

Ellijay

2023
VISITORS GUIDE

Cheers!

THE REGION'S
THRIVING WINE
COUNTRY
IS CALLING
YOUR NAME

Exciting
Outdoor
Recreation
for Everyone

Take A Bite

ENJOY THE
DELICIOUS
BOUNTY OF
GEORGIA'S
APPLE CAPITAL



THESE ARE "THE GOOD OLD DAYS"

Childhood doesn't last forever, but the memories do. In Ellijay, your kids can play in the woods, chase fireflies, explore the great outdoors, and so much more. Come create memories that last a lifetime in our corner of the world.



SCAN HERE



FOR MORE FAMILY FUN!



WELCOME



We welcome you to Ellijay, Georgia, the home of three rivers, eight wineries, 13 apple farms, and endless opportunities for outdoor recreation. Whether you're looking for a romantic weekend wine tasting, or you want a fun-filled vacation with the kids, Ellijay has what you're looking for. Where else can you explore the mystery of Big Foot lore, kayak on Georgia's deepest lake, and challenge

yourself on the trails of Georgia's Mountain Bike Capital, all in the same weekend! New for 2023, each month, we will be giving away special gifts to our visitors, so be sure to stop by one of our Visitor Centers to see how to get your special gift (trust us, you'll want to play along) and follow us on social media to see what each month's gift will be. We look forward to welcoming you. Thank you for choosing an Ellijay getaway!

Jennifer Grimmer

President & CEO
Gilmer Chamber

GILMER DOWNTOWN WELCOME CENTER

10 Broad Street, Ellijay, GA 30540
(706) 635-7400 | Fax: (706) 635-7410
info@gilmerchamber.com | gilmerchamber.com
Hours: Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m

GILMER CHAMBER & WELCOME CENTER

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SAVE THE DATE

Ellijay's annual roster of events is packed with celebrations, festivals, food, and fun

BY SYDNEE MUTUKU



Apple Arts Festival



For more information about these events and others, visit gilmerchamber.com

January

BLACK BEAR PLUNGE

Fort Mountain State Park

Ring in the new year with an exhilarating dive into a chilly lake at this annual tradition for adventure lovers.

CHILI RUN

Cartecay River Experience

Take a kayak onto the icy waters of the Cartecay River for the traditional Chili Run, then thaw out with steamy hot chili and riverbank bonfires afterward.

February

SONGS AND STORIES

The Craddock Center

Spend an afternoon enjoying a free performance with musicians and storytellers highlighting Appalachia's unique culture and traditions.

WINE ABOUT WINTER

Ellijay Wine Country Vineyards

Explore Ellijay's beautiful vineyards and unique wines during a weekend of live music, appetizing bites, and entertainment for all.

April

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Downtown Ellijay

Lend a helping hand and keep Gilmer County clean during Earth Day activities with volunteer work and beautification projects.

GEORGIA MOUNTAIN TRAILS FEST AND 5K

Harrison Park

Celebrate the outdoors with a 5K run along the trails of Harrison Park, outdoor gear vendors on the river, food trucks, live music, and an educational experience.

WOOFSTOCK ELLIJAY

Downtown Ellijay

Sponsored by Friends of Gilmer Animal Shelter (FOGAS), this event features specialty pet vendors, a pet parade, a '70s themed pet costume contest, and a dock-diving competition. Animal shelters and rescuers will be on site with adoptable pals.

May

GEORGIA APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Gilmer Chamber & Welcome Center

Spend the first weekend of May browsing local arts and crafts at this juried show in East Ellijay. Bring the little ones for kid-friendly activities such as rock climbing, bounce houses, and face painting.

PLEIN AIR - ART IN THE MOUNTAINS

Various locations

Enjoy a weekend of outdoor painting or "plein air" at various scenic sites around Gilmer

County. Participate in a quick-draw competition and bid on art to take home at the auction.

RUN FOR THE SON 5K

Gilmer Scout Hut

Test your endurance at the 17th annual Run for the Son 5K, which goes through historic downtown Ellijay. Join the activities at the one-mile Fun Run and a Tot Trot dash for the kiddos.

ELLIJAY FARMERS MARKET

Downtown Ellijay

Visit an array of vendors for fresh local produce, homemade goods, and art each Saturday from 8:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m., May through October.

FUNGI 5K

Ellijay Mushrooms

Put the "fun" in fungi at Ellijay Mushrooms' inaugural 5K race, which will include vendors, mushrooms farm tours, mushroom-themed crafts, and of course, culinary creations made with all sorts of 'shrooms.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Ellijay River Park

Honor fallen veterans at the Veterans Memorial Bridge and Garden, and enjoy an entire weekend of family activities and patriotic observances.



Plein Air weekend

ELLIJAY SONGWRITERS FESTIVAL

Various Locations

Memorial Day weekend welcomes the first annual Songwriters Festival presented by PickEllijay. The event will be held at various locations around town, including wineries and the Gilmer Arts Playhouse.



Wine and Jazz Festival

June

BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS WINE AND JAZZ FESTIVAL

White Path Creek Farms

Sample wines from North Georgia and North Carolina as well as local cuisine, peruse fine art, and listen to jazz by local and regional artists.

HOLLA YELLA MUSIC FESTIVAL

White Path Creek Farms

Jam out in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains at this weekend festival featuring a diverse lineup of musical acts in genres such as bluegrass, Americana, indie, blues, jam band, and roots.

GILMER COUNTY SADDLE CLUB RODEO

Gilmer County Saddle Club

This action-packed annual rodeo includes bull riding, barrel racing, bareback riding, and more.

July

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Downtown Ellijay

Celebrate July 4th with live music, a parade, plenty of food, fireworks, and more festivities in downtown Ellijay.

August

GILMER COUNTY FAIR

Ellijay Lions Club Fairgrounds

Bring the whole family and enjoy traditional fair rides, live music, an art exhibition, quilts, agriculture, canning, baking, needlework, photography, and more.



ELLIJAY BBQ FESTIVAL

Location TBD

This festival will feature mouth-watering smoked meats, retail vendors, and a Southern Soul Show that will be a tribute to R&B and soul artist Bobby Womack.

September

ELLIJAY BACON FEST

Downtown Ellijay

Everything tastes better with bacon—sample all kinds of dishes made with bacon, watch a bacon-

eating contest, browse arts and crafts vendors, and enjoy live music at this porky shindig.

October

GEORGIA APPLE FESTIVAL

Downtown Ellijay

Locals and visitors from far and wide come to celebrate Ellijay's biggest annual event featuring hundreds of vendors offering handmade arts and crafts and apple goods of all kinds. Events include an apple parade, classic auto show, and tons of family-friendly activities.

APPLE ARTS FESTIVAL

Downtown Ellijay

The sister event to the Georgia Apple Festival, this takes place on the second and third full weekends of October and focuses on arts and crafts on the square in downtown Ellijay.

CHERRY LOG FALL FESTIVAL

Cherry Log Community Clubhouse

Cherry Log's harvest celebration features musical entertainment, art, a variety of home-canned and baked goods, and fun for the whole family.



Light Up Ellijay

DANCING GOATS

FOLKFEST

Gilmer County River Park

Every year Dancing Goats Folkfest brings the community together in celebration of Southern Appalachian culture through a juried folk-art show and sale, live homegrown music, storytelling, and delicious foods.

SCARECROW INVASION

Harrison Park

Sip hot chocolate and view homemade scarecrow exhibits at this annual autumn tradition, where prizes are awarded to the most popular entries. View scarecrows after dark at the Moonlight walk on the first Friday of October.

December

LIGHT UP ELLIJAY

Downtown Ellijay

Ellijay's annual twinkling light display kicks off the holiday season and features a festive parade celebration, the tree lighting, a meet-and-greet with Santa, and more jolly activities.



**October
14-15 & 21-22**



Spotlight: Georgia Apple Festival

For 53 years, Ellijay has celebrated its most well-known and abundant harvest at this annual tradition at the Ellijay Lions Club Fairgrounds. For two action-packed weekends, locals and out-of-towners gather to celebrate all things apple-related, including about 300 vendors selling hand-crafted items, doing on-site craft demonstrations, and offering up mouthwatering foods. Indulge in everything red, ripe, and juicy with offerings like apple fritters, apple doughnuts, apple cider, apple pies, and more. Even though you can't pick apples at the festival (most orchards are closing their picking season by this time), local apple houses offer a variety of delicious, already-harvested fruit for purchase from local orchards. Other festival programming includes the annual Apple Festival Parade in downtown Ellijay, the Apple Arts Festival, the Apple Classic Auto Show, and the Apple Festival 5K Road Race. Admission is \$10; children under 12 are free. The Ellijay Lions Club, the Gilmer County Chamber of Commerce, the cities of Ellijay and East Ellijay, and Gilmer County host this local favorite.



Ellijay Explorations

Get inspired by these itineraries for an escape to Gilmer County, whether it's for the family, a girls' weekend, or you and your furry best friend **BY DENISE K. JAMES**

Teen-Friendly Family Time

The second you lure them away from their handheld devices, teenagers are difficult to please. Fortunately, plenty of teen-friendly fun exists in Gilmer County, from famous mysteries to games to watersports, so bring the whole family.

Think back to camping trips featuring tales of mysterious beings in the forest—were they real? The **Expedition BigFoot: Bigfoot Museum** presents evidence and accounts from those who swear they saw the famous beast, so you can decide for yourself.

Are your growing adolescents hard to feed lately? Treat everyone to lunch at the **Pink Pig**. This mainstay of North Georgia, often compared to Atlanta's Varsity, is known for delicious sweet tea, scratch sides, and enough flavorful Southern fare to satisfy the family.

Get outdoors and into the fresh air with **Cartecay River Experience's** watersports. Rent a kayak or a tube, and let the kids and adults enjoy either the Adventure River (including whitewater) or the Lazy River, rain or shine.

Want the family fun to continue all evening? Rent overnight lodging from **Blue Sky Cabin Rentals**; choose from beautiful mountain or water views, and get back to nature.

Girls-Only Getaway

Ask a few besties (or your mom, sister, or daughter) to join you for a ladies-only retreat with no-fail fun. From yummy bites to shopping to local wine, it's sure to be an unforgettable time.

Day One

An antique emporium of over 8,000 square feet and more than 30 sellers, **Southern Flare** is where you'll find the perfect piece to take home. They're open daily from noon until 6 p.m., which is a good thing, since you can spend hours browsing.

Located on a sprawling 20 acres and featuring mountain views to calm your mind and spirit, **Ott Vineyard & Winery** is the ideal place to enjoy a glass of wine

and light appetizers. Go for live music on the weekends or even challenge yourself at open mic on Tuesdays.

For the best of both worlds, visit **Ellijay River Vineyards**. This beautiful vineyard offers waterfront views of the Ellijay River, a cozy, personable feel and elevation of more than 1,400 feet.

Don't trouble yourselves with choosing a restaurant—wind down in the comfort of a cozy cabin with dinner prepared by a private chef. You can't go wrong with **Bootlegger's Bistro**.

Day Two

Refresh and recharge with an incredible spa morning at **Imbali Wellness Spa**. Choose a relaxing massage, indulgent skincare service or, for something a bit more outside the box, a 60-minute

Reiki session, guaranteed to center you for the day ahead.

Treat yourselves to the **Engelheim Vineyards Tasting Room** for a light lunch of local charcuterie, paired expertly with wine and set against an Appalachian backdrop.

Complete the day with a final tasting at **Fainting Goat Vineyards**, where you can pair your glass with a picnic lunch or supper—then explore downtown Jasper afterward!

Top to bottom: Ott Vineyard & Winery, Imbali Wellness Spa



A Doggone Good Time

Don't leave your pets out of the fun! Pack a leash and some treats for the road and come spend a day with your furry family members.

Start with a nice morning stroll at **Harrison Park** of Ellijay, which is just a short distance from downtown Ellijay and known for being dog-friendly with beautiful riverfront views.

After the park, you and your pup can pick up a tasty breakfast at **Mr. P's**. This institution has been serving Southern food for more than 40 years, and the biscuits are homemade each morning.

You and your fur baby can explore downtown Ellijay together, as plenty of shops and local eateries will welcome your dog. Some include **Back Porch Bistro**, **Kasei Sushi**, or **Boardwalk Pizza** for lunch—and **Paws & Claws Thrift & Gift Store** for shopping.

Staying the night? Find lodging for you and your pet with local cabin companies: **Mountain Oasis** and **Dragonfly Dreams** both have pet-friendly options.

Don't forget to visit downtown Ellijay in April 2023 for **Woofstock!** This '70s-themed festival for you and your dog features a parade, vendors, and The Ultimate Air Dogs Diving Competition.

Top to bottom: Downtown Ellijay, Mr. P's, Harrison Park



Thinking Green

For earth-friendly types (and shouldn't everyone be?) Gilmer County has numerous agritourism options for appreciating nature's bounty.

Craving a juicy burger but concerned about animal welfare? Visit **Mountain Valley Farm Store**, where you'll discover grass-fed beef and free-range pork and lamb from humanely treated animals.

Planning to make apple pie, apple cider, or apple...whatever? Head straight to **Red Apple Barn**, **Hillcrest Orchards**, or **B. J. Reece Orchards**, to name a few!

Every gourmand appreciates mushrooms, and **Ellijay Mushrooms** has the fungi you seek. Featuring shiitake and oyster mushrooms grown on more than 170 acres, these 'shrooms are sure to elevate your cuisine.

Want to bring home fresh produce or an elegant bouquet? **Harvest Moon Farms** will fill your bag with organic fruits, vegetables, and beautiful, fresh-cut flowers. Don't miss U-pick options throughout the year, here and at other area farm markets.



Top to bottom: B. J. Reece Orchards, Ellijay Mushrooms, Mountain Valley Farm Store





Where the Locals Go

La Catrina

Four Ellijay residents share their favorite eateries in town **BY JENNIFER SENATOR**



Daisy Wright Luther

OWNER, SUNSHINE PASTURE FARMS

A fifth-generation farmer, Daisy Wright Luther and her husband raise organic, pastured poultry. "It's rare that you get to say that you grew up enjoying and learning from the same hills, creeks, and hollers that your grandparents and their parents before them enjoyed," Luther says. "The pastures, the creek, and animals...it's all part of a sense of home to me."

ALL-AROUND FAVORITE RESTAURANT

"We love **The Pink Pig** so much that we had them cater our wedding. It's traditional barbecue made with love and a little bit of flair."

BEST PATIO

"I love the open-air patio at **Ellijay Cigar Lounge**. Even if you don't smoke cigars or pipes, they have organic French-pressed coffee that can be enjoyed from a cozy spot on the porch."

BEST INTERNATIONAL CUISINE

"The Thai chicken curry, ramen char sui bacon, and bao buns at **The Shack of Ellijay**. Their Thai chicken curry is comforting to the soul."

BEST DESSERT

"A slice of **The Cantaberry's** Death by Chocolate cake, a sinful little three-layered chocolate cake. Pair it with a cup of decaf after dinner."



Courtney Bramlett

CYBER SECURITY PROFESSIONAL

Eating local is important to Courtney Bramlett, whose mother-in-law owns Mr. P's, a treasured Ellijay takeout spot. "I love that most of the restaurants here are one-of-a-kind. You're dining in family-owned restaurants, so your money stays local."

BEST TAKEOUT

"For breakfast, nothing beats an egg and cheese biscuit with fried green tomatoes at **Mr. P's**."

BEST COCKTAILS/PATIO

"The rooftop patio and dining room at **The Roof** is such a fun and relaxing atmosphere. My favorite cocktail is an Old Fashioned."

BEST LOCAL HANGOUT

"**Ellijay Coffeehouse** is the perfect spot to grab coffee; you can't go wrong with a large cappuccino and the Appalachian sunrise panini."

BEST DESSERT

"**Abby's Ice Cream and Frozen Yogurt**—the cheese-cake yogurt as the base, peanut butter on top, and chocolate sprinkles."



Jono Agurto

PORTFOLIO EXECUTIVE, ZURICH INSURANCE, AND VOLUNTEER, GILMER COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

While Jono Agurto and his family have vacationed in Ellijay for nearly 20 years, he and his wife moved here full-time in 2020 and haven't looked back. "I love the simplicity of Ellijay," he says. The Agurtos support both local restaurants and nonprofits, especially the Gilmer County Animal Shelter.

ALL-AROUND FAVORITE RESTAURANT

"Every Thursday we go to **El Rey**. I like their fajitas and margaritas—they make excellent house margaritas with fresh ingredients. We also love The Roof. There are great views of downtown Ellijay; I always get the bologna sliders."

BEST BREAKFAST/BRUNCH

"We've been going to **Cornerstone Cafe** for 15 years. I like their biscuits and gravy and country fried steak."

BEST PATIO

"The patio at **Boardwalk Pizza** is a great local hangout. It's a long boardwalk, and a nice spot to people-watch. The new owners are really bringing it back to life."



Greg Dickson

GROUNDSKEEPER, CHATEAU MEICHTRY

Dickson moved to Ellijay four years ago and says he has one regret: "I wish I had come here 20 years ago." After selling his landscaping business in Peachtree Corners, he now works part-time at Chateau Meichtry. "I do a little bit of everything there because it's really just the friendliest place to be."

ALL-AROUND FAVORITE RESTAURANT

"I love Mexican food and **La Catrina** is the best. It's a hole-in-the-wall, but they make the best margarita in town. And I love their guacamole salad."

BEST BREAKFAST

"**The Smokehouse Country Grill** has a really good breakfast bowl with the works—grits, home potatoes, peppers, onions, sausage, bacon, and eggs. And they have fabulous pancakes."

BEST TAKEOUT

"**Cartecay River Pizza Company** is the best pizza around. I get the Clear Creek pizza with all the vegetables and meat. It's a rib-stickin' pizza."

BEST DESSERT

"I love the homemade ice cream at **Mountain Valley Farm Store**. They even have a bacon flavor."

What's in Store

Shopping local is always a highlight of a mountain-town visit—don't miss these seven stops worth browsing

BY LIA PICARD



Clockwise from circle:
Black Bear Antiques,
Hey Baby Boutique,
Misty Hollow Antiques



Ellijay's proximity to the Southern Appalachian mountains makes it an explorer's paradise—but don't miss the shopping opportunities, either. From adorable baby clothing to one-of-a-kind antiques, here are seven stores to visit in Gilmer County.

Misty Hollow Antiques

Those looking for something unique for their home are sure to find it here. You never know what you'll find in this eclectic antiques store, from knickknacks to wall decor and even large-scale furnishings. There's a hodgepodge of new items available, too, from fuzzy slippers to farmhouse decor. It's a great spot to find a gift for that special someone.

Hey Baby Boutique

Located in downtown Ellijay, this shop might have "baby" in the name, but there's something for everyone. There are darling clothes for your tiniest family member as well as toys and accessories, but also gifts such as cooking accessories and home decor for the adults in your life.

Belle's Boutique

This is a one-stop shop if you're a woman on the hunt for new clothing and accessories. Belle's has it all, including stylish dresses, casual jeans, and cute tops. You can even find comfy leisurewear for those days that you just want to relax in the mountain cabin.

North Georgia Diamond

A big box jewelry store rarely provides you with the same

level of customer service that an independently owned shop like North Georgia Diamond does. As the name suggests, they have plenty of diamond jewelry to choose from—and knowledgeable in-house jewelry design services.

Roots Thrift Store

This thrift store supports the nonprofit Fostering Roots, a ministry for foster children. Here, you'll find gently used clothing, shoes, and accessories. They also accept donations from those who have collectible books and other items they'd like to offload for a good cause.

Cabin Fever Quilt Studio

Owner Connie Cameron learned to sew when she was 8 years old, and she hasn't stopped since. At Cabin Fever, she shares her passion with other quilters through an impressive selection of fabrics and patterns. The studio also offers classes if you want to take your quilting skills up a notch.

Black Bear Antiques

A sprawling storefront contains many treasures at Black Bear Antiques. Dozens of vendors have booths dedicated to antique furnishings, lighting, and home decor. Some of the vendors also carry modern collectibles, such as Pokemon cards and costume jewelry, for those who want a little sparkle.

Apples of Our Eye

FROM LATE
SUMMER
THROUGH
EARLY FALL,
THE POPULAR
FRUIT IS RIPE
FOR THE
PICKING

By Fran Worrall

Ellijay is known for many things, including hiking trails, antique stores, wineries, and a charming historic district. But perhaps its biggest claim to fame is the yearly apple harvest. After all, Ellijay is Georgia's Apple Capital, producing tens of thousands of bushels annually in more than 30 varieties.

The season, which runs from August through December, typically peaks between September and mid-October, coinciding with the area's spectacular fall foliage. Many Ellijay orchards offer pick-your-own options, and most feature stores filled to the brim with apple delights, including cider, preserves, and baked goods as well as baskets of the freshly picked fruit. Some orchards also sell other seasonal produce, such as pumpkins, peaches, and peanuts.

The Georgia Apple Festival has been held in Ellijay since 1971 and is an event for visitors (including pets) of all ages. Spread over two weekends in October, it boasts more than 300 vendors with hand-crafted items, on-site demonstrations, live music, food concessions, and kids' activities. There's also a parade, a 5K race, and a classic car show. Thousands of apple fans show up for the festival each year, sampling everything from fresh fried pies and buttery dumplings to barbecue and bratwurst. A smaller version of the festival—Apple Arts—is held on the square in downtown Ellijay during the same weekends, with a shuttle service providing transportation between the two events.

Then, there are the orchards and farm markets. One of the most popular is Hillcrest Orchards, a fourth-generation business that features a wide variety of family-friendly activities in addition to apple picking. Open seasonally





Right: Hillcrest Orchards;
 Below and below right:  Penland's Apple House



from September through November, Hillcrest offers wagon rides, a petting farm, playgrounds, and more. Each day, on-site bakers turn out dozens of homemade apple pies, cider doughnuts, and apple fritters that can be enjoyed on the spot or taken home to eat later. In the farm market, shoppers can sip fresh-squeezed apple cider or indulge in a cider slush,

the orchard's specialty drink. The store also sells local honey, pickles, jams, jellies, and fudge as well as t-shirts, toys, kitchen gadgets, and an assortment of other goods.

During Hillcrest Orchards' Apple-Pickin' Jubilee weekends, held in September and October, visitors can fill their bags with apples while enjoying live entertainment ranging from bluegrass

bands to clogging groups. Other activities include swimming pig races, cow milking, mini golf, and a new Farmhouse Fun Zone that features a carnival-style shooting gallery.

Another popular orchard is Penland's Apple House. Dating back five generations to 1936, this family-run business not only grows more than a dozen varieties of

apples and peaches, it also produces pumpkins, nectarines, and a large assortment of vegetables, including cabbage, cucumbers, field peas, green beans, okra, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes. Its store stocks local honey and sorghum syrup as well as freshly made salsas, relishes, hot sauces, and salad dressings. Shoppers can purchase those hard-to-find food favorites, too, like pickled peaches, pickled

okra, and candied jalapeños. Gift items include handmade soaps, candles, Christmas ornaments, children's books, puzzles, and apparel.

Penland's is famous for its tasty ciders and slushies in a variety of flavors—apple, blueberry, cherry, muscadine, peach, scuppernong, and strawberry. Other specialties of the house include homemade fried apple pies, apple fritters,

apple chips, boiled peanuts, and fried pork skins. Open from June through November, the orchard operates two retail locations.

With so much to see and do during apple season in Ellijay, it's no wonder that a trip to the scenic town is at the top of every apple lover's bucket list. There's no better way to embrace autumn than by indulging in the fruit of the season. Here's to apple-picking time!

Ellijay is Georgia's Apple Capital, producing tens of thousands of bushels annually in more than 30 varieties.

Savor the Flavor

Most of these area apple orchards and farm markets are open seasonally, and some offer pick-your-own options. Contact each business (see Resources on page 44) for details and hours.

Aaron Family Orchards offers a large selection of jams, jellies, honey, syrups, chutney, relishes, and baked goods as well as custom gift baskets.

B.J. Reece Orchards features apple cannons, a corn maze, pony rides, and a petting farm, along with a bakery filled with fried pies, donuts, and breads.

Hillcrest Orchards ramps up family fun with cow train rides, giant slides, a vortex tunnel, and a petting farm. It also boasts an apple tree maze, the first of its kind in the Southeast.

Mack Aaron's Apple House is open all year, serving up more than 10 kinds of homemade fried pies and selling a variety of jams, jellies, ciders, honey, and other goods.

Panorama Orchards & Farm Market offers more than 20 varieties of apples as well as homemade ice cream and fudge and made-from-scratch goodies like applesauce bread and apple brandy cake.

Penland's Apple House grows a wide assortment of fruits and vegetables, and its market features everything from ciders and salsas to peanuts and pork skins.

R&A Orchards is open year-round and sells seasonal produce, including fresh strawberries in the spring. There's also a well-stocked market and a cafe.

Red Apple Barn offers a U-pick pumpkin patch, a Family Fun Barn, a farm market, and its own cookbook filled with local recipes.

Stover Mountain Orchard is one of the few all-organic apple farms in Georgia. It is open only by appointment.

Ginger Gold

RIPENS: August

FLAVOR: Slightly tart with bright acidity

FUN FACT: The original Ginger Gold seedling was discovered on a Virginia farm six years after Hurricane Camille blew through in 1969.

Gala

RIPENS: Mid-late August

FLAVOR: Sweet, juicy, and crisp. The perfect apple to munch straight to the core.

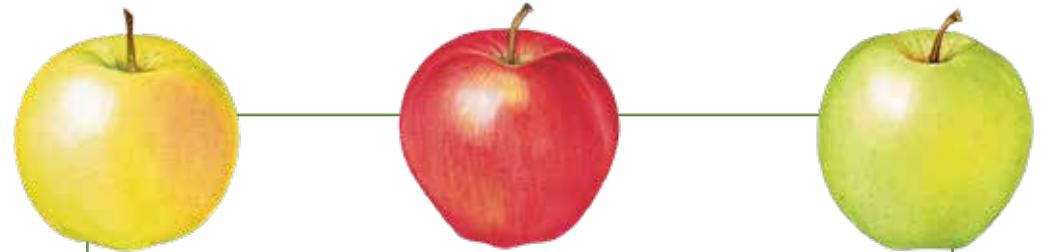
FUN FACT: Gala is the country's best-selling apple, but you'll find different strains in the South than in other parts of the U.S.

Mutsu

RIPENS: September–October

FLAVOR: Super juicy, sweet, and tart with a hint of spice

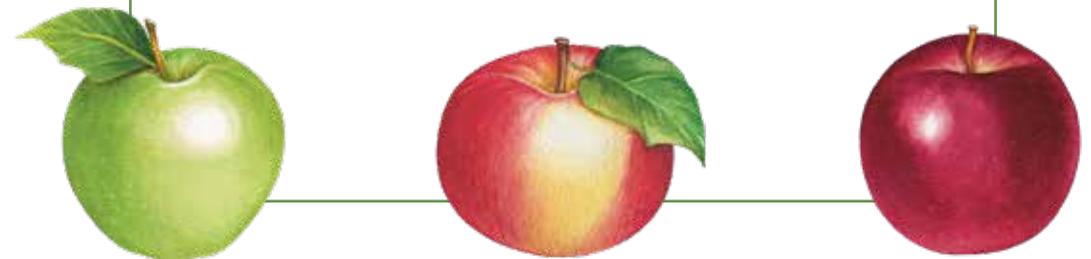
FUN FACT: This yellow-green apple was introduced from Japan in the mid-20th century, and is sometimes referred to as Crispin in the U.S.



Prized Specimens

Gilmer Country produces dozens of apple varieties. Here are some favorite types you'll find while visiting the orchards.

Illustrations by Debbie Choi



Granny Smith

RIPENS: October

FLAVOR: Very tart and firm, making them famously great for baking into pies

FUN FACT: According to legend, the first Granny Smiths grew after a farmer's wife—Maria Ann Smith—tossed her crab apple core out of the kitchen window, and it cross-pollinated with another variety.

Yates

RIPENS: October–November

FLAVOR: Juicy, tender, and aromatic

FUN FACT: This heirloom variety was discovered in Fayette County, Georgia, in the 1840s and remains a popular local favorite for making into cider or jelly.

Arkansas Black

RIPENS: Late November

FLAVOR: Crisp and tart with notes of cherry and spice

FUN FACT: This heirloom apple, which was brought from Arkansas in the 1870s, can be starchy when fresh-picked, but the flavor mellows with time, making it a good variety to put away for the winter.

Stay Awhile



THREE UNIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS IN ELLIJAY PROMISE A MEMORABLE GETAWAY

By Kelundra Smith



Mulberry Gap

Georgia pines swaying in the breeze and blue mountain vistas are just the beginning of the breathtaking natural beauty in Ellijay. From water sports and rafting to sprawling orchards and wineries, this charming North Georgia town has something for everyone. It's the perfect weekend getaway, and the accommodations are as welcoming as the people. Here are three unique experiences you won't find anywhere else.

Mulberry Gap

Sing-alongs, snacking on s'mores, and swimming are just a few of the activities that make summer camp great. At Mulberry Gap Adventure Basecamp, adults and kids can feel like they're at camp year-round. Their 10 cabins sleep anywhere from two to six guests, and come outfitted with towels, plush bathrobes, a mini-fridge, microwave, and everything visitors need for a fun stay in the mountains.

"You have to send yourself to camp from time to time," says Tori Barrett, the business development manager at Mulberry Gap. "There's bonding with others, enjoying nature, toasting marshmallows, having beers around the fire, and getting in the hot tub. There are so many things we must do on a daily basis, but this is a chance to do something you want to do."

The property features a variety of different cabins, with an option for any party size and aesthetic.



Mulberry Gap

The Squirrel's Nest is a two-story cabin with a picture-perfect spiraling staircase, two queen beds, and one twin bed. The Pond Nook sleeps up to five guests and has a private kitchenette. Nestled in the woods near the hot tub is Trail's End, which sleeps up to four guests in a queen bed and a bunk bed. For those looking for something a bit more quaint, the Fox Den and Pinhoti Way have one bunk bed, plus all the other amenities. Shared restrooms are available to all guests in the bathroom.

Watch the sunrise and sunset while sitting in one of the Adirondack-style chairs on the porch. The porches also have hooks to hang bicycles. The cabins are surrounded by biking and hiking trails, which feature routes for all experience levels.

The atmosphere is ideal for solo travelers, families, and corporate groups who can drive, bike, or hike to the cabins. Make new friends in the dining hall where they serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day—the Saturday night brisket barbecue is a local favorite. Or

head into town to try one of the area's delicious restaurants.

Conveniently located near downtown Ellijay, Mulberry Gap is great for glampers as well as those who want to rough it. They offer mountain biking skills clinics; group runs; and opportunities to earn wilderness first aid and CPR certificates. The friendly staff can also arrange shuttles for wine tours or ziplining adventures.

"We really consider ourselves the desk of the forest," says Barrett. "We are a one-stop-shop, and we want to be welcoming to everyone."

Talona Ridge RV Resort

One of the newest stays in Ellijay is Talona Ridge RV Resort, which opened in November 2021. Talona Ridge sets a new standard for RV travel with its enchanting views of the mountain from which it gets its name. The 46-acre resort is equipped with everything RV travelers need, including filling stations, wireless internet service, and laundry facilities.

"In this industry, something that makes us stand out is our staff," says Susannah Ellis, communications director for Talona Ridge. "We have guest specialists at our welcome center and they are the friendliest people you'll meet."

The resort has 141 total spaces and is divided into three sections by preferred elevation. Eagle Crest is at the highest level and is near the pool, fitness center, and Grand View Hall, where

local bands play most weekends. Falcon Ridge is the middle section, which has 37 spots and pickleball courts. Six of the units on this level have private decks to enjoy the scenery. Hawk Valley is at the lowest elevation and is near the dog park and dog-washing station for the animal lovers. Each site has propane hookups, firepits, a grilling area, bathroom suites, laundry facilities, and pavilions.

In addition to premium amenities, the staff regularly hosts BINGO, trivia, and happy hour nights. On the weekends, look for food trucks and crafts for the kids. The staff can also help arrange local excursions for those looking to venture through North Georgia.

If you're visiting for the holidays, inquire about the special events, such as the couples' dinner on Valentine's Day, 4th of July golf cart parade, football game-watching parties in the fall, and Friendsgiving potluck at Thanksgiving.

Talona Ridge sets a new standard for RV travel with its enchanting views of the mountain from which it gets its name



Talona Ridge RV Resort



Ellijay River House Bed & Breakfast

“Expect the unexpected” is at the heart of the Ellijay River House. Before starting the bed and breakfast, husband and wife Keith and Karen Kreager both worked corporate jobs and raised their family near Atlanta. The day after Karen retired, Keith got laid off. Wondering what to do next, they took their severance and purchased a one-of-a-kind brick craftsman home located on the Ellijay River.

Three years later, the Ellijay River House is a destination for girls’ trips, couples’ retreats, and anyone looking to experience a home away from home in North Georgia. As the only B&B in downtown Ellijay, it is convenient to local restaurants and attractions. The Kragers recommend shopping at local boutiques, tasting Georgia wine at one of the local vineyards, and visiting Amicalola Falls State Park and Fort Mountain for a day in the sun. “People will say they didn’t think there’s anything to do and then they get here and wish they had stayed another day,” says Karen.

The B&B features four unique rooms designed by Artful Ellijay Provisions. Karen says that each room is meant to feel like a getaway. For the outdoorsy types, the Three Rivers room is decorated with rustic, green details and is named after the three rivers that run in the city—the Cartecay, Coosawatee, and Ellijay Rivers. The Magnolia room lives up to its name with blue, pastel floral printed wallpaper and a view of the 90-year-old magnolia tree on the property. With warm colors from floor to ceiling, the Wild Flower is the only room with two beds for a fun weekend with friends.

Fill the Fridge

Get provisions for your stay at these local purveyors

CC’s Seafood and More
Get sustainably caught local seafood from North Georgia waters, locally grown meat and produce, as well as wines, honeys, jams, and dry goods at this new family-owned outpost.

Ellijay Mushrooms
Yes, you read that correctly. The shiitake and oyster mushrooms on this sustainable mushroom farm are sure to make your next dish pop.

Mountain Valley Farm Store
If you’re looking for grass-fed, pasture-raised meats, this is the spot. With more than a century in farming, the beef, lamb, and pork here is hard to beat. You can also pick up stone-ground grits, eggs, and fresh churned butter.

Panorama Orchards & Farm Market
More than a dozen varieties of apples only scratches the surface of what this East Ellijay

country store has to offer. Open year-round, seven days a week, they carry sweet peaches, strawberries, fried pies, fudge, veggies, and more.

North Georgia Meats
Unless you’re a farmer, this butcher shop is as close to straight from the source as it gets. With a different selection each day, they offer bulk hamburger meat, fresh chicken, pork ribs, and turkeys around the holidays.

R&A Orchards
As one of the largest markets in the area, this is the place to grab a variety of apples, Vidalia onions, greens, potatoes, tomatoes, and just about anything that grows in Georgia.

Reece’s Cider Company
Crisp, cool refreshing hard apple cider is a treat year-round. Visit Ellijay’s newest spot to try four unique hard ciders—from sweet and spicy to bourbon-aged—and take a bottle home.

Plush and pleasant coalesce in The Retreat, which is the most popular room for those celebrating anniversaries and honeymoons.

Once they’re settled in, guests can enjoy homemade breakfast and desserts during their stay. Keith leads breakfast service, making everything from buttermilk pecan waffles to eggs benedict depending on the day. In the evening, Karen sets out homemade desserts, such as spice cake with cream cheese frosting and oatmeal cookies. A full coffee bar is available all day. For those looking for an extra sweet escape,

upon request, the Kragers can also arrange for strawberries, Champagne, or gift baskets of local wares to be in the rooms at check-in.

Outside of the rooms, the home is full of unique touches, including a colorful glass bottle house where visitors can enjoy a cup of tea, wine, or enjoy a good book. There is also a firepit out back with all the fixings to toast marshmallows or make s’mores.

“We try to make guests feel as comfortable and at home as possible,” says Karen. “I love seeing guests gather in the parlor together and eat dessert.”

Welcoming Plates

THREE ELLIJAY RESTAURANTS
MATCH SMALL-TOWN VIBES
WITH STANDOUT EATS

By Vené Franco



The Roof



The eclectic restaurant options in Ellijay present savory discoveries for food lovers—be they locals, weekenders, or the just-passing-through sort. On any given day, diners can enjoy everything from Southern staples to international noshes and all-American comfort favorites. Explore a winning mix of menus and merriment starting with a rooftop oasis, a New Orleans-inspired haunt, and landmark roadside joint.

Heady View

Perched above the rest, it's hard to beat The Roof for its panoramic viewpoint. The restaurant offers Appalachian-inspired cuisine, spirited comradery, and endless

mountain scenery. Dine indoors or outside atop this historic building (the old Andy's Jewelry site) near the square. Originally built in the 1800s, the structure was renovated thanks to Matt Bond and Jason Boutwell. The businessmen turned restaurateurs opened the rooftop venue in August 2020.

Upstairs, the indoor kitchen, bar, and dining room are surrounded by a horseshoe-shaped deck with tables and counter seating that overlooks the town, historic cemetery, treetops, and further out, Rich Mountain and the Cohutta Wilderness Area.

At the restaurant, outdoor heaters, misters, and shades keep the temperature regulated year-round, and as December approaches, colorful lights strung

On any given day, diners in Ellijay can enjoy everything from Southern staples to international noshes and all-American comfort favorites

MAKE AT HOME

Roof Shrimp Cakes

SERVES 4-6

A nice variation on crab cakes; the restaurant serves these with Cajun remoulade and a good Sauvignon Blanc.

INGREDIENTS

Shrimp Cakes:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound peeled and deveined shrimp, chopped into ½-inch pieces
- 1 cup panko (Japanese breadcrumbs)
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- 1 ½ teaspoons fresh chopped garlic
- 2/3 cup Duke's Mayonnaise
- 1 ½ teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon lemon zest
- ½ teaspoon Dijon mustard
- ½ teaspoon Old Bay Seasoning
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon Louisiana Hot Sauce
- 1 ½ teaspoons Kosher salt
- Dash of pepper to taste

Cajun Remoulade:

- 1 cup Duke's Mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon Kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
- ½ teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon minced celery
- Dash of pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

In a large mixing bowl, combine all shrimp cake ingredients, except shrimp and panko. Gently fold in shrimp, then panko. Portion into 3-ounce patties. Use wax paper between cakes to prevent sticking. This can be done up to a day ahead. Mix all remoulade ingredients and set aside. In a pan, heat the olive oil, and sear the shrimp cakes until they reach a nice golden brown on both sides. Garnish with a sprinkle of chopped parsley and serve with lemon wedges. Use the remoulade as a dipping sauce for shrimp cakes or paint the plate to be "chefy."

along the balcony cast a charming glow. Executive chef Coleman Hill, a graduate of Le Cordon Bleu Atlanta, oversees the menu, which changes seasonally. Must-try entrees include blue oyster mushroom ragu meatloaf with smashed potatoes and green beans; and Appalachian trout stuffed with lemon slices and thyme, served with sauteed broccolini and bacon-jalapeño cheddar grits. Bar offerings include domestic and craft beers (IPAs, sours, stouts, and porters), local Reece's Cider on tap, wine, and signature cocktails, including one named after the infamous Hatfield and McCoy clans.

Cajun Comfort

Cajun Depot Grill is a modest cafe with nods to New Orleans in the decor and tributes to authentic Louisiana cooking on the plate. Located just outside of the square in downtown Ellijay, the restaurant is in The Crossings building, built in 1892, next to the old train depot. Before becoming chef/owner, Heather Criswell worked the front of the house as a server. "I could never stay out of the kitchen," she says. After attending the culinary program under Chef David Drake at North Georgia Technical College in Blairsville, she helped open a couple of other restaurants but was drawn back to the Depot when she heard the previous owners were retiring. "I knew I should be the one to own the restaurant," Criswell says. She and her husband, Tony, took over the restaurant a couple of years ago.

The dining room is laid back, with a come-as-you-are atmosphere. "Our customers can enjoy a stuffed catfish and a bottle of wine at our bar while watching the game or spend an evening in your favorite little black dress while you devour a shrimp po'boy and



Cajun Depot Grill

MAKE AT HOME

Crawfish Étouffée

SERVES 4-5

"Étouffée means smothered, which is something we often do in Southern cooking," says Cajun Depot Grill's chef/owner Heather Criswell. "We start our fricassee with the 'holy trinity' of bell pepper, onion, and celery, and then we head straight to the argument of étouffée being a stew or a gravy." It's a lot easier to make than people think, she says.

INGREDIENTS

- ½ pound unsalted butter
- 1 onion, diced
- ½ red bell pepper, diced

- ½ green bell pepper, diced
- 1 celery stalk, diced
- 2 tablespoons fresh garlic, finely chopped
- 1-1 ½ tablespoons blackened seasoning
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ¾ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 quart seafood stock (shrimp or chicken stock work well)
- 1 cup crushed tomatoes
- 1 pound peeled crawfish (or shrimp)
- ¼ cup green onions, chopped for garnish)

INSTRUCTIONS

Melt butter over medium high heat in large Dutch oven. When melted, sauté onions, peppers, celery, and garlic until onions are translucent. Add seasonings and flour and stir constantly until flour begins to lightly brown. Whisk in stock and tomatoes until fully incorporated. Reduce heat to simmer and cook for 15-20 minutes or until desired consistency. Add crawfish and cook until heated through, about 3-5 minutes. Serve over white rice and garnish with chopped green onion.



Cajun Depot Grill



The Chili Dog

MAKE AT HOME

The Chili Dog Coleslaw

SERVES 6-8

"It's available as a side dish but it's the star of the show for our slaw dogs and our B.A.D. Dogs (deep-fried, bacon-wrapped hot dog served with chili cheese and slaw)," says chef/owner Jennie Burnette.

INGREDIENTS

- 16 ounces diced coleslaw mix ("we grind ours even finer than the typical ¼-inch dice")
- 1 cup mayonnaise ("not reduced fat and not Miracle Whip")
- 2 ½ tablespoons sugar
- 1-1 ½ teaspoons salt
- 1-1 ½ teaspoons pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

Like all great Southern recipes, follow your heart and your taste buds. Some people like it a little sweeter, some like it with more pepper. Mix mayonnaise, sugar, salt, and pepper in a bowl first. Add the diced cabbage and stir until well combined. Always taste before serving. This can be served immediately if you used cold mayonnaise. If using room temperature mayonnaise, it's best to let it chill in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours.

an ice-cold Abita Amber," says Criswell. If the mood strikes for a Sazerac, Vieux Carré, or Hurricane, these cocktails are served here, too. Popular menu items include seafood gumbo prepared with whitefish, shrimp, and crab claw; crawfish étouffée; and fresh Louisiana oysters and Mississippi catfish.

Fast Favorites

Granted, cinnamon buns are not the first thing that come to mind at a joint called The Chili Dog, but as restaurant owner Jennie Burnette explains, "Locals know breakfast is our jam." They, of course, serve the namesake item as well as loads of tots and fries to go with burgers, chicken sandwiches, BLTs, salads, and other fast-food favorites. Homespun milkshakes are offered, too. But it's the morning menu that has working folks and tourists scrambling for eggy and meaty breakfast biscuits and sandwiches, biscuits and gravy, French toast sticks, and huge cinnamon rolls (made fresh daily) with the tagline "grab one to share with your group."

Burnette, an Ellijay native, commands the grill and has owned the place for 11 years. She says she's tried to change the name of the busy roadside stop but people kept calling it The Chili Dog, so she gave up trying and leaned into its history. The modular building was built in 1969 and is the oldest restaurant in town. The long, rambling trailer and its porch are easy to spot. Look for the oversized, painted chicken on the side of the building. The wooden cutout, which went for \$600 at a charity auction (Burnette lost out), was a gift from the highest bidder. The quirky interior decor includes old town signs, treasures found by her dad, who owns an antiques shop in nearby Cherry Log.



A Little Baked Bakery

Ellijay Bakeries on the Rise

These spots offer sourdough, sweets, sandwiches, and more delightful provisions

Ellijay is home to not just one good bakery but five spots for breads and sweet treats. Find them in new eateries, a to-go concept, a second location of a popular coffeehouse, and one cherished hangout.

A Little Baked Bakery

What started as a side hustle for baker Jen Leifheit-Little has come into its own, thanks to sugar, flour, butter, and support from friends, family, and business partner Charity Meints. Their cheery bakery and tearoom offers bestselling pecan bars, Kentucky butter cake, cherry pie bars, and mini Key Lime pies, to name just a few items. Beverages include coffee from Dynamite Roasting Company in Black Mountain, North Carolina, plus

cider, housemade hot chocolate, and Rishi Tea.

Arlowe's Bakehouse

Artisan baker Justina Kukla grew up in her parents' cafe, learning to make sourdough from her dad. Her selection goes on for days: city and country sourdough (including a New York-style bagel and an aged cheddar loaf), cinnamon roll focaccia, fudge espresso brownies, and cardamom crumb cake. Special blends from local roasters Alma Coffee and Barrel House Coffee are offered, too.

Das Kaffe Haus

This second location of this European-inspired coffee shop and bakery (the first is in nearby Blue Ridge) sits on the square in downtown Ellijay. A few counter

seats at the front windows provide a perfect perch for people-watching and enjoying a cup of coffee. Pretty displays of fresh desserts and pastries are the main attraction. Bavarian-born owner Michael Fuerst's offerings vary, depending on season, but include apple strudel, strawberry and mocha cupcakes, hazelnut croissants, Nutella and banana turnovers, and New York blueberry cheesecake.

Ellijay Coffeehouse

Owner Amber Kirkpatrick oversees this sprawling "living room" and patio popular for meetups. Sustaining the crowd are sweets like the bestselling raspberry jammies (buttery thumbprint cookies), mocha java cookies, housemade doughnuts (Matcha Man and Spice Chai are favorites), plus savories from the panini menu. The pressed sandwiches use classic white bread made onsite daily. Coffee drinks include the Honey Bear Latte (honey, vanilla, and cinnamon) and the Big Foot Latte (cinnamon, chocolate, chipotle, and cayenne).

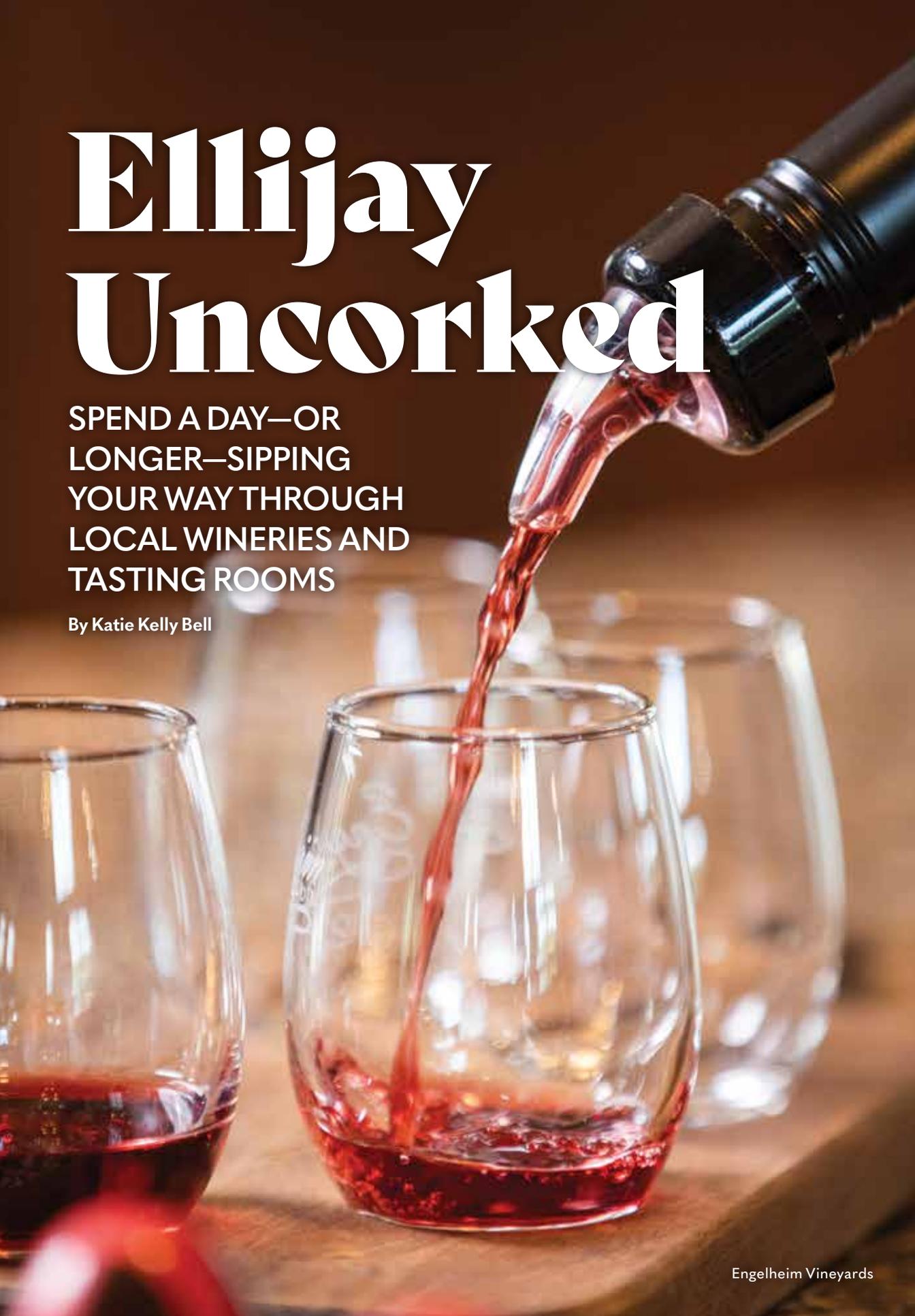
High Mountain Bread

Drummer-turned-baker Pedro Sanchez applies the same hardcore, DIY ethic of his punk rock days to his slow-fermented breads. "It takes so long to make our bread—three days—it's almost comical," he says. After attending culinary school, working at a roastery, and in wholesale, he pursued his passion: breadmaking. Specializing in organic whole grains, the takeout spot offers a plethora of loaves and pastries, plus sandwiches: old country sourdough, cranberry-walnut bread, jalapeño cheddar boule, prosciutto-tomato Danish, and a pastrami Reuben on sunflower rye. Perc coffee, housemade sweet mint tea, lemonade and habaero limeade, are here, too.

Ellijay Uncorked

SPEND A DAY—OR
LONGER—SIPPING
YOUR WAY THROUGH
LOCAL WINERIES AND
TASTING ROOMS

By Katie Kelly Bell



Engelheim Vineyards

Ellijay River Vineyards



The Southern Appalachian foothills surrounding Ellijay create a stunning setting for enjoying and producing wine. The area's sunny days, high elevation, and remarkable patchwork of soils provide all the ingredients needed to properly cultivate vineyards. Given the prime conditions, it should come as no surprise that over the past two decades, several new wineries have opened

their doors in this bucolic slice of North Georgia.

Wineries in the region take their hospitality as seriously as they do their wine, inviting visitors to come and spend a day, a weekend, or a week exploring a wide range of wine country offerings. Whether you prefer an in-depth tour and vertical tasting, a stroll in the vineyards, some live music, or something even more exotic such as a visit

to a winery's onsite monarch butterfly waystation, the wine-makers have stocked their cellars and rolled out the vineyard carpet to ensure a unique experience. It's also worth noting that the wineries are in easy proximity to one another, making a day or a weekend of touring more about the wine than the driving. Here's all you need to know to plan your next sunny weekend exploring the wineries of Ellijay.

Ellijay River Vineyards

Owner and winemaker Marijn Brummer and his wife, Lisa, operate their winery along the banks of the Ellijay River, which threads its way through their 20-acre property. Originally from the Netherlands, Marijn worked as an engineer in Atlanta before opting into a self-described “hefty” retirement making wine in North Georgia. He and his wife were fascinated by winemaking and the growing wine industry in and around Ellijay. They planted the first vineyard in 2011, placing a

primary focus on white wines. Today, Seyval blanc is the winery’s most popular expression. They also craft a bit of albarino, viognier, and gruner-veltliner (which he says the deer absolutely love), as well as three red varieties: cabernet sauvignon, merlot, and cabernet franc.

Located just a bit north of the town of Ellijay, the winery is unpretentious with a single barn that serves as both tasting room and winery. The destination’s most fetching attraction is the large swath of the Ellijay River that runs along the vineyards. Says Marijn, “Rain or shine, people

end up at the riverside seating area we created.” He lights a wood-burning fire on chilly days, and during warmer months guests are invited to step into the river and cool off. Swings, cornhole, and picnic tables round out the experience—accompanied as always by a bottle of Ellijay River Vineyards wine. A modest selection of snacks is for sale, but Marijn recommends bringing your own picnic provisions. And, if you find a particular wine you like during your visit, it’s probably best to buy it, as Brummer notes they sell out of many of their wines within weeks of release.



Ellijay River Vineyards



Chateau Meichtry

Chateau Meichtry

The McNeil family’s love affair with wine began well over a century ago when Stephan Meichtry emigrated from Switzerland to America with his own vine rootstock. Today, Meichtry’s granddaughter, Karin McNeil, along with her husband Bobby, son Justin, and daughter Courtney, own and operate Chateau Meichtry winery, continuing their family legacy

of winemaking. Tucked into a swath of serene hillside overlooking pasture land and vineyards, the winery shows Ellijay at its finest. Says Bobby, “When you arrive, you’ll feel as if you are in an oasis of vine and nature, and we want that. We want you to feel like you just drove up to a French countryside escape.”

Winemaking began in 2014, and they’ve had success cultivating zinfandel, chardonnay, and pinot grigio, but the American varietal norton is the star of

More Pours

Ellijay’s vineyards and wineries offer unique experiences to their guests

Buckley Vineyards

Enjoy your fill of live music, wine, and views at this charming winery—make a night of it and book one of their log cabins.

Cartecay Wine & Craft

Located in historic downtown Blue Ridge, this satellite tasting room offers a selection of Cartecay Vineyards’ wines and local craft beers.

Engelheim Vineyards

Bring the kids and the dogs to this multi-award-winning winery for a relaxing afternoon of premium wines and local Georgia bites.

Grapes and Ladders Vineyards and Winery

This family-run winery offers three tastes for \$5—and a nice lineup of live music on Thursdays and weekends.

Ott Farms and Vineyard

Tuck into one of their many Adirondack chairs and enjoy a glass of chenin blanc along with sweeping mountain vistas.

Roo Mountain Vineyards

Opening this year, this winery is just four miles from downtown Ellijay and will feature a 1,900-square-foot wine cave, expansive rooftop gardens, tasting room, and an outdoor amphitheater.



Scan this code to find more wineries and tasting rooms in Ellijay!



Chateau Meichtry

the winery. The Norton-based blend, George's Cuvee, with its compelling notes of plum, fig, and black pepper, recently won a gold medal at the Georgia Trustees Wine Competition.

Chateau Meichtry is more than a place to taste wine. The family spent the quiet days of the pandemic upgrading the winery's offerings to match the scenic splendor. Visitors have their pick of places to gather, from the newly created Treeline seating area, which sits adjacent to a natural wooded setting, to the lushly landscaped paved areas dotted with tables. If you'd rather ex-

plore, make time to walk through their greenhouse, which is home to 150 varieties of succulents, plants, and herbs. The property is also an official Monarch Waystation for migrating butterflies and keeps a state-of-the-art chicken coop—fresh eggs each morning is one of the perks of renting the winery's private villa.

The new concert stage is the winery's most dramatic upgrade. Outfitted with professional sound and lighting, the stage plays host to a full summer lineup of tribute bands, playing favorites covers from Jimmy Buffet to ABBA. The winery offers

provisions such as cured meats and cheeses, or you can wait for the food trucks to arrive on the weekends. "Weekends are lively here," laughs Bobby. "In fact, our biggest problem is that we tend to run out of wine."

A Different Taste

There's more than wine in Ellijay: Stop in one of these specialty watering holes for something different



Engelheim Vineyards



Ott Vineyards and Winery

Wineries in the region take their hospitality as seriously as they do their wine

Cartecay River Brewing Co.

Enjoy live music, a selection of craft brews, and bites from local food trucks all in a lovely riverside setting at this relatively new brewery in Ellijay.

House of Applejay

Taste the ultimate expression of Ellijay's finest apples in their freshly distilled Likor—a European term for distilled spirits flavored with fresh fruits, herbs, and spices.

Reece's Cider Company

Hard cider fans will love the locally crafted offerings here—taste through a flight of hard cider to discover your favorite or sip a local beer or wine.

White Path Distillery

Ellijay's first distillery makes everything from award-winning rum and moonshine to intriguing seasonal offerings such as apple and peach brandy.



Adventure Awaits

GILMER COUNTY OFFERS A WEALTH OF FRESH-AIR EXPERIENCES AND EXCURSIONS

By Jacinta Howard

If you can imagine an ideal outside adventure, chances are you can bring it to life in Gilmer County, where the opportunities to enjoy the lush landscape are nearly as limitless as the tree canopies that decorate the terrain. Fly fish in trout-ripe waters at picturesque Whispering Hemlock, mosey down the river in a tube or a pontoon at Carters Lake, horseback ride on wooded mountain trails, or enjoy a cold craft beer after an exhilarating kayaking romp on the Cartecay River. Fulfill your adventure desires with a custom-tailored outdoor experience like those listed below.

Kayaking

Whether you're looking for a serene escape, a rousing adventure, or something in between, you can find an experience to fit your fancy in North Georgia. The area is ripe for kayaking adventures, with the Cartecay River being one of the most popular locations to make memories on the water. Team up with Ellijay River Outfitters or Cartecay River Experience to rent your kayak and get shuttle service to your chosen destination. If you're an experienced kayaker, there are plenty of opportunities to brave robust class II and III rapids. If you're not an expert, that's okay too—a guide can help you through a tailored experience the entire family can enjoy, such as exploring the rugged shorelines, waterfalls, and hidden coves at Carters Lake.

Fly Fishing

Trout is the name of the game in the cold waters that flow in and around Gilmer County, including the Cartecay River, Ellijay River, and Mountaintown Creek. Those are the main tributaries of the Coosawattee River, which hold trout throughout the year,



Cartecay River

beckoning both newbies and experienced fly fishers. Reel 'Em In Guide Service has guided fly fishers of all skill levels with both wade and float excursions to Toccoa River and Noontootla Creek (choose the float aka boat excursion if you're more experienced). Ellijay's Lake and Stream Guide Service specializes in a charming, trout-friendly stretch of Mountain Creek called Whispering Hemlock, as well as excursions to Lake Blue Ridge, Lake Nottely, and private trout streams.

Camping

No matter what your camping style is, Gilmer County's rich scenery provides an ideal backdrop for an overnight stay. If RVing is in the cards, journey to

the southwest end of the Cohutta Mountains to Fort Mountain State Park, where you'll find platforms for RV hookups, along with backcountry campsites, tent-only walk-in campsites, and pioneer camping. At 3,200 surface acres, Carters Lake offers plenty of opportunity for a sparkling experience by the water with boat-in campsites enhanced by its beautiful backdrop. Bring the kids to family-owned campgrounds Diamond Lure and Plum Nelly, where proximity to local orchards provides plenty of nature-filled activities. If your camping vibe leans toward lavish, Ellijay's Tolan Ridge RV Resort has space for your luxury RV, a pool to enjoy the 360-degree mountain view, and nearby local vineyards and wineries to visit.



Mountain Biking

With more than 100 miles of scenic trails, photogenic Blue Ridge vistas, flowing streams, and lush woods, it's not surprising Gilmer County is the Mountain Bike Capital of Georgia. Refuel at Mulberry Gap, a biker-friendly haven where you can unwind with a cold craft beer or a soak in the hot tub before revving up to hit some of the best trails in the Southeast. At Bear Creek, you'll find trails decorated with towering trees and a mossy creek valley. Cohutta Cat is a 290-mile route with dreamlike scenery and challenging climbs. Gear up at Cartecay Bike Shop in downtown Ellijay for bikes, repairs, and advice on which locations to hit, such as the River Loop along the Cartecay River, the oldest mountain bike trail in the state.

Hiking

Moss-covered boulders, trout streams, fern-filled valleys, and sunbeams lighting your leaf-laden path await you on The Bear Creek Trail, one of the area's most popular day hikes. Cascading waterfalls greet hikers at Carters Lake's Tumbling Waters Trail, a one-mile round trip marked by dense ferns, old-growth trees, and a trickling creek, while the scenic mountain views at Fort Mountain State Park in Chatsworth make the popular 1.2-mile trail a highlight of any day trip.

Tubing

Beautiful water and exquisite natural scenery—it's no wonder lazy summer days spent tubing in the Cartecay River have become a favorite pastime. Looking for a more adventurous water experience? The rapids are a great

place to feed your adrenaline cravings. Pop by Ellijay River Outfitters or Cartecay River Experience for gear rental and shuttle service. After tubing, refresh yourself with Autumn Crisp Apple Ale from Cartecay River Brewing Co. in Ellijay.

Boating

One of the best places to enjoy North Georgia's idyllic scenery is on the water. Float your boat from the tree-lined shores of Carters Lake, which is marked with multiple public ramps. Rent a pontoon from Carters Lake Marina complete with a slide for the kids (or grown-ups who want to splash around). Afterward, fill up your boat and tummy at the marina, which offers gas and features a seasonal restaurant. If you'd rather spend your time in blissful silence, there's more than

Finding Fungi Fun

Mushroom hunting has grown in popularity, providing an opportunity to enjoy nature and forage for food, which studies have shown boasts many health benefits. According to Gilmer County resident and mushroom-hunting enthusiast Charis Lacey, the North Georgia mountains are a special region for mushroom foraging because of the damp forest floor and elevated terrain. It's best to mushroom hunt after a big rain, and you'll discover the largest variety of picks during July and August, including region-friendly varieties like Chanterelle, Reishi, Lion's Mane, and Chicken of the Woods. Follow these tips

for the most satisfying mushroom foraging experience.

Start with a field guide. Find guides in various North Georgia mushroom hunting groups online including on Facebook, or simply ask around. Lacey says she found her first guide at an apple house in town.

Never, ever eat anything if you aren't 100 percent sure what it is. It goes without saying that while the health benefits are plenty in some mushrooms, others are poisonous. "There are look-alikes to a lot of the main mushrooms," Lacey warns.

Prepare for a mushroom hunt as if you're hiking. Wear boots and pants.

Opt for a canvas bag. "Mushrooms are living," Lacey says. "If



you trap them in plastic and they can't breathe, they can become toxic."

Bring the kids. Little ones can burn energy and explore nature at the same time on a hunt. Lacey loves taking her kids with her. "They're lower to the ground, so their perspective is different," she explains. "They're also more in tune with nature. They just see things in different ways."

enough opportunity for quiet time fishing for trout, or simply exploring the pristine lake and coves.

Horseback Riding

What better way to explore the area's dazzling mountain trails than on horseback? Picture Perfect Adventures, located near Ellijay and Blue Ridge, offers tailored, guided horseback rides through a 90-acre private, wooded equestrian estate (a kid-friendly horse best for children 9+ is also available). Creek crossings and wildlife sightings enhance the natural wonders of the trail, and you can sweeten up your experience by booking a romantic sunset trail ride. For a dash of excitement that trades four-legged friends for wheels, book an ATV ride, and if you're not up for handling it, ask for a guide to go along for a side-by-side.



Tumbling Waters Trail

RESOURCE GUIDE



ATTRACTIONS

Appalachian Trail Rides

4100 Cutcane Road, Mineral Bluff
706-374-0362

Cartecay River Experience, LLC

2400 Highway 52 East, Ellijay
706-531-4746

Color My Nest

14244 Georgia 515 North,
Suite 900, Ellijay
512-937-2468

Ellijay River Outfitters

88 Holt Bridge Road, Ellijay
706-889-8697

Expedition: BIGFOOT!

1934 Highway 515 South,
Blue Ridge
706-946-2601

George Link, Jr. Gilmer Arts Playhouse

135 Dalton Street, Ellijay
706-635-5626

Gibbs Gardens

1987 Gibbs Drive, Ball Ground
770-893-1881

Gilmer County Historical Society/Tabor House & Civil War Museum

138 Spring Street, Ellijay
706-276-1861

In The Woods Studio, LLC

Ellijay
404-234-1793

Mountain Cinemas – Georgia Theatre Company

312 Highland Parkway, East Ellijay
706-515-3504

Mountain Valley Farm Store

2021 Homer Wright Road, Ellijay
706-889-1426

Noontootla Creek Farms

3668 Newport Road, Blue Ridge
706-838-0585

Picture Perfect Adventures

1630 Old Northcutt Road,
Ellijay
705-805-5059

Reel 'Em In Guide Service, LLC

Ellijay
706-273-0764

We Got Bounce

Talking Rock
404-465-1919

Zipline Canopy Tours of Blue Ridge

891 Old Cashes Valley Road,
Blue Ridge
800-251-4800

RESTAURANTS

A Little Baked Bakery

Creative pies, tortes, and other sweet creations that are as pleasing to the palate as they are to the eye. 128 North Main Street, Ellijay, 404-375-1651

Abby's Ice Cream & Frozen Yogurt

Downtown destination for fill-your-own fro-yo, gelato, and sorbet. 24 South Main Street, Suite E, Ellijay, 678-408-1119

American Legion Post 82

Veterans' org with riverside setting, American fare, and game nights. 297 Legion Road, Ellijay, 706-276-4878

Arby's

Home of curly fries and meat-stuffed sandwiches. 56 School Street, East Ellijay, 706-636-5315

Arlowe's Bakehouse

A delightful rotation of artisan breads, fancy pastries, and delectable seasonal goodies, with a catering option, too. 765 Maddox Drive, Suite 1, Ellijay, 815-451-6572

Back Porch Bistro

Handmade sandwiches, wraps, and vegetarian options, plus a dog-friendly porch. 10 Northside Square, Ellijay, 706-636-1111

Bavarian Chocolatier and Fudge Shop Downtown Ellijay

Downtown purveyor of fudge, macarons, and other confections. 4 Northside Square, Ellijay, 706-610-2010

Bluebird Bistro

Bagels, croissants, coffee, and teas for breakfast; wraps, paninis, and melts for lunch. Online ordering or dine-in option. 772 Maddox Drive, Suite 118, Ellijay, 678-899-9903

Boardwalk Pizza & Pub

Friendly downtown dive with cold beer, hot 'za, and an outdoor patio. 25 South Church Street, Ellijay, 706-273-2865

Burger King

Home of the Whopper and other fast-food staples. Highway 5 Appalachian Parkway, East Ellijay, 706-276-2999

Butcher & Bottle

Seasonal cuisine and cocktails—plus live music upstairs—in the heart of downtown. 24 River Street, Ellijay, 706-889-7937

Cajun Depot Grill

Authentic Cajun and Creole cuisine and Big Easy-inspired cocktails. 67 Depot Street, Suite 101, Ellijay, 706-276-1676

Cantaberry Restaurant

Downtown favorite for gourmet salads, sandwiches, and more. 5 Southside Square, Ellijay, 706-636-4663

Captain D's

Serving up batter-dipped fish and seafood platters. 253 Highland Crossing, East Ellijay, 706-515-2200

Charlie's Italian Restaurant

Homey spot for Italian favorites, including a variety of specialty pizzas. 15 Westcross Street, East Ellijay, 706-635-2205

Chick-fil-A

Homegrown chain specializing in chicken sandwiches and waffle fries. 475 Howard Simmons Road, Ellijay, 706-636-0475

The Chili Dog

Mainstay serving buttermilk biscuits, burgers, and a famous chili dog. 962 Industrial Boulevard, Ellijay, 706-635-4919

Chill Out Ice Cream & Eatery

Downtown hub for hand-dipped ice cream, hot dogs, and other sweet treats. 40 River Street, Suite A, Ellijay, 706-276-2611

Cornerstone Cafe

Offering friendly breakfast and lunch, from fluffy pancakes to juicy burgers. 76 North Main Street, Ellijay, 706-636-2230

Country Corner Kitchen

Local gem known for hearty breakfasts and a killer Cuban sandwich. 2020 Old Highway 5 South, Ellijay, 706-276-7077

Crossroads Grocery

Country store with made-to-order sandwiches and hand-dipped ice cream. 8994 Highway 52 East, Ellijay, 706-273-3764

Dairy Queen Grill & Chill

Home of Blizzards and other frosty treats, plus all-American eats. 1043 South Main Street, Ellijay, 706-635-2020

Das Kaffee Haus

European-style coffee drinks, lattes, cold brews, pastries, and strudels. 2 Northside Square, Ellijay, 706-299-4062

Domino's Pizza

"More than pizza," with wings, pastas, and sandwiches too. 91 Highland Drive, Suite 114, Ellijay, 706-697-3600

The Double L Restaurant

Long-running, cafeteria-style spot for Southern meat and veggies. 449 Industrial Boulevard, Ellijay, 706-635-5500

Dunkin'

Reliably tasty coffee alongside powdered and glazed treats. 600 Howard Simmons Road, Ellijay, 706-636-3865

El Burrito

Fresh Mexican fare—headlined by burritos—for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. 39 Maddox Circle, East Ellijay, 706-276-6464

Ellijay Coffeehouse

Quaint mountain coffee shop offering paninis, parfaits, and fresh-baked goods. 131 North Main Street, Ellijay, 706-635-5565

Ellijay Wood Fired Pizza

Downtown anchor serving authentic Neapolitan pies and specialty cocktails. 2 River Street, Ellijay, 706-707-4992

El Rey Azteca

Festive spot for sizzling fajitas, cold margs, and other Mexican favorites. 177 Highland Crossing, East Ellijay, 706-276-1515

Freedom Tavern

Burgers, wings, salads, and pub-style appetizers for a sports-watching crowd at this spot boasting the longest bar in north Georgia. 96 Craig Street, Suite 107, Ellijay, 706-636-3473

Hardee's

Chain known for charbroiled burgers and from-scratch biscuits. 1208 Industrial Boulevard, East Ellijay, 706-526-4638

Scan these codes to find Ellijay's vineyards, wineries, tasting rooms, and apple orchards!

WINERIES



ORCHARDS



RESOURCE GUIDE

High Mountain Bread

Come early for fresh-baked rustic loaves of sourdough, focaccia, rye, and ciabatta; stay for coffee and hand-made croissants or monkey bread, or for lunch, a Reuben or BLT. 91 Highland Drive, Suite 113, Ellijay 706-633-0803

The Hitching Post

Package store with drive-up window for taking home loaded pizzas and sandwiches. 740 South Main Street, Ellijay, 706-276-9924

The Honey Baked Ham Company

Go-to for family-size smoked hams, turkey, and sides. 29 Highland Drive #103, Ellijay, 706-276-2112

IHOP

Pancakes, crepes, and diner standbys 'round the clock. 90 Highland Crossing South, Ellijay, 706-698-4467

Kasei Sushi & Sake

Top-notch sushi and exotic sake in a downtown locale. 10 River Street, Ellijay, 706-851-2200

Krystal

Square-cut sliders by the sackful, plus fries and tots. 124 Highland Crossing, Ellijay, 706-273-2400

La Catrina Tacos & Margaritas

Street tacos, flavorful margs, and fresh Mexican fare in friendly digs. 101 South Main Street, Ellijay, 706-635-1520; 129 Maddox Circle, East Ellijay, 706-635-1521

Lin's Garden

Chinese favorites and an all-you-can-eat buffet. 772 Maddox Drive, East Ellijay, 706-635-6300

LongHorn Steakhouse

Casual-dining hub where grilled steaks headline. 30 Highland Crossing, East Ellijay, 706-515-0050

Marco's Pizza

Chain carrying custom and specialty pies and pizza bowls. 500 Highland Crossing, Suite 111, East Ellijay, 706-515-1515

McDonald's

Fast-food empire of Happy Meal and Big Mac fame. 943 Maddox Drive, East Ellijay, 706-276-1133

Mike's Ellijay Restaurant

Local haunt for meat-and-three meals and hearty breakfasts. 351 Tails Creek Road, Ellijay, 706-635-4381

Moe's Southwest Grill

Big burritos, walk-up service, and an enthusiastic greeting. 212 Highland Parkway, East Ellijay, 706-276-6070

Mr. P's Takeout Food

Mainstay known for homemade biscuits and the loaded Paradise Burger. 295 North Main Street, Ellijay, 706-635-4040

Mucho Kaliente Mexican Restaurant

Classic Tex-Mex spot offering daily lunch specials. 941 Maddox Drive, Suite 232, East Ellijay, 706-636-4192

Okinawa Restaurant

Fresh, creative sushi rolls and energetic hibachi tables. 130 Old Orchard Square, East Ellijay, 706-698-2222

Papa's Pizza to Go

Georgia-grown chain offering pizza, subs, and signature Piggy Stix. 9 Russell Drive, East Ellijay, 706-635-7020

Pink Pig of Cherry Log

Local icon serving pit-cooked barbecue in classic and fun preparations. 824 Cherry Log Street, Cherry Log, 706-276-3311

Pizza King

Pie chain with fresh-made dough plus pasta and hot sandwiches. 200 Old Orchard Square, East Ellijay, 706-635-6666

The Pub

Hangout with sports, live music, and American grub like wings and cheesesteaks. 941 Maddox Drive #230, East Ellijay, 706-972-4038

Pueblo Mexican Restaurant

Classic Mexican eats in a colorful, family-friendly setting. 29 Highland Drive, East Ellijay, 706-276-3838

R&A Orchards

Farm cafe where you can nosh on fried pies, chicken and dumplings, and more. 5505 Highway 52 East, Ellijay, 706-273-3821

Raspados Celeste Taqueria and Bar

What could be better than authentic Mexican food and snacks and specialty shaved ice made with fresh fruits all under one roof? 129 Maddox Circle, Ellijay, 706-635-1521

River Street Tavern

Friendly downtown pub with award-winning burgers and craft brews. 40 River Street, Suite B, Ellijay, 706-635-6166

The Roof

Rooftop venue with Southern cuisine and broad mountain views. 16 River Street, Ellijay, 706-635-7663

Ruby Tuesday

National chain known for burgers and an unlimited salad bar. 47 Highland Crossing, East Ellijay, 706-515-3301

The Shack of Ellijay

Charming downtown spot for poke bowls, noodle dishes, and bubble tea. 118 North Main Street, Ellijay, 706-635-3663

Shane's Rib Shack

Locally based chain serving slow-cooked meats and Southern sides. 289 Highland Crossing, Ellijay, 706-635-7427

The SmokeHouse Country Grill

Checked-tablecloth setting for a down-home breakfast, lunch, or dinner. 941 Maddox Drive, Suite 206, East Ellijay, 706-276-7755

Stanley's Food

Convenience store serving freshly made biscuits, chicken tenders, and more. 7499 Highway 52 East, Ellijay, 706-273-3210

Starbucks

Seattle chain that turned fancy coffee drinks into familiar favorites. 60 Highland Crossing South, Ellijay, 706-515-1520

Subway

Home of classic footlong sandwiches, sliders, and more. 500 Highland Crossing #101, East Ellijay, 706-635-7827

Taco Bell

Go-to for tacos, chalupas, and inventive Mexican-inspired foods. 158 Highland Crossing South, Ellijay, 706-503-3990

Tony's Country Corner Kitchen

Hearty downhome cooking at its best, including breakfast biscuit combinations, burritos, burgers, sandwiches, and wraps. 2020 Old Highway 5 South, Ellijay, 706-276-7077

Waffle House

Ubiquitous diner with hash browns and other around-the-clock favorites. 410 1st Avenue East, East Ellijay, 706-636-5500

Wendy's

National purveyor of burgers, fries, and Frosties. 209 Highland Crossing, Ellijay, 706-636-1181

White Columns Restaurant

Meat-and-three establishment offering Southern comfort food. 200 Industrial Boulevard #109, Ellijay, 706-273-7135

Zaxby's

Zalads, zappetizers, and tasty fried chicken baskets. 143 Highland Crossing, Ellijay, 706-515-1000

Zen & Juice

Downtown juice bar offering healthy fare, smoothies, and coffee. 100 North Main Street, Ellijay, 910-616-9101

LODGING

Above the Rest Cabins

1662 My Mountain Road, Morganton 706-374-2057

Apple Crisp Cabin

Ellijay 954-304-5803

Bent Tree Lodge & Vineyard

253 Happy Trails Way, Jasper 941-348-0562

Best Western

Mountain View Inn 43 Coosawattee Drive, East Ellijay, 706-515-1500

Blue Sky Cabin Rentals, LLC

61 Maddox Circle, East Ellijay 855-360-4773

Budget Inn of Ellijay

34 Jeff Drive, Ellijay 706-635-5311

Carters Lake Marina & Resort

575 Marina Road, Chatsworth 706-276-4891

Celebrate Blue Ridge

Cherry Log 770-689-9826

Comfort Inn & Suites

234 Highland Parkway, East Ellijay 706-515-6000

Coosawattee River Resort

634 Beaver Lake Drive 5160, Ellijay 706-640-4010

Diamond Lure Campground & RV Resort

514 Diamond Lure Road, Ellijay 706-273-3075

Dragonfly Dreams Luxury Cabin Rentals, LLC

Ellijay 866-931-8224

Eagle Mountain River Retreat

344 Eagle Mountain Drive East, Ellijay 772-284-2024

Elatse Yi

Ellijay 678-877-0048

Ellijay Inn

92 South Main Street, Ellijay 706-635-4615

Ellijay River House Bed & Breakfast

128 River Street, Ellijay 770-883-3797

Escape to Blue Ridge, LLC

1844 Old Highway 76, Blue Ridge 866-618-2521

Falling Waters Lodge, LLC

201 Mountainside Parkway, Ellijay 678-525-3032

Forest Cabins of Ellijay

151 Azalea Drive, Ellijay 706-273-0156

Forrest Hills Resort

135 Forrest Hills Road, Dahlonega 706-864-6456

Gingershack Farms

280 Turkey Creek Drive, Ellijay 706-635-1685

Grand Welcome North Georgia Mountains

Jasper 706-418-7778

RESOURCE GUIDE

Hummingbird Lodge

Ellijay
321-543-4339

Just a Step Away

Ellijay
770-318-8911

Legacy BnB

267 South County Road 158,
Blue Ridge
706-258-3746

Morning Breeze Cabin Rentals

950 Appalachian Highway,
Blue Ridge
888-875-5669

Mountain Oasis

Cabin Rentals, Inc.

22818 Highway 52 East, Ellijay
706-276-4343

Mountain Resort

Cabin Rentals

Ellijay
706-276-2116

Mulberry Gap – Adventure Basecamp

400 Mulberry Gap Road, Ellijay
706-698-2865

Nevaeh Cabin Rentals

2401 East 1st Street, Blue Ridge
706-258-2460

North Georgia Vacation Spots

3893 Highway 52 East, Ellijay
706-669-9803

Overlook On Main AirBnb

108 North Main Street, Ellijay
470-223-1814

Plum Nelly RV Park and Campground

15828 Highway 515 South, Ellijay
706-698-7586

RA Vacation Rentals, LLC

Ellijay
404-790-8879

Red Roof Cottage

160 Smith Hill Road, Cherry Log
727-688-3138

Sandy's North Georgia Cabins

Ellijay
404-310-5899

SBVR, LLC

Ellijay
404-578-6269

Sliding Rock Properties

Ellijay
706-636-5895

SpringHill Suites by Marriott

50 Cinema Drive, East Ellijay
941-822-9911

Stratford Motor Inn

79 Maddox Circle, East Ellijay
706-276-1080

Streams & Dreams

228 Lemmon Lane South, Ellijay
678-296-6317

StressBuster Cabin Rentals & Management Service

Ellijay
404-791-4388

Talona Ridge RV Resort

723 Highland Parkway, East Ellijay
706-636-2267

The Overlook Inn

9420 Highway 52, Chatsworth
706-517-0300

The R and A Company LLC

391 North Main Street, Ellijay
706-972-6091

Villas at Chateau Meichtry

1862 Orchard Lane, Talking Rock
404-488-9970

Wagging Tails Farm

2004 Clear Creek Road, Ellijay
478-552-4856

Walnut Grove Lodge

568 Tails Creek Church Road,
Ellijay
912-525-5484

SHOPPING

Antiques on North Main

44 North Main Street, Ellijay
706-698-1950

Artful Ellijay

10 North Main Street, Ellijay
877-244-7755

Barnes Furniture Outlet

29 Highland Drive, Suite 112,
East Ellijay
706-698-2337

Bavarian Chocolatier and Fudge Shop Downtown Ellijay

4 Northside Square, Ellijay
706-610-2010

Bear Creek Furnishings LLC

14244 Highway 515 North,
Suite 1200, Ellijay
706-635-8354

BEAU-tiful Creations

Paint Parties

9 Southside Square, Suite D,
Ellijay
706-669-2367

Beauty Barre

42 North Main Street, Ellijay
706-889-6840

Belle's Boutique

449 Industrial Boulevard,
Suite 115, Ellijay
706-276-6699

Black Bear Antiques & Interiors

240 Old Orchard Square,
Suite B, East Ellijay
706-635-2327

CC's Seafood and More

49 E. Oak Street, East Ellijay
706-972-7024

C.R.'s Woodshed

Ellijay
678-201-2880

Cabin Fever Quilt Studio

765 Maddox Dr, Suite 2, Ellijay
706-276-8020

Cartecay Bike Shop

493 North Main Street, Ellijay
706-635-2453

Circuit World

96 Craig Street, Suite 114,
East Ellijay
706-276-2626

Down Home Dexterities, Inc.

446 Old Highway 5 South, Ellijay
706-889-5559

Ellijay Embroidery

572 Maddox Drive, Suite 207B,
Ellijay
770-658-6441

Ellijay Mushrooms

1971 Old Flat Branch Road, Ellijay
678-570-6888

Faith Hope & Charity Recycle Store, Inc.

449 Industrial Boulevard,
Suite 120, Ellijay
706-635-3035

Feathering the Nest

163 Dalton Street, Ellijay
404-615-6597

Georgian Lighting Gallery

2331 Old Highway 5 South,
Ellijay
706-635-7048

Holt's Ace Hardware

305 South Main Street, Ellijay
706-635-2236

Hey Baby Boutique

9 South Side Square, Suite B,
Ellijay
239-691-9187

Hometown Florist & Yesterday's Décor

56 A River Street, Ellijay
706-635-6100

Hootenanny's Music

572 Maddox Drive, Suite 201B,
East Ellijay
706-692-1752

Huff's Drug Store

136 Industrial Boulevard, Ellijay
706-635-7931

Imbali Wellness Spa

58 North Main Street, Ellijay
706-273-7721

Linda's Outback Antiques & More

58 River Street, Ellijay
706-636-1084

Little Apple Mercantile

123 North Main Street, Ellijay
706-889-2101

Live Edge Exotic Wood

289 Blue Ridge Drive,
McCaysville
706-455-5657

Main Street Antiques & Collectibles

66 North Main Street, Ellijay
706-635-8567

Make It Yours

81 Ward Lane, Suite 6, Ellijay
706-273-3952

Misty Hollow Antiques & Collectibles

34 North Main Street, Ellijay
706-276-1644

Mountain Hounds – Ellijay

53 River Street, Ellijay
706-276-7000

Mountain Life

Health Food Store

978 South Main Street,
Suite 101, Ellijay
706-273-5433

Mountain Oasis Decor & More

2 Northside Square, Ellijay
706-276-4345

Mountain Town Antiques

12 Northside Square, Ellijay
770-851-6637

Mountain Treasures

14 North Main Street, Ellijay
706-635-5590

Mountain Valley Farm Store

2021 Homer Wright Road, Ellijay
706-889-1426

North Georgia Diamond

29 Highland Drive, Suite 105,
East Ellijay
706-515-1551

North Georgia Gun Range

123 Maddox Circle, East Ellijay
706-635-3473

North Georgia Sports Zone

411 East Main Street, Unit 2,
Blue Ridge
706-632-3700

Rey's Relics, Inc.

383 North Main Street, Ellijay
706-273-2093

Rustic Roots Boutique

9 South Side Square, Suite A,
Ellijay
706-889-4961

Southern Flare Antiques and Interiors

1362 Highway 52 East, Ellijay
706-635-6330

South Paw Natural Pets, LLC

14224 Highway 515 North,
Suite 500, Ellijay
706-276-4840

Strings & Stitches Yarn Shoppe

449 Industrial Boulevard
Suite 165, Ellijay
706-698-5648

The Groovy Zoo

8341 Lakewood Highway
Mineral Bluff
706-374-3441

The Gumdrop Fun Shop

71 River Street, Ellijay
770-713-8082

The Loving Bull

6 River Street, Ellijay
706-669-3059

The Third Hummingbird

387 North Main Street, Ellijay
706-273-2329

The Trendy Leaf

Ellijay
706-273-8777

Tim Buk Tu Food Mart

2170 South Main Street, Ellijay
706-635-6333

TJ & Co.

12 Northside Square, Ellijay
706-276-7803

Unique Ellijay

14 Church Street, Ellijay
706-276-5522

Walls of Books Ellijay

96 Craig Street, Suite 104,
East Ellijay
706-276-2008

WHERE THE ADVENTURES ARE ENDLESS,
THE MEMORIES ARE TIMELESS,
AND THE VIEWS LEAVE YOU BREATHLESS:
THIS IS ELLIJAY.



Ellijay

VISITORS MAP



Ellijay



DOWNTOWN ELLIJAY

Bear Creek Trail

Expedition: Bigfoot!

Mulberry Gap

Roo Mountain Vineyards

Ellijay River Vineyards

Picture Perfect Adventures

White Path Distillery

Red Apple Barn

Cartecay Wine & Craft

Stover Mountain Orchards

Cartecay River Brewing Co.

DOWNTOWN ELLIJAY

R&A Orchards

Aaron Family Orchards

Mack Aaron's Apple House

Tumbling Waters Trail

Coosawattee river

Penland's Apple House

Cartecay river

Buckley Vineyards

B.J. Reece Orchards

Grapes and Ladders Winery

Panorama Farm Market

Ott Farms and Vineyard

Mountain Valley Farm Store

Reece's Cider Co.

Engelheim Vineyards

Chateau Meichtry Winery

Cartecay Vineyards

Hillcrest Orchards

Canoe Vineyards

Fainting Goat Vineyards

Amicalola Falls State Park

Springer Mountain Loop Trail

