Waterfalls are the “Gemstones of the East.” Each one is faceted differently. Some have beauty that is big and bold, while others have delicate and subtle characteristics. Common natural occurrences, such as rock, wood and water attain their highest form when they come together as a waterfall. People who can’t agree on anything else seem to always agree on the beauty of a waterfall.

Only a few waterfalls are visible from the road or parking lots, but most waterfalls are easily reached, requiring varying lengths of walks or hikes. No matter how little or how much you do, hiking is good therapy for the pressures of modern life. So, get out there, stretch those legs, and breathe some fresh air. Enjoy these natural wonders that lighten the heart and stir the soul!

Covered Bridges... why are they covered? Some say they were covered to make crossing by horse safer, others say it was to provide a dry refuge during a storm. Actually, neither is the reason. The real reason has nothing to do with horses or keeping wagons dry, but rather involves protecting the bridge itself. Wood exposed to the elements decays faster than that which is protected, a roof would protect the bridge’s important structural members in the span. Periodic replacement of the roof would be far simpler (and cheaper) than repairing the timbers below.

Gristmills were in most rural communities in the early 1900’s. Residents would take their grain to be ground into meal or flour. At one time, Georgia has close to 1200 of the water-powered wonders. Although they are no longer common, there are a few gristmills still operating that grind fresh corn and other grains which are then sold to the public. To confirm hours and days of operation, call ahead.

Covered Bridges

Holcomb Creek Falls
Panther Creek Falls
Minnehaha Falls
Upper Desoto Falls
Minnehaha Falls
Mud Creek Falls
All photography by Jack Anthony

Waterfall poster available! Contact: janthony@alltel.net
www.jjanthony.com

Northeast Georgia Mountains
Waterfalls, Grist Mills & Covered Bridges

WARNING:
The North Georgia Mountains and Chattahoochee National Forest abound with beautiful waterfalls, but the enticing beauty of these falls has killed or seriously injured many people. **DO NOT** try to climb the rocks around waterfalls. They are covered with lichens and mosses that are slippery and can make you lose your grip. Observation decks have been built at many of the most popular waterfalls - use them. They offer the best vantage point for viewing or picture taking. Many waterfalls are posted with warning signs. Please heed them for your safety.

Layout & Design: Kristal McKenzie
Alpine Helen-White County Chamber
www.helenga.org
Photography by Jack Anthony
www.jjanthony.com

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www.georgiamountains.org (404) 231-1820

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www.lakechatugeproperty.com (800) 784-3355

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC – www.brmemc.com
Habersham EMC – www.habershamemc.com
Jackson EMC – www.jacksonemc.com
DeSoto Falls (Chattanooga R.D.)

These falls are located along the three-mile section of the DeSoto Falls Trail in the 650-acre DeSoto Falls Recreation Area. Three of these falls are maintained for the hiker’s viewing convenience. The upper, middle, and upper DeSoto Falls. The lower falls cascade 20 feet. The middle and most scenic waterfall is 21 feet and the lower falls drops down a granite incline for almost 200 feet and may be viewed from the granite formations which overtops the falls. Those who cannot hike the trail can view the lower falls at the base of one of the access bridges. Directions: From US 19, turn at DeSoto Falls Rd. (Tallulah R.D.) to the parking area.

Falls on Waters Creek & Blood Mountain Falls (Tallulah R.D.)

These five beautiful waterfalls are situated along the three-mile section of the Big Creek Road on the left side of the road. Directions: From GA 141 north to Tallulah. Turn right on GA Highway 246 and follow signs to Sky Valley. At Sky Valley’s entrance gate, turn left. Turn right on Tahoe Road and follow to the falls.

Logan Turnpike Mill

Located in an old grocery store and gas station. The mill produces fresh flour and ground corn meal. Directions: From GA 384, turn east 1.5 miles on this road to the High Shoals Scenic Area. These falls have succession of five waterfalls and have an estimated total vertical drop of 300 feet. They are located in a 170 acre scenic area. These falls have two observation decks beside two of the five streams. Directions: Take US 23/441 north for 10 miles to the Panther Creek Recreation Area. The eastern end of the trail begins at the parking area just north of Tallahee Bridge. For those who wish to expose the trail can be reached by driving west on Yanham Road. Directions: Take US 441/123 south for 7 miles. Turn right on unnumbered county road for 1 mile, then turn left on GA Hwy 15 for two miles. Turn left on GA Hwy 441 for 3 miles. Enter Rabun Gap parking area and park at Bartram Trail sign. Follow signs to Sky Valley. At Sky Valley’s entrance gate, turn left. Turn right on Tahoe Road and follow to the falls.

CARNESVILLE AREA

Cromer’s Mill Covered Bridge (Chattooga R.D.)

This bridge is also known as Nails Creek Covered Bridge. Built in a Town Lattice design in 1906 by J. P “Pink” Hunt it is 132 ft. long and 12 feet wide. Picnic Area is well maintained and there is a small fee to use. Directions: Located near Carnesville, GA. Take US 108 about eight miles south of Carnesville and take the left fork (first) on Baker Road to the bridge. (Baker Road is a gravel road.)

CLAYTON AREA

Barker’s Creek Mill

This mill was built in 1944 at the site of an old mill that served the community since the first white settlers came into the area in the mid 1800s. The mill served as a banking office and post office. The mill itself is a vertical mill with two 10’ firgittere stones and was built by the427 Cool Davis. The mill sits on the raceway that feeds water to the water turbine - not a vertical water wheel. The mill was operated continuously as a grist, flour, or corn mill and originally served as the focal point for community life. Directions: Take US 19/385 south from Comer, turn left on old Highway 75, go one mile to bridge. It’s on the right down below level of the road.

DAWSONVILLE AREA

Amicalola Falls Mill

Amicalola is a Cherokee word meaning “tumbling waters” and located within the Amis Falls Recreation Area. The mill was constructed in 1876 by John Martin when he bought Sautee-Nacoochee Valley as his permanent home. In 1905 Lan- Martin Hardman, a former governor of Georgia, bought the mill and named it “Nora Mill” in memory of his sister Nora. The mill is open year round. Directions: From GA 175 south of the Alpine city of Helen. Directions: Take US 441 N to Tallulah. Turn right on GA Highway 246 and follow signs to Sky Valley. At Sky Valley’s entrance gate, turn left. Turn right on Tahoe Road and follow to the falls.

DIRIGO FALLS (Maine) Range

This range is a small mountain range that was built in 1876 complete with 1,500 pound French Burr Mill Stones and a 100 ft. wooden raceway that feeds water to a water turbine - not a vertical water wheel. This mill is located in a cute little spot near the town of Summerville. It was built by a group of men who lived in the area. Directions: From Martin Fork Creek, then travel uphill for about 4 miles to the top of the falls.

MINNESOTA FALLS (Tallulah R.D.)

Minnehsa Trail (.4 mile in length) follows Fall Branch until it dead ends at Minnehsa Falls. Waterfall is approximately 100 feet high. Directions: From US 19/385 south, turn left at the turnoff for Minnehsa Falls onto Minnehsa Trail (E. Chattooga R.D.). Turn right onto LA Road. Go one mile past the Ruban Beach Recreation Area sign. Turn left onto Old 441. Go 2.5 miles and take left on Lake Rabun Road. Go one mile past the Flat Creek Covered Bridge (Chattooga R.D.). Follow Bear Gap Road, which forks to the left. Go 1.5 miles to sign marking the trail on the side of the road.

Mud Creek Falls

Accessed at “Rocky Estatoe”, these falls have a vertical drop of 100 feet and ends at Isothermal Falls in Dillard. Directions: Take US 441 north to Dillard. Turn right on GA Highway 246 and follow signs to Sky Valley. At Sky Valley’s entrance gate, turn left. Turn right on Tahoe Road and follow to the falls.

HOMER/MAYSVILLE AREA

Blind Susie Covered Bridge

It spans the south fork of the Broad River and is also known as Bridge River Bridge or Cartton Bridge. Washington W King built it in 1877, it is 146 feet long and was built for a community on the left side of the road. Directions: Take US 441 south from Dillard, turn left onto Taylor’s Chapel Road and proceed for .1 mile to arrive at a charming, romantic bed and breakfast inn.

RABUN GAP/DILLARD AREA

Sylvan Falls Mill

The mill was constructed in 1849 by spotted chestnut wood where it has operated as a mill for several years. The vertical water wheel was replaced in 1952 by a 27-foot, 10,000-pound steel wheel that was relocated from Tennessee. The waterfall, fed from Hurricane Shoals Creek, drops 72 feet into a small depression surrounded by the pine trees. Directions: Take US 23/441 north for 3 miles to Hurricane Shoals Recreation Area. The western end of the trail begins at the parking area just north of Tallahee Bridge. Directions: From Clayton, take US 441/123 south for 7 miles. Turn right on unnumbered county road for 1 mile, then turn left on GA Hwy 15 for two miles. Turn left on GA Hwy 441 for 3 miles. Enter Rabun Gap parking area and park at Bartram Trail sign. Follow signs to Sky Valley. At Sky Valley’s entrance gate, turn left. Turn right on Tahoe Road and follow to the falls.

TOCCOA AREA

TOCCOA FALLS

This single drop waterfall has a 160-foot drop...26 feet higher than the falling stream to the base of the falls. A monument reminds visitors of the tragic ending of the mill. Directions: From GA 141 north to Toccoa. Turn left onto Tallay Road and proceed for .1 mile to arrive at the B&B on your right.

R.G. (U. Forest) Ranger District