

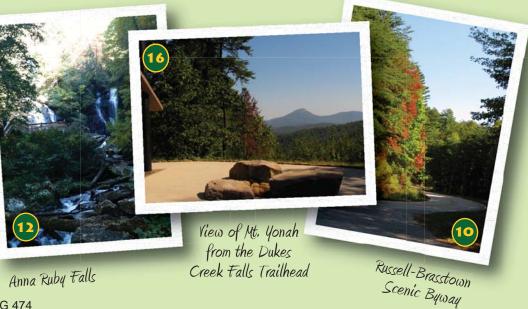


WELCOME to the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests in Georgia! Featuring nearly 118,000 acres of designated wilderness, hundreds of miles of clear-running streams and rivers, 850 miles of recreation trails, and dozens of campgrounds, picnic areas, and other recreation opportunities, these lands are rich in natural scenery, history and culture. We hope this guide helps you to see and explore this beautiful area. Sixteen recreation opportunities in north Georgia are highlighted that are all easily accessible by car and within leisurely driving distance of the featured communities. If you decide to come back, there's more to explore. With 867,000 acres of the finest outdoor recreation opportunities and natural resources in Georgia, there is always a new adventure awaiting so come find yourself in the woods!



RUSSELL-BRASSTOWN NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

Cool in the summer, mild in the winter, the Russell-Brasstown Scenic Byway encircles the headwaters of the Chattahoochee River and is surrounded by the Chattahoochee National Forest. The drive is ideal for viewing colorful wildflowers or dazzling fall color. Secluded valley views of Wilderness Areas abound along the way. Stretch your legs at Dukes Creek Falls (16), where a mile-long hiking path delivers you to a misty poolside below a cascading waterfall. Keep an eye out your window for views of Mount Yonah's 14 prominent cliff face in the distance. Cross the famed Appalachian Trail at Hogpen Gap. Linger atop **Brasstown Bald** (9), Georgia's tallest mountain, to absorb all 360-degrees of rolling highlands and learn more about the area at the visitor center there. Hike or bike at **Smithgall Woods State Park** (15) to explore hardwoods, trout streams and watch for wildlife. A rustic haven of cottages, campsites, lodge rooms and trails, is easily accessible from the byway at Unicoi State Park 13. Stroll up the 0.4-mile paved path to Anna Ruby Falls (12), and see where two creeks converge in the rare, 150-foot twin falls. Share a meal at a cozy picnic site along the way, or break bread in Helen, a Bavarian-themed hamlet located near the byway. The 40-mile loop follows State Highways 348, 180, and 17/75. Allow at least three hours driving time.









WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE! If you're new to this part of Georgia, you're going to find this area has something for everyone. From the visitor center on the summit of Brasstown Bald, Georgia's highest mountain, to Woody Gap, a popular trailhead on the world famous Appalachian Trail, there's an abundance of unique destinations that offer beautiful scenery, interesting history and exciting activities.

The **16 locations** featured on the map will give you a good sense of the natural and cultural resources in the north-central area of Georgia. Thirteen locations are managed by the U.S. Forest Service as national forest recreation sites and three locations are managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources as state parks. Camping, hiking, biking, fishing, swimming, and sight-seeing are just a few of the opportunities waiting for you.

Depending on how much time you have, you can choose to visit one or many of the locations which are shown on the map. It is important to be prepared, so if you have any questions about a location or activity, please contact the appropriate local office.

We hope that you and your family create lasting memories while visiting the Chattahoochee National Forest and all of north Georgia. We know the more time you spend here the more you will want to come back. And please remember, always be safe!

> The View from Brasstown Bald, Georgia's Highest Point



Chattahoochee N.F.

Visit the

Chattahoochee

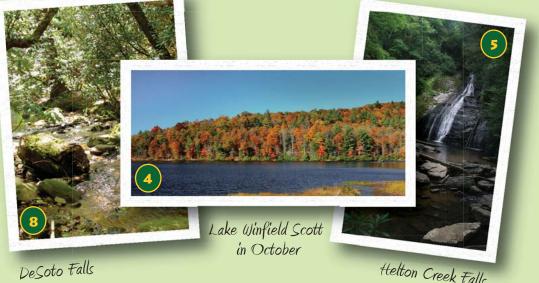
National

Forest website!

www.fs.usda.gov/conf

THE 60/180/129/19 SCENIC LOOP

Winding mountain highways surrounding the Blood Mountain Wilderness Area offer travelers amazing views and many opportunities for outdoor adventures. Traveling along U.S. Highways 129 and 19, and State Highways 180 and 60, this 40-mile loop offers much to see and do. On Hwy. 129, visit **DeSoto Falls Recreation Area** (B) for peaceful, streamside camping under large hemlock trees, and trail access to beautiful waterfall views. Travel off the beaten path a short distance to reach a quick and easy trail to Helton Creek Falls (5). Nearby Vogel State Park (3), a 233-acre historic park located at the base of Blood Mountain, offers camping, hiking, backpacking, boating, fishing and swimming. Just past Vogel, journey onto Hwy. 180 to be completely immersed in the Blood Mountain Wilderness. Along the way, Wolf Pen Gap and Sosebee Cove are renowned for wildflowers and wildlife. Lake Winfield Scott **Recreation Area** (4) is a perfect picnic spot, with historic pavilions, hiking trails, and a scenic mountain lake. It is also an ideal spot to view spectacular autumn colors. Continue the loop on Hwy 60, where a stop at **Woody Gap 6** allows a hike on the famed Appalachian Trail. Just down the road, Chestatee Overlook 7 gives another grand view of the Wilderness. Plan at least three hours driving time for this winding route.



Helton Creek Falls



Plan your trip and play it safe!

WE WANT YOU TO STAY SAFE! The most effective way to prevent mishaps is to adequately prepare for your travel. Here are a few tips to help you ensure a safe and enjoyable trip.



LET SOMEONE KNOW - Always tell someone your plans for travel. Tell them where you are going and when you expect to return.

DON'T RELY ON YOUR CELL PHONE - Cell phone coverage



traveling through the mountains. **PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES** - When leaving your vehicle unattended, hide all valuables from view. Secure your vehicle.

may be limited. Be prepared that your cell phone may not work while



KNOW THAT GPS ROUTES ARE NOT ALWAYS BEST -GPS navigation systems may suggest taking routes not identified on this map. In some cases, these routes may be impassible or unsafe.



DRIVE WITH CARE - Many of the featured roads on this map are favorite routes for motorcyclists and bicyclists, too. Drive cautiously and don't forget to fill up with gas before you leave!



BE PREPARED FOR ALL WEATHER - In the mountains, weather can change very quickly. Visit www.weather.gov for weather updates.



Check the weather before you leave!

Find out more!

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests

Blue Ridge Ranger District Office 2042 Highway 515 West Blairsville, GA 30512 (706) 745-6928

Chattooga River Ranger District Office 9975 Highway 441S Lakemont, GA 30552 (706) 754-6221

Forest Supervisor's Office 1755 Cleveland Highway Gainesville, GA 30501 (770) 297-3000

Brasstown Bald Visitor Center (706) 896-2556

Anna Ruby Falls Visitor Center (706) 878-1448

Tell Us What You Think!

We would appreciate your thoughts on how we can improve this product. Contact us at ChattOconeePublicAffairs@fs.fed.us



GEORGIA STATE PARKS Vogel State Park (706) 745-2628

Unicoi State Park (706) 878-2201

Smithgall Woods State Park (706) 878-3087

LOCAL VISITOR CENTERS **Blairsville - Union County** (877) 745-5789

Cleveland - White County (706) 865-5356

Dahlonega - Lumpkin County (706) 864-3513

Helen - White County (800) 858-8027

Hiawassee - Towns County (800) 984-1543



Recreation area info, navigation, the latest news, and much more USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.