Summer Fun in North Alabama

Summer is here, and the heat is on.

Looking for something to do? Here are a few suggestions and they're all just a short drive away from the Anniston/Gadsden area.

1 Paddle Big Wills Creek located in Attalla, Al. This kayak trip is perfect for all ages. The folks at Big Wills Outfitters will hook you up with a kayak and all the gear you need to have a chill day on the creek.

2 Visit Tigers for Tomorrow at Untamed Mountain where you'll see a wide variety of predators. The preserve offers educational tours throughout the week, or do a self-guided tour. You'll be amazed at how close you can view the animals.

3 Check out the Anniston Museum of Natural History. Explore far away lands and discover nature's secrets in this terrific museum complex. Don't miss the Bird of Prey Walk and nature trail.

4 Take a trip to the Ave Maria Grotto. Known throughout the world as "Jerusalem in Miniature," this beautifully landscaped, four-acre park is designed to provide a natural setting for the 125 miniature reproductions of some of the most famous historical buildings and shrines of the world. Truly fascinating, I was sorry I had waited so long to visit.

5 Soar with eagles at Guntersville State Park. There are two zipline course options available. One even includes the world's longest zip. Great fun!

6 Go tubing on Choccolocco Creek with Floating Fun, LLC. A variety of rapids, ripples, and a steady current will keep you moving while keeping you cool.

7 Ride the train at Noccalulla Falls Park. While you're there be sure to visit the petting zoo, hike into the gorge, and checkout progress on the suspension bridge that's under construction.

8 With more than ten thrilling water slides, the Southeast's largest pool, and a vast kids water playground Spring Valley Beach has something for everyone. It's the only waterpark in the southeast where you can bring your picnic basket or grill. They also provide free suntan lotion and offer free parking.

9 Hike the Treetop Trail and view birds of prey at Oak Mountain State Park. Don't miss the Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitation Center while you're there.

10 Take a paddleboard eco-tour on Lake Gadsden at GadRock MicroGym. I can't wait to give this a try!

I hope this list provides some summertime inspiration. Hit us up on social media and let me know what's on your summer bucket-list.

— *Tami Brooks*

Tami Brooks is the owner of Brooks Consulting Services, LLC and publisher of The Field TripField Guide. She completed a 52 week, 52 hike project in 2016 and writes the blog Tami's Trippin. When she's not busy with work, you can find her on the trail, in the kayak, or on the deck planning her next adventure. Visit Tamis-Trippin.com to read more and be sure to sign up for post notifications and newsletter while you're there. You can also follow Tami's Trippin' on Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest.