Escape to Blue Ridge™

Fast Facts about Blue Ridge and Fannin County

Blue Ridge is located in Fannin County, Georgia, near the Tennessee-North Carolina line. Blue Ridge is 90 miles north of Atlanta, via I-575 and Hwy. 515.

The southern terminus of the Appalachian Mountains is located in Fannin County.

Fannin County was created in 1854 and named for Colonel James Fannin, a hero in the Texas War for Independence.

Blue Ridge was incorporated in 1887 by Colonel Michael McKinney. Colonel McKinney helped get the Marietta and North Georgia railroad routed through Blue Ridge, connecting the mountains with Atlanta.

Early Blue Ridge industries were timber, agriculture, mining and moonshine.

The 171-seat **Blue Ridge Community Theater** runs seven shows and eight concerts annually.

The region has 16 self-guided driving tours.

Downtown Blue Ridge has an array of restaurants, cafés, wine bars, shops and galleries.

Visitors can stand in two states at once in nearby McCaysville, Georgia and Copperhill, Tennessee.

Did you know?

Blue Ridge's **Swann Drive-In** is one of Georgia's three remaining drive-in theaters.

Lake Blue Ridge

3,290-acre **Lake Blue Ridge** was created by Toccoa Electric Power Company in 1930. The Lake has 65 acres of shoreline; 80% of shoreline is national forest.

Fannin County is the "Trout Capital of Georgia," with 500+ miles of creeks, streams and rivers.

106,000 acres of the **Chattahoochee National Forest** and 300+ hiking trails are in Fannin County.

Fannin's 40,000-acre **Cohutta Wilderness** is the largest wilderness area east of the Mississippi River.

The 2,000+ mile **Appalachian Trail** begins at Springer Mountain in Fannin County.

There are 12 waterfalls within 30 miles of **downtown Blue Ridge**.

The longest swinging bridge east of the Mississippi River spans the Toccoa River.

Horseback riding on mountain trails is a popular pastime.

Only in Blue Ridge

Blue Ridge Scenic Railway transports visitors on vintage railcars from a 1905 depot through the countryside along the Toccoa River.

Open year-round, **Mercier Orchards** is the largest and oldest-operating orchard in the Southeast.

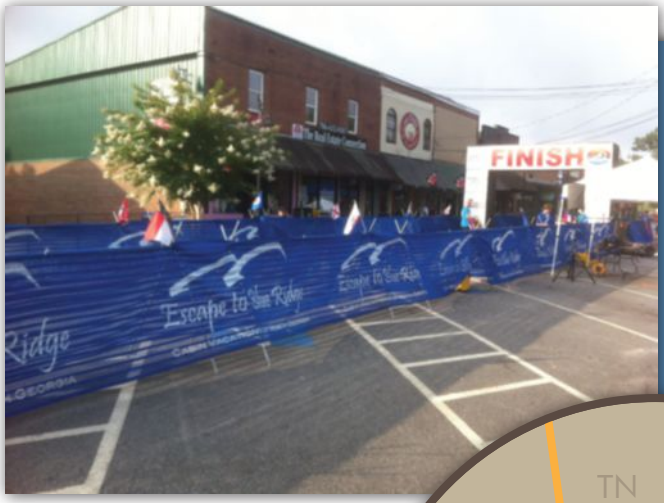
Cook's Farm organic gardens hosts summer camps and other farm-to-table events.

The **Toccoa River** is one of the few Southern rivers that flows north.

Blue Ridge is one of the few places in the world with staurolite crystals or "Fairy Crosses." Some believe the unique stones formed when fairies heard of Christ's crucifixion or when Cherokees wept on the Trail of Tears. Others think the crystals surface through erosion.

Sportsmen from around the world attend Bill Oyster's bamboo fly rod workshops in Blue Ridge.

With 1,000 members, **Art Center Galleries** is one of North Georgia's largest galleries.



Escape to Blue Ridge is the title sponsor of the annual **Tri the Mountains Triathlon**.

Blue Ridge, Georgia, is just 90 minutes north of Atlanta.

New and Notable

Black Sheep, a restaurant and bar serving upscale Southern cuisine, is located in a restored historic home once visited by Margaret Mitchell.

Agritourism is popular here, with farmer's markets, farm-to-table restaurants, vineyards, farm tours and U-pick farms.

Tank Town USA is a new 5-acre attraction with real military tanks and heavy equipment for those seeking the ultimate driving experience.

Escape to Blue Ridge
Cabin Vacations of North Georgia

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