



Get Out. Get Dirty. Get Fit.

Metropolitan Atlanta Area State Parks and Historic Sites FACT SHEET

- **ETOWAH INDIAN MOUNDS HISTORIC SITE**

813 Indian Mounds Rd., S.W.
Cartersville, GA 30120

ABOUT ETOWAH INDIAN MOUNDS HISTORIC SITE

Home to several thousand Native Americans between 1000 A.D. to 1550 A.D., this 54-acre site contains six earthen mounds, a plaza, village area, borrow pits and defensive ditch. This is the most intact Mississippian Culture site in the Southeastern United States. While only nine percent of this site has been excavated, examination at Mound C and surrounding artifacts revealed much about the people who lived here more than 500 years ago. The Etowah Indian Mounds symbolize a society rich in ritual. Towering over the community, the 63-foot flat-topped earthen knoll was likely used as a platform for the home of the priest-chief. In another mound, nobility were buried in elaborate costumes accompanied by items they would need in their after-lives. Today, visitors may tour the museum where exhibits interpret daily life in the once self-sufficient community. Many artifacts show how the natives of this political and religious center decorated themselves with shell beads, tattoos, paint, complicated hairdos, feathers and copper ear ornaments. Well-preserved stone effigies and objects made of wood, sea shells and stone are also displayed.

Admission: \$2.50-\$4. Group rates available with advance notice.

Facilities: 6 Earthen Mounds, Museum, Gift Shop, 20 Picnic Tables, Riverside Benches, Bus Parking

Directions: Located 5 miles southwest of I-75 exit #288. Follow brown directional signs.

Information: Historic Site (770) 387-3747

- **PANOLA MOUNTAIN STATE PARK**

2600 Ga. Hwy. 155, SW
Stockbridge, GA 30281

ABOUT PANOLA MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

This unusual park near Atlanta was created to protect a 100-acre granite monadnock (mountain) often compared to Stone Mountain and Arabia Mountain. Minimally developed, Panola Mountain shelters rare plants of the Piedmont region. Hikers may explore the park's watershed and granite outcrop on their own, or they may join park staff for guided hikes onto the restricted-access mountain. Children especially enjoy the nature center with animal exhibits. Due to its delicate ecological features, Panola Mountain was designated a National Natural Landmark, and pets are not allowed on most non-paved trails. Bicycles are allowed only on the paved PATH trail.

Key Activities: Hiking, Bicycling and Jogging (access to 12-mile, paved Rockdale River/ Arabia Mountain PATH Trail), Birding, Fishing -- free permit required, Picnicking, Ranger Programs

Facilities: 1,026 Acres, 4 Picnic Shelters (\$60), Conference Room (seats 50, \$150) Nature Center, Playground, 2 Fishing Lakes

Directions: Located 18 miles southeast of Atlanta on Ga. Hwy. 155 via 120 exit #68.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Park (770) 389-7801

- **PICKETT'S MILL BATTLEFIELD HISTORIC SITE**

4432 Mt. Tabor Church Road
Dallas, GA 30157

ABOUT PICKETT'S MILL BATTLEFIELD HISTORIC SITE

Pickett's Mill is one of the best preserved Civil War battlefields in the nation. Visitors can travel roads used by Federal and Confederate troops, see earthworks constructed by these men, and walk through the same ravine where hundreds died. On May 27, 1864, the Federal Army, having been stopped in its advance on Atlanta two days earlier by the Battle of New Hope Church, attempted to outflank the Confederate position. Some 14,000 Federal troops were selected for the task, and General Howard was given command. After a five-hour march, Howard's force reached the vicinity of Pickett's Mill and prepared to attack. Waiting were 10,000 Confederate troops under the command of General Cleburne. The Federal assault began at 5 p.m. and continued into the night. Daybreak found the Confederates still in possession of the field. The Federals had lost 1,600 men compared to the Confederate loss of 500. The Confederate victory resulted in a one-week delay of the Federal advance on Atlanta.

Admission: \$3 adult; \$2.50 senior; \$1.75 child (6-18) Children under 6 are free. Group rates are available with advance notice. Rates are subject to change.

Facilities: 765 Acres, Group Shelter (seats 175, \$125), Picnic Tables, Visitor Center--film, artifacts and exhibits, Hiking -- 4 miles of trails, Earthworks, Bus Parking

Directions: Located 5 miles northeast of Dallas off Ga. Hwy. 381 on Tabor Church Rd., accessed by Dallas-Acworth Rd. or Due West Rd. If using I-20, take Exit #44 (Thornton Road).

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Historic Site (770) 443-7850

- **RED TOP MOUNTAIN STATE PARK & LODGE**

50 Lodge Road SE
Cartersville, GA 30121

ABOUT RED TOP MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

This popular park on 12,000-acre Lake Allatoona is ideal for swimming, boating and fishing. Visitors can bring their own boats or rent from Park Marine. Twelve miles of hiking trails wind through the park, providing opportunities for exercise and to explore a reconstructed 1860s log cabin (staffed on Saturdays). The park's lodge, restaurant and meeting facilities make Red Top a great getaway for family reunions and business groups. A 3/4-mile paved trail behind the restaurant is suitable for wheelchairs and strollers. Named for the soil's rich red color caused by high iron-ore content, Red Top Mountain was once an important mining area for iron.

Key Activities: Hiking/Biking (12.5 miles of wooded trails), 4-mile Iron Hill Trail, Fishing, Boating and Skiing, Marina with 2 ramps, 2 docks, Picnicking, Swimming, Ranger Programs, Miniature Golf

Facilities: 1,562 Acres, 92 Tent, Trailer, RV Sites (\$20-\$24), Yurt (\$40), 18 Cottages (\$95-\$124), Cottages #17 and #18 are dog-friendly, 33-Room Lodge (\$65-\$125) & Conference Center (Wireless Internet Service), 7 Picnic Shelters (\$40), 2 Group Shelters (seat 100 and 250, \$160-220), Pioneer Campground (\$25 and up), Meeting Facilities, Restaurant, Swimming Beach (seasonal), Swimming Pool (lodge and cottage guests only), Tennis Court, Boat Ramps may be closed due to drought

Directions: Located 45 minutes north of Atlanta near Cartersville, 1.5 miles east of I-75 exit #285

Reservations: Park Reservations (800) 864-7275
Lodge Reservations (800) 573-9658
Visitor Center (770) 975-4226

- **SWEETWATER CREEK STATE PARK**

1750 Mt. Vernon Road
Lithia Springs, GA 30122

ABOUT SWEETWATER CREEK STATE PARK

Sweetwater Creek is a peaceful tract of wilderness only minutes from bustling downtown Atlanta. A wooded trail follows the free-flowing stream to the ruins of the New Manchester Manufacturing Company, a textile mill burned during the Civil War. Beyond the mill, the trail climbs rocky bluffs to provide views of the beautiful shoals below. The 215-acre George Sparks Reservoir is popular with anglers and provides a pretty setting for feeding ducks and canoeing. Fishing supplies are available in the park's bait shop, while wildlife and history displays, trail maps, snacks and gift items may be found in the Visitor Center -- one of the most environmentally efficient buildings in Georgia.

Key Activities: Hiking (9 miles of trails), Lake and Stream Fishing, Canoe Rental (seasonal), Picnicking, Ranger Programs

Facilities: 2,549 Acres, 215-Acre Lake, Visitor Center and Gift Shop, Conference Room (seats 40, \$100), 11 Picnic Shelters (\$60), Group Shelter and BBQ Pit (seats 150, \$115-\$175), 2 Fishing Docks, Playgrounds

Directions: Take I-20 west from Atlanta, exit #44 at Thornton Road, turn left and go 1/4 mile. Turn right on Blairs Bridge Road, go 2 miles and turn left on Mount Vernon Road.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Park (770) 732-5871

A FEW NEARBY GEORIGIA STATE PARKS WORTH THE DRIVE

- **HARD LABOR CREEK STATE PARK**

Knox Chapel Road
Rutledge, GA 30663

ABOUT HARD LABOR CREEK STATE PARK

While this park may be best known for its golf course, The Creek, it also offers a wide range of recreational opportunities in a beautiful wooded setting. Horseback riders can explore 22 miles of trails, while hikers have their own 2.5-mile trail. A lakeside beach is open for swimming during summer. The park provides one of Georgia's best golf values, along with a pro shop, driving range, rental carts and junior/senior citizen discounts. Hard Labor Creek cuts through the course, creating water hazards on five holes. The creek is thought to have been named by slaves who tilled summer fields or by Native Americans who found it difficult to ford.

Key Activities: Golf (rental carts, driving range), Boat Rental – pedal boats (seasonal), canoes, fishing boats, Fishing, Horseback Riding – 22-mile trail, stalls, no horse rentals, Hiking – 2.5-mile trail, weekday hiking on 22-mile horse trail, Swimming (March-September)

Facilities: 5,804 Acres, 2 Lakes, 63 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$25-\$50)
20 Cottages (\$100-\$110) – cable TV, Cottages #13 and #17 are dog-friendly, 4 Picnic Shelters and Barbecue Pit (\$60-\$80), 2 Group Shelters (seat 85 and 120, \$85-\$325), 2 Group Camps (sleeps 75–120, \$175–\$580), Pioneer Group Campground (\$40), 30 Horse Stalls, Riding Ring and 12 Equestrian Campsites (\$18), Swimming Beach and Bathhouse (seasonal), The Creek Golf Course (18-Holes) (\$35 M-Th, \$40 Fri, \$45 Sat-Sun)

Directions: Located 2 miles north of Rutledge. Take I-20 exit #105 into Rutledge and proceed 3 miles on Fairplay Road.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Park (706) 557-3001
Golf (706) 557-3006

- **FORT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK**

181 Fort Mountain Park Road
Chatsworth, GA 30705

ABOUT FORT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Fort Mountain derives its name from an ancient 855-foot-long rock wall which stands on the highest point of the mountain. The mysterious wall is thought to have been built by Indians as fortification against other more hostile Indians or for ancient ceremonies. Situated in the Chattahoochee National Forest close to the Cohutta Wilderness area, this park offers a variety of outdoor activities. Hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders will find some of the most beautiful trails in northern Georgia. Most wind through hardwood forest and blueberry thickets, occasionally crossing streams and providing spectacular vistas. During the summer, children will enjoy the sand beach located on a clear mountain lake, as well as miniature golf and pedal boat rental.

Key Activities: Hiking and Backpacking – 14 miles of trails, Mountain Biking – 27 miles of trails, \$2 trail fee, Fishing Boat, Canoe and Pedal Boat Rental (summer weekends), Miniature Golf (summer weekends), Horseback Riding - 25 miles of trails, horse rentals, stables

Facilities: 3,712 Acres, 17-Acre Lake with Swimming Beach, 70 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$25) – cable TV hookups, 4 Walk-in Campsites (\$12), 6 Platform Campsites (\$10), 15 Cottages (\$110-\$130) -- #5 and #6 are dog friendly, 7 Picnic Shelters (\$30-\$40)
Group Shelter (seats 80, \$110, seasonal), Pioneer Campground (\$40), Backcountry Campsites (\$5/person)

Directions: Located 8 miles east of Chatsworth via Ga. Hwy. 52 (take I-75 exit #333 off I-75 toward Ga. Hwy. 411).

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Park (706) 422-1932

- **FORT YARGO STATE PARK**

210 S. Broad Street
Winder, GA 30680

ABOUT FORT YARGO STATE PARK

Located between Atlanta and Athens, Fort Yargo offers a fun camping, hiking and fishing experience. The park surrounds Marbury Creek Reservoir, a 260-acre lake with a swimming beach, fishing areas and boat ramps. Many campsites are near the water's edge, and hiking trails follow the lake shore. Mountain bikers can test their endurance on 12 miles of trails with beautiful views. Within the park is Will-A-Way Recreation Area, an accessible facility specifically designed for challenged populations, with a group camp, picnic and fishing areas, and paved trail. This historical park features a log fort built in 1792 by settlers for protection against Creek and Cherokee Indians.

Key Activities: Hiking and Mountain Biking - 15 miles of trails, Fishing and Boating - seasonal canoe, fishing boat and pedal boat rentals, Picnicking, Miniature Golf, Disc Golf. Annual Individual (\$20) and Family (\$30) Passes available.

Facilities: 1,814 Acres, 260-Acre Lake with Beach (seasonal), 40 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$25), 7 Walk-in Campsites (\$15), 3 Cottages (\$100), Cottage #3 is dog-friendly, 5 Picnic Shelters (\$30-\$70), 2 Group Shelters (seat 80 and 100, \$100-\$125), Pioneer Campground (\$50), Group Camp (sleeps 250, special populations, \$13-\$17/person), 2 Boat Ramps, 2 Tennis Courts, 18-Hole Disc Golf Course (fee)

Directions: Located 1 mile south of Winder on Ga. Hwy. 81.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Park (770) 867-3489

- **JAMES H. (SLOPPY) FLOYD STATE PARK**

2800 Sloppy Floyd Lake Road
Summerville, GA 30747

ABOUT JAMES H. (SLOPPY) FLOYD STATE PARK

Surrounded by rural countryside and the Chattahoochee National Forest, this quiet park in northwest Georgia offers outstanding fishing on two stocked lakes. Visitors can hike along three miles of lake loop trails and relax in swings while watching for the many bluebirds that live in the park. Access to the scenic 60-mile Pinhoti Trail is only a 1.6-mile hike from the park. Children especially enjoy the playground, feeding fish from the boardwalk and renting pedal boats. A small campground and four cottages are nestled on tree-covered hillsides. This park was named for Rep. James H. "Sloppy" Floyd who served in the Georgia House of Representatives from 1953 until 1974.

Key Activities: Hiking – 3 miles of trails, Pinhoti Trail nearby, Boating – 2 ramps, electric motors only, Fishing – 2 docks, boat rental, handicapped pier, Pedal Boat Rentals (may not be available during low water levels)

Facilities: 561 Acres, 2 Lakes (51 acres) and Boardwalk, 25 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$24), 4 Cottages (\$110-\$120), Cottage #1 is dog-friendly cottage, 4 Picnic Shelters (\$30), Pioneer Campground (\$50), 2 Playgrounds

Directions: Located 3 miles southeast of Summerville on Sloppy Floyd Lake Road via U.S. Hwy. 27.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Park (706) 857-0826

- **BLACK ROCK STATE PARK**
3085 Black Rock Mtn. Parkway
Mountain City , GA 30562

ABOUT BLACK ROCK STATE PARK

Black Rock Mountain State Park, named for its sheer cliffs of dark-colored biotite gneiss, encompasses some of the most outstanding country in Georgia's Blue Ridge Mountains. Located astride the Eastern Continental Divide at an altitude of 3,640 feet, Black Rock Mountain is the highest state park in Georgia. Numerous scenic overlooks provide spectacular 80-mile vistas of the Southern Appalachians, and several hiking trails lead visitors past wildflowers, cascading streams, small waterfalls and lush forests. The summit visitor center and picnic tables are popular with travelers in northeast Georgia.

Key Activities: Hiking – 11 miles of trails, Picnicking, Lake Fishing

Facilities: 1,743 Acres, 17-Acre Lake, 48 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$25) – cable TV hookups
12 Walk-in Campsites (\$12), 4 Backcountry Campsites (\$5/person) , 10 Cottages (\$110–
\$130), Cottages #5 and #10 are dog-friendly, 2 Picnic Shelters (\$30), Pioneer Group
Campground (\$100), Visitor Center

Directions: Located on Black Rock Mountain Parkway, 3 miles north of Clayton off U.S. Hwy. 441.
Look for brown directional signs in Mountain City.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Park (706) 746-2141

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Editor's Notes:

More information is available at www.GeorgiaStateParks.org or by calling 1 (800) 864-7275. Thank you for helping promote Georgia's diverse natural and historic resources!

Rates and prices are valid as of May 2008.

Key Web Address:

www.GeorgiaStateParks.org

Photography:

High-resolution images of all Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites are available by request.

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