



Photos courtesy of Anderson Creek Retreat

# Southern Comfort

Slow down and stay a while. Anderson Creek Retreat is a community dedicated to family, fun *and* the future of our planet.

Everything is sweeter in the South. It's a belief shared by all who dwell here. From the cool pitchers of sweet tea to the fragrant aroma of wild honeysuckle, it doesn't get much better than southern living. Lucky for you, **Anderson Creek Retreat**, located in the heart of western Georgia, invites you to come and see for yourself. The only problem is, you may not want to leave.

## What's So Special About Anderson Creek Retreat?

For starters, this mountain hideaway was developed—and is still run—by descendants of the original family that settled along

Anderson Creek in the 1840s, making it an instant close-knit community. And as important as family is to the folks here, so is the surrounding environment. Dedicated to preserving the southern Appalachians, the retreat's master plan is designed to protect the region's fragile watersheds, woodlands and wildlife.

Ideally positioned in the heart of the largest strip of wilderness east of the Mississippi, Anderson Creek Retreat welcomes you with a number of nearby resources. In fact, it's connected to the **Chattahoochee National Forest** and lies just over the ridge from **Amicalola Falls State Park**. Plus, the

retreat may seem remote once you're there, but, at just 75 miles north of Atlanta, it's actually only a little more than an hour's drive from metropolitan amenities.

So, what's there to do once you're here? You'll undoubtedly want to explore the awe-inspiring landscape, but first you'll have to choose your mode of transportation. With more than 1,500 acres at the retreat itself and another 750,000 acres of national forest right next door, property owners have endless woodlands and footpaths to wander. And just eight miles away from the retreat, the **Appalachian Trail** tempts you to join the thousands of hikers who've trekked its historic hills. Have a need for speed? Challenge the trail by mountain bike. Dubbed the "Moab of the East,"

Gilmer County hosts annual national mountain-biking events in the **Cohutta Wilderness** and the nearby **Aska Trails**. Or stay close to home at Anderson Creek's own extensive single-track trails and old logging and wagon roads that will test cyclists of every skill level.

If you're in the mood for moseying, you always can hit the hills on horseback, courtesy of the **Saddle Club**, which offers residents partial ownership of a five-stall barn, more than 10 acres of pasture and access to miles of private trails. While you're exploring the wilderness, keep your eyes peeled for your wild neighbors, including deer, turkey, ruffed grouse, scarlet tanagers, red-tailed hawks and great horned owls.

Whitewater rafting is another adventure activity native to Anderson Creek Retreat. Take your pick of rapids, including the **Ocoee River**—site of the 1996 Olympic whitewater events—and the popular **Nantahala River**, home of Class-3 rapids. A river may not run through the retreat, but **Anderson Creek** sure does, providing anglers with one of the last unspoiled trout streams in Georgia. Property owners, through membership in the **Anderson Creek Club**, gain exclusive access to more than two miles of the stream—and its abundant population of rainbow and brown trout—perfect for catch-and-release and fly-fishing. Or set sail on **Anderson Lake**, which is fully stocked with bass and bream.

## Living the Life

Anderson Creek Retreat's southern-Appalachian location is known for its Scotch-Irish heritage that's still evident today—just ask the fiddlers, pickers, craftsmen and artists that call the area home. And, because it's located so close to the historic communities of Dahlonega, Blue Ridge (each just 40 minutes away) and Ellijay, you can easily take advantage of the region's rich culture. Enroll in classes from experienced artists at the **John C. Campbell Folk School** or **The Penland School of Crafts**, or begin your own collection of Appalachian wares while browsing shops featuring works of the artists of the **Southern Highland Craft Guild**. In the summer, enjoy **Pickin' in the Park**, a series of

### WISH YOU WERE HERE:

**County:** Gilmer, population 27,300

**Nearest cities:** Blue Ridge (23 miles), Marietta (68 miles), Atlanta (86 miles)

**Home sites:** Starting at \$120,000

### SET YOUR SITES ON ANDERSON CREEK RETREAT:

For more information, log on to these web sites:

[www.andersoncreekretreat.com](http://www.andersoncreekretreat.com)

[www.appalachiantrail.org](http://www.appalachiantrail.org)

[www.gilmerchamber.com](http://www.gilmerchamber.com)

[www.hearthstonehomes.com](http://www.hearthstonehomes.com)

weekly live music performances along the Toccoa River in McCaysville. And, once autumn rolls around, check out the **Georgia Apple Festival**, a three-day event in downtown Ellijay.

Sound like a life you'd like to lead? It's easy to make the move to Anderson Creek Retreat, but keep in mind that its natural topography dictates the location of private home sites throughout the property. The sites are grouped in several "camps"

adjacent to or near the green-space corridors. The 21 home sites available at The Ridge at Creek Camp range in size from 3 to 5 1/2 acres, and are priced from \$165,000. Or check out the sites at Spring Camp and Mountain Camp, ranging from 3 to five 5 acres and priced from \$120,000.

Once you're ready to build, you'll have to abide by the architectural guidelines created to respect the architectural heritage of the region. Anderson Creek

Retreat encourages house styles that include the use of native and simple detailing; a perfect fit for log homes.

In fact, **Hearthstone Inc.**, a producer of vintage-inspired log and timber homes, has already built a number of homes for residents of the Anderson Creek Retreat community. Headquartered just two hours north of Ellijay in Dandridge, Tennessee, **Hearthstone** specializes in both manufactured and handcrafted houses, providing plenty of options for a home that reflects the surrounding environment.

So, make the trip down to Anderson Creek Retreat and we guarantee that once you see it, you'll be a believer, too. ■