

## Alternate Routes Into The North Carolina Smokies



MAP COURTESY OF THE CHEROKEE AND SWAIN COUNTY – BRYSON CITY CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

**Due to the October 25 rockslide at the Tennessee-North Carolina border, I-40 through the Pigeon River Gorge will be closed through the end of the year and possibly longer. But don't let that alter your vacation plans. I-40 is just one of several routes the North Carolina Smokies.**

### FROM NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA, ALABAMA AND FLORIDA – ALL ROUTES ARE OPEN

If you're coming from the south or any part of North Carolina, nothing has changed. The road closure will not affect you.

If you're coming through Virginia, Kentucky or Tennessee, you'll need to consider one of the following alternate routes to the North Carolina Smokies —

#### FROM VIRGINIA

**Option 1, through Asheville:** Driving south on Interstate 81, take Interstate 26 (Exit 57A) west to Asheville. At exit 31B, take Interstate 40 west to US 74 (exit 27) – the Great Smoky Mountains Expressway. Follow US 74 into the North Carolina Smokies.

**Option 2, through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park:** Drive south on Interstate 81 until it merges into Interstate 40. Continue WEST on I-40 to TN-66 (exit 407). Drive south to Sevierville where you'll pick up US 441 South. Continue south on US 441 through Gatlinburg and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and into the North Carolina Smokies.

**Note:** US 441 through the National Park reaches an elevation of 5000 feet at Newfound Gap. For current updates of weather related road closings in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park please call (865) 436-1200. Once you hear a voice, dial extension 631 for road information or extension 630 for a weather forecast. Please be aware that road openings/closings may change throughout the day.

#### FROM KNOXVILLE

**Option 1, through Maryville and Deals Gap:** From Knoxville, take US 129 south through Maryville. Continue south on US 129 through Deals Gap and into North Carolina. Just past the Deals Gap Motorcycle Resort, turn left on to NC 28 and continue east (passing Fontana Dam) to US 74. Turn left (east) and follow US 74 into the North Carolina Smokies.

**Note:** US 129 through Deal's Gap is extremely curvy (318 continuous curves in 11 miles). It's one of the nations most popular motorcycle and sports cars roads. Others may find it too curvy.

**Option 2, through Maryville and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park:** From Knoxville, take US 129 south to US 321 in Maryville. Drive east on US 321 through Townsend, TN. Just east of Townsend, turn right on the E. Lamar Alexander Parkway into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Follow the Little River Road until it merges into US 441. Turn right on US 441 and continue south through the National Park and into the North Carolina Smokies.

**Option 3, through Sevierville and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park:** From Knoxville, take Interstate 40 east to TN-66 (exit 407). Drive south to Sevierville where you'll pick up US 441 South. Continue south on US 441 through Gatlinburg and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and into the North Carolina Smokies.

**Note:** US 441 through the National Park reaches an elevation of 5000 feet at Newfound Gap. For current updates of weather related road closings in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park please call (865) 436-1200. Once you hear a voice, dial extension 631 for road information or extension 630 for a weather forecast. Please be aware that road openings/closings may change throughout the day.

#### FROM NASHVILLE

**Option 1, through Chattanooga and the river gorges:** From Nashville, take Interstate 26 to Chattanooga. When I-26 ends, south of the city, take Interstate 75 north to US 74 (exit 20) near Cleveland, TN. (This is a loop highway that combines US 74, US 64 and TN 60). Look for signs marking an exit to Ocoee and Murphy, NC). To stay on US 74/64, you will take this exit and continue east past Ocoee Lake, the Ocoee River Gorge and Murphy, NC. From Murphy, either US 74 or US 64 will take you into the Smokies — you can go east on US 64 to Hayesville and Franklin, or take US 74 through Andrews and the Nantahala River Gorge to Bryson City, Cherokee and the North Carolina Smokies.

**Option 2, through Knoxville:** From Nashville, take Interstate 40 east to Knoxville and choose one of the three options (above) from Knoxville into the North Carolina Smokies