



## BMTA's First Trail Town – Blue Ridge, Georgia



On April 13, 2013, Blue Ridge was named a Benton MacKaye Trail Town.

Located in Fannin County on the four-lane US76/Hwy 515 corridor that runs from Atlanta into the North Georgia Mountains, Blue Ridge serves as a gateway to outdoor recreational opportunities in Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina. Due to its close proximity (three miles) to the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT), Blue Ridge is a perfect fit for the Trail Town designation.

The Trail Town concept encompasses far more than the town itself – a wide array of outdoor activities are within an hour's drive of this peaceful country getaway:

- Over 100 hiking, biking and horse trails
- The Toccoa River Canoe Trail
- Trout Unlimited's Trout Adventure Trail
- The southern termini of both the Appalachian Trail and the BMT are on Springer Mountain.
- The western terminus for the rugged Duncan Ridge Trail is at Three Forks.
- The Aska Adventure Area features 17 miles of hiking/mountain biking trails.
- Coming soon is the proposed ADA compliant Lake Blue Ridge Recreation Loop.
- The Cohutta/Big Frog Wilderness trails are known for their secluded forest pathways.
- The Ocoee Whitewater Center in Tennessee is famous for the Tanasi Trail System for hikers and bikers as well as opportunities for rafting, canoeing and kayaking.

With its central location, Blue Ridge is the perfect base for day hikers. For thru hikers and backpackers, the town is 26 miles from the southern termini of both the AT and BMT on Springer Mountain and also is just 40 miles from where the BMT crosses Highway 64 in Tennessee near the Ocoee Whitewater Center.

With its numerous businesses including restaurants and accommodation facilities, it is a great place to come off the trail, resupply, freshen up, have a delicious meal and get a good night's sleep in a comfortable bed. Businesses such as outfitting stores, laundromats and shuttle service are available.

Long Creek Falls, Fall Branch Falls, the Brawley Fire Tower and the Swinging Bridge are a few of the popular destinations for hikers on the BMT.



Benton MacKaye Trail Association

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