnotic bottling process.

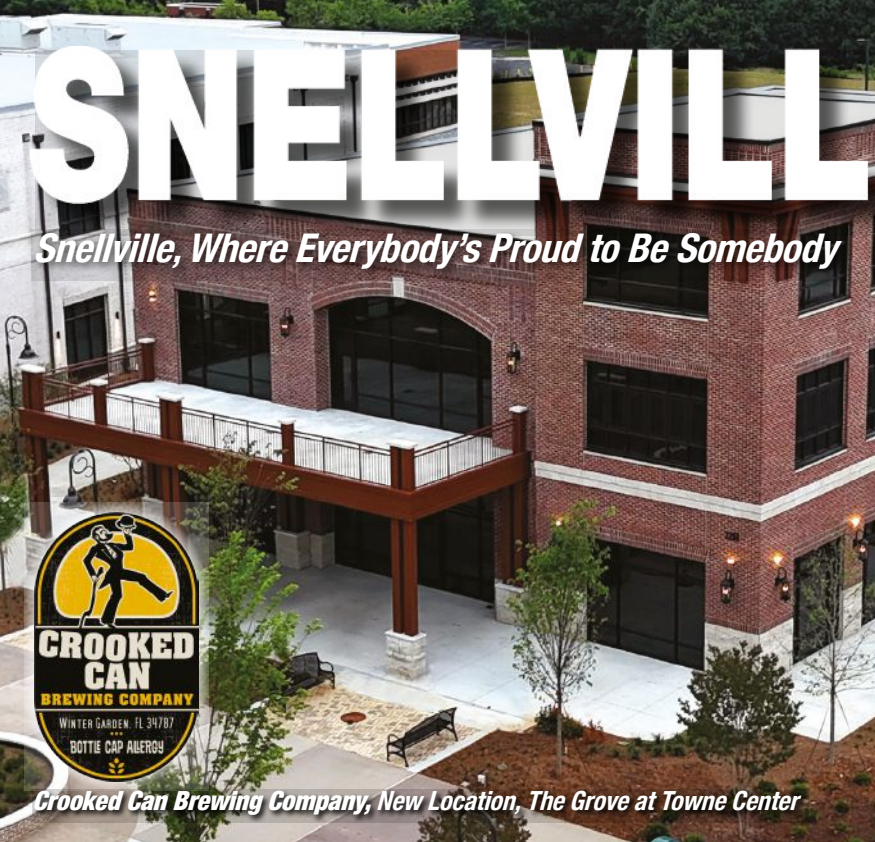
Experience for yourself what it was like to participate in a lunch counter sit-in – where demonstrators sat at

segregated lunch counters – via a thought-provoking simulation at the **National Center for Civil and Human Rights**. Or, explore **Atlantic Station's Museum of Illusions** for its many magical thrills. You'll learn about all the ways your brain and vision receptors can play tricks on you via so-called illusion rooms that'll tilt you, send you into a cosmic vortex, or make you wonder if what's up is down.

# SNELLVILLE

Experience  
**SNELLVILLE**  
TOURISM & TRADE

*Snellville, Where Everybody's Proud to Be Somebody*



*Crooked Can Brewing Company, New Location, The Grove at Towne Center*



The Grove at Towne Center is a large scale, mixed-use town center property, comprised of 18 acres in the heart of Snellville.

The Grove's first phase includes 50,000 square feet of retail, 288 multi-family luxury apartments and a 25,000-square-foot, two-floor Market Building with unique event space.

The City of Snellville along with their public-private partners CASTO and MidCity Real Estate Partners, signed a long-term lease with Crooked Can Brewing Company at the signature Market Building in the The Grove at Towne Center. Crooked Can prides itself on producing distinctive craft beer with consistent quality and unparalleled taste.

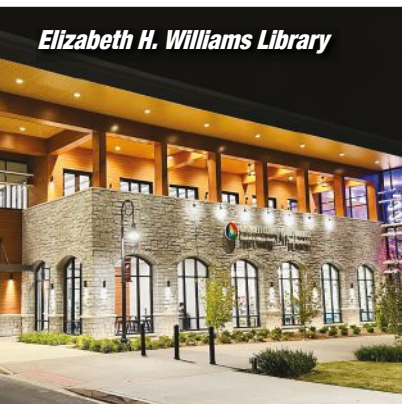
Parkside at The Grove (from operator of Parkside District in Lawrenceville), The Grove Taqueria, Marble Slab Creamery/Great American Cookie and Allure Nail Bar are among the first restaurants and retail establishments in The Grove.

The beautiful new 24,000-square-foot Elizabeth H. Williams Library is a state of the art library with a second floor housing THRIVE/Coworking, an Atlanta-based hybrid workspace.

Sitting prominently in front of the library on the promenade are the bronze statues of Thomas Snell and James Sawyer, the founders of Snellville and boyhood friends from England whose retail stores were the building blocks of the city.

*Come Shop, Dine, Stay and Play in Snellville!*

Visit [ExperienceSnellville.com](http://ExperienceSnellville.com)



*Elizabeth H. Williams Library*



*T.W. Briscoe Park*



*Parkside at the Grove*

*THE GROVE*



## Explore Small-Town Fun in Greensboro

Located halfway between **Atlanta** and **Augusta**, **Greensboro** lures visitors with the dual charms of a historic town and 374 miles of shoreline along scenic **Lake Oconee** for families to explore. Start the day with a stroll through downtown Greensboro, soaking in the architecture of this town founded in 1786. Greensboro is also home to a heaping handful of top golf courses, including **Great Waters at Reynolds Lake Oconee**, which was designed by Jack Nicklaus.





THIS PAGE: THE RITZ-CARLTON REYNOLDS, LAKE OCOONEE/DAVID CANNON PHOTOGRAPHY, OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: LAKE OCOONEE/VISIT LAKE OCOONEE, THE GOLF COURSE AT GREAT WATERS, LAKE OCOONEE/RUSSELL KIRK; RIPE THING MARKET, GREENSBORO/DAVID CANNON PHOTOGRAPHY



## Eat

A Lake Oconee fixture, **Table at the Lake** tantalizes with farm-to-table delights served with super-fresh local greens. Try the Maine lobster toast topped with saffron aioli and wild mushrooms and Basque “Burnt” cheesecake concocted with seasonal fruit preserves. Return to **The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds, Lake Oconee’s Club Lounge** again and again for culinary presentations featuring local ingredients. Complimentary food and drinks are offered five times daily, serving everything from enticing breakfast nibbles to decadent desserts.

## Sleep

You’ll sleep soundly at The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds knowing you’re ensconced in one of Georgia’s most opulent lakefront resorts. Links lovers will revel in access to five award-winning golf courses at this AAA Four Diamond property, while self-care enthusiasts shouldn’t miss its palatial spa. Get the VIP treatment poolside with a private cabana serving snacks, chilled refreshments, and indoor/outdoor space where the whole family can relax.

## Do

To appreciate the area’s mix of outdoor fun and unabashed elegance, plan an outing on the lake. Rent Jet Skis or stand-up paddleboards from **Young Harris Water Sports & RV** for a few hours of fun, or book a daylong excursion on a pontoon or ski boat helmed by a professional captain. Don’t miss stops downtown including **The Old Gaol** (a historical jail), **Greensboro Antique Mall**, and the **Ripe Thing Market**, known for its lusciously fresh produce.

FILL UP ON FAMILY MEMORIES.  
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**Tybee Island**

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TYBEE ISLAND, GA  
SAVANNAH'S BEACH





## *Beeline for the Beach on St. Simons Island*

When Spanish explorers landed almost 500 years ago in what is now Georgia, gold was the aim of their quest. Instead, they discovered another treasure – the coast’s spectacular natural beauty on full display at one of the state’s beloved barrier islands. Miles of wave-kissed beaches on **St. Simons Island** make it a prime destination for swimming, sunbathing, and beachcombing, while its maritime forests and sand dunes are ideal for spotting wildlife, from blue herons and bald eagles to sea turtles.





## Eat

Indulge in top-notch 'que at **Southern Soul Barbeque**, where the pork, brisket, and turkey are smoked for at least 12 hours. **Porch** – featured on the popular television show “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives” – is beloved for its authentic Nashville hot chicken, touted for its “getting there” heat (level up to “Napalm” at your own

risk!). Eat it with sides like “good-for-you” collards and “baconated” maple baked beans. Then, do a dinner at **Halyards** for classic coastal favorites like wild Georgia shrimp and grits topped with andouille gravy and the creamy blue-crab bisque.

## Sleep

St. Simons accommodations range from historical to hip. **The King and Prince Beach & Golf Resort** opened its doors to visitors in 1935 and continues to draw guests with its golf course, easy beach access, and classic oceanfront views. Meanwhile, **Hotel Simone's** sparkling rooftop pool will send you into a vacation-worthy reverie. It's also located just a couple blocks from the sand. Pedal one of Simone's complimentary cruisers to dip your toes in the ocean's rhythmic waves.



OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ST. SIMONS ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM/CALEB JONES; HOTEL SIMONE/CALEB JONES; SOUTHERN SOUL BARBEQUE/WANDER NORTH GEORGIA; THIS PAGE: WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT MUSEUM/GOLDEN ISLES CVB.



## Do

Climb the **St. Simons Lighthouse**, built in 1872, for sweeping views of the Atlantic, and explore the museum located in the former lighthouse keeper's Victorian-era house. Experience more local history at the **World War II Home Front Museum** – you'll learn how St. Simons Coast Guard Station's crew heroically rescued survivors from torpedoed ships. Then, hunt for more than 20 tree spirits carved into oaks that are said to honor the island's many sailors.

Pause for Champagne sips at **Two Friends'** oh-so-luxurious Bubble Bar before browsing the boutique's best-for-poolside ensembles, like flowing maxi dresses and UV-protecting shades. Or, head to **Wine, Body & Soul** for island-themed gifts, vino galore, and a porch bar offering regular open-mic nights and wine slushies so good you'll come back for more.

Ready to soak up some rays? Try **Coast Guard Beach** for ample parking and easy access (it even offers a wheelchair mat that reaches hard-packed sand), and **Gould's Inlet** for birding and angling. Traveling with your pup? Head to **Massengale Park** and **East Beach**, where you can romp with your furry best friend with oceanside panoramas as the backdrop.

# ALPHARETTA: AWESOME MOMENTS AWAIT

See for yourself why Alpharetta was named one of **The South's Best Cities on the Rise for 2024** by the readers of *Southern Living*®



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# WAG YOUR WAY ACROSS GEORGIA

EVERY PET PARENT KNOWS THE BEST VACATION IS ONE THAT INCLUDES YOUR FURRY COMPANION. TAKE A PUP-FRIENDLY ROAD TRIP THROUGH GEORGIA WITH OODLES OF EXCITING STOPS AND ACTIVITIES THAT YOU AND YOUR BELOVED POOCH WILL ENJOY.



**SCAN  
CODE**  
*to unlock  
more pet-  
friendly  
travel ideas.*



## Spoil Your Pup in **ALPHARETTA**

Set the tone for your adventure in **Alpharetta**, a lovely **Atlanta** suburb, with a luxurious spa visit that will soothe body and mind – for you and your pup. Relax in a sea mineral bath and feel your worries slip away as skilled hands ease your tension with a Meditative Mood Soak Ritual at **Woodhouse Spa**. Meanwhile, at **Heavenly Pet Spa**, your dog will receive the royal treatment with a sudsy bath, stylish trim, and a fresh cleaning of their pearly whites. After you've been properly pampered, it's time to hit the shops for some pet-friendly retail therapy.

Forgot the crate mat, kibble, or other doggy essentials at home? Find what you need at **Unexpected Pooch**, or simply spoil your dog with a new plushie. At **Orvis** and **High Country Outfitters**, you can snag last-minute outdoor gear for your out-in-nature escapades. Pick up a pair of adventure-proof sunglasses for you, and a trail-friendly water bowl or light-up Frisbee for your fur baby.

Satisfy hunger pangs at **Barleygarden Kitchen & Craft Beer** with hearty bar fare, artisan salads, and crisp, refreshing beers. The dog-friendly patio boasts water bowls and treats, too. Another pooch-friendly al fresco dining spot is **Smokejack BBQ**, known for its mouthwatering Southern barbecue with tender beef brisket, grilled chicken, and juicy racks of ribs. Insider tip – pups are only hosted in front of Smokejack, right along Main Street.

Ready to rest? Post up at the elegant – and pet-friendly – **Hotel at Avalon**. It allows up to two canine companions, weighing up to 50 pounds, to share your spacious digs.



AVALON/AWESOME ALPHARETTA (ALPHARETTA, GA)



## Get Outdoors in COLUMBUS

As you motor southward to **Columbus**, relish the forest scenery and glimpses of massive **Lake Oliver** and the powerful Chattahoochee River. Drop off your luggage at the riverside **City Mills Hotel**, where your furry pal will be welcomed with friendly smiles and in-room, artisan-made pet bowls. Dine on-site at the outdoor patio with your companion at your feet, or ask staff about other dog-friendly restaurants, parks, and attractions within walking distance.

After filling your bellies, stretch your legs on a walk through **Columbus' Historic District**, where you'll find tree-lined sidewalks in front of charming Southern homes, stunning historical residences, and several notable landmarks, such as the **Pemberton House Museum**. In the evening, let your pup

release their zoomies at the off-leash **Fetch Park**, an enclosed, open-air social spot. Watch them play as you sit with other pet parents and sip a refreshing cocktail from the **BARK**. For dinner, try the **Jarfly** – a relaxed eatery with an enclosed, dog-welcoming terrace and a little-bit-of-everything-style menu.

Discover more wag-friendly excitement on your second day in Columbus with a stroll or jog along the **Chattahoochee RiverWalk**. Stretching 15 miles from the **Lake Oliver Marina** to the **National Infantry Museum**, this shoreline path includes stops to take in the rolling river waves, cityscape views, and native wildlife. Close to the RiverWalk is **Banks Food Hall**, where you can recoup with your pooch on the patio with a homemade Italian ice or an energizing coffee before trekking on. Afterward, cool off from your exertions with craft suds like Basement IPA and Tropical Staycation at **Scofflaw Brewing Co.**





BILLIARD ACADEMY, THOMASVILLE/DISCOVER THOMASVILLE

## TAILS ON TRAILS

Take part in Georgia State Parks' Tails on Trails program and visit Georgia's beautiful open spaces on your road trip. Stop by 12 participating parks to earn a T-shirt and doggy bandanna. Parks along this route include **Chattahoochee Bend State Park**, **Kolomoki Mounds State Park**, and **Florence Marina State Park**.



## Whet Your Appetite in THOMASVILLE

Upon arrival in **Thomasville**, head over to **Cherokee Lake Park** with your favorite travel companion. Walk the mile-long path, weaving through tree stands along the edge of the placid lake. See the park's **Rose Garden** in spring and summer, when the rows of manicured flower beds are bursting with fragrant, colorful blooms.

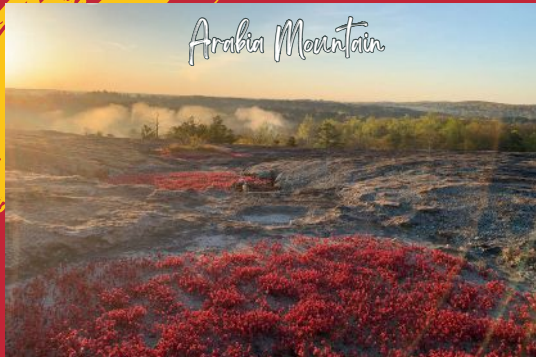
Another can't-miss nature spot is **The Big Oak**, located at the intersection of North Crawford and East Monroe streets. This beautiful behemoth – with sprawling, weighty limbs covered in a thick carpet of ferns – began as a tiny acorn back in 1680. Pose with your pup beside the oak for a fun memory.

For mealtimes, Thomasville offers a sensational selection of foodie gems that will entertain both you and your pet. Seek

out **Jonah's Fish & Grits'** dog-friendly patio for delectable Southern specialties – especially seafood dishes – like crab-stuffed salmon, fried grouper bites, and Cajun-style shrimp and grits. Down the street, **The Kickstand's** own pup-allowing covered patio offers healthy, seasonal foods, such as Bleu Magik smoothie bowls and blackened mahi tacos.

For wine enthusiasts, **Farmer's Daughter Vineyard + Tasting Room** delivers a bounty of vino, from dry and bold reds to sweet and sassy whites. Nearby, **George and Louie's** serves up mouthwatering Mediterranean cuisine, including honeyed baklava and tender lamb gyros. At **AJ Moonspin**, savor pepperoni- or mushroom-topped sourdough pizzas and artisan pasta dishes, like pecan ziti with pesto and cream.

After feasting, take your dog on a local scavenger hunt called "Hunt the Lost Quail." Use clues around town to find 18 bronze quail statues celebrating the importance of this beautifully plumed game bird to Thomasville's culture and local habitat. In the evening, snuggle up on a soft mattress in your private cottage at the **Paxton House**.



*Aralin Mountain*



*Exhibition Hub*

# Explore DeKalb

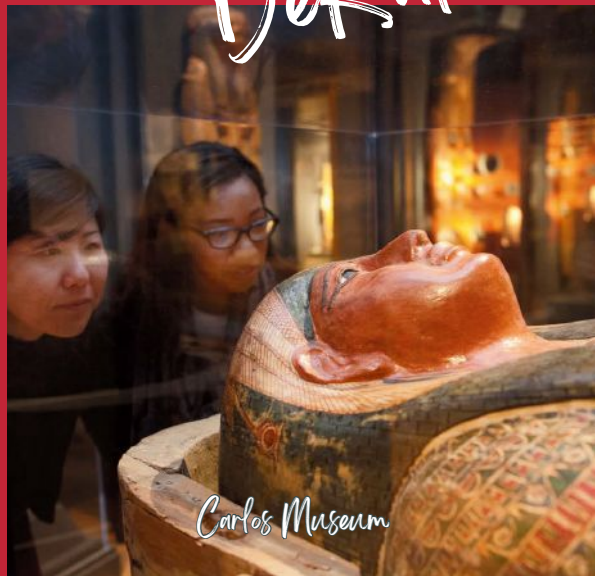
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*The Alden*



*Carlos Museum*



*Assembly Film Studio*



*Fernbank Museum*

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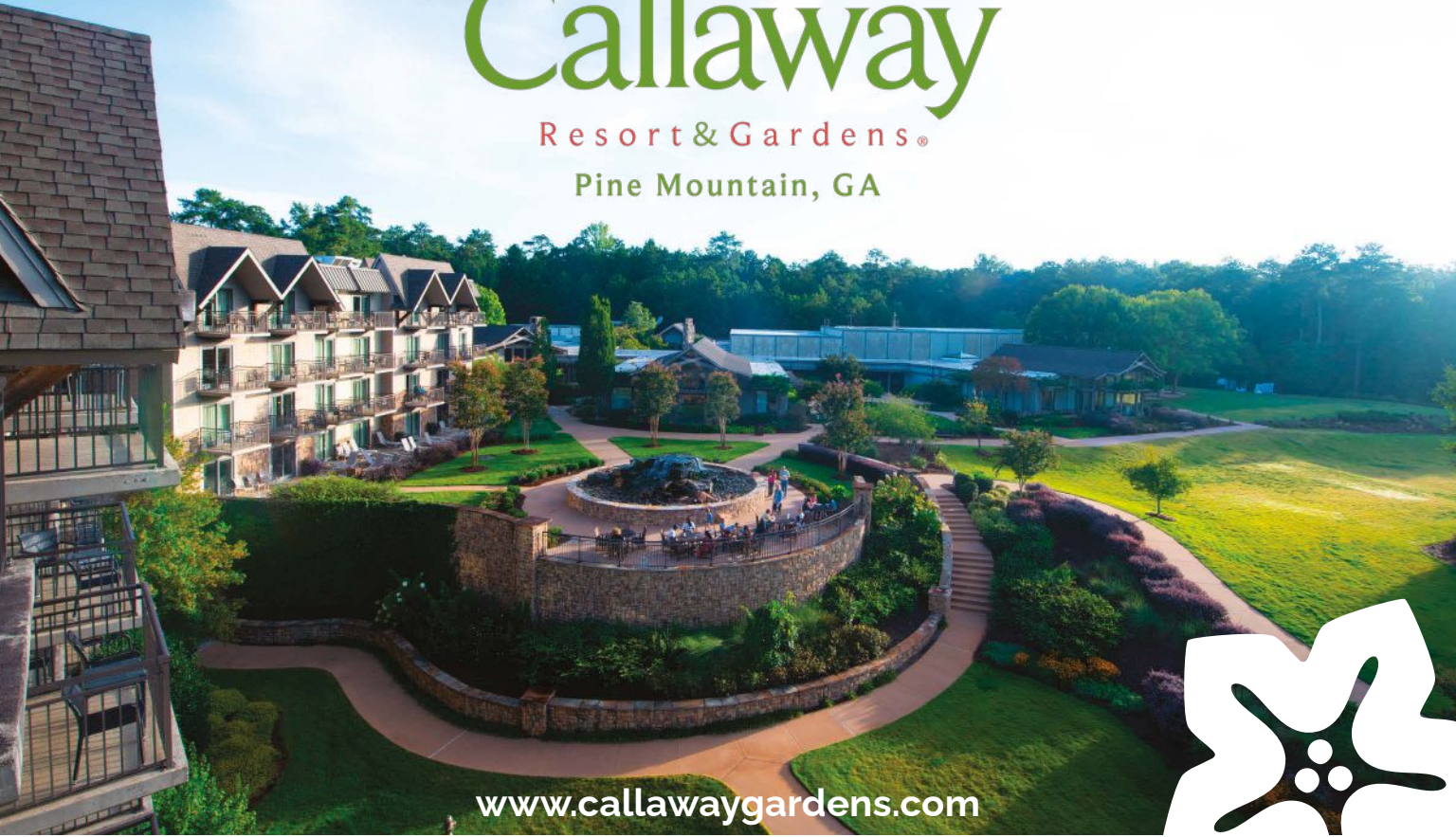




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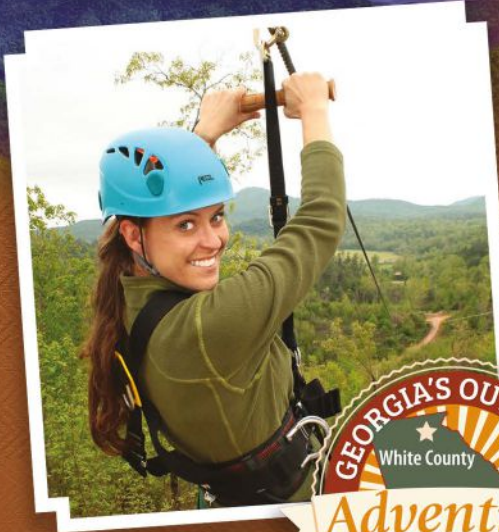
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