Water Adventure: Toccoa River Canoe Trail

1. Deep Hole Rec. Area (put-in)
2. Swinging Bridge
3. Toccoa Valley Campground
4. Sandy Bottoms (take out)
5. Shallowford Bridge
6. Toccoa River Rapids

- Welcome Center
- Fishing Spots

Please note: Fishing, camping and entering onto private lands is illegal without land owner permission, as is fishing from the river from a boat, tube, or any other floating device where both sides of the river are privately owned.

For info about local outfitters, fishing guides, rafting, tubing and canoeing, see www.BlueRidgeMountains.com
The Toccoa River Canoe Trail

The Toccoa River Canoe Trail utilizes the Toccoa River from the launch at Deep Hole Recreation Area flowing west and north to its end at Sandy Bottoms Canoe Take Out. Enjoy views of forested public lands, pastoral private lands, laurel and rhododendron thickets and their associated wildlife, coupled with great fishing and some rapids make this the perfect canoe or kayak trip. The Canoe Trail is ideal for beginners and those who enjoy a less than vigorous float in a north Georgia mountain river. The river flow is dependent upon rainfall, and at times of low rain portions of the river might be shallow requiring you to pull your boat through the shallows. Check with the US Forest Service about conditions by calling the Blue Ridge Ranger District at 706-745-6928.

Getting to the put-in and take-out points to set shuttles:

1. **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 or kayak launch. A picnic area has six tables for day use. **Deep Hole is the put-in for the Toccoa River Canoe Trail**, which follows 13.8 miles of river from Deep Hole Recreation Area to 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.

2. **Swinging Bridge**
   A 260-foot suspension bridge crosses the Toccoa River on the Benton MacKaye Trail. You will pass under the Swinging Bridge on the Toccoa River Canoe Trail, and the shady, forested campground area on the right bank is a nice place to stop for a break or a picnic. To drive to the spot, 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 Dahlohnega for 14.5 miles to Deep Hole Recreation Area; entrance is on the right (dirt/gravel all weather road). N 34°44.574' W084°08.345'

3. **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 reservations, or at www.toccoavalleycampground.com. N 34°45.804' W084°14.983'

4. **Sandy Bottoms Canoe Launch**
   Take Aska Road from its start in Blue Ridge approximately 8.3 miles south to the Shallowford 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 is the designated take out point for the Toccoa River Canoe Trail.** N 34°47.170' W084°14.398'

5. **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 it's start in Blue Ridge approximately 8.3 miles south to bridge on left. N 34°47.029' W084°15.562'

6. **Toccoa River Rapids**
   The Toccoa River Rapids are located approximately 7 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 76 and Aska Road. This is a popular spot to view the rapids from Aska Road. **CAUTION:** Make sure you don’t miss the take-out point at Sandy Bottoms if you are paddling. or you will wind up here confronting serious rapids. N 34°47.451' W084°16.564'

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.

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., McCaysville
www.BlueRidgeMountains.com
www.facebook.com/blueridgegeorgia