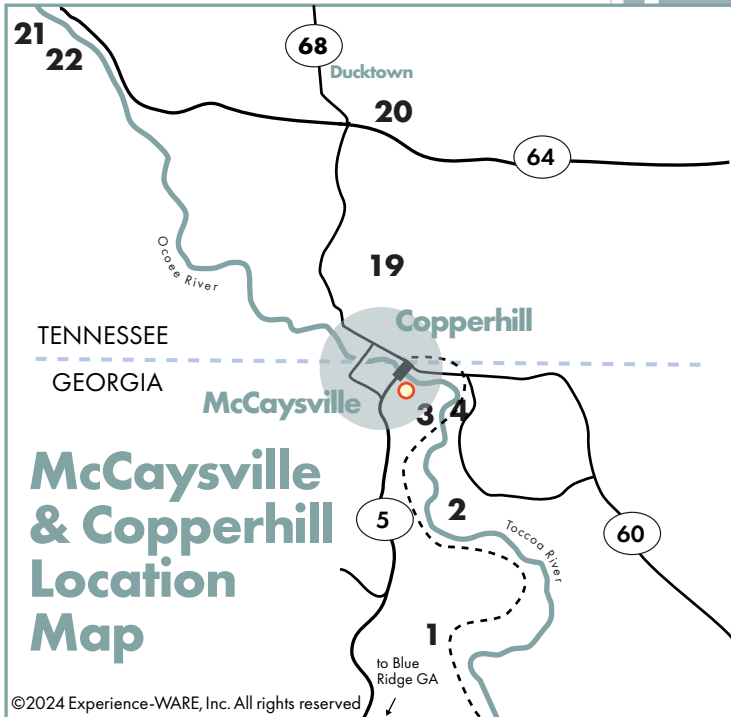
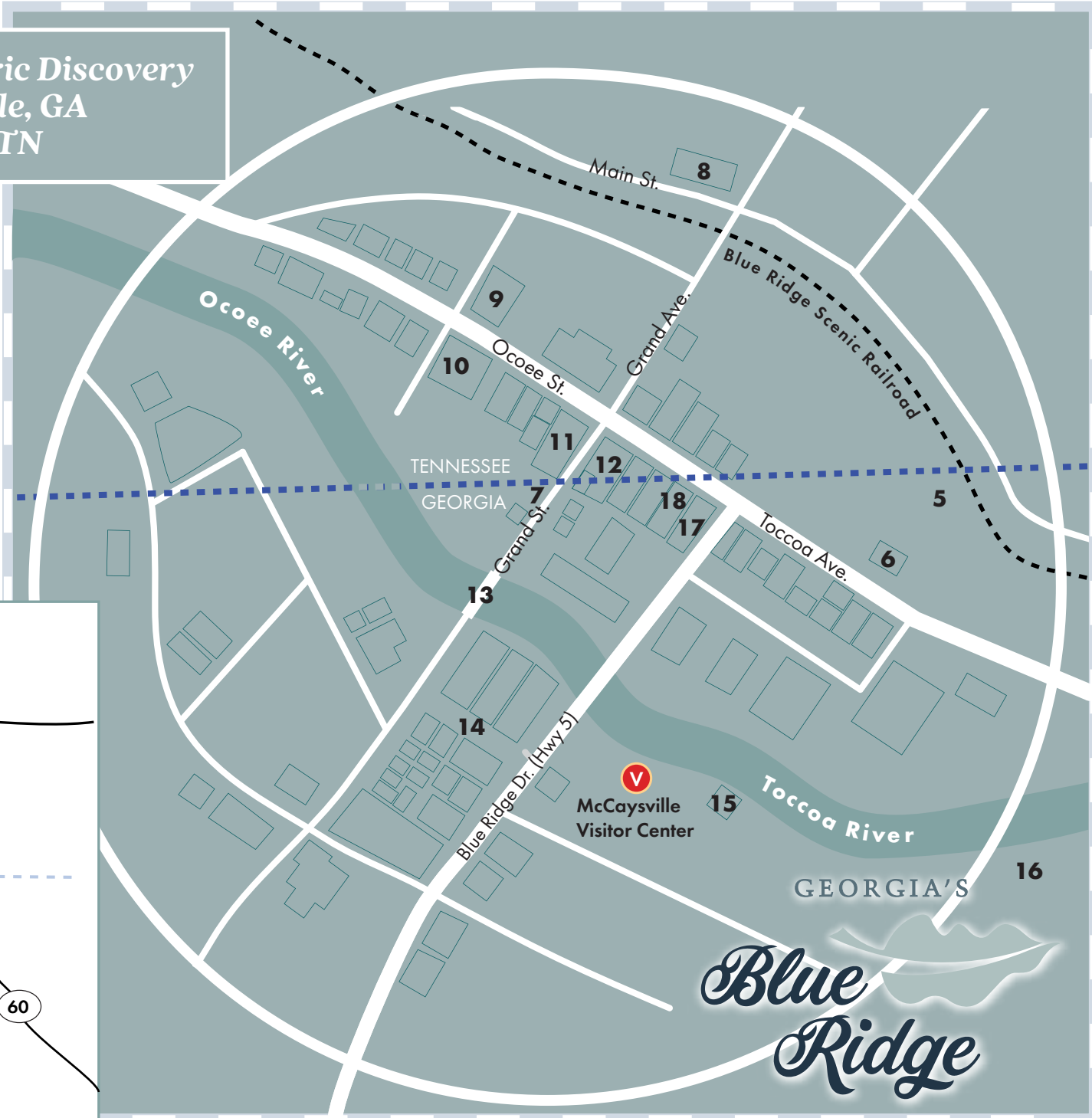


#16

Twin City Historic Discovery Tour: McCaysville, GA and Copperhill, TN

McCaysville, chartered in 1904, is located on the Georgia-Tennessee state line adjacent to Copperhill, Tennessee, its twin city. You can actually have one foot in Georgia and one foot in Tennessee when you cross the Blue Line marking the place where the states meet. Toccoa Avenue (Georgia) turns into Ocoee Street (Tennessee) while the Toccoa River becomes the Ocoee River under an old iron bridge built in 1911 and still standing. Actually, Copperhill was originally called McCays and McCaysville was Hawkinsville! H.T. McCay bought a farm on the Copperhill side of the river and Aaron Matthews bought a farm on the McCaysville side. They built a ferry where the old river bridge is now and one operated it for one month and then the other.

 'The Blue Line'



#16 Twin City Historic Discovery Tour: McCaysville, GA & Copperhill, TN

1 Blue Ridge Scenic Railway Line The Blue Ridge Scenic Railway begins its journey at the Blue Ridge Depot and runs along the scenic Toccoa River to McCaysville. The rail line is more than 100 years old, but the last passenger train ran in 1960. BRSR began in 1998, and has since drawn more than 1 million riders to the Blue Ridge/McCaysville area.

2 Horseshoe Bend Park A beautiful park with good trout fishing on the Toccoa River. From Blue Ridge take Highway 5 into McCaysville. Turn right onto Highway 60 then drive a short distance and turn right on River Road. The park has a playground, picnic pavilions, paved walking trail, small & large dog parks and restrooms. Location for Pickin in the Park acoustic jam sessions on Thursday evenings, May through Sept. N 34°58.368' W084°21.566'

3 Old Railway Bridge As the Scenic Railway arrives in McCaysville, it crosses an old iron bridge over the Toccoa River on Old River Road near Horseshoe Bend Park. The riveted Baltimore truss bridge was built in 1926 by the L & N Railroad and later acquired by CSX and Georgia Northeastern Railroad. N 34°58'36", W84°21'34"

4 Toccoa and Ocoee River Outfitters Whitewater rafting on the Ocoee River is world class. Floating is cool fun. For a full current listing of whitewater outfitters see our website info: <https://www.blueridgemountains.com/things-to-do/outdoors/water-sports/>

5 Railway Station The Blue Ridge Scenic Railway arrives at the station from March to December, allowing time most days for passengers to enjoy lunch and shopping. Adjacent to the station is the Railway Gift Shop, also open seasonally. Ticket information, see www.brsrscenic.com or call 706-632-8724.

6 The Masonic Lodge The McCaysville Masonic Lodge #232 was established in 1896 according to the seal on the building, still used by the Masons today, and also home of the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway Gift Shop. The building was constructed in 1949 and 1950.

7 The Blue Line The state line between McCaysville, GA and Copperhill, Tenn. has been in dispute for years, and even the blue painted line through the town is not definitive. However, the blue line is a great place to get your picture taken with one foot in Georgia and the other in Tennessee. It is located near the corner of Toccoa Avenue and Blue Ridge Drive and runs through the IGA parking lot.

8 Copperhill City Hall Built in the 1920's, is located on the corner of Grande Avenue and Ryder Street. City Hall is also the location of a landing for the Hiwassee River Rail Adventure passenger train, which runs from Etowah, Tenn. along the Hiwassee River, River Gorge and Rail Loop. For ticket information, call 877-510-5765.

9 Habenero's Building was constructed in 1937 for John Jabaley's clothing store.

10 The New York Café & Hotel Building, built in 1925-26, is currently under construction today and home of the Blue Ridge Olive Oil Company The "New York" "For Ladies and Gents," offered regular dinners for 50 cents. Hotel rooms had shower, bath, telephone and steam heat in every room.

11 The Abernathy Building The current location of El Rio Mexican Restaurant is called the Abernathy Building, built on the site of an earlier building that was destroyed by fire in 1916. The Abernathy family building housed a furniture store on the first and second floor in 1925 where they also sold hardware, dynamite, caps and fuses. On the top floor Luther Abernathy had a funeral parlor.

12 The Maloof Building stands at the corner of Grande Avenue & Ocoee Street in Copperhill. Once the home of Jones Drug & Confectionary Company's Ice Cream & Candy Parlor, it has seen a number of occupants through the years.

13 The Old Steel Bridge & Concrete Bridge The original steel bridge over the Toccoa on Grande Avenue was built in 1911 on the site of an old ferry. New research on the existing steel bridge over the Toccoa/Ocoee River tells us that this steel bridge was built in 1920-21 over the Toccoa River in Morganton before the construction of Lake Blue Ridge. It was taken apart, stored and rebuilt across the Toccoa here in McCaysville/Copperhill in 1936, at the same time the concrete bridge was built. Cross the steel bridge and you move from Tennessee to Georgia.

14 Riverwalk Shops The buildings which make up the new Riverwalk Shops, according to a 1950 photo were once occupied by The A & P Grocery Store, Williamson 5 & 10, Hampton Hardware and John Jabaley and Sons Clothing store, which opened in 1949, closed after the flood of 1990.

15 McCaysville Visitor Center The building was built in the 1940's as a workshop with apartment above. The walkway to the visitor center is a nice place to sit and watch the Toccoa River go by, and also to explore the history of the Copper Basin and the towns of McCaysville and Copperhill. Don't miss the exhibits inside.

16 Toccoa River Park McCaysville City Park at the edge of the Toccoa River is a great place for the kids to play and feed the ducks. Walk from the Visitor Center along the sidewalk two blocks to the playground, pavilion and picnic area. A new addition to the park is a walkway with benches along the river and fitness equipment.

17 The Blue & White Pure Station Now owned by the Rum Cake Lady Cuban Café, the "Blue & White" was built in 1936. Be sure to go inside and see the flood line that designates the high water mark from the 1990 flood.

18 Copperhill Brewing Company is located on the blue line marking the place where Georgia and Tennessee meet, in a building built by Richard Jabaley in 1946-47. Apartments were upstairs.

19 Tennessee Copper Company Discovery of copper occurred in 1843 in an area now known as Ducktown. By 1847, it is recorded that 90 cakes of ore were transported over poor trails to the railroad at Dalton. In the spring of 1899 the Tennessee Copper Company began smelting works near McCays (Copperhill) and the town grew rapidly. Open smelting and close cutting of timber for fueling, together with harmful gases released, denuded the hills around Copperhill, making the area resemble a moonscape. In 1939, TVA and the Tennessee Copper Company began a long term reforestation project which helped restore the area. The Tennessee Copper Company plant area offers a sample of the way the Copper Basin was ravaged during the mining days.

20 Ducktown Museum and Burra Burra Mine Tour the grounds of this historic copper mine on Highway 68 in Ducktown and see exhibits depicting the mining heritage of the Tennessee Copper Basin. Call 423-496-5778 or get more information on the web at www.ducktownbasinmuseum.com

21 Ocoee Whitewater Rafting The Ocoee has become one of the most popular rafting rivers in the country. Dam controlled water release means there will be enough water during times of drought and the Ocoee is just great fun.

22 Ocoee Whitewater Center The Ocoee Whitewater Center (OWC) site was constructed for the purpose of holding the 1996 Olympic Canoe and Kayak Slalom competitions. As part of the National Forest system, the Ocoee Whitewater Center is managed by the Forest Service as a multiple use recreational and educational complex. Consisting of a four-acre recreation area, the OWC offers water play, picnicking, hiking and biking. www.fs.fed.us/r8/ocoe/ N35°03.961' W084°27.678'



FANNIN COUNTY
CHAMBER & CVB

Main Visitor Center: 152A Orvin Lance Drive, Blue Ridge, GA 30513 1-800-899-MTNS

Downtown Visitor Center: 282 West Main St., Blue Ridge
Downtown McCaysville Visitor Center: 53 East Market St.

www.BlueRidgeMountains.com

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