

# Russell-Brasstown National Scenic Byway

Surrounded by the beauty of the Chattahoochee National Forest, the byway winds through the valleys and mountain gaps of the southern Appalachians. From the vistas atop Brasstown Bald to the cooling mists of waterfalls, scenic wonders fill this region. Hike the Appalachian Trail or fish in a cool mountain stream.



Length: 40.64 miles / 65.0 km

Time to Allow: Three hours to enjoy the byway

## Local Information

**Brasstown Ranger District**  
706-745-6928

## Visitor Services

### Fees



No fees are required to drive the byway.

### Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



Over 24 miles of the byway are included in the Statewide Route Network of the Georgia Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Due to the route's low traffic counts, many bicyclists currently use the byway for challenging mountain rides.

### Camping



Camping services are offered along the byway and are offered to the public at \* Vogel State Park \* Unicoi State Park To reserve a nearby campground in Chattahoochee National Forest, visit the Recreation.gov website: \*

[Morganton Point Picnic Shelter]([http://www.recreation.gov/camping/Morganton\\_Point\\_Ga/r/](http://www.recreation.gov/camping/Morganton_Point_Ga/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=75484&topTabIndex=CampingSpot)

[campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=75484&topTabIndex=CampingSpot](http://www.recreation.gov/camping/Morganton_Point_Ga/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=75484&topTabIndex=CampingSpot))

### Food



There are places to buy food along this byway.



### **Gasoline**

Gasoline is available.



### **Information**

There is an authoritative information center along this byway.



### **Lodging**

There is overnight lodging along this byway.



### **Retail**

There are places to shop along this byway.

## **Special Considerations**

The only regular seasonal limitations are imposed on recreational facilities. Andrews Cove is closed from late November until early May, and the Chattahoochee River Campground is closed from early November until late March. The Chattahoochee Campground is open for Wildlife Management Area hunts in November and December. Also, the visitor center at Brasstown Bald is open daily from Memorial Day until early November, and it is open on weekends during the spring and fall, depending on weather conditions.

## **Restrictions**

State Road 348 is fully open for traffic, but Spur 180 to Brasstown Bald Visitor Information Center may be closed due to snow or ice.

## **Seasons**

### **Best Time to Drive**

The autumn reds and yellows of the Chattahoochee National Forest make fall the best season to drive the byway.

### **High Season**

Since most of the recreational areas are closed in the winter, summer and fall are the busiest seasons.

# Map and Directions



## Legend:

Point of Interest	Campground	Featured Byway	Water	State Border
Park	Picnic/Rest Area	America's Byways	Wildlife Refuge	Urban Area
Mountain	Interstate	Other Byway	Wilderness Area	Tribal Nation
City	U.S. Highway	Other Road	Other Federal Lands	Military Base
Capital	State Highway	Trail	Other State Lands	

## Driving Directions

- The Russel-Brasstown National Scenic Byway starts northwest of Helen, Georgia, at the junction of SR 75 and the Unicoi Turnpike.

- Drive northwest at the Unicoi turnpike to SR 180.
- Head west to GA 180 and from here, take a short detour to the Brasstown Bald Visitor Center by driving north on GA 180 to the end of the road.
- After enjoying the visitor center, head back to the junction of SR 180 and GA 180.
- Continue south to Richard B. Russell Scenic Highway.
- Head south to GA 75 then drive north, back to the Unicoi Turnpike.

### Getting to the Byway



#### Nearby airports

**Atlanta International Airport, GA** (98.5 miles / 158.52 km, 1 hour 56 minutes)

**Start:**



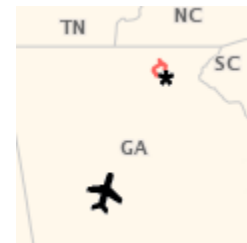
S. Terminal Pkwy  
N 33.640° W 84.444° [?]

- Head west on S. Terminal Pkwy.
- Slight right toward Airport Blvd.
- Continue straight on Airport Blvd.
- Take the I-85/Camp Creek Pkwy Ramp toward Atlanta.
- Keep left at the fork and follow the signs to I-85 N.
- Slight left at I-985 N.
- Take exit 24 for US-29 toward Gainesville.
- Turn left at GA-11/Jesse Jewell Pkwy.
- Turn right at Limestone Pkwy.
- Slight right at Cleveland Pkwy.
- Turn right at GA-75.
- End just north of Robertstown, on the byway.

**Directions:**

**Junction with byway:**

- \* North of Robertstown at the byway on GA-75.  
N 34.713° W 83.745° [?]



## Road Trip: Russell-Brasstown Waterfall Tour

**Departure:** Dukes Creek Conservation Area, Georgia

**Destination:** Helen, Georgia

**Time to allow:** 1 day

Full of scenic areas and historical landmarks, the Russell Brasstown waterfall tour will take your family past cascading waters and rocky cliffs.

### Day 1

- **Start: Dukes Creek Conservation Area**

Take your family or friends to spend a few days here, as Dukes Creek is home to one of North Georgia's best trout streams as well as nature trails and wildlife viewing stands.

- **Stop 1: Dukes Creek Falls**

**From previous stop:** same location

**Suggested time at this stop:** 2 hours

While taking a lunch break, take in the view of the spectacular falls. Dropping 250 feet down a steep granite canyon, it is a memorable stop. Follow the one-mile trail from Dukes Creek Gorge to the base of the falls to see the full impact of the cascading water.

Duke Creek Falls will take about one and half hours to hike. It is a steep hike, so you need to be in good physical condition and have hiking/walking shoes on. There is also the option of walking one-tenth of a mile on an asphalt paved trail that is accessible to an overlook deck, also accessible.

- **Stop 2: Raven Cliff Falls**

**From previous stop:** same location

**Suggested time at this stop:** 15 minutes

Cascading down a total of 100 feet down Dodd Creek, Raven Cliff Falls is a series of three beautiful waterfalls. The middle section flows through a split in a solid rock outcropping. Other waterfalls are found on the creek with the largest having a drop of 70 feet. Hiking trails to the falls are available so that you can take in the entirety of them.

Raven Cliffs Falls hike to the Falls is through Raven Cliffs Wilderness Area, therefore not accessible and very rugged. It will take about 3 hours to hike in and back out, but you will have a wonderful, rewarding touch of wilderness.

- **Stop 3: Brasstown Bald**

**From previous stop:** 1 hour

Rising 4,784 feet above sea level, Brasstown Bald is Georgia's tallest mountain. Walking up to the observation deck allows a spectacular 360-degree view of the Blue Ridge Mountains and fertile valleys of North Georgia and neighboring states. Stop by the visitors center to see video presentations, exhibits, and interpretive programs about the natural and cultural history of the area. For those that aren't inclined to walk up the steep half-mile trail, a shuttle bus offers service to the summit. Three other hiking trails radiate out from the site.

- **Stop 4: High Shoals Creek Falls Scenic Area**

**From previous stop:** same location

**Suggested time at this stop:** 30 minutes

A short hiking trail will take you from the main road down to the falls, and it's a perfect time to take out your cameras to capture the image of the two waterfalls, which are the highlight of the site.

- **Stop 5: Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest**

**From previous stop:** same location

**Suggested time at this stop:** 2 hours

Tour this forest in the fall for foliage or bring the family for a camping trip during the summer months.

- **Stop 6: Chattahoochee River Campground**

**From previous stop:** same location

**Suggested time at this stop:** 1 hour

If you are seeking a true mountain getaway, you should seek out the Chattahoochee River Campground. Recreational activities abound in the dense mountain forest. If you are an adventurous hiker, venture off to the nearby Appalachian Trail. Or if you want to see another example of the beautiful waterfalls that are so abundant in the area, seek out the 70-foot drop of Horse Trough Falls.

- **Stop 7: Unicoi State Park**

**From previous stop:** same location

**Suggested time at this stop:** 24 hours

With its wide range of accommodations and activities, Unicoi is one of Georgia's most popular state parks. Enjoy the hiking, mountain biking, swimming, fishing, tennis, and boat rentals available at Unicoi.

- **Stop 8: Vogel State Park**

**From previous stop:** same location  
**Suggested time at this stop:** 24 hours

Covering 238 acres, Vogel State Park offers a host of activities. Swimming, fishing, hiking, and camping are just some of the opportunities to experience. Set up your camping gear in the fall and take in the beauty of the fall foliage that graces the Blue Ridge Mountains.

- **Stop 9: Andrews Cove**

**From previous stop:** same location  
**Suggested time at this stop:** 12 hours

Sidetrack off the byway momentarily to experience the Andrews Cove Recreation Area. With camping, fishing, and hiking opportunities offered, spend most of the day or night there and continue your trip along the byway in the morning.

- **Stop 10: Anna Ruby Falls Scenic Area**

**From previous stop:** same location  
**Suggested time at this stop:** 1 hour

Flowing down Tray Mountain, Curtis and York Creeks come together dramatically at Anna Ruby Falls. The twin waterfalls are a memorable sight with Curtis Creek dropping over 150 feet and York Creek falling 50 feet to form Smith Creek. The falls are the highlight of this area. This is the perfect place to break for lunch or dinner, with the image of the falls providing a dazzling backdrop.

- **End: Helen**

**From previous stop:** same location

End your trip and spend part of the day in Helen, which is known throughout the region for its unique architecture and shopping opportunities.

**Totals for Day 1**

**Total Distance Traveled:** 0 miles / 0.0 km

**Total Travel Time:** 1 hour

**Total Stopping Time:** 66 hours 45 minutes