



Scenic Drive # 1 - Forest, Mountain Peaks and Waterfall Hikes

One of National Geographic's "Drives of a Lifetime – 500 of the World's Most Spectacular Trips" is right outside Lucille's backdoor. Spend a little more than an hour of drive time traveling through the forested mountains and valleys of Northeast Georgia's Chattahoochee National Forest or take longer to stop at some of the spectacular sights along the way. This route will take you along the shady highways that follow the wild and tumbling Chattahoochee River, take you across the Appalachian Trail and to observation areas along the way where you can see dramatic mountain vistas. Stop to see Georgia's highest mountain or hike to several waterfalls along the route.

Please note that many of these locations are "fee use areas" of state or national parks, which require \$4.00 cash payment for parking – no credit cards or checks accepted.

Directions:

From Lucille's take GA 17 north to Helen and continue on GA 17/75 along the Chattahoochee River through the Robertstown community.

- To see Anna Ruby Falls detour right on GA 356 for approximately 3 miles toward Unicoi State Park. Look for the sign for "Anna Ruby Falls Scenic Area" and turn left on Forest Service Road 242 which leads to the parking area. The paved trail to the observation deck is an easy half mile hike to the double falls.

Continue north on GA 17/75, which winds its way along the shady Andrews Creek, climbing to over 2,900 feet above sea level at Unicoi Gap.

Continue on GA 17/75 past the High Shoals Scenic Area and turn left on GA 180, which climbs the lower slopes of Brasstown Bald, Georgia's highest mountain.

- If you would like to go to the top to see the view from Brasstown Bald take the GA 180 Spur to the parking lot to hike or be shuttled the last half mile to the summit and the visitor's center.

Continue on GA 180 where you will capture dramatic vistas of the Blue Ridge Mountains before entering the mountain-fringed valley.

At GA 348 turn left onto the Richard Russell Scenic Byway (GA 348), which follows the head waters of the Nottely River. The rolling hills soon turn into steep mountains, as the road climbs to over 3,400 feet above sea level, past Tesnatee Gap and Hogpen Gap, to the top of the Blue Ridge Divide.

The Richard Russell Scenic Byway (GA 348) continues over and descends Piney Ridge, which has fantastic views of the expansive National Forest off to the right.

- Just off the Byway is the parking lot for the Dukes Creek Falls trail, where a short paved trail leads to an observation area where you can see the upper falls. An approximately 1 mile trail from there winds through hemlock and rhododendron to an observation deck where you can see the lower falls.
- Also just off the Byway is the parking area for Raven Cliffs Falls where an approximately 2.5 mile trail leads to the falls. While the trail does cross several small creeks and switches left then right and undulates up and down, the scenery along the way and the falls are some of the most beautiful in Georgia.

Continuing to the end of The Richard Russell Scenic Byway (GA 348) turn left on GA 75Alt back through Helen and West on GA 17 back to Lucille's.



Scenic Drive #2 - Valley, River, and Mountain Art Tour

Lucille's is a perfect base for exploring the diverse art and sampling the excellent local wines of Northeast Georgia and, at the same time, taking in some of the spectacular natural beauty of the nearby mountains, valleys and rivers. This route takes approximately one and a half hours of drive time, or take longer and stop at some of the sites along the way in the Sautee and Nacoochee Valleys or historic downtown Clarkesville, Georgia.

From Lucille's, turn right to Bean Creek Road and turn right on Bean Creek following it to its end; turn left on GA 255, which runs along the edge of the beautiful Sautee Valley.

- The Stovall Mill Covered Bridge, Georgia's smallest covered bridge is approximately one and one half miles down GA 255. Built in 1895 the bridge crosses Chickamauga Creek and was featured in the 1951 movie "I'd Climb the Highest Mountain" starring Susan Haywood and Rory Calhoun.

Continue on GA 255 along the edge of the Sautee Valley for approximately 9 miles to the 3-way stop at the Batesville Café.

- Take a short detour to Hickory Flat Pottery by turning left at the 3-way stop to GA 197 north toward Clayton. Hickory Flats Pottery is approximately one mile on the right in a rustic white farmhouse.
- Yet another mile down 197 is Burton Gallery, which has a lovely collection of art and crafts from local artisans...then turn back south to the intersection with 255 and turn left (instead of the right shown below if you didn't do the detour)

Turn right on GA 197 south toward Clarkesville, where the road begins descending and follows the path of the Soque River.

- Approximately 2 miles after the 3-way stop is Mark of the Potter, an eclectic pottery and craft studio and gallery housed in an old grist mill on the banks of the Soque River. The gallery is on the left and has parking along the river adjacent to the mill.

Continue to Clarkesville where GA 197 will intersect GA 385. Turn right on GA 385, which will lead you to the historic town square.

- Park in the Clarkesville square and visit:
 - Soque ArtWorks, which carries works from a large variety of artist.
 - Eat lunch at The Attic or The Copper Pot.
 - Stop by The Nest, a cute home and gift boutique or Bumbleberry, a gift store that also carries an extensive selection of high-end yarns and supplies for knitters.

From the square take GA 17/115 (this is a right turn from our continuing route above on GA 385) toward Helen. Turn right on GA 17 approximately 2 miles from the square toward Helen. Continue along the rolling hills on GA 17 until you crest a small rise and see the Nacoochee Valley laid out ahead, stretching several miles into the distance. At the intersection of GA 17 and GA 255 (keep going passed the intersection of GA 255 **Alt**) you will find the Sautee Village.

- Park at one of the stores and visit:
 - The Old Sautee Store, a thriving rural general store, and now also a deli and market, that first opened in 1872.
 - Other shops to visit in the Village include The Lavender Cottage and Inside Out Sautee/Sheila's Village Market – which houses a tasting room for Stonewall Creek Winery as well as another wonderful place for a deli lunch.

Turn right on GA 255 and continue approximately ¼ mile to the Sautee Nacoochee Community Center.

- At the Sautee Nacoochee Community Center you will find the Folk Pottery Museum of Northeast Georgia, housed in an award winning modern gallery, a theatre, gallery, art studio, dance studio, history museum, heritage site and nature preserve.

Approximately one half mile past the Sautee Nacoochee Community Center turn left on Bean Creek Road and then left on Rabun Road and follow the driveway up the mountain to Lucille's.



Scenic Drive #3 – Wineries!

There are more wineries in this area than we have space to list! Most of the local vineyards have tasting rooms where you can sample their wares, many of which are made from estate-grown grapes. Some of them also offer snacks or tapas to keep you going from one to the next. We do recommend a bit of caution with all this though – our roads are a bit curvy, and local law enforcement does watch out for people driving under the influence, so please drink responsibly!

From Lucille's, turn left at the bottom of our drive onto Bean Creek Road. At the stop sign with Hwy 17 (at the Nacoochee Methodist Church), turn left. Drive about 4 miles, then bear right on Preacher Campbell Road (just past 17 Lumber). In about 2 miles, turn right at the stop sign on to Hwy 255. After about 3 miles, turn right on GA-384 (Duncan Bridge Road) at the 4-way stop. In about 1.6 miles, turn left on Laurel Ridge Road at the sign for Serenity Cellars, about 3/10 of a mile down the road.

- Serenity Cellars has a wide variety of wines made by Joe Smith. They also have live music on weekends. For a special treat, go on Friday night and bring pizza fixin's – they'll bake the pizza for you in the wood-fired oven and you can hang out with folks from the community and participate what often turns into a pot-luck dinner!

Turn right from Serenity on 384 and head back towards 255. Turn right at the 4 way stop and watch for the signs for Yonah Mountain Vineyards, on the right in about a mile.

- Yonah Mountain Vineyards has a spectacular "Sonoma Valley" feel, right at the base of Yonah Mountain. On weekends you can sign up for the Cave Tour, which often includes some special tastings of old – or new – vintages. In September, their Crush Fest event is wildly popular, with wine stomping, food trucks, and lots of live music. This is the place to go on a Saturday night for some live music and wine sampling!

From Yonah, turn right on 255 and head towards Cleveland. In about 2 miles, turn left on GA-115 at the stop sign. Dock Dorsey Road is about 2/10 of a mile on the right – as is the sign for CeNita Vineyards. The tasting room is about 0.6 miles on the left.

- CeNita is a very small production winery that uses only estate-grown grapes for their wines. Also known for their Venue (many a wedding guest at CeNita stays at Lucille's), it's a lovely place to just stop and sit a spell.

From CeNita, go back out to 115 and turn left on 115 towards Cleveland. In about 4.5 miles, turn right on Town Creek Road. The entrance to Kaya Vineyard and Winery is 5.3 miles on the right.

- Kaya Vineyards features a light lunch menu in addition to their wide variety of wines, from one of the oldest vineyards in the Dahlonega area. Have a seat on their patio and enjoy some live music along with your favorite wine from their tasting menu.