

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area



Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
Western North Carolina
www.blueridgeheritage.com



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
www.nps.gov



Photo courtesy of Bill Lea

The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area: A unique natural and cultural treasure.

The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area comprises the 25 westernmost counties and the Qualla Boundary (Cherokee Indian Reservation) in the state of North Carolina. The region encompasses nearly 11,000 square miles of mountains, forests, lakes, streams, small towns, farms and fields. In designating Western North Carolina as a National Heritage Area in 2003, Congress recognized the cultural and natural resources of the region that played a significant role in the history of the United States and the state of North Carolina.

Discover the natural scenic beauty of the mountains, foothills and forests of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area.

Two of the most visited national parklands in the country lie within the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area — the **Great Smoky Mountains National Park** and the **Blue Ridge Parkway**, known as "America's Favorite Drive." The **Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest** in the **Nantahala National Forest** preserves one of the largest stands of old growth trees in the Eastern United States. The highest mountain east of the Mississippi River, **Mount Mitchell**, soars above the **Pisgah National Forest** and is one of the

many state parks located within the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area. The famed **Appalachian Trail** stretches for 88 miles through the Nantahala National Forest, Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Pisgah National Forest within the boundaries of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area. Throughout the region visitors are enchanted by exquisite waterways and waterfalls, scenic byways and breathtaking mountain views.



Biltmore Estate

Photo courtesy of Biltmore®

Museums, heritage sites and America's largest home.

More than 100 museums and heritage sites reflect the history, culture and arts of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area. Among them is **Biltmore Estate**, known worldwide as "America's Largest Home." Located in Asheville, the estate was built

by wealthy industrialist George W. Vanderbilt in the late 1800s. It is now operated as a private attraction that includes the mansion, gardens, vineyards, historic farm, crafts and music performances.

Farming traditions preserve a beloved land.

For thousands of years, Native Americans cultivated the fertile valleys of the North Carolina mountains, raising the "three sisters" — corn, beans and squash — which were the staples of their diet. After the Revolutionary War, European and African immigrants brought their own farming traditions into the region, but also adopted many of the Cherokee ways.

More than 30 wineries open to the public in the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, many of which are located in the state's only two American Viticultural Areas. (See map and Web site on back.)

Today, farmers and conservationists throughout the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area strive to maintain these agricultural traditions, resulting in a resurgence in locally grown food and the preservation of scenic agricultural landscapes.

Traditional crops continue to be cultivated along with many newer introductions — specialty crops such as Christmas trees, ornamentals, mushrooms, herbs and grapes. Viticulture (vineyards and winemaking) is among the region's fastest growing agricultural enterprises. There are more



Avery County Christmas tree farm

Photo courtesy of High Country Host

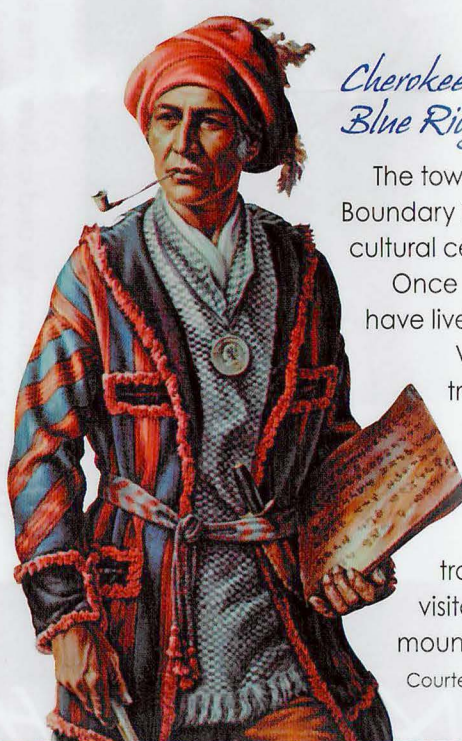
Cherokee culture thrives in the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area.

The town of Cherokee, located within the Qualla Boundary in the far western part of the state, is the cultural center of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Once the largest of all Southern tribes, the Cherokee have lived in these mountains for thousands of years.

Visitors can learn about the history and cultural traditions of the Cherokee at the **Museum of the Cherokee Indian**, the **Oconoluftee Indian Village** living history exhibit and the outdoor drama, **Unto These Hills**.

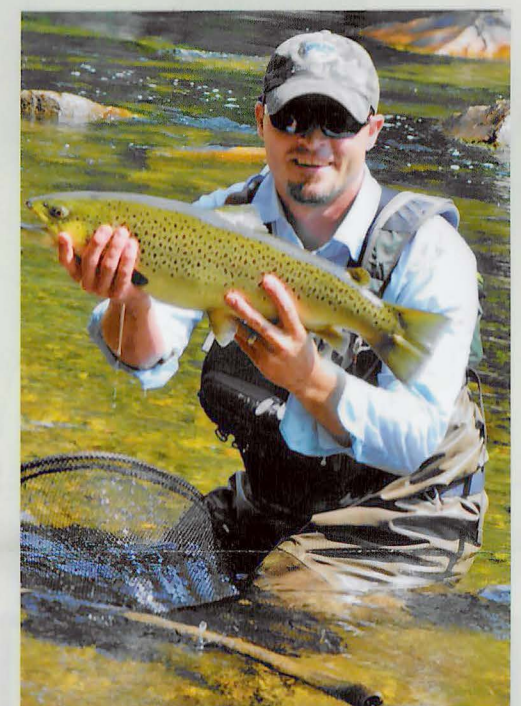
Balancing the modern world with ancient traditions, the Cherokee welcome millions of visitors each year while stewarding the delicate mountain landscape that is their ancestral home.

Courtesy of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation



Outdoor adventures abound in the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area.

Hiking, biking, fishing, birding, rock climbing, paddling and snow skiing draw outdoor enthusiasts to the area. The Nantahala, French Broad, Nolichucky and Green rivers are among the region's waterways offering whitewater rafting, kayaking, canoeing and other water sports. Ski slopes of the High Country and the Cataloochee and Sapphire Valley regions beckon winter sports buffs. Bikers and hikers will find hundreds of miles of first-rate trails winding through the forests and alongside the rivers and streams. The minerals found throughout the region are famous worldwide, and visitors can hunt for treasures at the many gem mines in the area.



Photos courtesy of Jackson County Travel & Tourism, High Country Host, Nantahala Outdoor Center



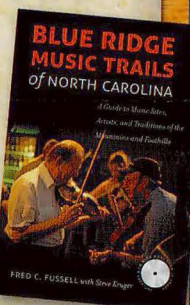
Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina

Discover the music that was born and bred in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains and foothills



Discover the music that was born and bred in these ancient mountains along the Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina. Make a stop at **BlueRidgeMusicNC.com** where you'll find a full calendar of festivals, concerts, jam sessions, and more to help you explore the region's rich heritage of traditional music.

You can also purchase a copy of **Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina**, a companion guidebook and CD showcasing influential musicians, stories behind the music, and many authentic, off the beaten path music experiences.



The Blue Ridge Music Trails is a program of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area in partnership with the North Carolina Arts Council.



Blue Ridge Parkway / Linville Viaduct

Handcrafts and mountain music reflect the heart of Southern Appalachian culture.

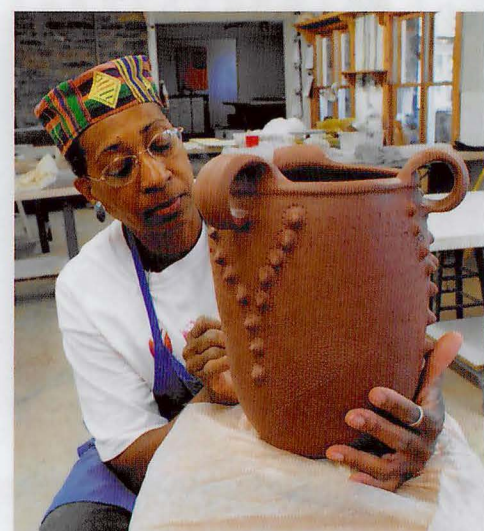
Immigrant settlers brought with them their native cultural traditions, many of which blended over time into the unique culture of the Blue Ridge. These traditions, especially in handcrafts and music, have been passed down through generations and still thrive today.

The **John C. Campbell Folk School** in Brasstown and **Penland School of Crafts** near Spruce Pine play important roles in preserving the arts and crafts traditions of the region.

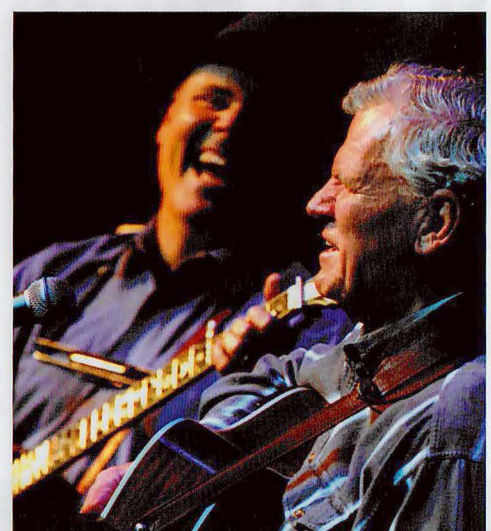
The **Southern Highland Craft Guild**, one of the nation's premier craft organizations, is headquartered in the region.

The **Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual** in Cherokee represents more than 300 artists who create baskets, pottery, woodcarving, beadwork, jewelry, masks, dolls and other items of Cherokee traditional art.

A fertile meeting ground for European and African music traditions, the North Carolina mountains still ring with the sounds of the fiddle, banjo, string bands and cloggers, which can be heard everywhere from front porches to festival stages and town squares. The music includes lively strains of old-time, bluegrass, ballad singing, blues and sacred music.



Crafter at Penland School of Crafts
Photo courtesy of Penland School of Crafts



David Holt and Doc Watson at MerleFest
Photo courtesy of BanjoMan



Learn more about all there is to see and do in the North Carolina mountains and foothills!

www.BlueRidgeHeritage.com

Escape. Refresh. Discover.

Welcome to the Blue Ridge, a place unlike any other on earth, where ancient landscapes enchant the eye and age-old traditions warm the heart. As you travel through the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, you'll encounter waves of blue-misted mountains, graceful waterfalls and welcoming smiles from people who are proud of their rich cultural traditions. This is the Blue Ridge, where you can get away from it all, refresh your spirit, and discover one of the most beautiful and unique landscapes in America.



The Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center
Home offices of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership

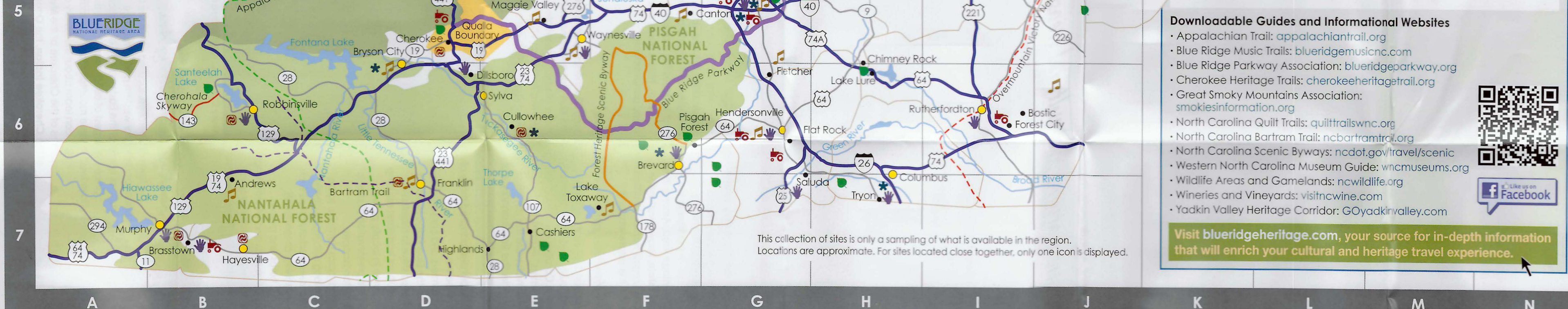
Located in Asheville at Parkway milepost 384. High-definition movie in surround sound, exhibits, information desks and gift shop. Open 9-5 daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. 828-298-5330 BlueRidgeHeritage.com

The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area: A region of national significance

Here, you'll find...

- Some of the oldest mountains in the world: The Appalachians
- The highest mountain east of the Mississippi: Mount Mitchell
- The deepest gorge in the Eastern United States: Linville Gorge
- The oldest river in North America: New River
- The most visited national park lands in the country: Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway
- The first school of forestry in America: Cradle of Forestry National Historic Site
- America's largest home: Biltmore Estate
- The Southeast's most popular whitewater river: Nantahala River

- Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail
- Appalachian National Scenic Trail
- Bartram Trail
- US Highways & Interstates
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Forest Heritage Scenic Byway
- Cherokee Skyway
- County or State Roads



Visit Our Host Groups

These organizations are great resources for finding accommodations, attractions, restaurants, shopping and more.

- High Country Host**
highcountryhost.com
- Blue Ridge Mountain Host**
ncblueridge.com
- Smoky Mountain Host**
visitsmokies.org

Downloadable Guides and Informational Websites

- Appalachian Trail: appalachiantrail.org
- Blue Ridge Music Trails: blueridgemusicnc.com
- Blue Ridge Parkway Association: blueridgeparkway.org
- Cherokee Heritage Trails: cherokeheritagetraill.org
- Great Smoky Mountains Association: smokiesinformation.org
- North Carolina Quilt Trails: quilttrailswnc.org
- North Carolina Bartram Trail: ncbartramtrail.org
- North Carolina Scenic Byways: ncdot.gov/travel/scenic
- Western North Carolina Museum Guide: wncmuseums.org
- Wildlife Areas and Gamelands: ncwildlife.org
- Wineries and Vineyards: visitscwinery.com
- Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor: GOyadkinvalley.com

Visit blueridgeheritage.com, your source for in-depth information that will enrich your cultural and heritage travel experience.

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area

The unique character and culture of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area are built on its traditions of agriculture, craft and music, its natural beauty, and the ancient heritage of the Cherokee. Visit our website, BlueRidgeHeritage.com, for more information about heritage sites and attractions.

SITE	TOWN	PHONE	GRID
NATURAL HERITAGE SITES			
BR Parkway Visitor Center	Parkway MP 384	828-298-5330	G5
Chimney Rock State Park	Chimney Rock	800-277-9611	H6
Cradle of Forestry	Pisgah Forest	828-877-3130	F6
Craggy Gardens	Parkway MP 364.6	NA	H4
Doughton Park	Parkway MP 238.5	NA	I1
Dupont State Forest	Near Hendersonville	828-877-6527	G7
Elk Knob State Park	Near Todd	828-297-7261	J2
Gorges State Park	Near Cashiers	828-966-9099	E7
Grandfather Mountain	Near Linville	828-733-4337	J3
Great Smoky Mountains National Park/Oconalufee Visitor Center	Near Cherokee	828-497-1904	D5
Holmes Educational State Forest	Near Hendersonville	828-692-0100	G6
Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest	Near Robbinsville	828-479-6431	B6
Julian Price Memorial Park	Parkway MP 295	828-963-5911	J3
Lake James State Park	Near Marion	828-584-7728	I4
Linville Caverns	Marion	828-756-4171	I4
Linville Gorge Wilderness & Falls	Parkway MP 316.4	NA	I3
Mount Mitchell State Park	Near Burnsville	828-675-4611	H4
Mount Jefferson State Park	West Jefferson	336-246-9653	K1
Museum of NC Minerals	Parkway MP 331	828-765-2761	I4
New River State Park	Near Marion	336-982-2587	K1
Pearson's Falls	Saluda	828-749-3031	H7
Pilot Mountain State Park	Pinnacle	336-325-2355	N1
Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education	Near Brevard	828-877-4423	F6
Rendezvous Mountain State Forest	Near N. Wilkesboro	336-667-5072	L2
Roan Mountain State Park	Near Bakersville	423-772-3303	I3

SITE	TOWN	PHONE	GRID
South Mountains State Park	Near Morganton	828-433-4772	J5
Stone Mountain State Park	Near Sparta	336-921-3750	L1
W. Kerr Scott Environmental Education Center	Near Wilkesboro	336-921-3750	I3
Whitewater Falls	Near Cashiers	NA	E7
WNC Nature Center	Asheville	828-259-8080	G5
CRAFT HERITAGE SITES			
Appalachian Heritage Crafters	Murphy	828-835-3500	B7
Ashe Arts Center	West Jefferson	336-846-2787	K1
Black Mountain Center for the Arts	Black Mountain	828-669-0930	G5
Burke Arts Gallery	Morganton	828-433-7282	J4
Caldwell Arts Council Gallery	Lenoir	828-754-2486	K3
Center for Craft, Creativity & Design	Asheville	828-785-1357	G6
Dogwood Crafters	Disboro	828-586-2248	D6
Energy Xchange	Burnsville	828-675-5541	H3
Florence Art School	West Jefferson	336-846-3827	K2
Folk Art Center	Parkway MP 382	828-298-7928	G5
Guild Crafts	Asheville	828-298-7903	G5
Hearthwood Gallery	Saluda	828-749-9365	G7
Hickory Ridge Living History Museum (seasonal)	Boone	828-264-2120	J2
John C. Campbell Folk School	Brasstown	800-365-5724	B7
McDowell Arts Council Gallery	Marion	828-652-8610	I5
Mountain Made	Asheville	828-350-0307	G5
Museum of North Carolina Handicrafts	Waynesville	828-452-1551	E5
Northwest Trading Post	Parkway MP 258.6	336-982-2543	K2
Number 7 Arts	Brevard	828-883-2294	F6
Old Depot Gallery	Black Mountain	828-669-6583	G5
Parkway Craft Center at Moses Cone Manor	Parkway MP 294	828-295-7938	J3
Penland School of Crafts	Penland	828-765-2359	I3

SITE	TOWN	PHONE	GRID
Rockford General Store	Rockford	828-334-5317	N2
Rutherford County Visual Artists Guild	Rutherfordton	828-288-5009	I6
South Mountain Crafts	Morganton	828-433-2607	J4
Steckoah Valley Arts and Cultural Center	Robbinsville	828-479-3364	B6
The Market on Oak	Spruce Pine	828-765-0571	I3
Toe River Arts Gallery	Burnsville	828-682-7215	H3
Toe River Arts Gallery	Spruce Pine	828-765-0520	I3
Transylvania Community Arts Council	Brevard	828-884-2787	F6
Tryon Arts & Crafts	Tryon	828-859-8323	H7
Valdese Heritage Arts Center	Valdese	828-874-1849	J4
Valley River Arts Guild	Murphy	828-321-9541	I7
Weaving Room and Gallery	Crossnore	828-733-4660	B3
Yadkin Valley Craft Guild	Elkin	336-835-2717	M2
MUSIC HERITAGE SITES			
Alleghany Jubilee	Sparta	336-200-4949	L1
Bryson City Depot	Bryson City	800-872-4681	D6
Canton Pickin' in the Park	Canton	828-648-2363	F5
Fletcher Feed & Seed	Fletcher	828-216-3492	G5
Andrews	Andrews	828-361-6878	B7
Jimmy's Pick n Grin	Andrews	828-361-6878	B7
Lake Toxaway Community Center	Lake Toxaway	828-966-4060	F7
Maggie Valley Opry House	Maggie Valley	828-926-9336	E5
Marion Depot Bluegrass	Marion	828-652-3351	I5
Marshall Railroad Depot	Marshall	828-206-2332	G4
Monday Night Street Dance in Downtown Hendersonville	Hendersonville	800-828-4244	G6
Mountain Street Dance	Waynesville	828-456-3517	E5
O'Henry's Restaurant	East Bend	336-699-8693	N1
Old-Time Music Heritage Hall/EARLE Theater	Mount Airy	336-786-7998	M2
Pickin' on the Square	Franklin	828-524-2516	D7

SITE	TOWN	PHONE	GRID
Reading's Country Kitchen	Ronda	336-984-3455	M2
Shindig on the Green	Asheville	828-258-6101	G5
Sims Country Bar-B-Que	Granite Falls	828-396-5811	K4
The Jones House	Boone	828-262-4576	J2
The Old Rock School	Valdese	828-879-2129	J4
Todd Mercantile	Todd	336-877-5401	J2
Wilkes Heritage Museum	Wilkesboro	336-667-3171	L3
Woodlands Barbeque and Pickin' Parlor	Blowing Rock	828-295-3651	J3
Woody's Original Mountain Music	Marion	828-724-4158	I5
Yung's Mountain Music	Burnsville	828-675-4365	H3
Zuma's Coffeehouse	Marshall	828-649-1617	G4
CHEROKEE HERITAGE SITES			
Cherokee County Historical Museum	Murphy	828-837-6792	B7
Cherokee Homestead Exhibit	Hayesville	828-389-3704	B7
Cherokee Welcome Center	Cherokee	800-438-1601	D5
Clay County Historical & Arts Council Old Jail Museum	Hayesville	828-389-6814	B7
Judaculla Rock	Near Cullowhee	NA	E6
Junaluska Memorial & Museum	Robbinsville	828-479-4727	B6
Mingo Falls	Cherokee	NA	D5
Nikwas Mound	Franklin	NA	D7
Museum of the Cherokee Indian	Cherokee	828-497-3481	D5
Oconalufee Indian Village	Cherokee	866-554-4557	D5
Oconalufee Visitor Center	GSMNP	828-497-1904	D5
Qualla Arts and Crafts	Cherokee	828-497-3103	D5
Unto These Hills (outdoor drama)	Cherokee	866-554-4557	D5
AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SITES			
Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site	Flat Rock	828-693-4178	G6
Henderson County Farmers Curb Market	Hendersonville	828-692-8012	G6

SITE	TOWN	PHONE	GRID
Historic Johnson Farm	Hendersonville	828-891-6585	G6
Home Creek Living Historical Farm	Pinnacle	336-325-2298	N1
Mountain Farm & Home Museum	Hendersonville	828-697-8846	G6
Mountain Farm Museum/Mingus Mill	Near Oconalufee Visitor Center/GSMNP	828-497-1904	D5
NC Arboretum	Asheville	828-665-2492	G5
Orchard at Altapass	Parkway MP 328.3	888-765-9531	I4
Rutherford County Farm Museum	Forest City	828-248-1248	M6
Vance Birthplace State Historical Site	Weaverville	828-645-6706	G5
Whippoorwill Academy and Tom Dooley Museum	Ferguson	336-973-3237	K3
WNC Farmers Market	Asheville	828-253-1691	G5
OTHER SITES			
Basilica of Saint Lawrence	Asheville	828-252-6042	G5
Ben Long Frescoes	Multiple	HS 13, J4, K1, H2, L3	G5
Biltmore Estate	Asheville	800-411-3812	G5
Brevard Music Center (classical)	Brevard	828-862-2100	F6
Catawba Meadows Interpretive Center	Morganton	828-439-2463	J4
Foothills Equestrian Nature Center	Tryon	828-859-9021	H7
Great Smoky Mountains Railroad	Bryson City	800-872-4681	D6
Horn in the West	Boone	828-264-2120	J2
Mountain Gateway Museum	Old Fort	828-668-9259	H5
Mountain Heritage Center	Cullowhee	828-227-7129	E6
Thomas Wolfe Memorial State Historic Site	Asheville	828-253-8304	G5
Tweetsie Railroad	Blowing Rock	800-526-5740	J2
YMI Cultural Center	Asheville	828-252-4614	G5