Self-Guided Driving Tour: Daytrip to Dahlonega & Apple Alley

1. Start Drive
2. Serenberry Vineyards
3. Wilscot Gap
4. Old Skeenah Mill
5. The Swinging Bridge
6. Fish Hatchery
7. Deep Hole Rec. Area
8. Coopers Creek Rec. Area
9. Suches
10. Woody Lake
11. Woody Gap Vista
12. Chestatee Overlook
13. Jake & Bull Mountain
14. Amicalola Falls State Park
15. Burt’s Farm
16. Apple Orchard Alley

Welcome Center

Get the free App!
https://www.blueridgemountains.com/get-the-app/
This day trip, originally produced by the U.S. Forest Service, is beautiful any time of year, but is especially beautiful in the fall. The drive begins and ends at the intersection of Georgia Highway 5 and 515 in Blue Ridge. Round trip mileage is 102.4 miles and approximate driving time without stops is three to four hours.

The drive offers some great opportunities for stops and side trips and can easily become a day trip. The Chattahoochee National Forest covers 749,550 acres in North Georgia, managed by five ranger districts. The Blue Ridge Ranger District consists of 147,017 acres of forested public lands in parts of five counties (Fannin, Gilmer, Union, Lumpkin and Dawson) in north Georgia. For more info, call the Blue Ridge Ranger District at (706) 745-6928.

**Total Miles (in-between miles) in Blue**

**GPS Fixes in Red**

**0.0 (0.0)** Start your drive at the intersection of Hwv. 515 and Hwv. 5 in Blue Ridge (McDonalds on corner). Begin your trip by going east on Highway 515 toward Blairsville. 4.0 (.4)

Turn right at stop sign on GA Hwy 60.

6.0 (1.5) Turn right on GA Hwy 60 toward Dahlonega.

10.2 (4.2) (optional side trip) Serenberry Vineyards.

13.5 (3.3) **Wilsoc Gap** The Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) crosses here. It is pronounced “mack-eye”. The trail in Georgia stretches 78.6 miles from Springer Mountain to Double Spring Gap on the Tennessee border. N 34°48.500' W084°11.272' 17.2 (3.7) **Old Skeenah Mill** On the left is the Skeenah Creek Campground. The Old Skeenah Mill was built in 1848 by Willis Woody, who brought his family to the Skeenah Valley in 1839. The Mill is listed on the National Register for Historic Places. A water-powered sawmill was also located on the creek. The Skeenah Mill was once a popular place for neighbors to gather and chat as they waited for their wheat or corn to be ground. N 34°46.196' W084°10.353' 19.7 (.7) **The Swinging Bridge** On the right is Forest Service Road 816, and the second crossing of the Benton MacKaye Trail. A side trip of 3 bumpy miles will lead to a 260’ suspension bridge over the Toccoa River. Park at the berm and walk in ¼ mile to the bridge. This is a beautiful area with huge old growth hemlocks. N 34°44.350' W084°10.213' 20.5 (2.6) **Chattahoochee National Fish Hatchery** Forest Service Road 69 on the right will take you to the Chattahoochee National Fish Hatchery and Frank Gross Campground on Rock Creek. The fish hatchery raises a million rainbow trout each year to stock the streams and lakes of north Georgia. Visitors can tour the hatchery and visitor center (M-F call 706-838-4723 for hours), and also picnic, hike, camp or fish. N 34°42.382' W084°08.969' 20.8 (3.3) **Deep Hole Recreation Area** On the right is the entrance to Deep Hole Recreation area on the Toccoa River. Deep Hole is a year-round campground with six picnic sites and a canoe launch. It is the beginning of the Toccoa River Canoe Trail, a nationally designated river trail. N 34°44.574' W084°08.345' 21.5 (.7) **Cooper Creek Road** A six-mile trip on Cooper Creek Road takes you to two National Forest campgrounds, hiking trails & access to Cooper Creek, a popular trout stream.

**Suches**. You are now entering Suches, which is the highest “community” in the state called “the Valley Above the Clouds.” Elevation in “downtown” Suches is 3,000 feet, according to Bill’s Guide to Suches. The area is a popular route for motorcyclists, who stop at TWO (Two Wheels Only) near Highway 180, also called Wolf Pen Gap Road. Wolf Pen Gap is known as the “winding-est” road in the state, according to Bill’s Guide.

32.8 (11.3) **Woody Lake** On the left is Woody Lake and just above the lake is the house of Arthur Woody, the “Barefoot Forest Ranger.” He was the first forest ranger of the Toccoa Ranger District and is recognized for preserving the land and revitalizing the area’s deer and trout population. N 34°41.115' W084°01.182' 34.5 (1.7) **Woody Gap Vista** The Appalachian Trail crosses Highway 60 at Woody Gap.

36.1 (1.6) **Chestatee Vista** The overlook is on the left. For the next 11 miles the road will twist and turn as you approach Dahlonega, with stunning views along the way. N 34°39.887' W083°58.939' 47.2 (11.1) **Dahlonega, GA** Dahlonega was the site of the first major gold rush in the U.S. in 1828. Be sure to stop at the Dahlonega Gold Museum Historic Site in middle of the downtown area. You might even take time to pan for gold at the Consolidated or Crisson Gold Mine. N 34°31.959' W083°59.087'

**Main Welcome Center**: 152A Orvin Lance Drive, Blue Ridge, GA 30513 1-800-899-MTNS

**Caboose Visitor Center**: 230 Roberts Way, Blue Ridge

**Downtown McCaysville Visitor Center**: 53 East Market St.