

Explore Georgia's highest peak at Brasstown Bald

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For the AJC

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Ralph Daniel
Visitors take in the view from the top of Brasstown Bald. Ralph Daniel / Georgia Department of Economic Development

Whether you're planning a romantic getaway during the fall to enjoy the colorful leaves, or in the spring when dogwood trees, rhododendron, mountain laurel and wildflowers reach their full bloom, Brasstown Bald in the North Georgia mountains offers a prime location for hiking, sightseeing and photography throughout the year.

The next time you plan a vacation, family reunion, business retreat or honeymoon to North Georgia, add Brasstown Bald to your list of stops. Here's why:

The mountain



Known as the highest peak in Georgia, Brasstown Bald stands tall against the rolling hills of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, reaching 4784 feet above sea level. Once inhabited by the Georgia Moundbuilders and originally called Enotah by the Cherokee, Brasstown Bald has been a stunning haven for people for hundreds of years.

When visiting Brasstown Bald, you can choose to hike up to the peak along an adjoining trail, or take the shuttle to the top. Part of the hiking trail can become

COURTESY OF KELLY SUNDSTROM
The Brasstown Bald summit is the highest peak in Georgia.

fairly steep, so if you're not used to hiking you might want to consider taking the shuttle instead.

You could spend all day at the top of Brasstown Bald, where you'll enjoy 360-degree long-range views of Georgia and the surrounding wilderness, as well Tennessee, South Carolina and North Carolina. Don't forget your camera -- these picturesque views will take your breath away.



Ralph Daniel
View from Brasstown Bald. Ralph Daniel / Georgia
Department of Economic Development

After your experience at the peak, take time to peruse the [Visitor Information Center](#), where you can purchase a special souvenir to remember your visit and watch a short movie about the seasonal changes around Brasstown Bald.

Local attractions

Surrounding Brasstown Bald, you'll find a wide range of activities to keep you busy. Try out a day of rafting, canoeing and kayaking on the Nottely River located in Blairsville, or on Lake Chatuge in Hiawassee. Spend the day hiking throughout the adjoining Vogel State Park, or take in a little history at the TrackRock Archaeological Area. From spring through fall, the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in Hiawassee regularly

features festivals, live music and entertainment.

Dining

Brother's at Willow Ranch. 6223 Highway 76, Young Harris. 706-379-1272.
www.brothersatwillowranch.com.

Get to know what Southern hospitality really means while enjoying delicious barbecue at this local favorite. Brother's at Willow Ranch offers baby back ribs, local mountain trout, steaks, burgers, sandwiches and desserts.

Copeland's Burgers and Southern Eats. 17 Merchants Walk, Blairsville, Ga. 706-944-3600.
www.copelandsburgers.com.

This Blairsville favorite provides hungry visitors a wide range of Southern sides, gourmet burgers, craft beer, shakes and floats.

Chophouse of Hiawassee. 625 Highway 76. Hiawassee. 706- 896-3200. www.murphyschophouse.com.

This Hiawassee steakhouse overlooking Lake Chatuge offers unbeatable gourmet cuisine from the world renown Chef, James Reaux. Provides the perfect combination of elegant dining with a casual atmosphere.

Michaelee's Italian Life Caffe. 6C Town Square, Blairsville, Ga. 706-400-5603. www.italianlifecaffe.com.

If you love Italian food, stop by Michaelee's to savor some of the best Italian dishes in Blairsville.

Cabin Coffee of Blairsville. 44A Town Square, Blairsville, Ga. 706-745-0073.
www.cabincoffeecompany.com.

Stop by Cabin Coffee in Downtown Blairsville for a cup of fresh roasted coffee, specialty drinks and tea.

Lobsta's. 3915 Highway 76, Young Harris. 706-896-1214. www.lobstasrestaurant.com.

Enjoy fresh seafood right in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains with a visit to Lobsta's in Young Harris.

Blue Otter. 3399 Highway 76, Hiawassee. 706-896-1919. www.theridgesresort.com.

The Blue Otter offers a casual dining experience conveniently located inside of the Ridges Resort and Marina in Young Harris. From burgers and pizza to full catering, Blue Otter has you covered no matter what you're looking for.

Lodging

Lake Chatuge Lodge. 653 Highway 76, Hiawassee. 706-896-5253. www.lakechatugelodge.com.

If you want to stay as close to Brasstown Bald as possible during your stay, consider the Lake Chatuge Lodge in Hiawassee. Located just minutes from the mountain, this charming lodge offers comfortable guestrooms, complimentary Continental breakfast, walking trails and easy access to surrounding activities.

Brasstown Valley Resort and Spa. 6321 Highway 76, Young Harris. 800-201-3205.
www.brasstownvalley.com.

For a luxurious experience to help you get away from it all, the Brasstown Valley Resort and Spa in Young Harris provides visitors with lavish accommodations, access to The Equani Spa, magnificent stone fireplace in the lodge and views of the surrounding mountains, pastures and golf course.

The Ridges Resort and Marina. 3499 Highway 76 West, Young Harris. 706-896-2262.
www.theridgesresort.com.

When you want to relax in perfect peace and quiet, stay at the Ridges Resort and Marina in Young Harris. Situated along Lake Chatuge, this stunning retreat features breathtaking views, luxurious suites and private balconies to take it all in.

Interested in a few locations to go hiking around the state? Check out the [best mountain trails in North Georgia](#).