This guide is designed to help you plan your own outdoor activities around Mercer. Everything on here is designed to help beginners plan a trip of their own. You can also find a video seminar on trip planning and other trip planning resources on our website, listed below. Mercer outdoors provides gear rentals, guided trips, and educational outdoor classes to allow you to experience the outdoors. For more information about Mercer Outdoors, gear rentals or our guided outdoors trips check out our website:

https://rsw.mercer.edu/mercer-outdoors/
Day Hikes:

Dauset Trails/Nature Center: This area has a moderately strenuous 6 mile loop for hiking, as well as other trails for biking and horseback riding, and a nature center.

360 Mount Vernon Church Rd; Jackson, GA 30216.

➢ [https://www.dausettrails.com/](https://www.dausettrails.com/)

Hitchiti Loop Trail: This beautiful hike is a 3.8 mile loop around the Ocmulgee River. It is listed as an easy hike, so you can calmly enjoy the serenity of the area.

171-187 Hitchiti Rd; Hillsboro, GA 31032

➢ [https://www.backpacker.com/trips/atlanta-hitchiti-trail](https://www.backpacker.com/trips/atlanta-hitchiti-trail)

Pig Trail: This trail is a 7.4 mile loop that can be used for mountain biking, or hiking. It is marked as beginner/intermediate(blue/green trail).

4730 N Mumford Rd; Macon, GA 31210

➢ [https://sorbaomba.org/trails/pig-trail/](https://sorbaomba.org/trails/pig-trail/)
**Red-cockaded Woodpecker Trail:** This is a 2.3 mile hike near a lake with many trees that look gorgeous during autumn. *Forest Service Rd, Hillsboro, GA 31038*


**Historic and Tranquil Trails Loop:** This hike is a 2.3 mile loop in High Falls State Park with beautiful foliage near water. It has many flowers and would be a lovely stroll. *42 Towaliga River Dr, Jackson, GA 30233*


**Ocmulgee National Monument Loop:** This hike is a 5.5 mile loop with very little elevation gain to make for a relaxing, long day hike. It explores Native American mounds for an extra educational experience added to the hike. *1207 Emery Hwy, Macon, GA 31217*

**Allison Lake Wildlife Trail:** This hike is a relatively flat 2.4 mile loop to make for a simple morning or afternoon hike. *Allison Lake Rd, Hillsboro, GA 31038*


**Kinnard Horse Trail:** This hike is a relatively flat 3.4 mile loop that is not for horseback riding, despite the name. *Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, Kinnard Creek Trail, Monticello, GA 31064*

Mountain biking trails
Bike rentals can be found on the next page

Thomson Loop

○ Beginner (green trail) and Intermediate level (blue trial)
○ Main trail is 4 miles
○ ½ mile of auxiliary trials
○ https://www.trailforks.com/trails/thomson-main/

Arrowhead park loop

○ Intermediate level (blue trail)
○ Main trail is 6 miles
○ 2 miles of auxiliary trials
○ Has park space
○ https://www.trailforks.com/trails/arrowhead-park/
Biking Rentals/Repairs

Bike Tech – Mountain Bike Rental/Repair

- Trusted bike dealer in Macon
- [https://biketechmacon.com/rentals-2](https://biketechmacon.com/rentals-2)
- Phone number: 478-741-8356
- BIKE TECH MACON, 3003 Vineville Avenue Macon, GA 31204

Atlanta Trek McDonough – Mountain Bike Rental/Repair

- Large selection of bikes 30 minutes outside of macon
- [https://www.atlantatrek.com/about/bike-rentals-pg781.htm](https://www.atlantatrek.com/about/bike-rentals-pg781.htm)
- Phone number: 770-320-7477
- ATLANTA TRAK, 120 Westridge Pkwy, McDonough, GA 30253
Camping grounds

Camping at lake Tobesofkee

- No hiking required to get to the campsite
- Has a lake and park grounds
- Must make reservation at the website below
  - https://laketobo.maconbibb.us/camping/

Dames Ferry

- No hiking required to get to the campsite
- Waterfronting campsites
- If you have a GA fishing licence then you can fish on the lake
- Must make reservation at the website below
  - https://gastateparks.org/DamesFerry
Camping meal ideas

25 Easy Camping Recipes Using Five Ingredients or Less
  ○ This list is easy to cook, needs minimal supplies, and is great for beginners
  ○ This list covers great meals from breakfast to dinner
  ○ https://www.eurekacamping.com/blog/article/25-easy-camping-recipes-using-5-ingredients-or-less

19 Camping Recipes To Make On Your Next Trip Outdoors
  ○ Almost everything on this list can be cooked with aluminum foil and a fire
  ○ Gives you a link to the recipes
  ○ https://www.delish.com/cooking/menus/g27615055/camping-food-cooking-recipes/
Fishing
You must have a georgia fishing licence if you are over the age of 16

Lucas Lake Fishing Area
- Not far from Mercers main campus
- Address: 150 Broach Ln, Macon, GA 31211
- Good reviews

Lake Tobesofkee
- Not far from Mercers main campus
- Address: 2800 Arrowhead Dr, Lizella, GA 31052
- Good reviews
Resources for Planning a Trip Outside of Macon

Whether you live out of town or want to get away from macon for the weekend here are a few websites that can help you find your next outdoor adventure

**AllTrails**
- This is a great website that shows you hiking trails in an area you select
- It shows review as well as pictures of what you should expect to see on the hike
- [https://www.alltrails.com/?ref=header](https://www.alltrails.com/?ref=header)

**HIPCAMP**
- Shows all campsites in a given area as well as the price to reserve them
- You can reserve campsite right through the app and set dates on when you plan on arriving and leaving
- [https://www.hipcamp.com/camping-near-me](https://www.hipcamp.com/camping-near-me)
Other:

- Sun Valley River Rides
  - Horseback Riding through a River
  - [http://www.sunvalleyarabians.com/SunValleyRiverrides.htm](http://www.sunvalleyarabians.com/SunValleyRiverrides.htm)

- Pure Horse Play Adventures
  - Good ratings and seem to be comfortable taking groups
  - Guided trail riding
  - Mention ATV trail riding as well as a separate thing or as a package with the horseback riding
  - [https://mphillips401.wixsite.com/mysite](https://mphillips401.wixsite.com/mysite)