



**#8. So. Tree Plantation** Select your own fresh Christmas tree at Southern Tree Plantation in Blairsville. There are fun activities for kids, hayrides, a petting farm, kid's train and pony rides.

**#9. Local Holiday Gifts** Custom order holiday gift baskets of local fruit, fried pies, jams, jellies and other homemade goodies at Mercier Orchards, the south's largest orchard and family farm. Get a jump on the season and order online at [www.mercier-orchards.com](http://www.mercier-orchards.com)

**#10 Arts at Christmas** Christmas shop at the Art Center's Holiday Open House on December 15 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Browse the local art and crafts as you enjoy warm drinks, fresh baked goods and plenty of Christmas Cheer from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Art Center features its annual Holiday Show and Sale, the Galleries on West Main and artists in residence. For more information, call 706-632-2144

**#1. The Turkey Trot** Get the family motivated and work off calories before the big turkey dinner with a 5K family run/walk on Thanksgiving morning in downtown Blue Ridge. Registration begins at 7 a.m. and start is at 8 a.m.

**#2. Holiday Art Walk** Buy local art and crafts for Christmas! The Art Center and downtown Blue Ridge galleries celebrate the season beginning with an Art Walk and reception on November 17 from 5 to 7, just in time for holiday shopping. The Art Center's Holiday Show and Sale continues through December.

**#3. Light up the Basin** Bring the kids for caroling, hot chocolate and cookies and get in the spirit of Christmas at our traditional small town Kiwanis Christmas parade, featuring floats, marching bands and Santa Claus himself, in McCaysville on Saturday, December 1. The parade starts at 2 p.m.

**#4. Christmas Express** Treat your family to a festive Christmas train ride on the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway, November 23 through December 24. Sing Christmas carols and visit with Santa & his elves

during this shorter version of the railway's excursion from Blue Ridge to McCaysville.

**#5. Christmas Theater** "Over the River and Through the Woods" – Capture the true spirit of Christmas at this wonderful play about family by the Blue Ridge Community Theater, November 23 to December 9. Performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and on Sunday at 2 p.m.

**#6. Light Up Blue Ridge** Start the holidays in the picture perfect town of Blue Ridge at this traditional Christmas festival on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive on the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway! This year, the town of Blue Ridge will open its new ice skating rink, in downtown Blue Ridge City Park. Bring the whole family for a day of fun, stay until dark for tree lighting.

**#7. Christmas Parade** Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade! Get in the spirit of Christmas at our traditional small town Kiwanis Christmas parade, featuring floats, marching bands and Santa Claus himself, in McCaysville on Saturday, December 1. Parade starts at 2 p.m.

**#11 Fires & Hot Cider** The Blue Ridge Holiday experience wouldn't be complete without a cup of hot cider in front of a toasty fire in your cabin – or a bonfire with homemade s'mores. Rent a luxury mountain cabin or book a cozy room at a B&B for the Holidays for a memorable family time.

**#12 Hikes & Big Views** Winter is the time for crystal clear mountain air, big vistas from our amazing trails, and scenic drives through the gorgeous mountains to remote trailheads. Georgia's Blue Ridge is a hiking paradise, including the famous Appalachian Trail which begins here. There are hikes for all levels of experience and we make it easy for you to get to the best places with our Self-Guided Tours, free online.

**GET MORE INFORMATION HERE:**

**On the web:**  
[www.BlueRidgeMountains.com](http://www.BlueRidgeMountains.com)

**On Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/blueridgegeorgia](http://www.facebook.com/blueridgegeorgia)

**In Blue Ridge, in-person:**  
Visit our Main Welcome Center, 152 Orvin Lance Drive, Blue Ridge GA 30513 and Red Caboose Visitors Center in the heart of Downtown Blue Ridge.