

# Gather Your Group for an Unforgettable Adventure in Alpine Helen-White County, Georgia Sample Itinerary

**Day one:** Arrive in Helen, lunch and explore downtown. Get ready for abundant shopping, art galleries, wineries, traditional German dishes and international fare all set against the North Georgia beauty with a Bavarian sensibility, alongside the Chattahoochee River.

Check into accommodations. Stay at one of the downtown hotels, perfect for groups, many with function spaces and complimentary breakfasts or book at a lodge, cabin or chalet. Mountain cabins and lodges are ideal for multi-generational travelers.

Perfect for family reunions, small or large groups, Helen-White County has more than 2,000 cabin rooms tucked out and about – in valleys, on top of mountains, by streams and rivers, to accommodate groups. Guests can also rest in comfort at Unicoi State Park and Adventure Lodge where there's a choice of a hotel-style lodge, fully equipped cottages and modern campground. Or, try staying in a downtown hotel where groups are able to walk to and from attractions in this pedestrian-friendly destination. Whether your group prefers a cluster of smaller, cozy cabins or those of lodge-size proportions, you can find it in White County.

The supper bell is ringing! From German-inspired fare to Southern food with a twist, the staff at the CVB is happy to assist you in selecting the most scrumptious dining options to suit every age in your group.

Share a meal and memories at multi-generation-pleasing Unicoi Restaurant. Unicoi State Park and Adventure Lodge and Smithgall Woods offer educational programs, too.

After dinner stroll through the downtown and wind down alongside the Chattahoochee River, beneath the twinkling lights of Mother Nature.

**Day Two:** Breakfast at your hotel or on local fare previously purchased like homemade biscuits or pastries from Betty's Country Store or Hofer's German Bakery and Café.

Spend the morning in the newly-opened Hardman Estate and Heritage Site, once home to a former governor for the state of Georgia. The property includes an Italianate farmhouse and 20 buildings whose history dates back to 1870. The site is owned and managed by Georgia Department of Natural Resources; call ahead to find out about tour times.

Venture back towards Helen and spend some time at Nacoochee Village. Established in 1876, the Nora Mill Granary is a historic gristmill sitting alongside the Chattahoochee River that stone-grinds corn and wheat, producing grits, corn meal, pancake and waffle mixes, flours, biscuit and bread mixes, pioneer's porridge and more. The gristmill – constructed of 1,500-pound French Burr mill stones and a 100-foot wooden raceway that feeds water, not into a vertical water wheel but to a water turbine – is quite a sight to behold. Visitors can sample the products at the old-fashioned country store and gift shop, Nora Mill Next Door – its roomy kitchen was built just for cooking and serving up samples – and browse among thousands of items, including candy, popcorn, honey, jams and jellies and kitchen gadgets. After touring the Mill, step back in time at Nacoochee Antiques, sip vino at Habersham Winery, and pick up a one-of-a-kind piece of art at Willows Pottery – all before grabbing lunch at Nacoochee Grill or one of the other one-of-a-kind restaurants in the Sautee and Nacoochee Valleys. Or, if a more traditional group option is desired, Western Sizzlin, just around the corner, serves up

something for everyone.

In the afternoon learn about the history and heritage of the area. Get in touch with your inner artiste at Sautee: tour the Folk Pottery Museum of Northeast Georgia and the history center and art gallery at the Sautee Nacoochee Community Center. Shop at Sautee Junction.

Catch a second wind in the late afternoon and re-energize with a cup of Joe from one of the local coffee shops or sip wine at one of the three winery tasting rooms. Habersham Winery is one of Georgia's oldest and largest wineries and its gift shop is an oenophile's paradise. Yonah Mountain Vineyards Tasting Room sits at the foothills of Yonah Mountain and offers sips at a beautiful hand-crafted wine bar with sweeping views of the mountains. And, take time to stand in awe of magnificent Yonah Mountain and soak in the lush farmland and vineyard that surrounds CeNita Vineyards, where the event hall serves as a venue for some of life's most cherished moments.

Share memories of the day over dinner at one of Helen's group-friendly restaurants; the staff at the Helen CVB will be happy to assist you with dining options.

**Day three:** Breakfast in town; try one of the downtown coffee shops.

Depending upon the season and weather, morning is a beautiful time to venture into nature at Unicoi State Park and Adventure Lodge, Anna Ruby Falls in the Chattahoochee National Forest or at Smithgall Woods Conservation area. Plus, there is always more to discover in downtown Helen.



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Lunch in Helen; then, load up and head to Babyland General in nearby Cleveland, an amazing experience for children and adults alike. The spectacular home of BabyLand General Hospital is a Southern-style mansion that sits majestically on a 100-acre spread in the foothills of the North Georgia Mountains. The 70,000-square foot complex is home of the beloved Cabbage Patch Kids, newborn, preemie and Lullaby editions and BabyLand Exclusives, as well as playful museum-like vignettes of Kids dating back to 1977. There is a busy retail shop, a (shhh!) Nursery, and the Cabbage Patch planted charmingly beneath the Magic Crystal Tree – the only place you can find “hand-stitched to birth” soft-sculpture Original Cabbage Patch Kids. The site was chosen by Cabbage Patch Kid creator, artist Xavier Roberts, after he saw storklike birds resting on the hill, marking the perfect place to “deliver” babies.

Depart or extend your stay in the area; Helen is ideally located as a hub and spoke base for traveling between the many mountain communities in Northeast Georgia.

Be sure to check out the Alpine Helen-White County Convention and Visitors Bureau’s annual calendar of events at [www.HelenGa.org](http://www.HelenGa.org). Throughout the year Alpine Helen and it’s surrounds offer workshops and events for groups and the area is home to lots of fun festivals – fast becoming a center for Appalachian art.

