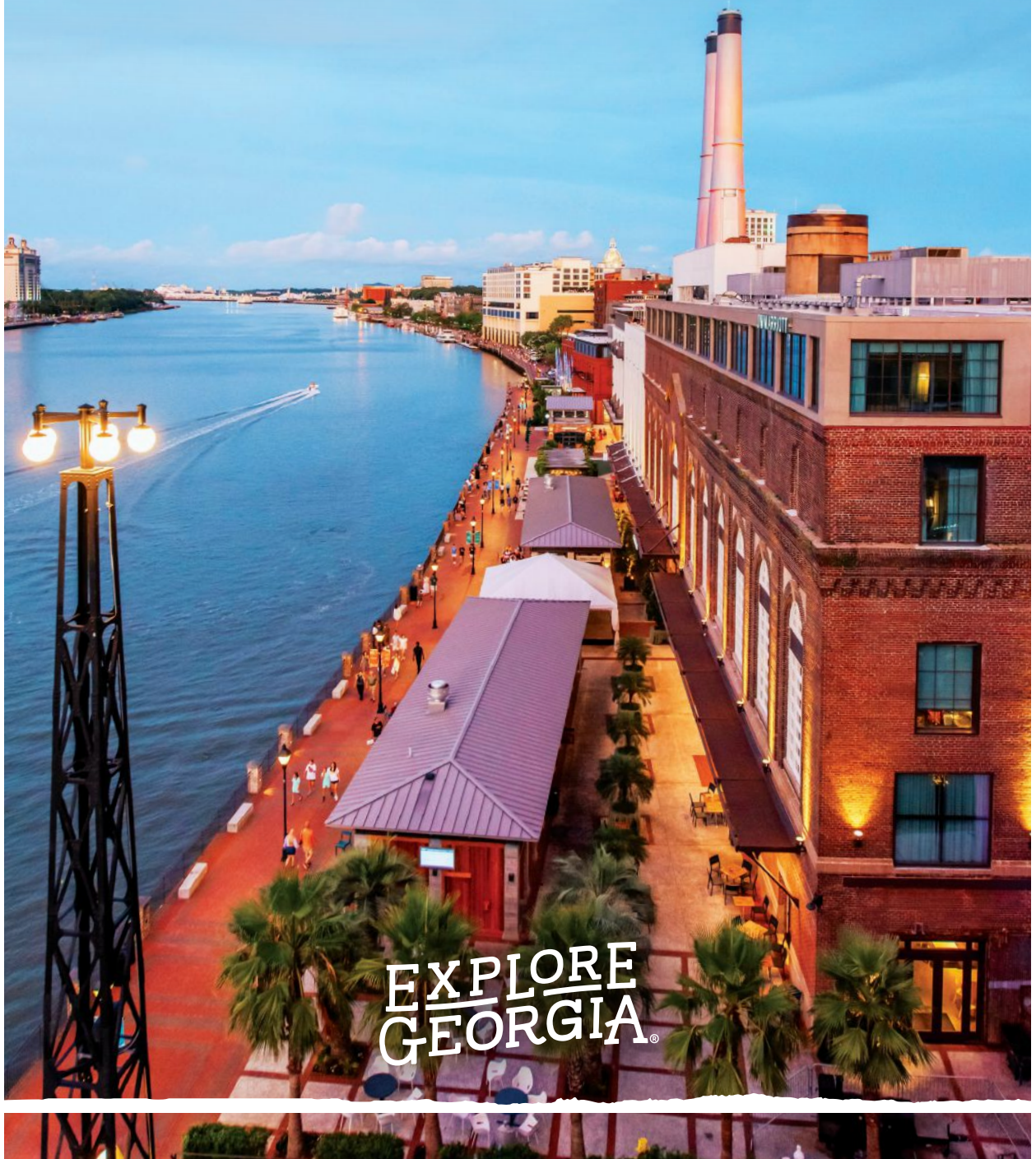


GEORGIA

2023 OFFICIAL STATE TRAVEL GUIDE



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Welcome to Georgia

BEST TRIPS OF 2023

Make this the year you venture deep into Georgia's wonders, as far away from your everyday as you can imagine. **page 5**

GEORGIA FOR ALL SEASONS

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Make a Date With Winter **page 48**

23 FAN FAVORITES

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EXTRAORDINARY ESCAPES

Each of our state parks and historic sites is worth a visit. Here are nine that capture the diversity of the state's great outdoors. **page 71**

ACCESSIBLE GEORGIA

If you are looking for places to visit as a traveler with a mobility, visual or auditory impairment, or as someone with cognitive/sensory needs, we've got you covered. **page 85**

GEORGIA CITY GUIDES

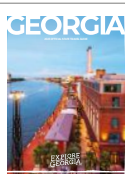
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WHICH COVER DID YOU GET?



Savannah's
Plant Riverside
District



Amicalola Falls
State Park in
Dawsonville



Driftwood
Beach on
Jekyll Island



Providence
Canyon
State Park
in Lumpkin

Cover photos: Caleb Jones



Governor's Welcome

Greetings,

It is my great honor to welcome you to the State of Georgia! Over the years, Marty, our three daughters, and I have visited every corner of our state and enjoyed what makes each community unique. From the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Golden Isles, we're sure every visitor will find a reason to keep Georgia on their mind.

No matter where in our great state you find yourself, some things are always present. Our famous Southern cuisine will prove memorable for the whole family, whether you are grabbing lunch at a local favorite or enjoying an award-winning fine dining experience for dinner. You'll also find Georgia's unmatched Southern hospitality on full display in every corner of our state, with each community ready to welcome you with open arms.

With attractions for all ages, there is an experience for everyone to enjoy in the Peach State. Learn about our state and nation's history at museums and historical sites spanning every era of the past. Amusement parks provide thrills, theaters offer shows and concerts, and local artists give a glimpse of our thriving culture. As the home of the 2021 National Champion Georgia Bulldogs and a host of the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup, we are proud to be home of memorable sporting events from Savannah to Athens to Atlanta and beyond.

As Georgia celebrates a return to pre-pandemic levels of travel and tourism, I want to thank you for choosing our state. We have led the nation in our recovery because of our measured approach to protecting both lives and livelihoods. As we continue to prioritize supporting those who make our state a welcoming destination, I know these hardworking Georgians are ready to make your trip unforgettable. On behalf of the State of Georgia, welcome, and enjoy your time here.

Sincerely,

BRIAN P. KEMP
GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA



GEORGIA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

One of the best ways to find the best things to see and do in Georgia is to stop into our nine Visitor Information Centers, where the staff know 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.



**SCAN
CODE**
to read expert
travel tips
from Visitor
Information
Center staff.

GEORGIA'S OFFICIAL STATE TRAVEL GUIDE

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EXPLORE GEORGIA'S

Best Trips of 2023

Make this the year you venture deep into Georgia's natural wonders, to the height of urban adventures, through charming small towns and as far away from your everyday as you can imagine.

THIS LIST OF 11 BEST TRIPS WILL BE YOUR TRAVEL CHECKLIST, STARTING ON PAGE 6.

1. *Classic Atlanta Vibes vs. New Atlanta Favorites*
2. *There's More Than the Beach on Family-Friendly Jekyll Island*
3. *Columbus: Where City & Nature Unite*
4. *Connect With Cartersville's Art, Culture & History*
5. *Discover Natural Wonders at the Okefenokee Swamp*
6. *Find Suburban Bliss in Roswell, Alpharetta & Marietta*
7. *Georgia's Electric*
8. *Find Romance at Lake Oconee*
9. *Experience Georgia's Great Outdoors in Helen*
10. *Feel the Pride in Savannah*
11. *Girls Trip to Georgia Wine Country*

STEPHEN C. FOSTER STATE PARK, FARGO/RENA JOHNSON



**SCAN
CODE**
to explore
all our
Best Trips.

1. CLASSIC ATLANTA VIBES VS. NEW ATLANTA FAVORITES

Visit Atlanta's bustling metropolis, where Black culture has shaped its past and present. Come for the city's celebrated classics, plus a growing list of new and fresh things to do.

You can't talk about classic Atlanta without mentioning the bustling **Sweet Auburn District**, which was the commercial center of Black Atlanta in the 1920s and continues to be an iconic part of the city. Explore the mile-and-a-half stretch of Auburn Avenue—established as a National Historic Landmark in 1976—where the vibrant street art dazzles.

The Busy Bee Cafe, founded by self-taught cook Lucy “Momma Lucy” Jackson in 1947, is a must-stop for anyone who loves soul food. It's also the recipient of a 2022 James Beard Classics Award. Expect a warm greeting and flavorful grub as you indulge your taste buds with delightfully homestyle Southern dishes like fried chicken, candied yams, cornbread dressing, collard greens and black-eyed peas.

For more storied locales, visit the **Atlanta University Center** on the city's west side. It's the world's largest consortium of African American private institutions of higher education and includes Clark Atlanta University, Spelman College, Morehouse College and Morehouse School of Medicine. Walk the sprawling campuses and soak in the dynamic atmosphere brought by their students and notable alumni such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Alice Walker, Spike Lee and others.

Zooming forward a few eras, Atlanta rollerskate culture has thrived for decades, in no small part because of **Cascade Fun Center**. Since opening in the Cascade area in 2000, it's been a favorite place for skate lovers to gather, and you can marvel at acrobatic rollerskaters, dance teams and novices together at the rink. Celebrities like Beyoncé, Sean “Love” Combs (formerly known as P. Diddy), Usher and Magic Johnson have all been spotted reveling in Cascade's lively energy.

As far as new Atlanta goes, don't miss **Ponce City Market**. It sits on a historical stretch of Ponce De Leon Avenue in Old Fourth Ward—the neighborhood where Martin Luther King, Jr. once lived—and has become a seat for thriving Black-owned businesses. **The Village Retail** is an alluring marketplace offering goods from dozens of local Black entrepreneurs. Drop by **Bar Vegan** for tapas like the onion-ring flight, green-goddess pizza and cheesesteak eggrolls. Then head to the rooftop for a gorgeous view of the city and local brews at **9 Mile Station**, or savor a cocktail and skee ball, mini golf and other games at **Skyline Park**.

Call it a night at the **Hyatt Regency Atlanta**. Once called the “hotel of hope,” it was one of the only hotels to welcome civil rights activists like Xernona Clayton and Martin Luther King, Jr., who hosted the annual convention of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference there in 1967. Today, it has all the expected modern amenities and a central location to all the fun things to do in the city.



TRAP MUSIC MUSEUM, ATLANTA MIKE NICE

TRAP MUSIC MUSEUM

Take a peek into Atlanta's trap music and culture at this museum conceptualized by rapper T.I. who hails from Atlanta's west side. Check out the photos and authentic memorabilia from stars like Cardi B and 2 Chainz and book the museum's escape room, aka "Escape the Trap," to up the fun with friends.





GEORGIA SEA TURTLE CENTER, JEKYLL ISLAND AUTHORITY

2. THERE'S MORE THAN THE BEACH ON FAMILY-FRIENDLY JEKYLL ISLAND

Adventures go way beyond the beach when it comes to vacationing on Georgia's coastal paradise, Jekyll Island. Your family can splash, explore and see the sights—with time to play along the shores of the popular barrier island.

Start by seeing the destination's robust population of bottlenose dolphins. Take a 90-minute dolphin tour along the Intracoastal Waterway with **Jekyll Island Boat Tours** to witness their perky, playful ways in their natural habitat. Look closely and you'll spot other marine life, such as slow-moving manatees, plus water birds like long-legged herons and swooping osprey. Book a memorable sunset tour to admire seacoast clouds painted in delicate pinks and golds as dolphins frolic around you.

Next stop is the **Georgia Sea Turtle Center**, where you can learn about wild sea turtles. This spot boasts a rehabilitation program and all types of interactive exhibits. Or partake in a hands-on eco-experience with **Gatorology at Horton Pond** to learn about the American alligator's history, biology and conservation—and why they're known as true dinosaurs.

A playful day at **Summer Waves Water Park** means you can splash your way down Man o' War, bob along the Turtle Creek lazy river in a tube, catch a wave in the Frantic Atlantic pool or soak up the sun's golden rays in your own private cabana.

Back on dry land, try mini golf or tennis. Rent a bike or a breezy, eco-friendly Red Bug electric car to explore the island. Finish the day with a trail ride through the maritime forest with **Three Oaks Farm**, where you'll see the salt marsh and **Driftwood Beach** from atop gentle horses with experienced guides.

Time to eat? Fill your family's hungry tumbs with waterfront favorites like seafood mac 'n cheese and poached Georgia white shrimp at **The Wharf**. And don't forget dessert! Grab some froyo at **Fuse Frozen Yogurt** or freshly made fudge at the **Island Sweets Shoppe**.

Keep the nautical vibes going with a stay at the new beachfront **Residence Inn Jekyll Island**. Your whole group will delight in the vistas from oceanview hotel suites, many of which offer fully equipped kitchens and separate living areas, along with the island's largest heated outdoor pool and lapping water views from **Shore**, the hotel's own indoor/outdoor restaurant.

Of course, a visit to Jekyll Island wouldn't be complete without seeing its many miles of peaceful, unspoiled beaches. Frolic, swim, build sandcastles and wait for sunset. Your kids will forever remember the kaleidoscope of sherbet-y colors blazing over tranquil waters as blue skies fade to welcome the stars.

3. COLUMBUS: WHERE CITY & NATURE UNITE

In Columbus, you don't have to choose between city amenities and catching a few thrills as you explore the area's beloved natural gems. You have the pick of the bunch, so to speak.

Start outside on the cascading [Chattahoochee River](#) with [Whitewater Express](#), an expert outfitter that takes you shooting through the rapids on the world's longest urban whitewater-rafting stretch. (In fact, the water is so primed for loops, drops and rolls that the world's best are set to compete here in the 2023 ICF Kayak Freestyle World Championships.) Or take a different view of this fabled river from 12 stories above by ziplining across it with [Blue Heron Zipline Adventure Park](#). You'll soar over racing water from Georgia to Alabama and back through the area's verdant oak canopies.

After a morning of adrenaline-inducing outdoor play, [Banks Food Hall](#) is a must-stop for an upbeat, inviting atmosphere that's just steps away from rafting. With dining choices spanning poke to hot dogs and authentic Filipino cuisine in its sprawling indoor/outdoor space, you can sip a cocktail or craft beer at the bar and wind down while soaking up live tunes. Take a post-meal stroll for pleasant park views and riverfront beauty along

the meandering [Chattahoochee RiverWalk](#) that's accessed just across the street.

Next, delve into America's expansive military history at [The National Infantry Museum](#), with interactive galleries aimed at preserving the legacy of the U.S. Army Infantrymen. Give the combat simulators your best shot, watch a military documentary on the Giant Screen Theater and tour exhibits dedicated to the Revolutionary, World and Cold wars.

Wrap things up in the heart of the city's action at [Hotel Indigo](#). You'll find it tucked in Columbus' vibrant Uptown neighborhood, celebrated as the area's thriving entertainment district. Book a plush riverview room for rushing-water vistas. Check out Indigo's lounge-worthy outdoor pool, and then savor the gorgeous twilight landscape from the hotel's roof at [Eighteen85 Rooftop Bar + Kitchen](#). It's best enjoyed with an artisanal cocktail in hand (think a minty peach mojito or a Bee's Knees, made with tart lemon, calming honey and gin) while sampling small plates. Try the tender brisket tacos, buttermilk-fried quail with ghost-pepper honey and pulled-pork barbecue nachos.





TELLUS SCIENCE MUSEUM

The Fossil Gallery is one of the museum's top draws thanks to close encounters with a T-rex, megalodon and saber-toothed cat. For those that can't get enough, follow up the visit with some time on the museum's Fossil Dig, where you can print your own Fossil Hunting License and check off your finds.

4. CONNECT WITH CARTERSVILLE'S ART, CULTURE & HISTORY

Historic Cartersville—northwest of Atlanta—isn't loved only for its scenic beauty (of which it has a bounty). Visit for all the stories told through its vibrant museums, unique historical sites and renowned parks.

Make time for **Tellus Science Museum**, an expansive local institution showcasing natural history via interactive experiences such as a Discovery Garden, planetarium and observatory, fossil gallery and more. Or visit the sprawling **Booth Western Art Museum** where you'll see signed letters from every U.S. president (a visitor favorite), as well as paintings and sculptures celebrating cowboys and gals, fur trappers and mountain men, American Indians and much more. Keep things rolling at the **Savoy Auto Museum**, where rotating exhibitions feature automobiles around themes like “microcars” and “fabulous fins,” allowing visitors to appreciate their design and construction. Both Tellus Science Museum and Booth Western Art Museum are part of the Smithsonian Affiliates network.

Discover the rich history of the area with a trip to the **Bartow History Museum**, housed downtown in an 1869 red-brick courthouse. This spot focuses on two centuries of regional history—from the area's 1800s Cherokee residents right up to the people living in Cartersville today. Increase the amusement factor by asking the docent for a scavenger-hunt sheet—you'll like searching for artifacts to check off among the photos, documents and interactive exhibits. When you're done, stroll downtown for its assortment of restaurants, public art and antique shops.

Tour the **Noble Hill-Wheeler Memorial Center**, a landmark of historical significance in nearby Cassville. It was constructed in 1923 from Rosenwald Schools funding (a crucial early-20th-century effort creating schools for Black children across the South). Restored, it now functions as a heritage museum reflecting Black life and culture from the late 1800s to the present via school relics, area antiques and a historical resource library.

South of town, learn about another aspect of the area's history at the **Etowah Indian Mounds State Historic Site**. This special landscape honors the rich traditions, skills and craftsmanship of the Native Americans of the Mississippian culture, who populated the area along the rippling Etowah River. Six earthen mounds, a village site and more can be seen along its grassy trails. The mounds are thought to be the most well-preserved Mississippian culture site in the Southeastern U.S. and the area a cultural, political and religious hub for thousands of Native Americans from 1000 and 1500 A.D. Stop at the museum to see artifacts like carvings, jewelry, shells and tools.

Soak up even more history with a stay on the grounds of a 19th-century Southern manor, now in scenic ruins. The sumptuous **Barnsley Resort** in nearby **Adairsville** features lovely cottages modeled after English country homes, a championship golf course with rugged mountain views and farm-to-table dining at **Woodlands Grill and Rice House** (you'll sample fresh produce from the resort's very own gardens!).



TELLUS SCIENCE MUSEUM/CARTERSVILLE/BEN GALLAND

5. DISCOVER NATURAL WONDERS AT THE OKEFENOCHEE SWAMP

Boat tours, nature shows and boardwalk observation areas dive into swamp life at **Okefenocchee Swamp Park & Adventures** near **Waycross**, in southeast Georgia. Experience nature up close under a lush and fluttering forest canopy, take a boat or train tour, and explore wildlife on a primitive nature walk dappled by sunlight. Watch carefully and you may spot alligators, turtles, bobcats, black bears, skunks, wild boars, common minks, river otters, foxes and other wild creatures that live in **Okefenocchee National Wildlife Refuge**, of which the swamp park is a part.

For a panoramic view overlooking the marshy swamp and surrounding nature, head to the 90-foot-tall **Observation Tower**. It takes 102 calf-burning steps to reach the top, but the views are worth the climb. Then, if you're still longing for more swamp goodness, prolong your stay with a fully outfitted platform-camping experience found deep in Okefenocchee's wilderness. Platforms feature all you need for remote camping over open water, like partially covered roofs, cooking nooks, picnic tables and more.

Back at the swamp, a guided moonlight paddle means you can see sparkles in the vast night sky from a different angle. Listen as fish splash and critters call to each other in a symphony of evening sounds you won't hear in the city.

Boat and bike rentals, guided tours and multiday overnight boat excursions are all part of the fun at Okefenocchee. Plan your visit around special events like kayaking with a naturalist, stargazing, sunrise tours, or birding and botanical excursions. Stop by the park's nature center for interactive exhibits before you go.

Make **Newell Lodge & Resort** in nearby **Folkston** the home base for all your escapades. Surrounded by 57 acres of old-growth oaks (and all the glimmering fireflies you could ask for), this secluded getaway delivers big on rustic charm. Come for the resort's private, RV-friendly campsites and cozy vacation cabins, then explore the forested landscape by horseback. The on-site **Swampfire Backwoods Bistro** will satisfy lunch and dinner cravings with locally sourced rib-eye and slices of decadent chocolate and Key lime pie. Or have them pack you a to-go lunch for your daytime adventures.

STARS IN YOUR EYES

As night falls, head to Stephen C. Foster State Park inside the swamp—it's named a gold-tier International Dark Sky Park for its astonishing darkness and an amazing opportunity to see planets, comets and star clusters.

6. FIND SUBURBAN BLISS IN ROSWELL, ALPHARETTA & MARIETTA

Atlanta's suburbs are OTP, or "outside the perimeter," as the locals call towns outside I-285, and they just may become your favorite place to stay. Each spot has its own delightful character, and they're all easy to travel between given their close proximity to each other.

Upscale Alpharetta: Snuggled between the North Georgia mountains and Atlanta, Alpharetta is a hot spot for high-end dining and entertainment. Stay at the elegant [Hotel at Avalon](#), an airy, modern property with luxury rooms and suites just steps from top shops and restaurants. Dine on flavorful fare like green-tahini hummus and shish kabobs at the Avalon outpost of Persian restaurant [Rumi's Kitchen](#) or spicy prawn tacos at [The Cape Restaurant & Beach Bar](#). Listen to the echoing croons of popular acts like Stevie Nicks and the Black Keys on the grassy lawn at nearby [Ameris Bank Amphitheatre](#) or play at the multi-entertainment venue [Topgolf](#).

Nature-Loving Roswell: Explore the great outdoors in the neighboring city of Roswell. Wander 2.5 miles of winding trails across wetlands and through a wooded forest at the 127-acre [Chattahoochee Nature Center](#) along the Chattahoochee River, where you can spot colorful butterflies, sunbathing turtles and

other native wildlife. Or trek the more-than-5-mile [Vickery Creek Trail at Roswell Mill](#) for views of a tumbling spillway waterfall and a flourishing forest. Visitors can also paddle the rushing river on a guided canoe excursion and soar 55 feet above the trees via a zipline canopy tour or aerial-adventure course. After a day of exploring, stroll along historic downtown's [Canton Street](#), dotted with trendy restaurants serving a variety of cuisines, including the upscale Southern spot [Table & Main](#) and Cajun-inspired [Roux on Canton](#), both of which have shaded patios.

Charming Marietta: From walkable, tree-lined streets to shops and restaurants, scenic [Marietta Square](#) is the heart of the city. Sample global fare at [Marietta Square Market](#), with 18 vendors serving everything from heaping bowls of ramen to Vietnamese bubble tea, Cuban sandwiches, Neapolitan pizzas and Caribbean-fusion vegan cuisine. Grab it to go and listen to sweet melodies for free during seasonal lunchtime concerts in 1.35-acre [Glover Park](#). Children can climb on the playground and swoosh down a slide before turning cartwheels on a fresh carpet of grass. For an adults-night out, visit the historic [Strand Theatre](#), which screens classic films and hosts live music, plays and other events throughout the year.



NANTAHALA OUTDOOR CENTER, ROSWELL OUTPOST/VISIT ROSWELL

7. GEORGIA'S ELECTRIC

Charge up your electric vehicle (EV) and recharge your mental battery on an environmentally friendly roadtrip from the mountains to the coast.

Not only is Georgia home to stunning waterfalls, cosmopolitan cities and 100 miles of sandy shores, but it is also a hub for the country's rapidly growing electric-vehicle industry. Whatever kind of EV you drive, you're covered when you need to recharge the batteries—yours or your car's—with an EV-oriented roadtrip across the state spanning destinations like Atlanta, Macon, the Atlantic Coast and Savannah.

ATLANTA TO SAVANNAH: NEARLY 286 MILES

START IN ATLANTA: Begin at The Battery, one of Atlanta's top entertainment and dining districts. The area's eight parking lots provide several fast-charging EV stations that are also open to guests staying at Aloft at The Battery Atlanta and Omni Hotel at The Battery. Power up while dining on gourmet sandwiches at Savi Provisions, shopping for wellness-centric gifts like bath salts and soaps at Sugarboo & Co., or free falling at iFly Atlanta, an indoor-skydiving facility.

85 MILES TO MACON: Stop in Macon for the 1842 Inn, a historical—not to mention palatial—Greek Revival-style mansion now operating as a bed and breakfast. Sample 1842's signature drink, the mint julep, while your wheels get a boost from the on-site charger. Then head out for some of Macon's top attractions like the Tubman Museum, Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, Mercer Music at Capricorn and the Museum of Arts and Sciences. Eat at locals' favorite spots like Dovetail for artisanal cocktails or H&H Restaurant for hearty Southern soul food.

183 MILES TO TYBEE ISLAND: Named one of the country's best beaches by *Travel + Leisure*, Tybee's historic North Beach offers three EV stations for recharging. Plug in while soaking up the sun's warming rays, taking a stretchy SUP yoga class or a scenic nature tour with Sea Kayak Georgia.

It's not a trip to the coast without freshly caught seafood. Dine on local shrimp and grits and pan-seared scallops at Sundae Cafe at Tybee, an upscale restaurant that sources most of its dishes from nearby purveyors and uses only biodegradable products. Another sustainably minded local spot is Sea Wolf Tybee, which serves oysters, mussels and hot dogs, including a vegan Sonoran-style brat so tasty you won't even miss the pork.

18 MILES TO SAVANNAH: Make your way back inland and keep motoring to Savannah for a night at the Thompson. Not only does it offer six charging stations, a luxurious stay here means easy access to the city's bustling historic district along the beckoning Savannah River. While your car charges, stroll the idyllic Riverwalk, sip a classic old fashioned at Bar Julian for towering cityscape views (it's on Savannah's tallest rooftop) or shop the mix of boutiques on nearby River Street.







TIME OF YOUR LIFE

Take some time to soak up the serenity of placid Lake Oconee, which is rustic and remote, but has all the amenities travelers seek. Get away for a luxurious time with the one you like best.

THE RITZ-CARLTON REYNOLDS LAKE OCONEE GREENSBORO VISIT LAKE OCONEE

8. FIND ROMANCE AT LAKE OCONEE

Rekindle your relationship along Lake Oconee's 374 miles of dazzling, secluded shoreline rimmed by lanky Georgia pines. Just 85 miles east of Atlanta, **The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds, Lake Oconee** offers all the luxuries of lake life—like reflective water overlooks, swoon-inducing room service and a 30,000-square-foot, lounge-worthy spa. Whether you book a private lake house, cozy cottage or swanky modern suite, this tranquil resort spot will feel like it's all for you.

The sprawling hotel footprint means plenty of private time, too. Connect with your person as you paddle the peaceful azure reservoir or sip aromatic wine while the sun dips gracefully behind the horizon. Book a poolside cabana, toast your sweetie over a private bourbon tasting or reserve a tee time at one of five championship golf courses. Pedaling through an 8-mile network of abundant lakeside paths on a complimentary resort bike is another must-do.

After all that outdoorsy fun, unwind with a couple's massage in the spa's serene private suite before sampling the icy plunge pools, soothing steam rooms and a super-toasty sauna. At **Gaby's by the Lake**—the property's relaxed, poolside eatery—sip on chilled cocktails (margarita, anyone?) and nosh on casual fare like lowcountry fish tacos and the coastal-bites-meet-comfort-food lobster grilled cheese. You'll be treated to sun-drenched views of rippling Lake Oconee from every angle of the restaurant's popular flagstone deck. Head to the **Barrel Room** come evening for fireside tables and sipping whiskeys.

Venture into downtown **Greensboro** to sample everything from a crisp Kolsch to a refreshing pale ale at the expansive indoor/outdoor space at **Oconee Brewing Company**, or grab coffee and provisions like pastries and fresh produce from the eclectic **Ripe Thing Market** for an intimate lakeside picnic. For a casual couple's night out, try Southern classics like a country shrimp boil and the famed buttermilk pie at **The Yesterday Cafe** before finishing things off with a sunset cruise on the *Spirit of Oconee*.

9. EXPERIENCE GEORGIA'S GREAT OUTDOORS IN HELEN

A vacation to Helen means you'll fall in love with more than its numerous Insta-worthy photo ops (yes, the whimsical burgh looks like it's straight out of a European fairytale!). The picturesque, Bavarian-inspired mountain town is also home to some of northeast Georgia's best outdoor adventures.

Experience Mother Nature's wild grandeur by floating down the famed flows of the **Chattahoochee River** with **Cool River Tubing** or whipping through the treetops for a bird's-eye view of the forest's dense canopies with **Nacoochee Adventures'** zipline expeditions. Excite your senses with Nacoochee's Thriller Giant Swing that lifts you a towering 50 feet up, then sends you swiftly plummeting (and likely shrieking) to the ground.

At Helen's **Unicoi State Park & Lodge** (tucked within the Chattahoochee National Forest), you can do it all. Love to fish? Roam—with your fly-fishing rod in hand—to **Smith Creek's** languid waters for an abundance of silvery trout. More of a storyteller? Roast marshmallows around a crackling communal fire pit while spinning tall tales. Fancy yourself an explorer? Search for hidden treasures with the park's family-friendly GPS scavenger hunt. And you can record it all with one of the park's handy GoPro cameras, available to guests through the **Unicoi Adventure Lodge** program.

Year-round, park visitors can pedal through rugged terrain on a serpentine, 7.5-mile mountain-biking path, hike to the tumbling **Anna Ruby Falls** and practice 3-D and static archery at the on-site range. In the warmer months, paddle or kayak through the pristine waters of **Unicoi Lake**, then take a dip to cool off on its dedicated swimming beach.

Stay in the park's striking **Barrel Cabins**, rustic one- and two-bedroom structures equipped with full kitchens, fireplaces and balconies with rocking chairs for soaking in lake and forest views. The park also has nearly 100 campsites, ranging from RV hookups to glampsites with minifridges and outdoor grills. Or retreat to a backcountry "squirrel's nest," where you can string up hammocks to rest under a sky so dark it resembles sparkling diamonds on inky-black satin.

10. FEEL THE PRIDE IN SAVANNAH

by Matt Kirouac

Immediately upon arrival in Savannah, it's clear this is a place of inclusion. The friendly greeting starts at the airport, modeled after a charming town square with rocking chairs for sittin' awhile, and the sentiment is woven throughout this LGBTQIA+ friendly city.

While **Savannah Pride** brings musical performances, carnival games, costumes and parties—including the “Masquerade”—to Ellis Square and nearby venues in late October, LGBTQIA+ visitors find comfort in welcoming businesses, restaurants and activities year-round.

Morning, noon and late night, Savannah's diverse, artsy atmosphere (including the famed **Savannah College of Art and Design**, home to more than 13,000 students from all walks of life) runs the gamut from **Perc Coffee**, a rustic-chic café where the staff is as diverse as its farm-fresh coffee list, to lowcountry brunch at downtown's **B. Matthew's Eatery**, a fried-green-tomato-slinging restaurant that's a self-described safe space for the trans community.

Come lunch, feast at **Mrs. Wilkes Dining Room**, a pretty-in-pink boardinghouse-turned-restaurant—and a popular stopover for politicians and LGBTQIA+ celebrities—known for gracious hospitality and cozy comforts like fried chicken, sweet-potato soufflé and meatloaf.

Later, dance the night away at **Club One**, a massive, multilevel gay bar with billiards, drag shows, karaoke and music into the wee hours. Or explore another side of the city's LGBTQIA+ scene on a **Yes, Queen! Drag Pub Crawl**, a lively and hilarious walking tour led by eccentric queens like Marie Con and J. Deveraux.

After a night of revelry, relax your eyes at the **Brice Hotel**, a chic downtown boutique from Kimpton, one of the country's most LGBTQIA+ friendly brands, complete with an outdoor pool, a serene garden and free bike rentals.



STARLAND YARD, SAVANNAH/CALEB JONES



11. GIRLS TRIP TO GEORGIA WINE COUNTRY

Take your best friends and head for the hills—Georgia’s photogenic Blue Ridge Mountains, to be exact—for a girls getaway like no other. With more wineries and vineyards than any other part of the state (12 tasting rooms and eight wineries), **Dahlonega**’s lush landscape is ideal for all types of parties and groups. Come for award-winning sips, breathtaking panoramas and, of course, lots of bonding in bucolic Georgia Wine Country.

Craving gorgeous mountain views? Sip on a spicy, fruit-forward cab franc-merlot at family-run **Three Sisters Vineyards & Winery** or a bright and balanced chardonnay at **Kaya Vineyard & Winery**, both of which have expansive outdoor decks where you can listen to live music while soaking in sweeping foothills vistas. Book a VIP tasting at Three Sisters to learn about their specialized wine-making process with an on-site sommelier, or take Kaya’s off-road 4x4 tour for hands-on schooling in how they grow their grapes over 90 scenic acres.

Feeling more indulgent? At **Dahlonega Resort and Vineyard**, try a flight of wines in the luxuriant gardens or in the rustic-chic house restaurant, which serves modern American fare like seared scallops and burgers. Or take your pals to European-style **Wolf Mountain Vineyard** to sample effervescent wines along with red and white varietals on the veranda. Reserve one of

Wolf’s decadent Sunday brunches, celebrated for rotating (and mouthwatering) themes like Tribute to Tuscany and Celebration of French Cuisine.

Are you lovers of Italy? Experience Tuscany in Georgia at **Montaluce Winery & Restaurant**—the Taste of Montaluce menu includes pours of red and white wines and a souvenir glass, while on-site restaurant **Trattoria di Montaluce** serves house-made Italian pastas. Stretch your legs with a guided “wine hike” along sunlight-speckled trails that meander through the woods, along the rushing Etowah River and around the grapevines. You’ll end your walking adventure with a five-pour tasting menu back at the restaurant. Finally, sample everything from dry and bold cabernet blends to sweet muscadine wines at the pastoral **Frogtown Cellars**, another Italian-inspired North Georgia vineyard open daily for tastings along with its own bistro.

Rest your sleepy heads back at **Dahlonega Resort and Vineyard** where your whole group can bunk together in craftsman cottages boasting crackling fire pits or retreat to their own comfy rooms and suites. Or rent your own villa at Montaluce for a Tuscan-styled togetherness retreat overlooking the abundant vineyards.

Rejoice



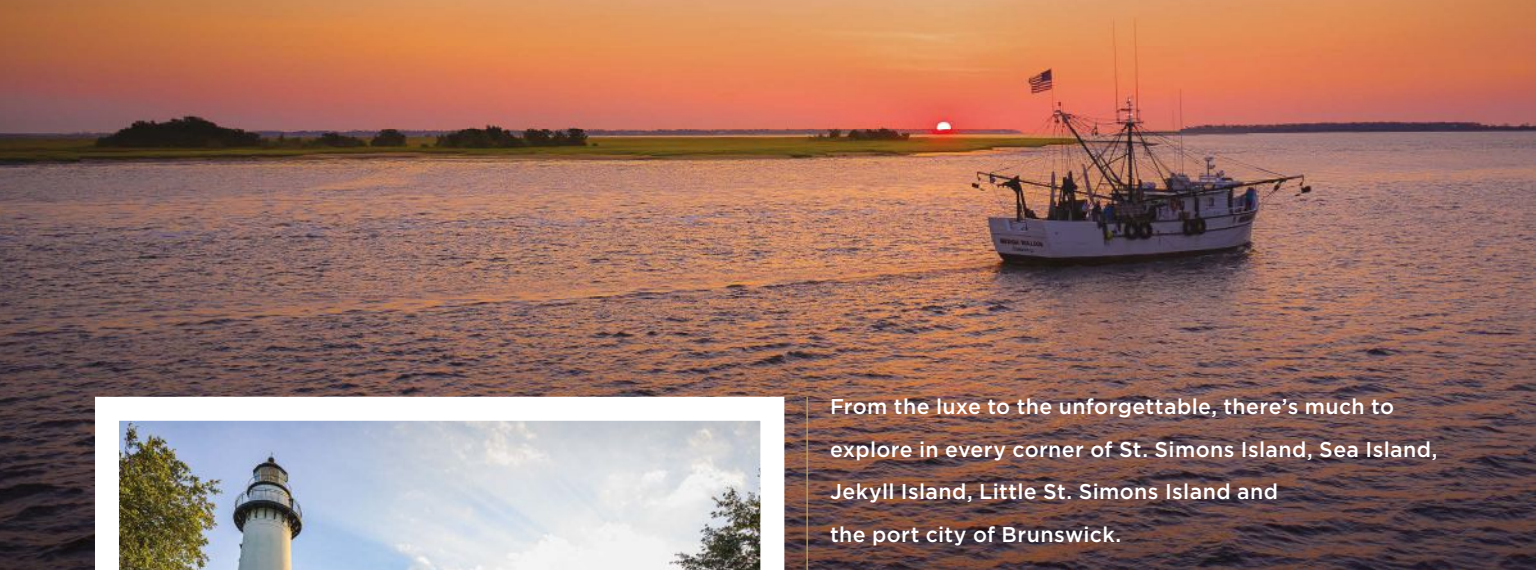
IN THE GOLDEN ISLES, THE BEACHES RADIATE
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Find Your Own Rhythm

A SUMPTUOUS WORLD AWAITS ON THE SOUTHERN COAST OF GEORGIA



From the luxe to the unforgettable, there's much to explore in every corner of St. Simons Island, Sea Island, Jekyll Island, Little St. Simons Island and the port city of Brunswick.



The Golden Isles is a place families, friends and couples have long cherished, visiting time after time, spanning generations. They escape the bustle of life to connect with each other, to celebrate what matters most.

Across its four barrier islands and historic port city, there lies a journey of exquisite discoveries steeped in stories and cuisines, both of traditions old and new. You'll find yourself captivated by miles of serene beaches turning golden at sunset, sun-kissed dramatic beauty against rhythmic waves and shimmering waterways that wind through lush marshlands.

The Golden Isles presents the quintessence of Southern leisure and adventure. It lets your senses celebrate. It brings you home.

ST. SIMONS ISLAND

With its charming villages and enchanting live oaks, St. Simons Island is the largest of the Golden Isles. Wander through the endless ways to adventure on the waters, peek into stories of time past and savor delectable Southern flavors—an idyllic beach vacation suited for all.

SEA ISLAND

Unwind in unparalleled grandeur at a private sanctuary of pure Southern luxury. Bestowed with Forbes Five-Star Awards for an unprecedented 14 years in a row, Sea Island is a lavish resort featuring world-class golf and tennis, transformational spa services and warm hospitality.

JEKYLL ISLAND

This state park is a delight for adventurers and naturalists. With miles of pristine shoreline and biking trails, Jekyll Island sets the stage for leisure biking, kayaking, golfing and horseback riding. From nature centers to historical tours, the unforgettable discoveries are boundless.

LITTLE ST. SIMONS ISLAND

Discover the remote ecosystem thriving on Little St. Simons Island. This privately-owned, 11,000-acre island resort is only accessible by boat. Take guided tours through ancient maritime forests, venture along seven miles of beaches and be in awe of graceful wildlife.

BRUNSWICK

Witness the renaissance of Historic Downtown Brunswick, as the port city brims with lively music, art festivals, Victorian architecture and authentic Southern dining. Go on a shrimping excursion, or embark on historical tours by foot or bike—the sights and sounds are a delight in simplicity.



A Resort for the Ages



Let Jekyll Island Club Resort take you back in time to the Gilded Age when some of the country's most influential families once retreated to relish in the beauty of Jekyll Island. The hallmark resort of Georgia's famed Golden Isles, Jekyll Island Club Resort entrances today's visitors with its Southern spirit and storied past. Three distinct resort experiences boasting a medley of timeless elegance and a barefoot beach lifestyle are complemented by enchanting and expansive grounds, six dining outposts, two pools, beach access, and the ultimate chance to disconnect. Here, guests are immersed in the island's distinctive culture and our famed Club's rich history shines.



Jekyll Ocean Club is the modern, all-suite addition of the famous historic Jekyll Island Club Resort. The AAA Four Diamond resort offers a fresh perspective to Jekyll Island living and sits directly on its own stretch of the island's pristine coastline. 40 suites, a spacious outdoor pool deck with a fire pit, oversized hot tub, lounge chairs, and dining served from the resort's beachfront kitchen and bar, Eighty Ocean Kitchen and Bar, are a few hallmarks of the Jekyll Ocean Club lifestyle.





HOLIDAY INN RESORT JEKYLL ISLAND

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More Than a Getaway

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, hot tub and kiddie pool, pickleball court, firepit and bike rental onsite.

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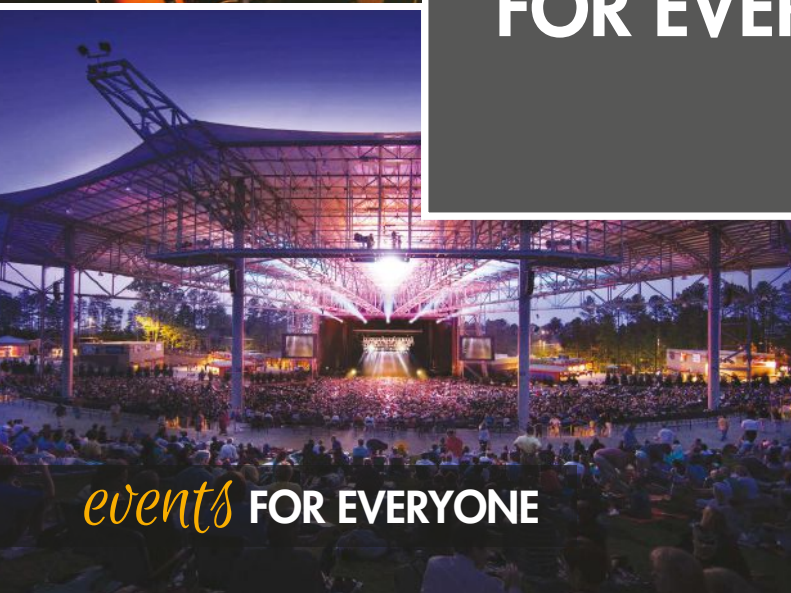
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Georgia for all SEASONS

AS THE SEASONS SHIFT IN GEORGIA, THEY BRING WITH THEM UNIQUE EVENTS,
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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 INTO 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 Gardens** in Athens, a rainbow of daffodils, roses, snapdragons and cherry blossoms kick 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 Gardens**. Not far away is the expansive scenery of **Callaway Resort & Gardens** in Pine Mountain, whose sprawling landscape—covered with thousands of gem-colored azaleas—offers tennis, golf, ziplining, the **Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center** and the resort's luxurious lodge and spa.



UNICOI STATE PARK & LODGE, HELEN/TIMBERLINE GLAMPING

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 and miles of nature trails at **Georgia Veterans State Park** near Lake Blackshear. 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 the rough-it sort of outdoors adventure and more into fanciful forest relaxation, go for a night of luxury at **Timberline Glamping Company** near Georgia's tallest waterfall, **Amicalola Falls**, at the southern end of the

Appalachian Trail 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.

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 **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 Bell'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 second-largest city than when it's shaded in newly sprouted leaves and bedazzled in blooms. Go bass fishing at **Mistletoe State Park**, home of 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 Amphitheatre**, 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 **Jackson's Bluff**.

🚩 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 are sampled (like fried pickles, mushrooms and okra).

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

INTERNATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL, MACON/RALPH DANIEL



CANAL TO CLOTH:
A DAY AT THE MILL



MYSTERY AT THE MORRIS:
THE REST OF THE STORY



PROMENADE & PAINT:
AUGUSTA'S PUBLIC ART



AUGUSTA'S BLACK CADDIES
MEN ON THE BAG



ECO EXPLORERS:
BECOME A CITIZEN SCIENTIST



THE CURATED PALETTE:
INSPIRING CONTEMPORARY ART



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WHERE SOUTHERN CHARM MEETS FRENCH LUXURY.

If you've been dreaming of visiting the French countryside, save yourself the flight and explore a picturesque Georgia mountain town that has all the charm but is much closer to home. Say "oui" to Braselton, nestled in the foothills of North Georgia, less than an hour from Atlanta.



CHATEAU ELAN WINERY AND RESORT

WINE LOVERS' GETAWAY

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.

EXPLORE *Braselton*



TOP RIGHT: JESSIE HODGES/ELEGANT JAYDE PHOTOGRAPHY.

ADRENALINE JUNKIES

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 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. Also, Caffeine and Octane's Lanier Raceway offers Karting Experiences and hosts regular Friday-night Drifts and other car meets throughout the month.

SMALL-TOWN CHARM

The heart of Braselton, historic downtown, 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. The Town Green buzzes all year long with events, seasonal festivals, arts and music.

BRASELTON TROLLEY

Hop aboard the vintage-styled Braselton Trolley on Friday and Saturday evenings starting at 4 p.m. for a fun, fare-free ride around town. The Braselton Trolley is a great way to see the area, shop or dine. Or purchase tickets for a trolley tour (offerings are seasonal and may vary). Also, look for the trolley shuttle during local festivals and events. Find routes, tours, and the trolleys' real-time location at ExploreBraselton.com/trolley.



Plan Your Escape at ExploreBraselton.com



GET SUMMER

On Your Mind

THERE'S NO WRONG WAY TO SPEND SUMMER IN GEORGIA. WITH SO MANY OPTIONS FOR UNFORGETTABLE TIMES, WHETHER YOU'RE 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 kayak, canoe and tube rentals for floated fun just outside Blue Ridge, along with **Cartecay River Experience**, whose 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 tubing trip on the Chattahoochee River with the family (including special pet tubes!) before hopping out to grab a bite to eat in Helen. **Nantahala Outdoor Center** serves up the whitewater on the Chattahoochee River, with trips for all skill levels and ages, including some with lunch options.

Water activities aren't exclusive to North Georgia. There's plenty of splashy action farther down state, including the new Man o' War attraction at **Summer Waves Water Park** on Jekyll Island, along with Statesboro's weekend-only, 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**. 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



**SCAN
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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 enslaved. 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** in Macon, **District Live** in Savannah and the **Cobb Energy Center** 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**, iconic author Flannery O'Connor's rural farmhouse.

IDEAL DESTINATION

Water babies will love summertime in **Gainesville** for all the aquatic fun you can wish for on **Lake Lanier**. Located just an hour north of Atlanta, the Queen City of the Mountains offers an abundance of warm-weather activities, ranging from relaxing to invigorating. Here you'll have a blast stand-up paddleboarding, boating and Jet Skiing, before you head over to **Lanier Islands' Waterpark**, where the family can enjoy a water-rific good time and the adults can sing the evening away with a beverage at Jimmy Buffet's famous **Margaritaville**. Stop by **Lake Lanier Olympic Park**—a spot celebrated for its involvement in the Atlanta 1996 Summer Olympic Games—for fishing, strolling, canoeing or a peaceful visit to the whimsy-filled **Fields Memorial Butterfly Garden**. And for one last thrill, visit **Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta** in nearby Braselton, where summertime doesn't end without a variety of auto races, including sportscars, motorcycles and even historical vehicles zipping around the 2.5-mile course.

DON'T-MISS EVENTS

The extended holiday feeling of summer is perhaps best experienced on **July 4th**, and Georgia has several ways to celebrate.

At Centennial Olympic Park, don't miss **Look Up Atlanta**, the spectacular Independence Day fireworks show over the city's beautiful downtown green space.

Park your car at Great Dunes or Oceanview beach parks, and watch an exciting water-front pyrotechnics display on Jekyll Island.

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

The annual July 4th 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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Explore 2000 years of history and inspiration at The Biblical History Center in LaGrange—one of only seven such museums in the world. Journey through archeological replicas, experience Biblical meal presentations, and see exact replicas of ancient Middle Eastern life settings. From archaeology to ancient history to cutting-edge teaching, you'll witness ancient stories of the Bible brought to life.

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Oh, The Stories You'll Tell



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Historical Attractions & Museums



GET AWAY TOGETHER

Visit Georgia's Blue Ridge, one of the South's best small mountain towns, only 90 miles from Atlanta but worlds away.



Blue Ridge is the perfect place to escape the city, with stunning mountain views, pristine lakes, rivers and creeks, hiking trails, charming nearby small towns, wineries, breweries, great dining, shopping and friendly people. Rent a luxury mountain cabin for a peaceful mountain escape, or stay downtown, where everything is within walking distance.

Blue Ridge was established as a railroad town, with the depot at its heart. Visitors would ride the train to the mountains to get away from the summer heat and take in the mineral waters. Today, visitors can ride the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway to the little river town of McCaysville and cross the Toccoa River bridge to Copperhill, Tennessee.





ENJOY OUR MOUNTAIN TOWNS

The town of Blue Ridge has an artsy vibe, with a vibrant arts scene and great community theater. There are seven breweries in the area, including Fannin Brewing, Grumpy Old Men and Buck Bald Brewing to name a few, and two wineries, Bearclaw and Serenberry vineyards. Visit Mercier Orchards and pick apples off the tree—a true farm-to-table experience. Local food is an essential part of the trip when you visit Georgia’s Blue Ridge. Eat mountain trout from Toccoa Riverside or Harvest on Main; fried apple pies and apple-cider doughnuts from Mercier’s; and a cupcake from the Sweet Shoppe. Dine at casual, upscale restaurants like Black Sheep or The General Ledger, or at fun eateries like Chester Brunnenmeyer’s, the Boat Dock Bar & Grill on Lake Blue Ridge or the Burra Burra on the river in McCaysville.

BLUE RIDGE FOR ADVENTURE

Blue Ridge is paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. Two of the greatest outdoor adventures in the world begin in Fannin County. Both the Appalachian and Benton MacKaye trails start at the top of Springer Mountain, where you can hike to the Southern Terminus. There are more than 300 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails in the area. Hike to one of 16 waterfalls within a short drive of Blue Ridge, including two local waterfalls and nearby Amicalola Falls, the tallest cascading waterfall east of the Mississippi. Blue Ridge is the Trout Capital of Georgia with more than 100 miles of great trout-fishing rivers, creeks and streams nearby. You can tube, kayak or raft the Toccoa River in Blue Ridge or McCaysville, rent a pontoon or paddleboard on Lake Blue Ridge or go whitewater rafting on the Ocoee River.



BLUE RIDGE FOR COUPLES

For your next romantic getaway, rent a luxury mountain cabin with a big mountain view. Cuddle up to a warm fire and relax in the hot tub. Wake up to cool, quiet mornings on the porch with a cup of coffee and a gorgeous mountain view. After a day of fun and adventure, finish the day in the same place you started, enjoying an amazing mountain sunset. You may never want to leave the cabin, but don’t miss out on the fun of exploring the Georgia mountains. Go for a brisk hike to a local waterfall, or kayak the beautiful Toccoa River or Lake Blue Ridge. Take a guided trout-fishing expedition for two. Reserve a table for a romantic dinner at one of Blue Ridge’s finest restaurants, or go for brunch and a winery tour. The options are limitless!



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 Watkinsville's **Washington Farms'** 6.5-acre corn maze, a pick-your-own patch of pumpkins and wagon rides. Hop on a hayride and pick out a jack-o-lantern in the making at Dawsonville's **Burt's Pumpkin Farm**. Don't miss Pine Mountain's **Pumpkins at Callaway Resort & Gardens**, whose Enchanted Pumpkin Forest stars forest creatures carved from grand gourds.

Pass painterly 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. At **Pine Mountain Gold Museum**, board the historic C.P. Huntington Engine #310 for a 4-mile trip around the museum's eponymous mountain in Villa Rica.



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 50 varieties

at **Mercier Orchards** in Blue Ridge and shop for treats from hard cider to apple 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 u-pick opportunities, a parade and, of course, a bounty of apple-y treats each October.

Finally, experience quintessential autumn with a guided fall tree walk, the Run Like Hell 5K or the Spirit of Oakland Halloween Tour (book in advance) at the historical **Oakland Cemetery** in Atlanta.



STONE MOUNTAIN PUMPKIN FESTIVAL/STONE MOUNTAIN PARK



HELEN/ANNE 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 late September, the beer-centric event runs over multiple weeks and 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 and Smithgall Woods state parks**, 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 Pumpkin Festival** features a pie-eating contest, party parade with glowing scenes, pumpkin-themed laser 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 600-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.

An outdoor adventure every day



There's no better place to explore the great outdoors than in White County. With over 20 area waterfalls, 7 wineries, 2 State Parks and Georgia's newest Historic Site - Hardman Farm, every day is an adventure. We also offer excellent hiking, biking, zip-lining, tubing, kayaking, golf, annual events throughout the year and much more.



Alpine Helen

Sautee Nacoochee - Cleveland & Unicoi State Park

800-858-8027 www.HelenGa.org

Alpine Helen-White County Regional Visitor Center
726 Bruckenstrasse, Helen, GA 30545



AlpineHelenWhiteCountyCVB

AlpineHelenGa



“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.



EXPERIENCE ELLIJAY WINE COUNTRY

Almost a dozen vineyards and tasting rooms are dappled throughout Ellijay's mountains. Each with its own distinct flair, Ellijay's vineyards are equally as sampleable as the fruits of their labor. Exploring Ellijay Wine Country is the perfect way to spend a bachelorette trip or anniversary weekend.

PICK 
ELLIJAY



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



RIDE GEORGIA'S MOUNTAIN-BIKING CAPITAL

With miles of trails just begging to be explored, Ellijay is a bucket-list location for avid mountain bikers—whether you want to test your skills at Cartecay Bike Shop's bike park or cruise Bear Creek Trail for an unforgettable bike day. When you're ready to rest your head, the cozy cabins at Mulberry Gap will give you a breather before the next day of adventure.

SMALL TOWN NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD

Ellijay's everybody-knows-everybody small-town charm isn't just for locals to enjoy. Head to downtown Ellijay to stroll the sidewalks and eat distinctly Southern dishes prepared with locally grown ingredients, and shop for souvenirs at Ellijay-owned small businesses. Downtown Ellijay is the perfect place to experience the small-town charm and Southern hospitality that keep people flocking to the North Georgia Mountains.



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. If you're looking to go for a hike, Ellijay is home to everything from beginner-friendly trails to the Southern Terminus of the Appalachian Trail. If you are looking to go fishing, consider booking a trip with a guide service for an unforgettable fly-fishing or lake-fishing experience. Of course, you can't forget to visit Ellijay in the fall for apple picking, flower picking, corn-maze adventures and more!

THE PERFECT PLACE TO RECONNECT

With more than 2,000 cabins spread out among 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 fireside, play ping pong with your kids or sit in a hot tub while you watch the snow fall, Ellijay cabins are the ideal place to reconnect with those you love.





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 and Gardens** in Pine Mountain. At Hiawassee'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** in Athens for a s'mores break. The **Garden Lights, Holiday Nights** event sets the **Atlanta Botanical Gardens** aglow with magic; **Enchanted Garden of Lights** in Rock City illuminates an Arctic kingdom and magic forest; and the **Boat Parade of Lights** in Savannah (and accompanying fireworks) 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**, 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.



CALLAWAY FANTASY IN LIGHTS, PINE MOUNTAIN/CALLAWAY RESORT & GARDENS



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



SKATE THE STATION AT ATLANTIC STATION, ATLANTA/ADDISON HILL

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 Savannah's **Christmas Market**, Helen's **Christkindlmarkt** 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 Tree Farm** in Darien or **Sleepy Hollow Farm** in Powder Springs. Whether you're looking for a fragrant Leyland cypress or a festive blue ice, 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. Strike 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 America's last known slave ship, as he journeys from capture to freedom. Search the island for hand-blown glass globes during the **Island Treasures** festival (held 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 and carriage 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 like a live DJ, mechanical-bull riding and the Bowl Game Watch Party.

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



HOLLY JOLLY LIGHT TOUR, JEKYLL ISLAND JEKYLL ISLAND AUTHORITY

MAKE YOUR VISIT LEGENDARY

Play like a legend. Immerse yourself in must-see exhibits with content personalized to your favorite school, historical artifacts, a three-story helmet wall and the inspirational Hall of Fame rotunda that memorializes college football legends. Become part of the tradition that pays tribute to the history and heritage of the game. **Get your tickets today @cfbhall**



VISIT *Henry* COUNTY, GA — BETTER EXPLORED

“

GO EXPLORING: DISCOVER HIDDEN GEMS IN HENRY COUNTY

While many travel through Henry County on Interstate 75, few know the riches that can be found when the time is taken to explore. Located midway between Atlanta and Macon, Henry County offers seven exits off I-75 as gateways to exploration.

SUNSET MOUNTAIN HIKE AT
PANOLA MOUNTAIN STATE PARK



LOCUST GROVE

Henry County's southern-most city is most recognizable for being the home of Tanger Outlets. With more than 70 brand-named outlets, Tanger is certainly worth a visit. What travelers may not know is that just a mile from Tanger is beautiful, historical downtown Locust Grove. With a train-watching platform, local restaurants, bakeries and coffee shop, and several large antique stores, the downtown alone is worth an afternoon of exploring. Just a few miles from downtown is an adventure of a different kind at Noah's Ark Animal Sanctuary. This sanctuary is home to more than 1,000 animals representing 100 different species. Behind-the-scenes tours are available to get you up-close-and-personal with the big cats and bears.



STOCKBRIDGE

Henry County's northernmost city has the distinction of being the home of Martin Luther King, Sr. Floyd Chapel Baptist Church, the church "Daddy King," as he was known, grew up attending and where he preached his first sermon is still an active church. Just a mile from this historical site sits the new Stockbridge Amphitheater, where music legends like Gladys Knight and Chaka Khan, and country stars like Jon Pardi have performed. History of a different kind is on display up the road at Panola Mountain State Park, where the granite outcropping, or monadnock, stands in near-pristine condition and offers visitors a view of a rare array of plants as well as a fantastic view of the Atlanta skyline. Don't forget a souvenir! Shop boutiques, barnwood furnishings and vintage vinyl in the city's array of local stores and artisan shops.



HAMPTON

Farther north lies Henry County's western-most city. Hampton's claim to fame is as the home of Atlanta Motor Speedway—the largest sporting-event facility in Georgia. In addition to two NASCAR races a year, they host fairs, festivals and car shows, and offer track tours from their gift shop during the week. Next to the speedway is Atlanta Speedway Airport, which houses the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation, the only place in the country you can fly in a Cobra helicopter and one of the few places that offers rides in a Huey helicopter. While these facilities are big on thrills, Hampton's historical downtown is rich in food, comfort and that hometown vibe. With a bookstore that sits above a Prohibition-era speakeasy, an ice-cream shop serving up homemade treats and a brewery offering guests a chair around the campfire, you will feel like family in no time.



MCDONOUGH

Henry County's county seat, McDonough, has several gems hidden in plain sight. While the Heritage Park Veterans Museum is not actually hidden, it is located in an unassuming building that resembles a red barn. Walk through the doors and be transported with stories of people who served our country from World War I to the present, as illustrated by more than 20,000 pieces of memorabilia, uniforms, weapons and more in the collection. Leave the barn and head to the farm. Southern Belle Farm is a 330-acre working agritourism farm offering four seasons of u-pick produce and family fun on the farm. While fall season may be what Southern Belle is best known for, their best (poorly) kept secret is the amazing homemade strawberry shortcake, complete with homemade strawberry ice cream.

Experiencing these things only scratches the surface of Henry County's adventures that are **#BetterExplored**.

Learn more at VisitHenryCountyGeorgia.com

EXPLORE THE PAST,
CREATE THE FUTURE.

TAKE A RIDE ON
THE LOCAL SIDE!



Museum of Aviation - Free Admission



Historic Downtown Perry

We have ♥



North Houston Sports Complex, Warner Robins



Award-Winning Hotels in Warner Robins





ANNA RUBY FALLS, HELEN/JAKE TEKIPPE

TRIPADVISOR 23

Fan Favorites

Discover Georgia travelers' top picks—from breathtaking Anna Ruby Falls in Helen to bustling Ponce City Market in Atlanta to mysterious Driftwood Beach on Jekyll Island—in this roundup of reviews from Tripadvisor users.



1 ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDENS, ATLANTA



ALWAYS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE

“This is one of the best places to visit in Atlanta. There are many walking trails, most paved. The scenery is beautiful. During some holidays, such as Christmas, they have spectacular displays of light ... During the spring, summer and fall, it’s an awesome display of the various flora that can be found in the area.” — *William D.*

2 ANNA RUBY FALLS, HELEN



BREATHTAKING

“We stopped in while going through Helen ... There is so much to see here! Give yourself at least 90 minutes to enjoy it. The falls run parallel to the path almost the whole way. It was gorgeous. Bring a picnic and swim at Unicoi [Lake] after.” — *floridagirl83*

3 CHATEAU ELAN WINERY, BRASELTON



TIME TO SAVOR

“A wonderful experience! Our tour guide, Sarah, was exceptional. She was both knowledgeable and humorous. The tasting was great. You have time to savor each different wine and aren’t rushed through the tour. The chateau is a beautiful piece of property.” — *Migdy M*



ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDENS, ATLANTA/ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDENS



FORSYTH PARK FOUNTAIN, SAVANNAH/CALEB JONES

4 DRIFTWOOD BEACH, JEKYLL ISLAND



NATURAL BEAUTY ON THE OCEAN

“Driftwood Beach is stunningly beautiful. The large live oaks are weathered and polished by the wind, sea and rain. Everywhere you look, there is a unique sculpture perfected by Mother Nature. This is a must-see stop if you are visiting Jekyll, St. Simons and Brunswick.” — **Dan G**

5 BLUE RIDGE SCENIC RAILWAY, BLUE RIDGE



GREAT TRIP FOR FALL COLOR!

“Excellent way to spend a day. The train takes you between the towns of Blue Ridge, Georgia, and Copperhill, Tennessee. ... The ride is about an hour and you get two hours of time in Copperhill to shop or eat. Leave time in Blue Ridge to enjoy this charming Southern town and all its shops and restaurants.” — **Kim W**

6 FORSYTH PARK, SAVANNAH



RELAXING STROLL, BEAUTIFUL FOUNTAIN

“The park has large open areas, paved paths, recreation and beautiful trees ideal for relaxation, strolls and exercise. Many areas are photogenic, with large trees laden with Spanish moss and a large fountain. The park is also surrounded by historical houses with interesting architecture and stories of their own.” — **MarsOrbiter**

SeeRockCity



*Make Memories Worth Repeating
on each and every visit!*

SeeRockCity.com, Lookout Mountain, GA

7 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, ATLANTA



A MUST SEE IN ATLANTA

"I found my visit very moving and educational. The main exhibit ... has a good overview of King's life, with videos, quotes, photos, visual art and even the wooden wagon on which his coffin was conveyed. The tour of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s restored birth home was excellent, and the ranger shared lots of interesting insights about his childhood and the influences of his formative years." — *Ogo N*

8 ROCK CITY, LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN



ABSOLUTELY WORTH THE VISIT

"Wow! Absolutely worth the visit! Views are breathtaking. The rock formations are beautiful. I loved that many of the trees were labeled and the pathways were beautiful. I enjoyed searching for gnomes and seeing the Mother Goose area." — *Mrs. Bacon*





WHERE BEING THE EXCEPTION IS STANDARD

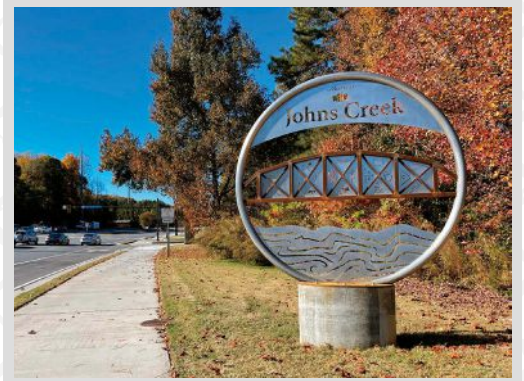
Leave ordinary behind when you visit Johns Creek! Our city embodies a welcoming environment that celebrates achievement, cultural diversity, history, natural beauty, and artistry.

Enhanced by a climate that allows enjoyment of the outdoors year-round; there is no limit to the activities you can experience. Walk the trails, shop 'til you drop, hit the fairways, or dine al fresco.

Johns Creek offers visitors and residents hometown goodness at its best. Explore the city where "being the exception" is the standard.

TOP THINGS TO DO IN JOHNS CREEK

- OVER 125 RESTAURANTS REPRESENTING MORE THAN 25 COUNTRIES
- OUTDOOR TRAILS AND RECREATION
- WALL THAT HEALS AND THE JOHNS CREEK VETERAN'S WALK
- AWARD WINNING DOG PARK AND DOG-FRIENDLY HOTELS
- UNIQUE PUBLIC ART



@VisitJohnsCreek

VisitJohnsCreek.com

#VisitJohnsCreek

9 GEORGIA SEA TURTLE CENTER, JEKYLL ISLAND



EDUCATIONAL & FUN

"If you love sea turtles, this is the place for you! ... See live surgeries, rehab pools and feedings, and learn some interesting facts in the education room. All proceeds from entry to purchased items go right back to the turtles!"

— *Stacie*

10 TYBEE ISLAND LIGHT STATION & MUSEUM, TYBEE ISLAND



BEST PART OF VISITING TYBEE ISLAND

"I love visiting lighthouses and this was the main reason we went to Tybee Island. I was so glad you got to climb to the top. It was windy but the view was great. We also walked through the keeper's house and there was a guide to help give you the history. We walked across the street to visit Battery Garland [Museum]. Worth the visit."

— *Nancy U*

11 BRASSTOWN BALD MOUNTAIN, BLAIRSVILLE



BREATHTAKING VIEWS

"Very well-manicured trail ... Pretty steep, but once you get to the top you can take in the best views in Georgia. We went during sunset and it was amazing! ... Lovely experience and can't wait to go back and hike some of the other trails that are around it."

— *Chaz Parks*





WORLD OF COCA-COLA, ATLANTA/ACVB MARKETING

12 WORLD OF COCA-COLA, ATLANTA



AN ATLANTA GEM

“Great history and memorabilia about this company. My family enjoyed seeing the vault, learning about the bottling process, seeing a 3-D movie and tasting the different sodas that Coca-Cola owns from around the world. This is a must-see if you’re in Atlanta.” — *Armyof3*

13 CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, SAVANNAH



AMAZING ARCHITECTURE

“The most beautiful church I have ever seen—and I have seen a lot of churches/cathedrals in my life! Amazing architecture and art. As crowds come in, they give a very helpful five-minute overview of the history of the cathedral and its art.” — *Kate G*

14 YONAH MOUNTAIN VINEYARDS, CLEVELAND



DON'T MISS THIS WINERY!

“My wife and I have visited a number of wineries in the region and this may be our favorite! Incredible views of Mount Yonah ... but the star of the show is the wine. I was very impressed with the Genesis and the pinot noir. My son was equally impressed with the sav blanc.” — *mplegal*

**15 PONCE CITY MARKET,
ATLANTA****A MUST-GO**

"This place is a must-go in my opinion. It was one of my favorite places in Atlanta. Not only does it have a great variety of food options, but they also have stores, a book shop and items made by locals. It was definitely one of the highlights of the trip." — *Danarodz*

**16 CITY MARKET,
SAVANNAH****BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN AREA**

"The city market is a few blocks of quaint shops and restaurants. It's not a flea market or open-air market but an area of local shops and eateries in a beautiful downtown area. Lots of places to sit and have a drink or grab a bite and shop." — *DesiraeMarie*

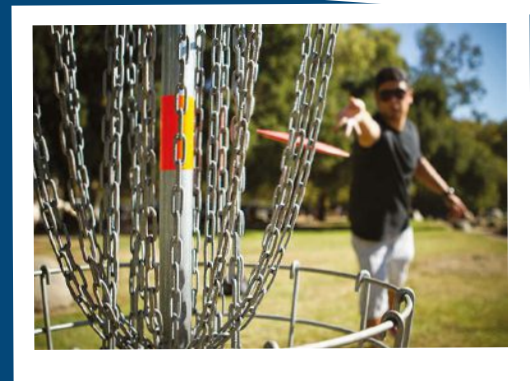
**17 ROLLING THUNDER
RIVER COMPANY,
MCCAYSVILLE****RAFTING YOU'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER**

"Rolling Thunder will not disappoint! Truly an amazing experience. The folks there want you to experience an exciting and safe, action-packed trip down one of the most popular rivers in the world. Their experience and expertise takes you on an unforgettable trip you'll always remember."

— *scott623*



EXPLORE DOUGLAS COUNTY COUNTY OF TRAILS



Douglas County Trails: Film, Butterfly, Agri, & History • Boundary Waters Recreational Complex • Clinton Natural Preserve • Sweetwater Creek State Park • Hiking • Biking • Swimming • Canoeing • Paddle Boats • Fishing • Camping • Yurts • Clays Course • Disc-Golf • Horseback Riding & Much More

explore

OUTSIDE THE LINES
DOUGLAS COUNTY TRAVEL & TOURISM



ExploreDouglasCountyGA



ExploreDouglasCountyGA.com



18 MERCIER ORCHARDS, BLUE RIDGE



ABSOLUTELY LOVE THIS PLACE

"This is a highlight of our fall pilgrimage to North Georgia. The place is huge and the selection of apples is great. It's also a complete store full of fresh cider, local wines and fried apple pies." — *HJR1960*

19 CAPTAIN DEREK'S DOLPHIN ADVENTURE, TYBEE ISLAND



DOLPHINS FOLLOWING OUR BOAT

"This was absolutely the best experience ever. So glad that we chose Captain Derek's ... It was amazing to see the dolphins following behind our boat as we were gliding through the water. ... Captain Gator and Lori were wonderful hosts. They provided great history information for Savannah and Tybee Island. Great fun for the whole family!" — *Jemilla T*

20 MINNEHAHA FALLS, LAKEMONT



LOVELY FALLS

"This is a lovely falls hidden away from most travelers. It is well worth the drive. There is a small sign marking the trailhead, with spaces for only a few cars. The trail is about .4 miles with a gentle incline. There are a few glimpses of the water along the way. Just lovely." — *Ron C*

21 SAVANNAH HISTORIC DISTRICT, SAVANNAH



SAVANNAH DID NOT DISAPPOINT

"Downtown Savannah was excellent and a great place to wander and walk. Beautiful, well-kept homes and streets. Massive oaks and Spanish moss were everywhere. History was evident everywhere and the park system was fantastic. Great restaurants and coffee shops were easy to find ... and it was fun to be able to grab a drink and wander around town."

— *dstambaugh3*

22 NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE, POOLER



A NEW FAVORITE MILITARY MUSEUM

"This is one of the finest military museums I think I've ever visited. It shows not only the history of flying in the military, but also the beginnings of the Army Air Corps and the Mighty Eighth as they ventured into Europe to defend Britain and liberate Europe. The restored B17 Flying Fortress that is on display is magnificent."

— *Wedeliver2you*

23 ATL-CRUZERS ELECTRIC CAR & SEGWAY TOURS, ATLANTA



BEYOND WONDERFUL

"Such a wonderful experience! This was not my first time in Atlanta, yet everything that was shown and spoken about was new to me! It's great to know the background and history of places. Our tour guide was beyond wonderful and very knowledgeable. I definitely recommend anyone to take this tour."

— *Kee D.*

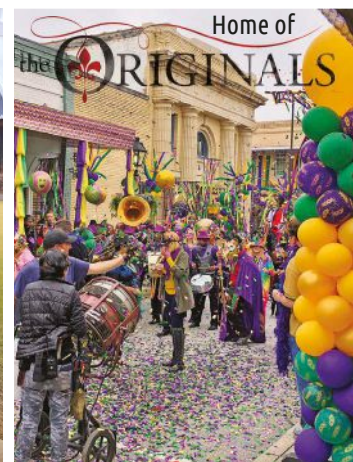


SCAN
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for more top
attractions.





CELEBRATE WITH US AT YEAR-ROUND EVENTS, ALONG WITH DINING, SHOPPING, OUTDOOR RECREATION & MORE. ONLY 30 MINUTES EAST OF ATLANTA. CALL **1-800-CONYERS** TO ORDER YOUR FREE DESTINATION GUIDE, OR DOWNLOAD AT **VISITCONYERSGA.COM**



THE ATL AIRPORT DISTRICT

This offbeat gem is hidden in plain sight, right in the sweet spot between the city of Atlanta and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.



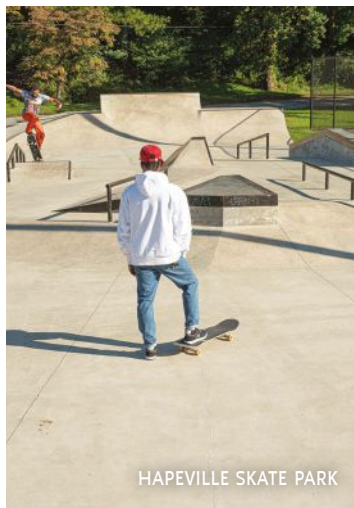
PORSCHE EXPERIENCE CENTER ATLANTA



ARCHES BREWING

JUST SOUTH OF ATL

Georgia's capital is known for its first-class dining and attractions, a notoriety that extends far beyond downtown and Midtown. The ATL Airport District, comprised of College Park, Hapeville and Union City, boasts dozens of Southside experiences—and hotels priced 30 percent lower—just 10 minutes off Atlanta's beaten path.



HAPEVILLE SKATE PARK

KEEP IT MOVIN'

Local green spaces offer trails, playgrounds, dog parks and two skateparks. If you prefer walks punctuated by holes, Historic College Park Golf Course has nine of the best in town. Speed needs can be satisfied at the Porsche Experience Center, while culture triumphs at the Hapeville Depot Museum, Delta Flight Museum and Art Container Galleries.



GASTRO WITH GUSTO

From Virginia Avenue to Main Street, a litany of memorable food and drink experiences satisfy every craving and curiosity. Options range from down-home Southern comfort food to dazzling international fare. Parking is easy (a perk of venturing outside the city center), and alternatively, the Metro Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) will take you just about everywhere. Thirsty? Treat yourself to a highbrow happy hour at **Volare Wine & Bistro** in Hapeville, or kick back with a cold one, enjoyed straight from the source at **Arches Brewing** or al fresco on **Beer Girl's** cozy courtyard patio.

Come Sunday, start the morning right—and remember, weekend “mornings” technically last until at least 2 p.m.—with a low and lazy brunch. College Park’s downtown strip comes alive from **Johnny’s World Famous Chicken & Waffles** and **Virgil’s Gullah Kitchen & Bar** to **The Real Milk & Honey**, with indulgent breakfast foods and bottomless mimosas every Sunday.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

You can easily plan your visit around any of the great events taking place in the district, but no matter when you arrive, there’s likely something happening. Catch Hapeville’s **Downtown Live** concert series (including a chili cook-off, seafood night and more), summer outdoor movies, College Park’s annual **Kids Fest**, or the monthly **Coffee & Chrome** car and motorcycle show (April–Sept.). There are also themed events scheduled around several holidays, so if you’re here during a day with “Day” (or “Día”) in its name, watch out for a parade.

Cycling enthusiasts can look forward to **Spin the District**, an annual cycling series that brings multiple races and festivals to the downtown city streets. Locals turn out in droves to celebrate and cheer on the cycling world’s top talent from around the globe.



SEE WHAT’S ON

Lovers of the performing arts shouldn’t miss the **Academy Theatre**, which has the distinction of being the first integrated theater in the South and the longest-running theater company in the Southeast. (It also claims Samuel L. Jackson as an alum.) This talented troupe offers a robust rotation of plays and performances, plus a **Sunday Variety Series** that showcases visiting acts of all kinds.

Looking for something even more exhilarating? The Gateway Center Arena has balls in the air 12 months out of the year, thanks to the **Atlanta Dream** (WNBA) and **College Park Skyhawks** (G-League), whose seasons are perfectly offset. Best of all, you can reach the arena via the 24-hour ATL SkyTrain, a free people mover that connects the airport to the Gateway Center. (And you can get to the airport from just about anywhere via MARTA.)

Find That

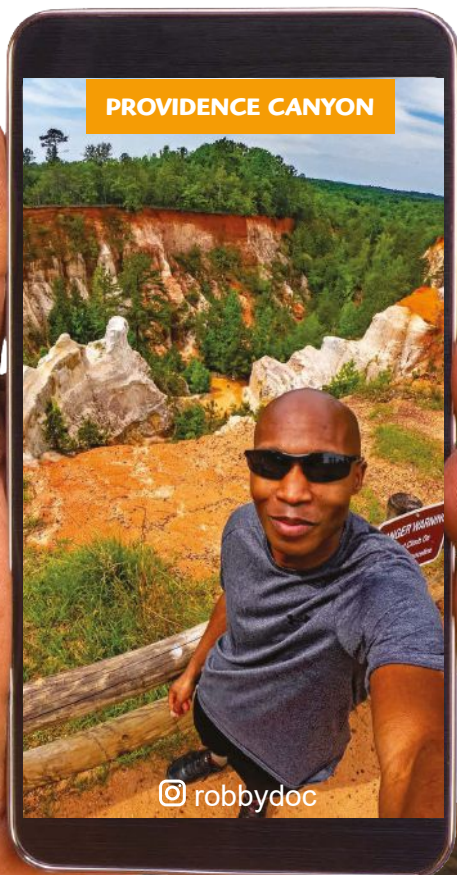
PERFECT SELFIE SPOT

Feeling

Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites



GaStateParks.org



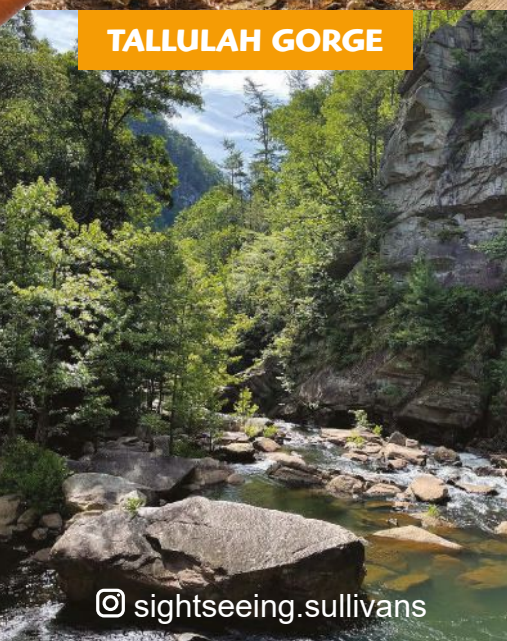
SWEETWATER CREEK



F.D. ROOSEVELT



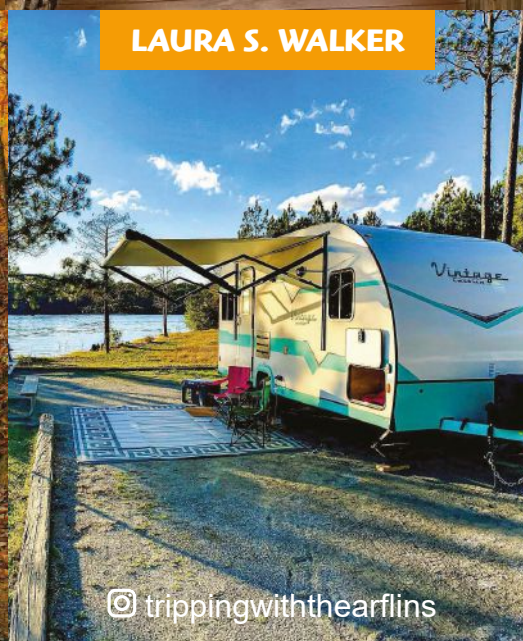
TALLULAH GORGE



AMICALOLA FALLS



LAURA S. WALKER



EXTRAORDINARY E · S · C · A · P · E · S

Georgia is home to more than 60 state parks and historic sites, all with well-kept amenities and gorgeous scenery. But beyond those similarities, they could be worlds apart, spanning features like blackwater swamps, rugged Appalachian peaks and ancient Native American cities.

Are you a seasoned backpacker? Casual leaf-peeper? Maybe you just want to trade the kids' iPads for fishing rods? Whatever the call to nature, there's a destination on this list to help you answer it. Each park is worth a visit, but to help narrow them down for your next trip, here are nine that capture the diversity of the state's outdoor offerings. Or set a goal to explore them all—you won't regret it.

★ BEST WINDOW INTO THE PAST

ETOWAH INDIAN MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE, CARTERSVILLE

The landscape may be a sea of grass, but its contours make it easy to imagine the vibrant settlement that once occupied this 54-acre plot. Constructed by the Mississippian people between 1000 and 1550 A.D., six earthen mounds rise above a broad expanse that once served as a central plaza. Surrounding it all are 10-foot defensive ditches and the sparkling Etowah River, which still holds the Native Americans' ingenious stone fish traps. Only one of the mounds has been excavated and consequently reconstructed, revealing 350 graves and intricately crafted artifacts, including a pair of painted marble effigies on view at the park's museum. The other five are undisturbed, making Etowah the most intact site of its kind in the Southeast.

★ BEST HEART-PUMPING HIKE

BLACK ROCK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK, MOUNTAIN CITY

This quad-busting 7.2-mile grind is worth it for the sweeping views and forested beauty. As the most advanced hike in Georgia's highest-elevation state park, the James E. Edmonds Backcountry Trail challenges with lengthy and steep ascents, especially on the latter half, along with stunning Blue Ridge panoramas. Survey the scenic Wolfork Valley, miles of indigo peaks and a vivid palette of wildflowers: flaming azaleas and deep-purple trillium in spring, pale-pink mountain laurel in summer. Other features include cascading streams and a sparkling lake. Recuperate in a rocking chair on the porch at one of the park's 10 newly renovated cottages for a helping of blissful solitude.

★ BEST PLACE TO WATCH THE SUNSET

MISTLETOE STATE PARK, APPLING

The vast, glassy surface of Georgia's largest reservoir, Clarks Hill Lake, makes an especially beautiful mirror for pink-streaked skies at this family-friendly park. Take in the view from 10 fully equipped cottages and cabins overlooking the water, a lakeside "tent cabin" for four (bring your sleeping bags) or campsites on a peninsula surrounded by open water—which means you can watch the sun set and rise without moving your hammock. When you're not kicking up your feet, hike or mountain bike on more than 15 miles of shaded trails, play on a sandy beach, rent a kayak to explore numerous quiet coves or try your luck reeling in the trophy bass for which the reservoir is famous.



MISTLETOE STATE PARK, APPLING/GEORGIA STATE PARKS



BEST PHOTO OPS

CLOUDLAND CANYON STATE PARK, RISING FAWN

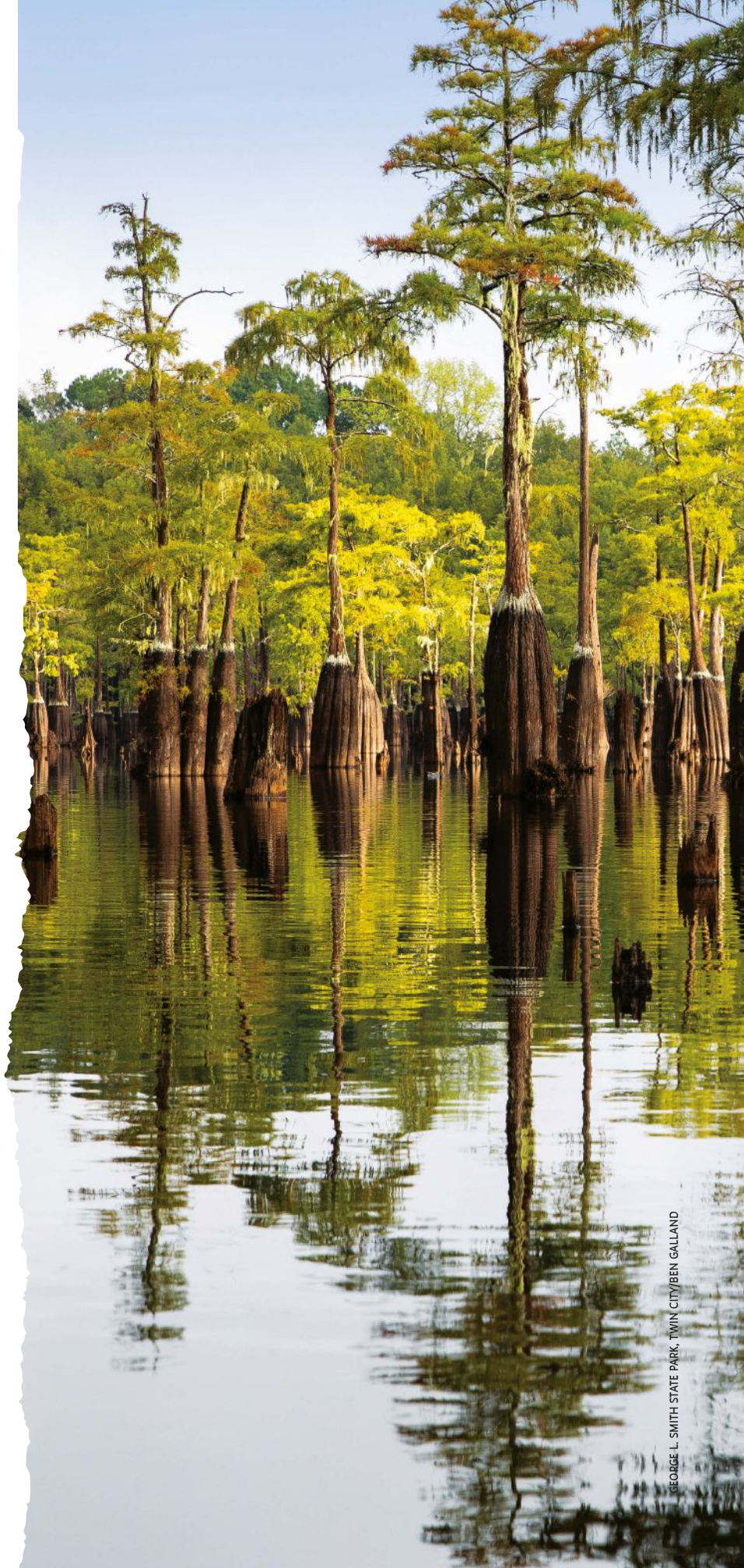
Perched on Lookout Mountain, this poetically named park is known to hold the state's most spectacular scenery, revealed to visitors across 64 miles of footpaths. *Backpacker* magazine named the West Rim Loop Trail one of the country's best day hikes thanks to endless views of a 1,000-foot chasm—a playground for birds of prey, who float and dive over the lush foliage below. Tackle 600 metal stairs to admire a pair of waterfalls plunging over sandstone cliffs into emerald pools, and hike deeper into the canyon to experience a serene hemlock forest. No need to pack it all into one day: The park offers 16 cottages, a variety of campsites and—for the glamping crowd—10 canvas yurts.



BEST OFF-THE-BEATEN-PATH ADVENTURE

GEORGE L. SMITH STATE PARK, TWIN CITY

The centerpiece of this South Georgia gem is a 412-acre blackwater pond that's so scenic and tranquil, you won't mind sharing it with the occasional gator. To paddle it is to navigate around grand cypress trees draped with Spanish moss and crowned with osprey nests. Bring your own kayak, rent one from the park or book a guided paddle with local outfitter Mill Pond Kayak—then skim past lily pads, turtles sunning on logs and a covered bridge from an 1879-built mill. On dry land, keep an eye out for endangered gopher tortoises along 7 miles of hiking trails, and spend the night in one of the spacious cottages or waterside campsites that bring the otherworldly beauty right to your door.



GEORGE L. SMITH STATE PARK, TWIN CITY/BEN GALLAND



★ BEST PRESIDENTIAL PEDIGREE

LITTLE WHITE HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE, WARM SPRINGS

Once upon a time, a VIP named FDR came to GA for a little R&R, then formed the CCC. Translation: From the 1920s to the 1940s, former U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt frequently traveled to Warm Springs to recover from the crippling after-effects of polio. In 1932, he built a modest vacation cottage—today a national historic landmark where visitors can tour the property and see artifacts such as his hand-controlled Ford convertible and the “Unfinished Portrait” for which he was sitting when he collapsed and died at the home in 1945. Historians credit FDR’s time in rural Georgia with inspiring the public works programs of the New Deal, among them the Civilian Conservation Corps, which erected many of the state and national parks we enjoy today.



LITTLE WHITE HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE, WARM SPRINGS/RALPH DANIEL

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BEST GEOLOGICAL FORMATION

PROVIDENCE CANYON STATE PARK, LUMPKIN

If you've ever traveled through the American Southwest, you'll find this sight oddly familiar, with its mineral-streaked gullies, chimney-shaped rocks and narrow gorges that stretch across 300 acres. Aptly known as Georgia's "Little Grand Canyon," the park makes for an unforgettable day hike or overnight camping adventure. Ten miles of trails, including a 7-mile backcountry loop, showcase the striking colors and textures. Bring shoes you don't mind getting a little dirty while exploring the canyon floor, home to uncommon flora such as bigleaf magnolias and plumleaf azaleas.



BEST FOR FAMILY-FRIENDLY WATER REC

SEMINOLE STATE PARK, DONALSONVILLE

Marking the confluence of the Flint and Chattahoochee rivers, 37,500-acre Lake Seminole is broad enough to accommodate tube-toting pontoons, peaceful enough for a scenic paddle and one of the top fishing destinations in Georgia. Rent a kayak on site and explore lily-pad-loaded coves, or bring your tackle box to hook catfish, crappie or bass from the large dock. Kids will love making sandcastles by the swimming area or s'mores at the cottage firepits. Hike the 2.2-mile Gopher Tortoise Trail, and keep your eyes peeled for alligators, bald eagles and the telltale burrows of the path's namesake reptile.





MOST SPECTACULAR CANYON

TALLULAH GORGE STATE PARK, TALLULAH FALLS

At 2 miles long and nearly 1,000 feet deep, this magnificent gash in the earth incites awe from every angle. Casual onlookers can view its thundering waterfalls from a flat rim trail, while adventurers may aspire to cross a knee-buckling suspension bridge or rock-hop along the gorge floor. Don't neglect more serene vantage points, including a paved path along the Tallulah River and a sandy beach on Tallulah Lake—a summertime treat in a park famed for fall color. Visit on dam-release days in April and November to watch skilled kayakers brave the churning waters.

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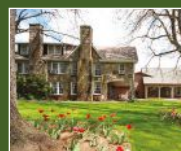
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or
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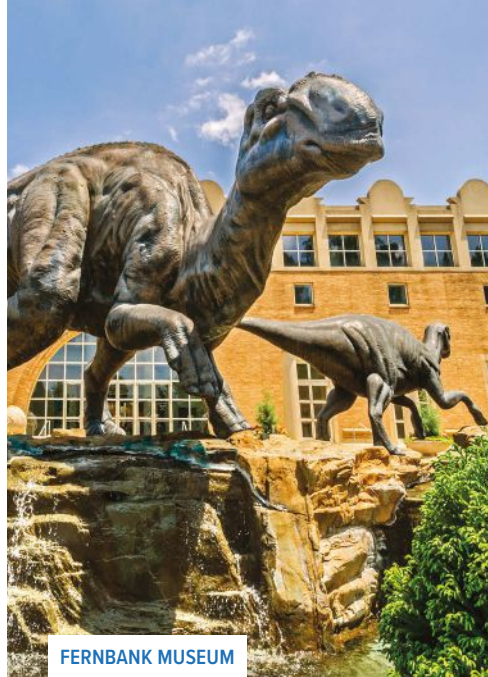
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ARABIA MOUNTAIN NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



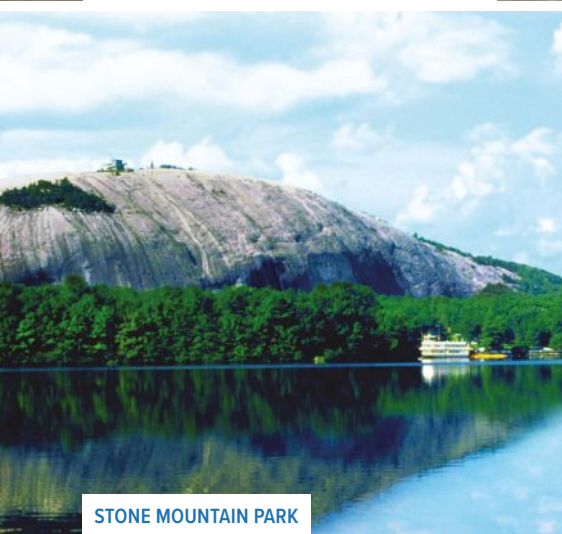
FERNBANK MUSEUM



CALLANWOLDE FINE ARTS CENTER



WAFFLE HOUSE MUSEUM



STONE MOUNTAIN PARK



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NOTE: The information in this article came from the businesses mentioned and is just a sampling of Georgia attractions with accessibility offerings. Reach out to each location—and any others you plan to visit—to find out what other features you can take advantage of during your visit.



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attractions.

ACCESSIBLE *Georgia*

The state of Georgia offers something for every visitor—and this is true for people with disabilities as well. From the plethora of museums and activities in Atlanta to exploring the history of Savannah and lesser-known places of interest around the state, there are enough accessibility options to keep you busy for days, weeks or even a lifetime.

If you are looking for places to visit as a wheelchair user, with a visual or auditory impairment, or as someone with cognitive/sensory needs, we've got you covered.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

After being diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy at the age of two, **CORY LEE**'s thirst for adventure never ceased. He has traveled across all seven continents in his powered wheelchair while managing to run his travel blog CurbFreeWithCoryLee.com, where he shares his accessible—and sometimes not so accessible—travel adventures with others. As always, his goal is to inspire other wheelchair users to roll out of their comfort zones and see all the beauty our world has to offer.

Mobility

A large photograph of a beach scene. In the foreground, there are tall, thin grasses with seed heads. A wooden fence or railing runs diagonally across the bottom left. In the background, a sandy beach is visible with several people and blue umbrellas under a clear blue sky.

BLUE RIDGE SCENIC RAILWAY

BLUE RIDGE

This train journey begins in the small North Georgia mountain town of Blue Ridge and goes through forests and along the Toccoa River. One dedicated, open-air train car is equipped with two lifts, allowing wheelchair users to easily board. A spacious family/companion-care restroom is available inside the accessible train car as well. Car 405 was originally built in 1947 for the Boston & Maine Railroad so its passengers get to enjoy the historical feel of riding the rails while a car host points out interesting landmarks as they pass by.

TYBEE ISLAND BEACHES

TYBEE ISLAND

If you're looking to soak up the sun at an accessible beach, special beach wheelchairs are available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Ocean Rescue lifeguard station on South Beach. They even have a chair that can float in the water! Additionally, multiple beach-access mats—called Mobi-mats—are available to navigate your own wheelchair on the beach. (Tip: You can find similar amenities on Jekyll Island.)

GEORGIA STATE PARKS

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Thanks to Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Aimee Copeland Foundation, qualifying visitors can explore Georgia's natural side via free, high-mobility, all-terrain track wheelchairs that let you hike, hunt, fish and more. Ten state parks, historic sites and a wildlife center offer the chairs, and you can also find numerous accessible amenities and places to stay at Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites.



COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME - ATLANTA/ACUB MARKETING

LION'S EYE TRAIL

NEAR HELEN

Located at Anna Ruby Falls, the Lion's Eye Trail was specifically created for people with visual impairments to enjoy. It is a fully paved hiking trail with interpretive signs in both normal text and Braille. A cable handrail is available to guide you from one interpretive sign to the next. This trail is 0.1 mile long and goes along Smith Creek.

Visual

FERNBANK MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ATLANTA

Fernbank consists of a natural-history museum, a Giant Screen Theater and an old-growth forest. They strive to be accessible for all guests; and for those with visual impairments, Fernbank offers descriptive-narration headsets in the Giant Screen Theater, where science-based docs and IMAX films like "Dinosaurs of Antarctica" and "Secrets of the Sea" are shown daily. These headsets feature an adjustable volume control that describes the visual setting and action taking place in the film. Audio and sound effects are amplified in the movie as well.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

ATLANTA

If you are a sports fan at all, the College Football Hall of Fame in downtown Atlanta is calling you. There are a variety of interactive exhibits, making this a fun attraction even for those who aren't huge college football fans. For visitors with visual impairments, the hall can arrange complimentary tour guides when given 48 hours' notice.

STONE MOUNTAIN PARK

STONE MOUNTAIN

This is one of the Southeast's most visited attractions—and after visiting yourself, you'll understand why. You can ride a cable car to the top of the mountain and enjoy a variety of other activities as someone with hearing impairments. The 4-D theater and the scenic railroad have written scripts available, and the Memorial Hall Auditorium has closed captioning available on the screen if you ask a team member before the show begins. (Entrances to all attractions are wheelchair-accessible, too.)

NATIONAL CENTER FOR CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS

ATLANTA

This museum believes in justice and dignity for all and, therefore, is fully inclusive for all abilities, including those with hearing impairments. There are immersive exhibits and events, which will give you a greater appreciation for how far we've come in the quest for equality and how much further we still need to go. Handheld text and audio devices are available for checkout upon entry.

FOX THEATRE

ATLANTA

The legendary Fox Theatre hosts numerous concerts, touring Broadway shows and other productions throughout the year. Designated seats for guests with hearing impairments are available in the front of the theater. Assisted-listening devices are available on a first-come, first-served basis at all performances, and closed captioning can be requested by calling the ticket office. Sign-language-interpreting services are also offered for certain show dates but can always be requested by calling the ticket office at least two weeks in advance of your show date.

TAP INTO YOUR OWN POWER

The National Center for Civil & Human Rights is an organization built to “inspire people to tap into their own power and change the world around them.” Exhibitions focus on the history of the civil rights movement in the U.S. and the struggle for human rights around the world.

Auditory

To give you the most accurate information about visiting Georgia with cognitive and sensory needs, Cory asked **SHALESE HEARD** about her favorite Georgia attractions.

She is known as the Autistic Travel Goddess, and she is a proud travel blogger, author and speaker who creates content on traveling the world as an autistic adult.

Cognitive / Sensory



GEORGIA AQUARIUM

ATLANTA

As the first-ever aquarium to be designated as autism certified, Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta goes above and beyond for guests with disabilities. They offer Sensory Hours each morning that consist of lower guest capacity, reduced audio, sensory aids and quiet spaces. Sensory bags can be checked out anytime and contain noise-canceling headsets, fidget devices and “I need/I feel” cards to help nonverbal visitors communicate. Whether admiring the animals of the ocean or watching one of the shows, everyone can have an enjoyable visit at this aquarium.

ZOO ATLANTA

ATLANTA

No matter what your favorite animal is, there's a good chance that you'll see it at this zoo. Zoo Atlanta is certified autism-friendly and offers things like sensory bags, fidget tools, weighted lap pads, quiet zones and noise-canceling headphones. The zoo aims to be an inclusive destination for everyone, and they provide a seamless experience for guests with sensory needs.

iFLY INDOOR SKYDIVING

ATLANTA

If you're looking for the ultimate adventure activity, this indoor-skydiving and flight experience could be the perfect place to visit. iFLY offers an All Abilities Night where extended accommodations and specialized trainings are offered to skydivers with disabilities. It is a truly inclusive environment that is tailored to each guest's specific challenges.



chasing waterfalls

experience
toccoa
GEORGIA



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ST. SIMONS • TYBEE • CUMBERLAND • SAPELO • JEKYLL • SEA ISLAND

BEACH BOUND

Escape to the relaxing beaches of Georgia's 100 miles of shoreline and 14 barrier islands, where unspoiled sandy shores await your beach blanket, sun-kissed paddlers seek a workout, adventure-spent vacationers wind down over fresh seafood, and the unique history of the state is on display in historical ports and towns. The whole region is perfectly positioned for family fun in the sun, and once you're on Georgia's coast, it's easy to visit several beaches—including those on St. Simons, Tybee, Cumberland, Sapelo and Jekyll islands—to multiply your shoreside fun.

St. Simons Island

With its blend of history, natural beauty and varied outdoor activities, St. Simons Island is a quintessential Georgia beach destination. The largest of the Golden Isles, it's easily accessible by car, minutes from I-95 and just over an hour from **Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport**. Its modern history dates back more than 400 years, when Spanish explorers came ashore looking for gold. Take advantage of pristine beaches ripe for swimming, beachcombing and soaking up sea breezes, or grab a kayak or paddleboard for a water tour.

On the ocean side of the island, **East Beach** is loved by pedalers on cruiser bikes and families taking a break from beachcombing. At **Gould's Inlet**, birders, anglers and paddleboarders can be seen along the boardwalk and the distant sandbars. The **Coast Guard Station** section offers many amenities alongside its wide, sandy expanses, including a wheelchair mat, showers, picnic tables and a summer snack shop. Off the beach, don some sturdy boots to spy on the birds and sealife that live amid the salt tides—ribbed mussels, periwinkle snails, wood storks, American oysters, redfish and more provide a wondrous coastal classroom.

Immerse yourself in history at the stops along the **Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor National Heritage Area**, including the **Historical Harrington School**. Built in the 1920s to serve the island's three African American communities, the school is now a cultural center and museum. Visit the archaeological remnants of **Fort Frederica National Monument** (also part of the national heritage area), where Spanish and British forces skirmished in 1742. See the Native American grounds at **Gascoigne Bluff** and go on a scavenger hunt for **Tree Spirits**—meticulously carved faces seen throughout the island's dignified oak trees.

In between, the island's **Pier Village** is a delightful blend of quaint and modern, with a mix of boutiques and restaurants just steps away from the water. Whether you take a guided trolley tour or go it alone on foot or atop a bicycle, there's plenty to see and do.



GOULD'S INLET, ST. SIMONS ISLAND/BEN GALLAND

**GOOD DAY
FOR A STROLL**

There's always much to see at Gould's Inlet, where birders delight in many varieties of coastal flyers, anglers cast a lazy line off the boardwalk and paddleboarders cast off for nearby sandbars.





ST. SIMONS ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM, ST. SIMONS ISLAND/CALEB JONES



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT MUSEUM; CORA THE MERMAID TREE SPIRIT; HOTEL SIMONE/ALL IMAGES: CALEB JONES



Eat

Taste the sea's bounty at **The Half Shell** on St. Simons, where peel-and-eat Georgia shrimp and blue crab cakes are favorites, and fresh oysters are served with creative accouterments like bacon, Cajun dust and asiago cheese.

Local ingredients, global influences and made-from-scratch preparations are hallmarks of the menu at **Halyards**, where the catch of the day and a perfectly grilled filet mignon shouldn't be missed.



Sleep

For an adults-only getaway, look no further than **Hotel Simone**, where luxury suites include access to a rooftop lounge, glittering plunge pool and beach bicycles.

Stay at the island's only waterfront resort, **The King & Prince**, which dates to the 1930s. Choose from refreshed resort rooms, villas and residences, and enjoy an 18-hole championship golf course and three swimming pools.



Do

Roam around **Pier Village**, the island's social hub, with its local shops and restaurants, and climb the 1872 **St. Simons Lighthouse** for sweeping views of the Atlantic and a glimpse of the island's maritime history.

Learn how the region protected the coast from German submarines and built Liberty ships at the **World War II Home Front Museum**. Then, soak up some sun at nearby **Coast Guard Station Beach**, a centerpiece of all the action, or search for the island's **Tree Spirits**.



IF YOU LIKE ST. SIMONS ISLAND, *You Also Might Enjoy...*

Find a blend of culture, history and island beauty on [Sapelo Island](#), accessible only by ferry with a pre-booked tour. Learn about the people of [Hog Hammock](#)—one of the last intact Gullah Geechee communities—and their agricultural and fishing roots. Descendants of enslaved peoples from West Africa, the Hog Hammock community honors their heritage by passing on traditions like making baskets and weaving cast nets. Marvel at Georgia's earliest Native American artifacts at the intriguing [Sapelo Island Shell Ring Complex](#), which dates back to 2170 BC. On [Nanny Goat Beach](#), hunt for sand dollars along 2 miles of wave-lapped coast. Or climb 80 steps to see the views from the candy-cane-striped [Sapelo Island Lighthouse](#), built in 1820.

Indulge in the luxury of the Golden Isles on [Sea Island](#) at [The Cloister](#) or [The Lodge at Sea Island](#)—the world's only resort to receive four Forbes Five Star awards 14 years running. Spa treatments, shopping and championship golf courses offer all the perks expected of a beach resort, but coastal Georgia's Southern charms are what makes the Sea Island experience stand out. Discover 5 miles of private golden beaches, perfect for strolling, riding horses or relaxing. Dine on the freshest seafood as Spanish moss dances from oak branches in the ocean breeze. Unwind on a custom yacht cruise as you cut through thick marshlands and experience the full beauty of the state's coast.

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"Food (and cooking food together) is the most sincere form of giving and sharing one can do. Cooking is a temporary art that requires dedication and attention at the stove. That dedication is not only a sacrifice of the person cooking. It opens the heart of the person receiving these delicious gifts."

- Chef Todd Richards



FEARLESS INNOVATION: ATLANTA'S FOOD STORY

Atlanta's food story has been told by many people over the years, but none with the focus and passion chef Taria Camerino has brought to the project. One local chef that caught Taria's eye was Todd Richards — a self-taught cook who paid his dues in countless restaurant kitchens before garnering national attention as a James Beard nominee and Iron Chef competitor. Chef Richards and 35 of his culinary colleagues have provided more than 45 recipes covering a wide spectrum of cuisines and cocktails to this coffee table quality cookbook. Order yours today to enjoy the wonderful recipes and beautiful photography throughout as you glimpse into the history that has shaped Atlanta's bold, resilient food scene.

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URBAN JOURNEYS

Georgia's cities make way for visitors to experience different cultures, savor excellent cuisine, dive into regional history, and visit top attractions, arts venues and world-class festivals. Atlanta, Savannah, Macon, Columbus and Augusta honor the old and usher in the new, marrying Southern hospitality and charm with modern amenities. Boutique hotels housed in renovated historical buildings and chef-driven restaurants breaking Southern food norms are just two examples. And “urban” doesn’t mean they’re all asphalt and glass: Each metro area boasts easy access to green spaces, breathtaking river sports, pastoral paths for cyclists and much more.



PIEDMONT PARK, ATLANTA/BEN GALLAND



Atlanta

The South's capital is a progressive melting pot, which is evident in its robust culture, trendy restaurants and neighborhoods with their own distinct personalities. Just drive down **Peachtree Road**, one of the city's major veins, to find everything from falafel and bulgogi to authentic Neapolitan pizza and chicken and waffles. Take a world-tasting tour under one roof at innovative food halls, including **The Municipal Market**, **Chattahoochee Food Works** and **Ponce City Market**.

Family attractions cater to many interests: Learn about the civil rights movement at **Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park** and **The National Center for Civil and Human Rights**, stroll through magical displays at the **Atlanta Botanical Garden**, try hands-on creative activities at the **Children's Museum of Atlanta** or go on a nature quest at **Fernbank Museum of Natural History**.

Atlanta is made up of a grouping of neighborhoods, each with a unique vibe and strong sense of community. Get to know a couple: **Grant Park** boasts **Zoo Atlanta** (and its beloved giant panda cubs) along with too-pretty-not-to-Insta Victorian-era houses. **Oakland Cemetery** is the final resting place of Margaret Mitchell, Maynard Jackson and Bobby Jones, and is also home to blooming gardens, magnolia trees and themed tours like **Black Magnolias**—which explores the lives of Atlanta's African American women. **Inman Park**'s treelined streets, cobblestone lanes and lush front-yard gardens make you want to slow down and breathe in the fresh air. Sit awhile at the many sidewalk cafes, before popping into chic boutiques or sipping a creative cocktail, especially along **Highland Avenue**, or strolling the **Freedom Park Trail**.

As you roam the city, keep an eye out for more than 1,000 vivid street murals—and maybe even some **Tiny Doors**—created by local and international artists.



Eat

Taste an eclectic mix of cuisines at Colony Square's elegant **Politan Row** food hall, complete with a hidden cocktail lounge and curated tasting experience that raises the bar of communal dining—think ponzu tuna bowls, chutney-topped pizzas and oxtail street tacos.

Follow that with chef Deborah VanTrece's globally inspired fusion soul food at **Twisted Soul Cookhouse & Pours**—a consistent standout on Atlanta's robust foodie scene. Try the flash-fried chicken wings with coconut gravy, sweet-tea baby-back ribs and peach-cobbler parfait to satisfy chic comfort-food cravings.

Sleep

Soak in some of the best panoramic views of downtown Atlanta from the observatory level of the 73-floor **Westin Peachtree Plaza**. The modern hotel is an excellent hub for visiting most of the city's attractions.

The elegant **Georgian Terrace** hotel evokes a Southern interpretation of Parisian architecture and luxurious accommodations. Just steps away from the **Fox Theatre**, it's central to Atlanta's performing arts scene.

Do

Stroll around **Centennial Olympic Park**, an attraction unto itself. A legacy of the 1996 Summer Olympic Games, today the park is host to playgrounds, gardens, picnic spots and The Fountain of Rings, one of the city's most iconic landmarks.

Within walking distance of the park, there are several attractions: Travel 20 stories up to take in the city from a private gondola on the **SkyView Atlanta** Ferris wheel. Get nose to nose with a Beluga whale or bottlenose dolphin, and witness frolicking sea lions and African penguins at **Georgia Aquarium**. Sip beverages from around the world, guess the ingredients by their scents and see the hypnotic bottling process at **World of Coca-Cola**. Participate in a lunch-counter sit-in simulation at **The National Center for Civil and Human Rights**.

SEA-LION LOVE

The Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta has several special encounters visitors can book in advance that get you up close and personal with some of its favorite residents, including sea lions, dolphins, penguins and sharks.

OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: POLTAN ROW AT COLONY SQUARE, MELISSA MCALPINE, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK/ACVB MARKETING; CENTENNIAL OLYMPIC PARK/GENE PHILLIPS. THIS PAGE: GEORGIA AQUARIUM/CALEB JONES



SCAN FOR MORE

Explore other urban
outposts in Georgia.



IF YOU LIKE ATLANTA,
You Also Might Enjoy...



Venture beyond downtown **Macon** to discover 150 historical buildings, including **Hotel Forty Five**—a revamped Art Deco high rise sporting modern comforts with a retro twist.

Macon shines a light on its rich African American, Native American and music histories: At the **Tubman African American Museum**, learn how Black Americans helped shape modern-day Macon, including influencing the music scene. A rhythmic saunter with **Rock Candy Tours** and exhibits at the **Museum at Capricorn Records** and **The Allman Brothers Band Museum at The Big House** (the former home of the band) round out your music history lesson. Explore the museum at **Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park** (on tap to become Georgia's newest national park), then marvel at Native American mounds built in 900 AD.

Moss-laden live oaks cover **Savannah's** walkable squares and parks, while design-driven boutique hotels breathe fresh life into historical buildings. This globally inspired city is filled with annual festivals celebrating Black heritage, film, jazz, seafood and more. Harmoniously blending the traditional and contemporary, Savannah's cup runneth over with award-winning restaurants. Taste the flavors of the city for yourself at trendy new eateries like **Common Thread** and **Ardley Station**. Explore even more dining options—ranging from authentic lowcountry boils to duck mole—at **Plant Riverside District**, where you'll also find an array of boutique shops, art galleries and events like Sunday Gospel Brunch, Movies in the Park, live music and comedy shows.



THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MACON/BEN GALLAND

MACON

GEORGIA

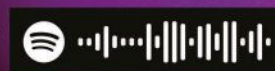


Named in numerous Best of 2023 Travel Lists, Macon affords you the chance to experience the area's rich history while enjoying a thriving culinary scene, local pride, and the city's music legacy. From cherry tree-lined pathways and bustling downtown streets to the Ocmulgee Mounds, there's more than one way to make memories all your own. [Plan your trip now to discover the place Where Soul Lives.](#)

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DISCOVER

DAHLONEGA

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SPRING

Spring into Dahlonega with the Bear on the Square festival and the Arts & Wine Festival! Listen to a concert in the park or visit the largest Lavender Farm in Georgia and pick your own bouquet.



SUMMER

Splash into summer and cool off by visiting one of our many watering holes! Chase waterfalls or kayak and tube down one of our rivers. Head to a Rodeo in the mountains or watch fireworks on the 4th!



FALL

Watch the leaves change in our little mountain town! Hike the Appalachian Trail and reach peaks you've never seen before! Don't forget to grab a glass at one of our award-winning wineries or breweries!




WINTER

Christmas lasts the whole month of December here in Dahlonega! Our downtown is aglow with lights every evening! Grab a cup of hot cocoa and feel like you're walking on the set of a Hallmark movie!



DAHLONEGA.ORG

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT DAHLONEGA
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BLUE RIDGE • ELLIJAY • CLAYTON • DAHLONEGA • HELEN

PEAKS OF PERFECTION

Take the high road and visit the North Georgia mountains for jaw-dropping scenery, award-winning vineyards and idyllic small towns with plenty to explore, including Blue Ridge, Ellijay, Clayton, Dahlonega and Helen.

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest stretches across the state's northern border, and the southern end of the Appalachian Mountains peppers the landscape with spectacular summits—the perfect start or end to any Appalachian Trail trek. Scenic vistas transform with the seasons and top-notch hiking trails, rolling rivers and pristine lakes (dreams for anglers), and the cooling spray of rushing waterfalls are fantastic ways to experience them. The area is also rich in history, with ties to Native American heritage, Southern Appalachian folk culture and more. Walkable downtowns, restaurants that leverage the region's signature fruits, cozy cabins and B&Bs, and cultural treasures ensure there are plenty of ways to relax on getaways of any length.



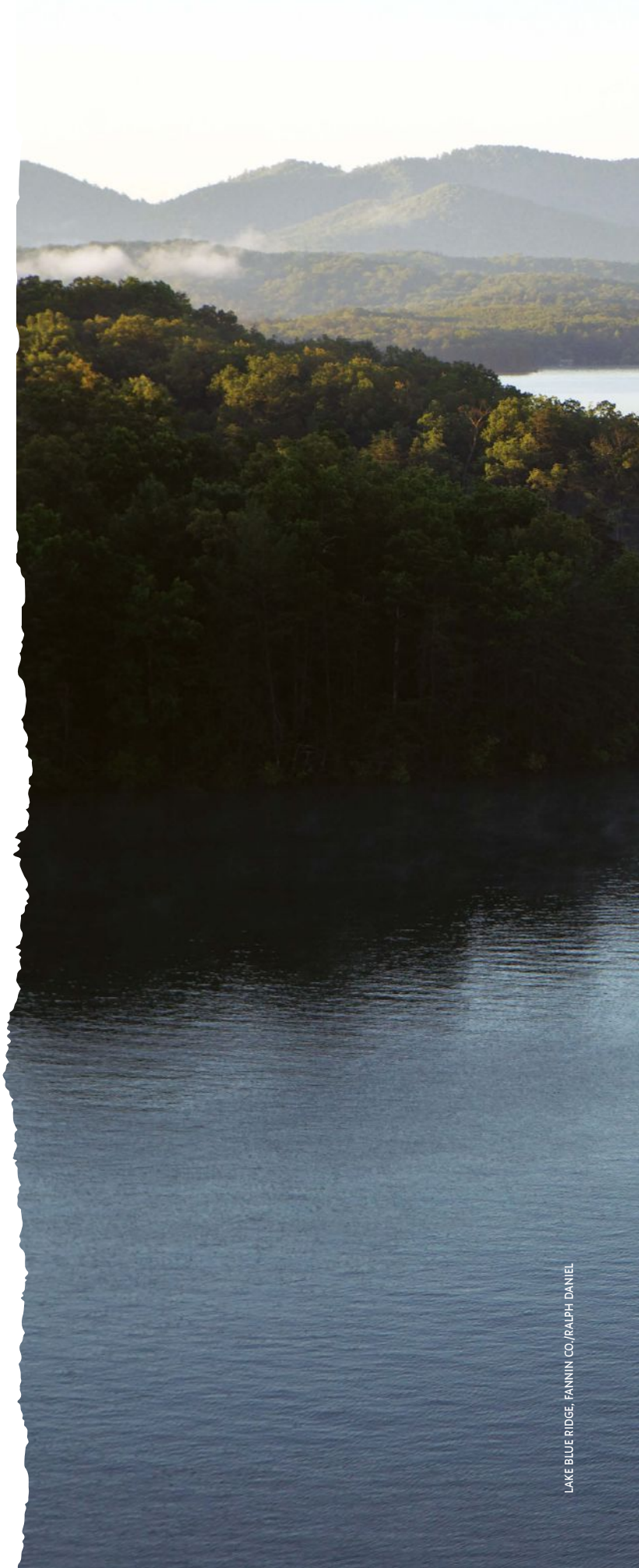
Blue Ridge

Consistently ranked one of the South's top destinations, Blue Ridge is a quintessential American mountain town. It's a true escape from the everyday, nestled amid miles of gentle peaks, forested trails, trout-filled streams and **Lake Blue Ridge**. When visitors have had more serene natural encounters than they can handle, the walkable, artsy downtown awaits with noteworthy places to eat, wet their whistles and share fish tales with other blissed-out locals and visitors.

The **Toccoa River**'s pristine waterway has a reputation as the trout-fishing capital of the state, and it's equally popular for kayaking and tubing. **Mercier Orchards**, family owned since 1943, lets guests pick their own apples from more than 50 varieties. Pick up treats such as apple butter, fried apple donuts and hard cider.

For a taste of the famed Appalachian Trail, head to **Springer Mountain**. It's the 2,190-mile hike's southern terminus and the spot where day hikers will find paths in varying levels of difficulty along with sweeping mountain views. Connect with **Hike the Ridge** for guided sunset or sunrise hikes. For those looking for views from a more relaxed position, several scenic drives fan out from town (stop by the welcome center for maps) through mountainous areas, lush countrysides and leafy wilderness, as well as several waterfalls, including **Amicalola Falls**—the tallest cascading waterfall east of the Mississippi River. For more water refreshment, hook up with several outfitters just outside town for an Ocoee River whitewater adventure or splash into the Toccoa with **Blue Ridge Tubing**.

Carve out plenty of time to meander around downtown. There, you'll find upscale shops, curated galleries with work from local artists, farm-to-table restaurants and breweries. Hit up the tasting rooms of **Angry Hops Brewing**, **Fannin Brewing Company** and **Bear Claw Vineyards** to sample the region's bounty. Follow that with dinner at **Bin 322 Wine & Tapas Bar**, **Harvest On Main** or **Southern Charm** and your Blue Ridge to-do list will be complete.



LAKE BLUE RIDGE: FANNIN CO./RALPH DANIEL

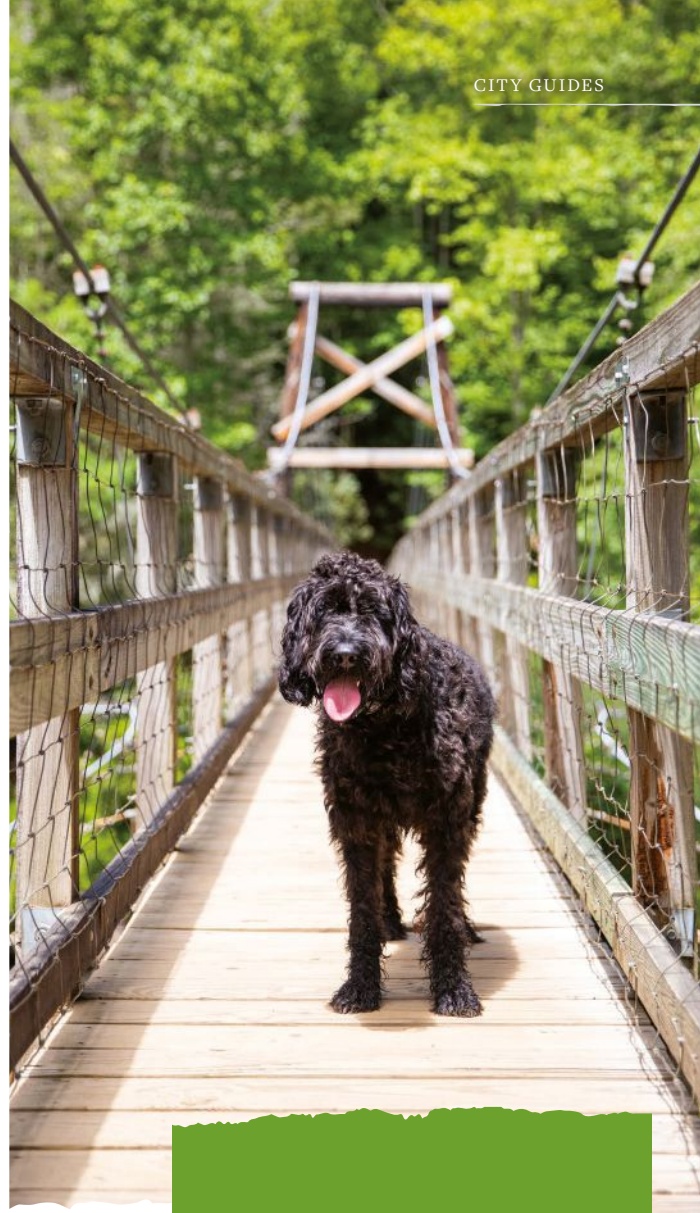


WHITEWATER THRILLS

Raft, tube or kayak down the Ocoee River, rolling and bobbing past lush forestland as your guide dazzles you with details about the river's history and ecology.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: BLACK SHEEP RESTAURANT/VISIT BLUERIDGE; TOCCOA RIVER SWINGING BRIDGE/BEN GALLAND; ESCAPE TO BLUE RIDGE/SQUAREFRAME MEDIA



Eat

Classic Cuban sandwiches, sweet plantains and beef-picadillo empanadas are standouts at family-owned **Rum Cake Lady Cuban Cafe**. Don't walk out without a signature rum-soaked bundt cake.

Everyone's welcome at **The Black Sheep**, where the spacious patio on the Butt House (built in 1914) is a top spot for brunch. Favorites include the chicken and red-velvet waffles and the crab-cake eggs Benedict.

Sleep

Get the true mountain experience—and plenty of peace and privacy—by booking a cabin. Choose from local rentals like **Escape to Blue Ridge**, offering scenic mountaintop or river-side views.

The shiny new **Hampton Inn by Hilton** is centrally located across from the historic train depot. Take advantage of the rooftop bar with summit views, pet-friendly rooms and complimentary breakfast.

Do

Venture outside downtown to take in glistening **Lake Blue Ridge's** 65 miles of shoreline populated by campsites, boat ramps, a marina and swimming areas. At **Blue Ridge Boat Rentals**, get yourself onto a pontoon, ski boat, Wave Runner, wake board, lily pad, kayak or paddleboard. Take a short hike on the Benton MacKaye Trail to see the **Toccoa River Swinging Bridge**.

Find yourself on a guided wine tasting at **Serenberry Vineyards & Winery** and then enjoy some snacks or a picnic in the pastoral, open-air barn.



IF YOU LIKE BLUE RIDGE, *You Also Might Enjoy...*

Nature lovers won't want to miss **Clayton**, home to numerous fishing spots, breathtaking waterfalls and wildflower views, along with **Black Rock Mountain State Park**, the highest-elevation state park in Georgia. Nestled at the base of Black Rock Mountain itself, Clayton has also earned a reputation as the state's farm-to-table capital. Taste the artfully prepared agricultural bounty at **The Market at the Clayton Cafe** and **Fortify Kitchen & Bar**. Fuel up for outdoor adventures, such as watersports on **Lake Burton** or any number of spectacular hikes. For a moderate trek, pick up Dicks Creek Gap to Bly Gap Camp—an 8.7-mile section of the **Appalachian Trail**—to follow the famed path as it slices through the forest's fern-carpeted floor.

The state's apple capital of **Ellijay** allures year-round with festivals (including fall's annual **Georgia Apple Festival**), orchards and restaurants leveraging the region's signature fruit. Sample fruity treats from nearly a dozen farms, including **Panorama Orchards and Farm Market**, or pick your own at **Hillcrest Orchards** and the **Red Apple Barn**. Savor the crisp flavor of Georgia apples in a different form at **Reece's Cider Co.** or take a tasting tour of the area's numerous vineyards. And Ellijay is as much for outdoors-lovers as it is for foodies. Go tubing on the **Cartecay River**, hike along miles of secluded trails or test your skills on a mountain bike. Nearby **Carters Lake** is perfect for boating, camping, picnicking, birding or simply soaking up the views.

SCAN FOR MORE

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SMALL-TOWN SPLendor



Embrace the local character and strong sense of community in Georgia's small towns while also exploring outdoor attractions, important pieces of history and delightful dining. Places like Milledgeville, Thomasville, Rome, Cartersville, Americus, Plains and Athens offer peaceful havens from the state's bustling cities. These destinations somehow feel nostalgic without sacrificing modern-day luxuries. Not only are these gems brimming with charisma, history and natural splendor, they also harbor surprising landmarks you may not know about until you make the detour.





Athens

Athens may be a cool college town, the birthplace of public higher education and a venue for top university sports, but it also has vibrant arts, music and nightlife scenes, a craft-beer trail, affordable destination dining and serene moments along the **Oconee River Greenway**.

Each neighborhood around the Classic City offers a distinctive vibe while still celebrating its traditional Southern character. Walk the restored **Victorian-era downtown**, retro yet trendy **Normaltown** and sophisticated **Five Points**. Stroll through the manicured acres of the **State Botanical Garden of Georgia**, appreciating the largest porcelain and decorative-art collection in the state. Find even more creative inspiration on the **University of Georgia** campus at the **Georgia Museum of Art**. Two of their standout collections include American paintings by Winslow Homer, James McNeill Whistler, Georgia O'Keeffe, Andrew Wyeth and Alice Neel, as well as the Thompson Collection of African American Art, which features paintings, prints and sculpture from emerging and regional artists.

Iconic music venues hold performances year-round in the town that gave birth to R.E.M., The B-52s and Widespread Panic. **The Athens Music Walk of Fame** passes by several of those spots, including the **Morton Theatre**, **40 Watt Club** and the **Georgia Theatre**. Visit during summer to attend **AthFest Music and Arts Festival**, one of the town's most popular cultural events. Later in the year, **The Georgia Music Hall of Fame** will open its museum experience in the **Classic Center Arena**, displaying memorabilia from the state's greats and diving into the roots of bluegrass, gospel, soul and rock 'n roll.

Meet artists, shop for locally made products and organic produce, and catch live bands and kids' activities at the weekly **Athens Farmers Market**. Gastropubs, breweries and coffee shops dot nearly every corner of the city, and delicious food isn't hard to come by with the town's wide selection of independently owned restaurants. Indulge in English-style afternoon tea at **The Café on Lumpkin**, enjoy Southern staples at **Home.made** and splurge on dinner at celebrity-chef-driven **Five & Ten**.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: THE STATE BOTANICAL GARDEN OF GEORGIA / BRYAN REDDING; ATHENS BEER TRAIL / VISIT ATHENS, GA; THE NATIONAL / VISIT ATHENS, GA

Eat

Fine-dining favorite **The National** marries the Mediterranean to the South, using seasonal, farm-sourced ingredients served in a laid-back, restored industrial building reminiscent of a European cafe.

Brunch spot **Mama's Boy** is beloved among locals. Head to one of two locations for made-from-scratch buttery biscuits, peach French toast and even chocolate cake for breakfast.

Sleep

Hotel Indigo Athens offers a chic stay in the heart of downtown. An on-site art gallery features work by local artists and farm-to-table cuisine leads the menu at its **Madison Bar & Bistro**.

Located in the Five Points neighborhood, **ATH|BNB The Rushmore** is a former fraternity house turned luxury bed-and-breakfast. Each of the 14 uniquely designed suites is fitted with custom furnishings and designer textiles.

Do

Sample the wares at local craft breweries, including **Creature Comforts Brewing Co.** and **Terrapin Beer**, along the **Athens Beer Trail**. Visit all six breweries in the 9-mile area to win a keepsake Athens Beer Trail Mug.

Spend some time treasure hunting in downtown's shops—especially those serving up upscale or quirky vintage fashion and homegoods, including **Community**, **Agora Vintage**, **Dynamite Vintage Clothing**, **Suska** and **Emmanuel Episcopal Thrift House**.

LIVE-MUSIC HUB

No trip to Athens can be considered complete without taking in a show or two. Epically cool venues with storied histories and lists of bands who got their starts in them—like the Georgia Theatre—ensure you'll arrive back home feeling epically cool yourself.

A photograph of the Georgia Theatre in Athens, Georgia, at dusk. The building is a two-story structure with a maroon upper section and a blue lower section. The marquee is illuminated with red neon letters. The text on the marquee reads "GEORGIA THEATRE" in large letters, and "PRESENTS ATHENS, GA" in smaller letters below it. Several people are standing in a line outside the entrance, which is marked by a stanchion and a blue trash can. The sky is a deep blue, and the sun is setting on the left side of the frame, creating a lens flare effect.

GEORGIA THEATRE

PRESENTS
ATHENS, GA



IF YOU LIKE ATHENS,

You Also Might Enjoy...

Host of the **Rose Show and Festival** every spring since 1922, **Thomasville** is also known for “the Big Oak,” a 337-year-old tree and popular photo spot (even President Eisenhower took pictures with this leafy local legend) and its well-preserved Victorian-era architecture. Learn about some of America’s and Thomasville’s first Black achievers at **Jack Hadley Black History Museum**. Then stop into more than 100 independent shops and restaurants around town such as the **Fuzzy Goat** yarn shop, **The Pink Valise Boutique** and **Relish’s** “celebration of cooking.” For dining, you really can’t miss in downtown, but some top spots include **Jonah’s Fish & Grits**, **The Local Kickstand** and **Hubs & Hops**.

Milledgeville is one of the state’s oldest towns, brimming with scenic and historical squares, houses, churches and cemeteries, while maintaining an energetic college-town vibe. Hop on **Milly the Trolley** for a tour before hitting up sites like **The Sallie Ellis Davis House**, a pillar of the African American community in the early 1900s. Cool off with a boat, kayak, tube or fishing trip at **Lake Sinclair** and along the **Oconee River Greenway**—several outfitters, including **Oconee Outfitters** and **Krazy Dave’s**—can get you set up with rentals and transportation. You’ll find plenty of great food, shops and live music in the walkable downtown after your explorations. In December, visit for **Christmas at Georgia’s Old Governor’s Mansion**, a cheerful display of holiday decorations from the 1850s.

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COMING TO ATHENS

THE CLASSIC CENTER

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Snellville Celebrates 100 Years of History



Come celebrate 100 years of history in Snellville and experience the diverse cultures and dynamic traditions that have helped shape our story. No matter your interests, the city has countless opportunities for the entire family to enjoy.



The Tomlin at The Grove at Towne Center, a pet friendly community, is a breath of fresh air in the pulse of a city center reborn. **The Tomlin**, luxury apartments, offers resort-style amenities and a level of service unmatched.



Sample the many flavors that Snellville has to offer, from the traditional Southern cuisine to the farm fresh from scratch restaurants and shop one of the largest shopping areas in Gwinnett County.



Briscoe Park, featuring a lake, community garden, playground, pool, athletic fields and courts offers all the amenities for the perfect family reunion. Snellville park and hotels are the perfect place to book your next sports tournament or event.



Snellville Veterans Memorial is a truly unique memorial where residents and visitors alike can come to honor or memorialize those who served our country to protect our freedom.

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