

Local Guide: Food, Drink, Gas and Activities

Hiking, Mountain Biking, and Horseback Riding Trails  
at Fort Mountain State Park

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# Fort Mountain State Park



## Big Rock Nature Trail

0.75-Mile Loop | 1 Hour Moderate Hike

The Big Rock Nature Trail travels from the ridgeline near the lake down into a mountain hollow, then crosses a dividing ridge and returns up Gold Mine Creek. It passes several small cascades and waterfalls. Wildflowers are abundant in spring.

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## Gahuti Trail and Cool Springs Overlook



8.7 Mile Loop | 5 Hour Moderate Hike

The Gahuti Trail travels around the edge of the park, passing just below the summits of both Cohutta and Fort mountains. Ever changing, the trail is both beautiful and challenging in all seasons, so hikers should always be aware of changing weather. Four backcountry campsites are available for use by permit only. The trail ends at the scenic Cool Springs Overlook with views of the Holly Creek Valley and Cohutta Mountains.

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## Lake Loop

1.2-Mile Loop | 1 Hour

Open to both bikes and foot traffic, this trail loops around Fort Mountain's lake and can be accessed from the campgrounds, cottage areas, picnic area and picnic shelter #5, and the Big Rock Trail parking area. The trail is most accessible traveled clockwise. In this manner, users descend the 75 lineal feet 20% grade.

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## CCC Fire Tower Combination: West Overlook & CCC Fire Tower Trails



1-Mile Loop | 1 Hour

The Stone Tower Loop is hiked by traveling uphill on the West Overlook Trail and returning on the CCC Stone Tower Trail. Enjoy year-round vistas from West Overlook. Hike includes some natural rock gardens and CCC-built steps.

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## Upper Cabin Combination: Upper Cabin Access, Lake, Goldmine Creek & Gahuti Trails

1.6-Mile Loop | 1.25 Hours Moderate Hike

The Upper Cabin Loop is hiked by using the Upper Cabin Access Trail to the Lake Loop, proceeding to the Goldmine Creek Trail and returning on the Gahuti Trail to the upper cottage area. This combination of trails offers excellent vistas from the ridgeline and wonderful views of the lake and Goldmine Creek. The creek was named for early gold mining, with some of the old mining pits visible along the trail.

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## 301 Mountain Bike Trail

14.6-Mile Loop | 4 Hours/Bike

The East-West Bike Loop is rated by many as one of the most beautiful and challenging mountain bike trails in the Southeast. It is open to both mountain bikers and hikers. Users travel from mountain ridge top to valley floor, through pine and scrub laurel thickets, upland hardwood and cove forests, by old mines, then waterfalls and rhododendrons along Hassler's Mill Creek before returning up the mountain.

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## Horse Trails

Contact the stables at 706-429-5075 or at [FortMountainStables@gmail.com](mailto:FortMountainStables@gmail.com). More than 25 miles of horse trails offer loop rides varying from 3 to 16 miles. Riders must bring their own horses and register at the stables. First-time riders must attach a photocopy proof of a negative Coggins test. Parking is at the stables access (west side of the park). Call ahead for trail closings during bad weather.

The horse trails pass through varied environments, from lush forest coves to wind-swept ridge tops. Wildflowers catch the eye in early spring, green foliage is bountiful during summer, changing leaf colors welcome fall, and spectacular vistas arrive with winter. Cliffs, waterfalls, old mines (some that provide natural "air-conditioning" during summer and warm air during winter), and abandoned mining equipment add interest to the trails. Horse watering stations are at approximately two-mile intervals.

The shorter loops, which begin at the stables and go past waterfalls, are the easier trails, with most at a 20% or less grade. Basic rules apply: riders must stay on marked trails; no trail riding between sunset and sunrise; no reckless or fast riding; and horses should not be left unattended or unbridled. Anyone found in violation of these rules will face criminal prosecution (OCGA 12-3-10) and be banned from use of horse trails at all state parks.

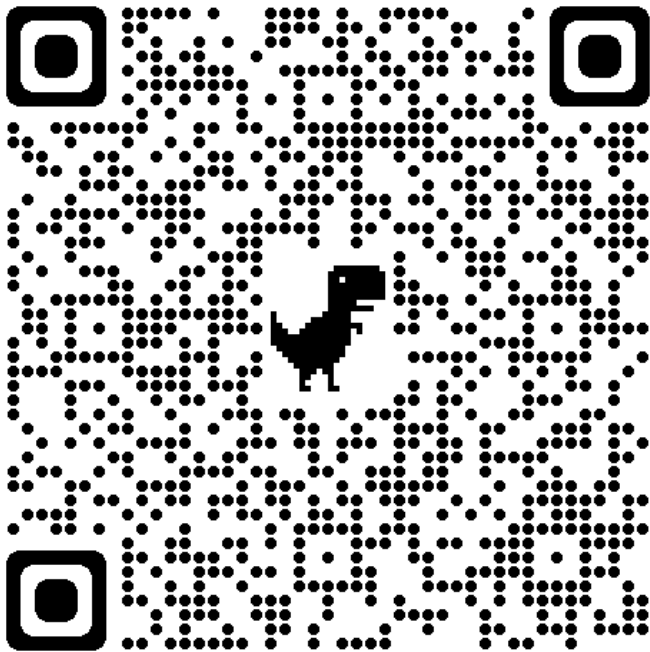
## Other Things To Do & See at Fort Mountain State Park

Hikers can also explore a stone fire tower built (see attached pdf for more information about the fire tower restoration) by the Civilian Conservation Corps and an ancient rock wall which stand on the highest point of the mountain. The mysterious 855-foot-long wall is thought to have been built by early Indians as fortification against more hostile Indians or for ancient ceremonies. See the Park attached park map.

- [Fishing](#)
- [Geocaching](#)
- Miniature Golf (fee) – seasonal
- [Paddling](#)
- [Swimming](#): Bring your bathing suit and a beach towel! The park has a nice sandy lakeside beach to cool off or sunbathe.
- Jon Boat, Kayak, Canoe, Paddleboard, Aquacycle & Pedal Boat Rental – seasonal

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## QR Code for Interactive Forest Visitors Guide: Chattahoochee National Forest



## Nearby Attractions

- [Emory Creek Falls Trail](#): 5.9 mi out-and-back trail
- Chattsworth Train Depot Museum
- [Fort Mountain Stables](#): Horseback riding adventures
- [Amicalola Falls State Park & Lodge](#): About an hour drive
- [Blue Ridge, GA](#), about 45 minute drive
- [Chief Vann House State Historic Site](#): 82 GA-225, Chatsworth, about a 20 minute drive.
- [Cohutta Wilderness Area](#): About 40 minutes
- [Dalton, GA](#): About 40 minutes
- [Gilmer County, GA](#): About 30 minutes
- [Funk Heritage Center](#) Just over an hour away
- [New Echota State Historic Site](#): About 45 minutes
- [Resaca Battlefield](#): Just over 45 minutes
- [Southern Highroads Trail](#)
- [Cohutta WMA](#): Just under an hour away
- [Chattanooga, Tennessee](#): About an hour and 15 minutes. Numerous great restaurants, breweries, and the famous Tennessee Aquarium
- [Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park](#): About an hour and 10 minutes
- [Cloudland Canyon State Park](#)\_1 hour and 25 minutes
- [Conasauga River WMA](#)
- [Coosawattee WMA](#)

## Groceries

Food City: 502 G I Maddox Pkwy, Chatsworth

Ingles: 962 G I Maddox Pkwy, Chatsworth

## Nearest Gas

- Coastal: 5339 US-411, Chatsworth
  - o M 6am-9:30pm, T-Sa 6am-10pm, Su 8am-9pm
- Marathon: 5312 US-411, Chatsworth
  - o 5:30 am - 10:30 pm

## Nearby Food and Drink

There are numerous fast food and chain options in Chatsworth such as Sonic, Little Caesars, KFC, Taco Bell, Subway, Krystal, Arby's, Bojangles, Wendy's, Zaxby's, and Pizza Hut. Local options include:

- Tonya's Tavern: Bar, no food

- o 206 E Fort St., Chatsworth
  - o W, Th 1pm-10pm, F-Sa 12pm-1am
- **Dalton Brewing Company (No food, about 35 minutes away)**
  - o 112 W King St, Dalton, GA 30720
  - o M-Th 4pm – 9 pm, F 4-10pm, Sa 2-10 pm, Su 3-7 pm
- **Cartecay River Brewing Co. (No food about 30 minutes away)**
  - o 26 River Terrace #1A, East Ellijay
  - o M-W 2-7 pm, Th 2-8pm, F 2-9pm, Sat 12-9, Su 1-6
- **Gettin Piggy wit it bbq**
  - o 1422 Green Rd, Chatsworth
  - o T-Sa 11am - 8 pm
- **Super Burrito Mexican Grill**
  - o 318 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Chatsworth
  - o M-W 11 am - 8:30 pm, Th-Sa 11am - 9 pm
- **Los Maguey**
  - o 3359 Hwy 411, Chatsworth
  - o Sun 11am-9pm, M-Sat 11am-10 pm
- **Edna's: Traditional Southern**
  - o 1300 US-411, Chatsworth, GA 30705
  - o W-Sa 11am – 7 pm
- **Crème Hut: Chicken, Sandwiches, burgers, hot dogs**
  - o 800 S 3rd Ave, Chatsworth, GA 30705
  - o M-F 10 am – 8 pm, Sat 10 am – 3 pm
- **Village Cafeteria: Traditional Southern Meat and 3.**
  - o 121 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Chatsworth, GA 30705
  - o M-F 11 am - 8pm