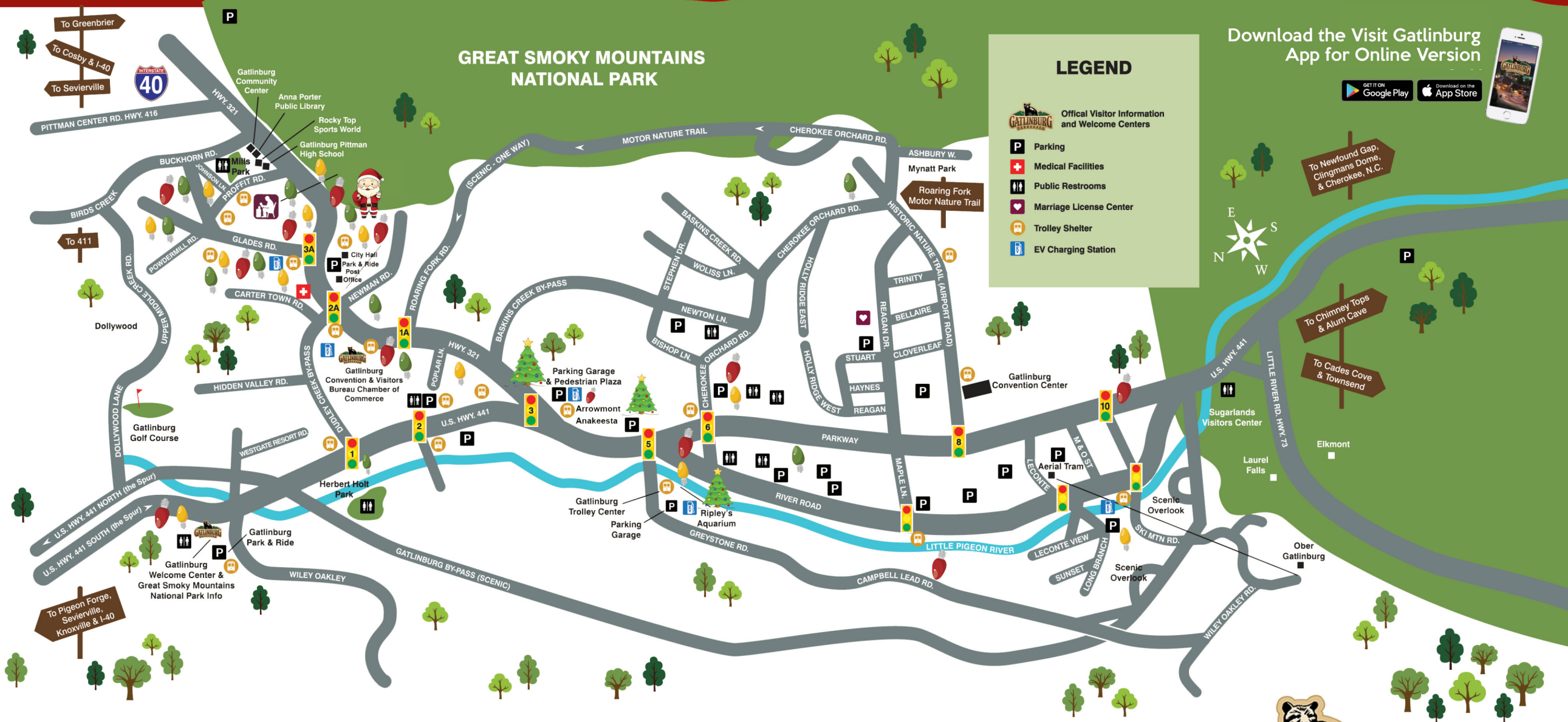


# Gatlinburg Winter Magic Lights Self-Guided Tour



For more than 30 years, Gatlinburg has celebrated Winterfest with millions of twinkling lights on festive holiday light displays throughout the city. Soak up the spirit of the season from the comfort of your own vehicle and take a memorable journey on the exciting Gatlinburg Winter Magic Lights Tour. There are fun facts about Gatlinburg on the other side to make the journey more fun and interesting.





# GATLINBURG WINTER MAGIC LIGHTS SELF-GUIDED TOUR

## FUN FACTS

### RIVER ROAD CORRIDOR

Each year, the Riverwalk Arches turn River Road into a magical tunnel of twinkling lights. It is the picture perfect selfie spot for your Winter Magic tradition. Little known fact: Hundreds of years ago, River Road. was a roadway known as the Indian Gap Trail which was used by the Cherokee Indians as they travelled between North Carolina and Tennessee. The Indian Gap Trail runs through several states from New York State to Alabama. The West Prong of the Little Pigeon River flows alongside River Road. It derives its name from the hundreds of passenger pigeons that used to roost along the banks of the river. The river is a popular fishing spot with locals and visitors alike. The City operates a trout farm and stocks the river regularly. There are dedicated fishing streams for children in Mynatt Park and Herbert Holt Park where there is also an ADA fishing pier.

### OBER GATLINBURG AERIAL TRAMWAY MALL ON RIVER RD.

Built in 1972, the Aerial Tram travels 2.1 miles from downtown to the Ober Gatlinburg Ski Area and Amusement Park atop of Mount Harrison. The only ski area in Tennessee, Ober Gatlinburg offers snowboarding and skiing, snow tubing and indoor ice arena. The Amusement Park is open three seasons, with family friendly activities including snowless summer tubing, Ski Mountain Coaster, Alpine Slide, kiddie rides, and scenic chairlift.

### PARKWAY/HIGHWAY 441

Locals call Highway 441 the Parkway. The beautifully lit white trees that line the Parkway represent White Oak trees which were in abundance back in the 1700's. The tree is the namesake of White Oak Flats, the first name of Gatlinburg.

### GATLINBURG SPACE NEEDLE

The Gatlinburg Space Needle soars 407 feet above the sidewalk offering a panoramic 360 degree view of the city and National Park. Visitors can ride a glass elevator to the top and enjoy the arcade below. It is also home to the Iris Theater, where you can see the mind-blowing show – The Mentalist. Every year on New Year's Eve, the city ushers in the New Year at the annual Ball Drop and Fireworks Show launched from the top of the Space Needle.

### GATLINBURG SKYLIFT PARK

The Gatlinburg SkyLift Park is directly across the street. Built in 1956, many people make this ride a tradition. In 2019, The park opened the Gatlinburg SkyBridge, the longest pedestrian Sky Bridge in North America. It spans 680 ft. across Crockett Mountain.

### RIPLEY'S AQUARIUM OF THE SMOKIES

It's easy to see why Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies was voted Best Aquarium in North America by USA Today 10Best.com! More than 10,000 exotic sea creatures live inside this spectacular salt water aquarium. Walk under the sea in an underwater tunnel where you will see 12-foot sharks, giant sea turtle and thousands of exotic sea creatures! Meet playful penguins, watch dive shows, and touch stingrays, horseshoe crabs, and jellyfish!

### ANAKEESTA

Ride the Chondola up Anakeesta Mountain to Firefly Village where guests will find quaint shopping, dining, and whimsical mountain atmosphere. Walk the Treetop Skywalk and climb the AnaVista Tower, the highest point in downtown Gatlinburg! Check out the many sculptures in Vista Gardens and meet Willow, the “keeper of the forest” who stands more than 20ft tall. There are children's activities and the new TreeVenture Challenge Course. A Single Rail Mountain Coaster and Dual Racing Zipline round out the adventure.

### SANTA'S CLAUS-ET

Drop by Santa's Claus-et in Great Smoky Arts and Crafts Community to meet the Jolly Ole Elf himself and find unique Christmas decorations and ornaments. After dark, check out his synchronized light display, with all your favorite Christmas songs, tuned to a local AM radio station.

### GREAT SMOKY ARTS AND CRAFTS COMMUNITY

Gatlinburg is home to the largest group of working artists in the U.S. Follow the Trail to find more light displays, but be sure to come back to visit the shops and galleries the next day. Meet the artists and shop for one of a kind items for your home and gift giving.

### OGLE'S CABIN – LOCATED AT TRAFFIC LIGHT #3

Around 1802, William Ogle selected a site for what was to be the first “home” to be built in Gatlinburg. After cutting the logs for the cabin, he returned to South Carolina to get the family. He told them that he had found “The Land of Paradise” in the mountains of East Tennessee. While preparing to bring his family here, he fell ill, probably with malaria, and died in 1803. Four years later, widow Martha Jane Huskey Ogle, at age 46 or 47, came to her late-husband's “Paradise” with her five sons and two daughters, her brother, Peter Huskey, and his family. They found William's hewed logs, completed the cabin, and started a new life. Great grandson Andrew Ogle and his family were the last of the clan to live in the cabin, abandoning it around 1910. The Ogle family farm was sold to Pi Beta Phi when the settlement school expanded in 1921, and the cabin was used as a hospital. From 1922 to 1926, it housed a museum of mountain artifacts. Today it stands at Traffic Light #3, not far from its original site.