



# The WOW Factor of Weiss Lake

Atlanta area residents are discovering a nearby lake—almost as large as Lanier—with natural beauty, serenity and easy convenience. Weiss Lake is located less than 90 miles from Atlanta, situated west of Rome, just a few short miles over the Alabama state line. First recognized as a premier fishing lake (“Crappie Capital of the World”), Weiss Lake is fast becoming a favorite family recreational destination for Georgians, and especially those from North Atlanta.

After a trip to Weiss Lake and Alabama’s historic Cherokee County, visitors appreciate the lifestyle and significant investment advantages of the area. Building lots are affordable, property taxes miniscule, and cost of living is low, making establishing a primary or vacation home very attractive.

#### Looking Back

Alabama’s Cherokee County is rich in heritage. The history of Native Americans is found everywhere—in the names, in the museums and in the ancestry of the people.

This part of North Alabama, particularly at the confluence of the Coosa River, Little River and Chattooga River, was discovered in the 1500s by explorer Hernando Desoto. During the 1800s, with commercial river travel up and down the Coosa, the area produced a civil war era foundry (Cornwall Furnace), mercantile mills and a few hotels.

Weiss Lake was created in the 1960s by the Alabama Power Company and the area was a perfect location for a reservoir and hydroelectric dam. The lake is 52 miles long, with 454

miles of attractive shoreline. Weiss Lake soon became key in the area's economic success. According to Cedar Bluff's mayor, Bob Davis, the lake generates over \$200 million per year for the local economy—and is just now on the threshold of its real potential.

### Looking Forward

The area around Cherokee County and Weiss Lake is inside the "ABC triangle," which refers to the area bordered by Atlanta, Birmingham and Chattanooga. "Being less than a two-hour drive from these major Southeastern cities is an important issue," says Craig Gilley, Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce president and Regions Bank manager. "Baby boomers are now thinking about fun retirement to the lake and mountains—yet prefer to have an easy commute to grandchildren and big-city shopping." A regional airport is under construction in nearby Centre, Ala., scheduled for completion late this year. With runways long enough to accommodate even the largest business jets, the new airport will be another transportation advantage for local industry and recreation.

Davis comments, "While we currently have property owners from all 50 states and six foreign countries, we are building our infrastructure and service industry to



support the anticipated population growth. The prime example of our new growth is the development of the gated community in Cedar Bluff called The Bluffs of Weiss Lake."

The Bluffs features some of the most spectacular views in the Southeast. Potential and current homeowners have private lake access, security, premium amenities and municipal water and sewer. Streams run along the edge of some of the multi-acre lots, and all possess picturesque views from Weiss Lake below.

Atlantans Joe Hiatt and John Hyatt, The Bluffs developers, say that buyers are choosing lots for those very reasons. "The Bluffs is definitely unique. Every lot has a view of both the lake and mountains," adds Hyatt. "We don't know of any other significant area development that can offer such a feature. That's because The Bluffs sits on a mountain peninsula, 80 percent of which is surrounded by water. With the perfect ridgeline tiers, the incredible views are unobstructed."



## NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

**Little River Canyon National Preserve**—Stretching more than 18 miles and with plunges of more than 700 feet, this natural wonder is believed to be the deepest gorge east of the Rocky Mountains and offers some unique experiences for whitewater experts. The river flows through the canyon and has world-class rapids thundering down to DeSoto Falls. The river is the only one in the nation to form on top of a mountain. Home to caves, streams, pools, boulders, sandstone cliffs and waterfalls, Little River Canyon is a virtual wonderland for outdoor enthusiasts.

**Cornwall Furnace**—In 1862, the 35-foot high furnace became the first to supply ore for the construction of Confederate cannons during the Civil War. It took a thousand men seven months to construct the furnace using limestone from the nearby Coosa River, and it is one of the best preserved in the country today, although General Sherman twice ordered it destroyed. Civil War buffs will appreciate this Confederate relic.

*For additional information, visit the Web sites of Cedar Bluff, Alabama at [www.cedarbluff-al.org](http://www.cedarbluff-al.org) or the Chamber of Commerce of Cherokee County, Alabama at [www.cherokee-chamber.org](http://www.cherokee-chamber.org). For directions to or information about The Bluffs, call 770-512-8168 or visit [www.thebluffsofweiss.com](http://www.thebluffsofweiss.com).*