The Chattahoochee River starts high in the Southern Appalachian Mountains in the Mark Trail Wilderness Area. Flowing from a patch of sand and gravel, the river trundles down the steep mountainside, growing quickly, fed by many springs and small tributaries. The river passes through scenic mountain villages, past farms, factories, and subdivisions and into Lake Lanier. After dropping 137 feet, the river emerges at the base of Buford Dam to begin its 48 mile journey as the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area under the stewardship of the National Park Service. The beautiful river used the land along it have a rich history dating back for centuries. The word Chattahoochee is Native American and is thought to mean “River of Painted Rocks.” The Cherokee referred to the Chattahoochee River Corridor as the Enchanted Land. This guide is designed to help you discover the enchantment.

American Indians

Homeland Progression

American Indians inhabited the area around the Chattahoochee River ca. 15,000 years ago. The land was inhabited by the Tsalagi (Cherokee), the Yuchi, and the Creek for thousands of years. The United States acquired the land from Britain in the 1783 Treaty of Paris. The Cherokee were removed from the area in 1803 to 1805. The Creek were removed from the area in 1817-1821. The Cherokee were removed from the area in 1838, forced to travel the so-called “Trail of Tears” to Oklahoma, leaving many dead and dying along the way. Today, the river’s region has a rich history of Native American culture and influences in the Creek and Cherokee culture along the Chattahoochee River. Over time, villages with sturdy log cabin-style homes became established along the river as the inhabitants began to settle in one area to adopt an agricultural economy. While the rock shelters have disappeared long ago, evidence of these villages disappeared long ago, much of the river’s region has a rich history of Native American culture and influences in the Creek and Cherokee culture along the Chattahoochee River.

Fishing the American Indian Way

American Indians fished the river using fishing nets and trapping fish. They used a type of fishing net called a fish weirs. The stone remains of a number of these fish weirs can still be seen along the river. Fish weirs, which are stone dams in the shape of a down-stream pointing “V,” were constructed in the river with wooden poleшедders at either end. The fish weirs were built on the river and the boat’s angle pushed the craft across the water. Until the early part of the twentieth century, farmers were the major river users along the river. Many names along the river are derived from these early ferry crossings.

Spanning the River

As the river corridor was being developed, ferries and covered bridges began to replace the ferries. One covered bridge crossed the river at the city of Roswell before and after the American Civil War. Just like today, as increased travel resulted in waiting lines for the ferry, covered bridges began to appear along the river. The ferries were located near the edges of the river Tributaries and were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a very economical method of harvesting large fish. These fish weirs were a way to get across the river.

Wading In

Rivers serve as a natural barrier to human travel. Shallow areas in rivers can be used for dry feet and wade, and serve as ideal locations for catching fish. The ferries on the Chattahoochee River have been important for centu- ries and connected an extensive network of American Indian fish- ports used for trade. Four ferry crossings reached the bed of two bridges. More durable narrow bridges of steel were gradually built to replace the obsolete stone bridges. Though more expensive in price, three of these historic stone bridges still span the river today: the Colwin bridge at Buford Dam, the Cobbin bridge at the Sixes Trail Ford, and the Hightower Trail Ford as they approached Atlanta.

Dry Foot

A ferry stop at a natural border to travel. Shallow areas in rivers can be used for dry feet and wade, and serve as ideal locations for catching fish. The ferries on the Chattahoochee River have been important for centu- ries and connected an extensive network of American Indian fish- ports used for trade. Four ferry crossings reached the bed of two bridges. More durable narrow bridges of steel were gradually built to replace the obsolete stone bridges. Though more expensive in price, three of these historic stone bridges still span the river today: the Colwin bridge at Buford Dam, the Cobbin bridge at the Sixes Trail Ford, and the Hightower Trail Ford as they approached Atlanta.

Fords, Ferries, Bridges

The Chattahoochee River Corridor is home to several bridges along the river. One covered bridge crossed the river at the city of Roswell before and after the American Civil War. Just like today, as increased travel resulted in waiting lines for the ferry, covered bridges began to replace the ferries. One covered bridge crossed the river at the city of Roswell before and after the American Civil War. Just like today, as increased travel resulted in waiting lines for the ferry, covered bridges began to replace the ferries. One covered bridge crossed the river at the city of Roswell before and after the American Civil War. Just like today, as increased travel resulted in waiting lines for the ferry, covered bridges began to replace the ferries. One covered bridge crossed the river at the city of Roswell before and after the American Civil War. Just like today, as increased travel resulted in waiting lines for the ferry, covered bridges began to replace the ferries. One covered bridge crossed the river at the city of Roswell before and after the American Civil War. Just like today, as increased travel resulted in waiting lines for the ferry, covered bridges began to replace the ferries. One covered bridge crossed the river at the city of Roswell before and after the American Civil War. Just like today, as increased travel resulted in waiting lines for the ferry, covered bridges began to replace the ferries. One covered bridge crossed the river at the city of Roswell before and after the American Civil War. Just like today, as increased travel resulted in waiting lines for the ferry, covered bridges began to replace the ferries. One covered bridge crossed the river at the city of Roswell before and after the American Civil War. Just like today, as increased travel resulted in waiting lines for the ferry, covered bridges began to replace the ferries.
Flora and Fauna of the Chattahoochee River

Fish Looking

Large numbers of prey are on the hunt for their next meal. Watch for great blue herons, great egrets, herons, cranes, and egrets, feeding on their prey. Look for these tracks as you step into the river banks in the spring. Enjoy the show of summer yellow and purple wildflowers. Watch for the small native dragonflies and damselflies skimming the river surface for their meal of insects or the blue and white kingfisher buzzing through the air. Look for your favorite active pet, the mosquito, just before it is devoured by a damsel- fly or a dragonfly.

Look Down
Large numbers of fish are in the river. Bass, bream, perch, and catfish are feeding on the river bottom, as well as bluegill and white bass are feeding near the surface. Watch for all types of weather; bring a rain jacket, hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen as the water will be warmer and the sun will be brighter. Be prepared for all types of weather; bring a rain jacket, hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen as the water will be warmer and the sun will be brighter. Look around the water. Along the shoreline, look for these tracks as you step into the river banks in the spring. Enjoy the show of summer yellow and purple wildflowers. Look for the small native dragonflies and damselflies skimming the river surface for their meal of insects or the blue and white kingfisher buzzing through the air. Look for your favorite active pet, the mosquito, just before it is devoured by a damselfly or a dragonfly.

Artificial Lures Only
Special Trout Stream Regulations apply to the Chattahoochee River from Buford Highway to the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. A complete listing of all Trout Stream Regulations can be found at www.georgiawildlife.org/fishingregulations_fishing.aspx. Artifical Lures Only
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General Fishing Regulations

Due to the cold water, stocked with trout from Buford Dam, the river you will experience the best fishing during the months of September through November. Due to the cold water, stocked with trout from Buford Dam, the river you will experience the best fishing during the months of September through November. Artiﬁcial Lures Only

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