



Soul of the Southern Appalachians: WNC and North Georgia

May 26 - 29, 2026

\$2,495 /double • \$2,795 /single

Experience highlights of our Southern Appalachians with a three-night stay at the charming Brasstown Valley Lodge. Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Georgia, it is known for its warm hospitality, cozy mountain décor, and sweeping views. Ride the rails through spectacular scenery aboard the Smoky Mountain Scenic Railway and enjoy a pontoon boat excursion on pristine Lake Santeelah. Stroll the cobblestone streets of the Alpine-style village of Helen, Georgia, and take in the breathtaking mountain vistas along the famed Cherokee Skyway. This four-day getaway offers the perfect blend of relaxation, natural beauty, and engaging experiences as we explore the magic of our own Southern Appalachian backyard!

TOUR INCLUDES

- Local home pick-up service and luggage handling
- Fully escorted by Globe Treks tour manager
- All meals, attractions, guides, and activities
- 3 Nights at Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa
- First-Class Steam Rail – Great Smoky Mountains Railway
- Oconaluftee Living Indian Village Experience
- Pontoon Boat Ride on Lake Santeelah
- Scenic Drive on the Cherokee Skyway
- Folk Pottery Museum of Northern Georgia
- Dahlonega Gold Rush Museum
- Toccoa Falls & Tallulah Gorge State Park
- Bavarian Helen, Georgia

prices & itineraries subject to change

Reserve your spot! (828) 692-1399 • globetreks.com

Office Location: 1605 Asheville Highway, Hendersonville, NC 28791

Soul of the Southern Appalachians: **Day by Day**

Day 1 – Rails Through the Mountains

You'll be picked up at your doorstep, arrive at our office and enjoy a light continental breakfast. We will roll the deluxe Globe Treks motor coach toward the peaceful town of Dillsboro, NC. Here, we board the lovingly preserved steam-powered train of the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad for a first-class journey through the Nantahala Gorge. From plush first-class seating, wide picture windows reveal tumbling whitewater, rocky cliffs, and green forests unfolding mile after mile. Lunch is served on board with warm hospitality — the kind of unhurried dining that belongs to a past era of travel. Our next stop brings history vividly to life at the Oconaluftee Indian Village in Cherokee, North Carolina, where members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians share their living traditions. Walk through recreated 18th-century structures, watch master artisans at work, and learn about the struggles and resilience of a culture shaped by centuries of change.

By late afternoon, we arrive at our home for the next three nights: the Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa, nestled at the base of Brasstown Bald, Georgia's highest peak. Amenities include spacious, well-appointed guest rooms, a full-service spa, an indoor/outdoor heated pool, and scenic walking paths. For those interested, the resort's lobby features cozy stone fireplaces and panoramic mountain views. A delicious welcome dinner in the resort's panoramic dining room caps off the day.

Day 2 – Bavarian Charm and Starlit Skies

This morning, we journey south to Dahlonega, Georgia, where the country's first gold rush ignited in 1828. At the Dahlonega Gold Museum Historic Site, we uncover stories of prospectors and fortune seekers who helped shape the region's early identity. Our route then winds through the foothills to the Alpine-style village of Helen, Georgia. With its gabled rooftops, half-timbered facades, and bright flower boxes, Helen transports visitors straight to Bavaria. We'll gather for a festive lunch in a traditional German restaurant — think schnitzel, bratwurst, and strudel — before wandering through the cobblestone streets. The afternoon invites exploration: browse artisan galleries, visit the nostalgic Old Santee Store, or enjoy a gentle riverside walk. A short drive brings us to the Folk Pottery Museum of Northeast Georgia, one of the few museums in the world devoted entirely to folk pottery. Here, interactive exhibits trace two centuries of Appalachian pottery traditions — earthy, soulful, and beautifully crafted. To end the day, we'll visit Habersham Winery, one of Georgia's premier wineries. Amid rolling vineyards, guests will enjoy a guided tasting of award-winning wines, learn the stories behind each vintage, and relax into the gentle rhythms of North Georgia wine country.

Day 3 – Wild Forests and Skyway Views

Today we step into a cathedral of trees, poplars — some over 400 years old — rise straight to the sky. The road climbs onto the Cherohala Skyway, a National Scenic Byway often called one of the most beautiful drives in America. With every turn, new vistas open: rolling ridgelines, deep green valleys, and peaks stretching into the distance. The Skyway crosses into Tennessee before descending toward the Tapoco Lodge, a 1930s mountain lodge perched on the Cheoah River. Lunch on the riverfront terrace is a highlight. After lunch, pontoon boats await at Lake Santeetlah, one of the most pristine and unspoiled lakes in the Southeast. Nearly 80% of its shoreline is protected national forest, ensuring an untouched landscape of emerald hills and mirror-still water. As we set out, you'll feel the gentle hum of the motor, the cool breeze across the deck, and the stillness of the high country all around you. If we're lucky, we might catch sight of eagles, herons, or deer along the shore.

Day 4 – Homeward Through the Hills

After a leisurely breakfast and a last breath of mountain air, we begin our journey home — but the beauty isn't over yet. Our first stop is Toccoa Falls, a 186-foot cascade. Taller than Niagara Falls yet hidden in a quiet ravine, this waterfall tumbles in a silken ribbon into a clear pool below, creating a perfect moment of calm and wonder. We continue to Tallulah Gorge State Park, home to one of the most dramatic canyons in the Southeast. Carved over millennia by the Tallulah River, this spectacular two-mile-long gorge plunges nearly 1,000 feet deep. From scenic overlooks, the view of the river, waterfalls, and ancient rock walls is nothing short of awe-inspiring.

Lunch today is at the famed Dillard House Restaurant, a North Georgia institution known for its warm hospitality and generous family-style Southern meals. Platters of fried chicken, country ham, fresh vegetables, homemade biscuits, and cobbler are set on the table for a feast that's as much tradition as it is cuisine. We return to Hendersonville in the late afternoon, carrying with us more than photographs — but a deeper connection to the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

prices & itineraries subject to change

Reserve your spot! (828) 692-1399 • globetrekks.com

Office Location: 1605 Asheville Highway, Hendersonville, NC 28791