



ADVENTURES  
*in good company*



## WATERFALLS, WILDFLOWERS, AND WINERIES

### Trip Summary

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Learning about wines during a private wine-tasting
- Visiting the tallest waterfall east of the Mississippi
- Enjoying moderate hikes in the north Georgia Mountains
- Visiting several local wineries and the charming town of Dahlonega
- Dining at some excellent local restaurants

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## TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location:	Dahlonega, GA
Activities:	Hiking
Arrive:	Plan to arrive by noon in order to meet at 12:30 p.m. at the Atlanta, GA airport (ATL) on Day 1
Depart:	You'll arrive at the Atlanta airport at 4 p.m. for flights after 5:30 p.m. on the last day

### Trip Overview

Northern Georgia, the jumping off point of the Appalachian Trail, is known for its gorgeous and rugged mountains, its towering waterfalls, and its ... wineries? Who knew?! Turns out the soil, climate, and elevation are not only great for hiking, they're also perfect for growing grapes for wine. So on this four-day getaway, we'll combine hiking to waterfalls with opportunities to visit wineries, learn about wine, and sampling some of the wonderful cuisine that can be found here. Maximum group size: 12

### Rating

This trip is suitable for any healthy active woman who wants to hike, look at wildflowers, learn about wine, and explore this beautiful area with its rich culture that ranges from its Appalachian roots to gourmet experiences. The hikes we've chosen are reasonably short, but they are in the mountains, so women should be in sufficient condition to hike uphill for a couple of hours.

### What's Included

- 1 - 2 experienced AGC guides based on group size
- Roundtrip transportation from the Atlanta Airport
- All meals from dinner on the first day through brunch on the last
- Three nights lodging in a beautiful vacation home shared by the group
- All activities on the itinerary, including a private wine-tasting, hikes, and visits to wineries

**What's not included:** Travel to and from Atlanta, alcoholic beverages (other than the wine tastings which are included), 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 pick you up at the Atlanta (ATL) airport at 12:30 p.m. and begin our adventure with a visit to Amicalola Falls State Park for a short hike on a paved trail with a series of steps. Amicalola Falls, at 729 feet, are the tallest cascading waterfalls east of the Mississippi River and often the last stop for hikers before they start their Appalachian Trail Thru Hike. After our hike and waterfall gawking, we continue to our hostel for dinner and a private wine tasting. A knowledgeable woman from the Dahlonega Tasting Room will educate us and our palates about wine as we taste several varieties. Well-fed and well exercised, we will be ready for bed tonight! (D)

### DAY 2

After a hearty breakfast at the lodge, today we're going to see the very beginning of the Appalachian Trail - Springer Mountain! We'll look at the plaque there and imagine what it's like to stand there knowing you're about to attempt to hike 2200 miles. We'll be happy our hike today is only 5.2 miles! Our hike starts with a 500-foot ascent from the parking lot to the top of Springer Mountain, on a gradually ascending rocky and rooty trail. After taking pictures at the top, the rest of the hike is a gentle downhill, about 1200 feet, to 3 Forks. Along the way we'll pass Stover Creek Shelter where we can stop to eat our picnic lunch. We can also stop to soak our feet during several stream crossings, one of the true pleasures when hiking. Right before the end we'll pass through old growth hemlock - soaring trees that have disappeared along many sections of the trail. We'll return to the lodge in time to relax and clean up before going out to dinner that night at Shenanigan's Restaurant in downtown Dahlonega. (B,L,D)

### DAY 3

Our hike today is the Raven Cliff Falls Hike, a 5 mile out and back hike. This trail follows Dodd Creek through the Raven Cliffs Wilderness Area to a massive dark bluff near the headwaters some 2.5 miles from the parking area. Because of the size of Ravens Cliffs and the lack of human interference, the area has abundant bird life including grosbeaks, vireos, and wild turkeys besides the ravens that give the area its name. From there we visit Cavender Creek Vineyards to check out their wines. We will also spend a few hours in Dahlonega; every Saturday folks bring their instrument(s) and just start playing and/or singing on the Dahlonega square, a weekly event known as Appalachian Jam. If Appalachian music is not your style, there are also lots of shops to check out. Dinner is at our lodging tonight, followed by s'mores around the fire. (B,L,D)

### DAY 4

Our breakfast will be light this morning because we need to save room for the brunch at Wolf Mountain Vineyards. Brunch is typically buffet style with a theme that varies month to month. Before brunch, there is an optional 2-mile hike at DeSoto Falls. After savoring our last meal together, we head to the airport where you can plan a flight out after 5:30 p.m. (B, Brunch)

## ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

### Getting There

**If you're flying**, meet at the Atlanta Airport Atrium (in the center by the clock) at 12:30 p.m. where your guide will meet you.

**If you're driving**, plan to meet at Amicalola Falls State Park at the Visitors' Center parking lot at 3 p.m.

**The address for your GPS or online directions is:**

Amicalola Falls State Park, 240 Amicalola Falls State Park Rd. Dawsonville, GA 30534.

**Note:** Your guide will give you a call if the time is going to be significantly different due to airport delays.

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 three 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 fire pit. There are seven bedrooms that are a mix of single and shared rooms, plus a 4-person "bunkroom" with four beds (two singles and one bunkbed). There is a discount for the bunkroom, and three single rooms are available for a single supplement (\$150); 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 [www.travelexinsurance.com](http://www.travelexinsurance.com) 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.

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