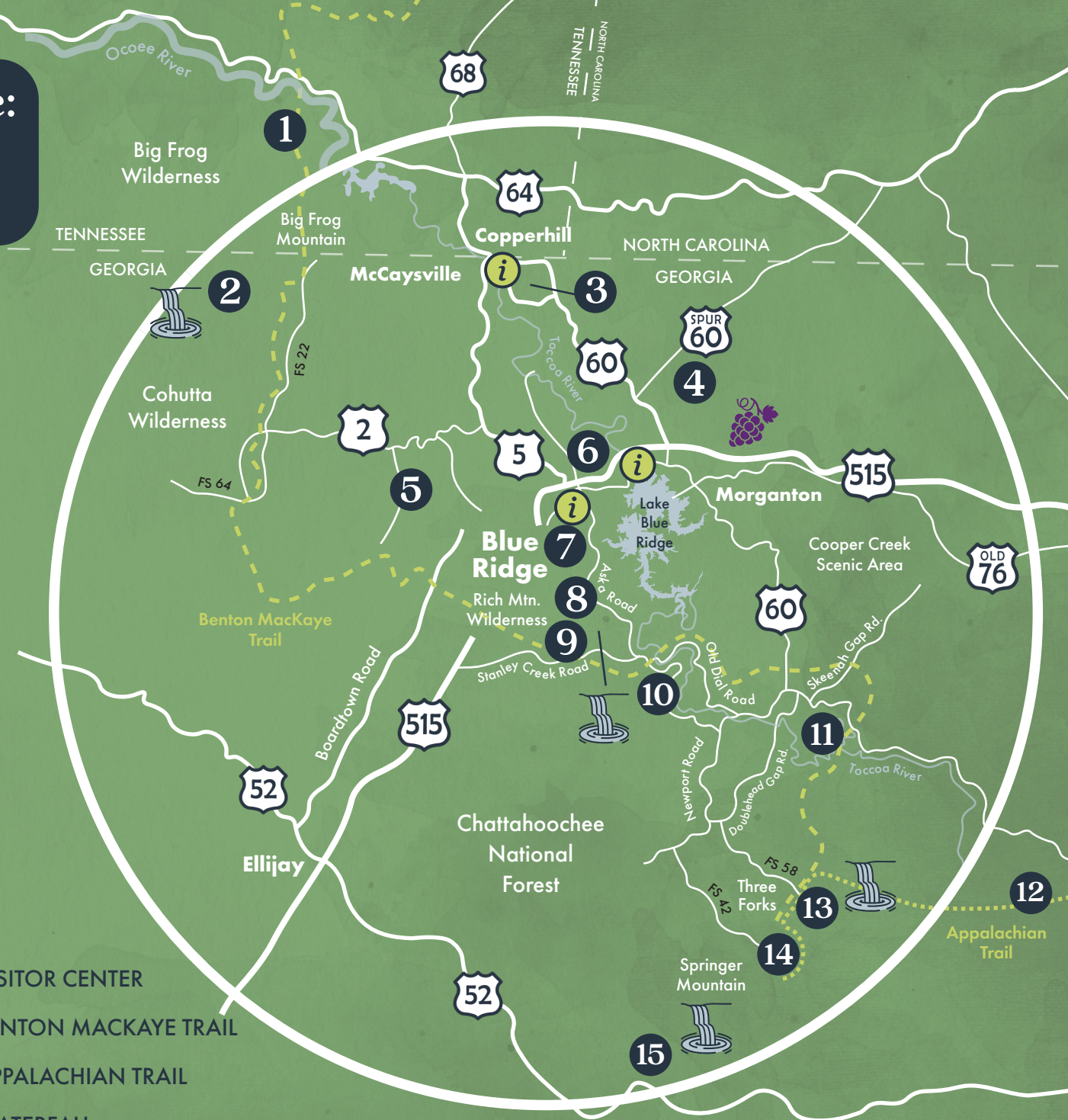


3

Outdoor Adventure: Area Hiking Trails Access Points

1. Ocoee Whitewater Center Trails
2. Jacks River Falls
3. Ron Henry Horseshoe Bend Park
4. Project Chimps Hiking Trails
5. Fightingtown Creek Nature Park
6. Fannin County Park
7. Mineral Springs Nature Trail & Park
8. Aska Trails Area
9. Fall Branch Falls
10. Shallowford Bridge
11. Toccoa Swinging Bridge
12. Neels Gap
13. Three Forks
14. Springer Mountain
15. Amicalola Falls & Trails



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BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL



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All directions begin from the intersection of Hwy 5 and Hwy 515/US 76 in Blue Ridge, Georgia.

1. Ocoee Whitewater Center (Easy – Moderate) (1 - 30 Miles)
4400 US 64, Copperhill, TN

In addition to whitewater sports, the Tanasi Trail system at the OWC has 30 miles of trails for hikers, one of which crosses a 330-foot suspension bridge. Head north on Hwy 5 for 10 miles, turn left onto TN 68N/Ocoee St and go 3.3 miles. Use the right lane and take US 64/US 74 ramp, then turn left onto Hwy 64 W. Continue for 7 miles, destination will be on left.

2. Jacks River Falls (Moderate) (9 Miles)

Located in the Cohutta Wilderness Area on the Jacks River, this hike leads to a stunning, rocky waterfall while hiking the Beech Bottom Trail and Jacks River Trail. The trail crosses Jacks River over 40 times, be prepared for a wet adventure.

Head north on Hwy 5 for 10 miles, turning left onto TN 68 N/Ocoee St. Go 3.3 miles and take a right onto the US 64/US 75 ramp to Cleveland/Ocoee River. Continue for .2 miles, turn left onto US 64/US 74 and continue for 7.8 miles. Turn left onto FS Rd 45 for 2.9 miles, turn right onto FS Rd 221. Go another 9.7 miles, turn left onto Big Frog Rd. Destination will be ahead 4.1 miles.

3. Ron Henry Horseshoe Bend Park (Easy)

1156 River Rd, Mineral Bluff, GA
Spacious park with trout fishing, playground, picnic pavilions, small and large dog park, paved walking trails, and swimming. Head east on Hwy 515/ US 76 E for 3.9 miles, turning left on GA 60 N. Continue on for 7.1 miles, turn left onto River Rd, go 2.1 miles. Destination will be ahead on left.

4. Project Chimp Hiking Trails (Easy - Difficult) (.3 – 2.5 Miles)

2031 Lowery Rd, Morganton, GA
Hike one of the 4 trails at this 236-acre chimpanzee sanctuary. Some sections of the trail will require hiking single file along narrow edges. When the trees are not in full bloom, you can see directly into the Peachtree Habitat where chimpanzees live. For more info – www.Projectchimps.org/hiking-trails/
Head east on Hwy 515/US 76 East for 6.2 miles, turn left onto Loving Rd. Turn left on Old Loving Rd, that becomes Lowery Rd. Main trail parking will be 1 mile ahead on right.

5. Fightingtown Creek Nature Park (Easy - Moderate) (1-12 Miles)

1200 Cedar Valley Rd, Blue Ridge, GA
190 acres of natural land for hiking, mountain biking, birdwatching, and other low impact recreation. 4 loops and beautiful seasonal views from the top of Prince Mountain and along Fightingtown Creek. Head north on Hwy 5 for 3.7 miles, turn left on Hwy 2. Continue for 2.2 miles, turning left onto Chestnut Gap Rd, then 1.1 miles, turning right onto Cedar Valley Rd. Destination will be 1.2 miles ahead on right.

6. Fannin County Park (Easy)

370 Tom Boyd Rd, Blue Ridge, GA
Paved peaceful setting perfect for a relaxing stroll or jog. Head north on Hwy 5 for 2.5 miles. Turn right onto Tom Boyd Rd, take a slight right onto Park Dr, then a left when road splits to stay on Park Dr.

7. Mineral Springs Nature Trail & Park (Easy) (.58 Miles)

Industrial Blvd, Blue Ridge, GA
An easy walking trail with interpretive nature signs identifying plants and trees along the way. The upper parking area has a nice picnic table and informational plaques about this historic area. Head west on Hwy 515/US 76 W for 1.4 miles, turn left onto Boardtown Rd. Go .4 miles and turn right onto E Main St, then a left to stay on E Main St, and left again onto E 1st St/Old Hwy 76. Make another quick right onto Industrial Blvd, destination will be on right.

8. Aska Trails (Easy to Moderate) (1 – 17 Miles)

Aska Rd, Blue Ridge, GA
There are 8 trails within the 17-mile-long hiking and biking trail system. From the start of Aska Road in Blue Ridge go 4.4 miles, trailheads begin on right and left side of road on Deep Gap Rd and Shady Falls Rd. Head east on Hwy 515/US 76 for .7 miles, turn right onto US 76 Connector, then left at the stop sign. Continue down Old Hwy 76 for .2 miles, turn right onto Aska Rd and go for 4.4 miles. Destination parking areas will be on left and right side of Aska Rd.

9. Fall Branch Falls (Easy - Moderate) (1 Mile)

Stanley Creek Rd, Cherry Log, GA
A double waterfall with a 30-foot drop with mountain laurel and rhododendron growing along the trail and creek bank. This trail follows the Benton MacKaye Trail for a mostly uphill trek. Head east on US 76 E for .7 miles, then right onto Old US 76 Connector, then a left onto Old Hwy 76. Go .2 miles, then turn right onto Aska Rd. Continue 8 miles before turning right on Stanely Creek Rd which becomes Rock Creek Rd. Destination will be 3.2 miles ahead..

10. Shallowford Bridge (Easy - Moderate) (2.1 Miles)

Shallowford Bridge Ln, Blue Ridge, GA
Hike this quiet loop while admiring the old steel bridge. The trail takes the Benton MacKaye trailhead by the Toccoa River. A spur along the way will take you to Free Knob, if you'd like to add a few more miles onto your hike. Head east on Hwy 515/US 76 for .7 miles, turn right onto US 76 Connector, then left at the stop sign. Continue down Old Hwy 76 for .2 miles, turn right onto Aska Rd go for 8.4 miles. Destination will be on the left.

11. Toccoa Swinging Bridge (Easy) (2 Miles)

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.

Head east on Hwy 515/US 76 for 3.9 miles, turn right onto GA 60 S. Continue on for .5 miles and turn left onto GA 60 S/Old Hwy 76. Go another 1.4 miles and turn right onto GA 60 S again, and continue for 11.8 miles, making a sharp right turn onto FS Rd 816. Parking for destination will be 3 miles ahead

12. Neel Gap (Easy – Difficult)

12471 Gainesville Hwy, Blairsville, GA
The Appalachian Trail passes through a building, marking the only covered man-made portion on the entire AT. Here you can restock before continuing on your AT hike, rest in the hostel, or retire your hiking boots by throwing them over the branches of the well-known tree that serves as a tradition to hikers. Head east on Hwy 515/US 76 E for 21 miles, then take a right onto Blue Ridge Hwy. Go .1 miles, take a left onto Blue Ridge St and go .3 miles. Turn right onto Hunt Martin St, go .3 miles, turn right onto Cleveland St and continue on US 19/129 for 13 miles. Destination will be on the left.

13. Three Forks (Moderate - Difficult) (3.8 Miles)

This trail follows the final stretch of the Appalachian Trail (Southbound) to the Springer Mountain summit. Head east on Hwy 515/US 76 for .7 miles, turn right onto US 76 Connector, then left at the stop sign. Continue down Old Hwy 76 for .2 miles, turn right onto Aska Rd and go for 13.5, then another right onto Newport Road. Go 4.2 miles then turn left onto Doublehead Gap Rd. Go .7 miles, turn right onto FS Rd 58, go another 1.9 miles, then 1.5 miles to stay on FS Rd 58. Destination will be on the right.

14. Springer Mountain (Moderate - Difficult)

FS Rd 42, Blue Ridge, GA
This is the starting point for both the Benton MacKaye Trail and the Appalachian Trail. Head east on Hwy 515/US 76 for .7 miles, turn right onto US 76 Connector, then left at the stop sign. Continue down Old Hwy 76 for .2 miles, turn right onto Aska Rd and go for 13.5, then another right onto Newport Road. Go 4.2 miles then right left onto Doublehead Gap Rd and go 2 miles to FS Rd 42. Turn left and go 6.5 miles, and parking will be to the left. Take the trail across the road to get to the summit (.9 miles).

15. Amicalola Falls & Trails (Easy & Difficult) (2.1 Miles)

418 Amicalola Falls State Park Rd, Dawsonville, GA
Georgia's highest waterfall with a 729-foot drop, and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Georgia. Beautiful views from the top or base of the falls, which you can access by car, or a hike up 600 steps, or the handicap accessible path. Head west on Hwy 515/US 76 W for 16 miles, turn left onto State Rd 52. Go .3 miles, turn left onto GA 52 E. Continue 18 miles and take the second exit on the traffic circle to GA 52 E. Drive 1.5 miles and turn left onto Amicalola Falls State Park Rd.

