

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE: AREA BIKING TRAILS ACCESS POINTS

1 Ocoee Whitewater Center Trails

West of Town & Cohutta Wilderness

- 2 South Fork Trail and Loop
- 3 Cashes Valley Ride
- 4 Chestnut Gap Ride

Downtown Blue Ridge

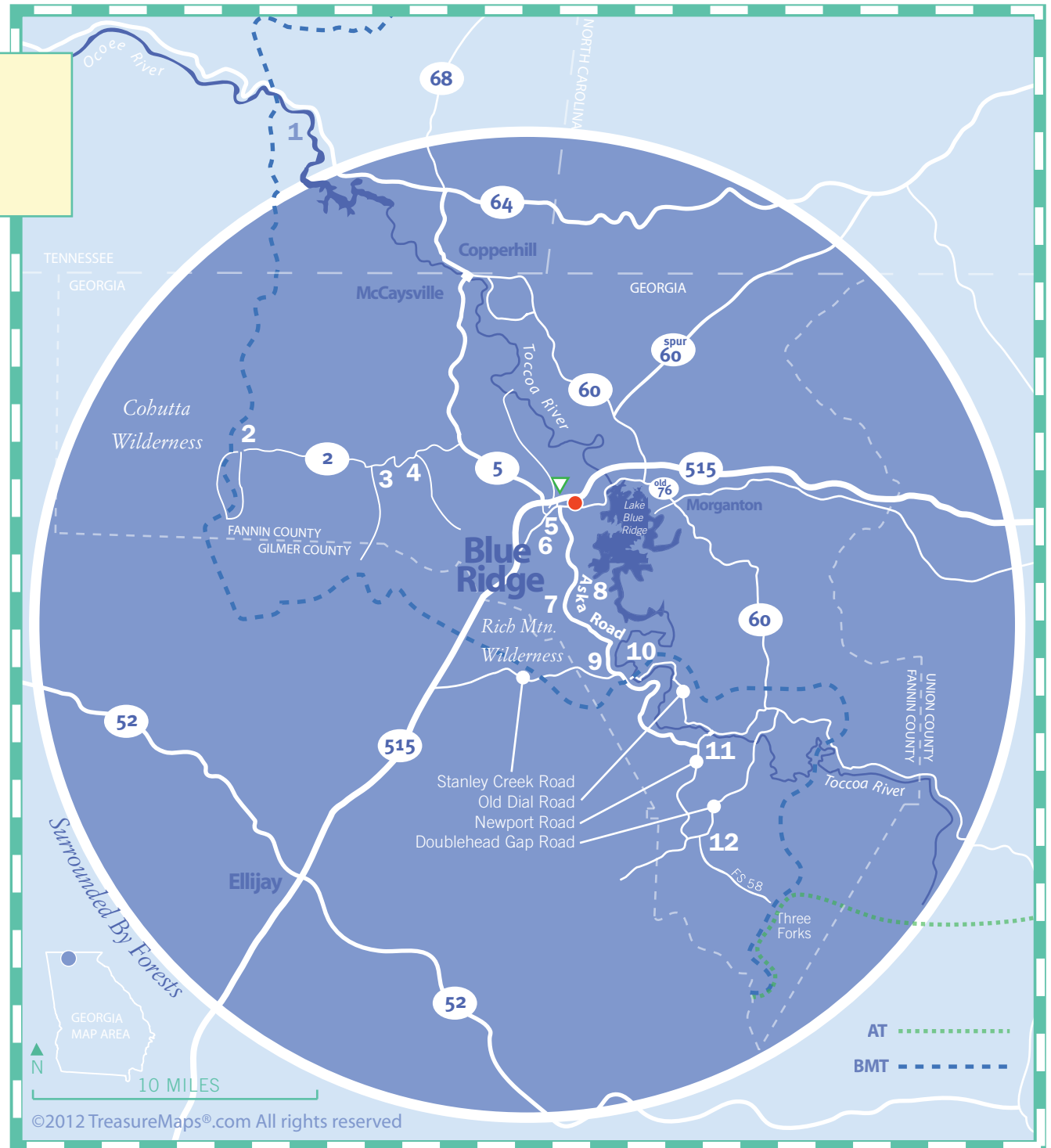
- 5 Ada Street Town to Country
- 6 City Park & Blocks of History

South of Town Trailheads

- 7 Aska Trails Area
- 8 Turkey Farm Loop
- 9 Stanley Creek Road
- 10 Old Dial Road & Toccoa River
- 11 Doublehead Gap and Newport Roads
- 12 FS 58 to Three Forks

● Welcome Center

▽ Windy Ridge Road to Aska Road. Turn here off 515, go one block to 3 way stop, go left and a quick right onto Aska Road.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE: AREA BIKING TRAILS ACCESS POINTS

Easiest[E] More Difficult[M] Most Difficult[D]
Mountain Bike[MB] Road Bike[RB]

The biking trails of Fannin County include some of the most varied and exciting routes in all of North Georgia. Two-lane paved roads, Forest Service all weather gravel roads and single track wind throughout our area. This guide shows access points. Plan your ride with supplemental info from the Welcome Center, books, bike shops and the web. Start with good maps and great advice from locals. A good place to start is our great local bike shop, Cycle South in downtown Blue Ridge at 544 E. Main Street, 706-632-3533. For detailed info on National Forests, road closures, trail restrictions and more consult the US Forest Service web site at www.fs.fed.us/conf/. Biking route starting points match the numbers below:

1 Ocoee Whitewater Center Trails[M] [E] [D] [MB] In addition to whitewater sports, the Tanasi Trail system at the center has 30 miles of trails for hikers and mountain bikers. Get detailed maps there. From Blue Ridge take GA 5 north to McCaysville, then turn left on Tennessee Highway 68. In Ducktown, take U.S. 64 west to Ocoee Whitewater Center.

2 South Fork Trail & Loop[M] [MB] Located in the Cohutta Wilderness Area along the South Fork of Jacks River, this beautiful 2.9 mile singletrack trail combines forest, views and water crossings. It is highly recommended to get the USFS map of the Cohutta Wilderness and carry the 10 Essentials. From Blue Ridge travel 3.9 miles north on Hwy 5 to Hwy 2 and go west 10.5 miles to Watson Gap (dirt road at mile 9). Start biking here for the loop down FS 64 (on the left) or drive the 4 miles to Jacks River Fields and the trailhead of the South Fork Trail. Loop returns to Watson Gap on Foster Rd..

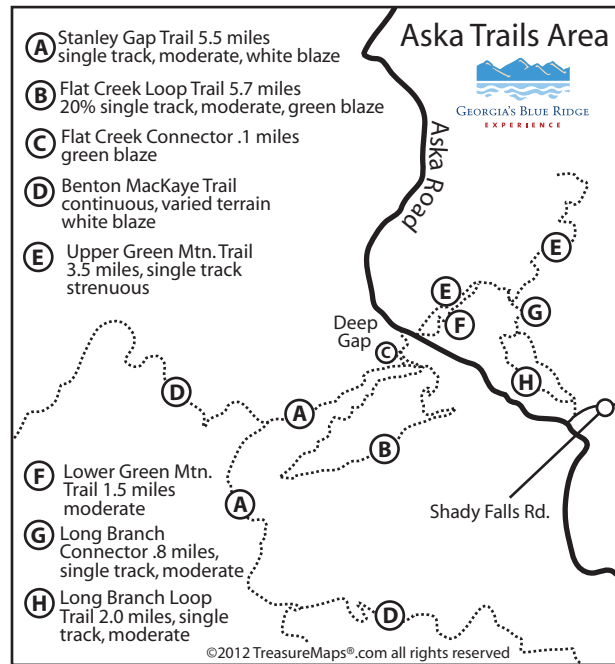
3 Cashes Valley Ride[M] [RB] [MB] This 5 - 15 mile out and back ride through a gorgeous mountain valley and forest starts off Hwy 2 on paved Cashes Valley Road, turns to gravel road and ultimately goes all the way into forest along Fightingtown Creek. From the McDonald's in Blue Ridge go north on Hwy 5 for 3.9 miles and make a left on Hwy 2. Go 3.8 miles to Cashes Valley Road and park on the right in the pull off. At mile 2.5 you can bear right to the unpaved, rougher part of Cashes Valley Road for another 5 miles of mountain bike riding. Be prepared for several semi-deep stream crossings and getting wet if you continue. Return to parking.

4 Chestnut Gap Ride[E] [RB] From Blue Ridge travel north on Hwy 5 3.9 miles to Hwy 2 and go west 2.2 miles to Chestnut Gap Road. Park there. You can either ride 4 miles out and return, or ride to a shuttle in downtown Blue Ridge.

5 Ada Street Town to Country[E] [RB] Starting at the intersection of Mountain and Ada Streets, you can ride paved 2-lane all the way to the Toccoa River at Curtis Switch (4.7 miles) through beautiful rolling countryside.

6 City Park & Blocks of History[E] [RB] The grid layout of downtown Blue Ridge makes for nice easy biking and stopping. Start at downtown City Park or Cycle South.

7 Aska Trails Area[D] [MB] A hiking and biking trail system 17 miles in length and open year-round. From the start of Aska Road in Blue Ridge go 4.4 miles to the trailhead for the Deep Gap portion of the Aska Trails. Other trailheads are located 1.5 miles from Deep Gap on Shady Falls Road and another is up Stanley Creek Road 4.1 miles at Stanley Gap (Toccoa River Restaurant on left). Trails range from 2 to 5.5 miles and are open all year. Except for the Long Branch Loop the trails are not recommended for novices.



8 Turkey Farm Loop[M] [MB] Right off Aska Road (at 5.9 miles turn left on Shady Falls Road) is a 4.7 mile gravel loop around an old turkey farm.

9 Stanley Creek Road[M] [MB] In Blue Ridge, follow Aska Road south for eight miles. Turn right on Stanley Creek Rd. (Toccoa Riverside Restaurant is on the left). It's actually nice to ride the entire road (makes for a ~19 mile ride) parking at the lot just up from the restaurant (the flag pole lot) or Rich Mtn. Rd, which is just down and across from the Stanley Gap Aska trailhead (4.1 miles from Aska Road). You can ride up

that road for ~8 miles and turn around and come back [M], or go up one mile and take the old roadbed to the right 1 mile down to Game Check Station on Stanley Creek Rd. The hiking only trailhead to Fall Branch Falls is about three miles on the right (.2 miles from where pavement ends).

10 Old Dial Road & Toccoa River[E] [MB] 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! Park here and ride out and back to the bridge along the river, or continue on Old Dial at the intersection of Shallowford Br. Rd.

11 Newport & Doublehead Gap Roads[E] [MB] Follow Aska Road 18.1 miles to Newport Road. Nice riding through the countryside and along the scenic Toccoa River.

12 Forest Service Rd 58 [M] [D] [MB] 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 (church on Doublehead Gap Road is good place to park). Continue east into the forest on FS 58 and uphill 5.3 miles to Three Forks. Near here the Appalachian Trail and Benton MacKaye trails begin (no bikes) and a short hike leads to Long Creek Falls. Do not leave bikes unlocked here. Get info at Cycle South for varied routes off USFS 58 and longer rides in this area.

A Word to the Wise ... Highway biking along Hwy 5 is very dangerous, as is biking along curvy 2-lane mountain roads like Hwy 2 and Aska Road. Plan your routes accordingly. Respect private property and trails marked hiking only (BMT and AT especially). If biking in the mountains, be prepared for wilderness and carry the 10 Essentials (wiki or Google it). Also see the USFS web site at www.fs.fed.us/conf/ for current info and trail conditions. 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. Use good judgement when biking, and do not exceed your capabilities, level of fitness or knowledge of the area. Wear a brightly colored vest, and stay constantly aware of traffic behind and in front of you, and ride single file, especially if you are biking with kids.

For more information, gear and bike rentals, visit Cycle South and Blue Ridge Mountain Outfitters in downtown Blue Ridge. For great advice by locals, visit the Fannin County Chamber & Welcome Center at 152 Orvin Lance Drive, Blue Ridge, GA 30513 1-800-899-MTNS www.BlueRidgeMountains.com www.facebook.com/blueridgegeorgia