

The list has been compiled primarily with the help of Michael Bell and the information he shared in the Wookies in the Woods Facebook Group.

Some quick notes.

- If going on longer drives, best to do so with a group. Service is spotty and you'd like to have people around in case of mechanical issues, etc.
- Introduce yourself to groups. Meet people. Shake hands. Then go Drive. Drive more.
- **Stay in your lane. Stay in your lane. Stay in your lane.**
- Don't out-drive yourself. If you feel you are outdriving your car and/or personal limits, don't be afraid to pull off to let someone by.
- Be courteous to all, including locals and other traffic. #dontbeadildo
- Refer to the Wookies in the Woods FAQ page
 - <https://www.wookiesinthewoods.com/faq/>
- The Dragon is a part of Highway 129 that connects Tennessee and North Carolina
- Hellbender is a part of Highway 28 that connects the Tail of the Dragon to Fontana Village.
- Deals Gap is the last stop on the NC side of the Tail of the Dragon before driving, and has a gas station and tourist store.

Download local maps to use offline before your trip! Offline maps will help in the event of your connection being slow or absent, which isn't uncommon.

On your phone or tablet, open the Google Maps app.

1. Tap your profile picture or initial Offline maps
 - a. On IOS, tap your profile pictures and then Offline maps
 - b. On Android, tap your profile picture or initial Offline maps.
2. Tap Select your own map.
3. Adjust the map according to the area you want to download.
4. Tap download.
5. The bigger the map the better!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Shorter Drives and POIs	3
Cherohala/Dragon Loop	4
Waterfalls/Highlands/Cullowhee Mountain (GDOWN) Loop	5
North Georgia - Highlands/Helen/Blood Mountain/Wolfpen Gap Loop	6
Cherohala/Tellico/Wayah Road Loop	7
Dragon/Foothills Parkway/NC 209 Rattler Loop	8
Helen/Bell Mountain/Blood Mountain/Tapoco Loop	9

Shorter Drives and POIs

- **Fontana Dam/129 Hub Sprint** - <https://goo.gl/maps/BjbhjbWri1niKdK88>
 - Hit all the Wookies famous photo spots and drive THE road all the way out to 129 Hub and back.
 - Short
 - 71 Miles
 - 2 to 2.5 hours
- **Fontana to Tapoco (Pizza Run)** - <https://goo.gl/maps/iHTZuw1RTpAdJLNd9>
 - Uses the service road out the back of Fontana. A tight and technical road and oftentimes slippery. Be aware. But. who doesn't love Pizza?
 - Short
 - 21 miles
 - 45 to 60 minutes
- **Robbinsville Loop (Gas Run)** - <https://goo.gl/maps/baKZxvan3vLcx4W19>
 - Groceries, restaurants, and fuel (assuming you don't want to fuel at Deals Gap or Fontana \$\$\$) can all be found in Robbinsville.
 - Short
 - 49 miles
 - 1 to 1.5 hours
- **Nantahala Gorge Loop** - <https://goo.gl/maps/4dTj8gwTjbREdY3p9>
 - Scenic drive along whitewater rivers. Pull-offs and picnic spots available.
 - Short
 - 76 miles
 - 1.5 to 2 hours
- **Cherohala Overlook Run via Santeetlah/Joyce Kilmer** - <https://goo.gl/maps/EjSSuF3kHHKesho49>
 - Cherohala Run from Fontana which stops at Turkey Creek Overlook. One of the best overlooks on Cherohala before turning back to Fontana via Joyce Kilmer road around Lake Santeetlah. This back road is virgin forest, very scenic and paved but can be "washboardy" and may require slower speeds.
 - This is a route that includes a lot of other POIs mentioned above or below, so we've placed it on this shorter list.
 - Medium
 - 3 to 3.5 hours
 - 111 miles

Cherohala/Dragon Loop

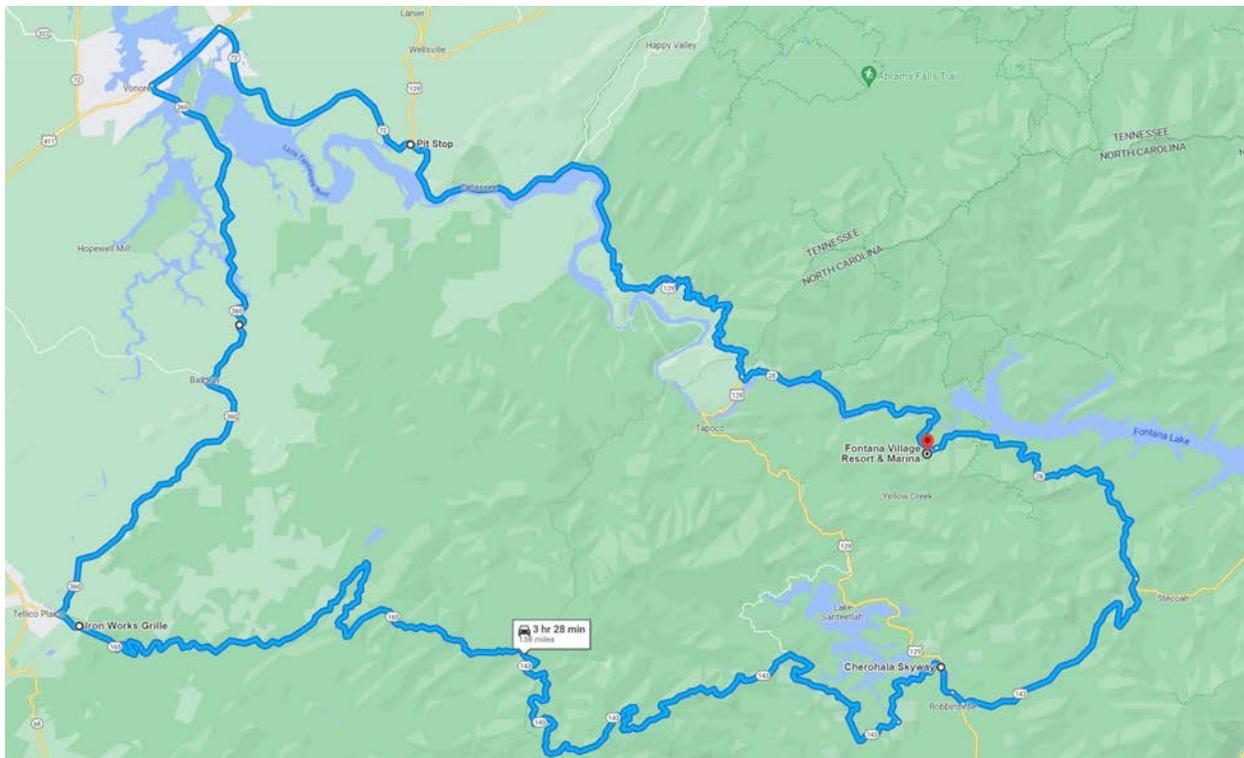
Length: Medium

Mileage: 140 miles

Estimated Driving Time: 3 to 3.5 Hours

<https://goo.gl/maps/8enqWjnprU6LhbnSA>

For the new members looking for a fun & scenic route this loop starts at Fontana Village and includes: the Cherohala Skyway, a section of Moonshiner 28, The Dragon, TN 72 & TN 360. Also included are the Pit Stop and Iron Works for lunch, depending on when your group heads out and/or gets hungry.



Waterfalls/Highlands/Cullowhee Mountain (GDOWN) Loop

Length: Medium

Mileage: 160 miles

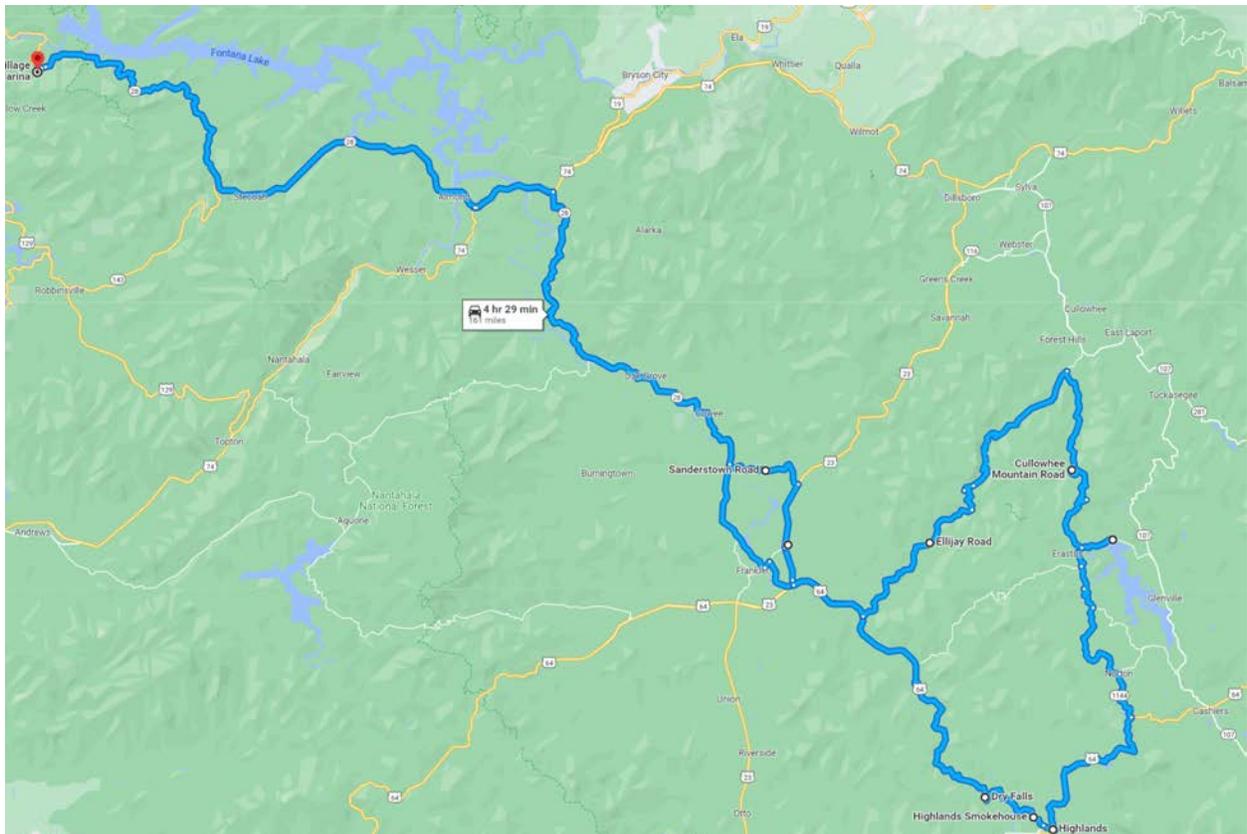
Estimated Driving Time: 4 to 4.5 Hours

<https://goo.gl/maps/S72g2TL62ifvMSQJA>

My [Grant Hammack](#) tribute drive. He took us onto Cullowhee back in 2012. And dude could drive.

This loop begins at Fontana and includes NC 28, NC 64, past Dry Falls, Bridal Veil Falls and takes you into Highlands. Small cozy little town. From there, onto Cullowhee, Tilley Creek and Elijay and back up the way you came from on 28 (WORTH IT).

Lunch stops include Highlands Smokers just before Highlands and Haywood Smokehouse in Franklin on the way back. There are a few coffee shops, sandwich shops and restaurants in Highlands as well that may be worth checking out if you're not in the mood for BBQ. If you want to make this drive shorter, you can skip Cullowhee, etc. and just head back North onto 64 after Highlands and head back to Fontana the way you came and still have an awesome drive with a good mix of scenery and twisty stuff.



North Georgia - Highlands/Helen/Blood Mountain/Wolfpen Gap Loop

Length: VERY Long

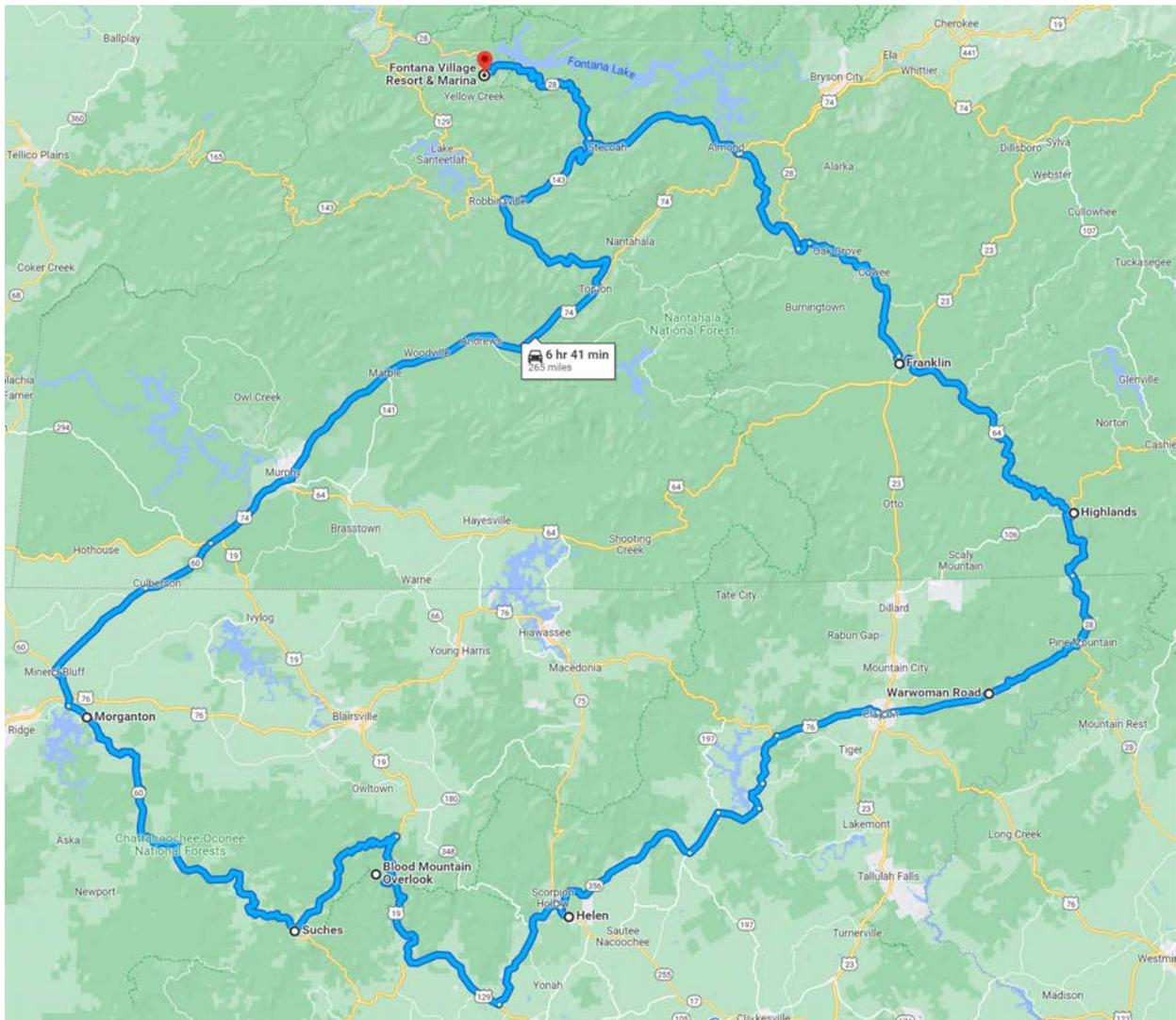
Mileage: 270 miles

Estimated Driving Time: 6.5 to 7 Hours

<https://goo.gl/maps/jU7oUQ9ULHtEsXfSA>

270 Mile Loop from Fontana into North Georgia. The best I could come up with to squeeze the best roads of North GA in one loop. This route includes: Moonshiner 28, 64 into Highlands, Warwoman Road, US 129 Blood Mountain, Wolf Pen Gap (GA 180) and GA 60. **Leaving Fontana early (Approx. 8-9AM) is HIGHLY recommended.**

Stretch your legs in Highlands or Helen. Moonshiner, Wolf Pen and Blood Mountain are phenomenal drives. Once you get past Morganton, the drive through North GA back into Co Fontana is nice and calm and serves as an excellent “cool down lap”.



Cherohala/Tellico/Wayah Road Loop

Length: Very Long

Mileage: 230 miles

Estimated Driving Time: 5.5 to 6 Hours

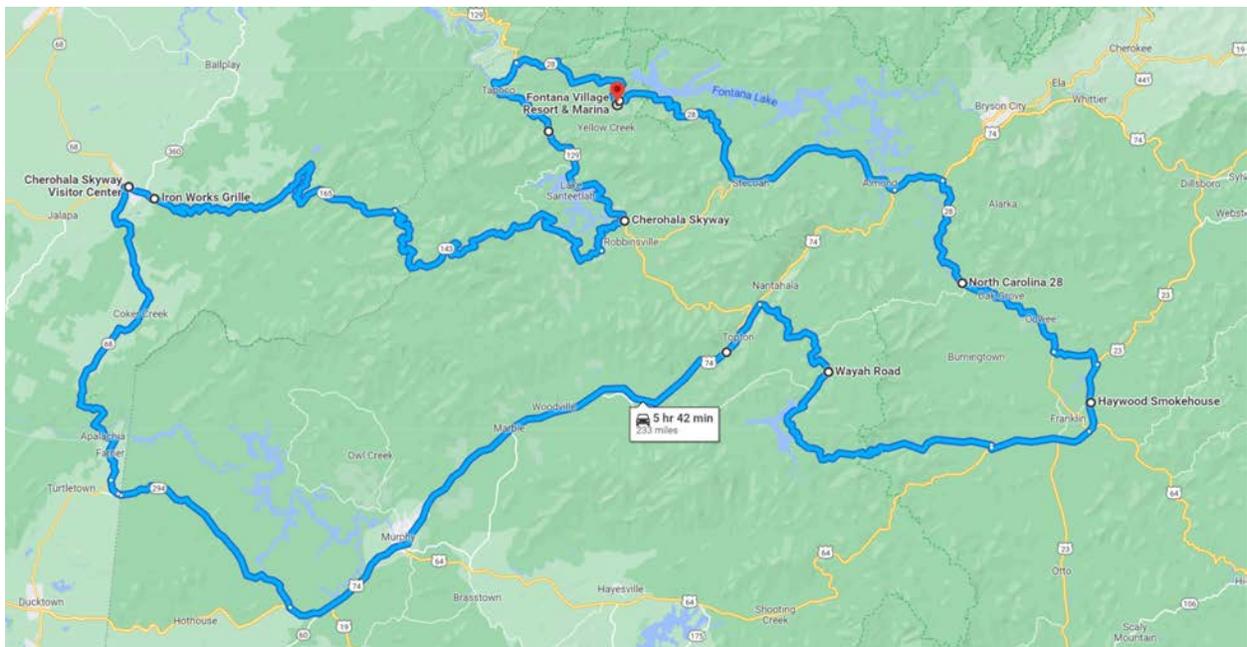
<https://goo.gl/maps/nYeP7JC5KJra6hgn6>

Starting from Fontana, this loop includes: the Cherohala Skyway, a section of Moonshiner 28, Wayah Rd, NC 294 & TN 68 for a mix of scenic and twisty - fun ride.

Stops at Ironworks on the opposite side of Cherohala and Haywood Smokehouse in Franklin included for food.

THIS IS A VERY LONG LOOP. LEAVE EARLY.

You can bypass Cherohala and Tellico entirely by staying south on 129 to 74 to Wayah. However, Wayah should not be missed!



Dragon/Foothills Parkway/NC 209 Rattler Loop

Length: Very long

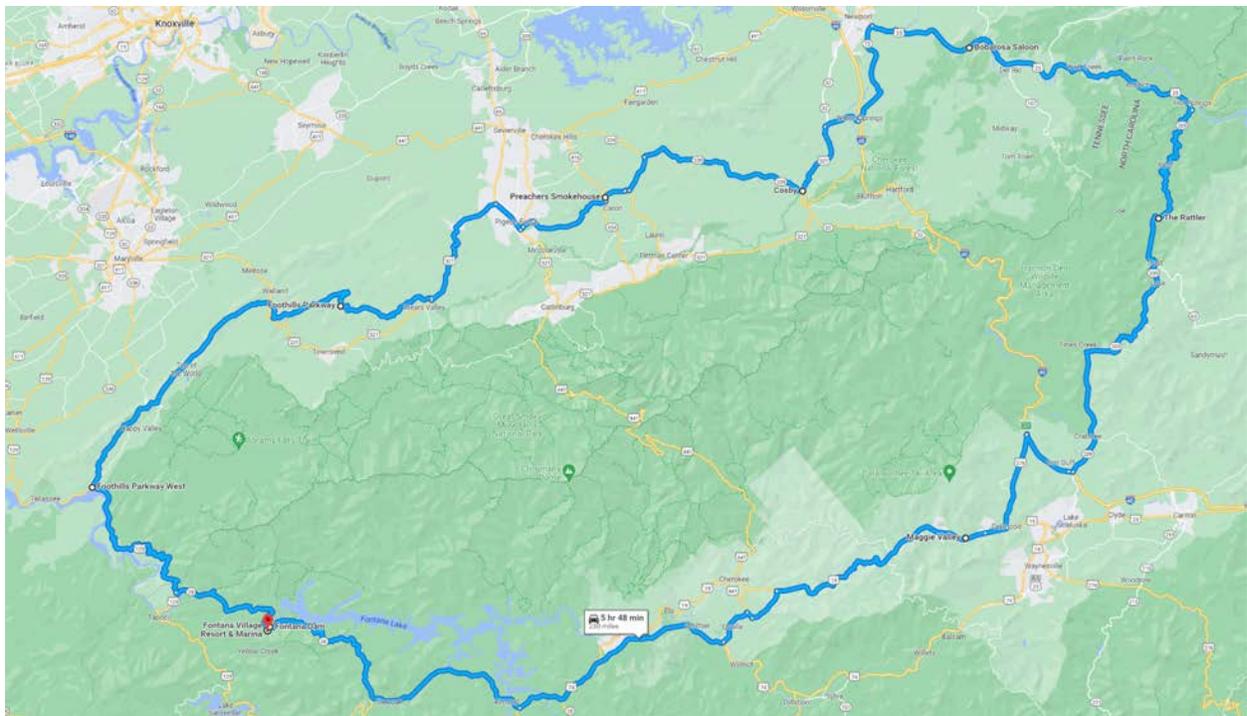
Mileage: 230 miles

Estimated Driving Time: 5.5 to 6 Hours

<https://goo.gl/maps/SXndzSUm8QCZRW17A>

Here's a nice route that bypasses Gatlinburg that includes the Foothills Pkwy and several other winding rolling hills type roads - Preachers Smokehouse and the Bobarosa Saloon also on the route for lunch. Rattler is the main draw here! Some awesome backcountry driving.

Again, another long loop. LEAVE EARLY.



Helen/Bell Mountain/Blood Mountain/Tapoco Loop

Length: Very long

Mileage: 220 miles

Estimated Driving Time: 5.5 to 6 Hours

<https://goo.gl/maps/izqJ2HJSLofNNicZ7>

A very long drive (hence the distorted map image) that takes you out of Fontana and south to Helen, GA with stops at Bell Mountain Lookout, (**caution: this place may not be low car friendly, but makes for great photos and memories**) Unicoi Lake Dam (**internet famous Helen Dam photo location, you are technically not allowed to stop here for photos**), Helen itself for a good lunch and gas break, then to Blood Mountain, returning you back the western route to Fontana through Tapoco. This is a long drive, leave early and expect traffic if you go to Helen on the weekend. Helen offers a lot to do so if you plan on taking this route do some research to see what you may be interested in.

