

Gatlinburg_Deals Gap - 213 Miles

How much better can it get? This run takes in Hwy 28, Tail of the Dragon, Foothills Parkway, Little River Road and 441, along with touristy stops such as Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge and Cherokee.

Head west from the Highlands on Hwy 64, and at Franklin, follow the signs for Hwy 28.

Hwy 28 will take you all the way to Deals Gap (you'll need to make a left onto 19, then back right again onto 28 at Lauda and Needmore).

At Mile 74, the Deals Gap Store and Grill is your first lunch opportunity, or you can eat at Townsend, Gatlinburg or Pigeon Forge later.

At Deals Gap, turn right onto Hwy 29 and hang on for dear life! 318 curves in 11 miles on the world famous "Tail of the Dragon"! Please remember, the Dragon is a place to enjoy your skills, NOT to TEST them! You are a LONG way from emergency assistance here, so ride with caution and keep your concentration up.

After you hit the lake on the western end of the Dragon, go across the small bridge and turn right onto the Foothills Parkway, and follow it to Hwy 321 (Smokey Mountains Highway). Turn right and head into Townsend. In Townsend, 321 makes a left turn and heads up to Pigeon Forge, but you want to take Hwy 337 straight (Cades Cove Rd) and follow it to Little River Road, and on up to Gatlinburg.

WARNING! "Cades Cove Loop" runs off Cades Cove Rd to the right. This is a walking speed, gravel covered tourist loop, and not recommended for bikes)

Little River Road will end at the Gatlinburg Visitor Center, where you can go left on 441 into Gatlinburg, or right back over to Cherokee. If you have time and the weather is clear, take a side trip off 441 to Clingman's Dome, the highest point in Tennessee. 441 will take you through Cherokee, and on down to Dillsboro where it will merge with 28 and take you south to Franklin. At Franklin, get back on 64 East and head back to the Highlands.

DIRECTIONS:

- 1.) Head West out of the Highlands on Hwy 64 to Franklin
- 2.) Follow Hwy 28 from Franklin to Deal's Gap
- 3.) Turn right on Hwy 129. The next 11 miles is "Tail of the Dragon"
- 4.) Go across the small bridge and turn right on Foothills Parkway
- 5.) Turn right on Hwy 321
- 6.) In Townsend, go straight onto 337 (Cades Cove Road) which will become Little River Road
- 7.) Turn left on 441 to go into Gatlinburg or Pigeon Forge if you wish, or turn right to head to Cherokee.
- 8.) Side trip to Clingman's Dome if the weather is good on Clingman's Dome Road
- 9.) In Cherokee, turn right on Hwy 19, then back to the left on 441 to continue on to Dillsboro
- 10.) At Dillsboro, turn right on Hwy 23 and head back to Franklin
- 11.) Turn left on Hwy 64 back to the Highlands.

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