

The Georgia Mountain Parkway
Georgia's Favorite Scenic Drive!

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The Georgia Mountain Parkway

Gilmer County Ellijay, East Ellijay, and Cherry Log

1 Historic Downtown Ellijay: This quaint square is lined with historic buildings, antique stores, clothing boutiques, crafts, gifts and collectibles, as well as eateries of all kinds.

2 Tabor House & Civil War Museum: This 1870 home is one of Ellijay’s oldest homes still standing. It is home to the Gilmer County Historical Society in which its volunteers run a wonderful civil war era museum. 706-276-1861.

3 Cartecay Vineyards: With over 13 acres of vines and 6 different varieties, Cartecay Vineyards is a thriving winery. Come sip in the Nealey Barn Tasting Room or listen to live music on the Chimney Patio. Cartecay’s romantic grounds are ideal as an events facility. www.cartecayvineyards.com.

4 Chateau Meichtry Family Vineyard & Winery: A family owned and operated vineyard located in the beautiful foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The rolling hills provide a perfect location for growing quality wine grapes. www.chateaumeichtry.com

5 Engelheim Vineyards: Gary and Jan Engel decided to purchase the land that is now known as Engelheim (“Angel Home” in German) in 2007. After Colonel Engel retired from the Army in 2004 upon return from Kuwait and Iraq, they decided to live their dream of living in the North Georgia Mountains and to grow the finest quality grapes. They planted the first vines in 2009 and took the first limited harvest in 2011. They currently offer 4 varieties of wine. www.engelheimvineyards.com

6 Ellijay River Vineyards: Established in 2010 on almost twenty acres of former crop land, bordering the Ellijay River in the North Georgia mountains. The property is located in the Whitepath area of Gilmer County between the towns of Ellijay and Cherry Log. www.ellijayrivervineyards.com

7 Carters Lake: Carters Lake is the deepest man-made lake in the southeast. It has over 62 miles of shoreline. This Corps of Engineers lake offers great fishing, camping, swimming, boating, water sports and breathtaking mountain views. 706-334-2248.

8 Mountain Valley Farm: This beautiful valley has been in the Wright’s family since 1840. In 2009, the Wrights decided to open Mountain Valley Farms, selling grass fed beef and grain feed pork direct to market. Open seven days a week, the Farm Store offers various cuts of meat, unpasteurized milk for pets, and most importantly an opportunity to know just where your food comes from. Great place for kids to see real farm animals in a natural setting. www.grassfedgeorgia.com

9 Bear Creek Trail: Located out 52 West the Bear Creek Trail offers 2.9 miles or more of multipurpose trails. This scenic trail follows Bear Creek to the Gennett Poplar, the state record Tulip Poplar.

10 Whitepath Golf Course: A public golf course designed by world-renowned architect Rocky Roquemore. It is snuggled in the majestic North Georgia Mountains and offers breathtaking scenery from elevated tees overlooking lush fairways and medium-sized greens. www.golfwhitepath.com

11 R&A Orchards: One of several multi-generational farms, R&A is open year ’round and offers seasonal fruits and produce throughout the year. Visit during the spring for a wagon ride through the orchards while the apple blossoms are blooming or pick your own strawberries. Summer brings fresh from the farm vegetables and of course fall brings apples. www.randaorchards.com

12 River Park on the Coosawattee River: A linear park with a three-quarter mile walking track, picnic areas, tennis courts, exercise stations, and a small playground. It is also home to Veterans Memorial Bridge & Garden where tribute is paid to our great nation and all veterans.

13 Harrison Park: A 26 acre passive recreation park under development in downtown Ellijay. Located on McCutchen St., less than one-half mile from the roundabout, Harrison Park currently has walking paths and off-road parking available.

Fannin County Blue Ridge, McCaysville, and Morganton

14 Bear Claw Vineyards: 2281 Tennis Court Road, Blue Ridge. New vineyard and farm winery in Blue Ridge, and home of the Blue Ridge TreeHouse. Open all year. www.bearclawvineyards.com

15 The Swan Drive-In: 651 Summit St., Blue Ridge. One of four remaining drive-in theaters in Georgia, the Swan offers first-run movies year round. www.swan-drive-in.com. 706-632-5235.

16 Historic Downtown Blue Ridge: Once known as an elite health resort because of its mineral waters, the busy and eclectic town of Blue Ridge was established as a railroad town, with the Depot at its heart. Blue Ridge now features antique and specialty shops, galleries, restaurants, small town atmosphere and friendly people.

17 Blue Ridge Scenic Railway: 241 Depot St., Blue Ridge. Winding through rolling hills alongside the waters of the Toccoa River, a restored rail line takes passengers from the Historic Blue Ridge Depot along a 26-mile route to McCaysville from March through December. www.brs scenic.com. 877-413-8724.

18 Lake Blue Ridge: Fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking and boating are available on this scenic TVA reservoir; find out more about the lake’s history at a kiosk on top of the Lake Blue Ridge dam. Rent a pontoon, a kayak or a paddle board at the Lake Blue Ridge Marina. www.lakebluebridgemarina.com. 706-632-2618.

19 The Toccoa Tailwaters: Blue Ridge is the Trout Capital of Georgia and great fly fishing can be found in rivers, streams and creeks throughout the county. A favorite spot is the tailwaters of the Toccoa River below the Lake Blue Ridge Dam. Fish the tailwaters or have a picnic at Tammen Park, located right on the Georgia Mountain Parkway. Visit the Fannin County Welcome Center nearby for a free fishing guide.

20 The Appalachian Trail & Benton MacKaye Trail: The Appalachian Trail (AT) and the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) both begin at Springer Mountain on the Fannin/Gilmer line. The AT makes its way through the Georgia Mountain Parkway for nearly 80 miles to Bly Gap on the North Carolina line. The BMT runs through Fannin and Gilmer Counties into the Cohutta Wilderness, then into

Tennessee. www.appalachiantrail.org; www.bmta.org

21 Falls Branch Falls: Located on the BMT only minutes from the town of Blue Ridge is Falls Branch Falls. Take Aska Road south 8 miles and turn right on Stanley Creek Road. Go 3.1 miles to the “parking area” on the left. www.blueridgemountains.com; www.bmta.org

22 The Appalachian Trail & Long Creek Falls: Long Creek Falls can be seen by hiking down a short side trail from the combined Appalachian-Benton MacKaye Trail. These falls total about 50 feet in two distinct drops. A leisurely 30 minute hike to the falls is uphill on the way in, downhill on the way out. For detailed instructions, see www.blueridgemountains.com

23 Swinging Bridge over the Toccoa River: A popular destination for day-hikers and Benton MacKaye Trail through hikers is the swinging bridge over the Toccoa River. This 270 foot long bridge is the longest swinging bridge east of the Mississippi River. It was built by the USDA Forest Service in cooperation with the Appalachian Trail Club in 1977, when extension of the Blue Ridge Parkway to Kennesaw Mountain was under consideration. www.blueridgemountains.com; www.appalachiantrail.org

24 Serenberry Vineyards: 450 Tipton Tr., Morganton. Located between Morganton and Suches on Highway 60, Serenberry is just a country mile from Blue Ridge and open on weekends. Find out more about this charming vineyard at www.serenberryvineyards.com

25 Mercier Orchards: 8660 Blue Ridge Dr., Blue Ridge. More than 30 varieties of apples, plus blueberries, blackberries and peaches are there “for the pickin’!” There’s also a farmer’s market, deli and the best fried pies in the south. U-pick season begins in April with strawberries. www.mercier-orchards.com. 706-632-3411.

26 McCaysville and The Copper Basin: Twin cities located on the Georgia-Tennessee state line, and destination of the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway. At the “Blue Line,” you can have one foot in Georgia and the other in Tennessee! Historic buildings, unique restaurants, shops and the River Park.

Union County Blairsville and Suches

27 Brasstown Bald: Rising 4,784 feet above sea level, is Georgia’s tallest mountain. Its incredible 360 degree view allows you to see Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and South Carolina on a clear day. The site features a unique gift shop, a visitor center that focuses on Georgia history, geology and the natural world. Open daily from 10am to 5pm May—November. Open December—April as weather allows. Take a ride on the Russell-Brasstown National Scenic Byway as it winds through the valleys and mountain gaps of the southern Appalachian Mountains. 706-896-4137. www.cfaia.org

28 Byron Herbert Reece Farm & Heritage Center: The Reece Farm is open seasonally to the public Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10am to 5pm and on Sunday from 1pm until 5pm. Take in the history of early Appalachian living from a famous farmer and poet. The site features a gift shop, museum, farming exhibits and the legacy of Byron Herbert Reece. 706-745-2034. www.ByronHerbertReeceSociety.org

29 Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center: A native plant ethnobotanic garden, woodland medicine trail and multi-use interpretive center await your visit. Tours are available on

Mondays from 9am to 1pm, May through September. 706-745-2655. www.gmrec.uga.edu

30 Helton Creek Falls: A .2 mile hike will lead you along a boardwalk to first encounter the lower falls, dropping over a 30 ft. ledge with a nice swimming hole at the bottom, and then on to the upper falls which drops over 60 feet to a pool below. 706-745-6928. www.fs.usda.gov

31 Lake Nottely: A 4,180 acre lake with 106 miles of shoreline, Lake Nottely provides opportunities for boating, swimming, fishing, picnicking, and camping. There are two marinas and several public boat ramps. Poteete Creek Park & Campground, a 95 acre facility located on the shores of Lake Nottely, has 59 campsites. Campers and day visitors alike can enjoy fishing, picnicking, and swimming at the sandy beach area. 706-439-6103. www.unioncountygaga.gov

32 Meeks Park: A one of a kind recreation area including picnic tables, pavilions, playgrounds, ball fields, a pool, splash pad, tennis courts, basketball court, skateboard park, walking trails, dog park, 18 hole disc golf course, fishing on Butternut Creek, a restored waterwheel, a kinetic sculpture exhibit, and a canoe/kayak launch pad. 706-439-6074. www.unioncountygaga.gov

33 Alexander’s Store: Not just a store, but a shopping experience where you can find everything under the sun. Family owned since 1953 you will find a diverse inventory from classic clothing to furniture and appliances along with gifts, accessories, and sporting goods. 706-745-6450. www.alexandersstore.com

34 Suches and Lake Winfield Scott: This “Valley Above the Clouds” is home to Woody Gap School, Georgia’s smallest public school. Nearby Lake Winfield Scott is a quiet 18 acre lake with a sandy beach for swimming and a free-standing pier for fishing. Hiking, camping, and picnicking are also available.

35 Wineries & Distilleries: Odom Springs Vineyards and Paradise Hills Resort & Spa are two of the farm wineries that grow, process, and serve their grapes to you by the glass or by the bottle. Granddaddy Mimms Distillery is your stop for white lightning. Owner Tommy Townsend bottles his moonshine using his granddaddy’s recipe. www.odomsspringsvineyards.com; www.paradisehillsresort.com; www.granddaddymimms.com

36 Union County Historic Courthouse: Located on the Square in downtown Blairsville, this Romanesque brick and granite structure built in 1899 now serves as a local and historic history museum. A portion of the famed Margarita Morgan Miniature Collection, a restored law office, and the Mountain Life Museum including the Payne Cabin are all part of the Historical Society’s features. In addition, free Friday night concerts of bluegrass, country, and gospel music are held in the restored courtroom from May through October. 706-745-5493. www.unioncountyhistory.org

37 Farmers Market: The Union County Farmers Market is the best place to meet the locals and enjoy the freshest produce grown right here in Union County. A state of the art canning plant is available for public use. Market hours are Tuesdays from 2pm to 6pm and Saturdays from 7am to 1pm. A live auction is held every Tuesday evening from 5pm to 8pm. Thursdays and Fridays experience the Trash to Treasures sale from 8am to 1pm, the biggest and best yard sale around. 706-781-8802. www.ucfarmersmarket.com

38 Vogel State Park: One of Georgia’s oldest and most popular state parks, Vogel offers tent and

camper sites, rental cottages, a CCC museum, a 20-acre lake, miniature golf, swimming beach, picnic shelters, pedal boats and 17 miles of hiking trails. Located directly below Lake Trahlyta in Vogel State Park is a stepping stone waterfall that falls 40 feet. The trail is a 1 mile loop, short and steep. 706-745-2628. www.gastateparks.org/vogel

39 Walasi-Yi Interpretive Center: A historical stone structure completed by the CCC in 1937 marking the only covered portion of the Appalachian Trail’s 2100+ miles. On site is the Mountain Crossings outfitter, an outdoor retailer and Appalachian Trail gift store. 706-745-6095. www.mountaincrossings.com

Towns County Young Harris and Hiawassee

40 Young Harris College and Rollins Planetarium: Visit the beautiful campus of this historic liberal arts college. Enjoy performances in the Glenn-McGinnis Hall and the Rollins Planetarium as well as exhibits at the Campus Gate Art Gallery. 706-379-3111 or www.yhc.edu

41 Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa: Situated on 503 acres, Brasstown Valley Resort offers fabulous dining, conference facilities, world class spa services, luxurious accommodations, 18 hole championship golf and guided horseback riding on miles of mountain trails. 706-379-9900 www.brasstownvalley.com.

42 William Holland School of Lapidary Arts: School unlike any other in the U.S., the School for Lapidary Arts provides instruction on turning rough gems into family keepsakes. Lodging and meals available on site. 706-379-2126. www.lapidaryschool.org

43 Crane Creek Vineyards: Crane Creek Vineyards is part of the Georgia Wine Highway where you can discover premium Georgia wines. The winery sits high in Georgia’s Blue Ridge Mountains. Their unique tasting room which is open year ’round, is located within the original 1886 Appalachian Farm House and overlooks the vineyards and North Georgia Mountains. 706-379-1236. www.cranecreekvineyards.com

44 The Ridges Resort: Located on the shores of beautiful Lake Chatuge, The Ridges Resort boasts lakeside dining, conference facilities and newly renovated accommodations. The adjoining 400 slip marina offers long and short term slip rentals as well as pontoon boats, kayaks, canoes and peddle boat rentals. Jet ski rentals are also available upon request. 706-896-2262. www.theridgesresort.com

45 Lake Chatuge: Spend lazy summer days boating, skiing, fishing and camping on the blue waters of beautiful Lake Chatuge. 706-896-4966. www.golakechatuge.com

46 Boundary Waters Resort & Marina: This family owned and operated resort marina offers 200 covered slips, lakeside vacation rentals, new and used boat sales, full marina services and the Blue Canoe gift shop. Boundary Waters offers a full range of boat rentals including pontoons, ski boats, deck boats, jet-skis, runabouts, canoes and kayaks. 706-896-2530. www.boundarywatersresort.com

47 Bald Mountain Park Campground: Often referred to as a “Little Slice of Heaven in the Mountains of Georgial” It doesn’t matter if you are looking for a place to visit in the spring, summer or fall, you will always enjoy the beauty of the park. Full hook-up RV sites with cable TV, wireless internet, picnic tables and fire rings. New cabin rentals are also available. Big rigs are welcome! Large groups can enjoy the use of the park pavilion. Range of activities for children including playground, pool,

putt-putt, fishing, shuffle board, kayaking and paddling. 706-896-8896. www.baldmountainpark.com

48 Jackrabbit Mountain Recreation Area: This picturesque area is located on a pinewooded peninsula on Lake Chatuge. The area offers 100 camping sites, a swimming beach with accessible showers, flush toilets, hiking trails, picnic areas with shelters, and a launching ramp for boating, water skiing, and fishing. Favorite for bicycle enthusiasts offering over 15 miles of challenging trail.

49 John C. Campbell Folk School: Dating back to 1925, this non-profit Folk School offers over 800 classes each year in traditional and contemporary craft, art, music, dance, cooking, gardening, nature studies, photography and writing. Several fun-filled events are also held at the School along with weekend concerts and dances. The on-campus craft shop has a wide variety of items for sale from over 300 regional and national artists. 1-800-FOLK-SCH. www.folkschool.org

50 High Shoals Falls: These falls have a succession of five waterfalls with an estimated total vertical drop of 300 feet. Located in a 170 acre scenic area, the High Shoals Trail follows along High Shoals Creek to observation decks beside two of the five streams cascading in the High Shoals Scenic Area. 706-896-4966. www.golakechatuge.com

51 Hightower Creek Vineyards: A family owned and operated winery and vineyard and member of the Georgia Wine Highway, Hightower Creek offers tastings year ’round and special events most weekends. 706-896-8963. www.hightowercreekvineyards.com

Visitor Information:

Gilmer County Chamber of Commerce and Welcome Center
696 First Avenue, East Ellijay, Georgia
Open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
706-635-7400.

Downtown Welcome Center
10 Broad Street, Downtown Ellijay, Georgia
Open Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(Hours are extended during peak season and holidays.) www.pickellijay.com

Fannin County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center
152 Orvin Lance Drive, Blue Ridge, Georgia
Open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Sunday—please visit our other Visitor Centers.

Downtown Visitor Center
282 West Main Street, Blue Ridge
Open 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

McCaysville Visitor Center
53 East Market Street, McCaysville
Open Tuesday and Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Open Sunday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
www.blueridgemountains.com

Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce and Welcome Center
129 Union County Recreation Road, Blairsville, Georgia. Open weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Memorial Day through October. 706-745-5789. www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com

Lake Chatuge Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center
1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Hiawassee, Georgia
Open weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
800-984-1543. www.golakechatuge.com