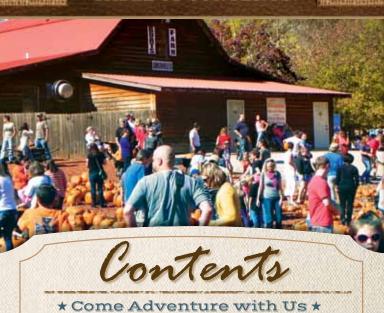


MOTORSPORTS \* LAKE LANIER PREMIUM OUTLETS \* HIDDEN GEMS GREAT OUTDOORS

Visitors Guide



www.dawson.org

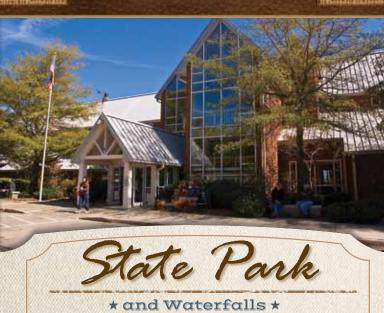


★ State Park & Waterfall	s 3
★ Hiking	4-5
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	E



Interact with us:

@VisitDawsonCo



## ★ Amicalola Falls State Park and Lodge

- 729-foot falls that were named Amicalola, meaning "tumbling waters," in the Cherokee Indian language.
- 829-acre park boasts 12 miles of hiking trails, many of which lead to falls viewpoints.
- Lodge features rooms with scenic views
- Convention, meeting & wedding facilities
- Cabins
- Camping
- The Maple Restaurant provides Southern and American cuisine.

418 Amicalola Falls State
Park Road • 706-265-8888
amicalolafallslodge.com
Please check website for fee info

Download the Official Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites app

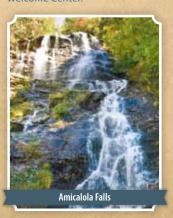


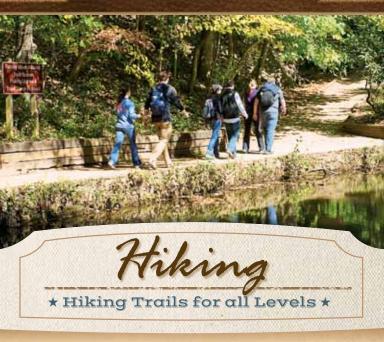
## ★ Waterfalls

Dawson County is home to multiple pristine waterfalls.

- Amicalola Falls
- Bearden Falls
- Edge of the World Rapids
- Fall Creek Falls
- Cochrans Falls
- Disharoon Creek Falls

Brochures are available for the waterfalls at the Dawson County Chamber of Commerce Welcome Center.





awson County has many hiking trails to pique the interest of adventurers of all types. Below is just a sampling of our many wonderful mountain trails.

#### \* Amicalola Falls State Park

- Creek Trail 0.6 miles runs from Visitor Center to the Reflection Pool at the base of the falls
- Mountain Laurel Loop 1 mile
   runs along the ridge above
   Amicalola Creek.
- Creek Trail

Base of the Falls Trail – 1 mile

 runs along the creek below
 the falls and climbs the falls
 corridor on a series of stairs.

- East Ridge Trail climbs to the top of Amicalola Falls, rising an average of 80 feet for each 500 feet of trail.
- Hike Inn Trail 5.5 miles the only access to the Len Foote Hike Inn.

#### \* Appalachian Trail

- The A.T. is America's longest marked footpath.
- stretches nearly 2,200 miles through 14 states
- accessible by an 8.5-mile approach trail leading from Amicalola Falls State Park

Amicalola Falls State Park 418 Amicalola Falls State Park Road 706-265-4703 www.georgiatrails.com or www.appalachiantrail.org ★ Amicalola River Trail begins at the Highway 53 Bridge over Amicalola River. Trail is ADAcompliant/handicap accessible. Trail provides easy river access, a view of the Edge of the World Rapids and a fishing platform.

## ★ Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area- Eastern Wildcat Tract

- Wildcat Creek Trail 1.5 miles one way - follows Wildcat Creek. Take Steve Tate Road north. Pass Pleasant Union Baptist Church. Turn left on Wildcat Campground Road; dead-ends at information kiosk.
- Turner Trail 1.7 miles one way

   provides access to the upper
   Wildcat Creek area. Trailhead is located at the Steve Tate Road
   Bridge across Amicalola River.
- Windy Ridge Trail 1.6 miles one way - begins at mile 1 on the Turner Trail and is a fairly strenuous hike to the summit of a 2,500-foot ridge. Connect to the Rocky Ford Trail to see the Rocky Ford Creek Waterfall.



Scan for Wildcat Trails Guide

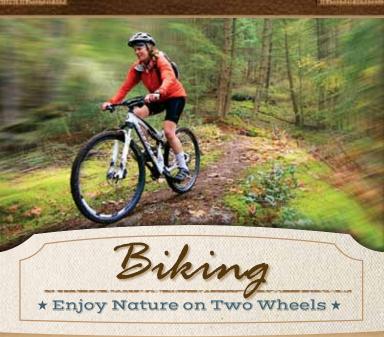


## ★ Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area- Western Wildcat Tract

From Georgia 400, take Highway 136 west to the county line. Turn south on Monument Road. Go 3 miles to the trailhead. These trails are strenuous.

- Tobacco Pouch Trail 2 miles one way on old logging road.
- Fall Creek Trail 3.3 miles one way Follow Tobacco Pouch Trail to Fall Creek Trail. Hike the creek to Falls Creek Falls.
- Rocky Ford Trail 1.7 miles one way starts 1.2 miles down Tobacco Pouch Trail. Rocky Ford Creek Waterfall is off the trail, 25 feet east of junction with Windy Ridge Trail.





## ★ Northstar Bicycle

Group rides for all levels of riders, 13-40 mile routes.

- Road Rides Saturdays 8 a.m. (Winter 9 a.m.)
- Mountain Rides www.northstarbicycle.com

## ★ Dawson Forest City of Atlanta Tract

The Atlanta Tract sports hiking, biking and horseback riding trails that crisscross 10,130 acres. Six designated biking trails start at the trailhead on Dawson Forest Road:

- Blue Trail 9.4 miles moderate
   travels ridges, valleys and
   crosses the Etowah River.
- Orange Trail 6.5 miles moderate – offers shade in summer.
- Red Trail 6.7 miles moderate
   ridge and creek crossings.
- Pink Trail 1.5 miles easy crosses some small creeks.

- GreenTrail 1.4 miles moderate – provides access to the Etowah River and Barefoot Falls.
- Yellow Trail 0.82 mile easy gravel road through the forest.

From Georgia 400: Go west on Dawson Forest Road south of North Georgia Premium Outlets, 4.5 miles to the forest's south gate. Parking on the right. Daily permits, \$5 per rider. No charge for hikers. 706-265-3707

#### Biking apparel & accessories:

- Northstar Bicycle, 706-265-4397
- Pearl Izumi Factory Store, 706-265-6929

Dawson Forest Trail Maps are available at the Welcome Center or scan here to view online





Whether your prefer live game or clay pigeons, you can spend a wonderful day outdoors shooting more than the breeze.

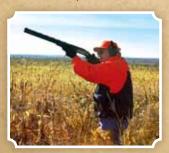
## ★ Etowah Valley Sporting Clays

Amenities include: Three courses 100 shots – 14 stations, Five Stand and Skeet. A Pavilion is available for conferences and events. No reservations required for shooting.

619 Sporting Hill Drive 706-265-1611 etowahvalleysportingclays.com

## ★ Etowah Valley Game Preserve

- · Guided hunts
- · Natural cover, contoured fields



with pasture and woodland

- · Pheasant, chukka and quail
- · Requires advance booking

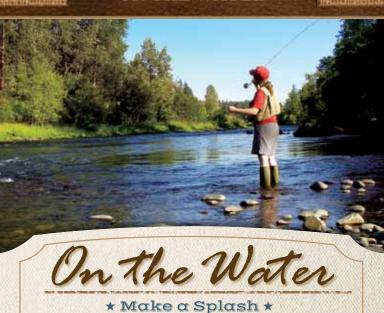
120 Leon Jones Road 678-410-0983 www.etowahvalleygame.com

#### **Hunting**

Hunt deer, bear, turkey, dove, small game, and waterfowl in the Dawson WMA; seasonal hunting for licensed hunters.



Dawson County Office of Tourism Development • 706-265-6278 • www.dawson.org



## ★ Amicalola River

Dawson County's premier whitewater river. The Upper Amicalola's rapids range from Class II to Class IV. The river runs swiftly through a forested valley, with a series of ledges and falls. The Lower Amicalola has Class II-IV+ rapids including the Edge of the World Rapids.



Scan for Amicalola River details

#### ★ Etowah River

The upper Etowah is a swiftflowing stream with mostly small, manageable rapids.



Etowah Falls stretches nearly river-wide and drops more than 10 feet. Past the falls, an old tunnel bored through the river rock provides a few hundred yards of mysterious adventure. The lower Etowah flows mostly through Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area.



Scan for Etowah River details

#### \* River Park

Canoe launch off Highway 9 South, approximately 1 mile from Bannister Road. No charge for entry. \$3 fee for takeout, Kelly Bridge Road.

Download River Park Brochure



## ★ Lake Lanier ★

On Dawson County's eastern border, Lake Lanier offers ample opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and family fun!



## ★ Gear & Guides ★

Gear and guides to prepare you for river and lake adventures include:

- The Outside World, 471 Quill Drive, 706-265-4500,
- www.theoutsideworld.net
- Appalachian Outfitters, 2084 South Chestatee/Highway 60 South, Dahlonega, 706-864-7117 www.canoegeorgia.com

## **★** Fishing ★

Amicalola and Etowah Rivers along with Lake Lanier offer opportunities to hook a variety of popular unique species. Contact the Welcome Center to reach local fishing guides.

## ★ Parks & Lake Access ★

## ★ Nix Bridge Park

Boat ramp, dock, picnic area, grills, restrooms, and parking.

Nix Bridge Road

#### ★ Thompson Creek Park Ramp

Boat ramp, dock, pavilion, restrooms, and parking.

Thompson Creek Road 770-945-9531

#### \* Toto Creek Park

Boat ramp, swim area, primitive campsites, restrooms, parking.

154 Toto Creek Park Road 770-945-9531 877-444-6777 for reservations

#### \* War Hill Park

Boat ramp, beach, camping (14 primitive campsites), fishing pier, swimming area, picnic tables, swings, grills, bath house and hiking trail.

4081 War Hill Park Road 706-344-3636



Scan for Warhill Park details



## ★ Geocaching

"Cache" in on the fun.
Families and groups love to
find the hidden containers (or
"caches") using a handheld GPS
unit. Visit www.geocaching.com
for a full list of Dawson County
caches and explore areas that few
visitors ever see.



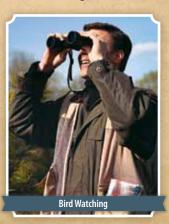
Scan for Geocaching Information

## ★ Bird Watching

From high country to lowlands, the Dawson Forest WMA is a birder's paradise.

- Wild Birds Unlimited free guided tours in Dawson Forest.
  - 706-429-0077
  - 425 Quill Drive, Suite 100 www.dawsonville.wbu.com
- City of Atlanta Tract Primarily river bottoms rising to low

- mountain ridges, see annual migrations of geese, mallards, wood ducks, and other colorful species. Also home to neotropical warblers, tanagers, orioles, and grosbeaks. Cranes, herons, kites and gulls are seen along streams.
- Northern Wildcat Tract Home to ruffed grouse, pileated woodpeckers, eagles and songbirds during breeding season and migration.



## ADVENTURES



## ★ Horseback Riding

Clip-clop through Dawson Forest WMA's miles of single track backroads and horseback trails or through the scenic trails at Fausett Farms.

Dawson Forest WMA
 770-535-5700 or 706-265-3707

Scan for Dawson Forest WMA Site



Fausett Farms
 11336 Highway 136 West
 706-265-8432 or 706-974-5718
 www.fausettfarmshorsetrails.com

## **★** Golf Adventures

**Chestatee Golf Course** 

- 18-hole, par 71 championship Denis Griffiths course
- Waterholes and vigorous mountain-like terrain
- Pro shop
- Club house/dining facility
- · Semi-private
- Practice facility/driving range 777 Dogwood Way • 800-520-8675 www.chestateegolfclub.com

Download Chestatee Golf Site

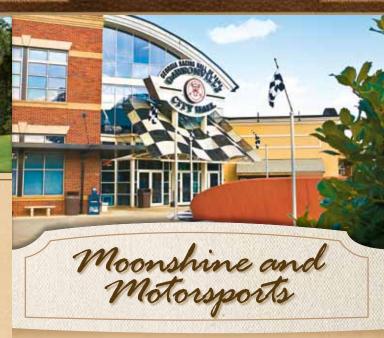








Dawson County Office of Tourism Development • 706-265-6278 • www.dawson.org



#### ★ Dawsonville Pool Room

Owned by Gordon Pirkle, the Pool Room's Bill Elliott and bootlegging memorabilia entertains guests long after they finish their famous Bully Burgers and fresh-cut fries.

78 Bill Elliott Street 706-265-2792 www.facebook.com/ dawsonvillepoolroom

★ Georgia Racing Hall of Fame
The Georgia Racing Hall

of Fame houses Bill Elliott's ("Awesome Bill from Dawson-ville") first NASCAR racecar, moonshine cars, a car driven by the late Casey Elliott, Raymond Parks' car, and Gober Sosebee's 1939 Ford. The Saturday Night Drive-In Theatre film explores the evolution of stock car racing.

415 Highway 53 East 706-265-3256 www.georgiaracinghof.com



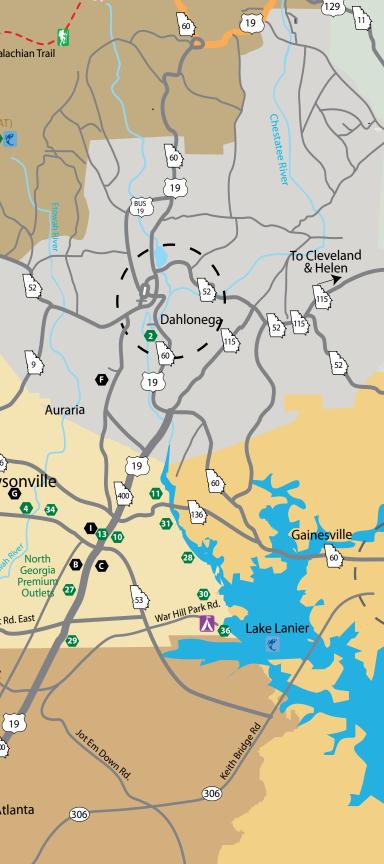
## LODGING

- A. Amicalola Falls State Park
- B. Best Western
- C. Comfort Inn
- D. Forrest Hills Mountain Resort
- E. Len Foote Hike Inn
- F. Lily Creek Lodge
- G. Paradise Valley Resort
- H. Racer's Retreat Bed & Breakfast
- I. Super 8
- J. Under the Hemlock

## **ATTRACTIONS**

- 1 Amicalola Falls State Park
- 2 Appalachian Outfitters
- 3 Appalachian Trail
- 4 Around Back at Rocky's Place
- 5 Atlanta Motorsports Park
- 6 Bowen Center for the Arts
- 7 Bradley's Pumpkin Patch & Country Store
- 8 Bucks Corn Maze (seasonal)
- 9 Burt's Pumpkin Farm (seasonal)
- 10 Welcome Center/Chamber of Commerce
- 11 Chestatee Golf Club
- 12 Cochran Falls
- 13 Dawson 400 Cinemas
- 14 Dawson Forest City of Atlanta Tract
- 15 Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area
- 16 Dawsonville Moonshine Distillery
- 17 Dawsonville Pool Room Family Restaurant
- 18 Edge of the World Rapids
- 19 Etowah Valley Game Preserve
- 20 Etowah Valley Sporting Clays
- 21 Falls Creek Falls
- 22 Fausett Farms
- 23 Georgia Racing Hall of Fame
- 24 Gold City Corral
- 25 Historic Courthouse and Jail
- 26 Jungle Paradise Daylilies
- 27 North Georgia Premium Outlets
- 28 Nix Bridge Park
- 29 The Outside World & Northstar Bicycle
- 30 Thompson Creek Park
- 31 Toto Creek Park
- 32 River Park Canoe Launch
- 33 Rock Creek Park
- 34 Uncle Shuck's Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch (seasonal)
- 35 Veteran's Memorial Park
- 36 War Hill Park







## Trail Key

- Mountain Laurel Trail
- --- Spring Trail
- Appalachian Approach Trail
- ---- Hike-Inn Trail
- Lodge Loop Trail
- Lodge Fitness Trail
- Top-of-the-Falls Trail
- Base of the Falls Trail
- Creek Trail

## ★ The Dawsonville Moonshine Distillery ★

Under the same roof as the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame and City Hall, this legal moonshine distillery is in the heart of "The Moonshine Capital of the World." Master distillers explain the history and process of making this lively spirit. Free

tour; get a free sample (must be 21 or older).

415 Highway 53 East 770-401-1211

www.dawsonvillemoonshine distillery.com



**Dawsonville Moonshine Distillery** 





Atlanta Motorsports Park



## ★ Atlanta Motorsports Park ★

Experience family fun at 60 mph in high speed karts or take a spin in an exotic car on this high performance track. Driving experiences and instructed training are available.

20 Duck Thurmond Road 404-933-3436 www.atlantamotorsports park.com



★ Enjoy Masterpieces, Movies & Memories ★

## ★ Around Back at Rocky's Place

- The Southeast's largest folk art gallery representing a plethora of local and regional artists.
- Open Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. or by appointment.

3631 Highway 53 East 706-265-6030 www.aroundbackatrockysplace.com

#### ★ Bowen Center for the Arts

- Three galleries, and 12 shows each year
- Performing/visual arts events
- Facility rental for meetings, receptions, small events
- Open Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sat. 12-4 p.m.

334 Highway 9 North 706-216-2787 www.dawsonarts.org

#### Dawson 400 Cinemas

189 North Center Lane 706-216-1622 www.georgiatheatrecompany.com



## ★ Historical Sites - Downtown Dawsonville ★



★ Historic Dawson County
Courthouse and Jail
Located at the intersection
of Highway 53 and Highway 9

Dawson County Historical Society 706-265-3985 • www.dawsoncounty.org



## ★ Bradley's Pumpkin Patch, Christmas Tree Farm, and Country Store

- · Jellies, jams, and honey
- Locally handmade quilts
- Pumpkins, gourds, decorations
- · Christmas trees, wreaths
- · Heirloom daffodils in spring

25 Lawrence Drive • 770-380-3636 www.bradleyspumpkinpatch.com

## \* Bucks Corn Maze

- · 20-acre field with 12-acre maze
- Havrides
- · Haunted Maze in October

1923 New Hope Road 706-344-8834 September - early November www.buckscornmaze.com

#### \* Burt's Farm

- · Pumpkins of all sizes/varieties
- Hayrides
- · Squash, gourds and decoration
- · "Barn" store with baked goods

5 Burt's Farm Road • 706-265-3701 September, October, November www.burtsfarm.com

## ★ Jungle Paradise

- Daylilies, daffodils, azaleas, wildflowers, camellias
- Relaxing gardens
- Rare plants

929 Mill Creek Drive 706-265-2130 or 678-410-6830 February – November www.jungleparadise.com

#### ★ Uncle Shuck's Corn Maze

- · 12-acre cornfield
- · Haunted Maze in October
- · Goat walk, corn cannon
- Hayrides

4520 Highway 53 East 888-OSHUCKS Early September through third weekend in November www.uncleshucks.com



## ★ Antique and Unique Retail

Discover antiques and unique finds at our many local shops. For shopping information visit the Dawson County Welcome Center or www.dawson.org.

★ North Georgia
Premium Outlets

The shopping spot every

visitor must experience is on Georgia 400 just south of Highway 53. Find 140 premium outlets, a food court and playground. Open daily. Group tour discounts are available.

800 Highway 400 South 706-216-3609 www.premiumoutlets.com



Dawson County Office of Tourism Development • 706-265-6278 • www.dawson.org



## ★ Big D's BBQ

Looking for dry rubbed BBQ, smoked over hickory and never served with BBQ sauce on the meat? Then Big D's is the right place.

Georgia Magazine's 2013 Reader's Choice Award

6566 Highway 53 East and 236 Highway 53 West www.mybigdsbbg.com



Dawsonville Pool Room

## ★ Dawsonville Pool Room

Legendary for its racing theme, memorabilia and burgers. Racing memorabilia from Bill Elliott's NASCAR career, and the early days of racing.

101 East 1st Street, 706-265-2792 www.facebook.com/ dawsonvillepoolroom

## ★ The Blue Bicycle

A bistro featuring locally grown and fresh dishes that change with the seasons.

671 Lumpkin Campground Road South, Suite 116, 706-265-2153 www.bluebicycle.net

## **★** The Maple Restaurant

Traditional American and classic Southern cuisine with a stunning mountain valley view.

418 Amicalola Falls Lodge Road 706-265-8888

www.amicalolafallslodge.com

For a complete list of Dawson County's superb dining establishments, call the Welcome Center at 706-265-6278 or visit www.destinationdawsonville.org.

## ACCOMMODATIONS



## **LEGEND**



Hotels/Motels



Bed & Breakfast Lodge



Cabins



Camping Pet Friendly



Resort





- Amicalola Falls State Park and Lodge 🞞 🏯 👗 📸 418 Amicalola Falls Lodge Road 706-265-8888 www.amicalolafallslodge.com
- Bear Ridge Lodge 💻 Luxury cabin home 865 Angel Drive Ellijay, GA 30536 (Dawson County) 770-402-2044 www.bearridgelodge.com

• Best Western 💳 🗮 76 North Georgia Avenue 706-216-4410 bestwesterngeorgia.com/hotels/ best-western-dawson-village-inn/



 Big Canoe Mountain Home Rental 🛖 👑 11599 Big Canoe, Big Canoe 770-894-4444 www.mountainhome rentalsofga.com

Chattahoochee

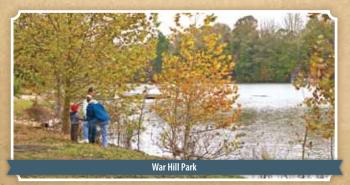
- National Forest 👗 📸 Numerous primitive campsites. 770-297-3000 www.fs.usda.gov/main/conf/home
- Comfort Inn ☐ 127 Beartooth Parkway 706-216-1900 www.comfortinn.com/hoteldawsonville-georgia-GA269

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

- Fausett Farms 🖟 🚰
  Primitive campsites
  11336 Highway 136 West,
  706-265-8432 or 706-974-5718
  www.fausettfarmshorsetrails.com
- Len Foote Hike Inn 280 Amicalola Falls Road 800-581-8032 hike-inn.com
- McCord Mountain Properties 2120 Perimeter Road 706-265-3943 www.northgacabinrental.com
- Racer's Retreat 137 Duck Thurmond Road 706-265-6304
   www.racersretreatbandb.com



- War Hill Park Boat Ramps and Campground at Lake Lanier 16 primitive campsites 4081 War Hill Park Road 706-344-3646 dawsoncounty.org/departments/dawson-county-parks-and-recreation/facilities-and-parks
- Forrest Hills Mountain Resort & Conference Center 135 Forrest Hills Road Dahlonega, GA 30533 706-864-6456 770-534-3244 800-654-6313 www.forresthillsresort.com
- Lily Creek Lodge 2608 Auraria Road
   Dahlonega, GA 30533
   706-864-6848
   www.lilycreeklodge.com





xtend your stay in Dawsonville and spend some time with our neighbors.

## ★ Ball Ground (21 minutes)

 Gibbs Gardens (21 minutes)
 220 acres of native plants amid a gorgeous mountain backdrop.
 770-893-1880
 www.gibbsgardens.com

## ★ Blairsville (1 hour)

 Brasstown Bald (1 hour, 25 minutes)
 Georgia's highest peak stands at 4,784 feet.

Visitor center: 706-896-2556; Blue Ridge Ranger district: 706-745-6928, www.fs.fed.us



Desoto Falls (45 minutes)
 Made up of 3 waterfalls.
 DeSoto Falls Trail is a
 2.4-mile in and out hiking trail to the falls

#### ★ Cleveland (30 minutes)

 Baby Land General Hospital (41 minutes)
 Birthplace of the Original Cabbage Patch Kid.
 706-865-2171

www.babylandgeneral.com

North Georgia Zoo

 (49 minutes)
 80+ species of exotic animals.

 706-348-7279

 www.northgeorgiazoo.com

#### ★ Dahlonega (23 minutes)

Visit the Dahlonega Courthouse Gold Museum, tour gold mines and pan for gold.

706-864-3711 www.dahlonega.org

 Forrest Hills Mountain Resort Horse-drawn wagon ride, dinner cooked on the grill, bonfire, entertainment and more.

800-654-6313 www.forresthillsresort.com

 Gold City Corral (Horseback Riding)
 706-867-9395 www.goldcitycorral.com

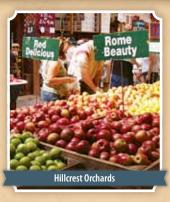
#### ★ Gainesville (20 minutes)

- Northeast Georgia History Museum 770-297-5900 www.negahc.org
- Interactive Neighborhood for Kids Museum 770-536-1900 www.inkfun.org

## ★ Ellijay (40 minutes) The Apple Capital of Georgia 706-635-7400

www.gilmerchamber.com

 Hillcrest Orchards (27 minutes) 706-273-3838 www.hillcrestorchards.net



★ Helen (54 minutes)
Where Old World Bavaria
intersects with down-home.
800-858-8027
www.helenga.org

## ★ Suches (45 minutes) A beautiful scenic drive to

Dockery Lake Recreation Area.

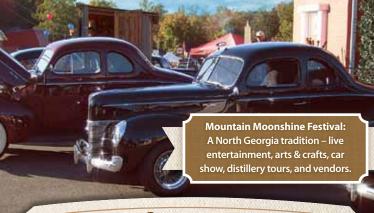
Download Free Hospitality Highway App







Dawson County Office of Tourism Development • 706-265-6278 • www.dawson.org



## Events

\* Year-round Fun in Dawsonville \*



awsonville's calendar is full of exciting events throughout the year.

View Calendar of Events



 Spring Wildflower Festival – mid-April

Amicalola Falls State Park 706-265-1969

www.gastateparks.org/Amicalola

Art in the Garden – First
 weekend in May – Festival with
 handcrafted arts, crafts, music
 and fun.

Bowen Arts Center and downtown Dawsonville 706-216-2787, www.dawsonarts.org

Big Canoe Tour of Homes –
 "A Legacy of Caring"

Big Canoe

706-268-1875

www.bigcanoechapel.org/bigcanoe-tour-of-homes

- Memorial Day Celebration Veterans Memorial Park 706-265-6278
- 'Shine Pedalers Metric Last Saturday in July – Bicycle ride through the scenic mountains. Dawson County Chamber of Commerce 706-265-6278 www.dawson.org

Mountain Moonshine Festival –
 Fourth weekend in October –
 A North Georgia tradition
 with live entertainment, arts.

A North Georgia tradition with live entertainment, arts, crafts, car show, distillery tours and vendors.

Downtown Dawsonville 706-216-5273

www.kareforkids.us

- Veterans Day Celebration –
   November 11 Parade, ceremony
   332 Highway 9 North
   706-265-6278
- Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting 1st Saturday of December 706-265-6278 www.dawson.org

# Your Destination Passport

## \* Experience Rewards \*

PASSPORT

Danasonyllic

Get Stamped
Here

how this guide at participating
Dawson County attractions and
accommodations to get a stamp on this
page in the spaces below. Get stamps from at least
four different attractions or accommodations,
then bring the page to the Dawson County

Welcome Center at 44 Commerce Drive, Dawsonville, Georgia, to get a gift. Take home a little bit of Dawson County.

Attraction/Accommodation

Attraction/Accommodation

Attraction/Accommodation

Attraction/Accommodation

Attraction/Accommodation

Attraction/Accommodation



Each day...



Download the Destination Dawsonville/ Dawson County App here:



Interact with us:

@VisitDawsonCo

**Solution** Visit Dawson County, GA

@DestinationDawsonville #Dawsonville

Dawson County Office of Tourism
Development and Welcome Center
44 Commerce Drive
Dawsonville, Georgia 30534
706-265-6278 • 877-302-9271

www.dawson.org