

# A Great Georgia Road Trip

A Great Georgia Road Trip would be incomplete without visiting a few State Parks and Wildlife Refuges along the way. Like High Falls State Park, the lands under the purview of the Georgia State Parks and Department of Natural Resources, and the US Fish and Wildlife Services are unique and unparalleled in their beauty. Host to the great outdoors, the City of Forsyth has everything an adventurer could want. It has rivers and lakes for paddling, trails for hiking and horseback riding, and beautiful waterfalls.

Outside of these parks, home to stunning vistas and breathtaking wonders, are small picturesque communities that cater to the visitors with charming hotels, culinary delights, local culture and innovative museums that tell fascinating stories. High Falls, Juliette and the City of Forsyth offer their distinct and diverse histories, cultures, food and art—as well as being close to the entrances to some of Georgia’s and the United States’ most prized heritage locations.



The City of Forsyth is a great hub to several area attractions. It is home to five city parks that offer everything from picnicking and playgrounds to fitness trails and tennis, to a tranquil, yet challenging 18-hole public golf course. Downtown Forsyth is a National Register of Historic Places District and is abundant with small town charm. Take a walking tour starting at the Historic Courthouse Square, brush up on your history at the Monroe County Museum located in one of the historic train depots, or find “what to do” and “where to eat” at the City of Forsyth’s Welcome Center at 68 North Lee Street.



**WALKING**



**TOUR APPS**

## High Falls State Park

**A RELAXING SIDE TRIP FOR I-75 TRAVELERS WITH DOG FRIENDLY TRAILS, YURTS, CAMPSITES, PICNIC SHELTERS, A PIONEER CAMP, A PADDLE-IN PRIMITIVE CAMPSITE AND GROUP SHELTER.**

[HTTP://GASTATEPARKS.ORG/HIGHFALLS](http://GASTATEPARKS.ORG/HIGHFALLS)

Reservations 800-864-7275, Park 478-993-3053



Located 12 miles northwest of the City of Forsyth, High Falls State Park is named for tumbling cascades on the Towaligia River. Boat rental, ramps and fishing docks provide easy access to the park’s lake, known as one of Georgia’s top fishing spots for hybrid and white bass. Overnight visitors can choose from nearby hotels and a KOA in Forsyth, or from the spacious campground or lakeside yurts. During the summer, guests may cool off in the park’s swimming pool.

Visitors can hike along the river's edge and through hilly forest to the remains of a hydroelectric power plant foundation. In the early 1800s, this area was a prosperous industrial town with several stores, a grist mill, cotton gin, blacksmith shop, shoe factory and hotel. High Falls fell from prosperity in the 1880s when a major railroad bypassed it. Today, the park is a popular outdoor destination and a relaxing side trip for travelers on I-75; and has been selected for its dog friendly trails. The Falls Trail (1.5-mile loop) is a moderately challenging trail through hilly forests and along the Towlinga River, offering rewarding waterfall views. Dogs must remain on a leash and NEVER be left unattended.

## Use the City of Forsyth as your home base and visit nearby Road Trip Destinations:

**Indian Springs State Park:** Conveniently located near I-75, Indian Springs is one of the oldest state parks in the United States and a popular spot for outdoor recreation. For centuries, Creek Indians collected the spring water for its healing qualities. During the 1800s, the area was a bustling resort town. Today, visitors can still sample the spring water flowing inside the stone Spring House built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression. Park guests can also enjoy wading in Sandy Creek or swimming in McIntosh Lake --named for Creek Chief William McIntosh who signed an illegal treaty deeding Indian land to Georgia in 1825. A small museum, open seasonally, highlights Creek Indians, the resort era and CCC history. <http://gastateparks.org/indiansprings>

**Dauset Trails:** Dauset Trails is a private, non-profit nature center open for all to enjoy, conveniently located near I-75. Dauset Trails is an environmental education center waiting for you to explore. Wildlife, hiking and biking trails and much more. Explore the ponds, creeks, wildflower fields, wooded trails and nature center. <http://www.dausettrails.com>

**Jarrell Plantation:** " Dating back to 1847, through generations of family members, Jarrell Plantation Historic Site is one of the last remaining examples of a vanishing culture with its authentic nineteenth and early twentieth century plantation buildings typical to Middle Georgia representing the change from an agricultural to an industrial based economy." <http://gastateparks.org/JarrellPlantation>

**Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge:** Piedmont NWR is one of over 550 refuges scattered across the United States, and is located 18 miles east of Forsyth off I-75 exit 186. It was established in 1939 as a "combination wildlife and game-management demonstration area" to restore worn out, eroded lands. The vast forest that reigned supreme for eons had been cleared by European settlers in the early 1800's. Cotton became king and farming robbed the soil of its natural fertility. The loss of forest, with its soil stabilizing root system, led to massive erosion problems. The Civil War, the boll weevil and the Great Depression combined to cause large scale abandonment during the Dust Bowl Era. Today, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's 35,000 acre refuge is once again a forest. Wildlife populations have been restored. There are 30 cemeteries and many other reminders of the settlers that were once scattered throughout the refuge area. <https://www.fws.gov/piedmont/> Piedmont NWR also manages **Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge**, which is located along the Ocmulgee River in Bibb and Twiggs counties. [www.fws.gov/bondswamp](http://www.fws.gov/bondswamp)

**Lake Juliette and Rum Creek WMA:** Just an hour's drive south of downtown Atlanta and 10 minutes from the City of Forsyth, Lake Juliette and Rum Creek WMA have hunting, fishing, camping and bird-watching available daily. Lake Juliette, a 3,600 acre reservoir operated by Georgia Power, is surrounded by the Rum Creek WMA and is adjacent to the Rum Creek MARSH project -- a refuge for wintering waterfowl. The most common species of ducks found on the lake include ring-necked ducks, lesser scaup, teal, and mallards. Canada geese are also found feeding on open points scattered around the lake. Call the GADNR at 478-825-6354 Monday - Friday 8am - 4:30pm, for more information, [www.georgiawildlife.com/hunting/wildlife-management-areas](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/hunting/wildlife-management-areas)



*Enjoy and safe travels!*



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