**Day 5**

**To Cheaha Mountain, AL from Britton Hill** 4.25 hours, 218 miles

**From Open Pond, Alabama:** 3.75 hours, 206 miles.

Head southwest on Co Rd 28 toward Co Rd 102 0.7 mi

Turn right onto Co Rd 102 0.6 mi

Turn right onto AL-137 N

Slight right onto US-29 N

Pass by NAPA Auto Parts - Andalusia Auto Parts Co (on the left in 10.2 mi) 11.3 mi

Use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto US-84 W/River Falls St Continue to follow US-84 W 3.8 mi

Turn right onto AL-55 N 25.9 mi

Continue onto AL-106 1.4 mi

Turn right to **merge onto I-65 N** 58.5 mi

Take exit 173 for North Blvd toward US-231 0.3 mi

Continue onto AL-152 E/Northern Blvd 6.3 mi

Use the right lane to take the US-231 N/AL-21 N ramp to Wetumpka/Maxwell AFB/Gunter Annex 0.2 mi

Use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto AL-21 N/US-231 N/Cong W L Dickinson Dr

Continue to follow AL-21 N/US-231 N 11.6 miles.

**Follow AL-9 N, Clay County 31 and AL-281 N to your destination 1 h 37 min (79.3 mi)**

At Ashland, continue north on Hwy 31 as follows:

Head northeast on AL-9 N toward 3rd Ave S 0.5 mi

Turn right onto AL-77 S/AL-9 N 266 ft

Turn left onto Co Rd 31 269 ft

Turn left onto Co Rd 31/Clay County 31 and Continue to follow Clay County 31 7.1 mi

Turn left onto Highland Rd 0.8 mi

Turn left onto Clairmont Springs Rd 2.3 mi

Turn right onto Blue Ridge Rd 1.1 mi

Continue onto Adams Gap Rd 1.6 mi

Adams Gap Rd turns right and becomes AL-281 N

## Continue 1.3 miles on Cheaha Rd to your destination of Cheaha Lake in Delta.

## Route: Although one can drive to the top of Alabama's Cheaha Mountain, many will want to more fully experience and enjoy it by hiking to its summit. An easy to find and good starting point for a hike is from Cheaha Lake in the State Park. From the corner of the parking lot take the blue blazed Lake Trail up the mountain. This is a steep and rocky trail for the majority of its length, and it offers amazing views along the way and even a couple of fresh/cold creeks to cool off in. The blue blazed trail is only about one mile long but gains around 1000 vertical feet. As you leave the blue blazed trail you should come out between cabins #1 and #2. Continue in a straight line watching for a large rock engraved with the word "CUSTODIAN" which you will come to within a 100 yards or less. At "CUSTODIAN" take a right onto the road, and simple follow the road to the top.

## Alternatively once you reach the end of the blue blazed trail watch for the Mountain Laurel trail (Pink Marker) at the scenic area. Follow the Mountain Laurel trail to the upper campground then cut through the woods to the observation tower and then back down to the lake. 3.6 miles total.

## Cheaha (meaning "high place" in the Creek Indian language) is located in the Talladega National Forest at 2,407 feet, the highest point in Alabama. Sitting atop the mountain is a campground, hotel and a state operated convenience store. Nevertheless, there is still good rock climbing with some excellent views to be found here.

## Camping: There is excellent camping available throughout the park. Primitive campsites are available for a small fee. However, if you camp at the southern end of the park or near the lake, there is no charge. (There will never be a short supply of nice places to pitch a tent.) If you have questions about where to camp, ask one of the park rangers since they are especially helpful here.

## Park Headquarters: (256) 488-5111