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Outdoor Adventure: Trout Streams & Habitat Learning Adventure

Follow the flow of water and explore trout habitat in the Trout Capital of Georgia!
Explore clear mountain streams flowing to the Toccoa River along the watershed.

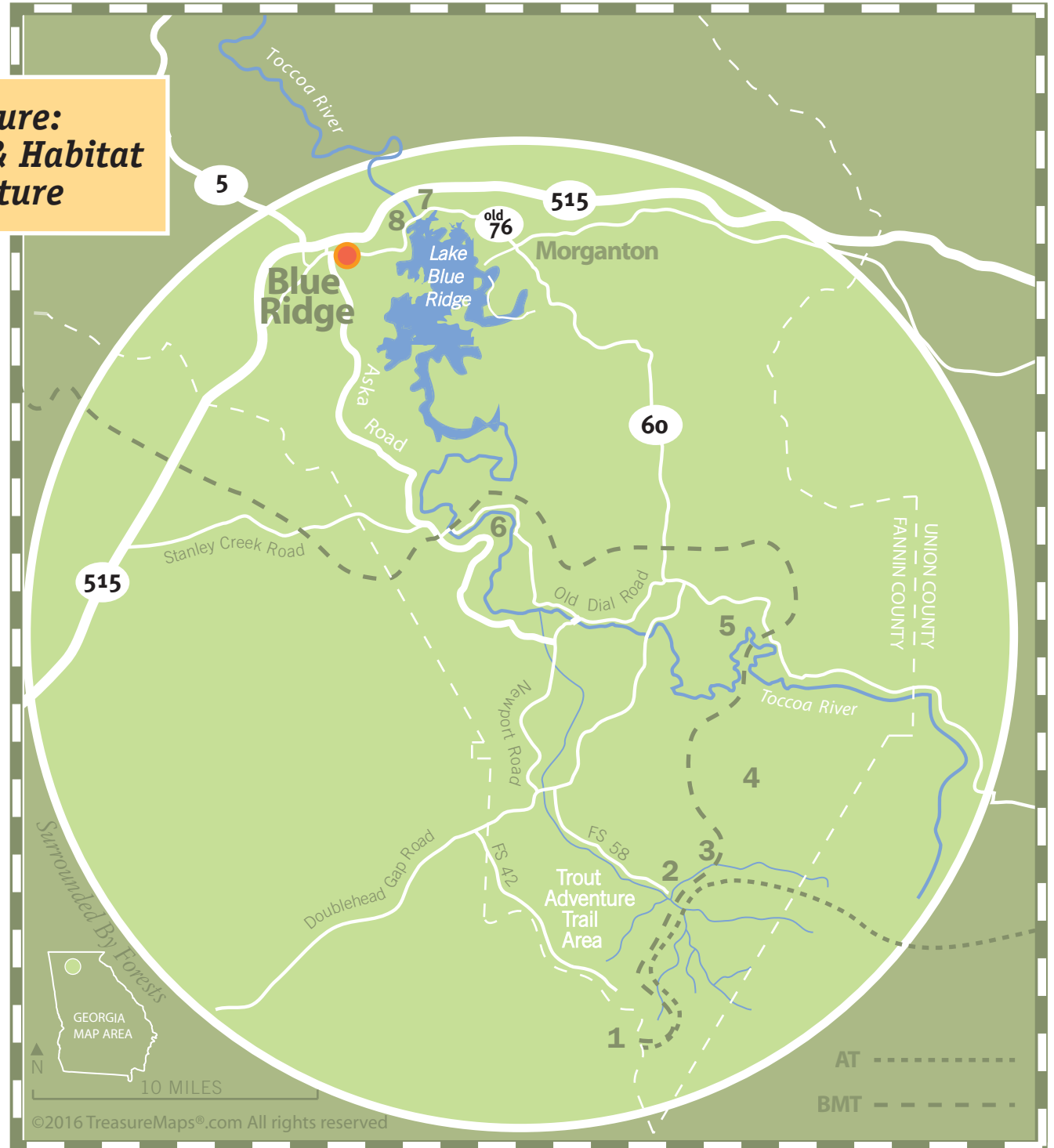
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FANNIN COUNTY
CHAMBER & CVB



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Trout Capital of Georgia - Designated by the Georgia State Legislature in 2010 as Trout Capital of Georgia, Fannin County lies in the Appalachian Mountains, 90 miles north of Atlanta, bordering on North Carolina and Tennessee. Extending from within the county seat of Blue Ridge to the county border north, south, east and west, more than 100 miles of trout streams and rivers wind through Fannin County across 100,000 acres of the Chattahoochee National Forest. Blue Ridge is a quaint mountain gateway town with art galleries, downtown shopping, delectable restaurants, a scenic railroad, and get-away cabins nestled on mountain ridges, in peaceful valleys and on scenic waters. The headquarters for the Trout Adventure Trail in Fannin County is the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce in Blue Ridge.

Trout Adventure Trail - The Trout Adventure Trail™ is a "do it yourself" and "plan your own" hiking and learning experience for kids of all ages along legendary trails in the Chattahoochee National Forest in north Georgia. It is designated by the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce as one of the top activities in the region. The Trout Adventure Trail™ offers individual hikers, families and organized groups the opportunity to hike, learn and earn a distinctive commemorative award patch as recognition of the commitment to outdoor education, conservation and accomplishment. For extensive information on the trail, visit <http://www.troutadventuretrail.org>

Explore a living watershed - from the top of Springer Mountain (the starting point of the Appalachian Trail on its 2,200 mile journey north to Maine) raindrops which fall on the forested watershed make their way down small streams to the Toccoa River. You can hike along these pristine streams, exploring trout habitat along the way. Lake Blue Ridge is formed where Lake Blue Ridge Dam contains the waters, providing electric power, flood control and recreational spots along Lake Blue Ridge's miles of National Forest shoreline. Then the Toccoa River continues north after the dam, providing cold waters right below the dam, also a great trout habitat. Watch fly fishers catch big trout there.

The hiking trails of Fannin County include some of the most legendary in the USA. The famous Appalachian Trail (AT) begins here, the (BMT) Benton MacKaye Trail (pron. mack-eye) winds throughout the county and the Aska Trails area is great for novices and experts alike. For detailed info consult the US Forest Service web site at www.fs.fed.us/conf/. Our web site www.blueridgemountains.com has free downloadable maps and info of all kinds on local outfitters.

1 Springer Mountain. This is the starting point of the Appalachian Trail on its 2,200 mile journey north to Maine, and one of the possible starting points along the Trout Adventure Trail™. From Blue Ridge, take Aska Rd., 13.5 miles until it dead ends into Newport Road. Turn right on Newport Road, go 4.5 miles until it dead ends into Doublehead Gap. Turn right on Doublehead Gap and go 2 miles to FS road 42 (on the left). Turn left and go approximately 6.5 to 7 miles to parking area on your left. A short hike from the parking lot leads to the summit. Parking lot - **N 34°38.262' W084°11.712'**

2 Three Forks. A junction of the Appalachian Trail and Benton MacKaye Trail. You can start a 3.7 mile hike to Springer Mountain, the start of the AT, from Three Forks. Go 13.5 miles south on Aska Road to its end. Turn right onto Newport Road, go 4.5 miles to end. Turn left onto Doublehead Gap Road, cross a concrete bridge and come to a dirt gravel road. Continue on this road .3 miles to the intersection with dirt-gravel FS Road 58, intersecting sharply from the right. Turn right (east) into the forest and drive 5.3 miles to Three Forks (see below). Noontootla Creek is on the right as you drive. Parking lot - **N 34°39.815' W084°11.053'**

3 Long Creek Falls. From Three Forks the trail begins on the north side of the road (on the left) and starts as a gradual hike alongside Long Creek. There are three short ascents before reaching the blue blazed side trail to the falls at 1.1 miles. **N 34°39.815' W084°11.053'** is the trailhead GPS fix.

4 Fish Hatchery The Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery raises over a million rainbow trout a year for distribution in the North Georgia area streams and rivers. Visitors can tour the hatchery, picnic and fish in Rock Creek which runs through the hatchery (M-F call 706-838-4723), and also fish in Rock Creek Lake located 2 miles to the north. To get to the fish hatchery travel on Hwy. 515 to the Hwy. 60 intersection. Follow Hwy. 60 South approximately 15 miles. Turn right on Rock Creek Road. The fish hatchery is located 5 miles on the right. **N 34°42.382' W084°08.969'**

5 Swinging Bridge This is a great place to hike to and have a picnic in trout habitat along a pristine section of the Toccoa River. A 260-foot suspension bridge crosses the Toccoa River on the Benton MacKaye Trail. From the intersection of Hwy 515 and Hwy 5 (McDonalds) in Blue Ridge, follow Hwy 515 East approximately 4 miles to the traffic light at Hwy 60. Turn right and go to the stop sign; then turn left on Hwy 60. Go 1.5 miles into Morganton, then turn right on Hwy 60 South toward Dahlonga for 11.3 miles passing Skeenah Mill. Another .7 miles on the right is FS 816, turn right and follow ROUGH gravel road about 3 miles to the parking area. It's a short hike down to the Toccoa River & Swinging Bridge. Parking lot - **N 34°44.350' W084°10.213'**

5 Sandy Bottoms Canoe Launch

The Toccoa River here flows through wilderness habitat and it's a great place for a swim or picnic. Follow Aska Road to the Shallowford Bridge. Take Aska Road in Blue Ridge approximately 8.3 miles south to bridge on left. Cross Shallowford Bridge and follow the dirt road 1.3 miles to its intersection with Old Dial Road. Turn right on Old Dial, go .6 miles and you'll find Sandy Bottoms Canoe Launch and Campground, which is a great place to get your feet wet! The campground has four sites, each with a cooking grill, picnic table, lantern pole and tent pad. Sandy Bottoms also is the designated take out point for the Toccoa River Canoe Trail. **N 34°47.170' W084°14.398'**

6 Lake Blue Ridge Dam

Lake Blue Ridge Dam, one of the largest earth dams in North America, was built in 1930. Lake Blue Ridge has 100 miles of shoreline, 80% of which is National Forest land. The lake and dam are operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Below the dam is a good access point for trout fishing. **N 34°52.806' W084°16.903'**

7 Tammen Park

A very popular place to picnic and fly fish for trout in the Toccoa River is just below the Lake Blue Ridge Dam. Call in advance for water-release information 1-800-238-2264, ext 4, #23. This park also has ball fields, playground equipment and picnic areas. The entrance to the park is clearly marked right off Hwy 515. **N 34°53.254' W084°17.180'**

A Word to the Wise ... Be prepared for wilderness and carry the 10 Essentials (wiki or Google it). See the USFS web site at www.fs.fed.us/conf/. The law of the forest is "leave no trace". See www.LNT.org for info. Please pack in all you will need and pack out all your trash. If you build a fire, never leave it unattended. Use good judgment when hiking, particularly around waterfalls where rocks are often wet, moss covered and slippery. If hiking during hunting season, wear a brightly colored vest. Unexpected encounters with animals can be pleasurable or problematic. Look for hawks soaring silently above and woodpeckers, turkeys and mountain grouse near the forest edges. The flash of a white-tail deer is an every day occurrence. More rare is sighting a black bear or bobcat. Most animals will flee the presence of humans, but be on the lookout for copperheads, wasps, yellow jackets and other biting, stinging critters.

Fannin County Chamber & Visitors Bureau is located at 152A Orvin Lance Drive, Blue Ridge, GA 30513
800-899-MTNS
www.BlueRidgeMountains.com
[facebook.com/blueridgegeorgia](https://www.facebook.com/blueridgegeorgia)