## THINGS TO DO in/and AROUND BLUE RIDGE, GA



Watch a sunset at Brasstown Bald – <u>Brasstown Bald</u> is the highest elevation in Georgia – 4,784 ft. Every sunset is different, even on back-to-back days. Some days you are in the clouds and can't see anything.



**Discover Waterfalls** – Amicalola Falls, Helton Creek Falls, Desoto Falls, Fall Branch Falls, Sea Creek Falls, Jacks River Falls are the most popular waterfalls in the area. The funny thing about waterfalls is that they don't put them by the side of the road most of the time. You can expect to hike anywhere from 0.1 miles to 9.2 miles to view the waterfalls. The water falls we visit most often is Helton Creek Falls, near Brasstown Bald. We make an adventure of Brasstown Bald, Helton Creek Falls and a picnic at Vogel State Park, all close to each other.



The Toccoa Swinging Bridge -part of the adventure is getting there, but it is not the easiest thing to find and you will have to travel 3 miles down gravel roads to get to the parking lot. The Benton MacKaye and Appalachian Trail merge to cross over the Toccoa River and this 265' long suspension bridge. The bridge was built in 1977. From the parking lot; you will hike down a well worn trail about ½ mile to the river and the bridge. The area around the bridge is a popular camping and picnic area, and some people brave the water and swim here in the summer. This is not a strenuous hike, and is short enough that young children will enjoy the hike.



## Ocoee Adventure Center

Outpost address: 4651 Hwy 64, Copperhill, TN 37317 Phone: 1-888-RAFT-OAC (1-888-723-8622)

e-mail: info@ocoeeadventurecenter.com

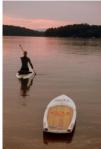
Whitewater Rafting – this is a must do! The Toccoa River changes names to the Ocoee when it crosses into Tennessee. On both sides of the state line, there are numerous rafting companies which will take you on a whitewater rafting adventure; they supply you with everything including a guide for your trek. This river is part of TVA and there is a schedules for times and dates for <u>water release</u> on the river. Certain sections are only available for whitewater rafting and kayaking on the weekends. Plan ahead and make arrangements. The Ocoee River is traveling through the Cherokee National Forest, and children under 12 are not permitted to participate in this adventure.



Tubing and Rafting - 11481 Aska Road, Phone 706-838-4317

The most beautiful stretches of the Toccoa River for tubing, boating, kayaking, and rafting. The trip is 6 miles long and lasts around 2-3 hours depending on the water level. The tubes are custom designed with a bottom and handles to make the trip more relaxing and pleasant, especially for children. There is a \$10 charge for bringing your own tube. There is also a \$10 launch fee for bringing your own vessels - camps include tubes, canoes, etc.





## Sunset Paddle Trips on Lake Blue Ridge

Sunset or mid-day paddle trips are a great way to enjoy the changing colors of autumn! October and November are perfect months to enjoy sunsets on or lake tours on beautiful Lake Blue Ridge. Water temps still warm and scenery gorgeous! Sunset trips Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays beginning at 5:30 pm -8:00pm. \$35 includes board, paddle and pfd. Meet at Morganton Point boat ramp. As leaf colors peak, schedule a mid-day lake trip to take in nature's canvas as we paddle up to the mouth of the Toccoa River. Takes between 2-3 hours for this gorgeous total 5 mile trip. Only \$50 each for minimum of 2 people. Call or email to reserve a place. 706-889-8747



Horseback Riding – there are numerous places where you can experience horseback riding in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Georgia. There are also several horse trails and guides to take you out on more extreme adventures.



ATV - I believe that there are 49 designated ATV areas within 50 miles of Blue Ridge. Many of these trails are closed January-March, call before you haul.



Hiking – trails, trails, and more trails! The Appalachian Trail, Benton MacKaye Trail, Duncan Ridge Trail, Aska Adventure Trail, and many more trails abound in the Blue Ridge area. With the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee just across the state line and numerous wilderness areas, there are hundreds of miles of hiking trails in the area certain to satisfy every skill level of hikers. Your biggest challenge in hiking may be getting back to your vehicle. Most trails have access points where you can park a vehicle, unless you drop off a second vehicle at your exit point, you will have to hike back to get to you vehicle. There are several loop trails in the area as well. Do a little research before you lace up your boots and head for the woods, locate maps and supplies from local outfitters, and make sure someone knows where you are going. Most of the areas you will explore will be out of cell phone range.



**Fishing** – lake fishing, creek fishing, river fishing, fly-fishing. . . it's all here. You can fish Lake Blue Ridge for Walleye, Small Mouth Bass, White Bass, Bluegill, Yellow Perch, Channel Catfish and Flathead Catfish. Fish the Toccoa River, Rock Creek, Cooper Creek, and Noontootla Creek for some of the best trout fishing in Georgia. Fishing guides will instruct and guide you in the fishing trip of your dreams.



**Boating** – If it floats, launch it. Lake Blue Ridge has over 100 miles of shoreline for boating and Jet Ski enjoyment. On the Toccoa River, you can experience the Toccoa River Canoe Trail, and canoe, kayak or tube on the upper and lower Toccoa. Whitewater rafting and Kayaking begin where the Toccoa changes names as it crosses into Tennessee.



The train route consists of a 26-mile round trip through historic Murphy Junction along the beautiful Toccoa River. This railroad was built over 100 years ago.

<u>http://brscenic.com/</u> Monday-Saturday 9AM-4PM est Sunday 11AM-3PM est877-413-TRAIN (8724) – Toll Free 706-632-TRAIN (8724) – Local <u>info@brscenic.com</u>

Blue Ridge Scenic Railway 241 Depot Street Blue Ridge, GA 30513



http://www.blueridgecommunitytheater.com/Home.html

2591 East First Street Blue Ridge, GA 30513, Blue Ridge, GA 30513 706-632-9223







http://www.facebook.com/CabinConcert

Description Intimate, interactive cabin concerts streamed live from a rustic log cabin near the Aska Adventure Area in the mountains around Blue Ridge, GA.

Address 8366 Aska Rd, Blue Ridge, GA 30513-5514 · Get Directions

Phone <u>706.680.6464</u>

Website <a href="http://blueridgeconcerts.com">http://blueridgeconcerts.com</a>



<u>Swan Drive-in</u> – I know this will sound weird, but did you go to drive-in theaters when you were growing up? Have your children even heard of a drive-in theater? Well, there is one here in Blue Ridge. We have even been to a movie in November, it was cold! We pulled up opened up the back of the SUV and pulled out the lawn chairs and listened to the movie on the radio from the car. We came prepared with lawn chairs, blankets, extra coats and hot chocolate; bring whatever you think you would like to have when watching a movie. In the summer, it is cool enough that you can sit outside and watch the movie (not in the car with the a/c on)!

## Cartecay Vineyards

Clear Creek Rd. Ellijay, Ga. 30536 706-698-9463 (WINE)

The Tasting Barn features a tasting bar, a sitting area around a wood fire stove, a covered porch, a deck and an events room, originally a hay loft. The event room can seat up to 45 people.

Summer Hours June, July, & August

Tuesday thru Sat 11:00am to 6:00pm Sunday 12:30pm to 5:30pm

**Live Music and Events** 







Snow! – Someone once told me, "Snow in Georgia is God's way of saying, Take The Day Off!" That is exactly what we do when it snows here. When it snows up in the mountains, you become a child again and go play! The state and county do a great job of plowing and salting the main roads, but many of the back roads will remain covered with snow for a while, especially if they happen to be on the north side of a mountain.

Watch the weather, plan ahead and hopefully you will be in a cabin when it snows. You can call back to your office and tell everyone you are snowed in, and can't get back for a few days!



**Relax** – I saved the best for last, because this may be the hardest for you to do! There is a thing up here called "Mountain Time" it runs a little slower than regular time. Nothing is urgent, and we'll get around to it in a little while. It may take you a few days for your body to adjust to "mountain time" from your hurried pace of life, so save this one for later in your trip, or start out with it, or just experience this activity only on this visit.

You may need a "technodectomy" to participate in this activity. Turn off the cell phone, close the laptop, turn off the Xbox and TV, unplug you IPod, and lose the BlackBerry. Start by gathering everyone to watch the Fire Channel (the fireplace, wood-burning stove, or fire pit will do), relax in the spa at your cabin, sit in the rocking chair on the back porch and take in all of the beauty of your surroundings, play cards at the kitchen table, read a book out on the dock, take a nap. Shopping and dining may be included in this activity, as long as you don't make them a competitive sport.

Spend time with your friends and family, building memories and rekindling relationships, after your vacation is over, the fondest memory should not be what you did, but the time you spent together. As I look back on all the vacations I took as a child and now as a father, the details of each vacation fade away, but the memory of the time spend together it still there, and it is priceless. (Note: there are no links to this activity; you will have to figure it out for yourself).