

THE FOLDED MAP

EASTERN TENNESSEE/ WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

What makes it great

Townsend, in eastern Tennessee, is the northern gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, an area identified as the "peaceful side of the Smokies" with less traffic than other park portals, but nearby are plenty of attractions including Gatlinburg. To the south, situated in the foothills of the park, is Stecoah, a true rural mountain area with winding roads along the river and on the less traveled wooded byways. The Great Smoky Mountains are home to some of the best motorcycle roads in the world with so many options you could ride somewhere different every day for a month, from challenging twists and turns, alongside scenic mountain streams and waterfalls to mountain byways and rolling highways.

Top motorcycle events

Thunder in the Smokies, Black Dragon Breakdown

Biker-friendly establishments

Bar: The Townsend Abbey

Restaurant: Wolf Creek Café & Groceries

Lodging: Iron Horse Motorcycle Lodge & Campgrounds

Quintessential local cuisine

Local BBQ pork or fresh Smoky Mountain trout with housemade tartar sauce, fried okra and Tennessee corn puddin' with Appalachian Pale Ale

Dealerships in the area

Wolf Creek Motorsport Rentals has locations in Stecoah, North Carolina, and Townsend, Tennessee, and offers over 120 street and off-road rentals

Motorcycle-related attractions

Killboy.com (original Tail of the Dragon photographer), Wheels Through Time Museum

Local rides

With miles and miles of great rides such as Tail of the Dragon, Cherohala Skyway, Wayah Road, Moonshiner 28 and Blue Ridge Parkway, here's just a small sampling of some also-fabulous roads that aren't as widely known: From Townsend, take US-321 to US-129 south and then NS-28 south to Robbinsville where you can enjoy a meal at Wolf Creek. Double back on NS-28 to US-129 south, taking US-74 north to turn right onto Wayah Road. Ride to US-64 heading east and pick up NC-28 north until you reach Gunther Gap Road and then Stecoah Road where you can spend the night at the Iron Horse Motorcycle Lodge.



Content provided by Carrie Repp

Unfold the map in YOUR pocket and tell us where to go next! Email us at tpress@thunderpress.net.