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GEOCACHING CHALLENGE.



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activities

HIKE: ATLANTA



HIKE: ATLANTA, GEORGIA

By Gina DeMillo Wagner

WHY HERE, WHY NOW:

Because nothing says The South like a little stroll through a Civil War historic site. Plus, the views of the Atlanta skyline from the mountaintop can't be beat.

THE DIRT

The name "Kennesaw" comes from the Cherokee Indian word for "burial ground." And that's appropriate, given that tens of thousands of soldiers died here during General Sherman's Atlanta Campaign during the Civil War. The park preserves three battlefields and includes trails leading to the summit of **Kennesaw Mountain**, 1,808 feet above sea level. This 5.5-mile loop starts and ends on Burnt Hickory Rd. Look for artifacts such as cannons along the way.

MORE INFO:

nps.gov/kemo

TRAILHEAD:

Take I-75 to Barrett Parkway (exit 269). At the light, turn west onto Barrett Parkway. Follow Barrett Parkway for about 3 miles, then turn left onto Old Hwy 41. Turn right at the next light onto Stilesboro Rd. Continue past the visitor center that will be immediately on your left, and turn left onto Old Mountain Rd. This road dead-ends into Burnt Hickory Rd. Turn left, and the trail is located on the left.

TRAIL DETAILS

Mile	Description	GPS (latitude and longitude)
0	From the road, head into the wooded hills	33.96340N, -84.59358W
.5	Turn left and climb to Little Kennesaw Mtn.	33.96717N, -84.58770W
.8	Civil war canyons; cross the park road	33.97032N, -84.58715W
1.4	Kennesaw Mountain (1,808 ft.) with views to Atlanta	33.97612N, -84.57954W
1.6	Parking lot; follow signs to the visitor center	33.97792N, -84.57751W
2.4	Stop at the visitor center, then continue on the trail behind it, heading E into a field	33.98243N, -84.57803W
3.2	Swing into woods; at the next three intersections turn right, heading south back to Burnt Hickory Rd.	33.97872N, -84.57060W
5.3	Turn right onto Burnt Hickory Rd. and return to your car	33.96220N, -84.58815W

SHOPS:

High Country Outfitters (3906 Roswell Rd NE; 404/814-0999; highcountryoutfitters.com) is a great stop for trail beta and gear. For all things athletic, try **Niketown Atlanta** (3500 Peachtree Rd. NE; 404/841.6444; niketown.com). And **REI Atlanta** (1800 N.E. Expressway; 404/633-6508; rei.com) offers apparel, shoes and other outdoor goodies.

GRUB:

Melting Pot Restaurant (2500 Cobb Place Lane; 770/425-1411; meltingpot.com), where it's all fondue, all the time. No trip to the South is complete without a little BBQ. Try **Smokey Bones BBQ** (2475 George Busbee Pkwy.; 678/290-7771; smokeybones.com) for slow-cooked meats, pulled pork and other southern staples. If you're in a hurry, you can also find refreshments at the **Kennesaw Mountain Park Visitor Center**.

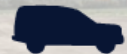
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CRASH:

Close to Kennesaw Mountain Park and other attractions like Six Flags, **Doubletree Atlanta NW/Marietta** (2055 S Park Place; 770/272-9441; doubletree.com) is relaxed and family-friendly (starting at \$159 per night). A little farther north on I-75 you'll find camping at **KOA Cartersville** starting at \$20 per night (800 Cassville-White Road NW; 770/382-7330; koa.com).

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