

A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR YOUR GENERATION

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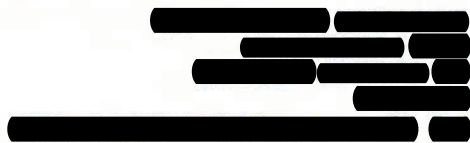
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TRAVEL Discover Gold in Dahlonega, Georgia



by Jan Ross,
Staff Writer

In 1828, well before gold was discovered in California, these

precious nuggets were unearthed in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Georgia. A gold rush ensued and the lovely little town of Dahlonega made its way onto maps. The gold heritage can still be found as you pan for gold, tour the area gold mines and visit the Dahlonega Gold Museum in the historic downtown district.

But gold is not the only precious item to be found in Dahlonega as the accommodations, restaurants, quaint historic downtown district, and area waterfalls will attest. The perfect place to stay overnight, The Dahlonega Spa Resort is located just a few minutes drive from the downtown area and is well worth the drive. Spread out over 72 gorgeous, wooded acres, the Resort offers rooms in a Main Inn, a guest house and – our favorite – luxurious wooden cabins. The cabins come complete with a full kitchen and bath and a large bed/sitting area. A huge outside Jacuzzi is available for lounging, a complete spa offers Yoga classes and massages, and the onsite restaurant serves delicious organic and locally sourced entrees for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

When you are ready for an absolutely incredible meal, you must



make time for two restaurants in Dahlonega, both of which are unique, owned by quite lovely and friendly people, and both of which serve just incomparable food. You might think you have stepped into Key West when you see the Back Porch Oyster Bar, located in downtown Dahlonega and with cuisine inspired by the owner's home in coastal North Carolina. You can't go wrong with any of the luscious seafood items on the menu. Another night, take a drive up the mountain to The Oar House – just be sure you don't miss it as it is tucked away beside the road, overlooking the river.

Located in a converted home with a charming deck beside the river, something you absolutely must try is their stuffed dates appetizer. We were hesitant but, take my word for it; you will want to sample this fabulous and unique item.

You must plan to spend a day at the amazing Montaluce Winery and Estates. Northern Georgia is becoming more and more known as a great location for wineries and this place is just amazing. With a 25,000 square foot winery designed to resemble a grand Tuscan villa, complimentary tours and wine tastings daily, and a restaurant with great food and incredible views of the grounds, this is a perfect location in which to spend an afternoon – and be sure to purchase some wine to take home!

Dahlonega is well-known for the more than 30 beautiful waterfalls in the area so plan a day of hiking and waterfall viewing. One of the best is the Amicalola waterfall, the highest waterfall east of the Mississippi. Prepare yourself for quite a hike but there are wooden stairs up to the



waterfall which makes the last part of the hike pretty easy – except for climbing all those stairs!

There are plenty of other places to hike, participate in other outdoor activities such as canoeing, lots of places to shop – the small, local shops in the downtown area were a personal favorite – as well as a myriad of other activities for visitors.

There's gold in those hills – so go find it in Dahlonega!

