






## LOCAL STOPS & ROUTE KEY

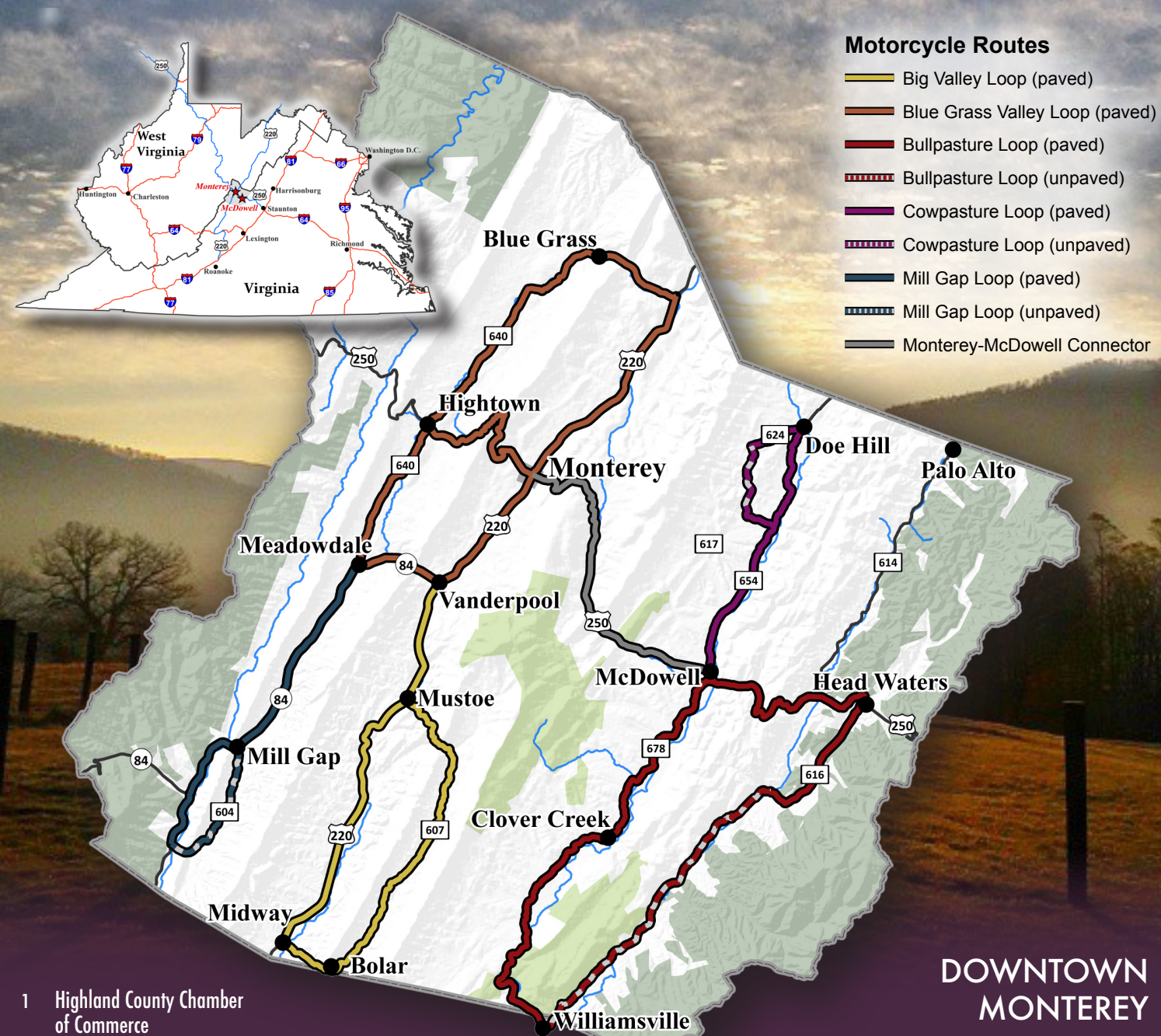
BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THESE BUSINESSES  
ALONG YOUR ROUTE WHILE YOU'RE IN TOWN.  
YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID.

 **GAS & VENDING**  
Country Convenience (food only/deli sandwiches)  
Rexrode's Country Store  
Fast Break Food Mart  
Stonewall Grocery (food only/deli sandwiches)

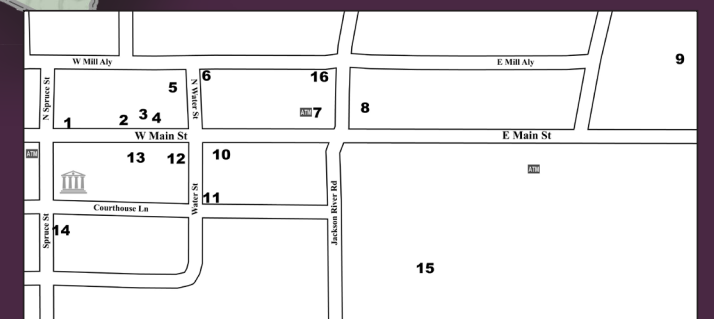
 **RESTAURANTS, SHOPPING & SOUVENIRS**  
See Downtown Monterey inset map.

**LODGING**  
For a complete list of our lodging options, visit  
[www.highlandcounty.org](http://www.highlandcounty.org), or call (540) 468-2550,  
or visit our office!

 **SCENIC/HISTORIC LANDMARK**  
 **POINT OF INTEREST**  
 **POINT OF INTEREST (SEASONAL)**



- Highland County Chamber of Commerce
- The Blanchard Gallery
- Evelyn's Pantry
- Dancon
- Highland Library
- Morning Glories & Moonflowers
- Fast Break
- The Real Deal
- Heart & Soul Massage
- High's Restaurant
- The Recorder Newspaper
- Highland Mountain Flowers
- Highland County Crafts
- Big Fish Cider Co.
- Highland Community Park
- Mountain Hideaway Restaurant & Tavern



# SWEET RIDES IN HIGHLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA A MOTORCYCLE GUIDE



HIGHLAND COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
& TOURISM COUNCIL  
P.O. BOX 223 • MONTEREY, VA 24465  
TEL (540) 468-2550  
[www.HighlandCounty.org](http://www.HighlandCounty.org)  
#HighlandCountyVA  
#VASweetSpot  
#HCVASweetRides



VIRGINIA  
IS FOR  
MOUNTAIN  
LOVERS

Updated December 2015

## HIGHLAND COUNTY – WHAT A SWEET SPOT!

Many people know about Highland because of our famous maple syrup. On the second and third weekends of March, we celebrate our local maple industry with our annual Maple Festival, which has been designated “the official Maple Festival of the Commonwealth”. But we are more than just maple syrup. We have many sweet things for visitors to enjoy throughout the entire year.

Among the first comments of visitors to our area is: “What a sweet spot!” Whether your sweet spot is enjoying the scenic beauty of a rural countryside, driving mountain roads, taking in a star-filled night sky, or simply sitting on the porch enjoying the rural charm of a bed and breakfast; we want to help you find your favorite Highland County “sweet spot”. If you like festivals, arts

and crafts, old time country music, square dances, country fairs, farmers’ markets, or the simple serenity of nature; we suggest you come home to Highland County.

## HIGHLAND COUNTY EVENTS

Highland County is home to one of the most unique events in the state and country – the Highland County Maple Festival. Each March, tens of thousands of visitors are drawn to this unspoiled, rural region of Virginia to celebrate the “opening” of the trees and observe the process of maple syrup-making. However, Highland County is more than just Maple. This mountainous area boasts music festivals, street dances, fall festivals, artist getaways, farmer’s markets, historical events, sporting events, and the longest running small county fair in the state.

For more information on Highland County events, visit [www.HighlandCounty.org](http://www.HighlandCounty.org).



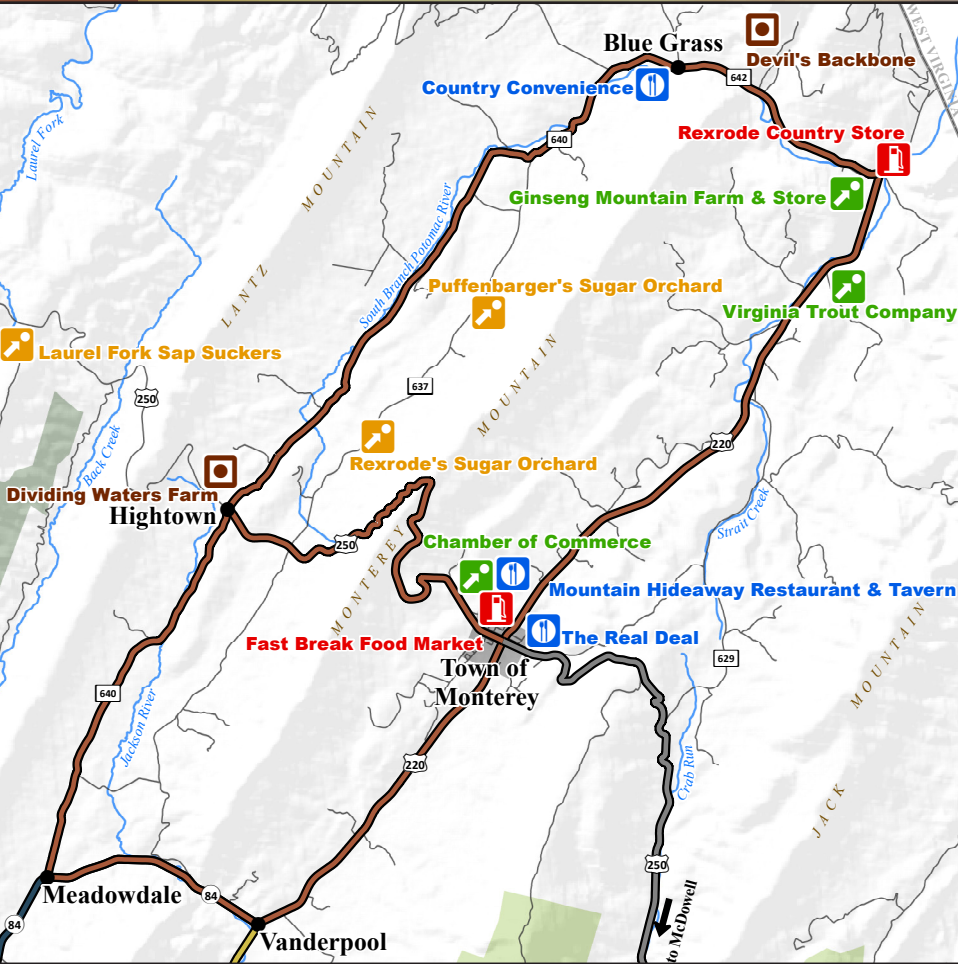
BLUE GRASS LOOP (PAVED)

PASS THROUGH ONE OF OUR MOST ICONIC VALLEYS, THE BLUE GRASS VALLEY, AND VIEW COUNTRY FARMS, LIVESTOCK, HISTORIC FARMS, AND THE HEADWATERS OF THE POTOMAC AND JAMES RIVERS, WHICH IS LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF RT. 250 AND RT. 640.

- From Monterey, travel west on Rt. 250 to Hightown (5.7 miles)
- Take a right on Rt. 640 (Blue Grass Valley Rd) heading north
- to Blue Grass (7.1 miles)
- In Blue Grass, go straight through intersection to continue on Rt. 642 (Blue Grass Valley Rd) to Rt. 220 (2.5 miles)
- Take a right on Rt. 220 heading south back to Monterey (6.4 miles)
- Once in Monterey, continue on Rt. 220 and to Rt. 84 (3.9 miles)
- Turn right on Rt. 84 to Meadowdale (2.4 miles)
- Turn right on Rt. 640 (Meadowdale Rd) to Hightown (4.4 miles)
- Once in Hightown, turn right on Rt. 250 and travel back to Monterey (5.7 miles)



Photo Courtesy Jim Hevener



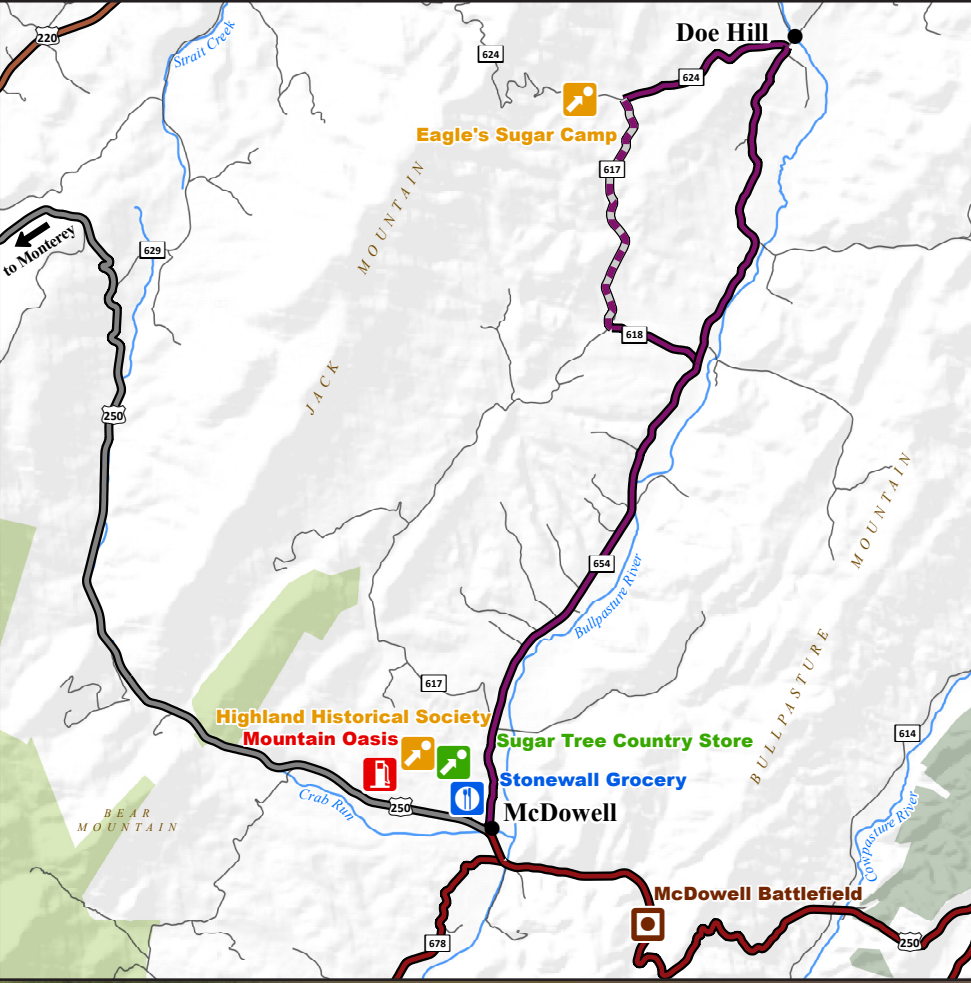
COWPASTURE LOOP (PAVED & UNPAVED)

RIDE NORTH OUT OF MCDOWELL FOR SCENIC VIEWS AS YOU TRAVEL TO THE VILLAGE OF DOE HILL AND THROUGH AN AREA OF THE COUNTY KNOWN AS “SELDOM SEEN”. RIDERS WILL BE ABLE TO EXPERIENCE PASTORAL LANDSCAPES AND HIGHLAND COUNTY FARM LIFE FROM THE BLACKTOP.

- From Monterey, take Rt. 250 E to McDowell (9.6 miles)
- In McDowell, take left on Rt. 654 (Doe Hill Rd) toward Doe Hill (4.4 miles)
- Take a left on Rt. 618 (Church Hill Rd) (.8 miles)
- Take a right on Rt. 617 (Seldom Seen Rd) (2.1 miles) *\*portions of this road are unpaved/hard-packed dirt*
- Take a right on Rt. 624 (Jack Mountain Rd) to the village of Doe Hill (1.5 miles)
- In Doe Hill, take a right on Rt. 654 (Doe Hill Rd) to travel back to McDowell (7.4 miles)



Photo Courtesy Dorothy Stephenson



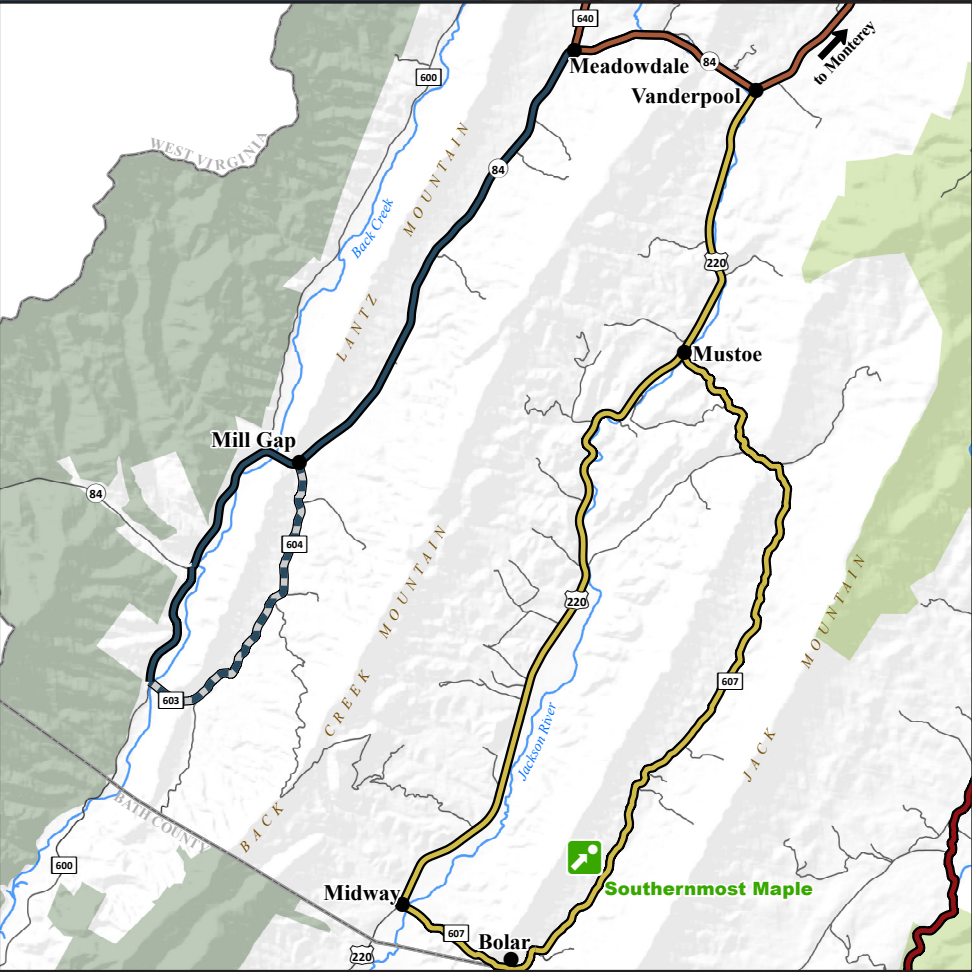
MILL GAP LOOP (PAVED & UNPAVED)

AT THE SOUTHERNMOST END OF THE BLUE GRASS VALLEY, YOU CAN SLIP AWAY INTO MORE REMOTE LOCATIONS TO EXPERIENCE COUNTRY ROADS, BOTH STRAIGHT & WINDING.

- In Vanderpool, take a right and proceed onto Rt. 84 heading to Mill Gap (8.4 miles)
- Take a left onto Rt. 604 (Valley Center Rd) which changes to Rt. 603 (4 miles) *\*portions of this road are unpaved/hard-packed dirt*
- Take a right turn onto Rt. 600 (Lower Back Creek Road) which will lead you back to Rt. 84 (1.5 miles)
- Take a right and follow Rt. 84 back to Meadowdale, then on to Vanderpool and the intersection of Rt. 84 and Rt. 220 (10.6 miles)
- From Vanderpool, there are 2 options:  
(1) Take a left onto Rt. 220 heading north back to Monterey (3.9 miles), OR...  
(2) Take a right and extend your ride by taking the Big Valley Loop (22.5 miles) before heading back to Monterey.



Photo Courtesy Dorothy Stephenson



BIG VALLEY LOOP (PAVED)

CRUISE DOWN RT. 220 FOR MORE EXPANSIVE VIEWS BEFORE TURNING ON BIG VALLEY ROAD TO PASS BY COUNTRY LIFE & RELICS OF HIGHLAND COUNTY’S PAST.

- In Vanderpool, take Rt. 220 heading south to Midway & intersection of Rt. 607 (11.5 miles)
- At Midway, take a left on to Rt. 607 toward Bolar & continue back to Rt. 220 in Mustoe (11.1 miles)
- Take a right and follow Rt. 220 heading north back towards Vanderpool (3.4 miles) & continue on Rt. 220 back to Monterey (3.9 miles)

BULLPASTURE LOOP (PAVED & UNPAVED)

CRUISE PAST MORE EXPANSIVE, FARM LAND AND THROUGH OUR ICONIC BULLPASTURE RIVER GORGE WHERE WILDLIFE VIEWINGS ARE COMMON. BE SURE TO TAKE IN THE STOPS AT THE HIGHLAND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COUNTY’S WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENT.

- From McDowell, head east on Rt. 250 (.3 miles)
- Take a right on Rt. 678 (Bullpasture River Rd) to travel to Williamsville (13.9 miles)
- In Williamsville, take a left on Rt. 614 (Cowpasture River Rd) (9.6 miles) *\*portions of this road are unpaved/gravel*
- Take a right on Rt. 616 (Lower Fork Rd), cross the Cowpasture River, and continue to the village of Headwaters and the intersection with Rt. 250 (4.1 miles)
- Turn left on Rt. 250 to travel back to McDowell (6.2 miles)



Photo Courtesy Dorothy Stephenson

