



Get Out. Get Dirty. Get Fit.

**North Georgia
State Parks and Historic Sites
FACT SHEET**

- **AMICALOLA FALLS STATE PARK AND LODGE**

418 Amicalola Falls State Park Road
Dawsonville, GA 30534

ABOUT AMICALOLA FALLS STATE PARK AND LODGE

It's easy to see why this is one of Georgia's most popular state parks. Amicalola, a Cherokee Indian word meaning "tumbling waters," is an appropriate name for these 729-foot falls – the tallest cascading waterfall east of the Mississippi River. An 8.5-mile approach trail leads from the park to Springer Mountain, the southern end of the 2,135-mile Appalachian Trail. However, numerous other trails are available for shorter journeys. A beautiful lodge at the top of the mountain is popular with guests who prefer hotel-type comforts, while a 5-mile hike leads to more remote accommodations at the Len Foote Hike Inn. Be sure to stop by the visitor center to see nature displays, live exhibits and a gift shop.

Key Activities: Hiking (12 miles of trails), Trout Fishing, Picnicking, Photography

Facilities: 829 Acres, 24 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$25), 14 Cottages (\$69–\$199), Cottage #5 (Bottom of Falls) and Cottage #6 (Top of Falls) are dog-friendly, 4 Picnic Shelters (\$30), Group Shelter (seats 50, \$75), 56-Room Lodge & Conference Center (\$89–\$189), Restaurant, 20-Room Hike Inn, Visitor Center, Ropes Course, Gift Shops

Directions: Located 15 miles northwest of Dawsonville on Ga. Hwy. 52. Take Hwy. 53 west to Hwy. 183 north to Hwy. 52 east.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Lodge Reservations (800) 573-9656
Visitor Center (706) 265-4703

- **BLACK ROCK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK**

3085 Black Rock Mtn. Parkway
Mountain City, GA 30562

ABOUT BLACK ROCK MOUNTAIN 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, Camping

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 cottages, 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

- **BOBBY BROWN STATE PARK**

2509 Bobby Brown State Park
Elberton, GA 30635

ABOUT BOBBY BROWN STATE PARK

This pretty park offers water sports enthusiasts a quiet oasis on 70,000-acre Clarks Hill Lake. Located where the old town of Petersburg once thrived during the 1790s, the park is named in memory of Lt. Robert T. Brown, U.S. Navy, who gave his life in World War II. Petersburg was situated where the Broad and Savannah rivers flow into the Clarks Hill Reservoir, now an outstanding state recreational area. When water levels are low, visitors can see some foundations of the old town and imagine large plantations once flourishing. The park's location on the largest man-made lake east of the Mississippi River provides excellent boating, skiing and fishing. Yurts, which are like tents made of canvas and wood, offer a unique camping experience. The park's self-guided Land Navigation Courses teach beginners how to use a compass.

Key Activities: Fishing, Boating – ramp and dock, Canoe and Fishing Boat Rental, Hiking – 1.9 miles of trails, Picnicking, Compass Courses

Facilities: 665 Acres, 70,000-Acre Lake, 61 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$23), 5 Yurts (\$50), 2 Picnic Shelters (\$30), Group Shelter (seats 80, \$75), Pioneer Campground (\$40)

Directions: Located 21 miles southeast of Elberton off Ga. Hwy. 72.

- **CHIEF VANN HOUSE HISTORIC SITE**

82 Ga. Highway 225 N
Chatsworth, GA 30705

ABOUT CHIEF VANN HOUSE HISTORIC SITE

During the 1790s, James Vann became a Cherokee Indian leader and wealthy businessman. He established the largest and most prosperous plantation in the Cherokee Nation, covering 1,000 acres of what is now Murray County. In 1804 he completed construction of a beautiful 2 ½-story brick home that was the most elegant in the Cherokee Nation. After Vann was murdered in 1809, his son Joseph inherited the mansion and plantation. Joseph was also a Cherokee leader and became even more wealthy than his father. In the 1830s almost the entire Cherokee Nation was forced west by state and federal troops on the infamous Trail of Tears. The Vann family lost their elegant home, rebuilding in the Cherokee Territory of Oklahoma. Today the Vann House survives as Georgia's best-preserved historic Cherokee Indian home. A guided tour allows visitors to see the house which features beautiful hand carvings, a remarkable "floating" staircase, a 12-foot mantle and fine antiques.

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

Facilities: 99 Acres, Guided House Tour, Visitor Center (film, exhibits and artifacts), Gift Shop, 1/2-Mile Nature Trail, 6 Picnic Tables, Bus Parking

Directions: Located 3 miles west of Chatsworth at the intersection of Ga. Hwys. 225 and 52-A..

Information: Historic Site (706) 695-2598

- **CLOUDLAND CANYON STATE PARK**

122 Cloudland Canyon Park
Rising Fawn, GA 30738

ABOUT CLOUDLAND CANYON STATE PARK

Located on the western edge of Lookout Mountain, this is one of the most scenic parks in the state, offering rugged geology and beautiful vistas. The park straddles a deep gorge cut into the mountain by Sitton Gulch Creek, and elevation differs from 800 to 1,980 feet. The most spectacular view into the canyon is found near the picnic area parking lot; however, additional views can be found along the rim trail. Hardy visitors who hike to the bottom of the gorge (including a 600-step staircase) find two waterfalls cascading over layers of sandstone and shale into pools below. (For visitor safety, wading in pools and climbing on waterfalls is not allowed.) Cottages are located near the canyon edge, while the park's walk-in campsites provide exceptional privacy for tents. Outdoor lovers should not miss this park's spectacular scenery.

Key Activities: Hiking - 4.8-mile West Rim and Waterfalls Trail and 2-mile backcountry trail. Picnicking, Tennis, Disc Golf

Facilities: 3,485 Acres, 73 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$25), 30 Walk-in Campsites (\$12), 11 Backcountry Campsites (\$5/person), 16 Cottages (\$65-\$130), Cottages #6 and #7 are dog-friendly, 6 Picnic Shelters (\$30), 1 Group Shelter (seats 175, \$110), Pioneer Campground (\$40), Group Lodge (sleeps 40, \$175), Gift Shop

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Park (706) 657-4050

- **DAHLONEGA GOLD MUSEUM HISTORIC SITE**

#1 Public Square
Dahlonega, GA 30533

ABOUT DAHLONEGA GOLD MUSEUM HISTORIC SITE

Twenty years before the famed 1849 gold rush in California, thousands of prospectors flocked into the Cherokee Nation in north Georgia, marking the true beginning of our country's first gold rush. Their dramatic story is told inside the historic 1836 Lumpkin County Courthouse, the oldest courthouse in Georgia. Dahlonega prospered with this mining activity, and a U.S. Branch Mint opened in 1838, coining more than \$6 million in gold before closing in 1861. The museum's exhibits include a set of these coins, a nugget weighing more than five ounces, a large hydraulic cannon and nozzle used to blast soil from mountainsides, a film and gift shop. Visitors can also explore the courthouse features, including beautiful wooden chapel seats from 1889 and the judge's chambers. The town of Dahlonega is a popular destination for gold panning, shopping and sightseeing. NOTICE: Some exhibits are on the second floor and are not wheelchair accessible. Guidelines from the National Register of Historic Places prevent the addition of an elevator to this building.

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

Directions: Located on the Public Square in Dahlonega, 5 miles west of Ga. Hwy. 400

Information: Historic Site (706) 864-2257

- **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 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 - \$2 per person, per round. Disc Golf - \$2 per person, per round.

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 a dog friendly cottage, 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

- **HART STATE PARK**

330 Hart Park Road
Hartwell, GA 30643

ABOUT HART STATE PARK

Boating, water skiing and fishing at Lake Hartwell are prime reasons to visit Hart State Park in northeast Georgia. Large mouth bass, hybrid bass, striper, black crappie, bream, rainbow trout and wall-eyed pike can be found in the sparkling waters of this 55,590-acre reservoir. The park's boat ramps and docks offer easy access to all water sports. Cottages and most campsites are located on the scenic lake shore.

Key Activities: Fishing, Boating - 2 ramps, Canoe Rental, Jon Boat and Pontoon Boat Rental (seasonal), Hiking and Bicycling – 1.5-mile trail

Facilities: 147 Acres, 62 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$15-\$23), 16 Walk-in Campsites (\$15), 5 Cottages (\$110-\$120), Cottage #1 is a dog friendly cottage, 3 Picnic Shelters (\$30), Swimming Beach (closed due to drought), Cricket Theater – music programs

Directions: From Hartwell, drive north on U.S. Hwy. 29; turn left on Ridge Road and proceed 2 miles to the park.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Park (706) 376-8756

- **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 (currently not available due to 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, 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

- **JOHN TANNER STATE PARK**

354 Tanners Beach Road
Carrollton, GA 301179134

ABOUT JOHN TANNER STATE PARK

This west Georgia park is best known for having the largest sand swimming beach of any Georgia state park. It is a recreational haven for water lovers looking for boating and fishing opportunities as well. Visitors can enjoy camping, picnicking, miniature golf, volleyball and horseshoes. Six motel type units are located near the beach; each with a fully equipped kitchen, dining area, living area and bedroom. The park is named after a local businessman who operated the property as a private park from 1954 until 1971.

Key Activities: Swimming, Pedal Boat and Fishing Boat Rental (seasonal), Boating – private boats permitted, electric motors only, Hiking – 3/4-mile nature trail and 1-mile lake loop trail, Miniature Golf

Facilities: 138 Acres, 12-Acre and 16-Acre Lakes, 31 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$22) – cable TV hookups, Group Lodge (sleeps 40, \$250), 6-Motel Units (\$80), Unit #1 is dog-friendly, 4 Picnic Shelters (\$40-\$100), 2 Group Shelters (seat 50 and 75, \$60-\$110), Pioneer Campground (\$35), Swimming Beach - largest of any Georgia state park.

Directions: Located 6 miles west of Carrollton off Ga. Hwy. 16.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Park (770) 830-2222

- **MOCCASIN CREEK STATE PARK**

3655 Highway 197
Clarkesville, GA 30523

ABOUT MOCCASIN CREEK STATE PARK

Known as the park "where spring spends the summer," Moccasin Creek is nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains on the shores of lovely 2,800-acre Lake Burton. Despite its mountain location, the park is relatively flat, offering easy navigation for large RVs, children's bicycles and wheelchairs. A fully accessible fishing pier sits above a trout-filled creek open only to physically challenged visitors, senior citizens and children. Tour the adjacent trout rearing station, hike on several nearby mountain trails or simply relax in this peaceful setting. The park's central location makes it a perfect jumping off spot for mountain exploration.

Key Activities: Hiking - Appalachian Trail nearby, Lake Fishing – bass, crappie, bream, Stream Fishing – restricted to seniors 65 and older and children 11 and younger, Canoe and Jon Boat Rental (seasonal)

Facilities: 32 Acres, 55 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$25), Picnic Shelter (\$30), Boat Dock and Ramp, Wheelchair-Accessible Fishing Pier, Playground, 1-Mile Non-Game Interpretive Trail with Wildlife Observation Tower, 2-Mile Hemlock Falls Hiking Trail

Directions: Located 20 miles north of Clarkesville on Ga. Hwy. 197 or 15 miles west of Clayton via Ga. Hwy. 76 and Ga. Hwy. 197.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Park (706) 947-3194

- **NEW ECHOTA HISTORIC SITE**
1211 Chatsworth Highway NE
Calhoun, GA 30701

ABOUT NEW ECHOTA HISTORIC SITE

In 1825, the Cherokee national legislature established a capital called New Echota at the headwaters of the Oostanaula River. During its short history, New Echota was the site of the first Indian language newspaper office, a court case which carried to the U.S. Supreme Court, one of the earliest experiments in national self government by an Indian tribe, the signing of a treaty which relinquished Cherokee claims to lands east of the Mississippi River, and the assembly of Indians for removal west on the infamous Trail of Tears. Today, visitors can see several original and reconstructed buildings, including the Council House, Court House, Print Shop, Missionary Samuel Worcester's home, and an 1805 store, as well as outbuildings such as smoke houses, corn cribs and barns. In the visitor center, guest can purchase original Native American arts, crafts and music, and view interpretive exhibits and a 17-minute film.

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

Facilities: Self-Guided Tour, Visitor Center and Film, Gift Shop, 1-Mile Nature Trail, Coosawattee River Fishing and Boat Ramp, Bus Parking

Information: Historic Site (706) 624-1321

- **RICHARD B. RUSSELL STATE PARK**
2650 Russell State Park Road
Elberton, GA 30635

ABOUT RICHARD B. RUSSELL STATE PARK

Located on a 26,500-acre lake, Richard B. Russell State Park offers some of the state's finest fishing and boating. The park's campground and fully equipped cottages are located on or near the water's edge for a relaxing getaway. A nature trail follows the shoreline to one of the oldest steel pin bridges in the area, loops through the adjoining woods and returns to the beach. The park's 18-hole championship golf course, Arrowhead Pointe, was named 2nd Best New Affordable Public Course in America by Golf Digest in 2005. The course features a LEED Certified clubhouse, golf pro, and junior/senior citizen discounts. Several Indian sites were excavated near the park in 1980 before the lake was filled, indicating that Paleo-Indians lived in the area more than 10,000 years ago. This area is now called Rucker's Bottom and lies deep within the waters of Lake Richard B. Russell. All park facilities are designed for wheelchair accessibility, including the swimming beach.

Key Activities: Golf, Disc Golf, Fishing and Boating, Waterskiing and Rowing, Canoe and Pedal Boat Rental, Beach Volleyball, Swimming, Hiking and Bicycling – 6 miles of trails

Facilities: 2,508 Acres, 28 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$25) – cable TV hookups, 17 Cottages (\$110-\$120), Cottages #1 and #2 are dog-friendly, 3 Picnic Shelters (\$30), Group Shelter (seats 175, \$200), Arrowhead Point Golf Course (18 Holes), (\$41-\$46 with cart), Lake and Swimming Beach, Rowing Area

Directions: Located 8 miles northeast of Elberton off Ga. Hwy. 77 on Ruckersville Road.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Park (706) 213-2045
Golf (706) 283-6000

- **SMITHGALL WOODS CONSERVATION AREA AND LODGE**

61 Tsalaki Trail
Helen, GA 30545

ABOUT SMITHGALL WOODS CONSERVATION AREA AND LODGE

North Georgia's premier trout stream, Dukes Creek, runs through this spectacular mountain property and is a favorite for catch-and-release fishing. Five miles of trails and 18 miles of roads allow hikers and bicyclists to explore hardwoods, streams and wildlife. Trout fishing and van tours are offered only on certain days of the week, so visitors should call for a current schedule. The Lodge at Smithgall Woods is an elegant mountain retreat perfect for romantic getaways or corporate retreats. Five beautifully decorated cottages provide 14 bedrooms with private baths. Rates include accommodations, meals and activities. Smithgall Woods-Dukes Creek Conservation Area was acquired by the state in 1994 as a gift-purchase from Charles A. Smithgall, Jr., a noted conservationist and businessman.

Key Activities: Trout Fishing – reservations required, Hiking and Bicycling – 22 miles of roads and trails, closed during scheduled hunts, Interpretive Programs – advance notice required, Environmental Education activities - advance notice required, Guided Tours, Picnicking, Nature Photography, Wildlife Observation, Hunting by reservation

Facilities: 5,664 Acres, 3 Picnic Shelters (\$25-\$50), Pioneer Campground (youth groups only; \$5/person), The Lodge at Smithgall Woods, Visitor Center, 5 Miles of Nature Trails, Wildlife Viewing Stands and Food Plots

Directions: Located on Ga. Hwy. 75-Alternate, 3 miles west of Helen, just south of the Richard B. Russell Scenic Hwy. (Ga. Hwy. 348)

Reservations: Lodge Reservations (800) 318-5248
Park (706) 878-3087

- **TALLULAH GORGE STATE PARK**

338 Jane Hurt Yarn Drive
Tallulah Falls, GA 30573

ABOUT TALLULAH GORGE STATE PARK

One of the most spectacular canyons in the eastern U.S., Tallulah Gorge is two miles long and nearly 1,000 feet deep. Visitors can hike rim trails to several overlooks, or they can obtain a free permit (limit 100 per day) to hike down to the gorge floor. A suspension bridge sways 80 feet above the rocky bottom, providing spectacular views of the river and waterfalls. Exhibits in the park's Jane Hurt Yarn Interpretive Center highlight the rich history of this Victorian resort town, as well as the rugged terrain and fragile ecosystem of the area. Additionally, an award-winning film takes viewers on a dramatic journey through the gorge. Permits are required for all people accessing the gorge floor or rock climbing/rappelling. The only approved trails for entering or leaving the gorge floor are the Sliding Rock and the Hurricane Falls (staircase) trails. Trails entering or exiting the gorge, as well as those on the gorge floor, are very strenuous. Visitors with health problems should not attempt to climb these trails. Children must be closely supervised at all times. Tallulah Gorge State Park is operated by a public-private partnership with Georgia Power Company.

Key Activities: Whitewater Paddling – first 2 April weekends and first 3 November weekends, Aesthetic Water Releases (Spring and Fall), Hiking and Mountain Biking – more than 20 miles of

trails, Bicycling – 1.7-mile paved “Rails to Trails” path, Swimming, Fishing, Picnicking, Ranger Programs

Facilities: 2,689 Acres, 63-Acre Lake with Beach (seasonal), 50 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites(operated by Georgia Power), Backcountry Adirondack Shelter (\$10), Pioneer Campground (\$35), Interpretive Center & Film, Gorge Overlooks, Suspension Bridge, Tennis Courts, Picnic Tables, Gift Shop

Directions: Located on U.S. Hwy. 441 within the city limits of Tallulah Falls, Ga.

Reservations: Camping Reservations (706) 754-7979
Picnic Shelter Reservations (706) 782-4014
Park (706) 754-7970

- **TRAVELERS REST HISTORIC SITE**

4339 Riverdale Road
Toccoa, GA 30577

ABOUT TRAVELERS REST HISTORIC SITE

Traveler’s Rest, a stagecoach inn and plantation home, was built around 1815 by James R. Wylie, a stakeholder in the Unicoi Turnpike, a busy thoroughfare that passed nearby. Wylie operated the inn until the 1830s when he sold the place to Devereaux Jarrett, the “richest man in the Tugaloo Valley.” Among other things, Jarrett doubled the size of Traveler’s Rest, which also served as the headquarters of his 14,400-acre plantation. The Jarrett family inhabited the site until the 1950s, when the state of Georgia purchased the remaining few acres of the once-vast plantation and opened it to the public as an historic site. Thanks to its unique and well-preserved architecture, Traveler’s Rest was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966. Today visitors can enjoy a tour of the house and see many original artifacts and furnishings, some of which were crafted by Caleb Shaw, a splendid cabinetmaker from Massachusetts.

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

Directions: Located just off U.S. Hwy. 123 six miles east of Toccoa.

Information: Historic Site (706) 886-2256

- **TUGALOO STATE PARK**

1763 Tugaloo State Park Road
Lavonia, GA 30553

ABOUT TUGALOO STATE PARK

Situated on a wooded peninsula, Tugaloo’s cottages and most campsites offer spectacular views of 55,590-acre Lake Hartwell in every direction. Some cottages even have private boat docks for overnight guests. Tent campers can choose between the developed campground or primitive campsites located a short walk from the parking area. Fishing is excellent year-round, and large-mouth bass are plentiful. During summer, the lake is a popular destination for swimming, water skiing, sailing and boating. Both the Crow Tree and Muscadine nature trails wind through oak, walnut, mulberry and cherry trees. The name “Tugaloo” comes from an Indian name for the river which once flowed freely prior to the construction of Hartwell Dam.

Key Activities: Fishing, Boating – 2 ramps , Hiking – 4 miles of trails , Canoe Rental (seasonal), Volleyball, Horseshoes, Miniature Golf

Facilities: 393 Acres, 108 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$25) – cable TV hookups, 5 Primitive Campsites (\$12), 20 Cottages (\$110-\$120), Cottages #18 and #19 are dog-friendly, 7 Picnic Shelters (\$30-\$70), Group Shelter (seats 80, \$80), Pioneer Campground (\$25), Swimming Beach and Bathhouse, Tennis Courts

Directions: Take I-85 exit #173 north on Georgia 17; follow park signs to Gerrard Road, turn right. Go 1.5 miles to Ga. Hwy. 328 and turn left. Proceed 3.3 miles to park; entrance on right.

Information: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Park (706) 356-4362

- **UNICOI STATE PARK AND LODGE**

1788 Highway 356 Road
Helen, GA 30545

ABOUT UNICOI STATE PARK AND LODGE

Nestled in the north Georgia mountains just two miles from the Alpine village of Helen, Unicoi is one of Georgia's most beloved state parks. Throughout the year, the park offers outstanding programs which focus on natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources. Groups can make advanced reservations for specialized programs. Outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy hiking and biking on scenic mountain trails, especially those leading to Helen and Anna Ruby Falls. Craft lovers should not miss the lodge gift shop specializing in hand-made quilts and local pottery. Numerous picnic tables are located throughout the park.

Key Activities: Hiking - 12 miles of trails, Mountain Biking - 8 miles of trails, Fishing - accessible docks, Swimming, Canoe and Pedal Boat Rental (seasonal)

Facilities: 1,050 Acres, 53-Acre Lake and Beach (seasonal, no private boats), 82 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$22-\$24), 34 Walk-in Campsites (\$14/person), Squirrel's Nest Camping Shelters (\$10), 30 Cottages (\$99-\$139), Cottage #A1 (Barrel), Cottage #C1 and Smith Creek Cottage #1 are dog-friendly, 100-Room Lodge & Conference Center (\$70-\$130, Wireless Internet Service), Beach House (seats 100, \$250-\$500), 6 Picnic Shelters (\$40), Meeting Facilities, Restaurant, 4 Tennis Courts

Directions: Located 2 miles northeast of Helen via Ga. Hwy. 356.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Lodge Reservations (800) 573-9659
Park (706) 878-2201

- **VICTORIA BRYANT STATE PARK AND GOLF COURSE**

1105 Bryant Park Road
Royston, GA 30662

ABOUT VICTORIA BRYANT STATE PARK AND GOLF COURSE

Nestled in the rolling hills of Georgia's upper piedmont, this is one of northern Georgia's best kept secrets. A beautiful stream flows through the park, providing the perfect setting for an after-picnic stroll. Hikers can follow either the short nature trail or the longer perimeter trail that winds through hardwoods and crosses creeks. Animal lovers should keep an eye out for wildlife while passing food plots along the perimeter trail. Golfers will enjoy Highland Walk Golf Course with clubhouse, golf pro and junior/senior discounts.

Key Activities: Golf, Hiking and Bicycling – 8 miles of trails, Fishing -- ponds open to campers and disabled visitors only (except Tuesday when open to public) , Swimming

Facilities: 502 Acres, 27 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$24-\$35), 8 Platform Tent Sites (\$24), 5 Picnic Shelters (\$35), 2 Pioneer Group Campgrounds (75 capacity, \$40 and up), Highland Walk Golf Course (18-Holes) (\$36-\$42), Swimming Pool (fee), 3 Playgrounds

Directions: Located 2 miles north of Franklin Springs on Ga. Hwy. 327.

Information: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Park (706) 245-6270
Golf (706) 245-6770

- **VOGEL STATE PARK**
7485 Vogel State Park Road
Blairsville, GA 30512

ABOUT VOGEL STATE PARK

One of Georgia's oldest and most popular state parks, Vogel is located at the base of Blood Mountain in the Chattahoochee National Forest. Driving from the south, visitors pass through Neel Gap, a beautiful mountain pass near Brasstown Bald, the highest point in Georgia. Vogel is particularly popular during the fall when the Blue Ridge Mountains transform into a rolling blanket of red, yellow and gold leaves. Hikers can choose from a variety of trails, including the popular four-mile Bear Hair Gap loop, an easy one-mile lake loop, and the challenging 13-mile Coosa Backcountry Trail. Cottages, campsites and primitive backpacking sites provide a range of overnight accommodations. The park's 22-acre lake is now open to non-motorized boats. During summer, visitors can cool off at the scenic lakeside beach.

Key Activities: Hiking and Backpacking – 17 miles of trails, Appalachian Trail nearby, Fishing, Lake Swimming, Pedal Boat Rental (seasonal), Miniature Golf

Facilities: 233 Acres, 20-Acre Lake, 103 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$25), 18 Walk-in Campsites (\$12), 35 Cottages (\$85-\$130), Cottages #5, #6 and #30 are dog-friendly, 4 Picnic Shelters (\$35), Group Shelter (seats 75, \$150), Pioneer Campground (\$40) Primitive Backpacking Campsites, Swimming Beach, CCC Museum, General Store

Directions: Located 11 miles south of Blairsville via U.S. Hwy. 19/129.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Park (706) 745-2628

- **WATSON MILL BRIDGE STATE PARK**
650 Watson Mill Road
Comer, GA 30629

ABOUT WATSON MILL BRIDGE STATE PARK

Known as one of the most picturesque state parks in Georgia, Watson Mill Bridge contains the longest covered bridge in the state, spanning 229 feet across the South Fork River. Built in 1885 by Washington (W.W.) King, son of freed slave and famous covered bridge builder, Horace King, the bridge is supported by a town lattice truss system held firmly together with wooden pins. At one time, Georgia had more than 200 covered bridges; today, less than 20 remain. The park is an ideal spot for an afternoon picnic or an overnight stay at the campground. Hiking, biking and horseback riding trails allow visitors to enjoy the thick forest along the river or travel into the park's backcountry. During summer, visitors often play in the cool river shoals just below the bridge.

Key Activities: Hiking – 7 miles of trails, Bicycling – 5 miles of trails, Horseback Riding – 12 miles of trails, camping areas, stalls, no horse rentals, Canoe and Pedal Boat Rental, Fishing

Facilities: 1,018 Acres, 5-Acre Mill Pond, Covered Bridge, 32 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$22-\$24), Log Cabin Bunkhouse (sleeps 8, \$50), 3 Picnic Shelters (\$30), Group Shelter (seats 100, \$90), Pioneer Campground (\$30 and up), Horse Stalls (\$8) with 11 Campsites (\$22-\$24)

Directions: Located 3 miles south of Comer off Ga. Hwy. 22.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275
Park (706) 783-5349

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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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