

# VISIT NC SMOKIES MOTORCYCLE RIDES



HAYWOOD COUNTY

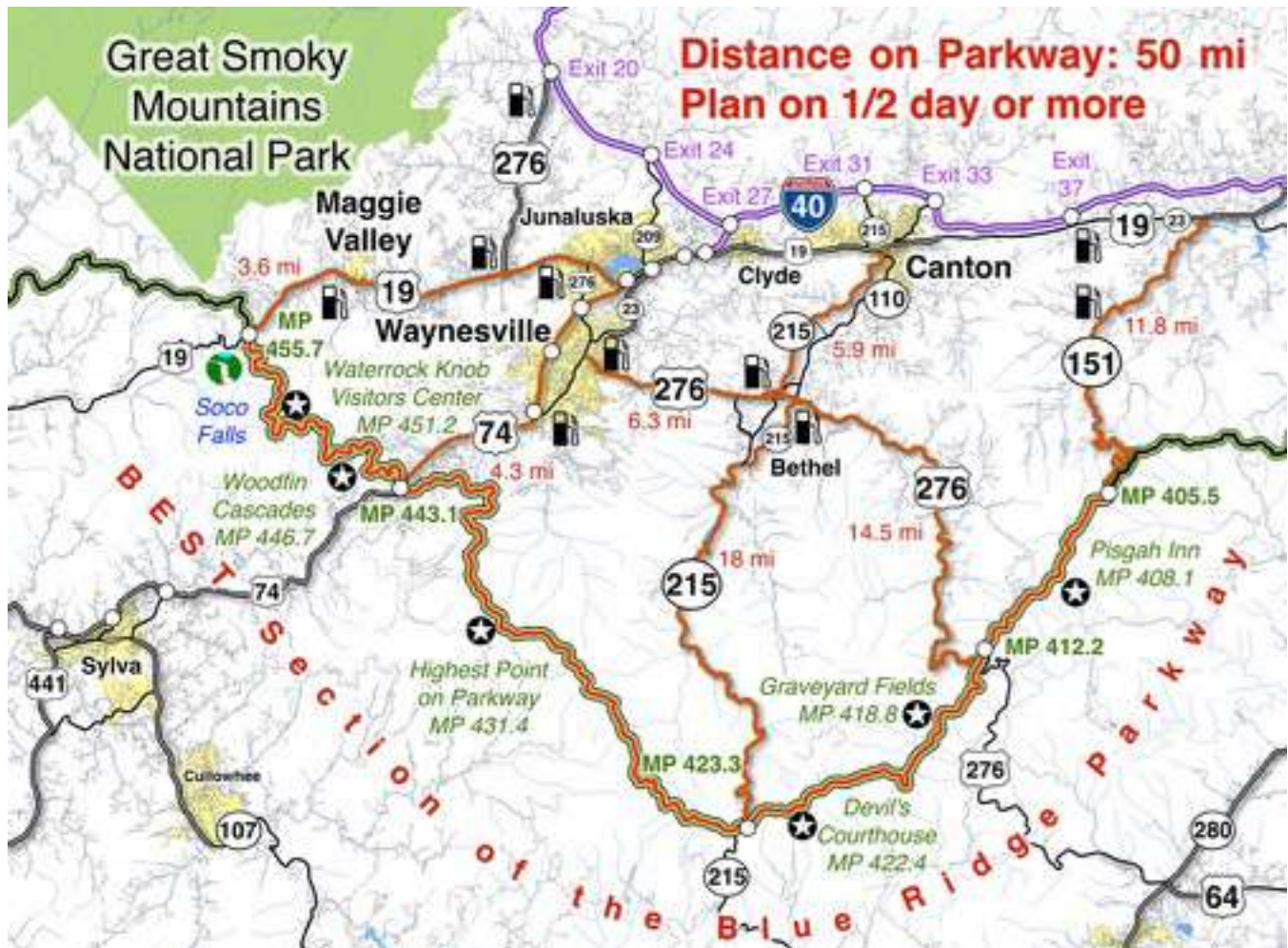
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## The Best Section of the Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 405.5 - 455.7



50 miles, plus approach and return ride.  
Plan at least 1/2 day  
Easy ride

- 1) **US 19** - Ride west from Maggie Valley. US 19 (Soco Rd) makes a steady climb to meet the Blue Ridge Parkway at Soco Gap (MP 455.7). 3.6 miles. Shortest route to get on the Blue Ridge Parkway.
- 2) **US 74** - Four lane highway meets the Blue Ridge Parkway 4.3 miles west of Waynesville.
- 3) **NC 215** - A long winding ride and one of the best in the area. Connects to I-40 at Exit 31. Passes through Canton (follow signs). Junction with US 276 in Bethel at traffic light. South of Bethel is the best section, a challenging and scenic climb that makes it a favorite ride.
- 4) **US 276** - Connects to I-40 at Exit 20. Four lane road crosses Jonathan Valley, then joins with US 19 at Maggie Valley. It passes through Waynesville as Main Street, then becomes an enjoyable country ride to the Bethel Valley. Junction with NC 215 in Bethel at traffic light. South of Bethel is the best section, a scenic climb that gets more challenging the higher you go.
- 5) **NC 151** - Makes a very steep descent from the Blue Ridge Parkway through a series of switchbacks, then winds across valley to meet US 19.



## NC 209 - "The Rattler"

36 miles to Hot Springs.

About 1 hour ride to hot springs.

98 miles to do loop ride.

1/2 day ride.



### Route:

- **Start: Exit 104 on Highway US 74.** Lowes store at this exit. Pass under US 74. **Follow NC 209 north.**
- **Cross I-40 at Exit 24.** It's an easy ride through the valleys for a few miles.
- **Turn Right onto Betsy's Creek Road** to continue on **NC 209.** Ferguson's store / gas marks this corner. Lots of signs.
- **Junction NC 63. Note and pass through.** - Store and gas at this junction. Popular spot for a break, loop returns here.
- **NC 209 ends at Hot Springs.** Return as you came or continue on loop ride.



## Pisgah Triangle

Loops 50 – 100 Miles

3 - 7 hours, more with stops.



### Route:

**Loop 1 - use Blue Ridge Parkway. 50 miles, 2 -3 hours or more.**

**Starts in Waynesville** - Leave downtown Waynesville on US 276 south to reach the top point of the Pisgah Triangles.

- **Continue straight** at traffic light on US 276.
- **Turn left** to follow ramp to the Blue Ridge Parkway at Wagon Road Gap.
- **Turn left** at stop sign onto the Blue Ridge Parkway (towards Cherokee).
- **Exit the Blue Ridge Parkway** at NC 215.
- **Turn Left** at stop sign onto **NC 215** (towards Canton). NC 215 becomes Lake Logan Rd.
- End of loop 1 in Bethel. 6.3 miles back to Waynesville on US 276.



## The Dragon & Cherohala Skyway

67 miles to Deals Gap.  
1 1/2 to 2 hours

250 miles to ride the loop  
All day ride



### Route:

- Start in Maggie Valley. Follow US 19 to Bryson City.
- **Turn right** @ traffic light downtown **Bryson City**.
- **Turn left** at next traffic light to continue west on **US 19**.
- **Follow ramp onto Highway 74**. Continue west on the highway.
- **Veer Right** onto NC 28.
- **Junction NC 28 / NC 143**. Continue on NC 28. This is where the loop returns.
- **Turn left** @ stop sign on **NC 28**. Road to right leads to Fontana Dam.
- **Turn right** @ stop sign to ride **the Dragon**. Junction US 129 (The Dragon) and NC 28. Motorcycle Resort here. Food, gas, t-shirts, etc.



### To continue on loop ride -

- Ride the Dragon (US 129). Continue north to **Punkin Center**.
- **Turn left** onto TN 72. Follow to **Vonore**.
- **Turn left** @ stop sign to cross the lake. Junction US 411.
- **Turn left** @ traffic light onto **TN 360**
- **Turn left** @ stop sign to **continue on TN 360 to Tellico Plains**.
- **Turn left** @ stop sign to **start the Cherohala Skyway**. Junction with TN 165. No gas next 50+ miles. Fuel here if needed.
- **Turn left** to continue on **NC 143** into **Robbinsville**. End of Cherohala Skyway.
- **Turn right** @ stop sign to pass through Robbinsville. Junction NC 143 with US 129.
- **Turn left** @ traffic light to exit Robbinsville on NC 143.
- **Turn right** @ stop sign to re-trace your steps home. Junction NC 143 with NC 28.

## Description - Haywood County Loop

45 miles

1 1/2 to 2 hours ride

moderately difficult



### Route :

- **Start in Maggie Valley** at junction of US 19 and US 276. Follow US 276 north across Jonathan Valley to I-40 Exit 20.
- Pass under I-40 then **turn right onto Rabbit Skin Rd** just before you reach the on-ramp. Tight curves ahead. Watch for gravel in turns.
- **Turn left @ stop sign to cross bridge** over Pigeon River.
- **Turn right** to continue on **Riverside Road**. Follow river. Watch for mud in road from farm equipment.
- **Turn right on NC 209 @ stop sign**. Junction NC 209..
- **Turn left onto Upper Crabtree Road**.
- **Turn right onto Crabtree Mountain Road**. Steep climb, steep descent. Watch for gravel in turns near top.
- **Turn right @ stop sign onto Thickety Road**. Leads to **Clyde**.
- **Turn left onto Charles Street**. Cross bridge over Pigeon River.
- **Turn left @ stop sign onto Broad Street**. Go 1 block.
- **Turn right onto Main Street**. Follow to **US 19**.



- **Cross US 19 @ traffic light and follow as Main Street**. Becomes **Poison Cove Road**.
- **Continue straight onto Stamey Cove Road**. Junction Ratcliff Cove Road.
- **Turn right @ stop sign onto NC 215**. Junction **Stamey Cove Road** and NC 215.
- **Turn right @ stop sign onto Sonoma Road**. Follow to US 276.
- **Veer right at**

stop sign onto **US 276**. Follow into **Waynesville**.

- **Turn right @ traffic light** and pass through downtown Waynesville.
- **Turn left @ traffic light** to continue on **US 276** (Russ Avenue).
- **Turn left onto US 19** (Dellwood Road) @ traffic light and follow back to start. Junction US 276 and US 19.

## East Loop of Great Smoky Mountains National Park

112 miles  
4-6 hours  
Easy ride



### Route:

- **Starts in Maggie Valley.** Follow **US 19** (Soco Road) or the Blue Ridge Parkway to **Cherokee**. The parkway route bypasses Cherokee.
- **US 19** junction with **Blue Ridge Parkway** at Soco Gap. Take the parkway to bypass Cherokee. Use US 19 to pass into Cherokee, then US 441 (**turn right**) to reach the entrance to the park.
- **Turn right** at stop sign from the Blue Ridge Parkway. Junction Blue Ridge Parkway and US 441 north of Cherokee. Entrance to Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- **Oconoluftee Visitor Center**, Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Good place to see elk early and late in the day.
- **Junction Clingman's Dome Road** (on left). Clingman's Dome is the highest mountain in Tennessee. 7 mile road leads to observation tower.
- **Newfound Gap** overlook.
- **Veer right at Sugarlands Visitor Center.** Junction with Little River Road.
- **Keep Right.** Junction Gatlinburg Bypass. Pass through **Gatlinburg**.
- **Veer Right.** Junction **US 321**.
- **Turn left @ stop sign.** Junction **US 321** and TN 32.
- **Turn right onto Foothills Parkway.** Junction US 321 and **Foothills Parkway**.
- **Veer right** onto **I-40**. Junction Foothills Parkway and **I-40 Exit 443**.
- **Exit I-40 @ exit 20** at US 276. Follow US 276 to US 19 in Maggie Valley.
- Junction US 276 and US 19 in Maggie Valley.



## Roads Not Taken

70 miles

3 - 4 hours

moderately difficult



### Route:

- **Start in Canton. Follow NC 215 to Bethel.**



- **Turn left @ stop sign onto Sonoma Road.** Junction NC 215 and Sonoma Road.
- **Turn right @ stop sign onto NC 110.** Junction Sonoma Road and NC 110.
- **Turn left @ traffic light onto US 276.** Junction NC 110 / US 276 / NC 215. Follow to Blue Ridge Parkway.
- **Left turn onto ramp to Blue Ridge Parkway.**
- **Turn right onto Blue Ridge Parkway (towards Asheville).** Follow to next exit.
- **Turn left onto NC 151.** Junction Blue Ridge Parkway and NC 151. Steep descent with tight switchbacks.
- **Continue through traffic light @ US 19 onto Dogwood Road.** Traffic light. Junction NC 151 and US 19.
- **Turn right onto Hookers Gap Road.** Junction Dogwood Road and Hookers Gap Road. Poorly marked, be alert for this turn.
- **Cross Newfound Road @ stop sign to continue on Morgan Branch Road.** Junction Hookers Gap Road and Newfound Road.
- **Unpaved section of road for short distance. Cross single lane bridge.**
- **Turn right @ stop sign onto S. Turkey Creek Road.**
- **Turn left @ stop sign onto NC 63**

(New Leicester Highway). Junction S. Turkey Creek Road and NC 63.

- **Turn left onto N. Turkey Creek Road.** Junction NC 63 and N. Turkey Creek Road.
- **Keep right on Earlys Mountain Road.** Junction N. Turkey Creek Road and Earlys Mountain Road.
- **Earlys Mountain Road becomes Big Sandy Mush Road.**
- **Turn left onto Willow Creek Road.**
- **Junction Big Sandy Mush Road / Willow Creek Road / Bald Creek Road.**
- **Willow Creek Road becomes Beaverdam Road.**
- **Turn right @ stop sign onto Newfound Road and follow into Canton.** Junction Beaverdam Road and Newfound Road.
- **Stop sign.** Junction Beaverdam Road and Main Street in **Canton.**



## Most Challenging Roads

90 miles plus ride to Bethel.

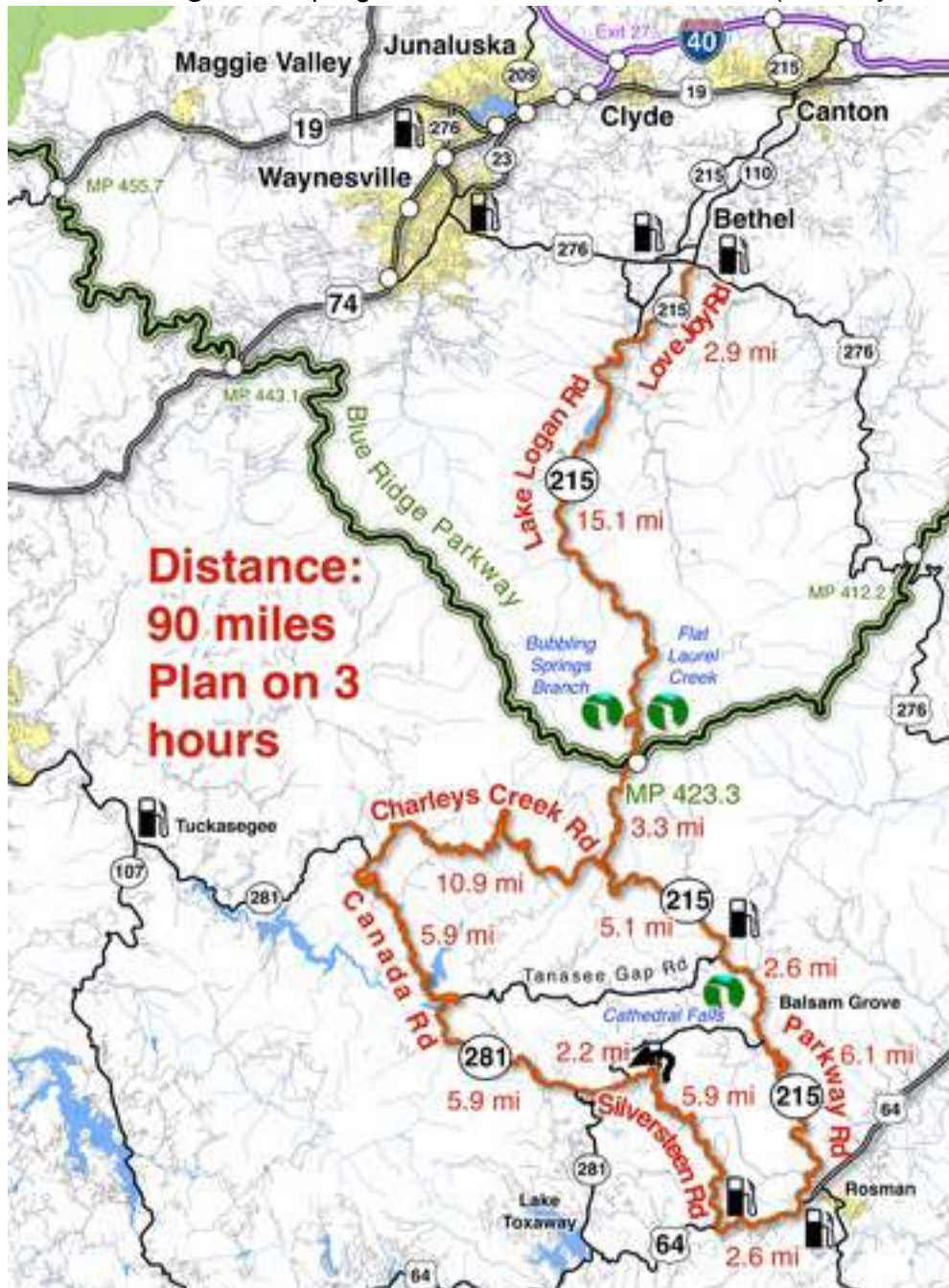
3-4 hours

Challenging ride.

### Route:

**Start at traffic light in Bethel** (junction US 276, NC 215, NC 110).

- **Follow NC 215** - starts as **Love Joy Road**. Easy section through farmland along river.
  - **Turn left @ stop sign to continue on NC 215**. Junction Love Joy Road and Lake Logan Rd (NC 215). Moderately difficult.
  - **Pass Sunburst Campground**. Enter Pisgah National Forest. Start climb to Blue Ridge Parkway. Beware loose gravel on road, especially in turns. Difficult.
  - **Pass Blue Ridge Parkway ramp**. Continue on NC 215. Road surface improves south of parkway. Difficult.
  - **Turn right @ stop sign onto US 64**. Junction NC 215 (Parkway Road) and US 64. Easy.



- **Turn right onto Silversteem Road**. Junction US 64 and Silversteem Rd. Difficult.
- **Keep right on Silversteem Rd**. Junction Silversteem Rd and Golden Road. Difficult.
- **Sharp left turn** to stay on Silversteem Road. Junction Silversteem Rd and Macedonia Church Road. Difficult.
- **Turn right @ stop sign onto NC 281**. Junction Silversteem Road and NC 281. Difficult.
- **Turn right onto Charleys Creek Road**. Junction NC 281 and Charleys Creek Road. Difficult.
- **Turn left onto NC 215**. Junction Charleys Creek Road and NC 215.
- **Follow NC 215 back to Bethel**.

# Waterfalls Loop

All day ride.

Easy to moderate difficulty



## Route:

**Start in Maggie Valley.** Follow US 19 west.

- Pass under Blue Ridge Parkway
- **Soco Falls.** Gravel pull off on left with small signs. Downhill section of road on a curve. Can't be seen from road. Path and boardwalk lead to 2 converging waterfalls.
- **Turn left @** traffic light at casino for shortcut to US 441 south. Junction US 19 and Casino Road.
- **Turn left @** traffic light onto US 441 south. Junction Casino Road and US 441.
- **Follow highway 23/74 east.** Junction US 441 and highway 23/74 exit 74.
- **Follow US 441 south.** Junction US 441 and highway 23/74 exit 81..
- **Exit US 441,** follow US 64 / NC 28 east. Junction US 441 and US 64 / NC 28 at Franklin.
- **Cullasaja Falls.** Visible from road on right. Limited and hazardous parking near guardrail on sharp curve.
- **Quarry Falls** - Visible from road on right. Long paved pull-off on right side of road.
- **Dry Falls** - Not visible from road. Paved parking on right with signs. Short trail to waterfall. Path continues behind waterfall.
- **Bridal Veil Falls** - Visible from road on left. Paved pull off. Drive behind the waterfall for a photo.
- **Turn left @** traffic light to continue on US 64. Junction US 64 and NC 28 downtown Highlands.



- **Turn right @** traffic light onto NC 107 south. Junction US 64 and NC 107 in Cashiers.
- **Whitewater Falls State Park.** Not visible from road. \$2 fee. 1/4 mile paved walk. Highest waterfall in the east.
- **Turn right @** stop sign to continue east on US 64. Junction NC 281 and US 64.
- **Connestee Falls** - Not visible from road. Large sign, trailhead at end of parking lot. Short walk to

overlook where 2 waterfalls converge.

- **Turn right @** traffic light in Brevard onto US 64. Junction US 276 and US 64.
- **Turn left @** traffic light onto US 276 north. Junction US 64 / US 276 / NC 280.
- **Looking Glass Falls** - Visible from road. Large paved parking along road on right. Boardwalk to base of falls.

## Nantahala-Wayah

145 miles

1/2 day or more

Moderately difficult



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### Route:

**Start in Maggie Valley.** Follow US 19 west.

- **Pass under Blue Ridge Parkway.** Continue to Bryson City.
- **Turn right, then left** at the traffic lights in Bryson City to continue on US 19 west. Junction with Bennett Road.
- **Merge onto Highway 23 / 74** and continue west. Junction US 19 / Alarka Road / Highway 23 / 74 Exit 64.
- **Veer left to continue on US 74** into Nantahala Gorge. Junction Highway 23 / 74 and NC 28.



- **Turn left** onto **Wayah Road.** Junction US 74 and Wayah Road.
- **Turn left @** stop sign onto **Old Murphy Road.** Follow into Franklin. Junction Wayah Road and old Murphy Road.
- **Turn left @** traffic light onto **Porter Road.** Junction Old Murphy Road and Porter Road.
- **Turn right @** traffic light onto Main Street. Junction Porter Road and Main Street.

traffic light and exit town on NC 28 north. Junction Main Street and NC 28 (Harrison Street).

- **Turn right @** stop sign onto highway towards Waynesville. Junction NC 28 and Highway 23 / 74.
- **Turn left** onto **Blue Ridge Parkway ramp.** Junction Highway 23 / 74 and ramp.
- **Turn right @** stop sign onto Blue Ridge Parkway towards Cherokee.
- **Exit Blue Ridge Parkway.** Junction Blue Ridge Parkway and ramp to US 19.
- **Turn right @** stop sign to return to Maggie Valley on US 19. Junction ramp and US 19.

## Short & Sweet

33 miles

1 1/2 Hours

Easy Ride



### Route:

#### Start at Exit 104 Highway 23 / 74 at Junaluska.

- **Turn right** @ traffic light towards Waynesville. Continue through traffic circle.
- **Continue straight** @ traffic light onto **Walnut Street**. Junction US 23 and Walnut Street.
- **Turn left** @ traffic light onto US 276 (Russ Avenue). Junction Walnut Street and US 276 (Russ Avenue). Head downtown.
- **Turn Right** @ traffic light. Junction US 276 (Russ Ave) and US 23 (Main Street). Pass through Waynesville.
- **Turn left** @ traffic light onto **US 276**. Junction Main Street and US 276 south.
- **Turn left** @ junction with **Raccoon Road**.
- **Turn right** @ junction with **Ratcliff Cove Road**.
- **Turn right** @ stop sign onto **Stamey Cove Road**. Junction Ratcliff Cove Road / Poison Cove Road / Stamey Cove Road).
- **Turn left** @ stop sign onto **NC 215** towards **Canton**. Junction Stamey Cove Road and NC 215.



- **Turn left** @ traffic light onto **US 19** in **Canton**. Junction NC 215 and US 19.
- **Turn right** @ traffic light onto **NC 215**. Junction US 19 and NC 215.
- **Turn left** @ traffic light onto Champion Drive. Junction NC 215 and Champion Drive.
- **Turn left** @ traffic light onto **Thickety Road**. Junction NC 215 and Thickety Road.
- **Turn left** @ stop sign to

continue on **Thickety Road**. Junction Thickety Road and Crabtree Mountain Road.

- **Continue straight** onto **Hyder Mountain Road**. Junction Charles Street in Clyde. Thickety Road becomes Hyder Mountain Road..
- **Turn right** @ stop sign to continue on **Hyder Mountain Road**.
- **Turn left** @ stop sign onto **Big Branch Road**. Junction Hyder Mountain Road and Big Branch Road.
- **Turn right** @ stop sign onto Golf Course Dr. Junction Big Branch Road and Golf Course Dr..
- **Turn left** @ stop sign onto **NC 209**.

Follow **NC 209** to return to start.

## Mt. Mitchell- Chimney Rock

205+ miles with side trips

All day ride

Easy ride



Route:

**Start in Waynesville.** Follow **US 276** to the **Blue Ridge Parkway**.

- **Traffic light** in Bethel. Last chance to fill up before the long ride.
- **Turn left @ junction US 276 and ramp to Blue Ridge Parkway.**
- **Turn right @ stop sign onto Blue Ridge Parkway** (towards Asheville).
- **Turn left @ junction Blue Ridge Parkway and NC 128.** Follow to top of Mt. Mitchell - 4.8 mi one way.
- **Exit** and follow ramp to **NC 80.** Blue Ridge Parkway exit at NC 80.
- **Turn right @ stop sign.** Junction ramp and **NC 80.**
- **Turn right @ traffic light.** Junction NC 80 and **NC 70.** Follow **NC 70** into **Old Fort.**
- **Turn left @ traffic light.** Junction US 70 and **Catawba Avenue** in **Old Fort.** Pass through town. Follow **Bat Cave Road** south.
- **Turn left @ stop sign.** Junction Bat Cave Road and **NC 9.**
- **Turn left @ stop sign.** Junction NC 9 and **US 74A** (Gerton Highway).
- **Traffic Light.** Junction US 74A and US 64. Go through traffic light to see Chimney Rock in 2 miles. Explore Lake Lure. **Turn right** to leave the area on **US 64** (left turn when leaving).
- **Cross over I-26** on US 64. Continue into **Hendersonville.**
- **Turn left, then right @ traffic lights** downtown to continue west on US 64.
- **Pass straight through** traffic light @ Junction US 64 / **US 276** / NC 280 onto **US 276.** Good place add some gas to your tank.
- **Pass under Blue Ridge Parkway** and continue on US 276.
- Return to start in Waynesville via **US 276**

