

#1 Moonshine and Wine Loop

Distance - 26.7 miles

Start - Temple Hill United Methodist Church ballfield and community center.

Description - This is the easternmost bike route in Wilkes County. The route is very scenic featuring pasturmland and gently rolling hills throughout the trip. After using the first half of the route as a warm up, riders encounter the most substantial climb on the ride and then the terrain resumes to the same type of rolling hills that existed prior to starting on Windy Gap Road. The route gets its name from the vineyards located in the area and this is where racing legend and moonshiner Junior Johnson had his race shops located.



#2 Beast of the Brushies

Distance - 33.12 miles

Start - Moravian Falls Optimist Park (Moravian Falls Road)

Description - The Beast of the Brushies has a wide variety of terrain. The Beast attacks riders almost right from the start. Riders start climbing about 1 mile into the ride and climb 1100 feet over the next 3 miles. After reaching the peak, riders are rewarded with breathtaking views from the top of the Brushy Mountains. Shorter climbs and longer descents are the norm after the initial climb until riders reach Windy Gap Road. From here the ride levels out and riders head back to their starting point as they pass North Wilkesboro Speedway where many memorable NASCAR races were held.

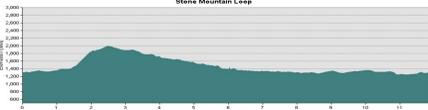


#3 Stone Mountain Loop

Distance - 11.5 miles

Start - Traphill Public Library

Description - Stone Mountain State Park, named for the 600-foot granite dome jutting out of the Blue Ridge escarpment, is the highlight of this route. Over half of the route is within the park boundary, where the posted speed limit is 25 mph, the road follows scenic trout streams, and there are more deer than cars. The park also offers historical sites, hiking, rock climbing, camping, picnicking, and fishing. However, the park gate is locked at night (the times change throughout the year), and one mile of the road within the park is gravel.



#5 Cabin Creek Loop

Distance - 20 miles

Start - Dehart Community Center

Description - Beautiful northern Wilkes scenery. This route goes up the West Prong of Roaring River, follows the base of the Blue Ridge, then follows the Middle Prong of Roaring River to complete the loop. Along the way, you'll see cattle, chicken houses, and little traffic. The last quarter of the route features a lot of short hills. The route also accesses Doughton Park, the 6,000-acre Blue Ridge Parkway tract that contains 30 miles of hiking trails.



Requirements for Helmet and Restraining Seat Use



With regard to any bicycle used on a public roadway, public bicycle path, or other public right-of-way:

It is unlawful for any parent or legal guardian of a person below the age of 16 to permit that person to operate or be a passenger on a bicycle unless he or she wears a protective bicycle helmet of good fit fastened securely upon the head with the straps of the helmet.

It is unlawful for any parent or legal guardian of a person below the age of 16 to permit that person to be a passenger on a bicycle unless the following conditions are met:

- The person is able to maintain an erect, seated position on the bicycle.
- The person is properly seated alone on a saddle seat (as on a tandem bicycle) unless the person weighs less than 40 pounds, or is less than 40 inches in height, and then the person is to be properly seated in and secured to a restraining seat.

Wilkes County Gateway to the Blue Ridge Mountains Bike Routes



Location

Wilkes County is situated at the foot of the Blue Ridge Parkway, just 80 miles from Charlotte, 45 miles from Winston-Salem, and 45 miles from Hickory.

Recreation and Entertainment

Cycling, walking, running and roller-skating in North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro are convenient along the Yadkin River Greenway, a great path for outdoor relaxation and exercise. The greenway is about 1.75 miles long and is located along the Yadkin River and can be accessed from either Wilkesboro or North Wilkesboro. Access points are available at the Wilkes Heritage Museum (Tyson Trailhead), the Moravian Creek Trailhead at the end of N. Collegiate Drive, the Wellness Center Trailhead at West Park Drive, NC 268 near Wilkesboro Avenue and on the north side of West D Street where it crosses the Reddies River.

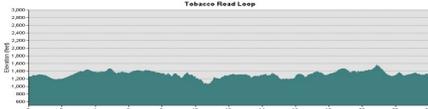
In addition to the on-road cycling opportunities presented on this map, there are some off-road adventures awaiting those who prefer dirt over asphalt. The Dark Mountain Trails are located at the W. Kerr Scott Dam at the end of Reservoir Road and contain about 8.5 miles of trails. The Over Mountain Victory Trail (OMV) is about 5.5 miles long with an alternate single track loop that is about 2.5 miles long. The OMV can be accessed from the Visitors Assistance Center located on Reservoir Road at the W. Kerr Scott Dam, Bandits Roost Campground, or Marina Road. For additional information on these trails visit the Brushy Mountain Cyclist Club website at: http://www.bmcnc.us/kerr_scott.htm

#6 Tobacco Road Loop

Distance - 25 miles

Start - Traphill Public Library

Description - This route is characterized by long straight stretches of road, providing good sight distance and some great views of Stone Mountain. Although there's no particularly long climbs, enough elevation gain and loss exists within the 25 miles to keep it challenging. The route includes two short sections of Traphill Road, where traffic can be heavier than the other roads along the route.



#7 Darby Route

Distance - 22 miles

Start - Darby Community Ballfield

Description - This short scenic ride begins at the Darby Community Ballfield and includes mountain views all around as it winds through a valley along the refreshing waters of Elk Creek. Riders leave the creek for a short while to complete a loop that includes the steepest climb and descent on the route. If you need a break from your bicycle saddle you may want to take a horse saddle at one of the local riding stables.



#8 Northern Rendezvous Mountain

Distance - 32 miles

Start - Yadkin River Greenway, West Park (Wellness Center) trailhead

Description - If you're willing to ride a few miles on gravel roads, this route will reward you with varied terrain, big views, and one big hill. As an out and back route, you can skip the big hill and most of the gravel by turning around at the base of Rendezvous Mountain Road, but the views from the top shouldn't be missed. Rendezvous Mountain Road begins with 0.5 miles paved, followed by 1.2 miles gravel. At the top is Rendezvous Mountain Educational State Forest, featuring restrooms, a picnic area, walking trails, and interpretive exhibits. This route also features a section of the Yadkin River Greenway, and a one mile off road section following the Reddies River, complete with waterfalls.



#9 Southern Rendezvous Mountain

Distance - 28 miles

Start - Yadkin River Greenway, West Park (Wellness Center) trailhead

Description - After a half-mile section on US Highway 421 Business, this route gets you out of town relatively quick. The turn from Congo Road onto Fish Dam Road can be easy to miss. Attractions include a scenic section following Fish Dam Creek, and the 1.7-mile hill going up Rendezvous Mountain Road (1.2 miles of which is gravel).



Bicycle Lights

For riding after dark, every bicycle must be equipped with proper lighting equipment:

Front - a lighted lamp that is visible from a distance of at least 300 feet.

Rear - a red reflex mirror or lamp that is visible from a distance of at least 200 feet.

Lights are required during the period from sunset to sunrise and when there is insufficient light to see clearly a person on the highway for 400 feet ahead.



#10 Tuesday Night Club Ride

Distance - 21 miles

Start - Food Lion Shopping Center parking lot in Millers Creek (intersection of NC Highway 16 and Boone Trail)

Description - This straightforward, relatively flat route starts in the residential area of Millers Creek, and ends up following the more remote and scenic Lewis Fork Creek valley. The route is out and back, but offers some variation with the New Hope Church Road leg on the return trip. Currently, the route ends at Big Ivy Road, but riders can extend the route (and include more elevation gain) by continuing out Summit Road and Big Ivy Road.



#11 Rollin' Round The River Ride

Distance - 19.3 miles

Start - W. Kerr Scott Visitor Center

Description - The ride begins at the W. Kerr Scott Visitor Center and then heads to NC 268. This route passes many lake access points where riders can go and cool off in the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. These access points have restrooms and public beach areas for swimming. There are many spectacular views of the lake along this fairly flat and relaxing ride. NC 268 is fairly wide and has "Share the Road" signs posted to remind motorists and trucks to give riders room. In addition to the lake, Whipperwool Village is located along this route. Riders can stop and tour the museum or take a canoe ride after some time on the lake.



#12 Dam Loop

Distance - 15.5 miles

Start - Yadkin River Greenway, West Park (Wellness Center) trailhead

Description - For a relatively short and flat route, the Dam Loop has a lot of variety - it starts with a short stretch of four-lane commercial boulevard, includes sections of NC Highways 16 and 268, has plenty of typical rural Wilkes County secondary roads, goes down historic Main Street in Wilkesboro, and ends on the Yadkin River Greenway. Points of interest include the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir dam, the W. Kerr Scott Visitor Center, and the Old Courthouse and Jail in downtown Wilkesboro. Keep alert for opening doors from cars parked along Main Street in Wilkesboro.



Share the Road

Cars and bicycles frequently must Share the Road. On roadways with high levels of bicycle traffic, but relatively demanding conditions for bicyclists, Share the Road signs have been installed. These signs are intended to increase motorists' awareness of bicyclists on a roadway without designating that roadway as a preferred route.

Bicyclists, however, must also be aware of the importance of sharing the road with motorists. If someone comes up behind you, move to the right when safe to allow them to pass. In groups, bicyclists should ride cooperatively and help motorists pass safely.



The Blue Ridge Parkway leads to hundreds of outdoor endeavors. Wilkes County houses two state parks, Stone Mountain State Park and Rendezvous Mountain State Educational Forest. There are numerous public parks, and water recreation is abundant with 55 miles of shoreline available along W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir. The W. Kerr Scott Lake and the adventurous Yadkin River offer local residents and visitors of all ages plenty of boating, fishing, swimming and enjoyment of wildlife.

Quick Facts:

Population:
Wilkes County - 66,925
North Wilkesboro - 4,116
Ronda - 460
Wilkesboro - 3,183

Land Area: 757.9 square miles

Road Conditions:
Total Road Mileage - 1,327.41 miles
Primary Roads - 149.47 miles
Secondary Roads - 1,177.94 miles (Ranks 7th in NC)
Secondary Paved Miles - 968.35 miles
Secondary Unpaved Miles - 209.59 miles (Ranks 2nd in NC)

Elevation:
Low: 880 ft. (Yadkin River in Eastern Wilkes County)
High: 4,080 ft. (Blue Ridge Parkway near Deep Gap)

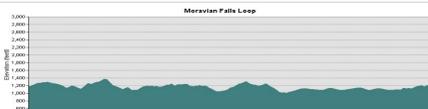


#14 Moravian Falls Loop

Distance - 18 miles

Start - Moravian Falls Optimist Park (Moravian Falls Road)

Description - This route starts at Moravian Falls Optimist Park, which has ample parking but no signage. About a third of the route is on NC Highways 18 and 268, but the remainder is on secondary roads with relatively little traffic. The route takes the rider past spectacular Moravian Falls, and along the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. The area around the reservoir is managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, and contains campgrounds, picnic areas, swimming, and outstanding mountain bike trails.

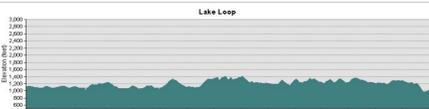


#15 Lake Loop

Distance - 30 miles

Start - W. Kerr Scott Visitors Center

Description - This ride follows the same course as the Rollin' Round the River ride down to Whipperwool Village. Many access points to the lake are available for riders to utilize restrooms or cool off in the lake before getting back on the road. The widest range of Wilkes County scenery is along this ride. Riders will see the lake, the Yadkin River, many picturesque streams, pastures, chicken farms, mountains, and historic structures. If the lake loop is not enough and you are into Mountain Biking, the Dark Mountain Trails can be accessed at the W. Kerr Scott Dam.



Bicycles must obey the same traffic laws as other vehicles

Therefore, please abide by the following traffic laws that apply to all vehicles to make your ride safer:

- Bicycles shall be driven on the right half of the highway.
- Any vehicle proceeding at less than the legal maximum speed limit shall be driven in the right-hand lane or as close to the right-hand curb or edge of the highway, except for when overtaking or passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn.
- Any person who operates a vehicle upon a highway or any public vehicular area carelessly and heedlessly in willful or wanton disregard of the rights or safety of others shall be guilty of reckless driving.
- On a one-way street, it is unlawful to willfully drive or operate a vehicle on a highway or roadway except in the direction so indicated by said signs.
- The driver of a vehicle shall not overtake and pass another vehicle on any portion of the highway which is marked by signs, markers or markings stating or clearly indicating that passing should not be attempted.
- When a stop sign has been erected or installed at an intersection, it shall be unlawful for the driver of any vehicle to fail to stop

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and yield the right of way to vehicles operating on the designated main-traveled or through highway. When stop signs have been erected at three or more entrances to an intersection, the driver, after stopping, may proceed with caution.

- When a traffic signal is emitting a steady red circular light controlling traffic approaching an intersection, an approaching vehicle facing the red light shall come to a stop and shall not enter the intersection. After coming to a complete stop and unless prohibited by an appropriate sign, that approaching vehicle may make a right turn. Any vehicle that turns right on red shall yield the right of way to other traffic and pedestrians using the intersection and to pedestrians who are moving towards the intersection, and who are preparing to cross in front of traffic that is required to stop at the red light.
- When a traffic signal, stop sign, or other traffic control device requires a vehicle to stop at a place other than an intersection, the driver shall stop at an appropriately marked stop line, or if none, before entering a marked crosswalk, or if none, before proceeding past the traffic control device.
- When two vehicles approach or enter an intersection from different highways at approximately the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left shall yield the right of way to the vehicle on the right.
- The driver of a vehicle intending to turn left within an intersection or into an alley,

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Route Identification

Each Route is signed with Wilkes County Bike Route signs that have arrows pointing in the direction of travel. The signs direct riders to travel in a direction that matches the elevation profiles illustrated in the Route Descriptions. Routes are signed for one direction only. Riders risk getting lost if they choose to deviate from the signed route. Some routes will overlap but cyclists should follow the arrows with the corresponding number for the route they have chosen. Good Luck and Enjoy the Ride!



Icons: Cyclist, Bicycle, Apple, Apple core

Climate Data													
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
Normal Monthly Maximum Temperature	47.1 °F	51.6 °F	60.7 °F	70.8 °F	78.3 °F	85.2 °F	88.5 °F	87 °F	80.6 °F	71 °F	60.6 °F	50.6 °F	69.3 °F
Normal Monthly Minimum Temperature	23.8 °F	25 °F	32.5 °F	39.7 °F	49.5 °F	58.7 °F	63 °F	61.4 °F	54.2 °F	40.9 °F	32.7 °F	25.7 °F	42.3 °F
Normal Monthly Mean Temperatures	35.5 °F	38.3 °F	46.6 °F	55.3 °F	63.9 °F	72 °F	75.8 °F	74.2 °F	67.4 °F	56 °F	46.7 °F	38.2 °F	55.8 °F
Normal Monthly Precipitation	4.42	3.93	4.85	4.4	4.68	4.44	4.29	4.24	4.45	3.82	3.54	3.62	50.6

Wilkes County Contact Information

Wilkes County Sheriff's Department: 336-838-9111
 Wilkes County EMS: 336-651-7365
 W. Kerr Scott Reservoir: 877-444-6777
 Stone Mountain State Park: 336-957-8185

Wilkes County Cycling Events and Other Festivals

Merfest: April
 Burn 24: May
 King of the Lake: May, July, and October
 Rides Around Wilkes (RAW): June
 Hurt Pain and Agony: July

Bandits Challenge Triathlon: August
 Rollin' Round River: September
 Brushy Mountain Apple Festival: October

Rides Around Wilkes (RAW): June
 Hurt Pain and Agony: July

For more event info go to: www.bmcnc.us



Wilkes County Bike Routes

About this map

Wilkes County and the High Country Council of Governments in cooperation with cyclists in Wilkes County developed this map to encourage biking as a healthy and enjoyable form of recreation and an energy efficient, economical, and non-polluting form of transportation. Funding assistance for this project was provided by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

The map suggests routes for bicycle travel throughout Wilkes County. The back of the map provides resources and useful information for safer biking.

Hazards may exist along these roads and streets, which are the responsibility of the government agencies that maintain them. Neither Wilkes County, nor the High Country Council of Governments guarantees the safety and fitness of the recommended routes. Make your own evaluation of traffic and road conditions and plan routes that are appropriate to your riding skills. The user of this map bears the full responsibility for his or her safety.

