

# THE FOLDED MAP

## BLAIRSVILLE, GEORGIA

### What makes Blairsville great

Just a few hours from Atlanta's concrete jungle, Blairsville, in the cool mountains of northern Georgia, is the perfect location to unwind from the busyness of life. The town is also an ideal base of operations to experience the Gauntlet motorcycle loop. While the nearby Tail of the Dragon and the Cherokee Skyway may be more well-known rides, with "133 Miles of Smiles," the Gauntlet is regarded by many riders as superior in many ways as it reaches 4,784 feet above sea level to the highest point in Georgia and includes "forest clouds" and views of several states.

### Top motorcycle events near Blairsville

Great American Motorcycle Show, American Legion Riders Polar Bear Ride, Gauntlet Thunder in the Mountains Party, Atlanta Motorama Bikefest, Great American Biker Bash, Empty Stocking Ride

### Biker-friendly establishments

**Bar:** Cowboys and Angels

**Restaurant:** The Hole in the Wall

**Lodging:** Copperhead Lodge

### Quintessential local cuisine

Chicken and dumplings, fried green tomatoes, local trout, fried okra, boiled peanuts, pralines, peach cobbler ice cream, sweet tea

### Dealerships close to Blairsville

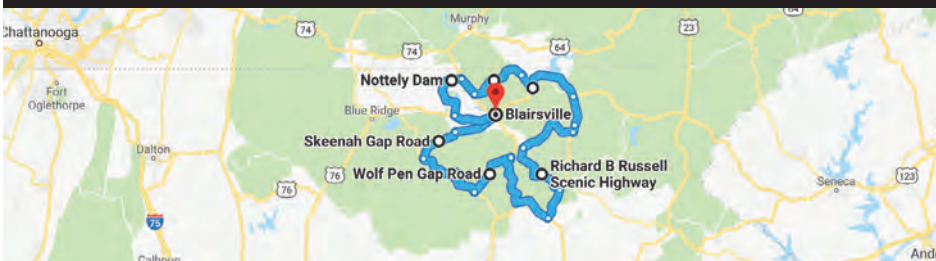
Mountain Creek Harley-Davidson, Atlanta Highway Indian Motorcycle, Southern Devil Harley-Davidson, Mall of Georgia Indian Motorcycle, Killer Creek Harley-Davidson, Frazier's Harley-Davidson, Smoky Mountain Harley-Davidson, Smoky Mountain Indian Motorcycle

### Motorcycle-related attractions

Wheels Through Time Museum, Old Car City U.S.A., Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum, Cyclemos Motorcycle Museum

### Local rides

Starting in Blairsville, head west on Blue Ridge Highway to Skeenah Gap Road. Take a left on Skeenah Gap heading south until it dead ends at GA-60. Turn left on GA-60 and then left again on SR-180 (Wolf Pen Gap Road). Go 11 miles until you dead end at US-129 S. Turn right on 129 riding south until you hit GA-75 Alt. Take a left on Alt 75 and begin your trip north. In just under 6 miles you will take a left on Richard B. Russell Scenic Highway (GA-348 N). Follow 348 until it dead ends at SR-180. Take a right on 180 and follow it 11.5 miles until it ends at GA-17/75. Take a left and ride north to US-76. Take a left on 76 and begin to swing back westward. At this point you are about  $\frac{3}{4}$  into the loop. You can take US-76 back into Blairsville but it's recommended that you take a right on GA-66 (Gumlog Road) and follow it over Nottely Dam to GA-325 S. At this point 325 curves around Nottely Lake, finally intersecting with US-76 E that takes you back to Blairsville. While this ride can be accomplished in a day, with all the additional side roads open for exploring the Gauntlet, it can easily be extended into several days of riding.



Content provided by Robert Filla

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