

**EAST TENNESSEE WANDERERS  
TOWNSEND WALK  
6K/11K/14K**

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## TOWNSEND, TENNESSEE

Townsend, located in an area called Tuckaleechee Cove, was first settled by pioneers in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. As agriculture was the only economy, farming was the only occupation. Following the Civil War, logging began in earnest with the Little River serving as a natural transport for the logs. Colonel Wilson B. Townsend built a lumber mill and brought the railroad into the area in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The town that grew up here became a company town known as Townsend. By 1910, the Townsend mill was producing 120,000 board feet of lumber per day. Logging operations continued until 1938 when the company offered 70,000 acres to help form the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

## STARTING POINT

The starting point for all three distances is the Townsend Visitor Center, 7906 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Townsend, 37882

### Directions:

From the East (I-40W), take exit 432A to merge onto US-411 S/US-70 W/Hwy 25N toward Sevierville. Continue on US-411. Take US-321 to Myers Rd in Townsend.

From the West (I-40E), take exit 364 for US-321 / TN-95 toward Lenoir City/Oak Ridge. Continue to follow US-321 to Myers Rd in Townsend.

**Parking:** The Visitor Center asks that walkers park in the back of the building to allow "regular" tourists to use the parking spaces in the front of the building. If the lot is full, cars can also be parked in the field behind the building.

**Latitude 35.677168, Longitude -83.743665**

## GENERAL WALK INFORMATION

Our walk, a simple loop trail, parallels the Little River and makes use of the Townsend Historical Trail. **At no time are you required to cross over Highway 321. The pedestrian / bicycle tunnels will allow you to cross under Highway 321 in safety.**

**You are walking on a multi-use path.** Please watch for runners, bicycles, and horses. Please walk to the right, and if you hear a bicycle bell or the call "on your left," please move to the right to let the bicyclist pass. If being passed by horses, please step off the trail to your right and stop until the horses have passed.

Bathrooms are available in the Visitor Center, the Little River Railroad and Lumber Museum (seasonal), and at the Apple Valley Country Stores (for the 11 and 14 km walkers).

## **POINT OF CONTACT**

Guy Calkins (president @easttennesseewanderers.org) 585-727-6493  
If you have questions, comments, or recommendations with respect to this event, please do not hesitate to make contact.

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

The three Special Programs associated with this walk are Walking the USA A-Z (Townsend, TN), Walking with America's Veterans, and 50 States (Tennessee). There are three Veterans' memorials associated with this event. All three routes begin and end at the Townsend Visitor Center where there is a Blue Star Memorial. The 14 km route goes to the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center with its Veterans' Memorial Garden. All three routes walk along Highway 321 which has been designated in Townsend as Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Highway. The sign with this designation can be seen across the highway for those on the 14 km route, and those on the 6 km and 11 km routes wishing to document the memorial with a picture can do so and add an additional 1.16 km to their recorded distance (i.e., take credit for 7 km or 12 km respectively)..

## **OSB REMINDERS**

Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration. You can then print out your insert cards for this walk.

## **OTHER EAST TENNESSEE WANDERERS EVENTS**

While in the area, you might enjoy some of our other events.

Linda Nelson Memorial Walk, Alcoa-Maryville Bike, Alcoa/Maryville Extended Greenway, A.T. Through Tennessee, Clinton 12, Gatlinburg Trail, Gatlinburg Tourist, Elkmont Historic, Knoxville (Music, Moonshine, and Art), Knoxville (UT), Knoxville (North Knoxville – 4<sup>th</sup> & Gill), Seven Islands State Birding Park, Maryville, Oak Ridge, and Fort Loudoun State Historic Park.



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**The East Tennessee Wanderers**  
Peaceful Side of the Smokies Walk ©  
Townsend, TN  
6 KM Walk Rated 2A Y1648

**The trail is NOT marked; please follow these directions.**

1. **Exit** the Visitor Center and **proceed to the right** out of the parking lot and down to the Townsend Historic Trail.
2. **Turn right** on the walking path at Highway 321 and watch for a tunnel on the left.
3. The farm to your right has been in the Laverne Farmer family for more than 185 years. Laverne's grandfather hauled tan bark to the tannery in Walland and later raised dairy cattle, supplying the CCC camps in Cades Cove, the railroad workers, and others with milk.
4. **Turn left** and proceed through the tunnel under Highway 321 to the other side of the highway.
5. **Coming out of the tunnel, if you are participating in the Walk with America's Veterans Special Program and wish to photograph the sign that designates Highway 321 through Townsend as "Vietnam Veterans' Highway, take the path to your right.** The walk out and back will add approximately 1.16 km making this a 7 km walk.
6. **If you do not wish to photograph the Vietnam Veterans' Highway sign, take the walking path out of the tunnel to the left.**
7. **Turn right** at Asher Howard Drive. There are no sidewalks; so please walk on the left facing traffic and walk carefully.
8. **Walk down** Asher Howard Drive until you reach Maggie St./Old State Highway 73 East.
9. **Turn left** on Maggie/Old State Hwy 73.
10. **Walk on the left** facing traffic along Old State Highway 73 East. To your right is the Little River.
11. Watch for the Dark Island Swinging Bridge on your right. It is one of last of its kind. Once there were as many as 20 swinging bridges along the Little River providing access between cottages on the other side of the river and the railroad and lumber mills on this side.
12. **Continue** on Old State Highway 73 East as it **curves to the left** and becomes Depot Ave.
13. **Take the first right** onto River Road.
14. **Turn left** at the museum entrance sign into the Little River Railroad and Lumber Museum. The engine you see (Shay Engine #2147) is the last Shay to have run at the Little River Lumber Company. **Restrooms may be available during the season.**
15. **Continue** through the museum grounds back up to the walk/bike trail at Highway 321.
16. **Turn right** on the trail.

17. As you walk you will see the red Burlington Northern caboose which was an ice cream shop, and the sign for Apple Valley Country Stores.

18. **The route goes off the paved trail to the right onto the Townsend River Walk and Arboretum,** sponsored by the Tuckaleechee Garden Club. They have done a great job with signage to identify the local trees. They have also created a Monarch Waystation, a garden area to care for the Monarch butterflies during their annual migration. See [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org) While this section is unpaved, you will rejoin the paved trail shortly. If you don't wish to leave the paved trail, just continue on straight.

19. Shortly after exiting the Townsend River Walk, you will **come to another tunnel** under Highway 321.

20. **Turn left and walk through** the tunnel under Highway 321. As you come out of the tunnel, **turn left and return to the Visitor's Center.**

21. As you finish your walk, look to your right as you approach the parking lot of the Visitor Center. This is Myers Cemetery, the oldest in Tuckaleechee Cove, dating to the late 1700s.

22. Likewise, as you finish your walk, make note of the Blue Star Memorial (**Walking with America's Veterans**) at the Visitor Center parking lot.

**CONGRATULATIONS! You have just completed your 6 km walk.**

Special thanks to the Townsend Visitor Center for use of their facility as our Start/Finish Point. Thanks also to those individuals who had the foresight to develop the bike and walking path that is the Townsend Historic Trail. For more historical information, please pick up a copy of "Shadows of the Past," the Townsend Historical Trail guide.

We encourage you to drive down the road and visit the Smoky Mountain Heritage Center to learn more about the area's history.

The East Tennessee Wanderers have 16 other events in this area that you might enjoy.

**POC: Guy Calkins 585-727-6493**

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After emergency, call (585) 727-6493



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**The East Tennessee Wanderers**  
Peaceful Side of the Smokies Walk ©  
Townsend, TN  
11 KM Walk Rated 2A Y1648

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The trail is **NOT** marked; please follow these directions.

1. **Exit** the Visitor Center and **proceed to the right** out of the parking lot and down to the Townsend Historic Trail.
2. **Turn right** on the walking path at Highway 321 and walk until you reach a tunnel on the left. *The farm to your right has been in the Laverne Farmer family for more than 185 years. Laverne's grandfather hauled tan bark to the tannery in Walland and later raised dairy cattle, supplying the CCC camps in Cades Cove, the railroad workers, and others with milk.*
3. **Watch for a tunnel under Highway 321. Turn left** and proceed through that tunnel to the other side of the highway.
4. **Coming out of the tunnel, if you are participating in the Walk with America's Veterans Special Program and wish to photograph the sign that designates Highway 321 through Townsend as "Vietnam Veterans' Highway, take the greenway to your right.** The walk out and back will add approximately 1.16 km making your walk today a 12 km walk.
5. **If you do not wish to photograph the Vietnam Veterans' Highway sign, take the walking path out of the tunnel to the left.**
6. **Turn right** at Asher Howard Drive. There are no sidewalks; so please walk on the left facing traffic and walk carefully.
7. **Walk down** Asher Howard Drive until you reach Maggie St./Old State Highway 73 East.
8. **Turn left** on Maggie/Old State Hwy 73.
9. **Walk on the left** facing traffic along Old State Highway 73 East. To your right is the Little River.
10. *Notice the Dark Island Swinging Bridge on your right. It is one of the last of its kind. Once there were as many as 20 swinging bridges along the Little River providing access between the cottages on other side of the river and the railroad and lumber mills on this side. Challenge your fellow walkers to cross this bridge!*
11. **Continue** on Old State Highway 73 East as it **curves to the left** and becomes Depot Ave.
12. **Take the first right** onto River Road.
13. **Turn left** at the museum entrance sign into *The Little River Railroad and Lumber Museum. The engine you see (Shay Engine #2147) is the last Shay*

*to have run at the Little River Lumber Company. If you don't have time to stop now, make sure you come back to visit this free museum to get a feel for the times and people who harvested the trees and created Townsend. Restrooms are available in season.*

14. **Continue** through the museum grounds back up to the walk/bike trail at Highway 321.
15. **Turn right** on the trail.
16. While there are a number of places to shop or eat, you might seriously consider stopping in at Wooden Strings to see the beautiful handmade dulcimers and stop at Off the Grid to shop for some of that survival gear you have been looking for.
17. **Continue along the greenway, until the route goes off the paved trail to the right onto the Townsend River Walk and Arboretum,** sponsored by the Tuckaleechee Garden Club. While this section is unpaved, you will rejoin the paved trail shortly. If you don't wish to leave the paved trail, just continue on straight.
18. They have done a great job with continually making improvements on this "nature trail" including excellent signage to identify the local trees. They have also created a Monarch Waystation, a garden area to care for the Monarch butterflies during their annual migration. See [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org).
19. Shortly after exiting the Townsend River Walk, you will **come to a tunnel** under Highway 321, but if you plan on completing the 11 km walk, **continue along the paved trail.**
20. You will soon see the first of the *Archaeology of Tuckaleechee Cove signs. Before the state widened Highway 321 in 1999, archaeologists from the University of Tennessee conducted a 2 ½ year study of this area. Their discoveries covered "more than 5,000 years of human history in Tuckaleechee Cove." Take a moment and read about those discoveries as you come to these signs along the trail. (Mayflower - 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)*
21. You will **pass by** Nauger Nob Arts & Crafts Settlement on your right.
22. *Note the classic architecture of the old cantilevered barn on the right. Also note the diving bell near the trail.*
23. **Stay on the trail** as it goes through a picnic area. You'll see your goal (Apple Valley) across the highway, but don't go there yet. You have one more tunnel in your future.
24. At the end of the picnic area the trail resumes up next to Highway 321. *Note the Special People's Park with its wheelchair accessible ramp down to the river.*
25. As you walk, *take particular note of the sign here about the Tuckaleechee Villages.*
26. **Walk down the path to the right,** when you see the "outhouse gathering" across the Parkway.

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**27. Proceed through the tunnel** under Highway 321.

**28. Turn left** as you come out of the tunnel and walk to the entrance to the Apple Valley Country Stores parking lot on the right. You may want to stop first at Cades Cove Cellars for free wine tasting!

**29. Turn right** into the Apple Valley Country Stores parking lot and walk to the back of the parking lot.

**Water and restrooms are available.** You may want to take a break. Try the fried bologna sandwiches and apple fritters in the Café.

**30. Proceed back out** of the parking lot and **turn right** upon reaching the walking path.

**31. Continue to follow this path** until you reach the Townsend Visitor Center and the Start/Finish Point.

**32.** Along the way, watch for the *Campground United Methodist Church on your right. The church dates back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, when families came from miles around to camp, visit with neighbors and listen to the circuit-riding preachers who typically preached for several days.*

**33.** As you finish your walk, look to the right as you approach the parking lot of the Visitor Center. This is Myers Cemetery, the oldest in Tuckaleechee Cove, dating to the late 1700s.

**34.** Likewise, as you finish your walk, make note of the Blue Star Memorial (**Walking with America's Veterans**) at the Visitor Center parking lot.

**CONGRATULATIONS! You have just completed your 11 km walk.**

Special thanks to the Townsend Visitor Center for use of their facility as our Start/Finish Point. Thanks also to those individuals who had the foresight to develop the bike and walking path that is the Townsend Historic Trail. For more historical information, please pick up a copy of "Shadows of the Past," the Townsend Historical Trail guide.

We encourage you to drive down the road and visit the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center to learn more about the area's history.

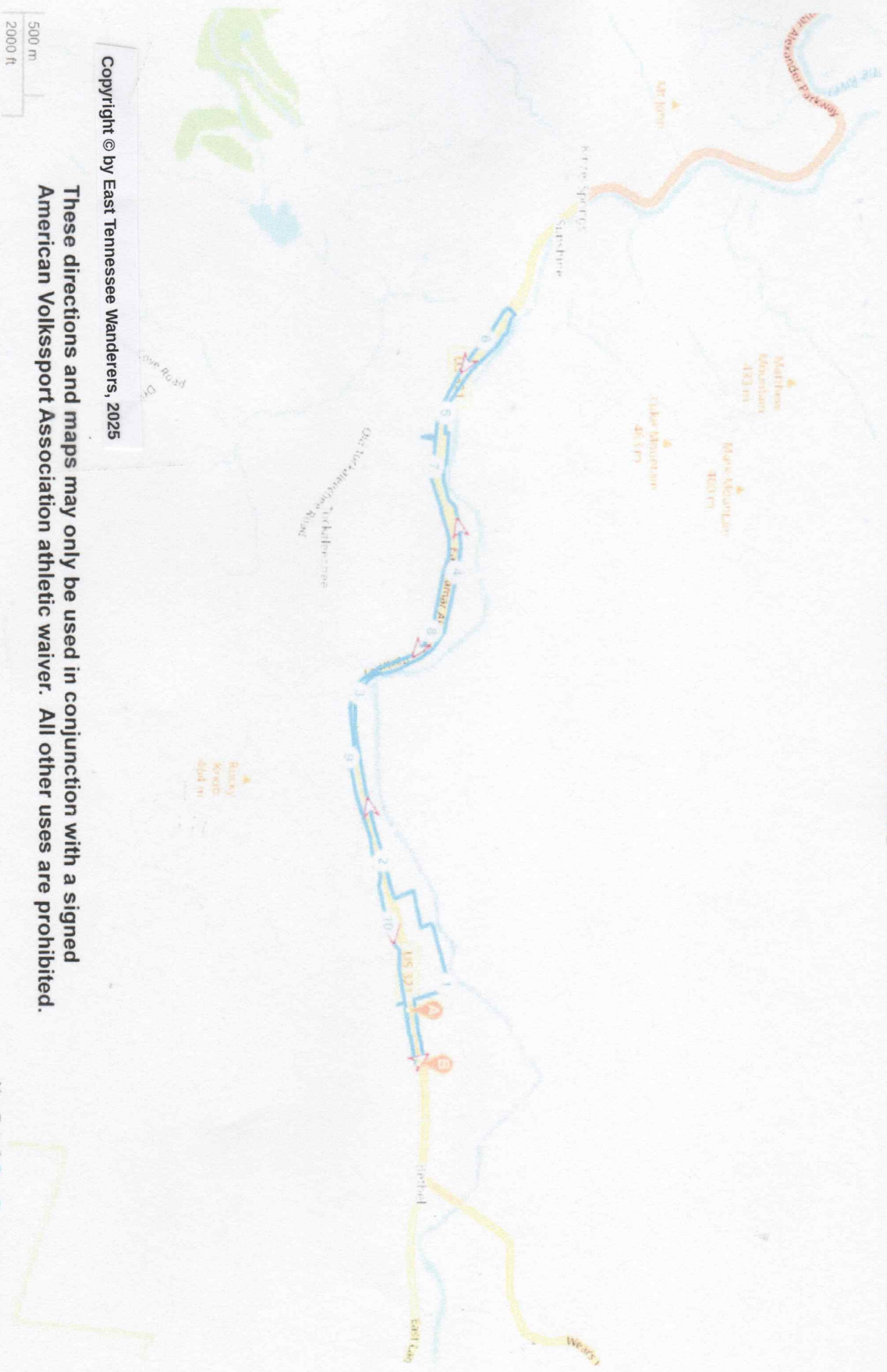
The East Tennessee Wanderers have 16 other YREs in the area: Linda Nelson Memorial Walk, Alcoa-Maryville Greenway Bike), Alcoa-Maryville Extended Greenway, Clinton, Elkmont (Great Smoky Mountain National Park), Fort Loudoun, Gatlinburg (2 walks), Knoxville (3 walks), Maryville, Seven Islands State Birding Park, A.T. Through Tennessee, and Oak Ridge.

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**The East Tennessee Wanderers**  
Peaceful Side of the Smokies Walk ©  
Townsend, TN  
14 KM Walk Rated 2A Y1648

**The trail is NOT marked; please follow these directions.**

1. **Exit** the Visitor Center and **proceed to the right** out of the parking lot and down to the Townsend Historic Trail.
2. **Turn right** on the walking path along Highway 321/ Lamar Alexander Parkway. Watch for a tunnel under the Parkway on the left. You will be using that route to get to the other side of the Parkway when you walk back here. *The farm to your right has been in the Laverne Farmer family for more than 185 years. Laverne's grandfather hauled tan bark to the tannery in Walland and later raised dairy cattle, supplying the CCC camps in Cades Cove, the railroad workers, and others with milk.*
3. Approximately 0.5 km from this tunnel, if you look across Highway 321, you will see the sign that designates Highway 321 through Townsend as "Vietnam Veterans' Highway." (**Walking with America's Veterans**)
4. Continuing along the greenway, notice *Bethel Baptist Church on your right. Organized in 1802, it is believed to be the oldest in the Baptist Association. The church's cemetery is "home" to many of those who make up the history of Townsend*
5. **Turn right** and walk up the driveway to the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center.
6. *The Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center opened in 2006. Its goal is to "preserve, protect and promote the unique history and rich culture of the people who lived in what is now the national park and its surrounding area." If you don't have time to visit now, we encourage you to return to explore the history of this area.*
7. In front of the Heritage Center main building is the Veterans Honor Garden. (**Walking with America's Veterans**)
8. **After visiting the Heritage Center, walk back** down the driveway to the walking path and **turn left** to proceed back the way you came.
9. When you reach the tunnel (see Step 2), **turn right and walk under Highway 321.**
10. **Coming out of the tunnel**, take the walking path to the **left.**
11. **Turn right** at Asher Howard Drive. There are no sidewalks; so please walk on the left facing traffic and walk carefully
12. **Walk along** Asher Howard Drive until you reach Maggie St./Old State Highway 73 East.
13. **Turn left** on Maggie/Old State Hwy 73.
14. **Walk on the left** facing traffic along Old State Highway 73 East. To your right is the Little River.
15. **Watch to your right for the Dark Island Swinging Bridge.** It is one of the last of its kind. Once there were as many as 20 swinging bridges along the Little River providing access between the cottages on other side of the river and the railroad and lumber mills on this side. Challenge your fellow walkers to cross this bridge!
16. **Continue** on Old State Highway 73 East as it **curves to the left** and becomes Depot Ave.
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20. **Turn right** on the trail.
21. As you walk you will see the red Burlington Northern caboose which is now an ice cream shop and the sign for Apple Valley Country Stores.
22. **The route goes off the paved trail to the right onto the Townsend River Walk and Arboretum**, sponsored by the Tuckaleechee Garden Club. While this section is unpaved, you will rejoin the paved trail shortly. If you don't wish to leave the paved trail, just continue on straight.
23. They have done a great job with signage to identify the local trees. They have also created a Monarch Waystation, a garden area to provide food and rest for the Monarch butterflies during their annual migration. See [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org).
24. Shortly after exiting the Townsend River Walk, you will **see another tunnel** under Highway 321. **If you wish to complete the full 14 km, do not take it.**
25. **Continue** along the paved trail.
26. You will soon see the first of the *Archaeology of Tuckaleechee Cove signs. Before the state widened Highway 321 in 1999, archaeologists from the University of Tennessee conducted a 2 ½ year study of this area. Their discoveries covered "more than 5,000 years of human history in Tuckaleechee Cove." Take a moment and read about those discoveries as you come to these signs along the trail.*
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highway, but don't go there yet. You have one more tunnel in your future.

**30.** At the end of the picnic area the trail resumes up next to Highway 321. *Note the Special People's Park with its wheelchair accessible ramp down to the river.*

**31.** *As you walk, take particular note of the sign here about the Tuckaleechee Villages.*

**32.** **Walk down the path to the right**, when you see the "outhouse gathering" across the Parkway.

**33.** **Proceed through the tunnel** under Highway 321.

**34.** **Turn left** as you come out of the tunnel and walk to the entrance to the Apple Valley Country Stores parking lot on the right. You may want to stop first at Cades Cove Cellars for free wine tasting!

**35.** **Turn right** into the Apple Valley Country Stores parking lot and walk to the back of the parking lot. **Water and restrooms are available.** You may want to take a break. Try the fried bologna sandwiches and apple fritters in the Café.

**36.** **Proceed back out** of the parking lot and **turn right** upon reaching the walking path.

**37.** **Continue to follow this path** until you reach the Townsend Visitor Center and the Start/Finish Point.

**38.** Watch for the *Campground United Methodist Church on your right. The church dates back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, when families came from miles around to camp, visit with neighbors and listen to the circuit-riding preachers who typically preached for several days.*

**39.** As you finish your walk, look to the right as you approach the parking lot of the Visitor Center. This is Myers Cemetery, the oldest in Tuckaleechee Cove, dating to the late 1700s.

**40.** Likewise as you finish your walk, make note of the Blue Star Memorial (**Walking with America's Veterans**) at the Visitor Center parking lot.

**CONGRATULATIONS! You have just completed your 14 km walk.**

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We encourage you to drive back to the Smoky Mountain Heritage Center and spend some time. Learn more about the area's history.

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