

2 Self-Guided Driving “Suches It Is” Loop from Morganton to Suches

1. Lake Blue Ridge Dam
Recreation Area
2. Old Skeenah Mill
3. Toccoa Swinging Bridge
4. Chattahoochee Forest National
Fish Hatchery
5. Woody Gap Vista & Preachers
Rock
6. Lake Winefield Scott
7. Vogel State Park
8. Reece Farm & Heritage Center
9. Sunrise Grocery
10. Granddaddy Mimm’s
Distilling Co.



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“Start Drive” at the intersection of Hwy 5 and Hwy 515/US 76 in Blue Ridge, Georgia.

1. Lake Blue Ridge Dam and Recreation Area

291 N River Rd, Mineral Bluff, GA
The dam stands 200 feet tall and stretches 1,500 feet across, creating the stunning 3,290-acre Lake Blue Ridge. Visitors can enjoy scenic views, boating, fishing, and hiking. From “Start Drive,” go east on Hwy 515/US 76 for 2.6 miles. Turn right onto River Rd. Destination will be on right. For scenic views of Lake Blue Ridge, from the dam, continue on River Rd. Take a right onto Old US 76, recreation area will be on the left.

2. Old Skeenah Mill

20 Skeenah Gap Rd, Blue Ridge, GA
The Mill, located inside Skeenah Creek Campground, was built in 1848 by Willis Woody, who brought his family to the Skeenah Valley (named after the Cherokee word for “black bear”) in 1839. A water-powered sawmill was also located on the creek. The Skeenah Mill was once a popular place for neighbors to gather while they waited for their wheat or corn to be ground.
From Lake Blue Ridge Dam, continue on N River Rd, taking a left onto Old US 76. In 2.5 miles turn right onto GA-60S. Continue on for 11 miles, taking a left onto Skeenah Gap Rd, then a right into the campground.

3. Toccoa Swinging Bridge

FS Rd 816, Blue Ridge, GA
This 270-foot-long hiking bridge is the longest swinging bridge east of the Mississippi River. The Swinging Bridge over the Toccoa River is located on the Benton MacKaye Trail and the Duncan Ridge National Recreation Trail. The bridge was built by the US Forest Service in cooperation with the Appalachian Trail Club in 1977.
From the Old Skeenah Mill, turn left onto Skeenah Gap Rd, then a quick left onto GA 60 S. Continue on for .8 miles, take a sharp right on FS Rd 816. Parking will be 3 miles ahead, then a short 1 mile hike to the river and bridge.

4. Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery

4730 Rock Creek Rd, Suches, GA
The Fish Hatchery plays a vital role in conserving Georgia's native aquatic species, raising over a million rainbow trout annually, which are stocked in regional streams, rivers, and lakes for public fishing. Visitors can tour the facility, feed the fish, enjoy the scenic picnic areas, and explore nearby hiking trails.
From the Toccoa Swinging Bridge, continue back down FS Rd 816, turn right onto GA 60 S and go 2.7 miles. Turn right on Rock Creek Rd and go 4.7 miles. Destination will be on the right.

***Side Trip - Cooper Creek Road** This scenic 6-mile drive leads to two campgrounds, hiking trails, trout-filled streams, and Sea Creek Falls. Along the way, stop at the

Cooper Creek Store to stretch your legs, grab a bite to eat, or pick up a cold drink.
From the Fish Hatchery, continue back on Rock Creek Rd, turning right back onto GA 60 S. Continue on for 4.3 miles, turning left onto Cavendar Gap Rd where road will turn into Cooper Creek Rd.

5. Woody Gap Vista & Preachers Rock

GA-60, Suches, GA
Here, the Appalachian Trail crosses GA 60 and opens up to Preachers Rock, a 2-mile round trip hike to a stunning overlook. The gap is named in honor of Arthur Woody, one of Georgia's first forest rangers and a pioneering conservationist who was instrumental in reforesting the North Georgia mountains and reintroducing native wildlife to the region. Just past the nearby lake, his historic home still stands on the left side of the road.
From the Fish Hatchery, continue back down Rock Creek Rd, turn right onto GA 60 S and go 14 miles. Destination will be on the left.

6. Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area

439 Winfield Scott Road, Suches, GA
This tranquil 18-acre lake high in the forest was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1930's and offers opportunities to picnic, swim, canoe/kayak, fish, and boat. From Woody Gap, continue back down on GA 60 N for 2 miles. Turn right on GA 180 and go 4.4 miles. Destination will be on the right.

7. Vogel State Park

405 Vogel State Park Rd, Blairsville, GA
One of Georgia's oldest and most popular state parks, offering tent and camper sites, rental cottages, a 20-acre lake, mini golf, swimming beach, picnic shelters, paddle boats and more. Located directly below Lake Trahlyta is a 40-foot beautiful steppingstone waterfall that you can hike to, or view from the side of the road.
From Lake Winfield Scott, continue on GA 180. Go 6.8 miles and turn right onto US 129 S. Destination will be ahead on right.

***Side Trip - Helton Creek Falls**

Helton Creek Rd, Blairsville, GA
This is a quick and easy walk leading to two breathtaking waterfalls, with a combined drop of over 100 feet. The falls flow into a crystal-clear swimming hole, perfect for cooling off on warm days. For a bit of adventure, visitors can enjoy the natural sliding rock. From Vogel State Park, continue in the direction you were headed on US 129 S for 1.2 miles, taking a right onto Helton Creek Rd. Destination and trailhead parking will be 2 miles ahead.

8. Reese Farm & Heritage Center

8552 Gainesville Hwy, Blairsville, GA
Take in the history of early Appalachian living from a famous farmer and poet, Byron Herbert Reese. This stop features a

gift shop, museum, farm, history exhibits, hiking trails, and occasional live music events.
From Vogel State Park, turn left onto US 129 N. Destination will be 1.1 miles on left.

9. Sunrise Grocery

7568 Gainesville Hwy, Blairsville, GA
Sunrise Grocery is a little country market with fresh veggies and fruits, boiled peanuts, homemade local treats and souvenirs.
From Reese Farm, continue on US 129. Destination will be 1 mile ahead on left.

***Side Trip - Richard B. Russell Scenic Highway**

This 23-mile scenic drive offers mountain views including Hogpen Gap, which is also an access point to the Appalachian Trail.
From Sunrise Grocery, continue down US 129 N for .6 miles, turning right on GA 180. Turn right after .9 miles onto GA 348E.

***Side Trip - Brasstown Bald**

2941 GA 180 Spur, Hiawassee, GA
The Bald is the highest point in Georgia at 4,784 feet, and offers breathtaking 360-degree views of four states—Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and South Carolina.
From Richard Russell, turn right back onto GA 180 and go 8.4 miles to GA 180. Continue for 6.3 miles, making a slight left onto GA 180 Spur N, then another 2.5 miles and turn right onto GA 180 Spur. Destination will be on right.

10. Granddaddy Mimm's Distilling CO.

112 Wellborn St, Blairsville.
Inspired by Jack “Mimm” McClure, a legendary North Georgia moonshiner, this family-run distillery crafts authentic spirits using his original recipes. Visitors can tour the distillery, sample moonshines, whiskeys, and vodkas, and experience a true taste of mountain tradition.
From Sunrise Grocery, continue in the direction you were headed on US 129 N for 7.4 miles. At the traffic circle, take the first exit onto Wellborn St. Destination will be ahead on right.

***Side Trip - Living Water Vineyard & Winery**

291 Living Water Ln, Blairsville, GA
Established in 2019, this small family-owned farm winery spans 9 acres and offers estate grown wines and craft brews..
From Granddaddy Mimm's, left back onto Wellborn St to the traffic circle, taking the second exit onto Blue Ridge St. Go .6 miles to Blue Ridge Hwy and take a left, continuing for 5.6 miles. Turn right onto Bunker Hill, then a quick left onto Doc Jones Rd. Destination will be on the right .8 miles ahead.