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Hiking Itineraries

There are some trails at the AMNHA that are too good to miss– so we’ve narrowed down a few key routes for you to check out.

Hike to the top of Arabia Mountain:

Park in the AWARE lot (4158 Klondike Road, Lithonia GA 30038) and begin your hike at the trailhead. Follow cairns on a trail that guides you through an otherworldly landscape dotted with trees, moss and other plants that cling to the rock face. Walk past ephemeral pools, patches of water where a variety of plants and amphibians flourish, as you ascend the monadnock. Once at the summit, you can look southwest to see Panola Mountain in the distance, or northwest to see the Atlanta skyline.

Explore Georgia’s untouched monadnock, Panola Mountain:

Begin at the nature center and follow the [Rock Outcrop Trail](#) to see Panola’s exposed granite face. Educational signage will guide you through this ecosystem as you walk. If you have time to sign up for a guided tour, you will be able to see even more of the mountain - including carefully protected areas that are only accessible with a guided hike from Panola rangers. Unlike Arabia Mountain, Panola Mountain was never quarried; today, the State Park takes great care that this pristine ecosystem continues to flourish. On guided hikes, you can see the rich biodiversity of the untouched rock face, as moss and diamorpha thrive throughout the year.

Walk through DeKalb’s last remaining dairy landscape:

DeKalb County was at one point the largest dairy producer in the state of Georgia, and today Vaughters’ Farm preserves the memory of that agricultural past. Walk along Vaughters’ Barn and through the [Meadow Loop Trail](#) to enjoy this pastoral landscape. This relatively short hike meanders through meadow and woodland and is home to a variety of wildlife – particularly songbirds. The Farm is one of the few places in metro-Atlanta you can witness the Eastern Meadowlark.

Follow Atlanta’s southern waterway:

The Arabia Mountain PATH has a segment running alongside the South River, beginning at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit. Park at the Monastery trailhead and enjoy a ride along the river. This waterway was a key trade and movement corridor for Native Americans and remains a vibrant greenspace. The South River segment of the PATH brings you from the peaceful landscapes of the Monastery to the unearthly monadnocks of Panola and Arabia Mountains.

Discover a history of quarrying:

Quarries played a large role in the history of this area – in fact, much of what is now Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve was at one point a quarry. Instead of hiking the to the peak of Arabia Mountain, try a different route: follow the [Mile Rock Trail](#) across the rock face to see the remnants of this industry and the wildlife that thrives there now. As you hike, watch out for vernal pools and the defunct quarry offices dotted along the monadnock.