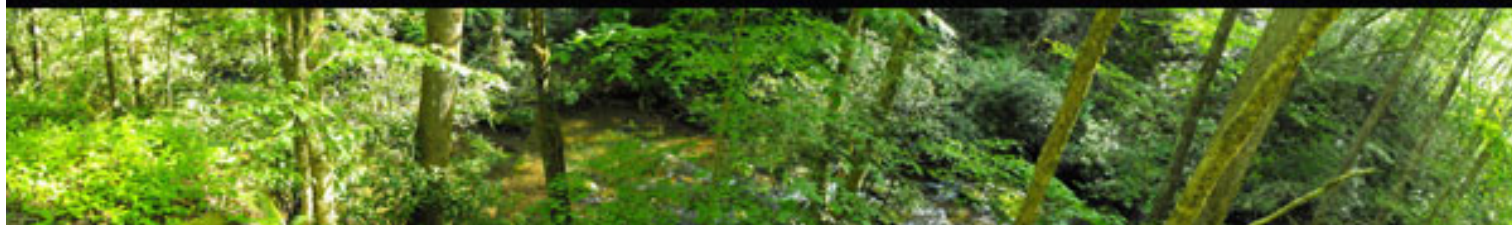


Hike, Hillclimb and Lunch



Your Host(s):

Drive Pace: Moderate

Day	Start Time	Finish Time	Cost	Meeting Place	People Limit	MINIs Limit
Thursday	9:00am	2:00pm	Pay for Lunch	General Store Parking Lot at Fontana Village	none	15

The Hike (via foot travel): A few miles off the lower dragon sits Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, an approximately 3,800-acre tract of virgin forest in Graham County, named in memory of poet Joyce Kilmer (1886–1918), best known for his poem “Trees”. It’s one of the largest contiguous tracts of old growth forest in the Eastern United States.

We will hike the moderate two-mile, figure-eight trail to see and touch several trees that are over 400-years old! The oldest yellow-poplars are more than 20 feet in circumference and stand 100 feet tall. Half the hike is uphill. There will be lots of wildflowers in bloom as well. Restrooms are located at the parking lot.

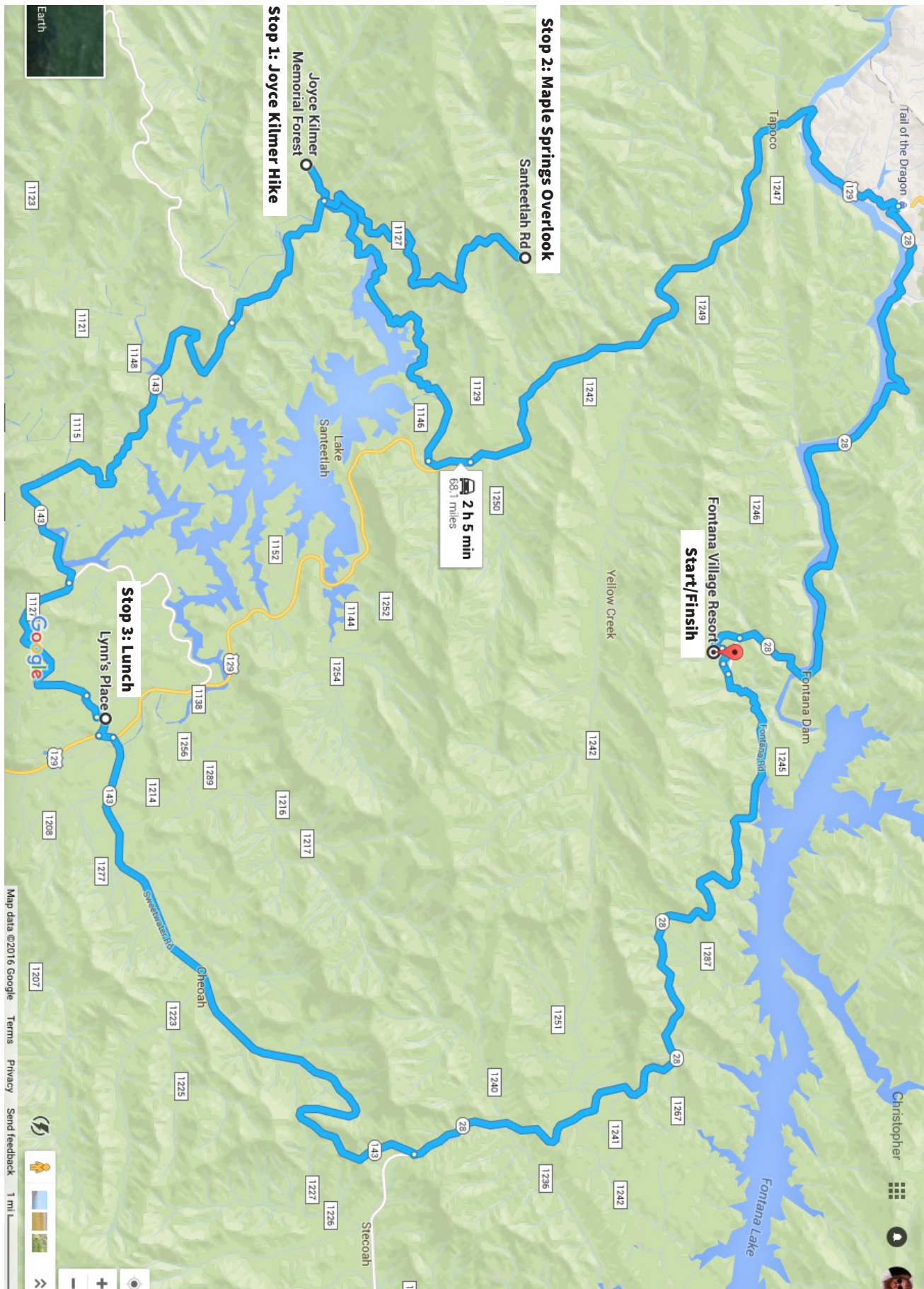
The Hillclimb (via MINI): A few minutes from the Kilmer Forest is the start of a dead-end road “hillclimb” to Maple Springs Overlook. This approx 4.5 mile stretch of pavement gains over a 1,000 feet of elevation and is used for the SCCA “Chasing the Dragon Hillclimb” race event every year in September. Up at the top is a boardwalk built on the side of the mountain with spectacular unobstructed panoramic views of the Great Smoky Mountains to the north. We won’t be racing, but maybe the drive up the hill will be a little spirited at times. Attached is a Map from the SCCA race course.

Lunch: On the way back to Fontana we will stop for lunch at Lynn’s Place in Robbinsville.

Your Schedule (give or take a little)

Start	Finish	Activity
9:00 am		General Store Parking Lot at Fontana Village
9:00 am	9:30 am	Drive to Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest
9:30 am	10:45 am	Hike the Trails
10:45 am	Noon	Hillclimb
Noon	12:30 pm	Drive to Lynn’s Place
12:30 pm	1:45 pm	Lunch at Lynn’s Place in Robbinsville
1:45 pm	2:00 pm	Drive Back to Fontana Village

Route overview: <https://goo.gl/maps/WieGz8KysVp>



Stage 1: Fontana to Joyce Kilmer Forest



Drive 25.4 miles, 45 min

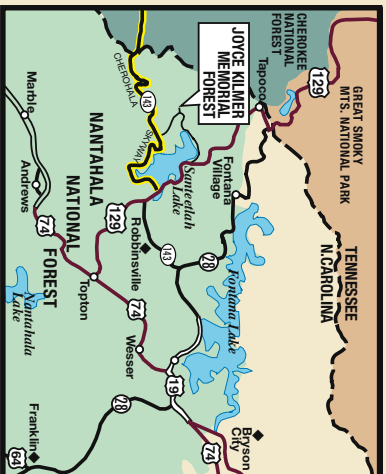
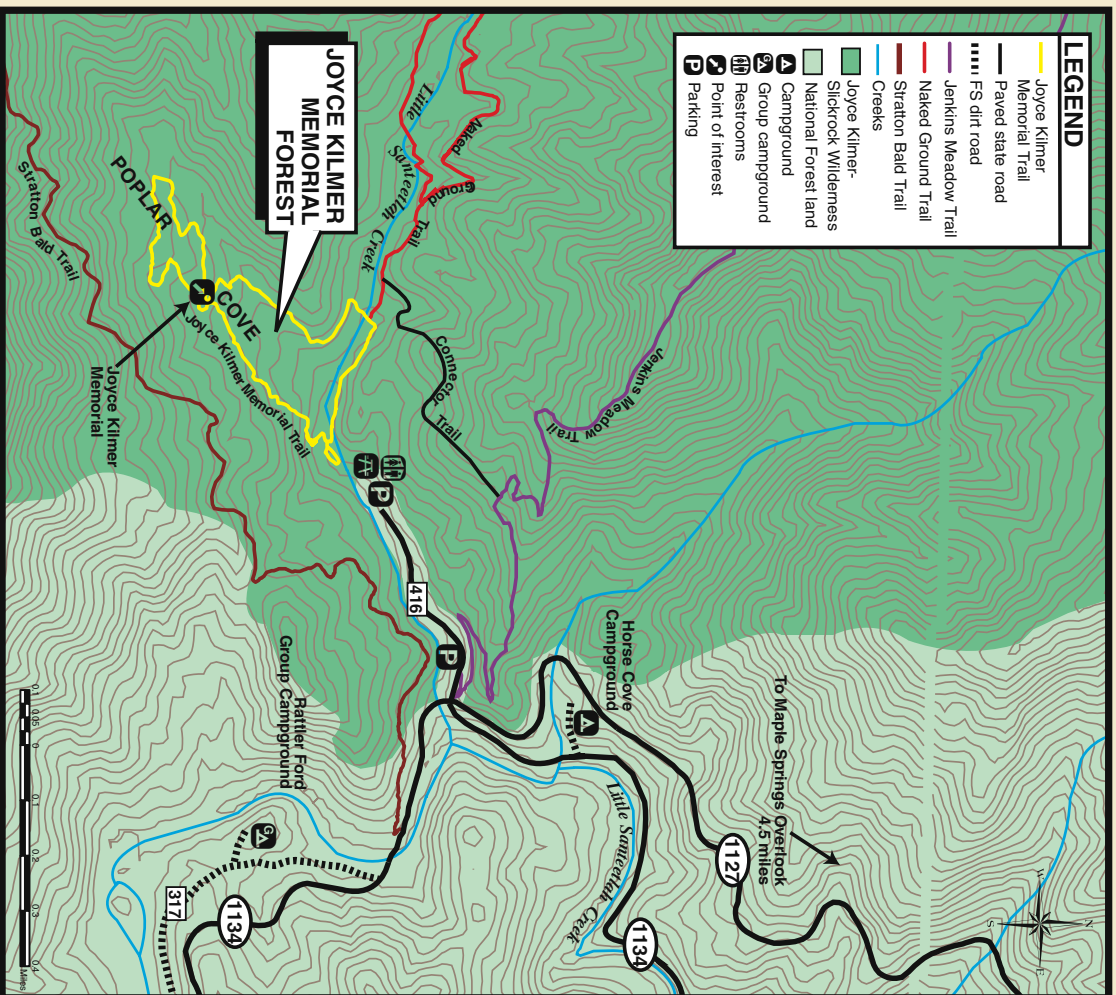
Directions from Fontana Village Resort to Joyce Kilmer Rd



Fontana Village Resort

50 Fontana Road, Robbinsville, NC 28771

1. Head southwest on Fontana Rd toward Welch Rd
↑ 0.4 mi
2. Turn left onto NC-28 N
↶ 8.9 mi
3. Turn left onto US-129 S
↶ 9.6 mi
4. Turn right onto Joyce Kilmer Rd
↷ 0.6 mi
5. Turn right to stay on Joyce Kilmer Rd
↷ 5.4 mi
6. Turn right onto Santeetlah Rd
↷ 49 ft
7. Turn left onto Joyce Kilmer Rd
↶
ⓘ Destination will be on the left
0.5 mi



DIRECTIONS

FROM ASHEVILLE: Take I-40W to Exit 27. Exit right onto U.S. 19/74 toward Waynesville. Go about 4.7 miles, and bear right on NC 28N. Go 5 miles, and turn left on NC 143 to Robbinville.
FROM ROBBINSVILLE: Take NC 143W. After about 12 miles, turn right on Joyce Kilmer Road (SR1134). Go 2 miles and turn left to memorial forest.

FOR INFO. & MAPS

HIKING MAPS: Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness and Citico Creek Wilderness Map; Santeechah Creek and Tapoco U.S. Geological Survey quad maps.

CHEOAH RANGER DISTRICT

1133 Massey Branch Road
 Robbinville, NC 28771
 Phone: 828-479-6431

Forest web site: www.fs.usda.gov/nf/snc

PARTNERS OF JOYCE KILMER-SLICKROCK WILDERNESS

Web site: www.joycekilmerslickrock.com

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Recreation Guide R8-RG 232 Slightly revised 2011

**JOYCE KILMER
 MEMORIAL
 FOREST**



Discover the towering trees and carpets of wildflowers in this remnant of the original Appalachian forest.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Forest Service
 Southern Region



Journey into a magnificent forest . . .

THE EXPERIENCE

A walk through Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest is a journey back in time through a magnificent forest with towering trees as old as 450 years. Some enormous tulip-poplars are more than 20 feet in circumference and stand 100 feet tall. The floor is carpeted with wildflowers, ferns and moss-covered logs from fallen giants.

The only way to see the impressive memorial forest is on foot. The figure-eight Joyce Kilmer National Recreation Trail covers two miles and has two loops: the 1.25-mile lower loop passes the Joyce Kilmer Memorial plaque, and the upper 0.75-mile loop swings through Poplar Cove—a grove of the forest's largest trees. The trailhead parking area has a flush toilet and picnic tables. No camping or overnight parking is allowed.

A SPECIAL FOREST

An old-growth poplar beckons hikers to enter the memorial forest.



This leaf comes from the forest's main giant tree: the tulip-poplar.



Forest wildflowers: Above, Vasey's trillium and right, crested iris.



The Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, part of the Nantahala National Forest, is a great example of a cove hardwood forest—a forest characterized by rich soils, abundant moisture, and a variety of plants. In 1935, the regional forester wrote that the forest was one of the “very few remaining tracts of virgin hardwood in the Appalachians. . . (and) we ought to buy it to

preserve some of the finest original growth in the Appalachians.” The Forest Service bought 13,055 acres in 1936 for the lofty sum of \$28 per acre (at a time when most land was going for \$3 to \$4 per acre). While most of the surrounding land was logged, the area around Little Santeehah Creek was spared—protected by the recognition of its uniqueness and the drastic drop of lumber prices after the “crash of 1929.”

DESIGNATED WILDERNESS

In 1975, Congress designated this land around Little Santeehah and Slickrock Creeks as the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness. The designation included the memorial forest. Presently, the wilderness totals 17,394 acres. North Carolina contains 13,562 acres and Tennessee contains 3,832 acres.

Like other wildernesses, Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock is managed to protect naturalness and solitude. No motorized or mechanical vehicles or equipment, such as cars, chainsaws or bicycles, are allowed within the wilderness. Trails are maintained to the most primitive standards, with few, if any, signs or blazes.

A LIVING MEMORIAL

Veterans of Foreign Wars asked the government to set aside a fitting stand of trees to serve as a living memorial to Joyce Kilmer, who was killed in action during World War I.

Although Kilmer was both a soldier and poet, he is most remembered for his poetry about common, beautiful things in nature. Kilmer's best-known poem is “Trees,” which is printed to the right.

OTHER RECREATION

Two campgrounds are located about 0.5 mile from the memorial forest. Offering 18 sites, Horse Cove Campground is open from April to October. For groups, the Rattler Ford Group Campground is open April through October and offers four sites. Each site accommodates 25. To make required reservations,

call the Cheoah District at 828-479-6431. Hunting and fishing are allowed in the forest and surrounding wilderness. This area is popular for bear and boar hunting from mid-October until January 1.

BE ALERT IN FOREST

The huge trees are very old: some are dying, which creates the potential for falling limbs and trees. Because the forest is in a designated wilderness, dead trees are not removed. Please follow these tips for your safety and the health of the forest:

- Stay out of the memorial forest on windy days or after a snowfall or ice storm when branches and trees are more likely to fall.
- Be alert! Glance overhead frequently and don't linger under dead and dying trees.
- Stay on the trail to avoid trampling plants and preventing damage to tree roots.
- Leave all plants for others to enjoy. No plants, living or dead, may be cut or removed.

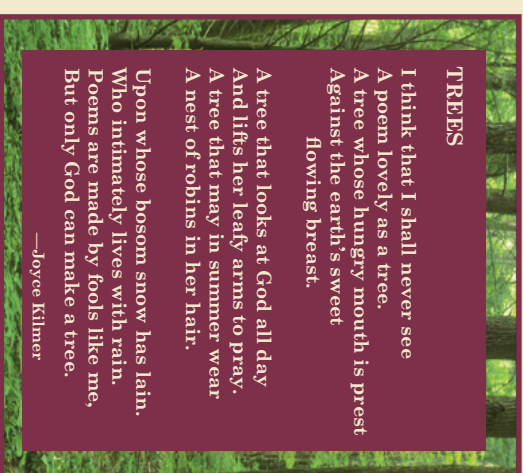
TREES

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet
flowing breast.

A tree that looks at God all day
And lifts her leafy arms to pray.
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair.

Upon whose bosom snow has lain,
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

—Joyce Kilmer



Stage 2: Joyce Kilmer Forest to Overlook



Drive 5.1 miles, 13 min

Directions from Joyce Kilmer Rd to Santeetlah Rd



○ Joyce Kilmer Rd

Robbinsville, NC 28771

1. Head northeast on Joyce Kilmer Rd toward Runaround Rd



0.5 mi

2. Turn left onto Santeetlah Rd



4.6 mi



FINISH

Overlook

Ruffles

Zag

Zig

Snake Skin Esses

Hair Bender

Racer's Elbow

Lori's Lefty

START

PADDOCK

SPECTATOR PARKING

Joyce Kilmer Forest Rd.

Santeetlah Rd.



2.2 Miles
1000 Ft. Elevation
Robbinsville, NC
June 22-23, 2013

SCCA

www.ccrscca.com

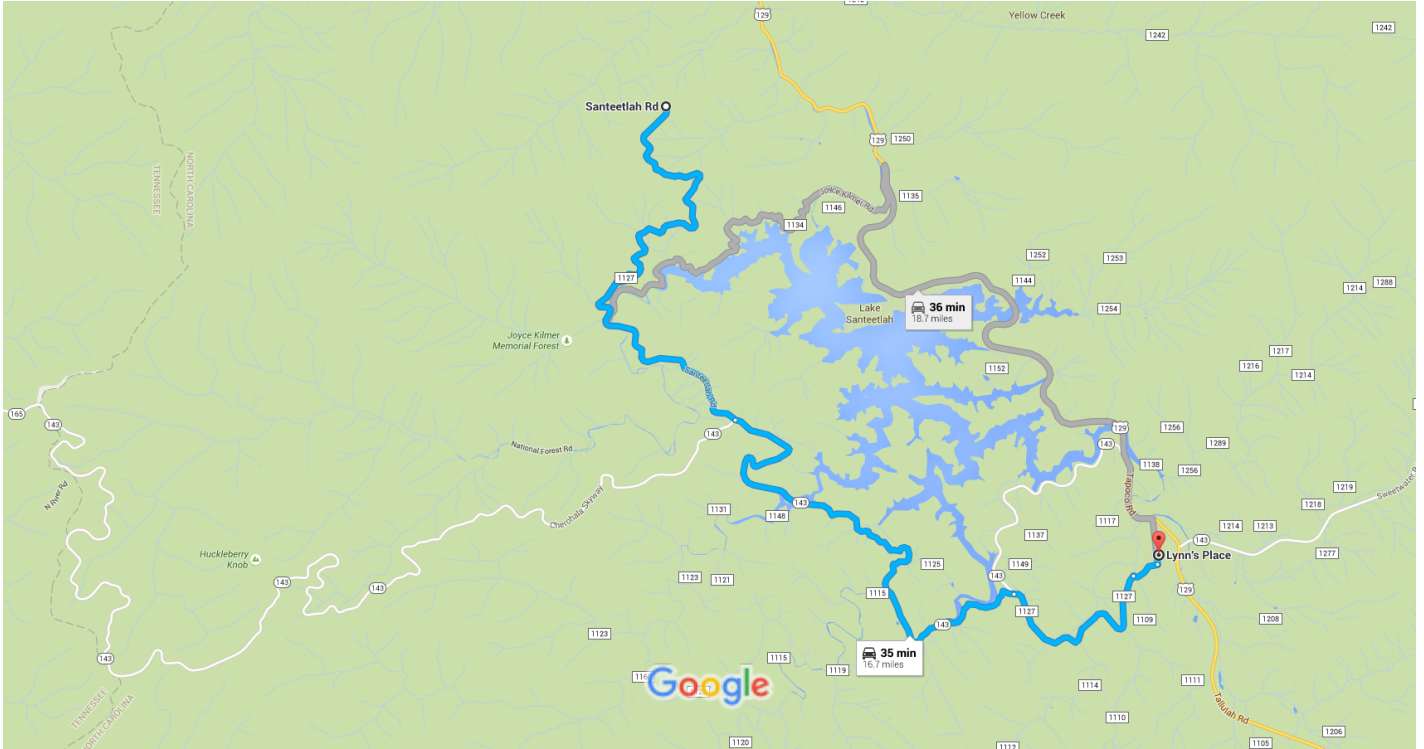
[WWW.DRAGONHILLCLIMB.COM](http://www.dragonhillclimb.com)

Stage 3: Overlook to Lunch



Santeetlah Rd, Robbinsville, NC 28771 to Lynn's Place

Drive 16.7 miles, 35 min



Map data ©2016 Google 1 mi

Santeetlah Rd

Robbinsville, NC 28771

1. Head south on Santeetlah Rd
6.9 mi
2. Slight left onto NC-143 E
6.8 mi
3. Continue straight onto Snowbird Rd
2.6 mi
4. Turn right onto Junaluska Rd
0.3 mi
5. Turn left onto S Main St
0.1 mi
6. Turn right onto E Main St
144 ft
[Destination will be on the right](#)

Lynn's Place

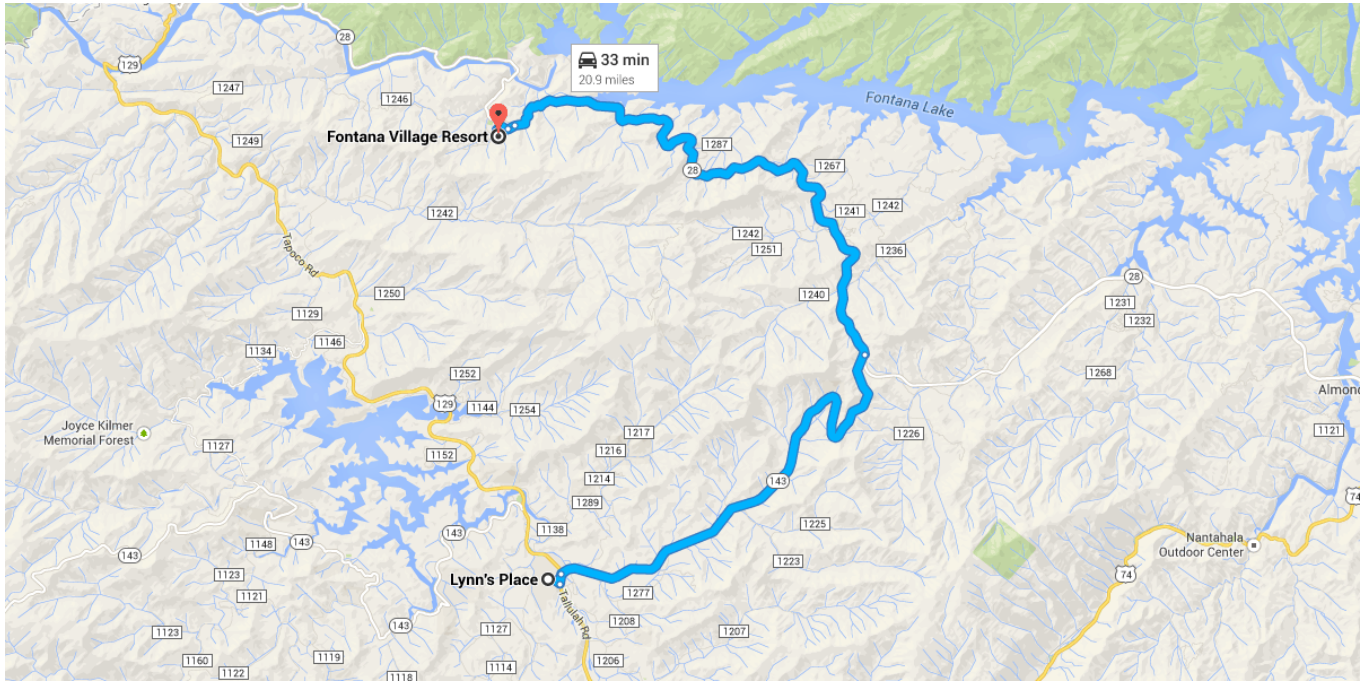
237 East Main Street, Robbinsville, NC 28771

Stage 4: Lunch to Fontana











Drive 20.9 miles, 33 min

Directions from Lynn's Place to Fontana Village Resort



Lynn's Place

237 East Main Street, Robbinsville, NC 28771

-  1. Head east on E Main St toward Court St 0.2 mi
-  2. Turn left onto Rodney Orr Bypass 0.2 mi
-  3. Turn right onto NC-143 E/Sweetwater Rd 8.8 mi
-  4. Turn left onto NC-28 N 11.2 mi
-  5. Slight left onto Welch Rd 0.1 mi
-  6. Slight right onto Welch Rd E 0.2 mi
-  7. Turn left onto Fontana Rd 449 ft
 -  Destination will be on the left