

# PICK ELLIJAY Georgia

GEORGIA'S APPLE CAPITAL  
OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE

Orchards • Vineyards • Festivals  
Live Theatre • Outdoor Adventures  
Shopping • Dining



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## ANNUAL FESTIVALS & Special Events

### JANUARY

**The Black Bear Plunge**, an annual tradition at Fort Mountain State Park, is a fun way to start the year off with a thrilling plunge into the lake.

**The Chili Run** is a New Year's Day tradition for local kayakers to paddle the icy waters of the Cartecay River, followed by hot chili and a bonfire on the riverbank at the Cartecay River Experience.

**Cherry Log's Craddock Center** holds its free Songs and Stories event featuring a guest speaker from the southern Appalachian region, as well as performances by musicians who call the mountains home.

### FEBRUARY

**Wine about Winter** is a weekend full of ground hog games, food, live music, a murder mystery dinner, and delicious wine at Ellijay Wine Country vineyards.

### MARCH

**"St. Petrick's Day"** is a fun day for pets and their owners with a parade, contests, music and vendors in downtown Ellijay.

### APRIL

**Earth Day** is celebrated with volunteer litter cleanup or beautification projects to keep Gilmer County beautiful.

**Ellijay Farmer's Market** is open for business Saturdays, in late April through early October from 8am to noon, on Broad Street adjacent to the courthouse in downtown Ellijay.

### MAY

**The Georgia Apple Blossom Festival** brings hand-selected, regional vendors offering food, art, crafts, a business expo and more, the first weekend in May, next to the Gilmer Chamber in East Ellijay.

**The Cartecay River Cleanup** is a volunteer effort headed up by the Cartecay River Experience. Grab a tube or kayak and help keep our rivers clean!

**The Garden Club of Ellijay Annual Plant Sale** features plants from some of the best gardens in Ellijay.

**Run for the Son 5K, Fun Run & Tot Trot** benefits the Gilmer Christian Learning Center.

**Taste of Ellijay** brings local food vendors, as well as crowds eager to taste their specialties, to downtown Ellijay the Thursday before Memorial Day.

**Memorial Day** ceremony remembers America's fallen veterans at the Veterans Memorial Bridge and Garden inside Ellijay River Park.

### JUNE

**The Garden Club of Ellijay** displays locally-grown floral displays at its summer flower show at the Gilmer County Library.

**Gilmer Saddle Club Rodeo** features bareback bronc riding, barrels, calf roping, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, team roping. IPRA, SPRA sanctioned.

**Plein Air, Art in the Mountains** Regional artists, working outdoors, "en plein air," creating art based on the stunning views and vistas of the beautiful north Georgia mountains.

### JULY

**Independence Day** in downtown Ellijay includes a day of music, a parade in the early evening, and fireworks at dark.

### AUGUST

**The Gilmer County Fair** brings fun rides, games and music to town the first week of August at the Lions Club Fairgrounds.

### SEPTEMBER

**Dancing Goats FolkFest**, an old mountain shindig, features a juried folk art show, live music, storytelling, children's activities and vittles in downtown Ellijay.

### OCTOBER

**The Cherry Log Festival** kicks off the fall fest season the first two weekends of October at the Cherry Log Community Clubhouse.

**Apple Classic Auto Show** is held the 2nd Saturday featuring all makes and models.

**Apple Festival 5K, Fun Run & Tot Trot** benefits Gilmer High School's cross-country program.

**The Georgia Apple Festival Parade** courses through downtown Ellijay, featuring floats and other entertaining entries.

**The Georgia Apple Festival** takes place the second and third weekends of October at the Lions Club Fairgrounds with lots of food and arts and crafts vendors.

**Apple Arts** is an easy-to-browse offering of arts, crafts and food the second and third weekends of October on Broad Street, in downtown Ellijay.

**Halloween on the Square** is a festive and safe community event, with trick or treating, fun and games.

### NOVEMBER

**Veterans Day** is celebrated with a day of special events for those who served, including a parade and program around the downtown square.

**Light Up Ellijay** kicks off the Yuletide season the weekend after Thanksgiving with a parade, a visit from Santa and a tree lighting on the downtown square.

### DECEMBER

**Festival of Trees** features Christmas trees decorated by local organizations throughout the Gilmer County Library.

For up to date events and more information visit [www.pickellijay.com](http://www.pickellijay.com) calendar of events.



### APPLES

Ellijay is the Apple Capital of Georgia with more than 10 Apple Houses and over 500 acres of orchards producing 650,000 bushels annually. During the springtime you can enjoy the beautiful apple blossoms. July brings the beginning of the apple season with apple picking beginning around Labor Day. Apple season continues through the fall with dozens of varieties available at each house as well as activities for the whole family at many.

### MOUNTAIN BIKING

Ellijay is also the Mountain Bike Capital of Georgia. Ellijay has more than 10 trails with 100 miles to ride with experience levels from Black Diamond on the Pinhoti Trail: P3 to beginner at Talking Rock Nature Preserve. Ellijay is also home to Cartecay Bike Shop, one of the best bike shops in the USA, as well as Mulberry Gap—a local all inclusive lodging, dining and shuttle service for bike enthusiasts.

### DOWNTOWN ELLIJAY

Downtown Ellijay provides everything you desire in a quaint mountain town from delicious restaurants and taverns with live music, fantastic shopping and memorable festivities and parades.

### VINEYARDS

Ellijay Wine Country has six vineyards with more opening in the next few years. Find unique tasting rooms with gorgeous views, delicious wines, live music and more.

### GEORGE LINK JR., GILMER ARTS PLAYHOUSE

The playhouse was a fabulous new addition to Downtown Ellijay in 2017. This beautiful venue brings the finest in musical and theatrical entertainment, along with their local monthly jam session Acoustic Blends.

### ANTIQUÉ & JUNKTIQUE

If you like to search for the perfect antique piece, or maybe an older piece of furniture to re-purpose into something new, Ellijay is by far the best destination to hunt for treasures.

### EXPEDITION: BIGFOOT

A trip to the North Georgia mountains wouldn't be complete without a bigfoot encounter. Just a few miles north of Ellijay in Cherry Log, visit Expedition: Bigfoot. If you weren't a believer before, this museum will give you all the reasons to believe by the time you leave.

### WHITEPATH GOLF COURSE

The golf course itself is a reflection of the mountains which surround it. The 8 acre Whitepath Lake and the Ellijay River highlight several other creeks and ponds spread out along the course. This course is challenging to the low handicap golfer, yet friendly to those with higher handicaps. Whitepath Golf Club is truly a golf enthusiast's dream.

### TAKE A HIKE

Ellijay is an Appalachian Trail community, but we are also home to the Benton MacKaye Trail. Fortunately you will find trails for all experience levels from expert to family friendly in our surrounding forest areas.

### APPALACHIAN TRAIL

Whether you plan to hike to Maine, hike a section or just enjoy a day on the world's most famous trail, you can do so. The Appalachian Trail southern terminus is located in the northeast corner of the county.

### STATE PARKS

Ellijay is located thirty minutes from two of the best state parks in Georgia. Fort Mountain State Park is located off Highway 52 West, and offers a lake, hiking trails, camping, putt putt, and plenty of other activities for your family to enjoy. Located off Highway 52 East is Amicalola Falls State Park, with the largest cascading waterfall east of the Mississippi River.

### TUBING

Ellijay has three major rivers—the Coosawattee River, Cartecay River and the Ellijay River. Our local outfitters can provide everything that you need for a day on the river. Enjoy a nice relaxing float down the Coosawattee or grab a kayak or tube and enjoy the challenge of the Cartecay.

### FISHING

Fish the deepest lake in the state, Carters Lake, for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, spotted bass, crappie, walleye, bream, and catfish. You can also fish for beautiful varieties of trout in our cool streams and rivers. If you aren't an experienced angler, feel free to have one of our local guides take you.

### CARTERS LAKE

With 62 miles of natural shoreline, and no private docks or development along the edge, there is no pretentiousness on Carter's Lake. Your family can enjoy one of the many hiking and mountain biking trails, camping, swimming, boating or fishing.

### FARM STORES AND FARM ANIMALS

Many stores in Ellijay offer Georgia Grown products. You can find seasonal produce, grown locally, at many of our farm stores and markets. You can also see farm animals and learn about farming.

### DINING

Ellijay has more than 30 delicious restaurants from one of the best craft beer bars in the country to the perfect spot for Sunday brunch. Enjoy fine dining, pet friendly porches and live music at one of the many dining options available in Ellijay & East Ellijay.

### PET FRIENDLY

Don't leave the furbabies at home. Ellijay offers several pet-friendly lodging options as well as many restaurants that offer outdoor eating areas that are pet friendly. Head out to the vineyards and sit on the patio with your best friend. You will even find some great shops with pet accessories and treats.

### CABINS

Experience a true mountain vacation in a gorgeous cabin. Your cabin can be tucked away in the woods, at the top of the mountain with gorgeous views, or sitting on a river or stream.

### UNIQUE LODGING

Sleep under the stars in a Geodome or stay in a vintage air stream. Glamping at Elatse' Yi is the perfect place to stay and enjoy a unique glamping experience. If luxury is more your style book a room at a local, beautifully appointed bed and breakfast.

### THE VIEWS

Whether you ride your mountain bike to the Bear Creek Overlook, take a scenic drive over Fort Mountain, watch the sun set over the dam at Carters Lake, or just look up at the fall leaves from your hammock on the river—Ellijay will provide the view for you.

Plan your visit to Ellijay by visiting our website [www.pickellijay.com](http://www.pickellijay.com), or one of our two welcome centers:

**Gilmer Chamber & Welcome Center**  
696 First Ave East Ellijay, GA 30540

**Downtown Welcome Center**  
10 Broad Street Ellijay, GA 30540

or give us a call 706-635-7400.

Connect With Us On:



[pickellijay.com](http://pickellijay.com)