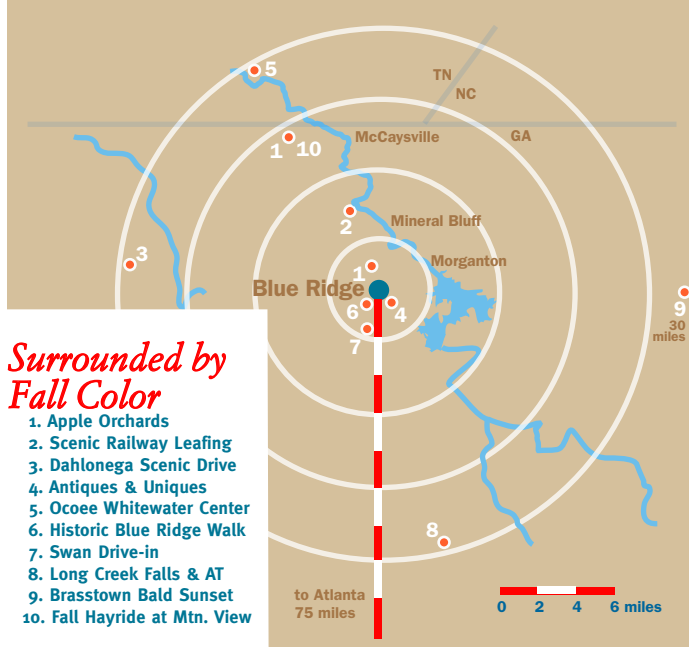


Click links in text below for additional web info



Surrounded by Fall Color

1. Apple Orchards
2. Scenic Railway Leafting
3. Dahlonega Scenic Drive
4. Antiques & Uniques
5. Ocoee Whitewater Center
6. Historic Blue Ridge Walk
7. Swan Drive-in
8. Long Creek Falls & AT
9. Brasstown Bald Sunset
10. Fall Hayride at Mtn. View

MAP KEY DIRECTIONS Surrounded by Fall Colors Map

1. Apple Orchards - Merciers in Blue Ridge & Mountain View Orchards
McCaysville - Mercier Orchard, just outside Blue Ridge is Southern Living Magazine's favorite roadside apple market and more – best fried pies and apple cider anywhere. Recently expanded shopping holds all kinds of goods, from gourmet meats and specialties to birdhouses, to maps and books, to art, to all kinds of delectable take home foods. And apples and fruits galore. (706) 632-3411 or www.mercier-orchards.com. And an equally delectable destination is Mountain View Orchard outside McCaysville at 2984 Mobile Road. (706) 492-7753. Hayrides, at Cider House Cafe for a Sunday brunch and scenery galore. It's the taste of Fall!

2. Leaf Looking on the Scenic Railway - Great family fun and one of the most hassle free ways to enjoy the outside air and see some spectacular Fall scenery. Board in Downtown Blue Ridge. All aboard the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway! 3 hour ride along the Toccoa River from Blue Ridge to McCaysville. Call 1-800-934-1898 or visit www.brscenic.com

3. Scenic Leaf Looking Drive, Blue Ridge to Dahlonega - This day trip, originally produced by the U.S. Forest Service, is beautiful any time of year, but is especially beautiful in the fall. The drive begins and ends at the intersection of Georgia Highway 5 and 515 in Blue Ridge. Round trip mileage is 102.4 miles and approximate driving time without stops is three to four hours. The drive offers some great opportunities for stops and side trips and can easily become a day trip. Download map at Self-Guided Tours on www.blueridgemountains.com

4. Antiques & Uniques Self-Guided Tour - Georgia's Blue Ridge area is just filled with exciting shopping spots to explore and discover. You can find things here that you can't find anywhere else, and our free shopping Self-Guided Tours make it fun and easy. Available for download at blueridgemountains.com Self-Guided Tours

5. Ocoee Whitewater Trails & Hwy 64 drive - Site of the 1996 Summer Olympic whitewater events, the Center offers relaxation, rafting, hiking & biking. From Blue Ridge take Hwy 5 north to McCaysville, turn left on Hwy 68 and follow signs to Hwy 64 (a spectacular mountain highway) through Ducktown, Tenn. The center includes the Olympic race course, native gardens, paved walkways, hiking and biking trails, pools of water for wading or feeding fish and more. It's a great place to take a picnic. To make rafting reservations from Ocoee River outfitters, see our web site at www.blueridgemountains.com. (423) 496-5197
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/ocoe/>

6. Walking Tour of Historic Blue Ridge - Self-Guided Tour - Get out and walk back through time in downtown Blue Ridge. Our free, history oriented Self-Guided Tours make it fun and easy. Available for download right here. Need advice from a local? Call the Fannin County Visitors Center or stop by in person for advice on hundreds of fun Fall things to do. 1-800-899-MTNS. Download map at blueridgemountains.com Self-Guided Tours

7. Swan Drive In on a chilly evening - Entertaining patrons since 1955, The Swan Drive-in is one of the last remaining drive-in theaters in Georgia. Located at 651 Summit Street, Blue Ridge, it's a great way to spend an evening under the stars seeing one of the latest films. The Swan is equipped with FM Stereo Sound, and has typically has double features on Fridays and Saturdays. Adults \$5.50 Kids 4-11 \$2.50 Kids 3 & under free. Check their website for details www.swan-drive-in.com or call (706) 632-5235.

8. Long Creek Falls Hike on the Appalachian Trail - Long Creek Falls is accessed via the Appalachian-Benton MacKaye Trails beginning at Three Forks, and follows Long Creek 1.0 miles upstream to a short blue blazed side trail that leads to the falls. The hike is an easy 2.2 miles round trip. From Blue Ridge, follow Aska Road to the end (13.5 miles). Turn right onto Newport Road and go 4.5 miles to the end. Turn right onto Doublehead Gap Road, go 2.0 miles to USFS Road 42 on the left. Turn left on USFS Road 42, go 9.0 miles to USFS Road 58 on the left. Turn left on USFS Road 58, go 2.7 miles to Three Forks parking area. Trail on the right takes you to Long Creek Falls. Loads of info and maps on the USFS web site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/conf/welcome.htm>

9. Spectacular Sunset at Brasstown Bald - Georgia's highest mountain offers a Visitor Information Center and panoramic view of four states. Also featured are exhibits, video presentations, hiking and picnicking. From Blue Ridge, go east on Highway 515 to Blairsville. In Blairsville, take U.S. 19/129 south for 8 miles. Turn left onto Georgia 180. Go 9 miles to Georgia 180 Spur and turn left. Go 3 more miles up to the Brasstown Bald parking lot. For information, call 706-896-3471.

10. Fall Hayride and Campfire at Mountain View Orchards by Blanche Manor Stables - for a great Fall adventure that has all the bases covered, call Blanche Manor outside of McCaysville. They can arrange a horseback hayride with a warm bonfire, music and a great dinner from Cider House Cafe. Great for family with members who cannot ride horses, or large groups who want to enjoy a campfire dinner with entertainment. They need a minimum of 8 people to have a hay ride, but can always try to combine smaller families together to reach the required minimum number. (706) 455-7433 on the web at www.blanchemanor.com.

Please do not exceed your level of experience and fitness when undertaking any activity, especially in wilderness areas. A Word to the Wise: The law of the forest is "leave no trace". Please pack in all you will need and pack out all your trash. If you build a fire, never leave it unattended. Use good judgment when hiking, particularly around waterfalls where rocks are often wet, moss covered and slippery. If hiking during hunting season, wear a brightly colored vest. Unexpected encounters with animals can be pleasurable or problematic. A hawk or owl soaring silently above is a pleasure. Watch for woodpeckers, turkeys and mountain grouse near the forest edges. The flash of a white-tail deer is an every day occurrence. More rare is sighting a black bear or bobcat. Most animals will flee the presence of humans, but be on the lookout for copperheads, wasps, yellow jackets and other biting, stinging critters. For more info on proper behavior in the wild, please go to www.LNT.org (Leave No Trace). And as a suggestion, if you are going out for a scenic drive, try to do it in a high mileage/per person vehicle.



GEORGIA'S BLUE RIDGE
EXPERIENCE

Fannin County Chamber & Welcome Center
3990 Appalachian Hwy Blue Ridge, GA 30513
1-800-899-MTNS www.blueridgemountains.com