

welcome to Rabun County!

2021 • Travel Guide • 2022

- Lodging
- Adventure
- Dining
- Wine + Spirits
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- Foxfire
- Weddings



***Together, we're working
to build a brighter future
for all of Rabun County!***

We are Forward Rabun.



A collaboration of the Development Authority, the Chamber of Commerce, Explore Rabun, the Rabun County Welcome Center and Keep Rabun Beautiful, ***Forward Rabun*** is here for you! As a public-private partnership, we include representatives from the county, its cities and the private sector to help manage the responsible growth of our community, drive a better quality of life, and provide greater economic opportunities for everyone. We do this by connecting people and resources to work together for our common goals.

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Welcome to Rabun County!

We know you've come to our "little neck of the woods" to enjoy all the wonderful things we have to offer. And, we thought we'd just let you know how glad we are that you decided to come, as well as tell you a little bit about all the things we're doing to ensure that your stay is the best that we can make it.

A few years ago (not too many), the folks here in Rabun decided there was a better way to show all the other folks out there just what a great place this is. So, we put together a new organization called Forward Rabun, whose sole purpose is to make sure everyone knows about our Mountain Treasure. Forward Rabun combines all the best we have to offer. Through Forward Rabun, we are working together to make something that is already wonderful become something that is absolutely amazing.

To start with, we created our new Welcome Center. A state-of-the-art showroom, the Welcome Center is full of displays and all the information you may need to learn about and experience Rabun County to its fullest. Our center is staffed by some of the friendliest people you could hope to meet, who are here to help you in any way they can. But we're so much more than just a Welcome Center. We have joined together with the Rabun County Chamber of Commerce, the Development Authority, Keep Rabun Beautiful and Rabun County Tourism & Marketing, to create an organization that offers everything to make Rabun County a great place to live, work, and especially visit!



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Contributing Writers & Photographers
(John Shivers (Mountain Lodging)
Deena Boutknight (Mountains are Calling)
Mark Holloway (Flavor of the South)
Peter McIntosh (Whiskies & Wine)
Mark Ozboyd (Waterfalling)
Anna DeStefano (Shopping with Heart)
Kami Ahrens (Foxfire Museum)
Chevin Woodruff (Mountain Weddings)

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The Rabun County Chamber of Commerce is here to assist our local businesses in being the best they can be. Helping them helps makes your experience doing business in Rabun County, from dining, to shopping to staying, an even better one. One that we hope will keep you coming back.

Our Development Authority is designed to make sure that growth in Rabun County comes responsibly. Growth is inevitable. But when you have an area as lovely as ours, it is incumbent on the residents to make sure that the things which move us forward, don't destroy what we already have. We aim to ensure that the Rabun County of tomorrow will be just as spectacular as it is today; maybe even more so.

Keep Rabun Beautiful, as an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, spearheads our local efforts to keep litter and pollution in check, and we take this job very seriously. We value our environment above all. It's what brings people here and makes our lives so much richer. Protecting it by simply "keeping it clean" only makes sense and is a small thing to do in exchange for all the joy it brings us.

And, Rabun County Tourism & Marketing is how we get the word out. What good is having something wonderful if you can't share it? Hopefully you're here today because of something we did, something you read, saw or heard. We love telling people all about what a wonderful place this is, and we try to do this as much as we can. At the very least, you're here reading this travel guide, so we must be doing something right!

All of these efforts are funded and organized through our Forward Rabun initiative. By working together, we can, and are, creating a greater sense of community. And, it's one that we hope will be just what you're looking for, whether you're here for the day, the weekend, a whole week, or for the rest of your life. Again, Welcome to Rabun County!



Rick Story,
Director of Development,
Forward Rabun



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MOUNTAIN LODGING *in Rabun*

By John Shivers

There comes a time, no matter how exciting the day in Rabun County has been, when you simply have to call it quits. Whether you've spent your day on one of the lakes or hiking to enjoy the majestic views from one of many towering mountain peaks, come night, bedtime beckons. Browsing the region's many art galleries and shops can be both exhilarating and exhausting. Even if the most strenuous thing you've done has been to unwind from the pressures of everyday life back in the real world, tired bodies have to call it a day and recoup for the next day's agenda.

After a meal from one of many local dining options, it's time to lay yourself down to sleep. After all, the only thing better than one day in Rabun County is two or three, or even more. So where, and how, do you find those comfortable hours of restful Z's? After all, one person's idea of roughing it is another's definition of luxury.

Fortunately, when your destination is Rabun County, your biggest problem will be deciding which of the many lodging options is right for you. Are you planning to hike and fish? Perhaps one of the many campgrounds where you can pitch your tent is what you need. When you live close to nature, the first step of that hike can be right outside your door. Or perhaps your idea of roughing it is a little more sophisticated. Got a travel trailer, fifth wheel or motor home? Rabun County offers several options for your own personal staycation RV style, all with every comfort of home included, and some drop dead gorgeous scenery besides.

Motels have long been a traveler's mainstay and several different types of hostelries dot the Rabun landscape. Ranging from those that offer basic lodging, a good night's sleep that leads to a great launch for another unforgettable day in the Rabun hills, to those on the other end of the spectrum, where you'll find the specialty inns and bed & breakfast operations. These properties take pampering to great heights, ensuring that there's something here that satisfies your personal comfort expectations. Some of these are mountain

properties, while others take advantage of the 100 miles of lakeshore found around the three lakes.

Probably nothing is more synonymous with the image of the mountains than a log cabin. While those early structures, such as those that populate the Foxfire museum campus were crude and basic at best, today's cabins have taken "mountain habitation" to new heights. They have all of the old world charm that built the cabin's reputation, but with all the new world's comforts.

And if just a night or two isn't sufficient to whet your appetite for a fantastic Rabun experience, consider a short-term rental for a longer stay. Talk about making yourself at home! The options are as varied as the individual properties themselves. Just take a gander at what awaits you when you choose to lay your head down in Rabun County.

There's plenty of room in the inns...

There's a certain aura, a certain expectation, when considering a stay at a bed and breakfast inn. When that inn's located in Rabun County, the possibilities are varied and enticing. Some inns are located in a strictly mountain setting, while others capture the lake ambience. Some are located along main highways, or in the center of town, close to restaurants and shops. Others are off the beaten path, where guests can watch grain being milled and then enjoy the quality, homemade baked goods that result.

Guest comfort is the watchword of all the local establishments. Whether it's oversize rooms, luxury bedding, thick fluffy towels and complimentary robes, deluxe showers, or the availability of WI-FI, the list of accouterments is long and varied, and highly prized by satisfied guests.

Some of these inns are the ultimate in southern antebellum architecture, where ornate moldings and quality, period wall coverings garnish the image of gracious hospitality and comfortable lodgings. Others,



while they don't lose sight of their mission to deliver hospitality and comfort ala carte, present a more rustic, more low-key curb appeal that appeals to a different style of traveler.

The specific offerings of each establishment and their own brands of presentation vary from inn to inn. Some serve only breakfast, and the guest takes lunch and dinner at one of Rabun's many and varied dining outlets. Other inns offer the option of an evening meal, while still others don't routinely prepare evening meals, but instead host special dining events that often include wine tastings and other special offerings.

Rabun County is famous for its farm-to-table food designation, meaning that area farmers and other agricultural operations sell much of their product to local eating establishments. Most of the inns that delight their guests with menu options ranging from scrambled eggs to Eggs Benedict, purchase their raw ingredients locally. In order to serve their guests in a manner guaranteed to tantalize their taste buds and make their stay memorable, they concentrate the

menu offerings around the harvest of local orchards, dairies, truck gardens, and other agricultural offerings. A number of inns purposely serve dishes created from organic and natural foodstuffs. Several working wineries are scattered throughout the county, and provide a basic wine offering for many of the inns.

But inns are more than comfortable beds and luxurious perks like gourmet dishes and award-winning wines. They're an opportunity to get away from all that tugs at your coat strings and allow you to be pampered. Inns are a chance to relax in rocking chairs overlooking unforgettable lakeside sunsets or mountain cove sunrises. Dine alfresco on screened-in porches or alongside warming winter fires, then curl up in comfortable, secluded niches and tackle that book that you can't put down. Gather in the great room to meet your fellow guests to partake of a social hour, enjoy a game of cards or perhaps work as a team to assemble a jigsaw puzzle. Some properties offer on-site gyms, while others cater to brides and their wedding parties. Still others have secluded cottages in addition to their guest rooms, and some even allow pets.

But Rabun's inns and their offerings aren't just indoor activities. They also work well as home base for many possibilities. From hiking to fishing to swimming, whitewater rafting, and boating to shopping and soaking up the talents of many mountain artists, check out the cooperative relationships that many inns have with other local outlets, all for the benefit of their guests.

Some Rabun inns are housed in structures that date back to the 1840s, but in any case, guests that make them their homes away from home agree on one thing: Rabun County inns are a hidden gem just waiting to be discovered!

In the market to rent a mountain cabin? Look no further!

Why are you coming to Rabun County? Looking for a fun, family vacation? Perhaps, your church or organization is holding a retreat? Maybe you're in search of a romantic get-away with that special someone in your life? And given the new popularity of destination weddings, there's no better location to exchange vows. Regardless of why your visiting here, one thing's for certain: everyone in your party needs a place to sleep, and the availability of cabins large and small are just waiting to welcome you. Most of these properties are available year-round, and are convenient to shopping and groceries.

Whether you're looking for a quaint, private set of accommodations for two, or you need sleeping space for twenty-two, the assortment of cabins and cottages gives you an excellent selection. Most come furnished with king and queen size beds. Many of the cabins are privately-owned by individuals who lease to the public, while others are part of the many inns scattered throughout the county. There are even rental condos available, if that's more your speed.

But it matters not who owns the property, but the quality of the accommodations available. From authentically restored antique log cabins that have been infused with all the twenty-first century creature comforts anyone could want to brand new construction, Rabun County is where you can find the perfect place for your particular need.

Got farming in your blood? There are cottages in Rabun County located on working farms, where guests can enjoy the ambience of the rural setting complete

with livestock. Maybe a quasi-tree house floats your boat. Are you a railroad buff? How does spending the night in a refurbished train car sound? Or can you remember the 1950s? Get your name on the list early enough, and a small 50's era travel trailer can be your home away from home. And for entertainment, there's a drive-in movie, another nod toward the past, right outside your door.

There's also trout fishing, hiking, water-sports, sight-seeing, shopping, artist studios and galleries, canoeing, biking and horseback riding, and white water rafting, plus too many different dining opportunities to count right outside that same door. But if your idea of a fantastic time is staying in for a quiet, private dinner, most cabins and cottages have fully-equipped kitchens capable of turning out a full meal. In addition to the invigorating mountain breezes, cottages have air conditioning and heating, and many boast of a fireplace. Still others are handicapped accessible, and some even have hot tubs and swimming pools.

Since WI-FI and a TV signal are available as well, you don't have to sacrifice all contact with the outside world. Unless you want to, that is. It's your call, but there's no better place than Rabun County to divorce yourself from technology and the rat-race. And if you need to bring your four-legged family members along, many cabins are pet-friendly. After all, it's not a vacation without every single family member!

You haven't lived until you've kicked back on the rocking chair porches that are almost regulation on the county's many rental cabins. How about resting in the porch swing or spending an afternoon in a hammock? After all, relaxation is why you came to the mountains in the first place. Right? So chill out., recharge. Limber up, rev up your engines, then engage in a spirited game of bocce ball, corn hole or even badminton, before you gather around a fire pit or a grill to finish off the evening.

Whether they're located in the north end of the county, or in the south, many of the cabins abut National Forest lands. And with forests, come waterfalls and the possibility of animals of the forest as neighbors, which can make for great photo opportunities – from afar, of course!

There's camping... and then there's camping!

The word "camping" conjures up images of people



relaxing around a campfire, the sun is dropping in the western sky, and the smell of meat cooking permeates the pristine outdoor breezes. In the background, tents stand ready to welcome weary residents for a night of rest.

It's a very accurate depiction of what camping can mean. But it's far from the only definition of this penchant of Americans to escape to the great outdoors. Fortunately, for those who find themselves spending a few nights in Rabun County, they couldn't have found a more pristine, more beautiful place to spend a few days. There's just something about the prospect of leaving civilization behind that yanks at the brain and the heart.

However, one person's idea of luxury is another's definition of roughing it. Fortunately, when it comes to camping in this corner of Georgia, there's a virtual smorgasbord of camping to enjoy. From a state park with a primitive camping area to luxurious RV parks where rolling mini-mansions can drop anchor with all the comforts of home, you'll find it in this place called Rabun County.

Two state parks offer the fastest route to finding your way back to nature. While one of them is the smallest park in the state, the other enjoys being the park at the highest elevation in Georgia. However, both sites literally open their gates for campers of all descriptions. Between the two, some one hundred tent and RV spaces await campers to fill them. One of the parks offers sites with varying degrees of truly back-to-nature camping opportunities, while the other on the very banks of Lake Burton, serves up chances for fishing and other water activities.

Talk to those relaxing outside their respective tents or travel trailers in the park after a full day of fun Rabun style, and you'll find a pervading sense of community. A check of license plates on the vehicles within the parks will reveal that all those there hail from a wide geographical area. But whether they're in tents or RV's, once they've set up camp, those nearby become neighbors. Friendships are forged that will last long after those people have returned to their homes, and their time in Rabun County has been consigned to the scrapbooks of the mind.



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On the other end of the spectrum, if your definition of “camping” includes some manner of recreational vehicle on wheels, look no farther than the three dedicated RV parks. One park is located on Lake Burton and has lake recreation space, while the other two are in northern Rabun County. With more than 200 RV parking sites total, the three have many similarities. In every case, there are varying levels of size and privacy throughout, and all of them offer the opportunity to get-back-to-nature, but with fewer rustic overtones. In all three parks, there are amenities for technology, as well as bathhouses, laundry facilities, community social facilities, and a commissary for needed supplies. Periodically, residents in the various parks have the opportunity to participate in holiday celebrations and in other special events.

And at the end of the day, when the sun drops below the horizon, after a day of excitement and fun, it's great to go to sleep to the sounds of nature right outside your windows.

Whether your choice is for a Daniel Boone style camping adventure or the lure of creature comforts is calling more loudly, either way, you'll be heir to the beautiful views that surround and abound in Rabun County. It's such a great place to vacation. Especially, since you already have a place to stay!

Lake living welcomes you to a riparian lifestyle Rabun style

The word “riparian” applies to lakeside locations and activities, and in Rabun County where three large, recreational lakes provide over 3,800 acres of water and 100 miles of shoreline, the opportunities for riparian enjoyment make a big splash with visitors and locals alike.

Not everyone can be fortunate enough to own “a place on the lake,” but that doesn't mean the door is forever closed to a chance to experience that highly touted lake living lifestyle. Even if it's only for a short period of time, thanks to lake house rentals and boat ramps, anyone can be a riparian baron for a few days. After all, this is Rabun County, where the magic of the mountains makes the impossible possible.

Along those 100 miles of shoreline, dotting in and out of the many coves and inlets, are many hundreds of homes. A number of these cottages are available for short-term rental. Some homes are ideal for a family

of four or five, while others will sleep more warm bodies. That's what's so beautiful: there's something for everyone on one of Rabun's three riparian playgrounds!

But what's the fun of just renting for a few days on the lake, if all you can do is look and not touch? In many cases, these rental homes include the use of a boathouse, making it possible to entertain and swim right from the dock. In some cases, use of the watercraft inside the boathouse is part of the rental. If not, conveniently located marinas and public boat launching ramps make it possible for you to rent and launch your own personal boat.

There's nothing quite like spending a night with the water right outside your window. And in Rabun County, the water's fine for living and sleeping. You have to experience it to truly know what you've been missing.

Need convenient, comfortable, affordable lodging? Rabun's got it!

Roadside motels have long been a friend of the traveling public. With their comfortable beds and locations convenient to food, entertainment, recreation and sight-seeing, these temporary homes away from home have long catered to Rabun visitors. Indeed, in the late 1800s and early 1900s, picturesque, cool Rabun County was a destination location. Large hotels and tourist homes were the precursors to today's motels, and provided lodging and meals for people who came to breathe the mountain air.

These early hospitality businesses extended the welcome of the mountains to people who flocked to this corner of Georgia from Atlanta and points far flung. Their goal was to make people feel at home, and that's still the mission of today's hospitality industry.

Now, in the twenty-first century, a number of motels and hotels along Highway 441 are still rolling out the welcome mat for this current generation of visitors to the mountains. Once was the time when the autumn color show of hardwood trees was the county's prime influx of visitors. Now, however, this county is a destination location for all four seasons. Those motel properties cater to these very important tourists who not only succumb to the magic of these mountains, but stop and stay a while.



In addition to comfortable beds, the primary element of a good night's stay, today's motels are much more than those tourist rooms of earlier times. Microwave ovens and refrigerators are standard equipment today. Large-screen TV connected to cable and free WI-FI is the norm, along with complimentary breakfasts, swimming pools, hot tubs, and sometimes special accommodations designed expressly for the kiddies.

Other plusses for these purveyors of sleeping comfort are their accommodations for the handicapped and mobility impaired guests. All of the properties are located within easy access of both fast food and finer dining establishments, because the only thing that makes a night's stay better is a delicious, farm-to-table evening meal first. Rabun County delivers!

Resorts cater to royalty of all descriptions

Looking for a vacation within a vacation fit for someone of royal lineage? Look no more. Don't have an aristocratic pedigree? Worry not, the resorts that call Rabun County home don't care. Instead,

they're concentrated on making you feel like you're crown prince or princess of vacations, and that your accommodations are a virtual royal castle.

While the luxurious rooms and suites provide not only a place to drop your luggage before planning your itinerary, they deliver a quality night's rest before you head out to make those plans a reality. Looking for a chance to pit your golfing skills against the rigors of a championship course? Rabun County resort courses can deliver. And when you return from a day on the lakes, from that hike through the National Forest lands that surround these resorts, or just a good time shopping and checking out the area galleries, an assortment of spa services will be waiting to refresh and replenish your tired but happy body.

If you absolutely must combine business with vacation, you can't go wrong when you're registered at one of these resorts. Whether it's technology access to the outside world, so that you can keep up with what's going on back at the office, or your need to have co-workers alongside, these properties can deliver. And when business is a done deal, opportunities to play



and forget all about the office will be patiently waiting.

Register at one of Rabun's resorts and sleep like a king or queen. Good night, your majesty!

Kick your shoes off and stay a spell...

Sometimes, even though you've crammed a week's worth of fun into two days, a long weekend or even a few more days, the end results simply AREN'T enough. You're just not ready to leave. (Hint: This happens ALL the time!) But when those few days happen in Rabun County, there's a quick and easy fix. Just stay longer. Give yourself time to truly enjoy the many aspects of this playground paradise nestled in the northeast Georgia hills.

But how? Where? In such cases, you truly do need a home away from home. Fortunately, rental cottages and cabins can be found lakeside and on the mountains. Tiny places that sleep two or three and larger homes capable of accommodating multiple families can give you that home away from the rat race without all the

responsibilities of ownership.

Thanks to a vibrant retail community throughout the county, it doesn't matter where in the county your rental's located, it's a quick and easy run for groceries, shopping, sightseeing, or dining. Most rental properties are set up for turnkey, seamless, long-term living on a short-term basis, meaning you don't have to bring half your house from home. Just bring yourself, a good book, perhaps, and your toothbrush, and take advantage of the linens, cookware and firewood just waiting to help you settle in and put your feet up. Welcome home!

Medical experts say the average person needs seven to eight hours of sleep each night. When those prescribed hours of rest happen in Rabun County, it's the best of all worlds, and a win-win for everyone. When it's time to put out the light and go searching for dreams about the fantastic day you've just enjoyed, there's no place quite like this extreme northeast corner of Georgia. Come spend the night in Rabun County, and wake up to another great adventure!



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The Mountains are Calling ...

by Deena C. Bouknight

Everywhere there are stickers, t-shirts, and hats with the logo, “The mountains are calling, and I must go.” Many residents of the Appalachian and surrounding mountains harken from distant places, but they heeded that call and are now ensconced in the landscape. Others cannot wait to visit seasonally or at least annually. Not surprisingly, this draw to the majestic vistas, stunning waterfalls, lush vegetation, and pristine air is historic. Explorer, botanist, and naturalist William Bartram traversed the area in the 1700s on foot, by horseback, and by canoe and then he wrote about it in beautiful, descriptive prose [The Travels of William Bartram] that piqued the imagination of people not only in America, but in Europe as well.

Once the Native American trails, which became wagon trails, opened up to become actual roads, visitors flocked – and continue to flock – to the region. They are inspired by a “sense of place” that 19th century author Henry David Thoreau defined as “tapping into senses.” The smells, tastes, sounds, and especially sights, are unforgettable.

Following is an experience guide, so that anyone can delve into and enjoy all that this distinct, natural region has to offer.

Equine Enjoyment

The Dillard House, in operation for more 100 years, is a prominent icon near the Georgia/North Carolina border. People stop and stroll, visit animals in the petting zoo, and dine family-style at large tables filled with hearty farm-to-table selections. But people also stay in the various accommodation selections and enjoy the amenities – including horseback riding offered at the Dillard House Stables.

Equestrian Pam Thompson goes way back in association with the Dillard House. While not as far back as when the stables first offered rides at 50 cents per ride, she has owned and operated the stable portion of The Dillard House since 1989.

“I grew up riding and showing horses, with my first





horse show being at age 6,” explained Thompson. “In the early 1980s, I was given the opportunity to operate the stables at Sky Valley, where we took trail rides to the top of what was then known as Thomas Knob. I also taught horseback riding to many local children. During my time there, John and Louise Dillard brought their young daughter, Natalie, for lessons, and I guess you could call that ‘the beginning’! When John bought The Dillard House from family members, he approached me about joining efforts to provide a top-notch horseback operation.”

Because she wants guests and visitors to enjoy the most from their horseback riding experience at The Dillard House, Thompson has continued to study good horsemanship practices, which she shares with the stables’ employees. She also personally shows horses in such equine classes as English, western pleasure, halter, barrel racing, and a skill referred to as “cutting.”

Thompson’s stable includes 30-35 quarter horse or quarter horse mixes, “with the goal being 20 guest horses and others in training to become guest horses,” she said.

Participants, no matter the skill level, can embark on 30-minute, one-hour, or one-and-a-half hour walking trail rides through a river and past beautiful mountain scenery or by vast scenes of idyllic farms. Guides are provided for every four participants. Thompson said safety is the number-one focus on all horseback rides.

“We have people come back year after year ... generations actually! And after being there this long, I see adults, even grandparents, who rode with us and are now bringing their grandchildren to ride.”

Thompson added: “I take pride in the quality of horses I am able to share with





our guests at The Dillard House, and watching a group head out on the trail on really nice horses gives me great pleasure. Plus, I truly enjoy meeting and learning about the people who come ride with us – where they are from, what brought them here, what they do for a living and, of course, their stories of their first ride on a horse, or even the anticipation of taking their first ride with us.”

To stay current regarding the desires and needs of residents and visitors to the area in terms of activities, etc., Thompson serves on the Dillard Tourism Association board as well as the newly formed Forward Rabun board.

Action-packed All-Ages Activities

The roadway or “strip” along Dillard Road (also referred to as Scaly Mountain Road) is considered by some people to be the “plateau playground.” Highlands Outpost (formerly Scaly Mountain Outdoor Center) provides much of the excitement and entertainment available in that area. Jason Sawin, manager, explained that the Center offers snow tubing and ice skating in winter; trout fishing and gem mining during warm weather months; a newly renovated restaurant; and, this fall, the much-

anticipated Wiegand Mountain Coaster (a.k.a. Scaly Screamer) that will be open year-round.

Sawin shared the Center’s history: “Originally it opened as Ski Scaly in the 1980s, and in the summer the property served as the owner’s cabbage patch. It was definitely a down-home version of a ski slope. And, when it became difficult to keep enough snow to provide skiing, it was turned into a tubing hill.” He added, “The tubing aspect took off; people have so much fun on the hill!”

Eventually, Scaly “evolved over time” to provide all the activities currently available to visitors. “The property is large enough to offer more – especially in the summer,” said Sawin. “That’s why the idea of the mountain coaster was considered.” Ground-breaking on the German-made coaster began this summer. The goal is for it to be up and running, and to run year-round, by the end of October 2021.

“It is an aesthetically pleasing, stainless steel coaster,” said Sawin, ... distinct, and built on the side of the mountain so it’s mostly gravity powered.”



Instead of the experience of regular roller coasters, participants in an alpine coaster sit upright in sled-like carts that can accommodate 1 or 2 riders. Each cart has a hand brake to slow it down or speed it up. In other words, the participant controls the ride. The Scaly Screamer ride, according to Sawin, lasts an average of six minutes. “We expect it to be a great addition to the Center,” he said.

Sawin, whose career history is in the recreational industry, believes this region is ideal for people who want to be outdoors in the natural environment, get fresh air, and, sometimes, participate in something thrilling. “The Center provides all those elements. The mountain coaster is a way to get into nature. The forest encloses it like a tunnel, so people will see and experience things they wouldn’t normally see and experience while on the ground. And it’s not so fast that everything will just be a blur.”

The best part of his job? “I love hearing the laughter of families having a blast and enjoying the outdoors! The Center is fun for everyone, whether they are on vacation or they live locally and are looking for great family-friendly activities.”

Kurt Damron, CEO of Highlands Aerial Park (HAP), which has been in business since October of 2012, explained that the concept for HAP came to fruition due to George and Karen Powell ziplining in Costa Rica and falling in love with the activity.

“Their wheels started turning and they realized that the lay of the land at their then-vacation property in Scaly Mountain would make the perfect spot for an aerial adventure park,” informed Damron. “After visiting a few other parks and choosing a builder, construction began. It took approximately six months to build the park. One of the primary goals when building the park was to be as minimally invasive as possible, so very few trees were cut down.”

HAP covers an expanse of over 90 acres of the area’s temperate rainforest atop High Holly Mountain, which is the western-most mountain on the Highland’s plateau.

Damron noted that interested individuals can consider various “tours,” such as “The Full Mountaintop Zipline Tour,” HAP’s premium ziplining experience, that includes 17 unique aerial elements, such as the 1,550-foot (equivalent to five football fields) long; or, “Squealing Mare Zipline” that “flies individuals between two

mountain peaks.” Another, “Half Mountaintop Zipline Tour,” eases in the adventurer to the experience of ziplining. And, “The Brave Indian” is designed for “little adventurers” and families.

There is also the “Giant Mountain Swing,” described as “your backyard swing on steroids.” Damron further explained, “Nestled amongst sky-high pines, our triple-seater suspends one-to-three brave adventurers from the treetops for a rush you haven’t felt since your first trip to the playground. We pull you four stories high, then one member of your trio pulls the ripcord — dropping you into an exhilarating, 80-foot arc through the trees.”

Those who prefer to stay grounded can enjoy hikes to waterways and waterfalls. A self-guided walk of gradual descent leads to the headwaters of the spring-fed High Holly Creek. Damron describes the beauty of the excursion: “At the upper headwaters, the ground trail transitions onto a static bog bridge, which also serves as an observation platform for the Brave Indian course. This bridge was designed to preserve the delicate ecology of the springs, flora, and fauna below. Along the bridge, you can observe an impressive collection of massive boulder formations, which must certainly house hibernating black bears through the winter. The bridges lead to a century-old trail carved into the mountainside, which proceeds down a gentle slope for several hundred yards. Moss-covered rock formations are exposed, and native plant life abounds.”

He added, “The nature trail continues along to a 150 ft. suspended bridge spanning the creek, engineered to eliminate the mountain contour’s steep descent and subsequent climb, leaving only a minimal ascent on the nature trail to return to a nearly-level hike in a verdant, rain-forest environment. Along the nature trail tour, informational markers identify the native species abundant in the region. [Participants can keep their] eye out for the double-trunk poplar, one of many centuries-old giants in this area ... follow the sounds of bubbling waters to locate hidden falls and springs along the creek. And keep an eye to the sky for screaming Zipline Canopy Tour fliers as their course occasionally traverses overhead.”

Prices at HAP vary, from around \$24 to just under \$100. And Damron pointed out that safety is “our primary concern,” stating, “We have one of the most stringent and thorough training programs in the aerial adventure industry. Training a new facilitator takes approximately



two full weeks. After training, trainees enter into a period of shadowing and being shadowed before being fully cleared to guide. Every HAP employee is certified in both CPR and first aid and undergoes recertification training on an annual basis. HAP is also inspected by third-party Preferred Vendor Members, who are accredited to design, build, inspect, and train aerial adventure courses on an annual basis. Statistically speaking, it also happens to be one of the safest outdoor sports in existence.”

Damron said that while many people – adults and children – might make ziplining a regular, or at least annual, activity, others desire to check it off their bucket list. He implored, “Who doesn’t want to fly like an eagle above the treetops at 210 feet off the ground? Who doesn’t want to experience the beauty of the temperate rain forest for two hours high above the ground? It is truly one of the most freeing and exhilarating experiences you can have. HAP has had guests as old as 96 complete their entire zipline canopy tour!”

Communing with Nature

For centuries, people of all ages have reveled in the serenity of the area’s natural beauty and wildlife and enjoyed less heart-pounding pursuits as fishing, gem mining, painting, photography, etc.

Otto, North Carolina-based Andy’s Trout Farm has become an iconic go-to in the region, serving multi-generations of families. The trout farm was opened in 1965, and gem mining was added about 15 years ago.

“My grandparents, Andy and Hazel Cope, started the farm in 1965,” said Sonya Cousineau, “and my husband (Troy) and myself have been here 34 years. We of course have fishing, with people paying by the pound for the fish they catch. But we also offer gem

mining, hiking, cabins, and camping. We rent fishing poles and sell bait, and we will clean the trout for a fee.”

Cousineau said that she thinks people living in and visiting the North Georgia and Western North Carolina areas are drawn to fishing and gem mining because “these are both excellent outdoor activities and can be enjoyed by all ages, and with both, you leave with something tangible.”

She and her husband have been involved in the family business for 56 years and never tire of seeing the enjoyment, meeting generations of families, and knowing memories are being made.

“We have made wonderful friends over the years and consider ourselves truly blessed,” she said.

Clayton, Georgia’s Reeves Outdoors manager Trey McFalls and his staff assist daily, and year-round, people who desire to fly fish. “People come in and talk to us about where they can fish and what kind of flies to use where. We can, and do, complete set ups with everything they need in whatever price point,” said McFalls.

Currently, Reeves is exploring future opportunities to offer fly fishing lessons. Many individuals who patronize Reeves are already avid fly fishermen, but McFalls said there are misconceptions regarding fly fishing. “A lot of people think it’s just long beautiful casting. But a lot of it is shorter casting and roll casting. It depends on the person and where they are fishing. There is a lot that goes into it – reading the water, the fly selection, brush, tree overhangs, etc.”

Even though the film, *A River Runs Through It*, is almost 30 years old, McFalls said many fly fisherman who peruse Reeves mention they have seen it and were inspired by it.





The 20-year-old McFalls said he has been fishing “since I could walk in a river.” He credits various local fishing opportunities for supporting his passion – and that of others. “Within a 50-mile range in Georgia and North Carolina, there are almost limitless opportunities ... a lot of water. There are rivers, lakes, and streams. A couple places more in-tune to fly fisherman are the Chattooga and Nantahala rivers. That’s why we have a fly shop here – to sustain fly fishermen. Some bass fisherman also shop here, but mostly trout fishermen.”

Reeves also sells materials for creating/tying flies, and it sells fishing licenses.

Less activity-oriented, but no less nature focused, avid outdoor lovers Broderick and Michele Crawford are in the business of capturing – through paintings and photography – such natural imagery as trout, birds, and other wildlife. Since 1995, the Crawford Art Gallery on Main Street in Clayton has featured their works and those of other artisans including wood turners, carvers, sculptors, potters, and more.

Broderick is a Rabun County native, who often paints anything that reflects the natural, historical, cultural, and traditional life of the mountains. Along with painting, he is also an award-winning carver, and he especially enjoys carving all species of waterfowl, shore birds, and song birds.

Michele Broderick is a fine art nature and wildlife photographer who captures distinct images through her lens and then shares them through the gallery.

Rapid Journey

Life literally imitated – or followed – art when Southeastern Expeditions was formed in 1972 because rafting equipment was purchased from Warner Brothers following the filming of the movie *Deliverance* in Rabun County. Claude Terry, the founder of Southeastern Expeditions, was even used as a consultant and stunt double in the movie, which starred Burt Reynolds, Jon Voight, and Ned Beatty.

Southeastern Expeditions, located in Clayton, offers Section III white water rafting on the Chattooga River for

beginning white water rafters, groups, and families, with the minimum age at eight years old. A Section IV excursion is for ages twelve years old and up. There are various packages and price ranges to choose from, including an option for an overnighiter rafting trip.

Safety on the river is key, no matter what the thrill level. Southeastern's Chattooga River guides have a minimum of basic CPR and first aid, and many also have advanced first aid training. Plus, the rafting guides have extensive river training, and kayak instructors are considered experts in their fields.

Guides are adept at answering questions, allaying fears, and even serving to provide participants with the area's history and the river's distinct features.

Southeastern Expeditions will also work with participants to add into a full adventure experience assistance in choosing area hiking, biking, camping, etc. opportunities.

Gorgeous Golfing Opportunities

One of the main reason golfers seek courses in the North Georgia region is because of the views.

The Rabun County-owned course, originally built in the 1940s, is perched on a hillside under the shadow of Tiger Mountain. The small but challenging course allows for an 18-hole round of play with picturesque scenes aplenty. Besides regular tee times, there are occasional competitions and tournaments in which locals and visitors can be involved.

At elevation 3,500 feet, the 50-year-old Sky Valley golf course capitalizes on its mountain setting. Providing par 36-36-72 play, the course was originally designed by course architect Bill Watts, who used the natural





features to present beautiful vistas. In addition, a major renovation occurred in 2007 involving course designer, Bill Bergin; at that time Sky Valley was transformed into a championship course. In fact, Bergin was able to utilize previously unused parcels of land to lengthen the course by 500 yards. The current length is over 6,900 yards, which allows for each hole to have seven sets of tees providing distances for every level of player.

The semi-private Sky Valley Country Club course, meaning it is open for members, guests, and the general public, has a golf learning center that includes a practice range and a large putting green. Instruction is available from PGA Professional and Golf Manager Steve Heher. Plus, the facility offers a driving range, target greens, grass, all weather tees, and putting and chipping greens. In addition, lessons are available, utilizing “a state of the art Full Swing Golf Simulator”.

Kingwood Resort and Winery in Clayton has a par 71 mountain golf course for all skill levels, due to its four

different tee locations. The playing yardage is 6,016 yards, which is a demanding length given the small greens and layout, and anyone interested in the course can take a video course tour on the Kingwood website in order to get a more in-depth look at all 18 holes.

Delighting in State Parks

Kim Hatcher, public affairs coordinator, State Parks and Historic Sites Division, noted that for centuries the north Georgia mountains have drawn tourists “to enjoy gorgeous scenery and thundering waterfalls.”

She explained further, “Georgia’s State Parks offer such a wide variety of activities. We have a new statewide geocaching program, which is like a treasure hunt that you can do with a smartphone. Kids can earn Junior Ranger badges at 59 sites. Hikers can join the Canyon Climbers Club, which challenges them to explore Tallulah Gorge, Amicalola Falls, Cloudland Canyon, and Providence



Ziplines

make memories that last!

That's the goal of the folks at Highlands Aerial Park and that's what they have given over 100,000 visitors since opening in 2012.

Zipline Park's are the fastest growing outdoor adventure worldwide, but few have had the success and acclaim of Highlands Aerial Park's combination of beauty and exhilaration. Designed for a multigenerational experience with a variety of activities to be enjoyed together from the ages of 5 to 95. No one is going to remember their best day of video games, but they'll never forget the wonder of zipping with Grandparents through the subtropical rainforest on the Highlands Plateau.

Having received Trip Advisor's Travelers Choice Award, Highlands Aerial Park has been recognized in the top 10% of attractions WORLDWIDE! This honor is the result of over 1500 visitor reviews as determined by the unbiased analysis of Trip Advisor, the world's largest and most trusted Travel Guide.

It would be a shame to miss this experience when near our dramatically beautiful area. Experience mountain views, waterfalls, hiking trails, wildflowers, recreational thrills, and more. Located in a virtual botanical forest with long range views of the Mile-High Nantahala Mountains. The attractions are not just thrilling but designed so the whole family can participate if they choose, or observe from the ground if they prefer. Discover what over 100,000 visitors enthusiastically endorse.

If you have an Aerial Park near you, visit it for fun. But if you are anywhere near Highlands, treat yourself and your family to the "Real Thing". The difference can be compared with playing your local golf course and experiencing Pebble Beach.

Here are a few typical reviews. You can read the rest of the over 1,000 5-star reviews on the website HighlandsAerialPark.com.

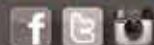


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— Sarah F.

Great Place!

"Highly recommend it if you are in Highlands. Amazing staff and a great experience. Extremely professional, very safe, and just all-around nice staff!"

— Vivian B.

Outstanding!

"I was most impressed with the professionalism and attention to detail regarding their safety. I look forward to a return visit."

— Randy A.

Tons of Fun!

"The staff is what makes this place better than any other. Their time and consideration to each individual that comes in there is what makes this experience a 5 out of 5. The zip lines are tons of fun. I highly recommend doing the full course you'll regret it if you don't. We will look forward to going back the Highlands aerial Park."

— Sara G.



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Canyon. Most parks have picnic shelters that can be rented for family reunions, birthday parties, and weddings. I encourage people to spend some time on GaStateParks.org because they might be surprised by how much we offer.”

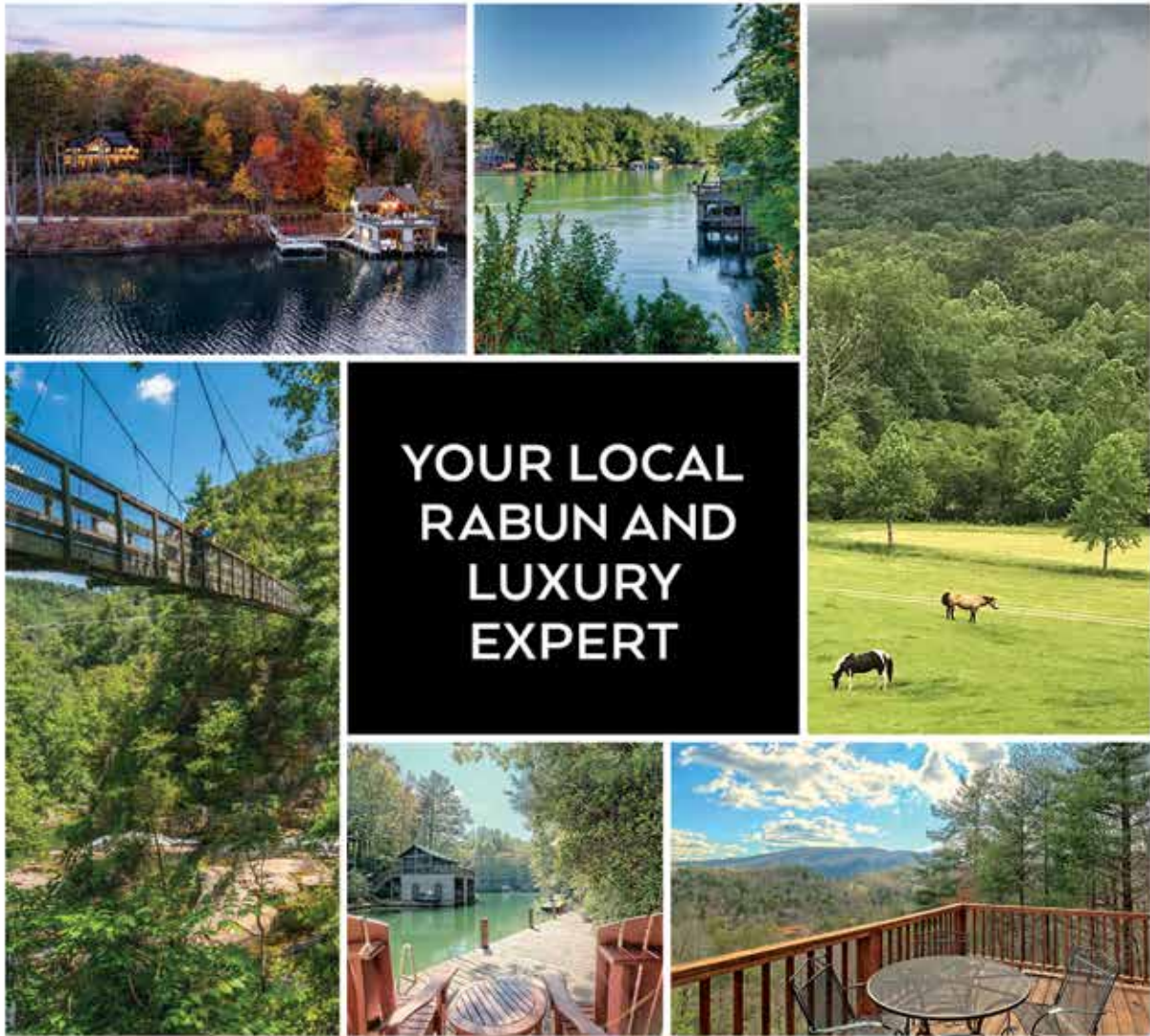
Not including 2020’s unusual circumstances, some of the local state parks draw thousands of guests annually. For example Black Rock Mountain averages 119,000; Moccasin Creek 85,000; and Tallulah Gorge 450,000.

“The museum at Tallulah Gorge State Park even has photos of ladies in Victorian dresses enjoying picnics along the canyon’s edge and down near the rushing river,” said Hatcher. “And, since Black Rock Mountain is at 3,640 feet above sea level, it’s cooler than much of Georgia, making it a cooler destination spot during summer.”

With participation in Georgia’s state parks – or any state or national park for that matter – comes responsibility and respect. “We rely on Georgia’s citizens and our visitors to help protect the parks for future generations, just like those tourists during the 1800s,” implored Hatcher. “By staying on trails, you can protect the landscape. Joining Friends of Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites helps us with projects like outdoor classrooms. Our campground hosts are crucial volunteers, often serving as the first people you meet when you come camping.”



While spring, summer, and fall months are when most people think of perusing and enjoying state parks, most are open year-round. The only consideration when weather turns chilly or downright cold, is that visitors are prepared. Said Hatcher, “During winter, it’s especially important to be prepared for changes in weather. Hikers should always bring rain gear and dress in layers. For example, because Black Rock Mountain is at the top of a steep and winding road, visitors should check to make sure it’s still open if there’s been ice or snow.”



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At Home with Sarah Gillespie

Photo credit: Ronnie Paris

As one of our communities top producing REALTORS, I have been blessed to reap the benefits of success through our growth. However, I'm also deeply aware of how these changes can impact our local culture, our way of life, and our environment.

In Rabun County, the beauty of our natural landscapes, the clean mountain air and abundance of fresh water are some of our greatest assets. Hikers, boaters, fishermen, and nature lovers flock to the area to enjoy the adventure of white water, the abundance of flora and fauna, and to capture the ever elusive rainbow trout that swim in our local waters.

Sadly, others take our beautiful natural resources for granted. Campsites are left with trash and debris: off-road vehicles create erosion issues and destroy wildlife habitat: and land developments threaten the headwaters of our Wild and Scenic Chattooga River and the surrounding wild lands and tributaries. As our region continues to grow, these threats are only becoming more invasive.

As a native of Rabun County and with ancestral roots spanning more than 200 years here, I consider it my duty to help protect the wild lands, rivers, streams, and wild life that make up this beautiful place that we call home.

My great, great Uncle Roscoe Nicholson (Ranger Nick) was the first forest ranger in Rabun County and the State of Georgia in 1912. He was responsible for surveying the thousands of acres in Rabun County that are now our public lands. In carrying on family tradition, I have dedicated myself to helping protect our natural resources and to create a cohesive vision for the growth of the City of Clayton. I serve on the board of trustees for the Chattooga Conservancy (chattoogariver.org) and am a member on the City of Clayton's Planning and Zoning Board (cityofclaytonga.gov).

SARAH GILLESPIE

C: 404-735-6157 | O: 706-212-0228

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If preserving the beauty of our natural resources is important to you, become a member of the Chattooga Conservancy or make a donation to support our work.



To learn more, please visit our website at chattoogariver.org



Thank you to all of my clients, friends, and family for helping me achieve the great honor of being recognized as one of Atlanta Magazine's 2021 Real Estate All-Stars!

I am your local real estate expert. Let me help you learn more about our local history, our heritage and the wild lands that make Rabun County so special. Feel free to give me a call: 404-735-6157 or email me: Sarah.Gillespie@HarryNorman.com



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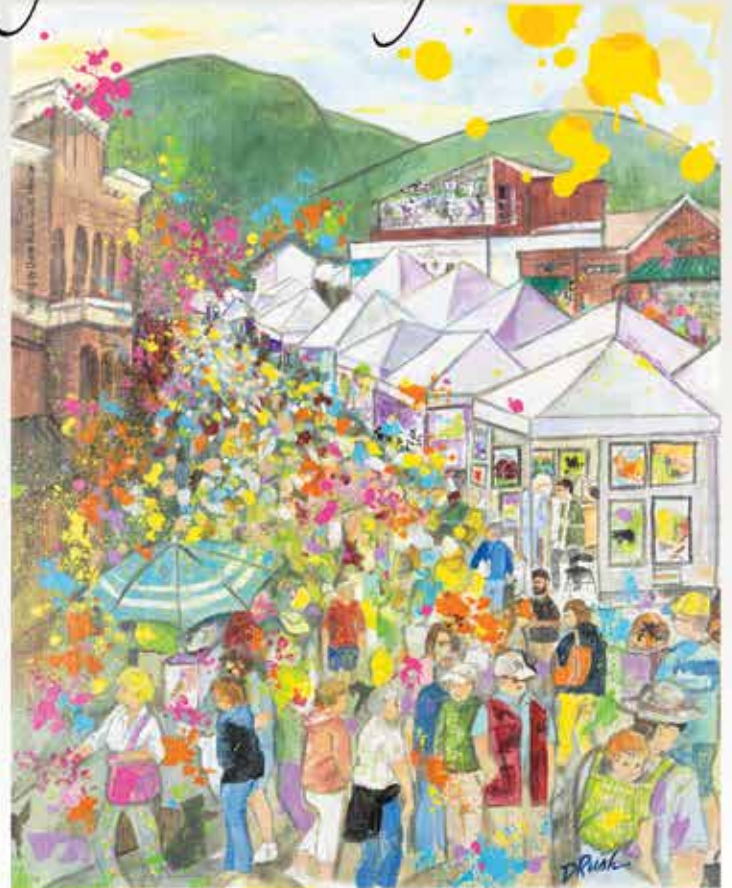
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Flavor of the South Mountain Cuisine

By Mark Holloway

Eat, drink and be merry! -Solomon

Truett Cathy once said, “Food is essential to life, therefore make it good.” You can read that quote in our little mountain town’s Chick-fil-A. I bet you love food. I bet you eat food. I’d even go out on a limb and say you enjoy food with people you like. Since the summer of 2018, we’ve had the regular pleasure of telling a certain group of people our restaurant suggestions. We own a very busy and booked Airbnb log cabin, My Mountain Escape.

Two frequent questions our guests ask are: What’s fun to do in the mountains? and Where’s a good

place to eat? If you know me, you know we’re a family of adrenaline junkies, outdoor crazies. So recommending fun things to do like trail running, rock climbing, mountain biking and waterfall exploring are easy targets. Something else that’s as easy as Joel’s pancakes at the Rusty Bike, is telling folks where to eat. Atlanta transplants can sometimes murmur that there aren’t a lot of restaurants here. I say ‘nay’ like a horse eating oats. Consider just how small our community actually is. Then consider how many great restaurants we have in such a tiny area.

I’d like to tell you about my absolute favorites. I’m no chef like my son-in-law Bret. But I do know the



two ingredients which make restaurants successful: really good food and a vibe to go with it. The vibe is created by great servers and an alluring atmosphere. First on the list is ‘mi casa afuera de mi casa’, my home away from home...Manriques. Best real Mexican food anywhere. Period. Mountain bikers and kayakers alike have this place pin dropped on their cellular devices.

The Rusty Bike doesn't need anymore business. If Joel's breakfast attracts anymore people, a sheriff deputy will need to control traffic into his place. There's a bicycle bell mounted by the front door. Please ring it a lot as you leave. You're welcome, Mr. Johnson. (Actually, folks may come to see Megan.)

Mama G's is an Italian restaurant where the owners treat you like family. I'm convinced there's a portly Sicilian grandfather cooking and singing loudly in the kitchen. He's there. I know it. You see Paul Gaglio Sr., the restaurant's founder and his Sicilian bride Krystyna founded this popular eatery. His spirit and her influence remain evident. I've gone looking for him. Maybe he hides behind a huge pot of simmering spaghetti sauce. Paul Jr. and his wife, Erin, have continued what began and the love their craft can be seen in every plate that comes out of the kitchen. The restaurants popular tagline is true... "Love is good food".

Fortify Pi and Fortify are both 'must visit' places. Award winning chef Jamie Alred and restaurant offianto Jack Nolan have created true farm to table dining. Their outstanding menu features an impressive ingredient list of local resources. The atmosphere of Fortify Pi, a gourmet pizza place is fun and you feel as if pizza might be healthy. The original Fortify is upscale and worth every penny.

Speaking of award-winning , we must include the Clayton Cafe. Bonnie's cheerful hospitality and incredible staff from the kitchen to the table will ensure you enjoy some good ol' comfort food!. The Lake Rabun Hotel, the Beechwood Inn, Rabun Manor and Julep Farms offer upscale and innovative fine dining in addition to their unique accommodations. And if you want your gourmet to go, head over to the Farmhouse Market at Lake Burton to give Chef

The advertisement is for 'the FARMHOUSE MARKET' at Lake Burton. It features a circular logo with a fork and knife crossed in the center. Below the logo, it lists services: 'Grab & Go Food', 'Catering', and 'Hot Lunch'. It also provides store hours for Wednesday through Saturday, contact information (phone number 706.782.4646 and website vincsfarmhouse.com), and the address: 5 Jones Branch Rd. - Clayton, GA 30525.

Scafiti's take-out creations a try.

A year ago, Lee and her husband Jim launched the Blue Canoe. Their "indoor/outdoor-live-music-nestled-on-the-backside-of-Burton" lake vibe is fun. Their Cajun/French Creole food is over the top. They are thriving!

Fromage and other fine foods offers indoor and porch dining. Their food is fresh and thoughtfully prepared. Best chicken salad ever! Chef Jenny Wilson opened the restaurant in 2007 and has been a favorite of many for going on 15 years.

Grapes and Beans deserve your attention too. "Groovy Food" is their mantra and they do it well. They easily accommodate Vegan and vegetarian diners and there is plenty on the menu for those who eat gluten-free. The atmosphere is as groovy as the food. You'll love it.

Up in Dillard, there is the Valley Café, the Cupboard Café and of course, the world-famous Dillard House. All serve up true southern cuisine, great



An advertisement for Oinkers Restaurant. It features a cartoon pig illustration on the left. The text reads: "OINKERS RESTAURANT", "2353 Highway 441 S. Clayton, GA", "706.782.7010". There is a QR code with the text "Scan for our menu" below it. At the bottom, it says "It's Where The Locals Eat!". A Facebook logo is in the bottom left corner.

An advertisement for Fromage and other fine foods. It features a smiling red cheese character with white teeth and a speech bubble that says "say cheese!!!". The text reads: "Fromage and other fine foods", "Dine In - Take Out - Catering Using the Freshest & Finest Ingredients!", "706.212.7349", "31 Earl Street • Clayton, GA 30525 • www.fromageclayton.com".



breakfasts and some unexpected pleasures as well. Valley Café is known for their wonderful desserts. Ms. Charlene’s Cupboard Café has amazing fried chicken among lots of other menu choices and boasts a lovely gift shop as well. And of course, everyone knows about the traditional family-style meals served at the Dillard House, where the dishes just keep coming! And then there’s Hush, no I’m not being rude. The Hush Cuban Style Café & Oyster Bar, also in Dillard, offers fresh, made from scratch, Cuban delights.

The Soda Fountain Restaurant inside Clayton Pharmacy serves up great burgers and hotdogs smothered in chilli and slaw. They offer sundaes and milkshakes like you’d expect from an old fashioned soda fountain. The décor will take you back to “happy days” and is especially fun for the young at heart. Now offering some “country cooking” for supper towards the end of the week they’ll keep your belly full!

Rumor Hazit, there is a great option in our mountains for an island themed dining experience. Guests can feel as if they are oceanside and enjoy fresh seafood, great steaks and finish it all off with Key Lime pie. The bright murals and jazzy music

will transport you back to your best beach vacations. You will envision yourself in tropical locales while looking out at the north Georgia mountains. Inside and outside dining are an option here and both are memorable.

If you thought I’d forgotten the Universal Joint, I saved it for last. Malisha Rogers, the restaurant’s key player, recently sat at our table and visited for a long while. She runs a great restaurant. Start with the U Joint burger. Thank me later. You can dine inside, have a drink at the bar, or dine outside. The service is exceptional and atmosphere is the same. Their live music, fire pit, and street corner groove is the perfect evening out. This one is at the top of my list.

All the other great restaurants deserve an honorable mention. But maybe this list will get you started. Let me first suggest you hike the Bartram, the Appalachian Trail, paddle the Chattooga River, climb the steps out of the Gorge, hike up on Rabun Bald, mountain bike White Twister and rock climb at Picken’s Nose. Then you’ll really be hungry. These amazing restaurants will gladly welcome you in afterwards.

Mama g

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Rabun County: Award Winning Whiskies and Award Winning Wines

By Peter McIntosh



When it comes to fermentation and distillation, Rabun County is a go-to destination. First, let's talk about the distilleries. Rabun County has two, and both produce award winning products. Up in Dillard, right next to the fabled Dillard House restaurant, you'll find the R. M. Rose Distillery. Before the Civil War, R. M. Rose was a nationally recognized whiskey maker, one of the finest in the land, but when prohibition came, their doors were shuttered and once alcohol was legalized again, the family had moved on to other enterprises. The folks in Dillard have revived the name and are dedicated to producing a nice line of bourbons and flavored whiskeys. My personal favorite is a cinnamon whiskey called "Fire on the Mountain". Yummy! The R. M. Rose Distillery has been honored with national awards. Stop by and see Melissa or Jeffie for a tour and tasting. And check their website for upcoming events at www.rmroseco.com.



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Just south of Clayton on Hwy 441 is the Moonrise Distillery, run by Doug Nassaur and his wife Jen. Doug is a master distiller and he has numerous awards to prove it. Moonrise was recently named the top distillery in Georgia by Tasting Panel Magazine. Moonrise started out just making whiskey but has since expanded their product line to include Gin, Vodka, Rye Whiskey and an amazing Peach Brandy. They also feature a cream liqueur called Bourbon Snow Cream that's better than Bailey's if you ask me. They also offer craft cocktails, jellies and preserves, as well as

a bourbon based barbecue sauce. Oh, let's not forget ice cream and pickles. Moonrise has a nice sit down bar in their tasting room which has become the place to be on Sunday afternoons. They always have live music on Sundays. Check their website about scheduling a distillery tour. Both R. M. Rose and Moonrise sell their products on site and feature gift shops which are great places to pick up a gift or a souvenir.

www.moonrisedistillery.com



So we sipped some whiskey, smooth and fine, now let's try some award winning wine. Rabun County boasts four wonderful wineries, from one



corner of the county to the other. On the northern end, just down the road from the R. M. Rose Distillery is Twelve Spies Vineyard. The vineyard's name came from the Bible and tells the story of Moses sending 12 spies to investigate the Promised Land. While there, they discovered grapes so large that it took 2 men just to carry one cluster. Founded by Mike Brown in 2012, Twelve Spies has flourished. They started with just a tasting room but soon added a "Vino Veranda" where patrons could enjoy their wine while looking out over the vineyards and the distant mountains. On weekends they often have live music on the veranda as well. 12 Spies features a broad selection of wines, whites and reds, sweet and dry. One of their new additions is a lovely Pinot Noir which I tried on my last visit, along with a small cheese and charcuterie pack, also available in the tasting room. I enjoyed it so much I bought a bottle. Meg and Donna are the lovely ladies in the tasting room, friendly and very wine knowledgeable. Tell them I sent you please. www.12spiesvineyards.com





On the other side of the county is Rabun County's newest member of the vineyard family, Terra Incognita Vineyards. Terra Incognita features a beautiful, open air tasting room overlooking their beautiful vineyard. They have a nice variety of wines to choose from: a white, a rose', a couple of reds and a sparkling muscadine wine. They also have snack packs to compliment their wine. Terra Incognita is a sprawling property, so large that they have hiking trails and primitive camping spots. (Ask for a map if you're interested.) It's a bit of a drive but well worth it once you get there. Check their website to get directions and learn about special events.

www.terraincognitavineyard.com





Up next we visit Stonewall Creek Vineyards, just outside of Tiger, Georgia. Like many vineyards, Stonewall Creek was a hobby that became a passion that became a business. And quite a business it is, with countless awards, both regional and national, to prove it. The vineyard features a broad spectrum of wines: whites, reds, a rose' and an amber. Amber? Interesting. I haven't tried it but I plan to on my next visit. They also have a port styled dessert wine called Red Velvet, fortified with American brandy from Moonrise Distillery. And like our other Rabun County vineyards, Stonewall Creek is a stunning place to sit and enjoy some wine. You really need to see it in person. These are fun folks with fine wines.

Check their website to find out more.
www.stonewallcreek.com



Now we come to Tiger Mountain Vineyards, Rabun County's oldest winemakers. Located in the shadow of Tiger Mountain, the vineyard was started in 1995 by the late Dr. John Ezzard on land that had been in the family for generations. John's daughter, Lisa Ezzard, is now the winemaker and torch bearer of this family tradition. Tiger Mountain Vineyards has been winning awards for decades, making people from all over sit up and take notice that these Georgia mountains are winemaking country. Tiger Mountain features eleven different wines, all selected to prosper in Georgia soil. Their newest release is a blended red called Fearful Symmetry, a name taken from a poem by William Blake. Besides their well appointed tasting room, Tiger mountain also has an onsite restaurant called the Red Barn Cafe', located in, you guessed it, a red barn. Chef Leon Lemoine is there on Saturdays cooking up sumptuous meals that pair perfectly with Tiger Mountain Wine. And most Saturdays feature live jazz music to make your vineyard experience even more enjoyable. Find out more on their website. - www.tigerwine.com



So there you have it, two distilleries and four vineyards. And while each of these establishments is different, they are all the same in that they offer award winning products in a fun and friendly atmosphere. Don't take my word for it, see for yourself. Cheers!



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Waterfalling

with Mark Ozboyd

Suppose I asked you to recall a few outdoor activities. What comes to mind? Rock climbing, kayaking, perhaps just plain hiking. But in Georgia, a new outdoor pursuit is rapidly taking hold: waterfalling. Waterfallers are a unique sub segment of the outdoors community. They love spending time in nature just like the rest of us, but what sets waterfallers apart is they hike to waterfall after waterfall, and nowhere else. Traditionally, Georgia has not been known for grandiose waterfalls in the same sense as its neighbors, Tennessee and North Carolina. Nevertheless, an amazing 700 waterfalls are now documented in Georgia – including over 120 in just Rabun County alone. And of course, the waterfall obsession is not limited to waterfallers. Georgia’s waterfalls are excellent destinations for anyone ranging from veteran hikers to Atlanta families who have never been exposed to the treasures of nature.

People can seldom point a finger to precisely what singles out waterfalls as such attractive destinations. Waterfalls are located in exquisite natural settings, often surrounded by unique and rare plants, wildlife, and geology. The dramatic energy of waterfalls is one of the best showings of nature’s majestic forces, similar to the magnificent music of Beethoven’s symphonies and piano sonatas. When I stand at a waterfall, I forget about all my everyday worries and always leave with a mind refreshed by the spray, breeze, and flowing water. It doesn’t matter whether the waterfall is a thunderous free-fall or a subtle stairstep cascade. There’s always something to see.

The first time I ever laid eyes upon a waterfall, I had the advantage of a birds-eye vantage point: my father’s back. It was Amicalola Falls, and that is how I became enamored with waterfalls from the age of one. Ask any kid about how they spend their play time – most will tell you about see-saws and merry-go-rounds, or worse yet, about their favorite video game. I’m thankful that my version of the toddler playground consisted largely of Georgia State Parks, because they changed my life forever. The lessons and memories that children can make from nature are invaluable and lifelong.

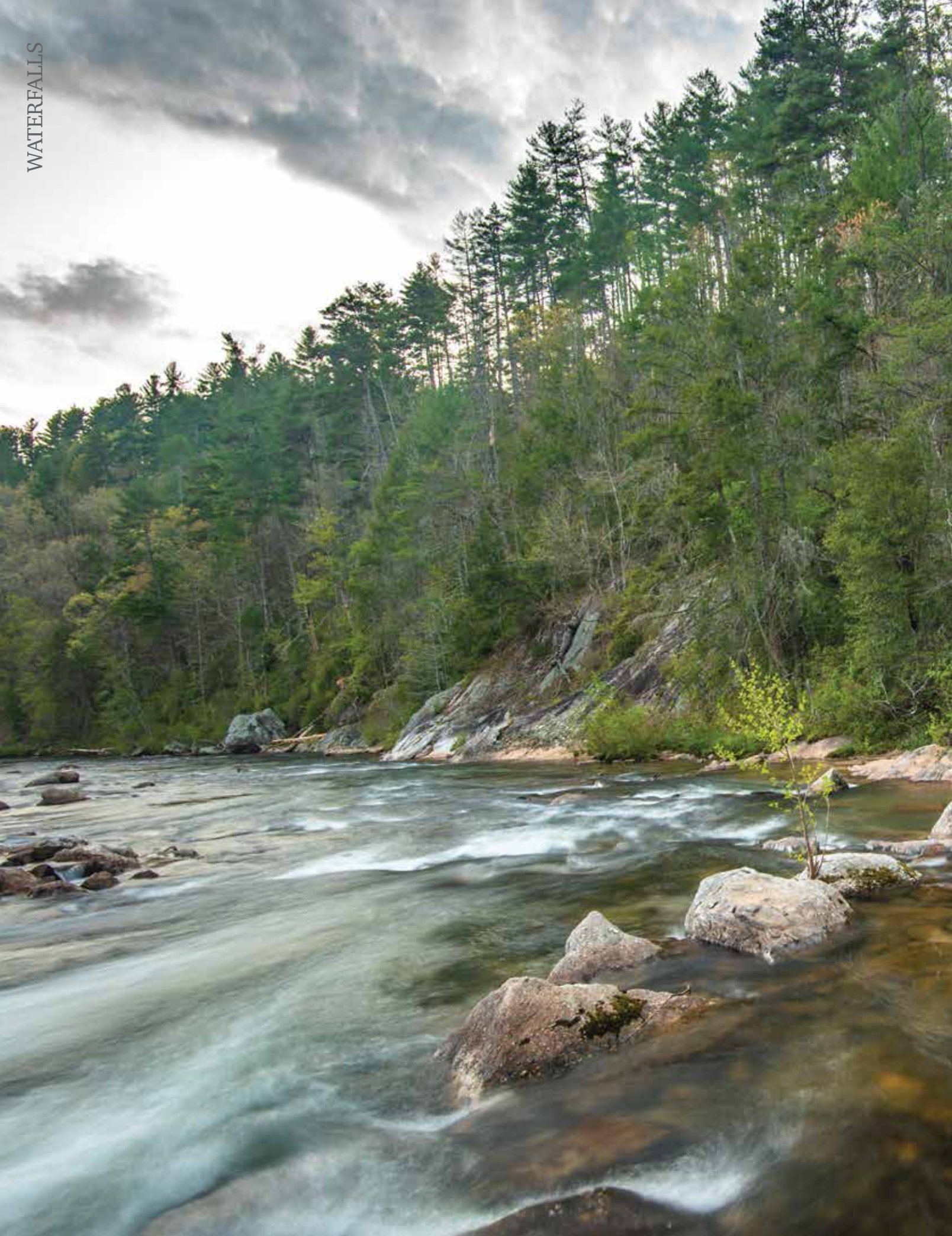
Seven years ago, when I was 13, I established my first website, www.hikingtheappalachians.com. I wanted to share descriptions of my weekly nature explanations and help prevent others from getting lost on little-used trails. In the summer of 2018, I founded the Southeast Nature Society to coordinate a broader range of resources, as well as encourage people from all backgrounds and ages to connect with and conserve nature. Over the last few years, I learned about dozens of Georgia waterfalls missing from print books and hiking websites. An important caveat: it would be silly to suggest that any Georgia waterfalls were left unnoticed by fishermen, hunters, and loggers from ages past. Nevertheless, even in the digital age, many waterfalls have become lost in time due to their remote wilderness locations or lack of established access points. Thus, as the Southeast Nature Society’s major debut project, I felt compelled to establish Georgia’s first comprehensive waterfall database at www.gawaterfalls.com to bring the state’s countless little-known waterfalls back to life. How long could people keep blindly flocking to Raven Cliff Falls and Panther Creek Falls when there’s so much more to see?

No person has single-handedly inspired me more than Bernie Boyer. Five years ago, I stumbled upon Bernie’s inconspicuous SmugMug webpage on the eighth page of Google’s search results, and my jaw dropped at all the Georgia waterfalls I had no idea about. Given his age of 85, I’m now proud to call Bernie my oldest friend. A retired physicist, Bernie has amazingly been rediscovering waterfalls every week since he moved to Georgia in 2015. My database would have been twice smaller if not for the work of Bernie, as well as Georgia’s other top waterfaller, pastor Greg Ford. Greg appears to spend every minute of his free time scouring maps for the next new waterfall, and I’m convinced he can stare at maps for ten hours straight. Together, these two men have uncovered Georgia’s newest gold mine: a gold mine filled with dozens of undocumented waterfalls.

Consider the Lake Russell Wildlife Management Area in Rabun’s next-door neighbor, Habersham County. Until



West Fork Chattooga River
at Three Forks





Dicks Creek Falls



Upper Moccasin Creek Falls

2017, most people in the outdoors community, myself included, knew about just one waterfall in LRWMA: Nancytown Falls, a 25-foot low-flow cascade hardly visible behind a rock jumble. You could wallow through a monsoon to Nancytown Falls and still leave so underwhelmed that you might reconsider the notion of “a bad day in the woods is better than a good day in the office”. So why had this been the only ‘known’ waterfall in LRWMA? Some ingenious ranger at the Forest Service must have surmised this was just the waterfall to construct an official trail to. Maybe they thought it would be a clever prank on unassuming visitors. Anyhow, the moral of the story is that today, we’re aware of over twenty significant waterfalls in LRWMA. The region now attracts numerous waterfall seekers from metro Atlanta who don’t wish to drive so far as Clayton.

If that isn’t enough inspiration yet, I want everyone reading this piece to know that you have all the tools at your disposal to “discover” your own waterfall. The most

primitive method might be to just scramble up random creeks and wait until you finally come across a waterfall. Fortunately, technology has granted us less trial-and-error alternatives. First off, one can often find a waterfall at areas of tightly-pinched elevation contours along creeks on topographic maps. But with the advent of the “Google Earth” software, discovering waterfalls became much easier. Any area of vibrant whitewater you see in the woods on Google Earth satellite imagery is likely to be a waterfall. Finally, the granddaddy of waterfall hunting tools is LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), an innovating remote sensing technique that measures distances via laser lights pointed down from aircraft. Thanks to LiDAR, we now have access to remarkable 1-meter topo maps that highlight the tiniest elevation changes and reveal any waterfall, whether it’s 100 feet high or 5 feet high. See my article at the link below if you would like to learn more about how to discover waterfalls: www.gawaterfalls.com/discovering-waterfalls.html

One day, I sat down at my desk and opened Google Earth for a routine satellite imagery scan, when I abruptly stumbled upon an area of vibrant whitewater on Plum Orchard Creek about 10 miles northwest of Clayton. I had not heard of a waterfall on this creek, so I suggested to Bernie that he check it out. This was early 2017. My prior experience with bushwhacking was still meager. The few off-trail waterfalls I did visit before involved closely following the footsteps of those who came before me. However, for once, Bernie was unconvinced that Plum Orchard Creek really contained a waterfall. I was left with no choice but to take matters into my own hands.

On a frosty March morning, I armed myself with a map, compass, and GPS. Cautiously yet eagerly, I took on the challenge of exploring the trackless Plum Orchard Creek valley despite no prior intel. The journey first involved an hour of scrambling up and down steep slopes and through dense rhododendron thickets to reach the creek. Once there, I waded upstream through the creek

for another quarter-mile to the potential waterfall location. My starkest memory from this part of the adventure was repeatedly seeking dry sandbars and rocks to stop my toes from going entirely numb in the cold water! My efforts all paid off when I rounded a corner and gazed upon a monster 65-foot waterfall that I had never seen any photos of. The music of Tchaikovsky's mesmerizing Piano Concerto No. 1 resounded in my head. March 4th, 2017 was the day I discovered my first undocumented waterfall.

After failing to uncover a historical name for the waterfall, I decided to christen it Angelica Falls as a tribute to my mother, who single-handedly instilled a love for both nature and music in me. A concert pianist, my mother had repeatedly emphasized from an early age that both nature and music enrich our spirits and must be a part of everyone's lives. After finding Angelica Falls, I have since rediscovered eight more undocumented waterfalls in Georgia, a number that pales in the shadows of Bernie's and Greg's waterfall discoveries. Yet to date, Angelica



Angelica Falls

Falls remains one of my favorites in Rabun County, accessible only to seasoned outdoor adventurers with enough experience to attempt the rugged cross-country trek.

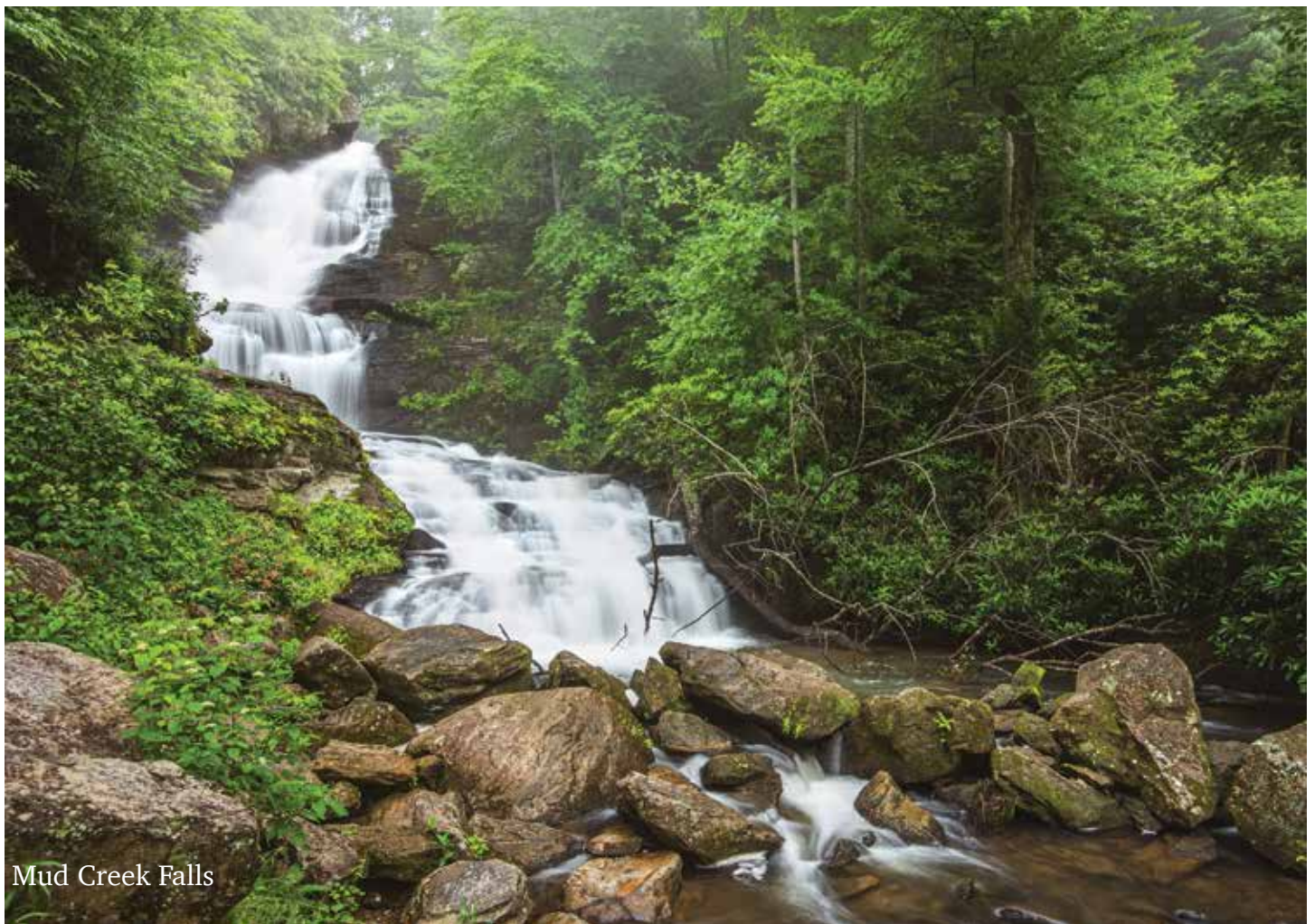
So what about the rest of us who aren't avid cross-country bushwhackers? Thankfully, there is no shortage of outstanding waterfalls around Clayton with easier access. Here are a few of my favorites:

- Mud Creek Falls (80 feet). Roadside in Sky Valley, no hike.
- Dicks Creek Falls (50 feet). Easy 0.6-mile trail near Chattooga River.
- Denton Creek Falls. Easy 0.3-mile trail to lower falls (40 feet). Moderate 0.8-mile unofficial path to upper falls (50 feet).
- Haven Falls aka His'n'Her Falls (50 feet). Easy 0.5-mile unofficial trail.
- Moccasin Creek State Park. Easy 1.0-mile trail to

Hemlock Falls (15 feet). Moderate unofficial path with stream crossing continues another 0.7 mile to Upper Moccasin Falls (40 feet).

- Three Forks four-waterfall hike: Thunder Dome Falls, Horsetail Falls, Singley's Falls, and Holcomb Canyon Falls. Moderate to very difficult depending on route. One of the most scenic and pristine watersheds in the state.

Going beyond a concise database, I am currently writing a guidebook titled "Georgia Waterfalls: A Comprehensive Guide". The book will contain detailed, step-by-step directions with maps and full-color photos to ~250 waterfalls across the state, plus brief descriptions of several hundred others. Nearly one-third of the waterfalls will be in Rabun County & vicinity, including many lesser-known waterfalls not found in any other books. I expect to publish the book at some point in 2022. Please stay tuned for printing and ordering updates at my website, www.gawaterfalls.com, and happy waterfaling!



Mud Creek Falls



Mark Oleg Ozboyd



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Shopping with Heart

By Anna DeStefano

Spend some time shopping around the Clayton area, and you'll be hard pressed to decide which you love more—Rabun County's retail hotspots, or the out-of-the way discoveries that reminded you why this heavenly corner of Northeast Georgia is a favorite mountain destination, however you spend your day.

There are fun things to purchase, yes. There's no denying it. The goods up here are great! But wherever you travel, be sure to experience your surroundings to the max. Make some time to marvel at the scenic landscapes and towns you'll pass by.

Shop after shop, one owner and salesperson after the other, you'll run into folks eager to share their passion for what they're selling. If you're on the hunt for a high-end piece of art, a trendy blouse, a gift for a friend, the freshest tomato, or a rustic antique to add to your collection... You're absolutely in the right place. Plus, you'll soon realize what every visitor does—that the upbeat vibe of the boutiques, galleries, markets, and farm stands you'll encounter are just as captivating as the outstanding goods they offer.

"Welcome to our neck of the woods," local businesses seem to be saying. "We're so glad to see you. Let us show you what we love best about this place..."



Welcome Home

Exploring all that the Clayton area has to offer is a journey you'll want to relish. Roaming this lush corner of the Appalachian Mountains grabs at your heart strings, whispering to you about coming home.

If there's a key to a great day of Rabun County shopping, I'd say that it lies in becoming part of the magic that surrounds you. Be open to all there is to do and see. Set your expectations aside for a bit. Connect to what speaks to your heart. And then bring a piece of that "belonging" home with you. You'll feel more like a local, each time you do.

Eclectic Fun: The Downtown Experience

There's no place better to begin a shopping crawl, than in downtown Clayton. Checking out their kaleidoscope of thriving retail shops could fill an entire day, and you still won't have seen it all. Of course, there are also great places to people watch while you eat, have a drink, or sip a latte. But don't dawdle too long. Exploring town has never been more fun.

Clayton epitomizes mountain shopping at its best. There's fashion, home décor, art, outdoor gear, books, toys, interiors, antiques, galleries and more. Something to tempt every age, size, and interest. Each store and boutique is a discovery all its own. Give them their due, and you'll be amply rewarded.

Clayton's outdoor gear purveyors, where you'll find state-of-the-art fishing, hunting, camping, hiking and water sport gear, are just as likely to feature that perfect gift item you've been searching for. To see what we mean, visit the wildly popular Wander North Georgia. Whatever activity is your latest obsession, their top-notch staff will fix you up. Yet another part of their appeal is the artisan gift and specialty food options they offer, not to mention their trendy apparel. And you'll be delighted to discover one of the finest book selections around—offering best sellers, classics, and children's books, plus engaging nature guides and journals to enhance your North Georgia experience.

Another surprise is Clayton's western wear mainstay, Sole Place. How great is it to have somewhere that offers top-notch shoe and boot options for all ages? Kick your heels up and browse labels like Ariat, Justin, Timberland, Stetson, Laredo, and more.

Determined to find that next gift or souvenir? There are unique alternatives practically everywhere. Stationary,

awesome-smelling candles, bed and bath soaps, and lotions and potions of all kinds. Handmade, locally sourced, and artesian choices abound, particularly at stores like Lulu and Tully's—which also hosts classes for folks wanting to paint or make pottery or soap themselves.

Antiques are an ever-popular must-find. For those who love the old and unusual, in a mountain town like Clayton there are too many temptations to resist—often found where you'd least expect them. So, eyes akimbo. You never know where the next great score will happen.

One of my favorite pieces of raku pottery was snagged at Prater Collectables, which specializes in antique postcards and such. A girlfriend and I happened by one day and thought we'd take a look. And there IT was, on an out-of-the-way high shelf by a window—the most beautiful two-handled vase, depicting a glorious mountain scene. It now sits in an honored space in my living room, where I get to enjoy it every day. All because I wandered into a shop I'd never before explored, and poked around until I stumbled across something to treasure.

Who has a passion for fashion? Boutiques are blooming in Clayton, from high-end labels to trendier, in-the-now choices. Whatever your selection, you'll emerge feeling stylishly comfortable and ready to shine. There are shoes, jewelry, and other accessories to compliment your outfit. Knowledgeable and friendly staff are eager to listen and help you find something you'll love. The experience is akin to shopping with a friend who just happens to be great at helping you look your absolute best, whatever occasion you're buying for.

Favorite spots include vendors who anticipate how many different things the average shopper is looking for. Shop little girl options that match Mom's (Indigo and Madison's on Main). Several popular apparel spots feature interiors, art, and décor that invokes just the right mood for your shopping experience (Treehouse, Dogwoods and Reeves). If celebrating curves is your happy place, you won't miss out on the fun. Particularly at new-to-the scene Hangers Plus.

For those who are bringing up baby (or who know someone who is), thoughtfully-selected discoveries await you in Clayton's boutiques. A special shout-out goes to Nature + Nurture's family-friendly space—designed with an eye toward brightening your little one's life with nature. In addition to adorable fashion for children (and the moms who love them), you'll find a well-appointed reading nook, plus tons of ideas for shower, birthday,

and new baby gifts. While you're in town, also make it by Blue Ridge Toys. You AND your little ones will love it.

And let's not forget art. Folk art, fine art, antique art, lake art, mountain art, and on and on. Everywhere you turn, there's something new to see. You could spend an entire day sampling the galleries, home décor/interiors and antique shops in town. Restaurants get in on the fun, too—including favorite eateries Fortify and Grapes and Beans—decorating with local art and giving it a moment in the spotlight.

It's inspiring how many Northeast Georgia businesses feature local and American-made pieces. You'll quickly pick up on this avid commitment to supporting unique voices and their take on the "mountain" experience. The next time you're in town, strike up a conversation about a favorite painting, pot, or piece of artesian jewelry. You'll love learning something new about how such a marvelous creation came into being.

Hitting the Road

It's time to explore beyond the bustle of downtown. You really should, take our word for it. There are several nearby communities and shopping hotspots that you don't want to miss. Let's take a quick tour!



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The advertisement features a collage of images: a vintage-style poster for 'APICULTURE MODERNE Chauvet', a display of clothing including a peach-colored robe, a collection of spa items like bottles and jars, and a list of product categories. The bottom of the ad includes contact information and social media icons for Facebook and Instagram.



Antiques or Bust

Keep your eyes peeled for roadside discoveries. You'll find great antiquing around pretty much every corner of the county.

When you're seriously in the hunt and intend to keep looking until you find something special, make time to explore Dillard. Travel north from Clayton on Highway 441, and you'll reach Dillard before you know it. Tranquil, calm and on the way to your favorite fun, this mountain town is bustling with cool shops.

You'll find vintage glass, tools, pottery, and collectables. It's also a destination for handmade, antique, and repurposed furniture. If folk art's your jam, then so is Dillard—especially The Dillard Market, which features local favorites Blake Gardner and Scott Peppers. While you're in town, be sure to check for interiors, plus vintage and contemporary Christmas must-haves. And since it's never a bad time to window-shop custom jewelry, let Turpin's Jewelry whet your appetite for silver, gold, gemstones, and Native American pieces.

Take Highway 76 West out of Clayton toward Lake Burton, and you'll find yourself winding through the Timpson Creek area—another must-visit. Alongside the bubbling Timpson Creek, you'll pass a familiar landmark that used to be the Hollifield Store, was later the Log Cabin Store Antiques, and was once even a bait and tackle shop. Appearing on the outside brilliantly crusty and rusty, Black Bear Antiques' revitalized interior boasts curated antiques that are a treat to browse and buy.

Keep journeying west on 76. Another much-loved landmark awaits, nestled close to Lake Burton's Charlie Mountain Road. Eclectic yet refined, Timpson Creek Gallery is worth the journey, and as many return visits as you can manage. The property's original building was at one time a saloon. The now-expanded structure

(with millwork created by master-craftsman Dwayne Thompson) boasts high end interiors, handmade furniture, fine art, antiques, one-of-a-kind jewelry, décor, lighting and unique gift items. An in-house design team will help you create the custom look of your dreams. And only a few steps along a delightful garden path you'll find the studio of renowned lake artist Libby Matthews. Above that is Dwayne Thompson's workshop, where the magic behind his creations happens. And while you're exploring the property, don't forget to wander down by the creek. Something familiar and sweet and just right will click, and we're betting you'll make your way back soon to this magical corner of Lake Burton.

Let's "Art Talk" a Little More

You'll find the work of master craftsmen and artists around practically every corner.

Sometimes in thoughtfully curated spaces like Main Street Gallery's bright, colorful, eclectic collection of contemporary folk art. Look for other venues that celebrate an array of local talent. Clayton's Butler Galleries, for example, showcases a variety of artists (including members of the North Georgia Arts Guild) who fill booths with mini collections of their brightest and best. Then there are dedicated spaces, such as Crawford Art Gallery, where the award-winning pieces of a single artist can be admired and purchased.

Yet as we've already seen, sometimes the art finds you—in seemingly out-of-the-way antique stores, craft shops, and flea markets. Those willing to hunt for hidden bounty will find it. And when that right thing at the right time speaks to you, you've sparked a moment of authentic belonging that will stay with you always. Where better to experience that priceless connection, than the lush landscapes of our mountain communities?

What if you're new to the hunt? Check out the Rabun County corner of the twice-annual Northeast Georgia Arts Tour. Each year in early summer and winter, our art venues open their doors to a rush of guests who are eager to look and see and experience regional paintings, pottery, folk art, photography and more. And thanks to the arts tour's website and brochures, all year round you have a treasure map to follow to each captivating spot.

Flea and Craft Market "Musts"

Visiting Clayton puts you in the absolute BEST area to discover mountain-market finds that will blow your mind.





Dwayne opened Timpson Creek Millworks nearly 50 years ago, and he's been hammering away ever since.

{Timpson Creek Millworks since 1972. Timpson Creek Gallery since 1982}

Dwayne Thompson has been a staple in North Georgia for nearly 50 years. With his wife Cecile, they have made Timpson Creek Gallery a place that blends fine art, antiques and handcrafted furniture. Anyone that's been in business this long must know what they're doing. And these folks do. Please follow us on Instagram, IG TV channel and Facebook, or just stop by.

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SHOPPING Throughout Rabun County you're treated to roadside flashes of quirky color and the bizarrely uncommon. So, slow down a bit as you wander. Take your time. You won't want to rush this.

Your best bet to begin is exploring up and down Highway 441, both north and south of Clayton. Aim for Mountain City, for example, home of Black Rock Mountain State Park and the Foxfire Museum. And make the time to pump the breaks while you're traveling through "the gap."

Not too far out of town you'll pass an indoor flea market on your left that is open weekends, year around. Next, stop at the Rabun Flea Market—an in-season, open-air bonanza of local vendors, craftspeople, and hidden treasures. There's even an ice cream shop and Vicki's Restaurant, to help keep kids and adults satisfied while they search.

Did someone say Fairy Gardens? Why, yes, there are fairies around these here parts. And it would be inhospitable not to offer them a special place to sit a spell and enjoy the view.

While you're exploring Rabun Gap, let Billingsley's Garden Center inspire your next whimsical selection. This year-round mainstay never disappoints with their

customer service, beautiful plants and trees, gifts, and botanical-themed décor. Everyone is treated like a local, especially when you step inside the store. And amidst a colorful rush of "porch" items, you'll find their fairy garden section. Too fantastic not to make a special trip to experience, it'll spark your imagination, whether you're just starting out, or adding to a magical nook already thriving back home.

Speaking of the quirky, crafty and unusual... On up the road a bit, just past Dillard's main drag, is a sight like none other. You'll know you're in the right place when on the left you come upon a large purple dragon, with smoke wafting about its toothy, roaring grin (this dry ice trick is particularly fun to see in the fall and winter months, once temperatures cool down).

You've discovered roadside surprise, Cindy's Dragonfly. A riot of Mexican metal art abounds, plus colorful garden art, wall and window hangings, and, yes, even Big Foot. Venture just a bit further down the "four-lane," for another opportunity to binge on mountain flare. Bear Country Gifts & Old Mountain Collectables features, among other fanciful things, wood carvings by Buzzsawz Henderson.

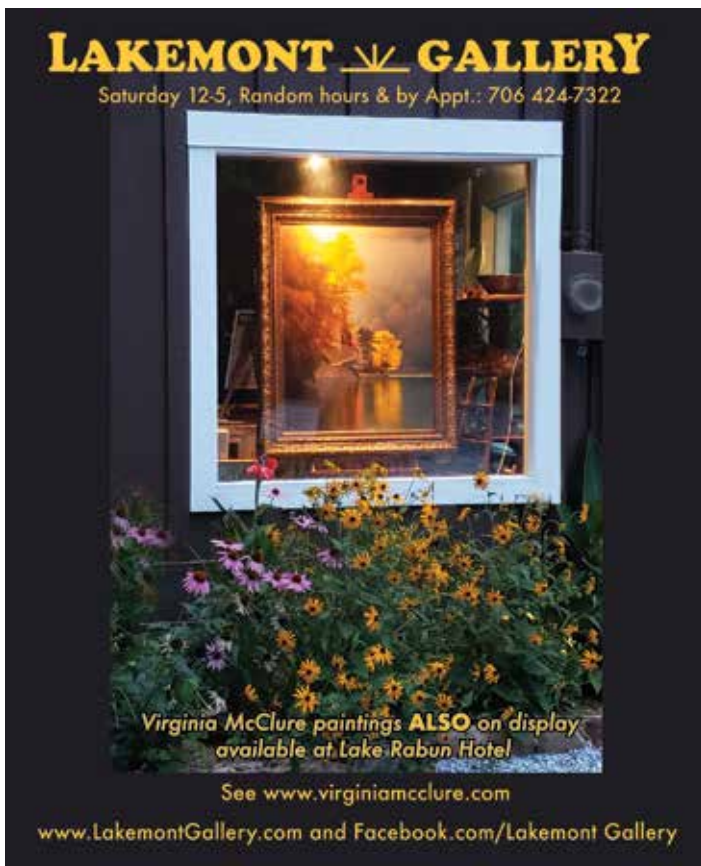
Shopping the Lake Life

Old Highway 441 is another favorite shopping byway.

Take it south out of downtown Clayton, wind through the communities of Tiger and Wiley, and it feels as if you're motoring back in time. Before you know it, you've arrived at historic Lakemont Village and its charming taste of what lake life must have been like, "once upon a time."

Situated along the Tallulah River as it gently curls toward the gorge, just minutes from Lake Rabun, newly revitalized Lakemont is upbeat, in an old-world way. Its renovated and restored, early-1900s buildings house a hub of creativity. Give yourself a morning or an afternoon to experience this one-time stop on the Tallulah Falls Railroad—especially on weekends, when all the shops are open.

Grab a nostalgic bite to eat at The Open Door at Alley's Ol' Store, a mom-and-pop market and deli that offers scrumptious sandwiches, salads, soups, and other lake favorites, plus a boutique selection of wine, beer, and cigars. A freezer stocked full of mouth-watering, grab-and-go options makes your next at-home meal a homerun. And don't miss the desert case (overflowing





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with local creations). Because calories don't count when you're on vacation!

But...wait. You came to Lakemont for shopping, right? Once the community's "general store," The Open Door is bursting with gourmet munchies, gifts, collectables, bed and bath, souvenirs, kids' and baby items, and more.

A short, idyllic walk down the road is Isadora Popper, a serene, inspiring boutique full of beautiful and useful pieces curated for your life and home—goods made with love, thoughtfulness, and an attention to detail. There's a timeless quality to the items you'll find here, made to please and to last.

For another whimsical fairy garden experience, step inside Ladybug Landing. This unique boutique's celebration of nature is a breath of fresh air, graced with a dash of fairy dust. Enjoy the playful vibe of their gift items, décor, apparel, jewelry, and more. There's even a special corner of the shop where young artists display and sell their creations (and receive 100% of the profits). How cool is that?

And don't miss The General Store in Tallulah Falls, located on Main Street. It may be a bit further down the road and off the beaten path. But the Tallulah Gorge souvenirs, nostalgic snacks and drinks, antiques, handmade furniture, and gifts you'll browse in this circa 1923 space make it well worth the seek-and-find.

Farm to Your Table

Feeling like a local yet? Let's up your game even more.

Rabun County is known as the farm-to-table capital of Georgia, and for good reason. You'll find five Best Chef's America here, along with the locally sourced restaurants they create in. Spring and fall seasonal tours highlight locally-owned farms. Plus, there's a bounty of roadside stands and markets to flavor-up your shopping experience.

The Clayton Farmer's Market is an in-season, Saturday morning destination. Revel in the freshest local produce, cheeses, eggs, meat and poultry, prepared foods, crafts, and beverages.

No doubt you've driven past Osage Farms Produce Market (and likely noticed the crowds of people swarming about during the heat of the summer rush). This Rabun Gap mainstay (just past Mountain City) takes pride in offering an unparalleled selection of home-grown fruits and vegetables. Visit and watch locals haul away bushels

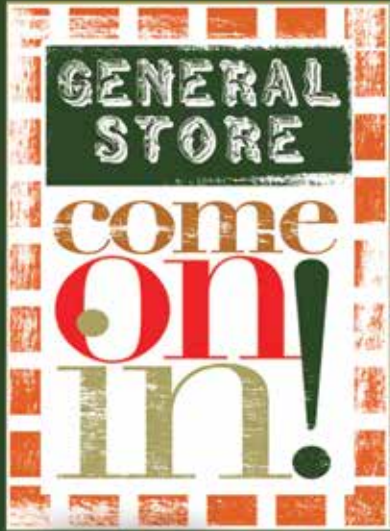
of corn, peaches, and tomatoes, destined to be canned and to become ingredients for mouthwatering winter meals. Don't miss the gift and garden options, too: jams, jellies, flowers, freshly made breads and baked goods, as well as fresh eggs, cheese, cured meats, and locally farmed and milled grains and flour.

And speaking of local farm destinations... Before you leave the area, detour into Wolfolk Valley and discover Sylvan Falls Mill (on Taylor's Chapel Rd.). This 1840s grist mill, powered by a twenty-seven-foot water wheel, produces stone-ground grains you can purchase on site, as well as from vendors all about Rabun County. In the mill store, look for organic white and blue grits and corn meal, cornbread mix, and wheat, rye, spelt and 7 grain flour. If you've eaten at Clayton hotspots like Fortify and Fortify Pi, you've already sampled food created from Sylvan Falls Mill's bounty. The mill owner also bakes pastries, breads, muffins and other goodies that are sold via area markets, such as Northeast Georgia Locally Grown.

On the Tiger/Wiley side of town (south on Old Highway 441) there's Hillside Orchard Farms, a great stop for family fun and mountain-themed shopping. Visit their barnyard and resident critters, take a train or hayride, pick seasonal fruits (including blueberries, apples, and pumpkins), mine for gems, and so much more. They, too, offer outstanding hostess and gift-basket selections such as jams, jellies, pickles, and other canned goodness.

Find the Blueridge Honey Company next. They're known for an impressive variety of honey, plus bees and bee supplies. And while you're there, check out their bee-themed home, bath and body, and other gift items—for adults AND kids. There are candles, tea accessories, creams and lotions, kitchen linens, books, games, stationary, and T-shirts. Plus a veritable wall of canned jellies, jams, pickles, and sauces to choose from.

And, last but not least, make it to Julep Farms. This fresh-on-the-scene venue has absolutely cornered the market for offering an all-around mountain farm, shopping, and fine dining experience. At once elegant and rustic, this destination just north of Dillard's downtown is a must-visit, whether you want to explore the twenty-two-acre property, spend quality family time outdoors, or eat a gloriously fresh lunch, Sunday brunch, or dinner. To bring a touch of the farm experience home with you, shop the elegantly appointed retail space, which includes a coffee and pastry bar. Or, how about staying overnight in one of their quaint cottages? If relaxing in a serene



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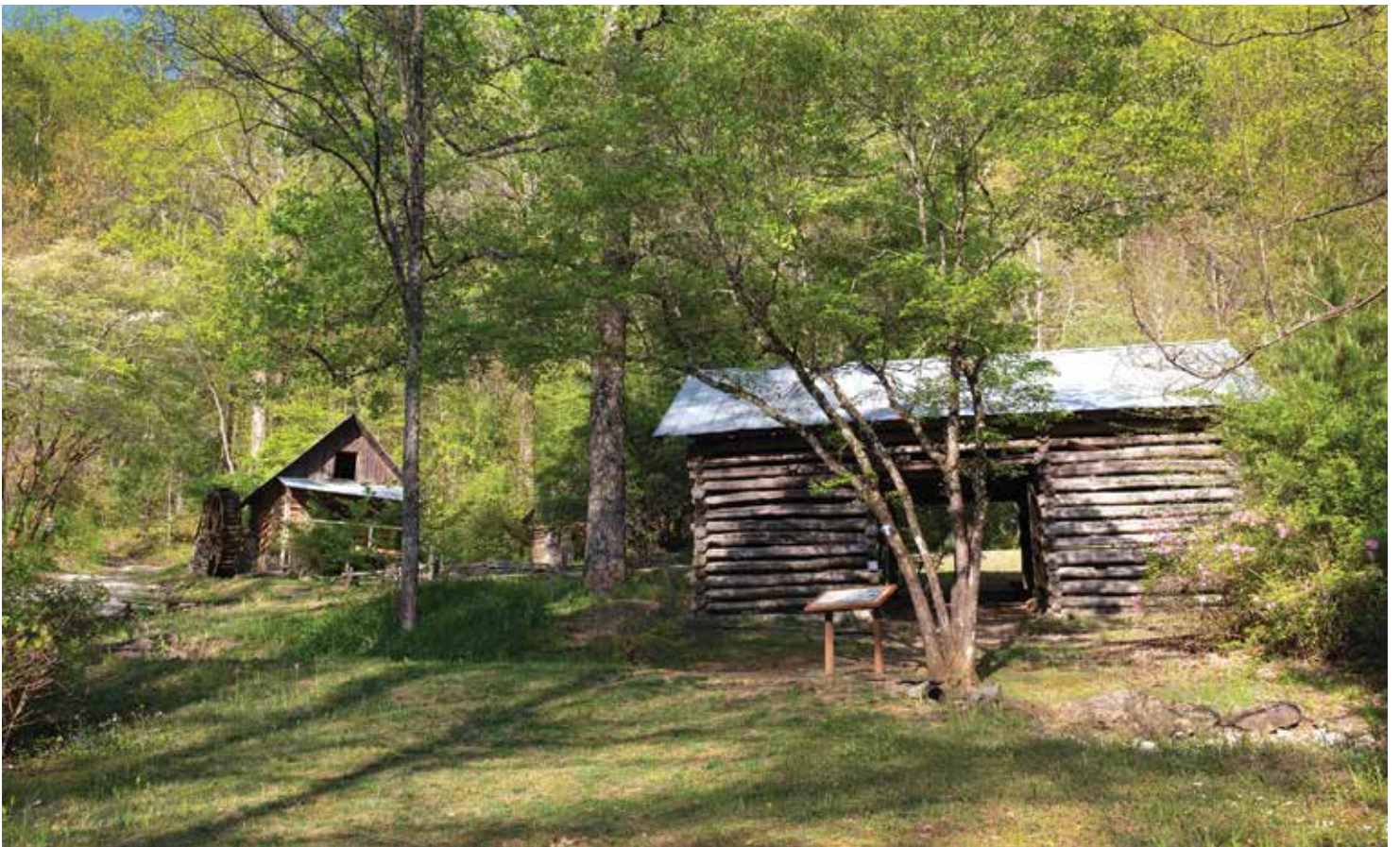
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Foxfire

Preserving the Past for Future Generations

by Kami Ahrens

Nestled on the side of Black Rock Mountain, the Foxfire Museum encompasses over 100 acres, eight of which have been developed into a campus of historic buildings representing Appalachian culture and traditions. Unlike most museums organized by historical societies, the Foxfire Museum was an outgrowth of local high schoolers' work in their community.

In 1966, English students at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School decided to create a literary magazine in lieu of studying such classics as Shakespeare. The very first Foxfire magazine—named for the glowing fungus found on damp summer nights in the mountains—was published in 1967. Among the poetry and prose from local students and authors, the magazine also featured interviews with elderly relatives and neighbors who were born in the late 19th century. These oral histories quickly became the star of the magazine, and from these interviews came dozens of books and hundreds of articles across decades of publication.

As Foxfire students continued to interview people, they began to collect objects and artifacts from those visits. A morning with Bill Lamb left the students with a stack of hand-split shingles. During an afternoon with Beulah Perry, the students wove their very own white oak hamper. In just a day with Buck Carver, the students even helped build a full-scale replica moonshine still. While the students were making and collecting these artifacts and memories, The Foxfire Book was experiencing global success. The book soon generated enough royalty money that Foxfire students could purchase the property in Mountain City, where the museum now resides. As with all things Foxfire, the students made the choice to convert this old orchard into

a cultural center for future students and their community. In need of spaces to house their artifacts and classes, the students decided to save historic structures and rebuild them on site at the museum.

The first building purchased and reconstructed at Foxfire was the Bell Grist Mill, which originally sat near Arie Carpenter's home in Macon County, North Carolina. Built in the late 1920s, this complete mill is the most iconic structure at Foxfire. Shortly after its relocation in 1974, the students hired community members to help fulfill their dreams of relocating, rebuilding, and renovating log buildings in the region. Within just a few short years, the students and their adult supervisors moved over 20 buildings to the property. These were used as classroom spaces, teacher housing, magazine offices, archives, and exhibits—exclusively by Foxfire students and staff until the early 2000s when the museum formally opened to the public.

The museum continues its educational mission through special programming for K-12 students and an immersive summer leadership program for Rabun County high schoolers. In addition to guided tours of the museum, Foxfire offers a diversity of online activities and experiences for students both





near and far, including videos, lesson plans, and virtual tours.

Today, the museum is an engaging and interactive space for all who visit. On any day of the week, visitors can take a self-guided tour, following a half-mile walking path and exploring the buildings with the aid of a (free!) mobile app. The tour leads visitors through an 1820s homestead, exhibits on special crafts like woodworking and quilting, and a powerful display on the Cherokee removal. Step back in time and watch weavers, blacksmiths, and a broom maker practice their crafts in traditional Appalachian-fashion. Explore the many different forms of Appalachian folk art, from toys to pottery and baskets. Listen to the wondrous hymns sung by shape-note groups as you



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approach the peaceful mountain chapel. Finish off your visit with a quick stop in our museum store, which proudly sells not only every Foxfire book ever published, but a multitude of goods handcrafted by local artisans, such as handwoven blankets and towels, old-fashioned lye soap, and one-of-a-kind folk pottery from the region.

Every fall, on the first Saturday of October, Foxfire hosts the Foxfire Mountaineer Festival—a one-day celebration of the rich traditions of Southern Appalachia, featuring music from regional performers and demonstrations of historic crafts, such as blacksmithing, woodworking, soap making, and more. This family-friendly event includes all manner of traditional games and puzzles for young and old alike, from sack races to a cross-cut sawing competition. The Festival honors the people of Southern Appalachia, represented at the event by some of the very individuals who have allowed their stories to be shared with the world through the pages of The Foxfire Magazine and The Foxfire Book series. Regular admission is \$5 per person with children 5 and under free. All proceeds go to Foxfire and are critical to supporting our mission of preserving and sharing the culture of the mountains.

The Foxfire Museum has so much to offer, but never strays from its core mission of supporting its community and celebrating the rich history and heritage of Southern Appalachia. Listen to oral histories straight from the pages of The Foxfire Book on the museum’s podcast, “It Still Lives,” available on any podcasting platform or the Foxfire website. Support the preservation of mountain culture and community education by donating to the museum, purchasing a museum membership, or subscribing to the student-produced Foxfire magazine! Plan your visit at www.foxfire.org



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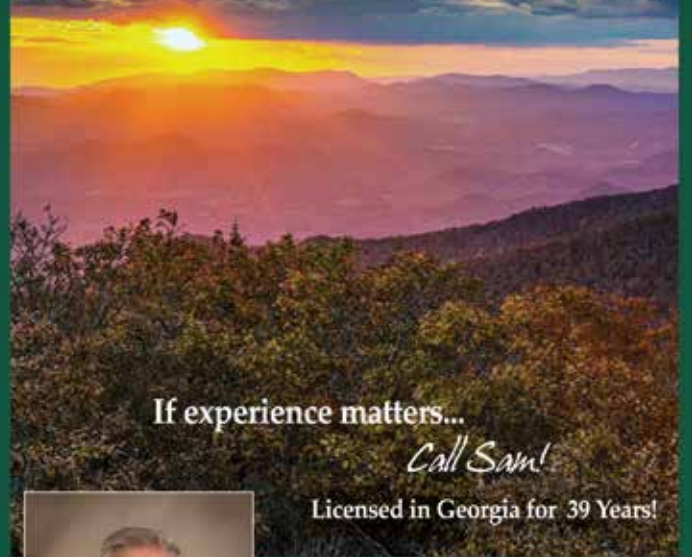


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My mother played records with lyrics that made me dream of far off and desired destinations.

Even Frank Sinatra's song where he crooned about flying to the moon and playing among the stars fueled the gypsy in me to see all I could see.

My first trip to Rabun County Georgia was as memorable as any place I've ever been and I'm talking about the furthest place I've ever flown, Auckland, New Zealand, on the other side of this wonderful world.

Nature has always been my happy place, And since planting myself happily in Tiger, Georgia twenty-two years ago, I'm here to stay, by the grace of God.

My desire to share this piece of heaven with more than my family and fur babies became evident. I wanted my private estate called Splendor Mountain to be a destination for all to enjoy and to say those special words, "I do"!

Splendor Mountain has hosted countless wedding weekends here and I have been honored to officiate some of them and attended most, I love hearing the blessings spoken over the couples as they become husband and wife in Providence Garden.

The first wedding held at Splendor Mountain took me by pleasant surprise when a cousin of mine from Alabama held her daughter's wedding here and broadened my view

of how to share what God had given me, so I quickly had business cards made and introduced myself as a New Beginnings Destination Where Your Wedding Dreams Can Come True. The rest was as they say happily ever after.

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Splendor Mountain is not alone. The reasons couples from all over our great nation have chosen beautiful Rabun County to celebrate the best day of their lives is the variety.

From mountain peaks to spring fed lakes, occasional 90 degree temps in the lush summer and single digits as often in the evergreen winters, our local residents make you feel welcome because they are grateful that they have a home they love 365 days a year.

In fact, a destination wedding in Rabun County will be an invitation for all attending to pack their wedding clothes and walking shoes and enjoy some vacation time in these glorious surroundings. From Tallulah Gorge, Lake Rabun and Burton, Black Rock Mountain, and bustling historic downtown Clayton.

The tourist trade has grown! Rabun County is building, and they are coming.

Now, let's play among the stars as old Blue Eyes said... look no further than a small radius to find lodging, transportation, delicious fare, activities, and entertainment.

Two of the lakes have boat rentals, there are hikes for exploring a cool waterfall at the end of a paths in the forest, the elevation of Black Rock Mountain State Park offers amazing views and has a fishing lake and a

historical museum, which will give your guests some insight into early living in these Appalachian Mountains called the Foxfire Museum. Other highlights include the Chattooga River with white water rafting and climbing to the fire tower up on Rabun Bald, the second highest mountain in Georgia.

Another wonder is the Tallulah Gorge where as long ago as the 1840's visitors arrived from the south to the mountains by train and stood amazed at the powerful force of the free-flowing Tallulah River. Are you getting the picture? You will, literally and figuratively as I mentioned.

The itineraries that can be built around the gathering for the crescendo, and the time between saying YES to the proposal are endless.

You will discover a new vacation treasure in the furthest Northeast Georgia County which borders both South Carolina and North Carolina. And folks will remember the area where they applauded the words, "I pronounce you married, kiss your best friend."

Wedding ceremony sites run the gorgeous gamut, from Bed and Breakfasts, mountain views, waterfalls, wine vineyards, a rodeo arena, country clubs, a fly in airstrip, an open side covered pavilion, beautiful barns, a few amazing homes, one dating back to the 1800's, and 360 degree view mountain tops.



Many of the destination wedding venues are partnered with other venues, with shuttle services available. Every guest can enjoy the scenery coming and going between their accommodations and the rehearsal dinner and ceremony and reception sites.

The venues may book up for a weekend celebration, so have your rehearsal dinner at Splendor Mountain or one of the vineyards, distilleries, or a private area in a restaurant. At many of the venues go ahead stay and play, as many have private lodging and event sites complete with decorations and chefs.

There are three airports that guests can fly into. Atlanta, Asheville and Greenville are approximately two hours away coming from the south, north and west. Then you're on Georgia mountain time and you will be surrounded by nature. There will be cows in the valley and on the hillsides, signs telling you where you can visit a tasting room or some goats on a roof. Tell your Pickle Ball enthusiasts to bring their paddle; there are nine courts and many new friends to meet. Golfers can play at Kingwood or the newly refurbished Rabun County courses.

An important conversation to have when touring a wedding venue in Rabun County is which accommodations are in close proximity to every place, if there are multiple sites for different events held. Also inquiring how soon you may need to block off some rooms as accommodations can fill up when the Autumn season approaches and October is the must have month.

You can enjoy the area by choosing to use a wedding planner who knows who to call and will be there to draw the curtain back to reveal to you both the final design

work which brought together thoughts and dreams you shared during chats and seriously fun times come true.

When the joy filled time arrives and the wedding location has been prepared and you're refreshed and relaxed. You are relieved that your baker, caterer, a hair & make-up professional, DJ or live band, floral designer and wedding photographer have met your approval.

The dream destination you have chosen for those gorgeous, best day ever photos will help keep memories alive and will also tug at your travel desires.

Just thinking about the special times in life that urge a feeling of competition and ultimately stress of mind and body. Your destination wedding need not be another competitive moment in time, but the opportunity to be true blue to who you are together when no one but God is looking and that's the glory of a destination wedding. They are comparatively on the less expensive side, but more than that, it can be the place you feel most like yourselves. And sing it out or shout it out but make one another and those who take the destination trip of a lifetime with you, know that the real thing is happening to real people and that is better than, to continue the lyrics of the song that Frank Sinatra sings so beautifully, seeing what spring is like on Jupiter and Mars, in other words hold my hand. And remember when you have a destination wedding in the mountains your next destination is Happily Ever After!

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 706-949-1089
 90 Savannah Street, Clayton, GA 30525



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706.521.3113



**Two locations in
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more voices, more victories.



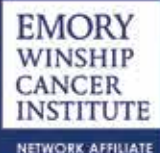
When you're facing cancer, you want a strong team on your side. Even better, two. That's why Northeast Georgia Medical Center is now a network affiliate of Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University – Georgia's only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center. Together, we deliver some of the most effective treatments and promising clinical trials, right here at home. It all starts with more voices – and leads to more victories.



Northeast Georgia Medical Center

Learn about the collaboration, and choose a cancer doctor close to you
at NGMC's Toccoa Cancer Center: nghs.com/toccoa

Emory Winship Cancer Institute Network Affiliates collaborate with Emory on quality and safety initiatives to improve care locally.





MOUNTAIN DINING & SPIRITS

Farm to Table - Fine Dining

Beechwood Inn
220 Beechwood Dr
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Authentically Farm to Table, Beechwood Inn offers fine dining in the North Georgia Mountains featuring Chef's Tasting Dinners paired to fine wines. Each menu is pre-selected by their chefs based on what is seasonal and available that day. The Inn features Northeast Georgia's only Wine Spectator Award of Excellence wine list. Reservations are needed

www.beechwoodinn.ws • 706-782-5485

Fortify Kitchen and Bar
69 N Main Street
Clayton, GA 30525

Located in historic downtown Clayton, Georgia. An award winning farm to table restaurant. Simple, elegant farm to table cuisine.

www.fortifyclayton.com • 706-782-0050



Fromage and Other Fine Food (lunch)

31 Earl Street
Clayton, GA 30525

Located on a side street in Downtown Clayton, Fromage & Other Fine Foods uses the freshest and finest products available to create delightful eclectic selections. With a French Flare, Menu Changes Weekly. All Food is Prepared in House. Everything from delicious soups to delectable desserts. Fromage is only open for lunch, 11:00-3:00, Tuesday - Saturday

www.fromageclayton.com/ • 706-212-7349

Grapes and Beans
42 E. Savannah Street
Clayton, GA 30525

Grapes and Beans is a quaint little restaurant nestled in the north Georgia mountain town of Clayton. They serve both lunch and dinner, organic coffee, wine and vegetarian food (freestyle small bites). Eat in or take out.

www.grapesandbeans.com • 706-212-0020



James' Place at Rabun Manor
205 Carolina Street
Dillard, GA 30537

Whether you're in the mood for a family night out, or a romantic dinner for two, you'll enjoy James' mouthwatering menu. Nestled in the beautiful mountains of Rabun County. You can't miss out on a once in a lifetime dining experience.

www.rmresort.com • 706-982-1970

Julep Farms
500 Hwy 246
Dillard, GA 30537

Located in Dillard, Georgia. Come eat, drink, shop, and stay. Great outdoor scenery with home grown flowers, farm animals, cottages for overnight stay. Gift shop, coffee shop, restaurant, cottages, "New American" cuisine with a decidedly southern flair. High quality cuisine with fresh vegetables, true farm to table food.

www.julep.farm.com • 706-960-9600

Lake Rabun Hotel
35 Andrea Lane
Lakemont, GA 30552

Lake Rabun Hotel and Restaurant is a unique, historic mountain getaway and farm-to-table Restaurant. Located on Lake Rabun, celebrating their 98th birthday, it's the last surviving mountain lodge on a lake. Dine in restaurant- hosts weddings, corporate and wellness retreats, and mountain adventures. Farm-to-Table breakfast, WiFi, and parking. Hotel stays with fully refundable rates and free cancellation fees. Minutes away from Chattahoochee National Forest

www.lakerabunhotel.com • 706-782-4946

Red Barn Cafe At Tiger Mountain Vineyard

www.facebook.com/TheRedBarnCafe/

2592 Old Highway 441

Tiger, GA 30576

The Red Barn Cafe is the perfect setting for weddings (50-125), receptions, birthday celebrations, business or art workshops and other events. Open for lunch and dinner on weekends May through November. Spectacular views of vineyard and mountains. Traditional and Cajun Dining Chef Leon Lemoine from Baton Rouge/ Full Kitchen, Dining, restrooms, stone patio and fire pit. Features monthly gourmet dinners, wine pairings with renowned visiting chefs.

www.tigerwine.com • 706-782-4777

The Chophouse at LaPrades

25 Shoreline Trail

Clarksville, GA 30523

Located on the west side of Lake Burton and part of LaPrades Marina, you can drive or take your boat to enjoy an elegant meal overlooking the lake. Famous for their fine cut steaks, family friendly menu options for the kids, relaxed atmosphere with upscale presentation. Reservations recommended during season, but not required

www.murphyschophouse.com • 706-947-8777

Comfort + Casual Dining

Annette's Cafe
6798 US Highway 441 N
Dillard, GA 30537

Great home-cooking. Most everything on the menu is made from scratch from the hand battered chicken fingers to their hand cut French fries. American breakfast & brunch restaurant, Country Fried Steak, Grilled Chicken, delicious sides. Family friendly atmosphere

www.explorerrabun.com/blog/annettes-cafe/

706-746-2688

Clayton Cafe
50 North Main Street
Clayton, GA 30525

The Clayton Cafe is one of the most popular restaurants in Historic Downtown Clayton, Georgia. Down-home eatery serving classic comfort food and sweet tea for breakfast and lunch. All food is cooked on site and fresh daily. Owner uses as much locally and regionally sourced products as possible year round. Casual and family dining, Beer and wine available. American cuisine.

www.facebook.com/bonniesclaytoncafe/ • 706-212-2233

Coach Joe Food Truck
3026 Hwy 441 S

Tiger, GA 30576 at Goats on the Roof

All beef hot dogs, salmon burgers, chicken tenders w/ fries, sweet potato wedges or onion rings.

www.goats-on-the-roof.com/

Cupboard Cafe
7388 Highway 441 N
Dillard, GA 30537

Open year round for your dining pleasure, the Cupboard Cafe invites you to come in and taste for yourself. You won't be disappointed and won't go away hungry. Specials and standard menu. Catfish, Fried Chicken & other Southern fare. Cozy spot with front-porch seating. Dine in and take out.

www.facebook.com/Cupboard-Cafe • 706-212-2233

Dillard House
768 Franklin Street
Dillard, GA 30537

The Dillard House Restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner year-round in a family setting. Experience authentic southern cuisine. Cabins, hotel, motel rooms, conference center, wedding venue & catering. Horse-drawn carriage rides, horse stable for trail rides and petting zoo on site.

www.facebook.com/dillardhouse/ • 706-746-5348

Eli's Bar and Grill
677 US 441 South
Clayton, GA 30525

"Rabun County is our home, and you are our people" said restaurant owner Lori Hopper. Eli's specializes in affordable comfort food and southern hospitality in a comfortable setting. From a great burger to a superb steak or grilled shrimp you will enjoy your meal! Have a drink out by the fire pit after dinner. Family friendly and once you go, you'll be considered family.

www.elisbarandgrill.com • 706-960-9443

Fortify Pi
69 N. Main St
Clayton, GA 30525

Fortify Pi is located in Historic Downtown Clayton, Georgia. Created by Chef Jamie Allred and Sarah Nolan, Fortify Pi offers pizza, wings, and more Farm-to-Table concept, all fresh ingredients. Vegan friendly, You'll enjoy pizza, wings, salads, meatballs, and sandwiches. Reservations and deliveries available.

www.facebook.com/fortifypi/ • 706-782-0079



Henry's Restaurant
78 Lynn Dr
Clayton, 30525-5800

A long standing institution in our community, this traditional Southern-style buffet offers everything from their famous fried chicken to seafood and a low country boil. Bring your appetite! Buffet only with appetizer add-ons. Family friendly casual atmosphere. Lots of vegetables to choose from. Dessert choices included!

www.henrysclayton.com/ • 706-782-3533

Kingwood Resort & Winery
401 County Club Drive
Clayton, GA 30525

Kingwood Resort is North Georgia's premier community for golf, Real Estate Investing, luxury, activities and much more. Beautiful 18-hole championship golf course, fine and casual dining, Full-service spa, indoor/outdoor swimming, tennis and waterfall hiking trail. Wonderful meeting facilities

www.kingwoodresort.com • 706-212-4100

Lake Burton Cafe
72 Jones Branch Road
Clayton, GA 30525

Lake Burton Cafe -The last of the Dives is a professional Bar & Grill located in Clayton, GA, specializing in Beer & Wine, Burgers, Wings, and more. Barbecue, American Southern Cuisine. Laid back atmosphere, great place to unwind, Great spot to eat near Lake Burton.

www.facebook.com/TheLastoftheDives/ • 706-782-6184

Louie's on the Lake
1659 Lake Rabun Road
Lakemont, GA 30552

Louie's on the Lake offers casual Italian cuisine on the edge of Lake Rabun. A warm place to relax and enjoy comfort foods such as pizza and other delicious foods. Delivery and pick up options are available. Pizza to hamburgers, wings, sandwiches and salads. Different flavors of ice cream. Office catering available and delivered.

www.louiesonthelake.com • 706-782-3276

Route 76 Road House Bar & Grill

1504 Hwy 76 W
Clayton, GA 30525

A hometown barn and grill with world class entertainment. It's been reported that Elvis takes the stage from time to time.

www.facebook.com/Route76RoadHouse/
706-782-7142

Rumor Hazit
175 N. Main Street
Clayton, GA 30525

Rumor Hazit provides a cozy setting to enjoy your favorite foods or try something new. Located in North Georgia Mountains, it is an island themed restaurant specializing in exciting seafood dishes and more with beach decor. Outstanding meals, plenty to choose from Louisiana Creole Cuisine, steaks cut in house. Menu also good for kids. Indoor and outdoor seating, WiFi, updated cocktail menu with a twist on cocktails.

www.rumorhazit.com • 706-782-1111

Rusty Bike Cafe
677 Highway 441 S
Clayton, GA 30525

The Rusty Bike is an All American grill owned and operated by Joel Johnson. Dine in or take out. Extensive menu of burgers, sandwiches, salads and award winning breakfast all day, Coca Cola beverages and fresh ground Copper Creek Coffee. Open 7 days a week from 7:00am to 3:00pm. Family and friendly atmosphere

www.therustybikecafe.com • 706-212-2020

Shenanigans Culinary
77 W. Savannah Street
Clayton, GA 30525

Sandwiches, salads, wings and more!

www.shenanigans-clayton.com/ • 706-960-9292

Soda Fountain at the Clayton Pharmacy
102 South Main Street
Clayton, GA 30525

Enjoy this old fashioned soda fountain in Clayton, Georgia, which has been here since 1931. Breakfast and lunch served Monday - Friday 7am to 3pm, Saturday 11am-2pm . Ice cream and milk shakes are served till 4pm. Sandwiches, hot dogs, burgers and sides. Enjoy ice cream in dozens of flavors, also homemade milk shakes.

www.facebook.com/sodafountainrestaurant

Sunday Diner
36 Stave Mill Street
Clayton, GA 30525

Sunday Diner has a casual family diner, farm to table food. Every menu item is thought out and flavor-tasted to bring you a memorable dining experience. Farm to table food, healthy choices, using Georgia's own products. Casual dining, great for family and kids. Great country style cooking.

www.sundaydinerclayton.com • 706-212-0412

The Bleu Canoe
115 Sweetwater Circle
Clarksville, GA 30523

The Bleu Canoe hosts a full service casual restaurant, rental cabins and RV Campground. The 23 acre property boasts communal fire pits, trails and yard games. Yard games include Bocce, Corn Hole, and Croquet open to restaurant and campground. Restaurant has laid back vibes, serves seafood to burgers and more.

www.bluecanoe.com • 706-947-1833

Vince's Farmhouse, Food, Catering & More
5 Jones Branch Rd,
Clayton, GA 30525

Located in on Highway 76 W near Lake Burton, this little shop offers world class dining in an "off the beaten path" location. Chef Vince Scafiti purchases only the freshest ingredients available weekly, many of them local in order to craft his "Farm-to-Table" creations. Take out only. Grab-n-go meals.

www.farmhousemarket-lakeburton.com/
706-782-4646

The Clayton Market
48 N Main Street
Clayton, GA 30525

The bakery on Main Street of downtown Clayton, Georgia. They have a wine and beer tasting bar that serves specialty craft beers as well as high quality wines. Espresso, Cappuccino and specialty coffees along with Grab to Go food items.

www.facebook.com/themarketindowntownclayton/ 706-960-9245

The Open Door at Alley's Ol' Store
8476 old 441 South
Lakemont, GA 30552

Located in the beautiful town of Lakemont, GA. Freshly made meals, and gift shoppe for browsing with bottled wines for sale. Inside and patio dining. Across the street new pavilion overlooking Tiger Creek. Homemade casseroles, meals, desserts.

www.opendooratalleys.com • 706-960-9333

The Sports Lounge at Rabun Manor
205 Carolina Street
Dillard, GA 30537

Lower level venue is now open! They have ten TVs showing Direct TV's Big10 Network, The NFL Network, ESPN and ESPN2, The SEC Network and fun activities and the best mountain view and wings in town! The adjoining outdoor terrace is pet friendly, so feel free to bring your well behaved pet.

www.rmresort.com • 706-970-1856

Tiger Food Mart
3250 Old 441 S
Tiger, GA 30576

This is where the locals eat. Breakfast and lunch served. Homemade biscuits, made to order. Daily lunch specials & home-cookin'! Open 6:00am to 3:00pm Mon-Sat.

www.facebook.com/pages/Tiger%20Food%20Mart/197184797004048 • 706-782-7343

Universal Joint Clayton
109 N. Main Street
Clayton, GA 30525

The Universal Joint is a neighborhood pub offering a variety of excellent beers, great food and a fun atmosphere. The U-Joint offers some of the best burgers, classic and unique, and a bit of everything. Full bar with 17 Draft Beers. Dogs are welcome! Indoor and outdoor dining, fire pit and live music.

www.ujclayton.com • 706-782-7116

Valley Cafe & Catering
7099 Highway 441 N
Dillard, GA 30537

Since 2001, Valley Cafe & Catering's menu has offered a broad array of choices for your dining pleasure. The premier catering service in the region. Delivery and pick-up options. Great prices, family dining. Known for their delicious desserts.

www.valleycafe.com • 706-746-3321

Veronica's Cafe
4336 US-441 N
Rabun Gap, GA 30568

Excellent home cooking, breakfast and lunch served. Homemade southern cuisine like fried chicken, cubed steaks, vegetables and more. Family and friendly atmosphere.

www.facebook.com/Veronicas-Cafe-114724736982933/

Vicki's Restaurant at Rabun Flea Market
134 Market Circle
Rabun Gap, GA 30568

Vicki's Restaurant serves fish plates on Fridays (curbside or pickup). Specializing in Southern-Style fried catfish and vegetables. Delivery and pick up options available.

www.facebook.com/Rabunfleamarket

Barbecue

Main Street Grill & BBQ
www.facebook.com/MainStreetGrillBarbeque
110 Main St
Tallulah Falls, GA 30552

Competition grade Smoked Pulled Pork.....Rated #1 and the best gourmet burgers you will ever eat! The Grill team are always ready to serve their fabulous customers! 11am-7pm Monday,Wednesday, Thursday/11am-5pm Tuesday/11am-9pm Friday, Saturday
706-839-1445

Oinker's BBQ
2353 Hwy 441 S
Clayton, GA 30525

Locally owned, family fun restaurant serving the freshest BBQ, ribs, steak, fish and chips, salads and Brunswick Stew around. Family owned and operated, family casual dining. Hickory-Smoked Pork, Hickory-Smoked Ribs and Brunswick Stew, delicious homemade sides and fantastic homemade desserts, great tea selections and other beverages.

www.oinkersbbq.com/ • 706-782-7010



Tomlin BBQ and Catering
5030 Highway 441
Rabun Gap, GA 30568

We are located next to Osage Farm Produce Market May thru October. Owners Stephen & Jane Tomlin, in June of 2009, were selected as one of the top 5 Pulled Pork Sandwiches in America on LIVE with Regis & Kelly's Ultimate Hometown Grilling Challenge. Pulled Pork, Ribs, Chicken, Brisket and Smoked Turkey with famous BBQ Sauces-Delicious Sides are Fresh and Homemade, Desserts and Weekly Specials, Full- Service Catering Available
www.tomlinbbq.com • 706-746-2690

Specialty Fare

Hana Asian Bistro, Chinese, Tai, Sushi
596 Highway 441 S
Clayton, GA 30525

Hana is an amazing hibachi/sushi/restaurant in Clayton, GA. Great restaurant with excellent Japanese, Chinese, Pho and Tai foods and service. Friendly and Family Restaurant.
www.hanaclayton.kwickmenu.com/index.php
 706-782-0136

Ishy's Grill
www.facebook.com/Ishysgrill/
36 Stave Mill St Ste C
Clayton, GA 30525

Fresh American and Mexican dishes prepared with a flare. This little "off-the-beaten-path" restaurant is a true find. Fresh soups and salads are a great start. Burgers, steaks, Paninis and Mexican. Family friendly kids menu available.
www.explorerrabun.com/blog/ishys-grill/ • 706782-2303

La Cabana Mexican - Clayton & Dillard
128 Duvall Street **7052 Hwy 441 N**
Clayton, GA 30525 **Dillard, GA 30537**

La Cabana is an authentic Mexican family restaurant. Great tasting meals with generous portions. You'll enjoy appetizers, salads, combination entrees, desserts, children's menu, senior coupons. Cozy family atmosphere.
www.explorerrabun.com/blog/la-cabana-mexican-restaurant/
 Clayton - 706-212-2834 • Dillard - 706-746-0058

La Pachanga Mexican
www.facebook.com/La-pachanga-mexican-restaurant-124391594264107
12 Hwy 441 North
Clayton, GA 30525

Come and experience a real Mexican Atmosphere with dining and bar area. Family friendly atmosphere, great Mexican food, children's menu. Dine in and take out. Dining room and bar area.
www.explorerrabun.com/blog/la-pachanga-mexican-restaurant/
 706-782-7247

Mama G's Italian Restaurant
777 Highway 441 S
Clayton, GA 30525

Mama G's is a single-location, family-owned authentic Italian restaurant serving, pizza, pasta, steaks, and seafood. All of their salads are made fresh. Their rolls, pizza dough, and sauces are made in-house, fresh every day. Indoor/Outdoor seating, television, highchairs available, wheelchair accessible. Great Italian and American food, alcohol, wine, beer and full bar.
www.loveisgoodfood.net • 706-782-9565

Manrique's Mexican Restaurant
611 Hwy 441 S
Clayton, GA 30525

This is a fine family owned and operated Mexican Restaurant. Delicious genuine Mexican food. Domestic and Imported Beers available. Family and friendly atmosphere.
www.facebook.com/ManriquesMexicanRestaurant/
 706-782-5815

Mishima Asian Cuisine
110 Highway 441 N
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Located next to the BP station in front of the Ingles shopping center, dine in or take-out restaurant serves freshly prepared Asian Hibachi-style dishes. Fast service without the fast food feel. Great menu with beef, chicken, seafood and vegetable options.
www.facebook.com/MishimaExpress • 706-782-0045

Tallulah 1882
105 Moss Street
Tallulah Falls, GA 30573

This shop serves healing herbal and caffeinated teas crafted by Garden & Forage Organic Teas, locally roasted espresso from Cool Beans Roasters and fresh 9n-house baked goods by Curious Antoinette. They look forward to serving you a cuppa!

www.tallulah1882.com • 803-868-0816

The Farmhouse Clayton Donuts & Decor
90 N Main Street
Clayton, Georgia 30525

The Farmhouse is not your ordinary donut shop. Their truly unique environment is a retreat of design, art, furniture, accessories and more.

www.thefarmhousedonutsanddecor.com/ • 706-949-9112

The Frozen Palm Tree
1965 Highway 76 West
Clayton, GA 30525

Quick and easy take-away, catering and delivery. Fine homemade American food with a flair of Italian. Serving lunch and breakfast. Homemade pasta dishes, brisket, chicken wraps, & Key Lime Pie . Catering available.

www.toasttab.com/frozen-palm-tree-1965-highway-76-west/v3
706-960-9335

The Hush Cuban Cafe & Oyster Bar
7052 Hwy 441 N
Dillard, GA 30537

The Hush is a Cuban influenced restaurant. The house of the best Cuban sandwich. American and Italian food as well on the menu. Cuban sandwiches to American burgers, Steak Tres Tacos, Chicken or Beef Empanadas, Brunswick Stew, Chicken Wings, family lasagna, delicious sides, Domestic & Imported beer.

www.hushcubancafe.com • 706-746-3272

Wineries + Distilleries

12 Spies Vineyards
550 Black Branch Rd
Rabun Gap, Georgia 30568

12 Spies Vineyards and Farm is a vineyard and winery situated in the beautiful mountains of North Georgia. Open Mon.-Fri. (12pm-5pm), Sat. (11am-6pm) and Sun. (12:30pm-5pm) We grow Cabernet, Franc, Malbec, Tannat and Traminette Grapes. We make 4 Varieties of wine .

www.12spiesvineyards.com • 706-490-0890

Stonewall Creek Vineyard
323 Standing Deer Lane
Tiger, Georgia 30576

Visit the new tasting room next to the winery and overlooking the vineyards and Glassy Mountain. They currently offer nine wines for tasting, eight on our Stonewall Creek Vineyards label, and two on their Standing Deer Cellar label (grapes primarily from Stack Farm). The latter two feature the American Norton grape and Petit Manseng. Look for our new vines off Bridge Creek Road--Traminette, a French-American hybrid.

www.stonewallcreek.com/ • 706-212-0584



Tiger Mountain Vineyards

Terra Incognita
1821 Vandiver Mountain Road
Clarkesville, GA 30523

Fields of grass perched above vineyard rows surrounded by thousands of acres of protected forest land with unparalleled mountain views is the home of Terra Incognita Vineyard. A meandering gravel road, following the backbone of Tallulah Ridge for a mile and a half leads you up the mountain to the entrance. Interested? If so, join us for wine sampling, plan an event in our pavilion, or spend the night camping or in our loft apartment.

www.terraincognitavineyard.com • 706-963-0228

Tiger Mountain Vineyards
2592 Old Highway 441
Tiger, Georgia 30576

Tiger Mountain Vineyards is nestled on a hillside up in Rabun County, on the rocky, sunny slopes of North Georgia mountains. Our vineyard is small, the vines individually tended and the grapes hand-picked for quality. Open Sun.-Fri. (1pm-5pm) and Sat. (11am-6pm) We Produce European Style Dry Wine, 3 Red Blends, An Award-Winning Semi-Dry Rose, also a Late-Harvest Dessert Wine, Wines are barrel-aged 12 to 24 Months, Barrel-Room Wine Tasting

www.tigerwine.com • 706-782-4777

Moonrise Distillery
31 Webb Road
Clayton, GA 30525

Established in late 2012, Moonrise Distillery is located in the foothills of the Southern Appalachian mountains as you enter the City of Clayton in Rabun County, Georgia. They produce high quality Whiskey, Bourbon and fruit Brandies, with all ingredients coming from local farmers and sources. We operate a tasting room and offer plant tours.

www.moonrisedistillery.com • 844-994-4759



R.M. Rose Distillers
890 Franklin Street
Dillard, Georgia 30537

The oldest registered distillery in Georgia. They opened the distillery in Dillard in 2016. R.M. Rose decided this location was an excellent choice because it has the best water in Georgia. When you have good water, a copper pot still and the finest corn available, you can make some of the finest whiskey around. R.M. Rose has some of the finest brands on the market: Old Georgia Corn Whiskey, Straight Bourbon, Single Barrel Bourbon George Suddeth Corn Whiskey, Bourbon Whiskey, "Fire on the Mountain" Cinnamon Whiskey, Apple Whiskey, Sticky Pete Peanut Butter Whiskey, Blackberry Whiskey, Keener Corn Whiskey, Peach Lemon Whiskey, Forefather's Whiskey & their Cinnamon Cherries.

Come by for a tasting, a tour and visit their gift shop.

www.rmroseco.com - 706-982-8115

SHOPPING

Antiques + Flea Market

Antique Appliances
30 W Savannah St
Clayton, GA 30525

For the retro and vintage home restoration enthusiast, Antique Appliances is sure to have the exact thing to make your project complete. Specializing in the restoration of gas and electric stoves, and refrigerators that were originally built before 1960. 7:30am-5pm, Monday through Wednesday, 7:30am-4pm Friday

www.antiqueappliances.com • 706-782-3132

Appalachian Trader
1093 Franklin St
Dillard, GA 30537

The are fun finds, friendly faces and a wide assortment of antiques and collectibles at this cozy little shop. Specializing in primitives. Open 11am to 4pm, Wednesday through Saturday

www.facebook.com/Appalachian-Trader-697934550235510
 706-746-5253

Black Bear Creek Antiques
6028 Highway 76 W
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Black Bear Creek Antiques is nestled in the beautiful Georgia Mountains. We offer a unique experience for antique shoppers. Friday thru Monday (10am to 6pm). Mountain home furnishings and decor, rare books, collectibles, vintage hunting & fishing gear, Works by Georgia artists. Consignments sought and sold, WE BUY ESTATES
www.blackbearcreekantiques.com/ • 770-861-7308

DejaVu Antiques
6804 Highway 441 N
Dillard, GA 30537

Dejavu Antiques has a dazzling collection of Depression Glass, Roseville Pottery, Weller, Porcelains, Fostoria, Fenton, Cambridge, Heisey, Johnson Brothers, Franciscan, Shelley, Westmoreland, small furniture and vintage tools.

www.dejavuantiques.biz/ • 706-746-5863

Fox Run Farm
74 N Main Street
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Primitive antiques and country home accessories in antique mall The Shops at Butler Galleries, at the farm and online. Wonderful selection of antiques, folk art & home accessories! Great place to find treasures!

www.visitfoxrunfarm.com • 770-869-3390

Miley Marie's Antique Boutique
1870 Hwy 441
Clayton, GA 30525

Miley Marie's Antique Boutique is a new shop filled with both old and new treasures. Antiques, gifts, jewelry and apparel for the diverse shopper. Thursday, Friday 9am-5pm and Saturday 9am-3pm

www.mileymaries.com/ • 706-490-1752

Mountain Antiques Rabun County
5987 Highway 441 South
Lakemont, Georgia 30552

Our vendors carry a variety of antique and vintage items. A great stop for any antique enthusiast.

www.facebook.com/mountainantiquesrabun/
 706-960-9228

Pa's Front Porch
1213 Franklin St.
Dillard, GA 30537

Come see an amazing inventory of antiques and collectibles of all kinds all in one convenient location. Friendly and helpful staff available to help you. Open 10am to 5pm, 7 days a week

www.facebook.com/pasfrontporch1213 • 706-746-2040

Prater Collectibles
34 N Main St
Clayton, GA 30525

This unique shop, formerly a book shop, offers a step back in history as well as the items that go with it. Specializing in historical images, documents and memorabilia. Open Thursday, Friday & Saturday

www.pratercollectibles.com • 706-982-1893

Rabun Flea Market
134 Market Circle
Rabun Gap, Georgia 30568

The Rabun Flea Market is an open-air market, open Saturday and Sunday-8am-4pm. Antiques, clothes, rugs, produce, cosmetics
www.dillardgeorgia.com/rabun-gap-flea-market/
706-746-2837

Ten Roof Thriftique & Countryside Creations
128 Duvall Street Suite F
Clayton, Georgia 30525

A classic thrift store with vintage and "gently worn" clothing and accessories. Also a custom shop specializing in t-shirts, hats, mugs, and other promotional items and gift ideas.
www.facebook.com/tenroofclothing • 706-960-9177

The Dillard Market
6810 Highway 441 N
Dillard, Georgia 30537

The Dillard Market and Gallery of Wonderfols, located in historic Downtown Dillard, Georgia. local goods, local folk art from Scott Peppers, local pottery, soaps, and antiques
www.explorerrabun.com/blog/dillard-market/
706-982-1154

The Georgia Mountain Market
811 US-441 N
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Welcome to the Georgia Mountain Market! Come and enjoy our 45,000 sq. ft. of Indoor Flea Market, all just a few minutes walk to downtown Historic Clayton, Georgia. Open Friday -Sunday 8am-5pm. Loads of Booths filled with most anything imaginable
www.georgiamountainmarket.com/wp/ • 706-782-7328



Mark of the Potter



Broderick Crawford Art

The Shops at Butler Galleries
74 N Main Street
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Butler Galleries is located in the historic Black Rock Station Clayton, Georgia and houses fifteen unique retailers. Jan.-Apr., Mon.-Wed. (11am-4pm) and Thur.-Sat. (10am-5pm) Fine art, gifts, antiques Home Decor as well as clothing for women and children
www.butlergalleries.com/ • 706-212-0155

Yesterday's Treasures
6772 Hwy 441 North
Dillard, Georgia 30537

With over 10,000 sq feet and 50 dealers under one roof, we have something for everyone. We are all street level. To top it off, we have Carol's Back Porch just below us.
www.facebook.com/ytamdillard/ • 706-746-3363

Arts + Crafts

Crawford Art Gallery
108 N. Main Street
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Broderick Crawford is a wildlife artist who enjoys painting just about anything to do with nature, wildlife and sporting art, as well as for stamp competitions and using his talents to help support conservation groups. Nature, Wildlife and Sporting Art, Stamp Competitions.
www.crawfordartgallery.com • 706-782-8379

Gallery 441 in the Heart of Dillard
6795 Hwy. 441 N,
Dillard, GA 30537

35 artists in all mediums showing in this lovely large gallery in the Heart of Dillard building on Hwy. 441. Classes will be offered call for details
www.facebook.com/gallery441intheheartofdillard
770-634-2379

Lulu and Tully Mercantile**11 North Main Street****Clayton, Georgia 30525**

Just walking around this shop is an adventure. Maitland Smith Furniture to primitive handmade quilts, high quality merchandise, The art of shop owner Rabun Martin is highly sought after and on display in the Mercantile.

www.facebook.com/luluandtullys/ • 706-960-9446

Main Street Gallery**51 N Main Street****Clayton, Georgia 30525**

Main Street Gallery specializes in contemporary folk art. Well-known and emerging artists, handcrafted pottery, jewelry, and furniture Shipments to collectors nationally and internationally.

www.mainstreetgallery.net/ • 706-782-2440

Mountain Feathers Gallery & Framing**4581 Highway 441****Mountain City, GA 30562**

Fine Art and custom framing at this unique gallery featuring local and regional artists.

706-982-0624

Sunshine & Sawdust**2511 Hwy 441 N****Clayton, GA 30525 (Mountain City)**

A fun DIY studio offering art and craft classes perfect for celebrations, family, friend and workplace gatherings! Open by appointment. Call to schedule a class or join one.

www.SunshineandSawdust.life • 706-982-0216

Timpson Creek Gallery**7142 Highway 76W****Clayton, Georgia 30525**

Located in the beautiful Northeast Georgia Mountains, Timpson Creek has an eclectic collection of art. Craftsman Dwayne Thompson builds custom rustic furniture using reclaimed and re-purposed material. Proudly represent the handcrafted works of Genesee River Trading Company, antiques, beautiful jewelry.

www.timpsoncreek.com/ • 706-782-5164

Clothing + Accessories

Belle & Barn Co.**46 N. Church Street****Clayton, GA 30525**

"Kinda Classy, Kinda Cowboy" is the tagline of this boutique. You'll find clothing, shoes, hats, jewelry, unique gifts. Leather handbags, home decor and local art. They even have guy gifts! The shop is open Friday & Saturday May - December.

www.instagram.com/thebelleandbarn



Cage-Free Boutique

Cage-Free Boutique**55 N Main Street****Clayton, Georgia 30525**

Nestled in the Northeast Georgia Mountains, in downtown Clayton, we offer men's & women's clothing that have been thoughtfully selected to appeal to a variety of ages. Cool new trends and more classic pieces at reasonable prices. Sizes Small to 3X.

www.cage-freeboutique.com • 706-782-6155

Hangers Plus

www.facebook.com/hangersplus

91 E. Savannah St.**Clayton, GA 30525**

A boutique offering trendy styles for today's women. Curvy and beautiful women! With clothing and accessories that will be hard to resist, it's going to be one of your favorites places to shop!!

www.facebook.com/hangersplus • 706-490-1296

Indigo Ladies & Gentlemen Clothing**75 N Main Street #101****Clayton, Georgia 30525**

This is a great boutique off the Main Street and their accessory game is strong! Hours may vary but usually open (10 am till 5 pm). You'll find ladies, gentlemen, children's clothing, live music on occasions, The Back Room TV Lounge.

www.facebook.com/Indigoclayton/ • 770-363-4043



Madison's on Main

Madison's on Main
29 N. Main Street
Clayton, Georgia 30525

This boutique is every girl's dream. "All Things Pretty" is their tagline and it is true. They carry women's clothing, accessories, baby clothes and gifts, and jewelry. You'll also find a variety of gift and home decor
www.shopmadisonsonmain.com/ • 706-782-1989

Reeves
46 S Main Street
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Shop the clothing and footwear departments at Reeves Hardware Company. For brands like: Columbia, Carhartt, Patagonia, Southern Fried Cotton, Kavu, Hey Dude, Rocky, Keen and more.
www.reevesacehardware.com/ • 706-782-4253

Sole Place Western Wear
61 N Main Street
Clayton, Georgia 30525

When searching for western clothing, we keep the latest trends in stock to provide the perfect solution. Western hats, boots, jewelry, belts and apparel, Men, women, and children's apparel
www.soleplaceclayton.com • 706-782-4975

The Treehouse on Main
112 North Main Street
Clayton, Georgia 30525

The Treehouse On Main is aimed at providing excellent service with a home town feel. Open Monday-Saturday (10am-5pm). Home furnishing, jewelry, gift and clothing, furnishings, bedding and rugs.
www.treehouseonmain.com/ • 706-782-7297

Home Goods + Decor

Dogwoods Home
41 N Main Street
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Welcome to Dogwoods! A collected, curated, mix of old and new, vintage and modern. Their approach to design is to always consider their clients lifestyle.
www.shopdogwoodshome.com/ • 706-960-9232

Porch and Pillow
7407 Highway 441 N,
Dillard, Georgia 30537

Home decor & accessories, original handmade items, painted furniture, bed linens, and floral arrangements. Unique finds!
www.theporchandpillow.com/

Reeves Furniture & Reeves Gifts
46 S Main Street
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Whether you are looking to outfit your entire home, shopping for kitchenware or a great gift, you'll love shopping at Reeves. The furniture department offers interior design services and can even outfit your porch and patio. Reeves also has a gift registry.
www.reevesacehardware.com/ • 706-782-4253



Reeves Furniture

Two Sisters Shop at Butler Galleries
74 N. Main Street,
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Established in 2008, Two Sisters is located in the historic Black Rock Station. Hours are 10:00 am to 5:00pm. Home decor and accessories, gourmet kitchen products, gardenique, jewelry, spa items, Women's Clothing and accessories
www.facebook.com/TwoSistersAtButlerGalleries/ •

Sporting Goods

Outdoor 76
104 N Main Street
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Outdoor 76 is family owned and operated since 2010 with locations in Clayton, GA and Franklin, NC. We are open 7 days a week at both locations. We are a specialty outdoor shop and outfitter. Clothing, Footwear, Hiking Gear. Accessories For Any Adventure You Have Planned
www.outdoor76.com/ • 828-347-1465

Rabun Boathouse
Lake Rabun Road
Lakemont, Georgia 30552

Rabun Boathouse (more affectionately known as, Hall's) has been a landmark and gathering place servicing the Lakemont community since the 1930's. We provide goods and services for all of your boating needs. Fuel and Boating Necessities, Boat Repairs, Boat Rentals, Groceries and Home Products, Chick-fil-A Sandwiches and Biscuits sold on Friday and Saturdays.
www.facebook.com/rabunboathouse • 706-782-2628

Reeves Hardware, Sporting Goods
46 S Main Street
Clayton, Georgia 30525

As your Ace Hardware we are locally owned and operated. Reeves is about helping neighbors, because we are a part of your community. Household Tools, Cleaning Products, Insect and Pest Control, Kitchen Storage/Organization, Kitchen Appliances, Plumbing Parts & Repair.
www.reevesacehardware.com/ • 706-782-4253

Wander North Georgia
33 N Main Street
Clayton, Georgia 30525

We are a small locally owned, family run business in the middle of downtown Clayton. Our goal is to highlight the amazing people and places of North Georgia. Dozens of the Outdoor Brands to help you on your Hiking or Camping Trip, Kids Play Area, Play a Game of Bocce with us, Coffee and Ice Cream. We can share some recommendations on the best places to hike

www.wandernorthgeorgia.com/ • 770-750-4470

Specialty Stores

Blue Ridge Honey Company
6306 Highway 441 S
Lakemont, Georgia 30552

Open Monday -Saturday (8:30-5pm), Closed Sunday. Blue Ridge Honey Company has Pure natural raw honey. Wildflower, Sourwood Tupelo, Orange Blossom, and more varieties, Bees Wax/Pollen, Bee Supplies, Bees for Sale, Bees Wax Candles, Events

www.blueridgehoneycompany.com/ • 706-782-6722

Blue Ridge Music
629 Duggan Hill Dr
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Blue Ridge Music is Rabun County's home for all things mountain music. Come sit on our front porch and share some stories and songs with many of our best local musicians. Lessons for most instruments offered. Recording studio available. Instrument sales.

www.blueridgemusicacademy.com • 706-782-9852

Blue Ridge Toys
45 N Main Street
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Blue Ridge Toys home of unique Toys for little ones and big kids at heart. Open 7 days a week. Board games, travel games, puzzles, arts and crafts, books, dress up and pretend. Local and regional toys.

www.blueridgetoys.shopsettings.com/ • 706-707-8697

Buds & Blossoms
613 Highway 441 S Suite 3
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Buds & Blossoms offers fresh flower arrangements available ready made or to custom order as well as an assortment of jewelry and gifts. Fresh flowers and handmade jewelry.

www.budsandblossomsflorist.com/ • 706-782-6876

Clayton Claws & Paws
37 Main Street,
Clayton, GA 30525

Claws & Paws is a comprehensive pet boutique selling both useful and fun products for your furry family! Come find toys, apparel, dining supplies, food and snacks for cats, dogs, and other small critters. Pet food and supplements, Pet bedding, apparel and toys . Self pet-washing station

www.facebook.com/claytonclawsandpaws • 796-212-7322



Blue Ridge Toys

Goats on the Roof
3026 US-441 Tiger
Georgia 30576

Goats on the Roof will have you smiling ear to ear. They carry Amish foods, Amish furniture, unique gifts. Nitro ice Cream, homemade fudge, gifts, Gem Mining, cafe and GOATS on the roof!

Wed.-Mon. (10am-6pm)

www.goats-on-the-roof.com/ • 706-782-2784

Hillside Orchard Farms Country Store
18 Sorghum Mill Dr.
Lakemont, Georgia 30552

Open Monday-Saturday (10am-5pm) and Sunday (1pm-5pm). Hillside Orchard Farm Country Store began in 1983 is a small barnyard cannery. It has since expanded to a working farm with over 800 products. Apple orchard, grape vines, blueberry and blackberry picking, Country Store with baked goods, bread, cheese, ice cream, outdoor farm activities

www.hillsideorchard.com/ • 706) 782-2776

Holistic Mountain Market
31 W. Savannah Street
Clayton, GA 30525

Brand new to downtown Clayton, the Holistic Mountain Market is your neighborhood wellness store and smoothie bar. Open 8:30am to 5:00pm Monday - Friday and 10:00am to 4:00pm on Saturday, closed Sunday. Vitamins & supplements Whole-food smoothies, Small organic grocery items, Herbs and other natural products

www.holisticmountainmarket.com/ • 706-960-9501

HollyBeth Organics / Skin Products
54 Church Street
Clayton, Georgia 30525

HollyBeth Organics is a line of organic skin products. Hollybeth hand-selects ingredients and formulates unique recipes based on traditional homeopathic remedies from around the world. Anti-aging Creams, face cleansers and toners, moisturizers, body creams for full body, foot massages, and lymphatic treatments.

www.hollybethorganics.com/ • 706-490-1059

India Piper Society
8476 Old Highway 441
Lakemont, Georgia 30552

Curated with Flair by Valerie Baker Lyle, India Piper Society is a wonderful boutique. Children's clothing and specialty apparel, gifts, stationary, embroidery, jewelry, candies and more
www.facebook.com/indiapipersociety/ • 706-490-1147

Ladybug Landing
8488 Old 441 S
Lakemont, Georgia 30552

Ladybug Landing is a gift shop inspired by nature. It seeks to inspire you to fall more in love with the magic of Lakemont. Come visit their fairy garden.
www.facebook.com/ladybuglanding.lakemont • 229-221-8456

Osage Farms, Inc
5030 Highway 441 N
Rabun Gap, Georgia 30568

Nestled In the heart of the valley Osage Farms is a family owned vegetable and Fraser Fir Christmas tree farm. The Vegetable Market is open everyday May thru October. Seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables Sweetest corn that you have ever tasted!
www.osagefarm.com/ • 706-746-7262

The General Store
100 Main St
Tallulah Falls, Georgia 30573

An unique gift shop located in an old general store featuring local art, jewelry, souvenirs, vintage & retro products, souvenirs, old fashion candy & sodas, ice cream and so much!
www.tallulahpoint.net/ • 706-754-4318

The Mark of the Potter
9982 Hwy 197 N.
Clarkesville, GA, 30525

Mark of the Potter is nestled in a 1930's grist mill that overlooks the Soque River where our giant "pet" trout happily await a feeding from our customers. During your visit you can experience tradition, art, history and nature come together.
www.markofthepotter.com/ • 706-947-3440

The Merry Christmas Shop and Country Junction
6842 Hwy 441 N
Dillard, Georgia 30537

Every day is Christmas at this Holiday themed specialty store designed to make your wishes come true all year long. The General Store has t-shirts, jewelry, puzzles and games. We have DEPT 56, Willow Tree, Radco, Byers Choice, Jim Shore, and other lines. Holiday Jams and Jellies as Well as Decorations and so much more
www.happymerrychristmas2021.com/ • 706-746-5899

White Birch Provisions
60 E Savannah Street
Clayton, Georgia 30525

White Birch Provisions in Historic Clayton, Georgia, is a gourmet shop with a full-service espresso bar and bakery. Georgia Made products, honey, ciders, Goodson Pecan Butter and more. Great Coffee at a Great Price. Espresso Bar and bakery.
www.whitebirchprovisions.com/ • 706-782-2263

LODGING

Bed + Breakfasts and Inns

Beechwood Inn
Georgia's Premiere Wine Country Inn
220 Beechwood Dr
Clayton, GA 30525

Beechwood Inn features 9 well-appointed guest rooms/cabins. Each has a private bath, unique decor, high-quality linens, eco-friendly bath amenities, and locally made furniture. Our gardens, meadows and fire pit offer room to roam. Each day enjoy a farm to table breakfast and daily afternoon "wine-Thirty," featuring our own wines and wonderful light appetizers.
www.beechwoodinn.ws • (706) 782-5485

Kingwood Resort & Winery
401 Country Club Dr
Clayton, GA 30525

The Inn at Kingwood Resort and Winery has 48 tastefully decorated hotel rooms all with mountain views. With your stay you have access to our many amenities including our brand new Tasting Room at the Kingwood Winery and of course our 18-hole championship golf course. The resort offers 2 bedroom condos for groups that need a little extra space.
www.kingwoodresort.com • 706-212-4100

Mountain Aire Cottages & Inn
18 Motel Drive
Clayton, GA 30525

Beautiful and Affordable
A cozy retreat of 3 Individual upscale Cottages, and four deluxe kitchenette rooms or suites. Beautifully decorated, themed, and maintained. Perfect for your private getaway, family reunion, or church retreat. Centrally located to local shops, restaurants, and entertainment.
www.mountainairecottages.com • 706-782-9568

Rabun Manor Resort
205 Carolina St
Dillard, GA 30537

Rabun Manor is located in the heart of Dillard Georgia. With many local attractions, this cozy 187 year old manor is sure to make you feel right at home. On-site restaurant and bar.
www.rmresort.com • 706-970-1856

Splendor Mountain
359 Eastman Mountain Rd
Tiger, GA 30576

Splendor Mountain in Tiger, Georgia is a celebrated Wedding venue, Corporate retreats for team building, family reunions, and spiritual events are also hosted here. Our 75-acre resort is a unique repose from your busy life in the city. Our lodging in Ruby, Sapphire, and Shadow Rock can accommodate up to 26 people.
www.splendormountain.com • 404-218-7638



Rabun Manor



Lake Rabun Hotel



The Barn at Lake Rabun

Sylvan Falls Mill B&B
156 Taylors Chapel Rd
Rabun Gap, GA 30568

Sylvan Falls Mill B&B is a premier North Georgia Attraction that attracts visitors from around the world. There are many unique features that will make your stay memorable. The innkeepers share their culinary skills with guests each morning through the home-baked breads, special breakfast dishes, fresh fruits and a variety of treats and beverages offered.

www.sylvanfallsmill.com • 706-746-7138

The Cascades Inn
4982 Hwy, US-441
Tiger, GA 30576

The Cascades Inn, with cascading waterfalls all around, is a true retreat. There are trails that go down to the edge of the waterfall and up behind the cabins. We have 2 Chalets and 7 Suites to suit your individual needs. You may also rent the entire place which includes a room for meals or meetings that can accommodate up to 25 people.

www.thecascadesinn.com • 706-782-2085

The Dillard House Inn & Chalet Village
768 Franklin St
Dillard, GA 30537

The Dillard House offers a variety of spacious, modern rooms at their motel. The Rock House offers 10 rooms, comprising 6 rental units. Perfect for small parties seeking a comfortable and relaxing environment, the cozy Dillard House cottages are designed specifically for families or small groups that want a secluded weekend away. Just two miles from The Dillard House, Chalet Village is the perfect mountainside retreat for couples and families with private pool, hot-tub, and fully stocked trout pond in the backyard. Twenty-five fully functional chalets and cabins of various sizes and differing amenities.

www.dillardhouse.com • 800-541-0671

The Parker Ranch
95 Parker Lane
Clayton, GA 30525

The Parker Ranch has been welcoming people with warmth and simplicity for over 110 years. The eight bedroom lodge, nestled on 14 acres is the perfect place for friends and family to gather, or for individual travelers to pop in for the weekend. For events they offer The Gatehouse perfect for weddings, receptions and events.

www.parkersranch.com • 404-373-0566

White Birch Inn
28 E Savannah St
Clayton, GA 30525

The White Birch Inn is a boutique hotel located in downtown Clayton, Georgia. Freshly brewed Cool Beans coffee and freshly squeezed orange juice arrive early to complement the cooked-to-order breakfast. Relax in the guest lounge, or out on the screened porch while enjoying complimentary wine and cheese in the evening. The day culminates with turn down service including chocolates on your pillow. White Birch Inn is your in-town lodging choice for the sophisticated traveler!

www.thewhitebirchinn.net • 706-782-4444

Campgrounds

Cross Creek Camp Ground-Cabins

618 File St

Mountain City, GA 30562

Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Rabun County Georgia, lies a beautiful getaway for the RV Enthusiast.

www.crosscreekcampground.com/ • 706-746-6974

River Campground, LLC.

28 Joy Bridge Rd

Lakemont, GA 30552

River Campground is a popular camping destination that will provide you with a truly memorable camping experience. We offer lodging options for everyone, including RV sites, Tent sites, Rustic Chalets and a River Cabin. We have 2 bathhouses and sell firewood on site.

www.garivercampground.com • 706-782-1625

River Falls at the Gorge & Windy River

32 Resort Dr

Lakemont, GA 30552

River Falls at the Gorge RV Resort and Campground is one of North Georgia's only riverside campgrounds located along the beautiful Tallulah River. We offer riverside camping for all types of RV's, travel trailers, pop-ups, and tent camping. We also have alternate accommodations for the "Glamer." We have mountainside two bedroom rustic cabins, tiny cabins, and our tree houses!

www.riverfallsatthegorge.com • 706-754-0292

River Vista

20 River Vista Dr

Dillard, GA 30537

Whether staying in our RV park or one of our rental cabins, you and your family will enjoy the upscale amenities, well-maintained facilities and grounds, and fun activities for everyone. We have 110 RV sites, swimming pool, Wi-Fi, sauna and fitness center, cable TV and laundry.

www.rvmountainvillage.com • 706-746-2722

Willow Valley RV Resort

323 Yorkhouse Rd

Rabun Gap, GA 30568

Willow Valley RV Resort is Northeast Ga's newest luxurious campground. Located in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. Our resort has 81 sites with full hook-ups, some accommodating larger RVs. Some of our amenities include, swimming pool with a wading area for younger children, playground, community fire pit, 6 private baths, laundry room and much more.

www.willowvalleyrv.com • 706-746-0078

Hotels + Motels

Days Inn by Wyndham Clayton

54 US-441

Clayton, GA 30525

Days Inn hotels offers the best rate guarantee, friendly service and comfortable rooms.

www.wyndhamhotels.com/days-inn/clayton-georgia
706-801-4051

Lake Rabun Hotel & Restaurant

35 Andrea Lane

Lakemont, GA 30552

Each room in our historic North Georgia hotel features private baths and plush, downy queen and king-sized beds that welcome sweet dreams. The rustic charm in our 13 rooms with one-of-a-kind hand-crafted Adirondack mirrors, special lighting, and clothes racks will delight guests. There is a 2 bedroom, 2 bath cottage as well as 5 cottages at the Lake Rabun Fish Camp located one mile from the hotel. All rooms include a gourmet breakfast served from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in our hotel restaurant.

www.lakerabunhotel.com • 706-782-4946

Cabin Rentals

Andy's Trout Farm

210 Andy's Trout Farm Rd

Dillard, GA 30537

Andy's Trout Farm and Camping offers 13 adorable & fully appointed cabins for your choosing, available for nightly, weekly and group rental! We have 7 one bedroom cabins that sit directly on beautiful Betty's Creek. There are also 6 two bedroom cabins – one sitting on Hazel Lane, our creek road-the other 5, while still secluded, are situated closer to our three acre lake with mountain views! We understand that most of our guests visit us to get away from the hustle and bustle of the outside world, so for the tranquility of your stay, we do not supply the cabins with TV or phone or WiFi access.

www.andystroufarm.com/ • 706-746-2550

Georgia Mountain Rentals

104 East Savannah Street

Clayton, GA 30525

We offer the finest vacation and cabin rentals in Rabun County GA. Whether you're planning a fun family vacation, a romantic weekend getaway, a corporate retreat or an intimate mountain wedding, our selection of rental cabins, single-family residences will exceed your expectations.

www.rabunrentals.com • 706-782-2772

Julep Farms
500 Hwy 246
Dillard, Ga 30537

Julep Farms, a modern farm resort where charming southern meets contemporary farm. The Social House, Julep Farm's central hub, houses a retail shop (The Market), in addition to a coffee bar and spacious event rooms with lofty ceilings and 2-story fireplaces. Julep Kitchen, featuring new American cuisine with a decidedly southern twist Julep Farms offers lodging in their brand new modern cottages.

www.julep.farm • 706-960-9600

The Barn Inn at Lake Rabun
Lake Rabun Rd.
Lakemont, GA 30552

This breathtaking 2 acre lot offers 6 king bedrooms with adjoining full baths, a bunk room with a queen bed and 3 singles. The main floor has 2 full bathrooms. This unique farm house is equipped with a commercial kitchen, dining hall, great room, media room, and all the amenities that you could possibly need for any time of year.

www.TheBarnatLakeRabun.com • 678-777-7418

Valley Springs Lodging
787 Patterson Gap Rd
Rabun Gap, GA 30568

An oasis of peace and serenity with 8 meticulously maintained cabins and lodge suites on 122 acres. Escape to the majestic beauty and tranquility of mountains and water at Valley Springs Lodging. Fish in our lake, ponds and rippling creeks or picnic by our tranquil waterfall.

www.valleyspringslodging.com • 706-746-3875

ATTRACTIONS

Things to See + Do

Admiral Axe
33A North Main Street
Clayton, GA 30525

Axe throwing is not a new thing it is an ages old activity and you and your friends can try your hand at it right here in downtown Clayton. Loads of fun and no special skills needed. Admiral Axe can be found behind Wander - accessible from Wilson Alley.

www.admiralaxe.com

Andy's Trout Farm
116 Andy's Trout Farm Road
Otto, NC 28763

This family owned retreat offers guest lodging, trout fishing, swimming, gem mining, hiking, guided tours and great for groups. The farm has a rich history and is located in a peaceful valley just west of Dillard, Georgia take Betty's Creek Road to Big Creek Road and follow the signs. Open March - November

www.andystroutfarm.com • 706-746-2550



Julep Farms

Barkers Creek Mill
4507 Betty's Creek Road
Rabun Gap, GA 30568

Barker's Creek Grist Mill has been providing the local community with milling services since the mid 1800s. Mary Hambidge built the current mill in 1944 at the site of an older mill that served the community. Barker's Creek Mill is still operated by Hambidge on the First Saturday of each month from 1p.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment to provide milling services to area farmers. www.hambidge.org/the-mill

Black Rock Mountain State Park
3085 Black Rock Mountain Parkway
Mountain City, GA 30562

Georgia's highest state park includes 1,803 acres. The park's majestic Black Rock Mountain, altitude 3,640 feet, is located astride the Eastern Continental Divide. Georgia's top recreational area features numerous scenic overlooks, trails, rental cabins, cottages, campground, playground, picnic shelters, hiking trails, a seventeen-acre fishing lake, gift shop, and visitors center which is handicapped accessible.

www.gastatepark.org/blackrock • 706-746-2123

Dillard House Stables
768 Franklin Street
Dillard, GA 39525

Pam Thompson, owner-operator of Dillard House Stables since 1989, along with her crew of experienced trail guides strive to keep the tradition alive. Pam's lifetime of experience with horses and 25 years in the "Trail Riding" business allows her the opportunity to offer a safe and enjoyable trail and river horseback rides for every level rider.

www.dillardhousestables.com • 706-746-2038

Foxfire Museum and Heritage Center
98 Foxfire Lane (off Cross Street)
Mountain City, GA 30562

The Foxfire Museum and Heritage Center portrays early life in southern Appalachia. Visitors get a rare glimpse of what life was like for the stout settlers who braved the weather, terrain, and isolation to tame this beautiful piece of America over 150 years ago. Tour a collection of 20 historic log cabins and replicas of traditional log construction designs. The gift shop is filled with folk art, handcrafted items, regional music and books, including the acclaimed Foxfire Book series.

www.foxfire.org

Goats on the Roof
3026 US-441 Tiger
Georgia 30576

Goats on the Roof will have you smiling ear to ear. Their gift shop is incredible, the food is fun and tasty, ice cream is delicious but the goats that life on the roof is so fun for kids from 0-99! There is so much family fun at this must see attraction.

www.goats-on-the-roof.com/ • 706-782-2784

Hambidge Center
105 Hambidge Court
Rabun Gap, GA 30568

In 1934 Georgia native Mary Hambidge settled in northern Rabun County where she founded the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences. She developed a retreat, a farm cooperative and an environment where local women could utilize their talents at spinning and weaving, She called this group the "Weavers of Rabun" and the looms began to hum. The Weave Shed Gallery is open to the public during the Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm.

www.hambidgecenter.org • 706-746-5718

Hatch Camp and Art Farm
Joe Speed Road
Clayton, GA 30525

This is the only private guided trout stream adventure in Rabun County. With big fish, experienced guides, and a fly shop focused on gearing you up for the specific needs of the region, Hatch Camp and Art Farm is more than just a fishing hole... it is an experience. A venue for musicians and artists that need to be heard and seen. Hatch Camp has a small stage where they host a few concerts a month and larger events such as Folk Art and Music Markets, Bluegrass festivals, and songwriting and angling clinics. Follow them on Facebook for more info.

www.facebook.com/hatchcamp/ • 706-782-3747

Highlands Aerial Park
9625 Dillard Road
Scaly Mountain, NC 28775

Whether joining HAP for fun, or for an objective based team building experience, they will be glad to create a custom itinerary to suit your goals. There are a variety of different options to build the perfect package for any group, large or small! If you have a party of 8 or more people interested in zip-lining, team bonding, team building, or just want to plan a fun group outing call or you will find info on their website.

www.highlandscanopytour.com • 828.266.0449

Kingwood Resort & Golf
401 Country Club Drive
Clayton, GA 30525

Lush and supremely manicured Bermuda grass tees, fairways, and bent grass greens, surrounded by mature hardwoods and rippling brooks, make this course not only beautiful but also demanding. The 18 hole course was designed by Scott Pool and features 6000 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 71. This course is Perfect for all skill levels with three different tee locations

www.kingwoodresort.com • 706-212-4100

Lilian E. Smith Center
496 Hershey Lane
Clayton, GA 30525

The Lillian E Smith Center preserves the home, office and library of Lillian Eugenia Smith (1897 – 1966). Now considered by many the foremost white southern liberal writer of the mid-twentieth century, Lillian Smith devoted her life to social and economic reform. Ms. Smith ran the Laurel Falls Girls Camp on Screamer Mountain in Clayton, GA. Today the Center is owned and operated by Piedmont College.

www.piedmont.edu/lilian

Moccasin Creek State Park
3655 Georgia Hwy 197
Clarksville, GA 30523

The central location of Moccasin Creek State Park makes it a perfect spot to begin your high country exploration. Located on the shores of beautiful Lake Burton in west Rabun County, the park is easily accessible and features camping, boat dock/ramp, fishing pier, hiking trails, picnic shelters and a playground.

www.gastateparks.org/moccasinreek • 706-947-3194



Andy's Trout Farm

Primitive Outback Kayaking & Gem Mining**155 Robin Lynn Lane****Otto, NC 28763**

Primitive Outback offers 2½-3-hour kayaking trips that are self-guided in their natural setting. Rent kayaks or bring your own equipment. Guided tours and a shuttle service are also available. Rock hounds and treasure hunters, get your Gem Treasure Bucket and pan rain or shine in the covered outdoor flume. Six hour Indian Pottery river tours are offered w/ reservations. Family fun on the Class 1 Little Tennessee River.

www.primitiveoutback.com • 828.349.1717**Rabun County Golf Course****1322 Old 441 S.****Clayton, GA 30535**

Built in 1940, Rabun County Golf Club is a 9-hole regulation length golf course. This short layout will reward good shots and provide a fun golf outing for everyone.

www.rabungolf.com • 706-782-5500**Rabun County Historical Society****81 North Church Street****Clayton, GA 30525**

Rabun County's 200-year history in the Appalachian Mountains of Georgia is on display in their 2,300-square-foot museum and archives. Historical books are available as well. Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday 11am - 3pm. Free!

www.rabunhistory.org • 706-782-5292**Sky Valley Resort Golf****568 Sky Valley Way****Sky Valley, GA 30537**

A classic site for golf, Sky Valley opened over 40 years ago. The original design by course architect, Bill Watts capitalized on the natural features in the valley long present before the vision of a golf course. It is the highest course in Georgia and in is significantly cooler than courses elsewhere in the state.

www.skyvalleycountryclub.com • 706-746-5302**Southeastern Expeditions****7350 US 76 E.****Clayton, GA 30525**

The Chattooga River, called the Crown Jewel of the Southeast, is undammed and remains the only river East of the Mississippi that hosts commercial rafting while bearing the national designation of a Wild and Scenic River. Guided rafting, kayaking and canoeing trips available. Call to schedule.

www.southeasternexpeditions.com • 800-868-7238**Sylvan Falls Mill****156 Taylor's Chapel Rd****Rabun Gap, GA 30568**

The historic Sylvan Falls Mill, located in the scenic mountains of north east Georgia, is celebrating its 175th year of operation. It is unique among other gristmills, in that it is located below a 100-foot cascading waterfall, and the mill is powered by a 27-foot water wheel, which is one of the largest in the United States. The mill is on the property of Sylvan Falls Bed and Breakfast.

www.sylvanfallsmill.com • 706-746-7138**Tallulah Gorge State Park****338 Jane Hurt Yarn Rd.****Tallulah Falls, GA 30573**

This 2,689 acre park surrounding Tallulah Gorge offers camping, lake/beach swimming, fishing and spectacular waterfalls. The Jane Hurt Yarn Interpretive Center, a 15,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility, features comprehensive displays on the history, wildlife, terrain, and fragile ecosystem of Tallulah Gorge and the surround area. Exhibits also highlight the rich history of the Victorian resort town of Tallulah Falls. 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. A gift shop has much to offer visitors.

www.gastatepark.com/tallulah**Tiger Drive In Theater****2956 Old Hwy 441 South****Tiger, GA 30576**

Experience the movies from your car like the "old days" but with the benefits of all of our modern amenities with our modern and high quality digital projection. They have all grass terraces, FM broadcasts, outdoor speakers, Pandora pre-show music, Wi-Fi, and the delicious TDI Grill. Even better, we accept credit cards, are pet friendly, have a playground for the kids and so much more! So bring your picnic blanket or cozy up in your car. They'll be here waiting on you! You may also rent one of their vintage campers and stay the weekend!

www.tigerdrivein.com

For more valuable information about local businesses and adventures in the mountains please visit
www.explorerrabun.com

Visit with us, we are always happy to see you!



809 Hwy 441 S., Clayton, GA
Direct Line: 706-982-1371
Office: 706-782-2121
kevincroom@gmail.com
www.heartofrabun.com

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Photo Credit: Explore Georgia



The Rabun County Welcome Center
10 Seed Tick Road/PO Box 1209
Clayton, Georgia 30525
706-782-4812

   [ExploreRabun.com](https://www.ExploreRabun.com)