



ADVENTURES
in good company



SLACKPACKING GEORGIA

TRIP SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hiking the entire Georgia section of the Appalachian Trail
- Returning to a comfortable bed and hot shower at the end of every day
- Enjoying sumptuous meals (that you don't have to cook!)
- Luxuriating in the fall foliage of northern Georgia
- Carrying only what you need for the day on your back

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

- Location:** Dahlonega, Georgia
- Activities:** Hiking
- Arrive:** Our trips starts at 1 p.m. at the Atlanta Airport (ATL) or 4 p.m. at our lodging in Dahlonega, GA on Day 1
- Depart:** We will have you back to the airport (ATL) by 11 a.m. and you can plan to fly out any time after 1:00 p.m. on the last day

TRIP OVERVIEW

The Appalachian Trail truly has mythic status and for many of us, hiking it is a dream. But then we look at the reality of it and find the prospect of carrying a 40-50 pound pack on our back and sleeping on the ground rather daunting. Solution? Slackpacking! We cover the same distance as backpackers, but at the end of the day we return to comfortable beds, hot showers, and freshly prepared meals, to help inspire our traverse of the Georgia section. We cover significant mileage on this trip, so it still requires being in excellent shape. Maximum group size: 12

RATING

This trip is rated a 4, 5 because it involves hiking from 7 to 16 miles a day (see the itinerary for daily mileage) and requires being in excellent physical condition. On two days there are shorter options and the rating of 4 is appropriate if you choose these or if you prefer to just take one or two days off from hiking. You can always choose to stay at the lodge for the day. Trips that are rated 5 require a high degree of fitness. Adding some specific conditioning such as strength training, endurance training, and longer aerobic workouts is suggested.

Rating: 1 2 3 [\[4\]](#) [\[5\]](#).

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 1 - 2 experienced AGC guides based on group size
- Eight nights lodging in a beautiful vacation home shared by the group
- All meals from dinner on Saturday through breakfast the following Sunday with the exception of one dinner
- All transportation within Georgia including round trip transport from the Atlanta airport and daily shuttles

What's not included: Travel to and from Atlanta, alcoholic beverages, snacks, optional guide gratuities and travel insurance.

OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

We'll meet at the Atlanta airport at 1 p.m. From there we'll take the metro to the spot where the shuttle picks us up and transports us to our lodging, a large vacation home, for the week. That evening we'll get to know each other and also review everything we need to know for our upcoming adventure to keep us safe and healthy.

DAY 2

We start our hike at Springer Mountain (3,782 ft), the southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail. There are a couple of plaques at the top of the mountain and sweeping views of the Cohutta Mountains. And since it is the official start, it's where we start. However, we cannot actually drive to Springer Mountain so we will need to first backtrack less than a mile from the first access point. Today's hike is mostly a long gradual descent followed by a not quite as long gradual ascent to the top of Hawk Mountain at 3,200 feet, before descending to Hightower Gap at 2850 feet. We'll see an AT shelter today as well as a beautiful waterfall. Hiking: 11.1 miles. Elevation gain 1600 feet, loss 1310 feet

DAY 3

Our hike today is definitely more strenuous, with several steep ascents and descents as we climb up and over Sassafras Mountain, Justus Mountain, and Ramrock Mountain. Fortunately, the toughest part is during the first half and after that it mellows out a bit. This part of the trail is the perfect introduction to the up and down nature of hiking in the northern Georgia mountains. Hiking: 10 miles. Elevation gain 3400 feet, loss 1450 feet

DAY 4

The high point of today's hike, both literally and metaphorically, is Blood Mountain at 4,461 feet it is the highest point of the Georgia section. There are a couple of warm-ups first as we go up and over Gaddis Mountain and Turkey Stamp Mountain before the final 900-foot climb to the top. Blood Mountain is full of history and we'll be glad to take a rest as we ponder the history that gave it its name. From there it's all downhill to Neels Gap and the great little outfitter store where we can buy maps, t-shirts, or anything else you've decided you need. Hiking: 10.7 miles. Elevation gain 2800 feet, loss 2480 feet

DAY 5

After the last 3 days, we will be ready for this relatively short day! Known for open ridge tops with excellent views and fall wildflowers, the well-graded trail makes this a pleasant hike. However, it's not flat. The trail starts with a 900-foot climb up Levelland Mountain and ends with a hard climb out of Tesnatee Gap. We should be able to complete this part in a half day so today is the perfect time to visit the nearby charming town of Dahlonega. We'll drop you off and dinner is on your own tonight. Hiking: 6.4 miles. Elevation gain 1800 feet, loss 1400 feet

DAY 6

Today's hike starts and ends with traversing over humps; you definitely are going up and down, but it is not nearly as steep as previous days. In between it is more undulating, with smaller ups and downs. It is a long day, though, and we'll be glad to see our shuttle waiting for us at the end. Hiking: 13.6 miles

DAY 7

Are we really hiking 16 miles today? Maybe, maybe not. The first section is 4 miles and includes two climbs that are over 1,000 feet, with another optional 500-foot climb to the summit of Tray Mt. Luckily, there is road access at Tray Gap. Starting here will cut 4 miles and about 1500 feet of elevation gain off of today's hike, making it a 12-mile day instead. These 12 miles go through remote wilderness as it traverses from the second highest mountain on the section to the lowest gap on the trail. Today we come to understand the meaning of PUDs (pointless up and downs) as we go up and down and up and down and up and down etc. for an elevation gain of 1900 feet. Hiking: 16.1 miles. Elevation gain 5200 feet, loss 4000 feet

DAY 8

Today, we will complete the Georgia section of the Appalachian Trail! From Dicks Creek Gap, we'll start a steady ascent of Little Bald Knob, Buzzard Knob and As Knob. With just 3.2 miles to go, we'll cross Blue Ridge Gap where there is a Forest Service road. We'll continue to climb as we approach North Carolina and celebrate when we see that little sign denoting the state line. We can continue another 0.1 miles to Bly Gap, which is a definite highlight with nice views to the West and a very distinct tree in the gap itself. Because there is no road at the state line, we'll backtrack 3.2 miles to the road at Blue Ridge Gap. You are now eligible for a Georgia Thru-Hiker patch! Simply fill out the form from the Georgia ATC's website and send it in! Tonight, we'll go into town to celebrate our accomplishments (and our well-toned quads!) with a final farewell dinner. Hiking: 12.2 miles

DAY 9

You are free to leave any time after breakfast. If you are flying out, we will have you back to the Atlanta airport by 11:00 a.m. and you can plan a flight out after 1:00 p.m.

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

GETTING THERE

If **you are flying** meet at the Atlanta Airport Atrium (in the center by the clock) at 1 p.m. Your guide will meet you and be wearing a blue AGC T-shirt.

If you are driving:

Meet at the Mountain Lodge at 4 p.m.

GETTING HOME

We will have you back to the airport (ATL) by 11 a.m. and you can plan to fly out any time after 1:00 p.m. on the last day

AIRFARE

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exito Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Most of the international airlines are in-network for Exito, so they do not charge extra for their services (and often have access to discounted rates). When necessary, processing fees out-of-network carriers are minimal at around \$35-\$50 per ticket.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We will spend eight nights at the [Retreat on the Ridge](#), a luxurious 7-bedroom 5.5 bath majestic mountain home where you can enjoy the north Georgia mountains in luxury, style, and convenience. It's seven miles north of downtown Dahlonega with spectacular panoramic views, a saltwater pool, and a firepit. There are six bedrooms for participants that are a mix of single and shared rooms, plus a "bunkroom" with four beds (two singles and one bunkbed). There is a discount for the bunkroom, and two single rooms (one with its own bathroom and one with a shared bathroom) are available for a single supplement (\$300); otherwise, rooms will be assigned randomly.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit [Travelex Insurance](#) or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

[Click here for our Cancellation & Payment Policies and Booking Terms & Conditions.](#)