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## Gem hunting in georgia

The days of striking the rich by prospecting for gold and precious stones in Georgia are long overdue, but you can just dig a mother lode of fun. You'll also come up with some raw, uncut gems and maybe even some gold! Mining sites where tourists can prospect for precious metal and precious stones still operate in Georgia, many a short drive from Crossing Creek's RV Resort and Spa in Blairsville, Georgia. Some are operating temporarily on reduced schedules with social distancing rules in effect, but you can find this data easily on their individual websites or by calling. Georgia's Sparkling History Have you ever seen the gleaming gold dome at the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta? It's gold leaf that's broken in North Georgia. It surprises many from outside the state, but gold mining has a prominent role in Georgia history. For 20 years beginning in 1829, the state was a primary source of gold in the United States. Georgia Gold Rush ended in 1849, when gold was discovered in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California and San Francisco became the nation's Golden Gate. The area around Cleveland, Georgia, was ripe for placer mining, with gold gleaned from creek beds or from shallow depths of land where streams had flowed, and lode mining, with precious metal extracted from tunnels and shafts. Gold was so abundant in North Georgia in the early 19th century that the American Mint opened a branch in Dahlonega, the second mint outside Philadelphia; a branch in Charlotte , North Carolina, was the first. The Dahlonega Mint burned in 1878, but North Georgia College erected Price Memorial Hall on the foundation. It's still in use. For a good understanding of gold and pearl mining in Georgia, visit the Dahlonega Gold Museum Historic Site. This state seat is located in Old Lumpkin County Courthouse, 1 Public Square N, Dahlonega, GA 30533. It's about an hour's drive from Crossing Creeks. In addition to historical exhibitions, there is an opportunity to pan for gold. Prospecting for Fun Panning for Gold today, or exploring a bucket or pile of paydirt for gold or gemstones, has become an activity for tourists or people making jewelry. Tourists pay a fee to mining companies and test their luck. Among the minerals and gemstones likely to be found in Georgia are ametin, aventurin, beryl, black tourmaline, citrine, emeralds, garnet, moonstone, peridot, quartz, rose quartz, rubies, sapphires and topaz. For an idea of what you can find, check out a grandfather's video about his family's experience with a bag of paydirt he bought online. Can you keep what you find? Usually. Some companies, if you find a particularly large example, say they retain the right to pay you a wholesale price for it, or a percentage of that value. But in many places you will go home with a bag or two gems. Some mines have gift shops, and some offer pearl-cutting services so the stones you harvest can be made into jewelry. What to bring burro at home, but you may need to include tools, such as shovels and rakes, or you may not, depending on the mine. Some allow and even encourage participants to bring tents or shade. Definitely bring lots of water to stay hydrated if the site you will be visiting involves digging up the dirt yourself. Check individual websites. Some companies deliver the tools you need. Some supply sheltered tables where panning is done from dirt mine supplies. Fees You will usually pay from \$35 to \$50 per person to hunt gold and/or pearls, but as low as \$10.95. Some websites may charge less for children, or even allow young prospectors to participate free of charge in the company of a paying adult. Some sites admit for free but charge the bucket. Again, check websites, because some websites do not allow children younger than a certain age. Because schedules are limited, reservations and/or prepayment may be required. Here are some places where city slickers and suburbanites can play gold miners for a day: Georgia Gold & Gem Mining Sites Crisson Gold Mine Website: Location: 2736 Morrison Moore Pkwy E, Dahlonega, GA 30533, about an hour's drive from Crossing Creeks. Phone: 706-864-6363 Fees: \$10.95 per person, 4years old and up, includes self-guided tours, a pot of dirt to sift for gold and vial to hold gold fragments, plus 2 liters of dirt to pan for gemstones; younger children for free; \$10 per family carriage ride; \$17.50 to \$175 for additional buckets, some of them containing concentrated ore amounts; \$60 non-concentrated wheelbarrow of dirt. Schedule: 10 .m.-5 .m daily; to confirm and make reservations. Gold 'n Gem Grubbin' Historic Goldmine Site: Location: 75 Gold Nugget Lane, Cleveland GA 30528, about 50 minutes drive from Crossing Creeks. Phone: 706-865-5454 Fees: Pan for gold, \$30, \$75, \$145 buckets; Grub for Gems, \$20, \$30, \$60, \$100, \$300, \$500 buckets; custom jewelry, made of beads you will find, the price varies. Schedule: Temporarily closed to visitors; products that are still available. Check the website for any reopening plans. Jackson's Crossroads Amethyst Mine (JXR Ameten Mine) Site: Location: Hollis Norman Road, Tignall, GA 30668, about a 2-hour and 45-minute drive from Crossing Creeks. Phone: 303-319-9199 Fees: \$50 per person, 14 years and older. No younger kids. Schedule: Public excavations scheduled May 16 and May 30, 2020. Check the website for open dates after that. Hogg Mine Website: Location: 2408 Whitesville Road, LaGrange, GA 30240, about a 2-hour and 50-minute drive from Crossing Creeks. Customers with bookings meet at a McDonald's restaurant at this address and headed to the mine. Phone: 800-455-2334 Fees: \$35 per person, age 16 and older; younger children who are free with paying adults. Schedule: Date is tentative; check your website or phone. Year 2020: 16, 30 May; June 13, 27; July 11, 25; Aug. 8, 22; Sept. 5, 19; Oct 3, 17, 31; Nov. 14, 28; 12 Dec. 26. Duke brook Duke brook and Ruby Mines Website: Location: 7901 South Main St, Helen, GA 30545, about 45 minutes drive from Crossing Creeks. Phone: 706-878-5065 Fees: Admission free; children are welcome. Participants are charged per container with paydirt. Prices vary depending on size. Schedule: Daily, opens 10 .m. The timetable for 2020 may be limited. Call. Graves Mountain We do not use the word best lightly. The Lilly Pad Village is not just GEM MINING WE ARE AN EXPERIENCE! We guarantee that your gem mining adventure will be the best ever! We can be imitated but never duplicated! The Lilly Pad pearl mining is not only fun and entertaining but it is interactive and certainly memorable. We work very hard to offer the most generous, comfortable and educational gem mining experience in Blue Ridge. Each bucket is completely unique and the gems are large and colorful. You can find emeralds, sapphires, rubies, garnettes, ametett, quartz of all colors, Tigers Eye and Moonstones just to name a few. Best Gem Mining – Happiest Miners! We don't use sand, so your fun can literally last as long as you wish. (sand washes through in no time). Our pearl buckets are loaded and our knowledgeable staff is ALWAYS on hand to explain what you find, offer valuable and educational information about gemstones in general or provide directions and recommendations for hiking, dining and other Blue Ridge activities. Your kids will have fun with gemstone magic (where a large gemstone or two magically appears out of nowhere in their tiles). No one leaves Lilly Pad Village without a big stash, without a smile and without the desire to be back soon. We get hundreds of repeat shops, great reviews and lots of kids (and adults) showing up three/four times during their vacation. Repeat miners always get discount! The Lilly Pad Gem Mining is located on our beautiful property, away from Ash Road, away from traffic and noise, offering a covered and shaded area with seating for parents, fans to cool the air and to chase bugs away. Most times during the season we also offer on-site gem polishing. Jim and Karen are not only very knowledgeable but also fun and entertaining, providing great social interaction. We simply LOVE making kids smile, seeing parents happy and of course looking forward to seeing them the next day (It happens way too often) Don't forget that buying tickets online will always SAVE money. Gem Mining makes a great gift! Gift cards are available. Discount for groups of ten or more. A Gallon Bucket - Good for Individuals. 12 LBS of pearl dirt about 8 to 10 oz. plus assorted gems.\$17.00 Two Gallon Bucket - Great sharing size for two or just enjoy it yourself!. 24 LBS of pearl dirt - about 16 to 20 oz. of gemstone finds.\$ 32.00 Big Blue Bucket - great for up to eight guests. About 50 LBS of pearl dirt with about \$25.00 worth of additional gemstones and a pearl You will walk away with about 50 to 60 oz. plus gems per bucket.\$80.00 Gem ID ID You don't have to take this card with you. We have them laminated at pearl mining flumes. This is simply for your personal use. Gem ID Card Lilly Pad Village

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