

# Talladega Scenic Drive

Talladega Drive offers a bird's-eye view of scenic mountains, rock outcroppings, and small rural settlements within the Talladega National Forest. Heading towards Cheaha State Park and Alabama's highest peak, with an elevation of 2,407 feet, travel the backbone of Horseblock and Cheaha Mountains, the southernmost extension of the Appalachian Mountains.



## Local Information

**Shoal Creek Ranger District  
(USFS.)**

256-463-2272

Length: 26.4 miles / 42.2 km

Time to Allow: One hour to drive the byway

## Visitor Services

### Fees



There is a \$1.00 per person fee to take an optional side trip into the Cheaha State Park.

### Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



The Pinhoti National Recreation Trail is a 100-mile hiking trail that can be accessed at several locations where it intersects the Drive. This trail can also be accessed at Cheaha State Park. It winds through rugged pine hardwood forests, along rock bluffs, into hollows, and bedside crystal-clear streams. Also, there is a two-mile hike at Oxford-Cheaha Road and at Cheaha Wilderness. In addition, each of the overlook areas has a sidewalk for pedestrian use. These facilities give visitors opportunities to stop, stretch, and enjoy the surrounding landscapes. Interpretive facilities are planned for four of these overlooks if funds become available. In addition, short hiking loops of 1/2 to 1-1/2 miles are possible at various locations along the Drive. There are no bicycle lanes provided on the byway. However, the byway is used by some bicyclists who are looking for a riding challenge due to steep grades. Weekday riding gives cyclists safer opportunities due to a significant reduction in traffic volume. Cheaha State Park recently opened a mountain bike trail that provides opportunities just off the route.

### Camping



Campsites are available in Cheaha State Park. There are two designated campgrounds near Pinhoti. A more primitive campground is located off the Drive at Turnip Seed. Camping is permissible anywhere along the Pinhoti

National Recreation Trail. For nearby campground reservations: [Recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov/): National Forest Campgrounds [Reserve America.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com): State and Federal Campgrounds

### **Food**



Food services are found in and near Heflin. Cheaha State Park offers a restaurant.

### **Gasoline**



Gas is available in and near Heflin.

### **Information**



Cheaha State Park offers visitor information. Interpretive sites along the byway also offer insight into past cultures and management of the ecosystem.

### **Lodging**



Lodging is available in and near Heflin.

### **Restrooms**



Restroom facilities are available in Cheaha State Park.

### **Retail**



Some retail services are provided in and near Heflin. Cheaha State Park offers a country store for shopping.

## **Special Considerations**

The Talladega Scenic Byway is a two-lane paved road with average speed limits of 35 mph. The byway is designated primarily for automobile traffic. It provides six overlook areas with ample parking for automobiles. Although the byway is open for travel year-round, an occasional winter storm may require the byway to be closed for a day or two. However, if the byway is closed, most other roads in the surrounding area are closed as well.

## **Restrictions**

The Oxford-Cheaha Road is closed to vehicular traffic.

## **Seasons**

### **Best Time to Drive**

The two-lane paved road winds through hills and valleys that showcase their beauty most in the spring flower and fall-color seasons. The Drive itself is open year-round, however.

## Talladega Scenic Drive

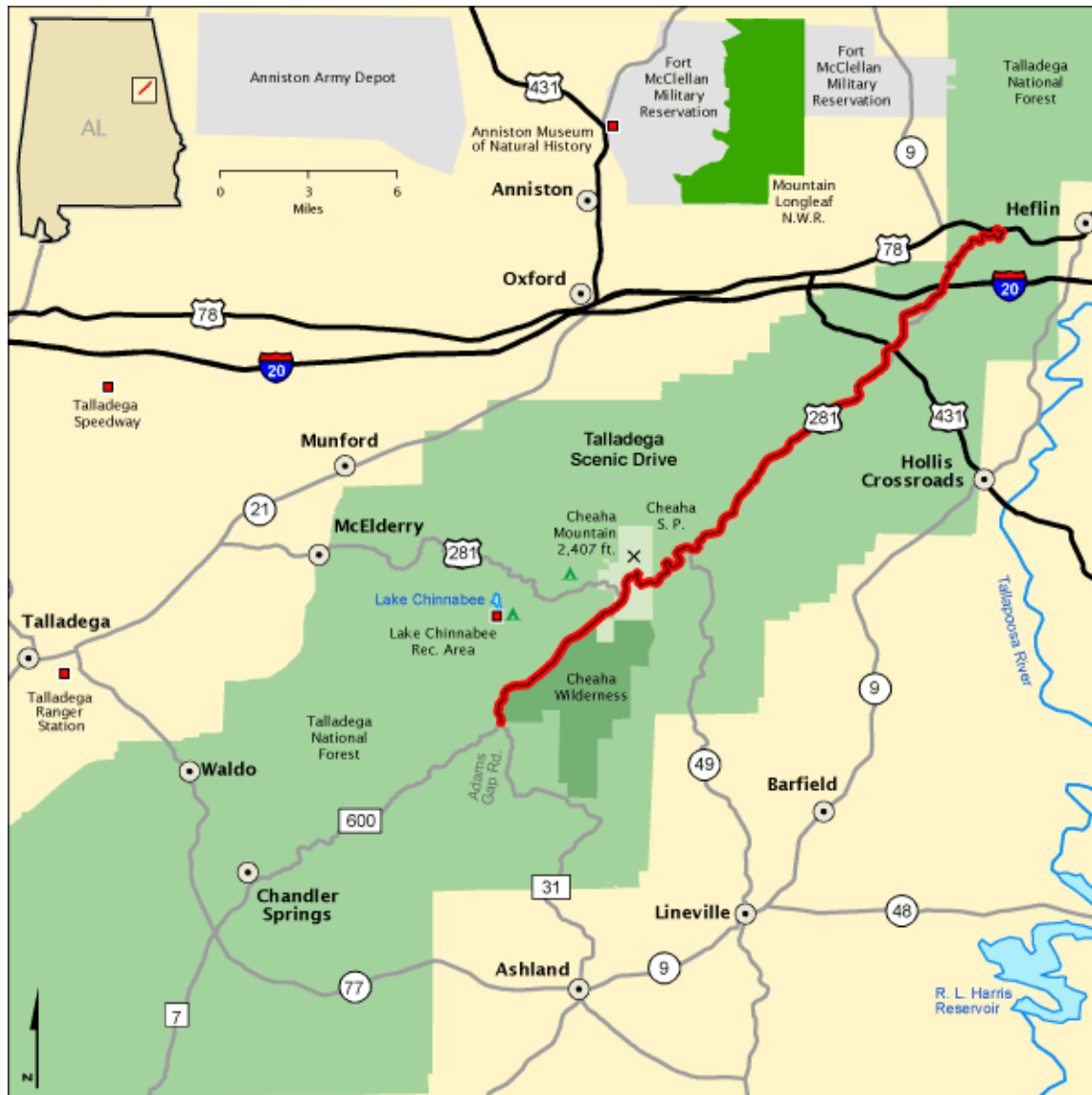
### High Season

Open year-round; visitation is steady from March to November, with peak visitation during the fall color season in October/November.

### Winter

Although the byway is open for travel year-round, an occasional winter storm may require the route to be closed for one or two days. However, if the byway is closed, most other roads in the surrounding area are closed, as well.

## 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

- Begin at the intersection of US 78 and SR 281, just west of Heflin.
- Follow SR 281 through the Talladega National Forest and the Cheaha Wilderness area.
- End where the pavement ends when SR 281 meets Adams Gap Rd and Forest Rd 600.

## Getting to the Byway

### From Birmingham to Talladega Scenic Drive

- Take I-20 east towards Atlanta.
- Follow I20 east until you reach Oxford.
- Get onto US-78 east.
- Follow US-78 until you reach the Talladega Scenic Drive or AL-281 where the byway begins.

### From Atlanta to Talladega Scenic Drive

- Take I-20 west towards Birmingham.
- Turn onto AL-46 west.
- Follow the main road as it turns into US-78.
- Follow US-78 until you reach the Talladega Scenic Drive or AL-281 where the byway begins.

## Road Trip: Talladega Must See Tour

**Departure:** Talladega National Forest, Alabama

**Destination:** Cheaha State Park, Alabama

**Time to allow:** 1 day

The Talladega Scenic Drive is the best and easiest way to view the natural treasures of northeast Alabama from the comfort of your automobile. This 26-mile drive travels the backbone of the Horseblock and Cheaha Mountains, the southern-most extension of the Appalachian mountain range.

### Day 1

- **Start: Talladega National Forest**



**Suggested time at this stop:**

12 hours

A high point offering a year-round getaway for lovers of southern wildlife, lush forests, and redeye bass.

- **End: Cheaha State Park**



**From previous stop:**

same location

**Suggested time at this stop:**

2 hours

Cheaha State Park, at the top of Cheaha Mountain, offers a motel, campground, restaurant, cabins, country store, and more.

### Totals for Day 1

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

**Total Travel Time:** 0 minutes

**Total Stopping Time:** 14 hours