



## Toccoa Falls

Possibly the most beautiful waterfall in Georgia, this site has a troubled past. On a morning in November, 1977, a dam above the waterfall failed and forty acres of water came thundering over the falls and down through the valley and campus of Toccoa Falls College. Thirty-nine people - all connected to the college - lost their lives that morning.

Today Toccoa Falls is peaceful and serene. Chances are you will see young families and children enjoying the shallow pools at the bottom. On my last visit I had the place to myself. You access the short (flat) path to the waterfall through the college gift shop.

Hint for photographers: Although the overall view of the falls is dramatic, I like the contrast of the rugged tree roots gripping the rocks in front of the smooth, silky cascade.

From Toccoa, Georgia, drive westward on 17-A. The college campus is next to Stephens County Hospital. They share the same drive for a few feet. Stay right through the guard shack (I've never seen anyone there.) and follow the signs. Park in the lot just beyond "Gate Cottage" and enter through the gift store. There is a \$2 fee.

GPS Coordinates at the Gate Cottage parking lot:  
34°35'38.6" N 83°21'40.9" W°



Interesting fact: Toccoa is the Cherokee word for "beautiful". And it is.