

#10

Water Trails: Toccoa River South and Lake Blue Ridge

Toccoa River
Water Trail

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For info about local outfitters, fishing guides, rafting, tubing and canoeing, see www.BlueRidgeMountains.com



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Water Trails: Toccoa River South and Lake Blue Ridge**The Toccoa River** Red coordinates = GPS Fix

The Toccoa River, one of Georgia's most pristine trout streams, has its headwaters in Union County, flows into Fannin County and becomes the major feeder stream for Lake Blue Ridge. It resumes its flow below the Blue Ridge dam and travels north into Tennessee, where it is known as the Ocoee River. Water quality is good and trout fishing is excellent. Add beautiful scenery and mild rapids and you have the perfect environment for canoeing, tubing, fishing, camping and all kinds of outdoor recreation.

Lake Blue Ridge

Lake Blue Ridge is a 3,290-acre lake, providing over 100 miles of mostly public shoreline. The surrounding area has National Forest campsites, several boat ramps, a full service marina and public swimming and picnic areas, including Morganton Point and Lake Blue Ridge Recreation areas. Lake Blue Ridge is the only small-mouth bass lake in Georgia and the only lake in the state where you can catch a Muskie, a game fish of the Pike family. All kind of water adventures are available on Lake Blue Ridge from fishing to pontoon boating, waterskiing, kayaking or just picnicking and relaxing on the shores of this gorgeous mountain lake.

1 Lake Blue Ridge Recreation Area Free Boat Ramp

Located two miles from the intersection of Hwy. 76 and Aska Road, the Lake Blue Ridge Recreation Area is a U.S. Forest Service passive recreation area with a nice view of Lake Blue Ridge and a free boat ramp. The area is also a good place for quiet walks and easy bike rides. Turn left on Dry Branch Road and follow less than one mile.

N 34°50.678' W084°18.071'

2 Toccoa River Rapids

The Toccoa River Rapids are located approximately 7 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 76 and Aska Road. On the left of Aska Road, this is a popular spot to view the rapids.

N 34°47.451' W084°16.564'

3 Shallowford Bridge

The historic Shallowford Bridge was built in 1920 and is one of the last remaining bridges of its kind. The area of the Toccoa between Shallowford Bridge and Sandy Bottoms Canoe launch is a designated "Delayed Harvest" trout stream. Fishermen are allowed to catch and release only until May 15th each year. Take Aska Road from its start in Blue Ridge approximately 8.3 miles south to bridge on left.

N 34°47.029' W084°15.562'

4 Sandy Bottoms Canoe Launch

Cross Shallowford Bridge turn right 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'**

5 Toccoa Valley Campground

Toccoa Valley Campground is located 12 miles out Aska Road. The facilities include 14 waterfront campsites with full hook-up and tent camping, restrooms and hot showers. TVC offers tubing, kayaking and rafting on the Toccoa River, offering launch and pick-up service for six miles of tubing on the Toccoa. Camping is open March through October with water activities beginning Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Closed Sundays. Call 706-838-4317 for reservations, or see www.toccoavalleycampground.com.

N 34°45.804' W084°14.983'

6 Swinging Bridge.

A 260-foot suspension bridge crosses the Toccoa River on the Benton MacKaye Trail. From the McDonalds in Blue Ridge, take Hwy 515 east about 4 miles to Hwy 60 and turn right, follow to Morganton. There, turn right toward Dahlonega for 11.3 miles following Hwy 60 south passing Skeenah Mill. Another .7 miles on the right is FS 816, turn right and follow gravel road about 3 miles to the parking area. Short hike down to the Toccoa River & Swinging Bridge.

N 34°44.212' W084°10.027'

7 Deep Hole Campground & Recreation Area

Deep Hole is a U.S. Forest Service recreation area with eight campsites and access to the Toccoa River for fishing and canoe launch. A picnic area has six tables for day use. Deep Hole is the put-in for the **Toccoa River Canoe Trail**, which follows 17.3 miles of river from Deep Hole Recreation Area to Lake Blue Ridge, ending at the take-out at Sandy Bottoms. Along the way are forests, pastoral rural valleys, mountain laurel and rhododendron thickets and lots of wildlife. Good fishing and a few rapids make this a great canoe trip, especially for beginners. Deep Hole and the Toccoa River are located 14.8 miles from Morganton on GA Hwy 60.

N 34°44.574' W084°08.345'

8 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 (M-F, 706-838-4723), picnic and fish in Rock Creek which runs through the hatchery, 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'

9 Cooper Creek Recreation Area

Cooper Creek, a major feeder stream for the Toccoa River, is an angler's paradise for trout fishing. The Cooper Creek Recreation Area is very scenic and provides opportunities for fishing, camping, hiking and nature watching. From Blue Ridge, take Hwy. 76 east for 4 miles to Morganton; turn right on Hwy. 60 south for 16 miles. Turn left on Forest Service Road 4 for 6 miles.

10 Morganton Point Recreation Area

Morganton Point is the place to take the kids to the "beach" on Lake Blue Ridge. The recreation area offers a boat ramp, 43 unit campground and a picnic area with a covered pavilion for family gatherings. The beach area has a concession, kayak rentals, public bathrooms and showers. Open April through the end of October. 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 and turn right on Lake Drive which will take you to the park entrance in approximately .5 miles. **N 34°52.139' W084°15.258'**

11 Lakewood Landing Boat Ramp

Old Highway 76, Morganton, GA. 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. Turn right, entrance to boat ramp will be .3 miles on left.

N 34°52.896' W084°15.974'

12 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'

13 Lake Blue Ridge Marina

Located on Old Highway 76, the Lake Blue Ridge Marina offers boat sales and storage, pontoon, kayak and stand-up paddle board rentals, boat ramp, marina store and bar & grill. For information, call 706-632-2618. **N 34°52.230'**

W084°16.758'

14 Tammen Park

Tammen Park is a county managed recreation area on the Toccoa River below Blue Ridge Dam. Access is at the bridge on Highway 515. The park has picnic pavilions, playgrounds and ballfields. **N 34°53.254' W084°17.180'**

Main Welcome Center: 152A Orvin Lance Drive, Blue Ridge, GA 30513 800-899-MTNS **Cafoose Visitor Center:** 230 Roberts Way, Blue Ridge GA **McCaysville Visitor Center:** 53 East Market St. www.BlueRidgeMountains.com www.facebook.com/blueridgegeorgia