

# North Georgia Waterfalls & Recreation Areas

VISITOR CENTER SITES

Anna Ruby Falls  
Brasstown Bald

CAMPGROUNDS & RECREATION AREAS

Lake Rabun Beach  
Lake Russell  
Morganton Point  
Lake Winfield Scott

NEARBY WATERFALLS

Desoto Falls  
Dukes Creek Falls  
Helton Creek Falls  
Hemlock Falls  
High Shoals Falls  
Horse Trough Falls  
Panther Creek Falls Trail  
Raven Cliff Falls  
Tallulah Falls & Gorge

LEGEND

US HIGHWAY

STATE ROAD

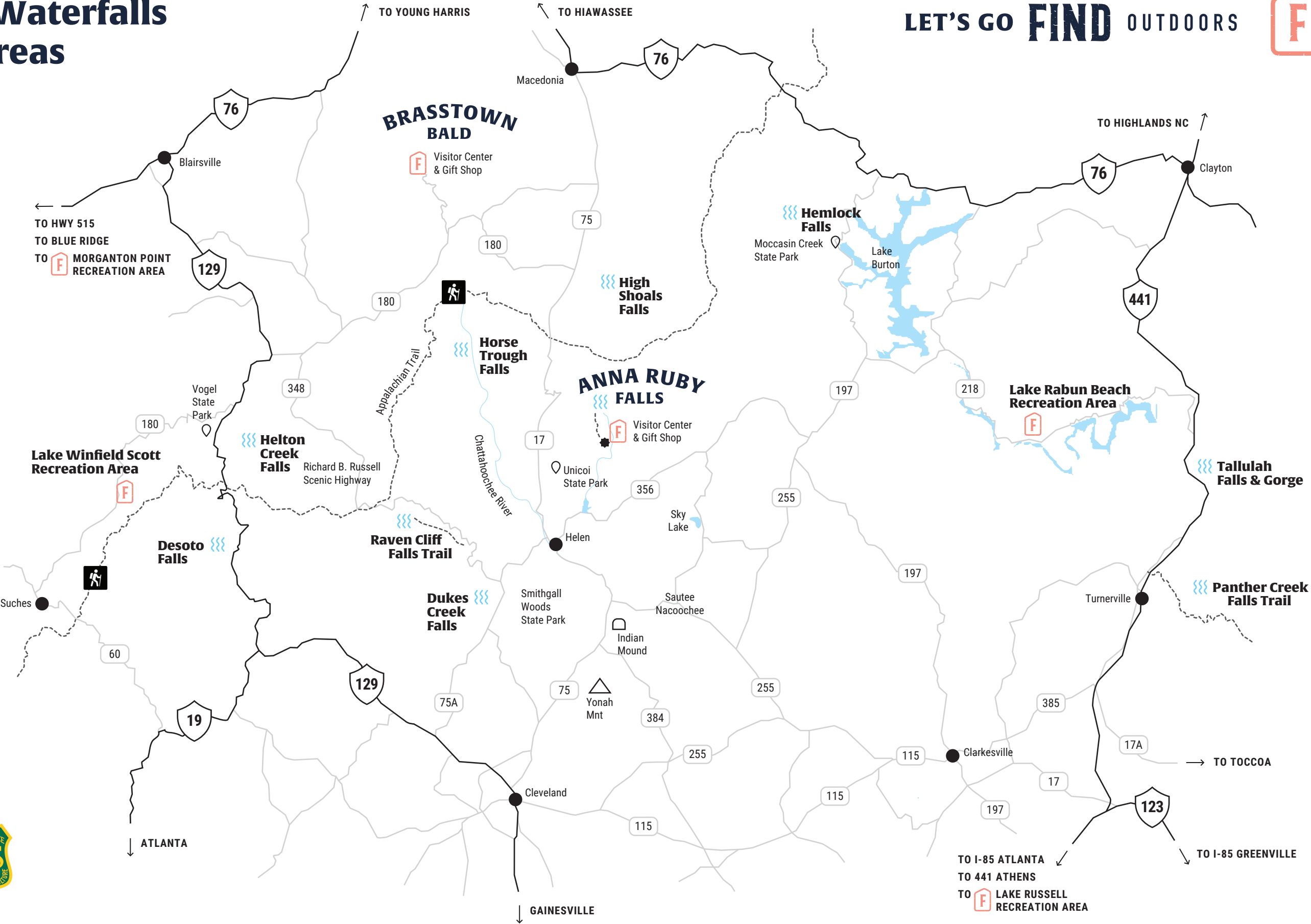
RIVER

TRAIL

FALLS

STATE PARK

FIND OUTDOORS SITE



»»» **Anna Ruby Falls**

**DIRECTIONS:**  
From Helen, take GA 75 north for 1 mile.  
Turn right on GA 356 and go 1.5 miles.  
Turn left at the sign to Anna Ruby Falls.  
Follow this road for 3.6 miles to the parking area.

**TRAIL // 0.4 MILE ONE WAY**  
A paved footpath meanders along Smith Creek from the Visitor Center to the base of the spectacular falls with benches provided along the way.

△ **Brasstown Bald THE HIGHEST POINT IN GEORGIA // 4,784 FEET**

**DIRECTIONS:**  
From Helen, take GA 75 north for 10.7 mi  
Turn left onto State Rte 180 and go 5.3 mi  
Sharp right onto GA-180 Spur  
Approximately 2.5 miles, look for signs to visitor center.

**OBSERVATION DECK & MOUNTAINTOP VISITOR CENTER**  
The observation deck offers a spectacular 360° view, including four states (GA, TN, NC, & SC) and if you're lucky, the skyline of Atlanta! A paved, moderately strenuous footpath passes through a high elevation rhododendron-filled forest from the parking lot to the base of the steps leading up to the visitor center and observation deck with benches along the way. Site is ADA accessible.

Ⓕ **Lake Rabun Beach Recreation Area**

**DIRECTIONS:**  
From Clayton, take US 441 South for 6 miles.  
Turn Right on Old 441 at Rabun Beach Recreation Area sign.  
Follow Old 441 for 2.5 miles & turn Left on Lake Rabun Road (218).  
Go 4 miles to Rabun Beach Camping Area #2.

**RECREATION:**  
Scenic lake, swimming area, boating, fishing

Ⓕ **Lake Russell Recreation Area**

**DIRECTIONS:**  
From Clayton, take US 441 South for 27 miles.  
Take exit toward 197 S or Habersham Ninth Grade Academy.  
Continue on HWY 197 S for 6 miles.  
Turn Right onto Dicks Hill Parkway and continue for 0.75 miles.  
Turn Left onto the paved Lake Russell Road and proceed to Lake Russell Recreation Area.

**RECREATION:**  
100 acre lake, swimming area, fishing dock, boat ramp, large picnic pavilion for group events

Ⓕ **Morganton Point Recreation Area**

**DIRECTIONS:**  
From Blairsville, take US 515 West for 16 miles.  
Turn Left onto Loving Rd and go 1.3 miles.  
Turn Right onto Old HWY 76 and go 0.4 miles.  
Take a slight Left onto Lake Drive and proceed 0.4 miles to Morganton Point Recreation Area.

**RECREATION:**  
RV sites (full hook-up), swimming beach, motorized boats permitted, paddle board & kayak rental

Ⓕ **Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area**

**DIRECTIONS:**  
From Blairsville, take US 129 South for 9.2 miles.  
Turn Right onto Hwy 180 (located before entrance to Vogel State Park).  
Continue on Hwy 180 for 6.8 miles to the recreation area entrance on the Left.

**RECREATION:**  
Swimming beach, boat ramp (electric motors only), ADA accessible fishing dock, large picnic pavilion for group events

**NORTH GEORGIA WATERFALLS**

»»» **Desoto Falls**

**DIRECTIONS:**  
From Blairsville, take U.S. HWY 19/129 south for 17 miles to campground entrance on right.  
From Dahlonega, take HWY I9 north for 18 miles to campground entrance on left.

**TRAIL // 0.75 MILE ONE-WAY**  
There are two waterfalls along the DeSoto Falls Trail. The lower falls cascade about 20 feet. The upper and most scenic falls drop 80 feet. Both are accessed by a maintained trail leading from the day use parking lot located in the DeSoto Falls Recreation Area. It is approximately 0.25 mile to the lower falls and approximately 0.75 mile to the upper falls. Please be advised that these are not loop trails. Please stay on the trail and observation decks!

»»» **Dukes Creek Falls**

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Take GA 75 north from Helen for 1.5 miles.  
Turn left on GA 356 (Alt. 75) and go 2.3 miles to the Richard Russell Scenic Byway.  
Turn right and go 2 miles to the Dukes Creek Falls Recreation Area.

**TRAIL // 1 MILE ONE-WAY**  
Located in the Dukes Creek Falls Recreation Area, this trail features several beautiful cascades that can be viewed from near or far. This trail is ADA accessible up to the first observation deck.

»»» **Helton Creek Falls**

**DIRECTIONS:**  
From Blairsville, take US 129 south for 11 miles.  
Turn left on the first gravel road past the Vogel State Park entrance.  
Go 2.2 miles to a small pullout parking area.  
Trailhead will be on right as indicated.

**TRAIL // 0.2 MILE ONE-WAY**  
The Helton Greek Falls Trail is an easy 0.2 mile hike. Be advised there are many abrupt changes in grade along this short walk.

»»» **Hemlock Falls**

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Near Moccasin Creek State Park.  
From GA 197 and US 76 junction, drive south on GA 197 for 3.6 miles.  
Turn right onto Andersonville Lane (immediately after Moccasin Creek State Park) at the sign for Hemlock Falls  
Travel 0.4 miles to a three-way junction intersection.  
Go straight ahead at the intersection and continue another 0.1 mile to where the road dead-ends at the trailhead.

**TRAIL // 0.8 MILE ONE-WAY**  
The trailhead for Hemlock Falls Trail (#50) is identified by a very large rock with Hemlock Falls Trail etched into it. This trail is considered an easy hike which follows along Moccasin Creek for most of the way.

»»» **High Shoals Falls**

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Take GA 75 north from Helen for 11.4 miles.  
Turn right onto FS Road 283 at the High Shoals sign.  
Go 1.5 miles on this road to the High Shoals Scenic Area.

**TRAIL // 1.2 MILES ONE-WAY**  
The High Shoals Trail follows along High Shoals Creek to observation decks beside two scenic waterfalls. It is approximately one mile to the upper Blue Hole Falls and an additional 0.2 mile to the lower High Shoals Falls. Please stay on the trail and observation decks!

»»» **Horse Trough Falls**

**DIRECTIONS:**  
From Helen, continue north on Hwy 17/75 for 9.4 miles.  
Turn left on FS Road #44 and go 4.8 miles to FS Road #44F on right.  
Follow FS Road #44 across for approximately 0.2 mile to trailhead.

**TRAIL // 0.4 MILE ONE WAY**  
Located deep within the Chattahoochee Wildlife Management Area, this short hike to a beautiful and rare falls is indeed a hidden treasure.

»»» **Panther Creek Falls**

**DIRECTIONS:**  
From US 441 and GA 17 Alt. junction, drive north on US 441 for 3.0 miles.  
Turn left onto Glenn Hardman Road just south of mile marker 18  
Travel 0.1 mile until the road ends at a stop sign (a U.S. post office will be straight ahead)  
Turn right, continuing 1.0 miles to a left turn into the parking area for the Chattahoochee National Forest Panther Creek Area.

**TRAIL // 3.5 MILES ONE-WAY**  
This is one of the most popular day hikes in northeast Georgia. An extended series of scenic shoals at the 2.5 mile mark could be mistaken for the waterfall, but you have another mile to go! The trail consists of steep slopes, rocky paths and sometimes requires crossing very narrow and precarious stretches of trail. Please, hike with caution and watch your step!

»»» **Raven Cliff Falls**

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Take GA 75 north from Helen 1.5 miles to junction with GA 356 (Alt. 75).  
Turn left onto GA 356 and continue 2.2 miles to the Russell-Brasstown Scenic Byway (#348), go 3 miles.  
Parking lot is located on left shoulder of road at mile marker #3.  
Look for trail signs.

**TRAIL // 3 MILES ONE-WAY**  
Located in the Raven Cliffs Wilderness Area, this blue blazed trail follows alongside Dodd Creek a good distance and then rambles through shady hemlock groves and dense laurel and rhododendron thickets. In addition to the main attraction, the trail offers 3 other smaller falls along the way. Although restrooms are available at the trailhead, there are no shower facilities. This is not a loop trail.

»»» **Tallulah Falls & Gorge**

**DIRECTIONS:**  
From US 441 and US 76 east junction, take US 441 south for 10.4 miles.  
Turn left onto Jane Hurt Yarn Road at the sign for the Interpretive Center Travel 0.4 miles to a fork in the road with stone pillars.  
Go right and come to a guard gate.  
Pay the day-use fee, then continue down the hill until the road dead-ends at the visitor center.

**TRAIL // 3.4 MILES**  
North & South Rim Trails. If you hike both the South and North Rim Trails out and back it's a 3.4 mile hike.

**WARNING!**  
The North Georgia Mountains and Chattahoochee National Forest are abound with spectacular waterfalls, but please use caution. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CLIMB NEAR THE FALLS. In addition to resource damage, rocks are often slippery and water can be swift. For your-safety, please obey all warning and posted signs. Observation decks, located near many of the waterfalls, offer the best vantage point for viewing or photographing. Most of all, we hope you enjoy your visit!