Whether you’re a beginner, an adventure racer or somewhere in between, off-road bicycling in far Western North Carolina offers something for everyone.

IMBA Rules of the Trail

1. **Ride Open Trails**  Respect trail and road closures. Do not trespass on private land. Be aware that bicycles are not permitted in areas protected as state or federal Wilderness.

2. **Leave No Trace**  Be sensitive to the dirt beneath you. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage than dry ones. When the trail is soft, consider other riding options. Pack out what you pack in.

3. **Control Your Bicycle**  Inattention for even a moment could put yourself and others at risk. Obey all bicycle speed regulations and recommendations, and ride within your limits.

4. **Yield Appropriately**  Do your utmost to let your fellow trail users know you’re coming — a friendly greeting or bell ring are good methods. Bicyclists traveling downhill should yield to ones headed uphill.

5. **Never Scare Animals**  Respect wildlife. When passing horses, use special care and follow directions from the horseback riders.

6. **Plan Ahead**  Know your equipment, your ability and the area in which you are riding and prepare accordingly. Always wear a helmet.

---

**BRYSON CITY**
**North Carolina**

Swain County Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 509 • 210 Main Street
Bryson City, North Carolina 28713
800-867-9246
GreatSmokies.com/biking

This brochure was prepared with the invaluable assistance of Bryson City Bicycles, 157 Everett Street, Bryson City, NC

Tsali is the area’s premier mountain biking venue – four loops totaling 42 miles overlooking Fontana Lake.
### Trails

1. **Fontana Village** (Moderate to Difficult) Nearly 20 miles of rooty, rocky trails with some very steep sections. The most technical trail system west of Asheville. There are three loops but lots of ways to create your own route. Located on Hwy 28, half a mile west of Fontana Dam.

2. **Santeetlah Lake Trail** (Easy) Fifteen miles of mostly double track loop trails winding through the peaceful woods along the shores of Lake Santeetlah. West of Robbinsville at the intersection of NC-143 and Snowbird Rd.

3. **Hanging Dog** (Moderate) Approx. 10 miles of predominately old logging roads with some single track sections connecting them. Expect plenty of climbing and steep descents. From Murphy take Joe Brown Hwy for 5 miles to Hanging Dog Campground.

4. **Jackrabbit** (Easy to Moderate) Nestled along the shores of Lake Chatuge, Jackrabbit is a great trail for all riders. Well marked and relatively flat and smooth it appeals to families and novice riders. However, the faster you ride this twisty, curvy trail system the more technical it becomes which makes it great for more advanced riders as well. Near Hayesville, take NC-175 south off US-64 and follow signs to Jackrabbit Mountain.

5. **Stecoah Gap** (Easy to Moderate) 8 miles. A mild and beautiful ride showcasing spring wildflowers and cool summer temperatures. Be sure to stay on the wide trail beyond the Forest Service gate. Bicycles are not permitted on the Appalachian Trail (AT). Located at the AT crossing on NC-143.

6. **Meeting House Mountain** (Moderate) 15 miles. You’ll find a beautiful lake view at the end of this rolling Forest Service road system. The paved hill to the start is steep but worth the effort. Approx. 4 miles east of Stecoah off NC-28 N.

7. **Cheoah Bald** (Moderate to Difficult) 12 miles. This is a deeply wooded ride on a dirt road. The only sounds you’ll hear will be the wind in the trees and your heart thudding in your chest. It’s pretty steep! Take Ledbetter Rd. off US-129 near Topton.

8. **Tsali** (Moderate) Tsali is the mecca for mountain biking in the east. Consisting of four well-marked loop trails there are a total of 42 miles of fun, flowy single-track. Two trails are open each day for mountain biking, and two for horseback riding. Check the signs at the trailhead for bike use schedule. $2 per person trail use fee. 12 miles west of Bryson City off NC-28 N.

9. **Upper Shell Stand** (Moderate) 12 miles. Expect an isolated, but pleasant ride with varying degrees of roadbed overgrowth, depending on the season. Off NC-28 N west of Almond; take Panther Creek Rd. to Shell Stand.

10. **Calf Pen Gap** (Moderate) 10 miles. This is a packed gravel roadway with some extensive views of the surrounding mountains. Expect a moderate 5 mile climb and a fast return. Across from the entrance of Tsali off NC-28 N.

11. **GSMNP Deep Creek** (Easy to Moderate) At the Deep Creek entrance to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park you will find two beautiful mixed use trails that are popular for family riding because of the wide trails, clear streams and picturesque waterfalls. Pack a picnic and make a day of it. Three miles from downtown Bryson City, take West Deep Creek Rd into GSMNP.

12. **Fire Mountain Trail System** (Moderate) 10.5 miles of smooth, machine cut trail with sections ranging from beginner to advanced. Solid climbs are rewarded with curvy, flowing descents. Trailhead is at the Oconoluftee Indian Village in Cherokee.

13. **GSMNP Oconaluftee River Trail** (Easy) One of the few flat trails in the area. Start at the Oconaluftee Visitor Center for a 3-mile out and back ride that follows the river into the town of Cherokee. Located on US-441 a mile north of the terminus of the Blue Ridge Parkway in Cherokee.

14. **Western Carolina University Trails** (Moderate) What this gem of a single-track system lacks in length it makes up for in climbing. Expect a smooth, well-groomed trail with plenty of lung-busting climbs and curvy descents. 9 miles total. Located on the WCU campus on NC-107 in Cullowhee. Park at the picnic area behind the softball complex to access the trailhead.

15. **Moses Creek**. (Moderate to Difficult) 20 miles. Motorists are permitted, but infrequent on this curving, climb through hardwood forests that end at the Wayehutta ATV course. The 10 mile climb is worth the long coast back. From NC-107 in Cullowhee take Caney Fork to Moses Creek Rd and follow to the Forest Service gate.

16. **Panthertown** (Easy to Moderate) Panthertown Valley provides some of the most stunning scenery in the area. Trails range from easy to challenging so you’ll want to plan before you head out. Tips: 1.) You’ll want to take a map. 2.) The trails are in a valley so you’ll have a one mile descent from any direction. Keep enough energy for the climb back out. From US-64 in Cashiers take Cedar Creek to Breedlove Rd to get to the west entrance.