

Photos: Riding the Back of the Dragon draws tourists to Tazewell

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Back of the Dragon is a tourism initiative to draw motorcycle riders and sports car drivers to a curvy, 32-mile scenic trip along Virginia 16 between Marion and the town of Tazewell. The route through Smyth and Tazewell counties crosses Walker, Brushy and Clinch mountains and passes through the scenic Thompson Valley.

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Above: Motorcyclists gather on the last weekend of June at the kudzu-covered overlook in Tazewell County where views of several mountain ranges can be seen along Back of the Dragon. **Top:** Jesse Carroll of Bassett rides his 2016 Ducati following his friends, David Arrington and Cindy Blair from Axton, on their motorcycle along the road.

Photos by STEPHANIE KLEIN-DAVIS | The Roanoke Times