

Zip through the trees with the greatest of ease

By Alice Eachus
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You've seen television coverage of those great grandmas jumping out of a perfectly good airplane to celebrate their ninth decade, haven't you? Well, zippity-do-da, you can do something just as daring, and without a parachute!

On April Fools' Day, North Georgia Canopy Tours opened a zipline Disney-like E-ride in Lula, which is right next to Gainesville. Outdoor enthusiasts went wild with the news. Who wouldn't want to zip through the treetops at over 30 mph on equipment made by a company named BONSAP?

Not to worry – it's all safe and well tested. The project was partially funded

by a grant from Georgia Tourism and the American Association of Challenge Course Technology (AACCCT) inspectors made sure every line was taut.

North Georgia Canopy Tours is located on 136 acres by the headwaters of the North Oconee River. Ziplines are run between two ridges with an amazing topography. The zipline adventure takes the rider over and through forests, ravines, ponds, pastures and the river at heights of up to 70 feet.

Depending upon your levels of adrenaline, North Georgia Canopy Tours offers two tours: a two hour Skybridge Tour and a three hour Adventure Tour.

The Skybridge Tour includes nine ziplines, two sky bridges, nature hikes, a zip that crosses the river three times and a final dual zip of 700 feet.

The Adventure Tour offers a mile of cable with 12 ziplines, including two zips over the river. It zips over the Old Mill and Catfish ponds and includes two sky bridges, nature hikes, 20-foot rappel and a final dual zip over Hilltop Pond. Gulp!

Tours are led by two well-trained AACCCT certified guides. Prior to launch, each rider gets safety and braking training; practice zips are encouraged.

Guides will give a history of the area and will point out interesting natural phenomenon, if you can stand to open your eyes.

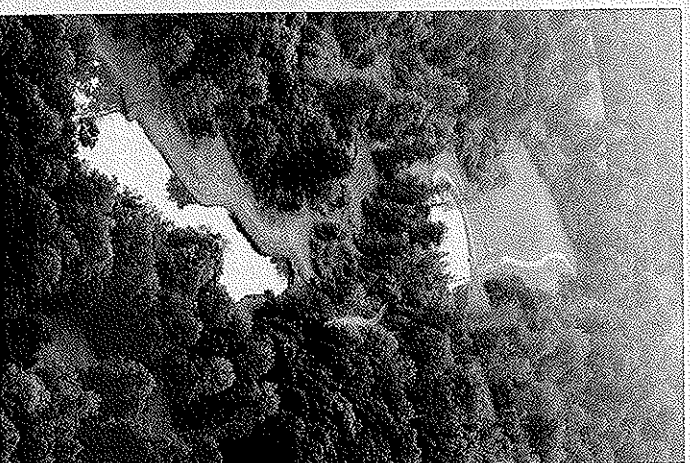
Adults in good health, and not pregnant, can zip. Children over ten years of age and 70 pounds are welcome to join the ride.

For additional information and pricing, visit www.northgeorgiacanopytours.com.

If you can open your eyes as you zip along, this beautiful birds' eye view of North Georgia will be yours.



She sure looks like she's having a fun time on her canopy zip ride.



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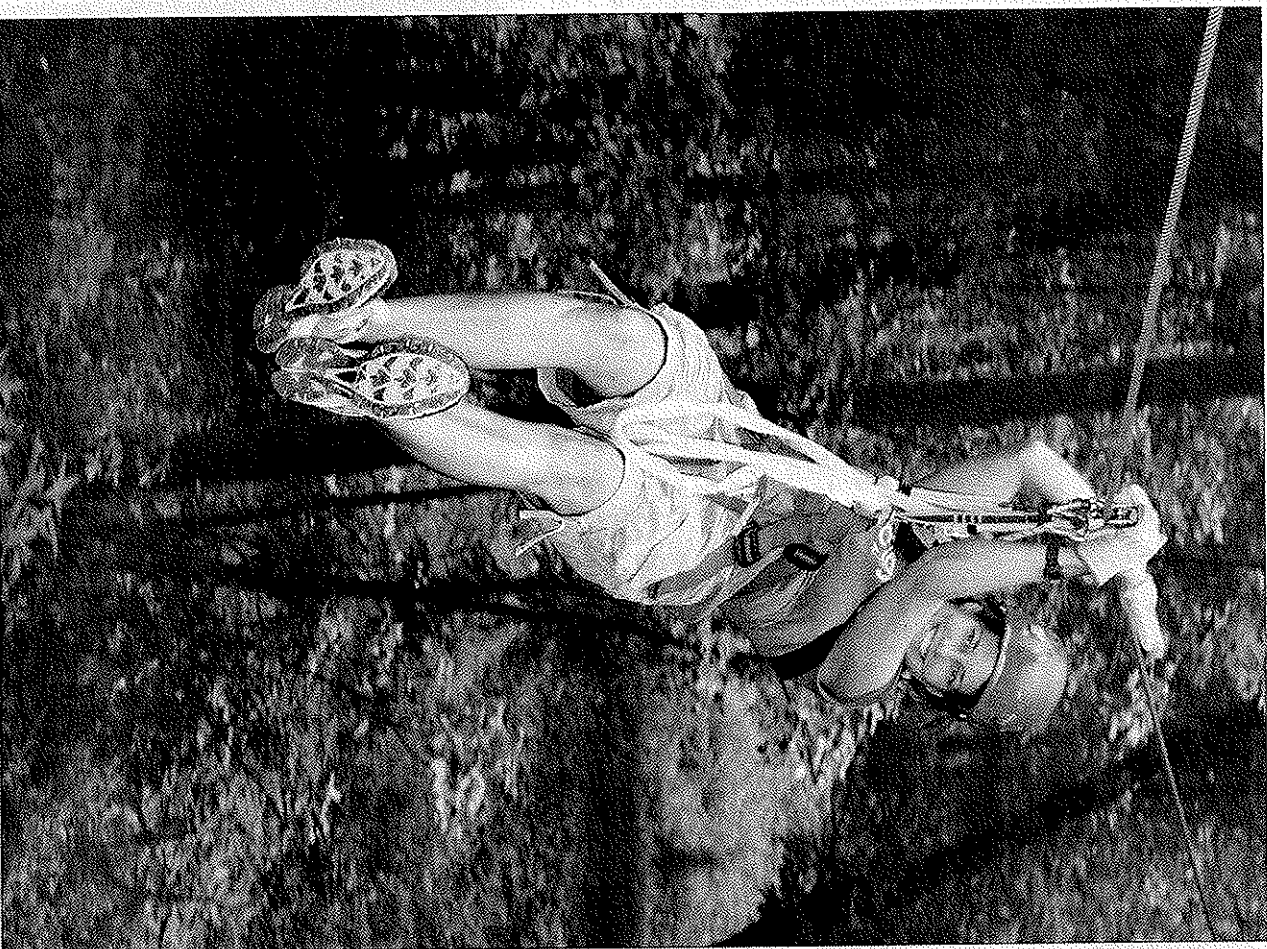
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