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Gold Rush 5K
September 9, 2017

Gold Rush Festival
September 9, 2017

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WELCOME TO WEST GEORGIA!

Finding natural adventure can be difficult in the metro area - but not here in west Georgia!

The three counties of Douglas, Carroll and Haralson counties have all the conveniences of modern living, but we have preserved vast tracts of natural beauty that offer a host of recreational opportunities for travelers and residents alike.

Carroll County has many parks awaiting you. From the inland wonder of a sandy lakeside beach, to the rolling waters of the Chattahoochee, there is much to explore. And don't forget the thrills of flying like a falcon on one of the best ziplines in the world!

Douglas County has a true gem with Sweetwater Creek State Park, a pristine wilderness of trails around the ruin of a Civil War textile mill. There are other

parks that offer miles of trails and other attractions. And if your idea of recreation runs more toward shopping and less toward walking, the quaint shops of Douglasville are worth exploring.

Haralson County is a place of extremes, offering quiet paddle trips down the Tallapoosa River to the heavy metal thunder of monster machines playing in the mud.

No matter where you go across our three counties, you'll find lots to see, plenty to do, and much to enjoy. West Georgia is a quiet refuge away from the hustle and bustle of city life, and its only a few miles west of Atlanta.

Whether you are visiting here for a little while, or a lifetime resident, your thirst for outdoor adventure can easily be satisfied here in west Georgia - the place to play!

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Carrollton

MAIN STREET

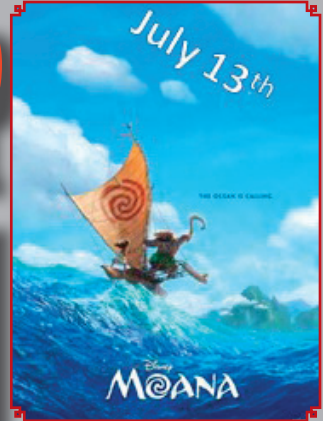


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West Georgia: The

Welcome to west Georgia! Whether you are into extreme sports, or just want a restful amble in the countryside, the counties of Douglas, Carroll and Haralson have an incredibly rich array of recreational activities, all within an hour's drive from metro Atlanta.

We are a touch of city in the country; a rural area that incidentally thrives with big-city amenities and opportunities. Those who live here enjoy everything that's modern – but we stay here because of the open skies, the acres of trees and the closeness of Nature. That's what sets us apart from the rest of the metro area.

Folks in west Georgia like to shop and grab a quick burger just like everyone else. But we also like to get out in the country to hike, camp, fish or swim. We like to raft and kayak and we like to bike and run. We like extreme sports and we like a quiet game of softball. We like to jog with friends and we like to challenge ourselves.

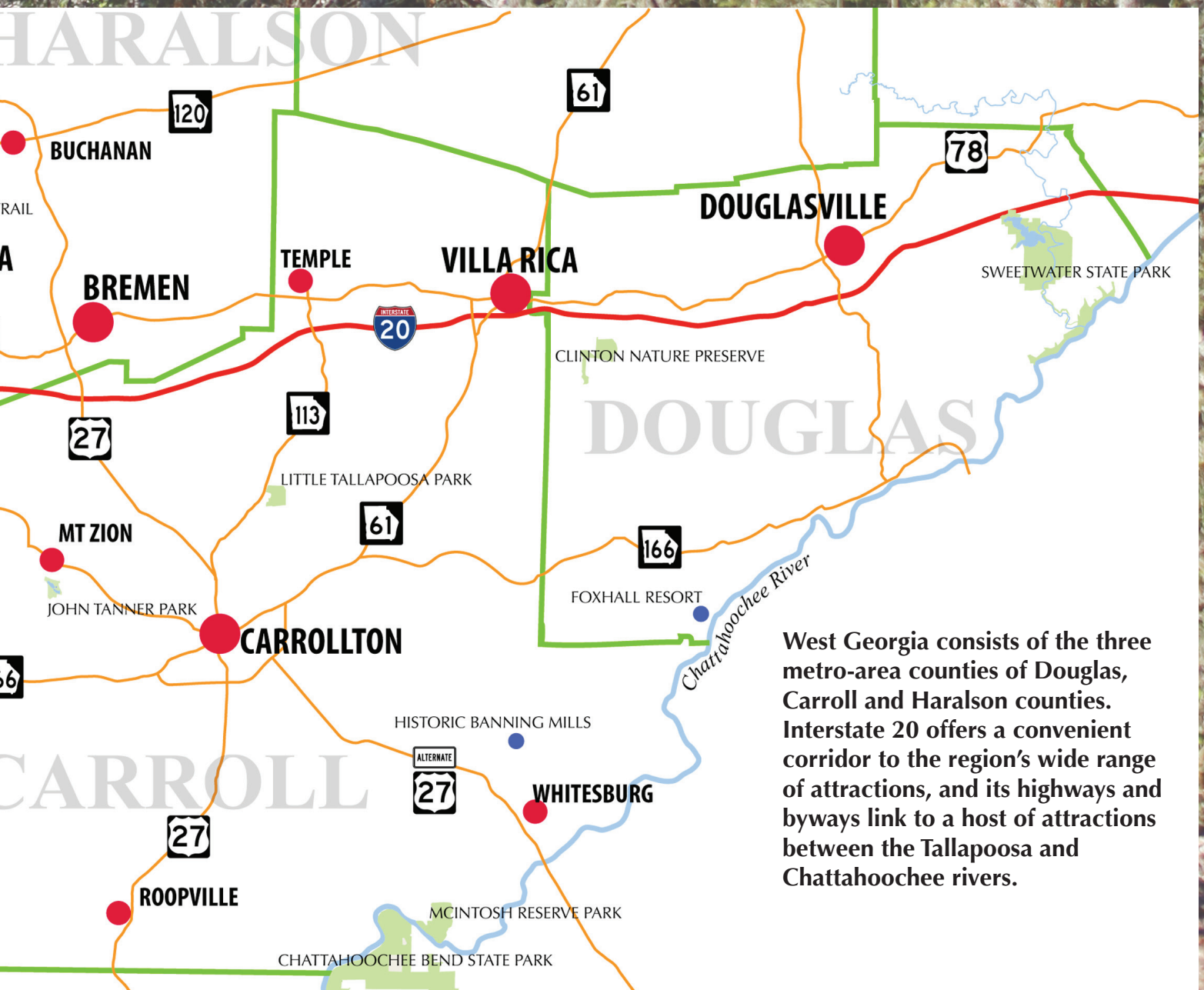
Each of the three counties of west Georgia has their own unique way to play. In Haralson you can paddle a quiet river or watch monster machines wallow in the mud. In Douglas, you can get back to nature or shop 'til you drop. And in Carroll you can picnic by a lake or go zooming on a zipline.

When the weather gets warm, and you can no longer fight the urge to get out and move, west Georgia is the place to go. If you're here temporarily to visit family, or attending a work meeting, take advantage of the opportunity to discover all we have to share.

You won't believe all that's here to explore and discover. Come on, let's play!



The Place to Play



West Georgia consists of the three metro-area counties of Douglas, Carroll and Haralson counties. Interstate 20 offers a convenient corridor to the region's wide range of attractions, and its highways and byways link to a host of attractions between the Tallapoosa and Chattahoochee rivers.



Carroll County

Parks and even more parks

When you drive along the main roads through Carroll County, you'll see signs of modern life everywhere. But get off those roads and you'll find acres of rolling pastures, miles of trees and sunlight glistening from lakes and streams.

The county is huge – 504 square miles of rolling hills and high ridges that create a landscape of running streams and spreading stands of trees. These acres of woods and farmland dominate the scenery, and folks who live in the city comforts of Carrollton, Villa Rica and Bowdon love nothing more than to enjoy the wide-open spaces.

Carroll has just the right mixture of rural and urban, and enough rural to provide tons of recreational opportunities for yourself or your family. A good bit of that countryside has been preserved in several parks across the county, any of which would make a great weekend escape to Nature.

Why not get started in the northern part of the county, at the **Pine Mountain Gold Museum at Stockmar Park** in Villa Rica?

Villa Rica straddles the border of Douglas and Carroll counties, and is home to this park, located at 1881 Stockmar Road; a place for kids and adults alike. Here, you can actually pan for gold, and explore over three miles of walking trails. You can also enjoy the 50-seat theatre with a 20-minute documentary of the history of the Villa Rica mines; tour west Georgia's only authentic 19th Century gold stamp mill; bring a lunch to the covered picnic pavilion or to the picnic tables scattered throughout the park. And if that isn't enough, there's also a scaled-down locomotive that will take your kids on a fun-filled trip around the museum site. Kids will also enjoy seeing the exhibit of farm animals, lovingly cared for by the park staff.

Moving southwest, there's the **Little Tallapoosa Park**, located on Georgia Highway 113, less than six miles south of Interstate 20 Exit 19. Here you'll find the perfect place to park your RV or set up a campsite for a quiet night or two before getting back on the road.

The park covers 256 acres which are crossed by the scenic Little Tallapoosa River, and includes seven miles of natural trails and 2.5



Little Tallapoosa Park



John Tanner Park



miles of paved pathways, and it's a great place for guests to bring their horses for rides. There's a seven-acre open meadow where local events are staged. The park can accommodate tent campers, RVs, trailers and buses. There are 32 tent campsites with access to 120-watt electricity, and 23 RV sites with hookups for water, sewer and electricity. There is also a comfort station equipped with bathroom, showers and washer and dryers.

On the western part of the county is **John Tanner Park**, a literal touch of Florida in the middle of west Georgia.

Located at 354 Tanner's Beach Road, the park began in 1954 when Tanner, a local businessman, decided to recreate a Florida resort for himself on his property. He brought in eight train car loads of Florida sand and spread it along the shore of a large lake, and draped the trees with Spanish moss. For decades, it has been a favorite escape for Carroll residents, as well as numerous visitors. There's lots to do here, from swimming in the lake to sunning on the beach. You can take a pedal boat out on the water, picnic under the trees, or play a round or two of disc golf. If you want to stay overnight, there's a motel-like lodge, as well as camping spots to put up a tent or park an RV.

At the southern end of the county is **Moore's Bridge Park**, the county's newest development with a great future honoring the past.

This is the site of the only Civil War battle to occur in west Georgia, when Union and Confederate cavalry troops clashed in July 1864 at a private toll bridge over the Chattahoochee. The bridge was operated by landowner James Moore and one of the most interesting people in west Georgia's history: Horace King, a former slave who became a master bridge builder and engineer.

This 485-acre park is located off Black Dirt Road on Highway 5, about 13 miles southeast from downtown Carrollton, or about 20 miles southwest from Interstate 20 Exit 34. The park is being developed in two phases, and the first phase includes 250 acres. Currently, the park features nature trails for hiking and horseback riding, comfort stations, picnic tables and



Checker Berry Shoppe, Bowdon



Moore's Bridge Park

a boat ramp to launch power and paddle craft into the Chattahoochee. Future development will preserve the unique combination of Civil War history and Creek Nation and African-American cultural heritage to be found at the site, and that includes the preservation of the Civil War-era James Moore house, which gives the site its name.

While you are touring Carroll County, don't forget a visit to historic **Bowdon**, located in the western part of the county, at the intersection of Georgia Highways 166 and 100.

Bowdon is great for a little recreational shopping, especially antiques. The **Checker Berry Shoppe**, 129 W. College Street, has been in business over 23 years, and their 10,000-square foot store features antiques, collectables, crafts and re-purposed items from over 40 dealers.

Antiques Plus describes itself as "the most exciting new antique shop in Carroll County" and they are located at 85 KidsPeace Drive. Along with their vast range of antiques and collectibles, they also hold an auction every 2nd and 4th Saturday each month at 6 pm.

The **Lord's Helping Hand** is a little-known shop at 109 Shirley St. They have antiques, collectibles, and guns. "A little of everything" says store owner Brantley Fernander.

Also try **Pin It! Gifts & Events** at 139 F City Hall Ave. They are known for their craft nights, but they also have an assortment of restored antique and vintage furniture and décor.

There are many more attractions in Carroll County – fun places to enjoy for an afternoon alone, or over a weekend with family and friends. Near Moore's Bridge Park, for example, are two of Carroll's most interesting recreational spots: McIntosh Reserve Park and Historic Banning Mill. And while you are visiting downtown Carrollton, don't forget to head out to the GreenBelt, an 18-mile walk-bike-run trail that encircles the city.

Carroll County is a fun place with all the conveniences of any major urban area. But the people here have worked hard to maintain the pristine gifts of Nature, and they celebrate their rural heritage. The many parks of the county offer lots to do, and the mild climate means year-round fun. ♥VWG

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12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Egg Hunt Begins Promptly @ 2:00 p.m.**



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Bowdon Area Historical Society (BAHS) is located adjacent to Bowdon High School on the property occupied by the former Bowdon College. The Society maintains three structures on this property: the Meeting Place, formerly the second building of the Bowdon Methodist Protestant Church founded in 1857 and McDaniel Hall, a 2016 addition; the Shelnut House, a double pen dog trot house; and the Kent House, a shotgun design. The buildings are open to the public by appointment.

The mission of Bowdon Area Historical Society is to preserve the heritage of the Bowdon areas and to instill an appreciation of the past in both present and future generations.

BAHS sponsors Founders' Day each year during the first full weekend in August to include a parade, crafters, entertainment and living history.

Meeting are held the second Tuesday of each month. A covered dish meal is followed by a program of local history. Visitors are welcome and membership is encouraged.



The Carrollton GreenBelt

Carrollton

If you want a place to bike, hike, run or rest, you can't beat the **Carrollton GreenBelt**, one of the most unique attractions in all of west Georgia.

The GreenBelt is an 18-mile, shared-use path that encircles all of Carrollton. There are access points all over town, none more than a few minutes from the center of the city. It's a great place to go for a walk, as much of it winds its way through nature. It's an easy bike ride, with few hills, and it's paved the entire way. And runners can get great exercise as they breathe in the fresh air.

The trail was begun in 2011 and has recently been completed. In that short time, it has become almost the social center of Carroll County. It's a terrific

place for friends to meet up for a walk, and kids and adults use it as an eco-friendly way to commute to and from work.

Cyclists don't even need to own a bike to explore the trail. Zagster has just installed rental bicycles at the trailheads – all you'll need is an app on your smartphone to reserve one for yourself. You can even play a round of disc golf at the Hobbs Farm section of the trail, one of its most popular sections.

The GreenBelt links neighborhoods to schools, including the University of West Georgia, as well as several commercial shopping areas. It is the largest green space and green-way conservation project that the City of Carrollton has undertaken, and it is the largest paved loop trail system in the entire

state of Georgia.

It has become a major tourist draw, but the existence of the GreenBelt represents a style of living that has proved very attractive for local employers. It promotes a healthy lifestyle for all ages and it literally connects all sides of the community, breaking down all of society's artificial barriers.

In this safe, police-patrolled environ, children, families and friends meet each other along the way, even as they pass through the natural beauty that the city has carefully preserved for the enjoyment of everyone. In the future, there will be spurs added that will further reduce vehicular traffic in town, encouraging more and more people to get out and exercise. ♥ VWG



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Throughout the year, Carroll County Recreation Department offers a number of sports & camps that allow our youth to learn everything from the fundamentals of their favorite sport to what it really means to be a part of a team. Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Football, Cheerleading, Track, Female Volleyball, and Gymnastics are just a handful of sports offered at CCRD. We also hold certain events throughout the year for the citizens of Carroll County such as Dances, Festivals, & Community Yard Sales. For more information, you may visit our website at www.carrollcountygarec.com or call the office: 770-830-5902.



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McIntosh Reserve Park

1046 W. McIntosh Circle, Whitesburg

Carroll County has a rich history. It was once part of the Creek Nation, and **McIntosh Reserve Park** on the Chattahoochee River at the southern end of the county marks an important part of that past.

The park is located on a portion of land that William McIntosh, a prominent leader of the Creek Nation, “reserved” for himself when, in 1825, he signed a treaty that essentially sold all Creek lands in Georgia and Alabama to the U.S. government. His plantation, located here along the Chattahoochee, was known as Lohau Talofau, and he lived here in a modest, two-story log house that doubled as an inn for travelers who used the ferry that McIntosh also operated here.

McIntosh’s actions in signing the second Treaty of Indian Springs angered other Creek leaders. The Creek National Council had opposed the Treaty, and they ordered the execution of McIntosh and other signatories. On April 30,

1825, a large force of Creek nationals attacked the McIntosh plantation, firing on his house and setting it afire. McIntosh, wounded in the attack, was pulled from the burning house and set upon by the Creeks. Stabbed through the heart and shot more than 50 times, he was buried nearby.

Today this remnant of McIntosh’s land is a 532-acre park with lots of amenities that make it a worthwhile stop for a weekend of fun. Along with the history, visitors will find miles of trails suited for both people and horses, a splash water park, pavilions and plenty of places to camp. It’s also a great place to launch a boat into the river, or to land from locales upriver, including the nearby Moores Bridge Park.

McIntosh Reserve Park is open year round except for Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Years Day. Park office hours are 8 am until 5 pm daily. Park hours are 8 am until 8 pm (Summer) and 8 am until 7

pm (Winter). Camping and Pavilion reservations may be made by phone or in person M-F from 8 am until 5 pm. Picnic shelters and camp sites are available daily by reservation, or without reservations if you are in the Park before closing time. Picnic tables not occupied by campers are available on a first come first serve basis. Quiet time for campers begins at 10 pm and continues until 7 am. Pets are allowed, but must be in control of the owner at all times. Dogs should be on leashes at all times. Horses should be not be tied to individual trees which could result in damage to the tree.

McIntosh Reserve Park is located 35 miles southwest of Atlanta along the Chattahoochee River and can be reached via U.S. Alt. 27 from Carrollton or Newnan and Georgia Highway 5 from Douglasville. Direct access to the park is provided by a county-maintained road that connects with Highway 5, two miles west of Whitesburg. ♥ **VWG**



Field at McIntosh Reserve Park



Banning Mill

205 Horseshoe Dam Rd, Whitesburg

You're standing on a wooden platform high above the trees, then you purposefully step off into the open air.

But not to worry; you're attached to a small set of wheels that ride a long, thin steel cable that stretches far off into the distance. As you pick up speed, those wheels start to whine like a jet engine – a noise you can barely hear as the wind whips past your ears. The snug harness from which you hang tugs around your ribs as you bounce about, zooming over the trees, soaring over the creek as you head for your friends, waiting ahead.

Welcome to the zip lines at **Historic Banning Mills!** This is one of the most unique attractions in all of west Georgia, a combination Nature preserve, thrill ride and conference center, all rolled into one.

The Screaming Eagle canopy tour is certified by Guinness World Records as the largest and best such zipline course, with six levels to choose from and which let you zoom for almost 10 miles above the trees.

Here you will find challenges that are safe for kids and others that are for extreme-minded adults. Each level involves several sky bridges that link many lines of course, each presenting a different

type of adventure for one and all. All the levels are led by certified and expert guides, and the zip line equipment is constantly checked so that the most fastest, most extreme tour is done in complete safety.

Located in the Snake Creek Gorge, this family resort is surrounded by beautiful scenery. The country inn is perfect for a family retreat or romantic getaway. It's located on the site of a once flourishing manufacturing community that was founded in 1846 by the Bowen brothers.

The textile mill in the community contained 500 yarn producing spindles. The mills and town that developed in the community was originally known as Bowensville. The textile mill, known as the Amis Mill, operated throughout most of the Civil War. During the war, federal troops were ordered to find and burn mills like this, but by the time they discovered Amis Mill, most of the equipment had been shipped to South Carolina.

In 1878, Arthur Hutcheson acquired the textile mill and U.B. Wilkinson acquired a paper mill also located on site. By 1882, the textile mill, known as Hutcheson Manufacturing Company, had 2,000 spindles and 14 cards which manufactured warp and bunched yarn. It was at this time that the name of the



mill town was changed to Banning. Eventually it was the site of a string of mills and buildings that operated well into the 20th century.

Today, visitors can explore the historic structures as they enjoy miles of trails that carry you deep into the heart of Nature.

Each year, hundreds of visitors make Historic Banning Mills their destination for corporate retreats, a weekend getaway, or to experience the thrill of zipping along over the treetops. You owe it to yourself and your family to come out and see for yourself this incredible locale, deep in the heart of Carroll County.

♥ VWG



Screaming Eagle

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NATURE

Visit West Georgia, Spring 2017 15



Clinton Reserve

Douglas County is part of the metro Atlanta area and is a place of great business, good homes and a 21st century lifestyle. With a major interstate, it's also a major corridor for visitors from all parts of the country.

And one of the best things about Douglas County is that it is 25 minutes outside of Atlanta. Out here, away from the congested streets and stress of city living, Douglas has made sure to create an island of serenity and calm.

Douglas County is determined to preserve its natural beauty resources, even as it experiences phenomenal growth. If you come here for business, you should take a break from work and find out how quickly a short sojourn into the scenic wonders of Douglas will invigorate your work

perspective. It's a sure bet, too, that you will want to share this experience with your friends and family at some future weekend.

There are some major recreational parks to be found here, including **Sweetwater Creek State Park**, with its miles of trails and scenic vistas. For more active recreation, you can try a round of golf or some shooting at **Foxhall Resort**. Or, if you just want to take a leisurely stroll through downtown **Douglasville**, you can enjoy the shops and restaurants.

Wherever you go in Douglas County, you're only a few minutes from natural beauty. If you are in Douglasville, there are five parks located within the city limits consisting of 391 total acres of greenspace. The largest of these is

Hunter Memorial Park, located at 8830 Gurley Road. Here you will find a five-acre lake surrounded by a walking track and plenty of family activities on its 83 acres.

Each year, the **Penny McHenry Hydrangea Festival** brings hundreds of visitors to Douglasville, a town hailed as the Hydrangea Capitol of the South. The 10th annual festival is scheduled for June 3-4 2017, and it promises to be an extra-special event.

But there's lots more to see outside the city limits, including some truly unique gems that are favorites of area residents.

Boundary Waters Park, located at 5000 Highway 92, is a 492-acre park that hosts a multitude of scheduled and passive recreational activities



Douglas County

Naturally beautiful

for children and adults of all ages. Among the amenities are a children's playground, a 10-acre fishing pond, and more than 12 miles of multi-use trails for running, biking, walking or hiking.

If you like water, nearby you'll find the **Boundary Waters Aquatic Center**, which has an eight-lane, 25-yard heated competition pool, and a four-lane, heated therapeutic-teaching pool. While you're there, you'll likely see many people of all ages enjoying the water – and maybe even a private birthday party.

Boundary Waters Park also features the Douglas County segment of the **Chattahoochee Hill Country Regional Greenway Trail**. This three-quarter mile stretch of paved trail will eventually complete a 98-mile corridor connecting with

Carroll, Coweta and Fulton counties, as well as the City of Chattahoochee Hills.

The completed trail is suitable for walkers, runners, joggers, and cyclists. In the near future, there will be an 11-mile link to Sweetwater Creek State Park, which is one of the most visited parks in Georgia, with approximately 650,000 people visiting in 2012.

Clinton Nature Preserve, 8720 Ephesus Church Road, is a 200-acre hidden gem in Douglas County. This land was donated by Mrs. Annie Mae Clinton on the condition that it remain in its natural state as much as possible. The park contains nature, bike and running trails, open exploration areas along with the **Carnes Cabin**, and a pre-Civil War residence, which is listed on the



National Register of Historic Places. Other available resources include a small outdoor amphitheater and a children's play area that is heavily designed for children with special physical needs.

Deer Lick Park, 2105 Mack Road, is yet another of the county's nature preserves. This 66-acre facility includes both passive and active areas. Activities include softball, volleyball, disc golf, tennis, basketball and seasonal bocce. There's also a three-acre fishing lake with pier, a small amphitheater, gazebo, group shelters and restroom facilities. And just next door is the Park's **Family Fun Center**, which includes two small meeting or rental rooms, restrooms, and a warming kitchen. An outdoor skateboard park, playground and dog park complete the amenities offered at this location.

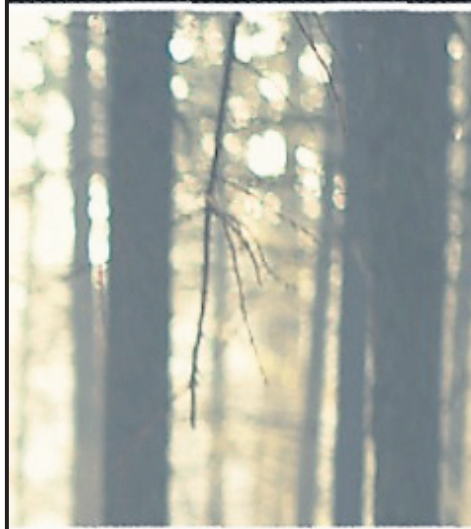
Near the Carroll County border is the **Pine Mountain Gold Museum at Stockmar Park**, located at 1881 Stockmar Road. Commemorating the site of the state's first "gold rush" in the 1820s, visitors can actually pan for gold, and explore over three miles of walking trails. You can also enjoy

the 50-seat theatre with a 20-minute documentary of the history of mining in the area; tour west Georgia's only authentic 19th Century gold stamp mill; bring a lunch to the covered picnic pavilion or to the picnic tables scattered throughout the park. And if that isn't enough, there's also a scaled-down locomotive that will take your kids on a fun-filled trip around the museum site.

Douglas County is a booming, suburban area, but it is determined to stay close to nature. So much so, it has established a Butterfly Trail - a series of gardens across the county dedicated to protecting these important pollinators, especially the Monarch butterfly, which annually migrates through the area.

If you like nothing more than being in wide-open spaces, surrounded by trees and the beauty of nature, Douglas County offers a host of opportunities, only a few minutes outside of metro Atlanta. It's a great place to recharge your batteries in the middle of the week, or even over a weekend. You'll want to return with your friends and family to explore and enjoy beautiful Douglas County. ♥ VWG

PINE MOUNTAIN GOLD MUSEUM



4,800 sq. ft. Museum
Gold & Gemstone
Panning Area
Miles of Hiking Trails
Historic Mining Ruins
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DOUGLAS COUNTY



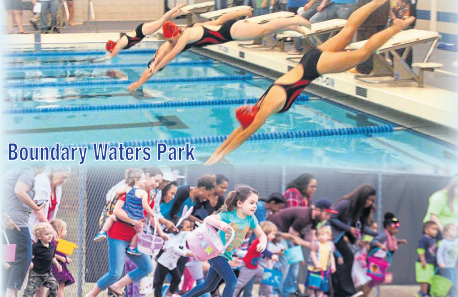
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Douglasville Shopping

Downtown Douglasville

What, do you think the only kind of recreation is walking, hiking or biking? There really is such a thing as recreational shopping, and Douglasville's downtown area is central to art galleries, markets, historic landmarks, shops, restaurants, and entertainment.

Visitors can enjoy walking along the streets of downtown while soaking up the city's charming scenery listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Of course, there's always **Arbor Place Mall**, Georgia's largest shopping complex west of Atlanta, but you owe it to yourself to shop for bargains at the city's trendy retailers – and especially stores where you can find unique antiques and collectibles.

For example, there's **Douglasville Books**, 7191 Douglas Boulevard; and the **Premier Flea Market**, 1516 Municipal Parkway. But don't forget **Infused Bath & Body**, 6702 Broad St. where you will find handmade bath and body products made in small batches and infused with herbs. There's also **Twelve Chic Boutique**, 6706 East Broad St., providing premium services to premium clients. **4th Time Around Antiques**, 6554 Spring St., **Reyn Paper Company**, 6649 Church St. and **Premier Drugstore**, 8446 Campbellton St.

And while you're doing your recreational shopping, don't forget recreational dining. Downtown Douglasville has a whole range of restaurants to literally suit every taste.

Try **Gumbeaux**, 6712 E. Broad St.; **Gabes Downtown**, 6716 Church St.; or **The Irish Bred Pub**, 6682 Broad St.; **Hudson's Hickory House**, 6874 Bankhead Highway; **Fabiano's Pizzeria**, 6698 West Broad St.; and **The Vine Café & Market**, 6680 Broad St.

You can't possibly fit all this shopping and dining in one day, so you and your friends will want to return again and again to explore the constant variety of these downtown shops. ♥ **VWG**

Douglasville Conference Center

Where the good times come and go, but the memories last forever.



Planning something special such as a wedding, social or corporate event?

Let us help you make it memorable!

With a unique blend of innovation and elegance, the Douglasville Conference Center is the perfect choice for social and corporate events! The exquisite facility includes a 7,672-square-foot grand ballroom, a business center, two green rooms, a 150-seat auditorium, two pre-function areas, a 15-person boardroom and three meeting rooms, as well as a gorgeous rear terrace. As an added benefit, the Conference Center is adjoined by a 300-space parking deck that offers free, convenient parking. Plus, our on-site caterer, Proof of the Pudding, offers superb food options for guests to enjoy. For a truly unique experience, host your next event at the Douglasville Conference Center!



proof of the pudding

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Foxhall Resort

8000 Capps Ferry Road

Foxhall Resort encompasses over 1,100 acres of sportsman paradise and is nestled along the Chattahoochee River.

Approximately 20 minutes from Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport – the world's busiest – and located along the serene, western bank of the Chattahoochee River, a billion-dollar resort community is transforming Atlanta living for both residents and visitors.

Foxhall Resort and Sporting Club is a sanctuary of natural beauty and a haven for commuters, located right in metropolitan Atlanta.

In recent years, Atlanta has become one of America's most vibrant cities and a transportation hub for the world. And although metro Atlanta has long offered an unsurpassed quality of life, there has never been a single retreat where residents could go to escape the hectic

pace of city life ... to learn to shoot, cast a fly rod, relax at the spa, go horseback riding, watch a polo match, or simply connect with nature and each other – until now.

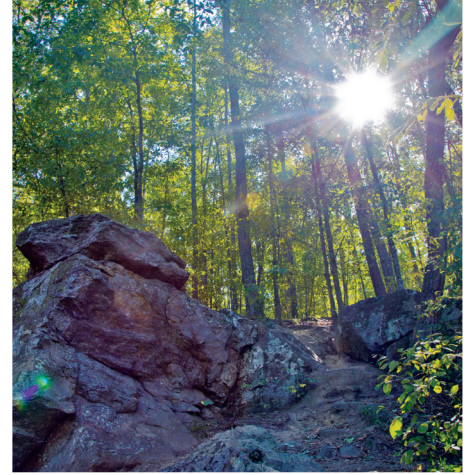
Foxhall Resort and Sporting Club is a place where families can reconnect and create priceless memories. Foxhall will include a rare and imaginative collection of residential communities; hotels; meeting and special event space; and world class amenities, all set against the beauty of the southernmost foothills of Georgia's mountains.

Membership at Foxhall Sporting Club is the first step in creating a lifestyle – one the club calls “legacy living” – that will endure for generations. You, your family and your invited guests will experience together what it is like to truly become part of the country's first Urban Sporting Club community.

Your hosts at Foxhall know firsthand that when you and your family are surrounded by natural beauty, and are engaged together in limitless recreational opportunities, the bond that is formed becomes stronger and that you will create memories that will become more vivid over time.

Here you'll find a world-class equestrian facility, as well as facilities for recreational shooting of all kinds. There's a 15-station sporting clays course, two five-stands and a wobble trap, an archery range and 3-D course.

In addition, there are 16 lakes for boating and fishing opportunities, guided ATV trail rides, as well as over 15 miles of intricate biking, hiking and horseback riding trails. Popular sports lawn activities include bocce ball courts, croquet lawns, horseshoe pits, volleyball courts and a driving range, in addition to multipurpose sport lawns. ♥ **VWG**



Sweetwater Creek State Park

1750 Mt. Vernon Road

In the spring of 1864, the federal Armies under William T. Sherman began moving southward from north-west Georgia. His goal was to capture Atlanta, but to get to the city he had to find a way to cross the Chattahoochee River. In July, one of the cavalry troops sent south along the river to find a crossing discovered the New Manchester Manufacturing Co., a giant cotton cloth mill in operation on Sweetwater Creek and better known as Sweetwater Factory.

Those who worked at the mill were mostly women and girls, all of whom were told to either evacuate or be taken north, along with other women mill workers from around Atlanta. The soldiers set fire to the mill and left it a ruin, just as you can see it today at **Sweetwater State Park**.

The park is a 2,500-acre recreational area that is one of the most visited state parks in Georgia. It contains four marked nature trails totaling over nine miles, canoe rental, fishing boats, group shelter, barbeque pit, picnic shelters and playgrounds. And if you want to

camp out without roughing it too much, you can reserve one of the 10 yurts on site.

The park is part of the **Douglas County Film Trail**, and “The Hunger Games” was one of several productions filmed there, due to its unique scenic wonders.

Beyond the mill ruins, the nature trail climbs rocky bluffs to provide views of the beautiful rapids below. Additional trails wind through fields and forest. Park rangers lead informative hikes to these areas throughout the year.

The 215-acre **George Sparks Reservoir** is popular with anglers and provides a pretty setting for feeding ducks and picnicking. During warmer months, the park rents fishing boats, canoes and pedal boats.

An award-winning **Visitor Center**—one of the most environmentally responsible buildings in the country—features exhibits on the area’s history, wildlife displays, trail maps, snacks and a gift shop. ♥ VWG

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Haralson County

A place of extremes

If all you do is pass through Haralson County while cruising along Interstate 20, you're going to miss a lot. Apart from the rolling countryside full of rich history – not to mention some of the best barbecue you've ever had – Haralson is a place of extremes.

Here's a place where you can test your kayaking skills on one of the prettiest watercourses in the United States; where you can bike for miles along some of the region's most challenging routes, and watch monster machines wallow in the mud.

Haralson County, simply put, is a place of extremes: extreme sport and extreme relaxation. If you like rushing water, rushing wind and rushing adrenaline, you'll find it here. If you like no rush at all, well, that's here too, with quiet drives along scenic roads, restful walks through Victorian neighborhoods and hours of peaceful antiquing.

Haralson is 282 square miles of land just remote enough to provide an escape from the routines of urban life. In this wide-open expanse of scenic nature, there's something for every recreational taste

Let's start with the assumption that you are interested in some quieter, less aggressive types of leisure. Well, if you begin your search in Bremen, you'll find what you're looking for.

Bremen (the locals pronounce it BREE-men), is a progressive town located just off Interstate 20 Exit 11. It is an important stop along the **West Georgia Textile Trail**, which runs from Dalton to Columbus commemorating the heritage this region owes to the textile industry, which was

the economic engine that drove Bremen and other west Georgia towns almost to the 21st century.

Virtually every long-time family in west Georgia has a connection to that history. The textile mills established in Bremen and nearby communities by the brothers Robert, Roy and Warren Sewell made this region the "Clothing Center of the South" in the 1970s and 1980s. Even before that, however, the textile mills of west Georgia brought economic stability to a region inhabited by farmers. Working at the mills freed farm families from the vagaries of seasonal harvests, enabling them to afford a better life for their children.

In Bremen, you can see some of the factories that remain, before heading westward along U.S. Highway 78 to the town of **Tallapoosa**, which has its own unique history.

Tallapoosa happens to be the site of one of the biggest land swindles in U.S. history. Speculators from the East once advertised the place as a boom town, ripe for investment. Unfortunately, the boom went bust and the investors lost millions, but not everything was a scam. Before the bust and afterward, Tallapoosa blossomed into a flourishing town. Those who built homes here during the 1890s boom period have left behind dozens of Victorian homes.

While you are enjoying the shops and restaurants of this well-preserved town, why not take a **walking tour of Tallapoosa's homes**? You can pick up a guide at the **West Georgia Museum of Tallapoosa** (worth a visit itself) at 185 Mann St., the **Peacock Perch**, 102 Head Ave., or **Allen's Florist and**

Gifts, 175 Head Ave., which is also one of the houses on the tour.

There are 31 different houses along the tour, ranging from the Summerlin House, 404 Bowdon St., which was built in 1880, to the nearby Castille House, built on the site where Creek Indians used to meet, and the picturesque Attaway House, 109 West Lyon St., which has a tower and a secret passage inside.

Not far from Tallapoosa, you can pick one of the five paved roads that comprise the **Haralson County Scenic Byway**. This route was chosen for the paths they take through the undisturbed, pristine preserves of rural beauty. Perfect for afternoon and the kind of Sunday drives of days gone past, this trip through the Appalachian foothills offers picturesque views of farmland, rolling hills, valleys, woodlands, as well as farm and wildlife.

These five roads – Steadman, Jacksonville, Poplar Springs, Monroe Mill and Pine Grove – do not connect as a single trail, but you can drive them together, or one at a time. They are marked by distinctive signs, blue with white trim and lettering that are posted at either end of each road. These byways are well worth return visits during each of the seasons, to enjoy the changing foliage. In the spring and summer (and even in the fall and winter), you can ride with the top down or the windows open to enjoy the fragrant, fresh air.

These are all, nice easy escapes for a day or even longer. But if you've got a yen for something a little more exciting, Haralson County has some adventures waiting for you. ♥ VWG



Bike Riding in Haralson

Whether you want to ride a bike for your health, to see the scenery, or to push yourself physically, Haralson County is ready for you.

The county has three excellent bike routes, all of which connect to longer routes out of the county which are part of a network of routes established by Bike Walk Northwest Georgia. The group has labeled the ones which pass through Haralson as routes 130, 117 and 103 and the courses are mapped on the organization's website.

Route 130 probably provides the best option for a beginner, as it covers

many of the most attractive parts of the county. It is also the shortest route to complete, at just over 33 miles, if you want to follow it all the way.

Among the highlights to look out for are the winding curves of the Tallapoosa River, the pleasant downhill ride as the route heads into Buchanan, and the open blue waters of Lake Olympia.

These routes can be physically demanding, and most of the time, cyclists will be sharing the road with motorists, so a few words to the wise:

Be sure to wear comfortable clothes, and a bike helmet is mandatory. A good road bike will be suitable for the most popular on-road routes in Haralson County, but if you want to be able to cycle on rougher terrain, REI suggests that you should choose a hybrid bike instead. Be sure to take a basic repair kit to take with you.

To keep yourself and/or your companions in good working order, be sure that you carry plenty of water and high-energy snacks. If you are new to longer distance cycling, work yourself up to a major ride. ♥ VWG

Southernquilttrails.com



Visitharalson.org

BUDAPEST, GEORGIA



In the late 1800's, three wine-making communities were founded in Haralson County. By 1907, the passage of the Prohibition Act in Georgia spelled the doom of our new industry. The pioneering Hungarians who became part of the Georgia soil lie in the Budapest Cemetery, many of the graves marked with names which sound foreign to these parts.

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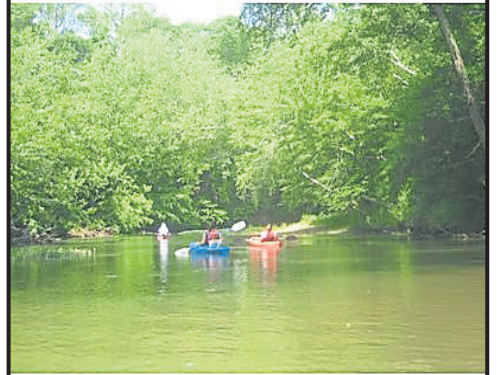
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Closed on Sunday

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EXPERIENCE Haralson County Dub Denman Canoe Trail



Trout Rodeo



West Georgia Mud Park



Photo credit West GA Mud Park

Bremen, Buchanan, Tallapoosa, Waco

Check our events at:
visitharalson.org

West Georgia Mud Park

4000 U.S. Highway 78, Tallapoosa

There's something about engines roaring, gears grinding and machines doing amazing things that stirs the blood. Add to that the smell of exhaust and the sight of mud slinging in all directions from massive tires, and you get the **West Georgia Mud Park**.

This is where boys – and quite a few girls – go to play in the mud, and in a big way. During summer weekends, this patch of ground far away from city lights is the scene of heavy metal thunder and red clay rainstorms. These massive machines love to wallow in the mud, and the bystanders who come by to watch have their own massively great time.

The park is located about four miles northwest from Interstate 20 Exit 9, or about 4.25 miles southeast of downtown Tallapoosa.

It features huge mud pits, as well as 200-foot drag pits, that are carefully watered to maintain the perfect consistency of mud. Admission is \$15, with kids 10 or under being admitted free. The events alternate on weekends between ATV and the kind of heavy machines that guarantee maximum mud throws: mega trucks and rock bouncers.

The mud park is a family-owned and operated facility that first opened in December 2011. The operators currently hold between three to four large events a year, two of which are weekend long events. The facility has everything from deep hole bogging, to dam jumps, to drag racing and race course events.

If you are into bogging and truck races and everything connected with rip-roaring fun, this is the place to be. So, for some extreme recreation, head on out to the Mud Park and watch the action. Just be careful of all that red clay mud flying through the air. ♥VWG

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The Dub Denman Canoe Trail

Tallapoosa

Imagine a 27-mile watercourse that flows through scenic natural beauty.

Each year, thousands of water enthusiasts – from experienced kayakers to inner tube navigators – make a pilgrimage to Haralson County and the **Dub Denman Canoe Trail**, a unique water trail along the Tallapoosa River and a connecting point to the Alabama Canoe Trail. Over the state line, the Tallapoosa runs into the Coosa River to form the Alabama River, which runs all the way down to the Gulf Coast. The Dub Denman trail is part of the Georgia Water Trails Network.

There are four launch sites along the course, including three in Tallapoosa: 1085 Broad St.; 2122 Poplar Springs Road; and 4689 Georgia Highway 100. The final exit on the river before entering Alabama will be at Lazy River Rentals on Doe Valley Drive in Tallapoosa.

The **Tallapoosa River** is one of the cleanest rivers in the west Georgia area. It's also easy, as the water flows at a slow steady pace. Be prepared to portage over some of the shallower portions of the stream, but overall expect to just enjoy yourself and the scenery as well. While the course takes you past a few private properties, you will be among trees, wildlife and plants growing on the river bank.

The Dub Denman trail is named after a retired maintenance director for the State Department of Industry and Trade, who knew every inch of the waterway and worked tirelessly to promote the idea of its creation.

Once, the Tallapoosa River was important to the Creek people who lived along its shores. Today, the river supports much of the county's agricultural needs. Fishermen will find spotted, largemouth, and redeye bass, as well as several unique non-game fish species.

If you are visiting the area and happen to find yourself without a kayak, canoe or even a spare inner tube, don't fret. Tallapoosa Paddling Co. at 10 Arbacoochee Road in Tallapoosa is an outfitter that offers river packages, as well as a private boat shuttle service. ♥ VWG



A 15-foot wide model of the old Lithia Hotel, built in 1890, now graces the museum. It was once considered the largest wooden structure in the South. With over 100 rooms, it contained a large ballroom, pool tables, and other amenities that attracted many visitors from the North. The well preserved guest register books show that the Vanderbilt's once visited the hotel. In the early 1900 period, this grand hotel lost its popularity and was finally closed.

The West Georgia museum of Tallapoosa was started when, in 1990, a group of citizens met to form an organization that would preserve both the history, and natural history of the West Georgia area. Once underway, a museum board was chosen by the Tallapoosa City Council, and old laundry building was donated and the rest is history.

From a 5,000 square foot building, the museum moved into new quarters in 2000, which now encompasses a 15,000 square foot facility that is a great asset to the West Georgia area.

The museum showcases our local history by having a series of mock stores that represent businesses that area: an old shoe shop, a dentist office, a barber shop, log cabin, general store, and others tell a story of the area. Antique cars, a horse and buggy, a mail wagon also add to the historical aspect of the museum.

Haralson County has a varied array of flora and fauna. A 30 foot diorama features wildlife of the region, Along with a large display of dinosaurs, including a 30 foot T-Rex that thrills youngsters for miles around.

West Georgia Museum has something for everyone. It continues to command respect from all who pay a visit to this wonderful institution.

Call 770-574-3125 for tours and information
Hours: Monday - Friday 9-4pm // Saturday 11- 3pm // Closed Sunday



Lodging List

CARROLL COUNTY

Banning Mill, 205 Horseshoe Dam Road, Whitesburg. 770-834-9149

CARROLLTON

America's Best Value Inn and Suites, 1111 Bankhead Hwy., Carrollton. 770-830-1000

Budget Inn Of Carrollton, 405 Columbia Dr., Carrollton. 770-832-1171

Cottage Hill Inn, 104 S. Cottage Hill Road. 770-838-0508

The Carroll Inn, 1485 U.S. Hwy 27 N., Carrollton. 770-832-9081

Courtyard By Marriott, Carrollton, 180 Barnes Ave. Carrollton. 678-664-5200

Crown Inn, 102 Royal Crown Court, Carrollton. 770-838-1336

Econolodge, 1202 South Park Street, Carrollton. 770-832-2611

Efficiency Lodge, 780 Bankhead Hwy., Carrollton. 770-832-7901

Great Western Inns, Carrollton, 180 Centennial Road, Carrollton. 770-214-0037

Hampton Inn, 102 South Cottage Hill Road, Carrollton. 770-838-7722

Holiday Inn Express, 104 South Cottage Hill Road, Carrollton. 770-838-0508

Quality Inn, 700 South Park Street, Carrollton. 770-834-2600

Royal Inn & Suites, 1007 N. Park St., Carrollton. 770-832-9445

Super 8, 901 US Hwy 27 South, Carrollton. 770-834-2001

INTERSTATE 20

EXIT 24

Comfort Inn & Suites, 132 Highway 61 Connector, Villa Rica. 678-941-3401

Days Inn, 195 Highway 61 Connector, Villa Rica. 770-459-8888

EconoLodge, 124 Highway 61 Connector, Villa Rica. 770-459-6669

Fairbridge Inn Express, 128 Highway 61 Connector, Villa Rica. 770-459-8000

Hometowne Lodge, 120 Highway 61 Connector, Villa Rica. 404-375-6222

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Foxhall Resort, 800 Capps Ferry Road, Douglasville. 404-495-5977

INTERSTATE 20

EXIT 26

American Inn & Suites, 615 Edge Road, Villa Rica. 770-459-5793

EXIT 34

Holiday Inn Express Atlanta West, 7101 Concourse Pkwy, Douglasville. 770-920-9228

InTown Suites, 5820 Plaza Parkway, Douglasville. 770-920-5252

La Quinta, 1000 Linnenkohl Dr., Douglasville. 770-577-3838

Lee's Motel, 9191 Hwy 5, Douglasville. 770-942-7322

Sleep Inn, 7055 Concourse Pkwy, Douglasville. 770-920-8887

Exit 36

Hampton Inn, 6371 Douglas Blvd., Douglasville. 770-577-2110

EXIT 37

America's Best Value Inn, 5481 Westmoreland Plaza, Douglasville. 770-949-4926

Bilbo's Motel, 5964 E. Broad St., Douglasville. 770-942-1166

Comfort Inn, Westmoreland Plaza, Douglasville. 678-504-2000

Days Inn, 5489 Westmoreland Plaza, Douglasville. 770-949-1499

EconoLodge, 8304 Cherokee Blvd., Douglasville. 770-489-4863

Efficiency Lodge, 2420 Fairburn Road, Douglasville. 770-949-4573

FairBridge Inn Express, 8315 Cherokee Blvd. 770-949-3090

Quality Inn, 5479 Westmoreland Plaza, Douglasville. 770-949-5730

Royal Inn & Suites, 8366 Duralee Ln., Douglasville. 770-942-1036

Sunwestern Suites, 8462 Earl D. Lee Blvd., Douglasville. 770-949-8000

EXIT 44

Budgetel Inn and Suites, 1270 Waterway Cir., Lithia Springs. 770-739-5990

Candlewood Suites, 913 Bob Arnold Boulevard, Lithia Springs. 678-238-1980

Comfort Inn & Suites, 960 West Pointe Ct., Lithia Springs. 678-945-0945

Courtyard by Marriott, 950 Bob Arnold Blvd., Lithia Springs. 678-945-4444

Hampton Inn Atlanta Six Flags, 999 Bob Arnold Blvd., Lithia Springs. 770-745-9990

Hilton Garden Inn West/Lithia Springs, 110 Interstate West Parkway, Lithia Springs. 770-949-8980

Holiday Inn Express Theme Park, 850 Crestmark Dr., Lithia Springs. 770-941-5384

Inn at Lithia Springs, 976 West Pointe Ct., Lithia Springs. 770-739-2800

InTown Suites, 637 Market Cir., Lithia Springs. 770-948-8331

Motel 6, 920 Bob Arnold Blvd., Lithia Springs. 770-941-6464

My Place Economy and Extended Stay, 907 Bob Arnold Boulevard, Lithia Springs. 770-672-7373

Spring Hill Suites, 960 Bob Arnold Blvd., Lithia Springs. 770-819-9906

Quality Inn and Suites, 1100 N. Blairs Bridge Road, Austell. 678-354-2518

HARALSON COUNTY

INTERSTATE 20

EXIT 11

Hampton Inn, 28 Price Creek Road, Bremen. 770-537-9001

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, 125 Hwy 27 Bypass, Bremen. 770-537-3770

Microtel Inn & Suites, 104 Price Creek Road, Bremen. 770-537-8000

Motel 6, 35 Price Creek Road, Bremen. 770-537-4646

BREMEN

Quality Inn & Suites, 1077 Alabama Ave., Bremen 770-824-5105

Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park, 106 King St., Bremen. 404-855-2778

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Super 8 Motel, 788 Georgia Hwy 100 South, Tallapoosa. 770-574-5575



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visi georgia, Spring 2017 27

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