72ND Edition

Blue Ridge Parkway

www.blueridgeparkway.org

TRAVEL PLANNER



Roanoke Star and Overlook

Roanoke, VA
Exit at Milepost 90 - 121



Biltmore

Asheville, NC
Exit at Milepost 388.8



Grandfather Mountain

Linville, NC
Exit at Milepost 305.1

The Most Visited Unit Of The

National Park Service

You'll find opportunities for recreation, hiking, bicycling, picnicking, camping, wildlife viewing and much more.

Official Publication of the Blue Ridge Parkway Association



CHIMNEY ROCK AT CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK

Chimney Rock, NC
Page 75

Follow us for more Blue Ridge Parkway information and resources:

- www.blueridgeparkway.org
- www.twitter.com/BRParkwayAssoc
- www.facebook.com/blueridgeparkwayassociation
- www.instagram.com/blueridgeparkwayassociation



Blue Ridge Parkway Travel Planner App

"AMERICA'S FAVORITE DRIVE" AT YOUR FINGERTIPS... 469 miles of scenic places, historic sites, lodging, outdoor recommendations and more delivered directly to your smartphone.

FREE DOWNLOAD HERE!

Planned and developed in cooperation with the Blue Ridge Parkway – National Park Service.

The 72nd Edition

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY ASSOCIATION, INC.
P. O. BOX 2136, ASHEVILLE, NC 28802
(828) 670-1924
www.blueridgeparkway.org • info@blueridgeparkway.org
COPYRIGHT 2021
NO PORTION OF THIS GUIDE OR ITS MAPS
MAY BE REPRINTED WITHOUT PERMISSION.
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED • PRINTED IN THE USA.
***Some Parkway photographs by*: Alex Armstrong, William A. Bake, Matt Celko, Vicki Dameron, Jeff Greenberg and Douglas Tate.**
© Blue Ridge Parkway Association
Layout/Design: Imagewerks Productions: Flat Rock, NC

This free Travel Planner is published by the member supported Blue Ridge Parkway Association to help you more fully enjoy your Parkway area vacation. Members representing attractions, outdoor recreation, accommodations, restaurants, shops, and a variety of other services essential to the traveler are included in this publication.

PROMOTING TOURISM FOR MORE THAN 70 YEARS

When you visit their place of business, please let them know you found them in the Blue Ridge Parkway Travel Planner. This will help us ensure the availability of another Travel Planner for your next visit to the Parkway area.

As an official partner agency of the Blue Ridge Parkway -National Park Service, our association is committed to providing trustworthy visitor information across print, web and mobile platforms in cooperation with an active membership of regional travel partners, local businesses and attractions along the scenic corridor of the Shenandoah National Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in the tri-state region of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee.

Distribution of the Travel Planner does not imply endorsement by the National Park Service of the businesses or commercial services listed.

Travel-related businesses in the region served by the Blue Ridge Parkway, Shenandoah National Park and Great Smoky Mountains National Park are eligible for membership. This includes hotels, motels, resorts, restaurants, chambers of commerce, merchants associations, banks, public utilities, manufacturers, retail and wholesale businesses, and travel attractions of all kinds.

To join the Blue Ridge Parkway Association go to www.blueridgeparkway.org/join or email: info@blueridgeparkway.org or call (828) 670-1924

tripadvisor® Hall of Fame



Photo by Alex Armstrong

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the National Park Service 4
Parkway Milepost 5-23
About the Parkway 24
Grand View of the Stars 25
Virginia is for Motorcycle Lovers 26

Northern Gateway to the Blue Ridge Parkway
Shenandoah National Park Region 28

Blue Ridge Parkway:

Ridge Region: Milepost 0 – Milepost 106 34
Plateau Region: Milepost 106 – Milepost 217 42
Blue Ridge Parkway Map: Milepost 0 – Milepost 469. 50-51
Highlands Region: Milepost 217 – Milepost 340. 56
Pisgah Region: Milepost 340 – Milepost 469 73

Southern Gateway to the Blue Ridge Parkway
Great Smoky Mountains National Park Region 88

Index by City/County 97

Mileposts:

Along the Parkway, you will see numbered Mileposts. The 0 Milepost marker is at Rockfish Gap immediately south of Shenandoah National Park. Each mile is numbered progressively southward on the Parkway to its southernmost point at milepost 469 at Cherokee.



Photo by William A. Bake

Blue Ridge Parkway Superintendent's Message



Tracy Swartout

National Park Service Mission Statement

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Welcome to the Blue Ridge Parkway!

In May of 2021, I was named superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway, after 21 years with the National Park Service and a lifetime of trips and memories set in this beautiful and captivating park. It is truly an honor for me to come to the Parkway and serve in a place that I have loved for so many years.

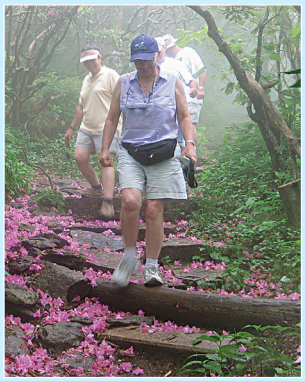
My hope for you is that you come to love this place as much as I do; there is certainly much about the Parkway to love. Whether you are enjoying a scenic drive, a meal at one of the park's four restaurants, a stay at one of the park's eight campgrounds, a picnic in one of your favorite spots, a strenuous hike, a visit to one of the many charming communities along the route, or a concert of traditional Blue Ridge music, the Parkway truly has something for everyone.

As a historic infrastructure park, the 469-mile route and adjacent landscape were intentionally designed to provide grand views, scenic landscapes, and along the way, plenty of opportunities to stop and stretch for a few minutes or a few days. This scenic route is considered an engineering feat, designed in the 1930s and built over a 52-year period. What's fascinating too, is that so many of the things that make the Parkway such a well-loved and engaging place, also translate into complex management strategies. From water and wastewater treatment plants, tractor operations, law enforcement dispatch services, and a host of other infrastructure and services that support the Parkway experience, there's more to this park than meets the eye. It is a privilege to do this important work with the NPS mission in mind.

I also want to encourage you to think about your role in this stewardship mission during your time on the Blue Ridge Parkway. By staying on official, designated trails, driving safely, disposing of trash properly, and recreating responsibly, your actions will make a difference for both future park visitors and the vulnerable species of plants and animals that call this scenic park home. Thank you in advance for taking this shared stewardship responsibility seriously. We can meet this mission better together.

Enjoy the View. Watch the Road.

Tracy Swartout



Craggy Gardens



THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

Something for Everyone

For visitors in search of novelty and adventure, the Blue Ridge area provides an unparalleled diversity of experiences. There's so much to see and do that no two visits are ever the same.

Outstanding scenery and recreational opportunities make the Blue Ridge Parkway one of the most popular units of the National Park system. Winding its way through 469 miles of mountains and meadows, the Parkway connects Shenandoah National Park at milepost 0 in Virginia with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park at milepost 469 in North Carolina.

Nature lovers will find majestic mountain vistas and scenic drives, outstanding hiking, biking, and equestrian trails, world-class whitewater and waterfalls, excellent campsites and fishing streams, and an incredible diversity of plant and animal life in the region's abundant protected forests and parks.

Those searching for cultural experiences and historical connections will discover a land rich in living traditions of music, craft and culture. Split rail fences, old farmsteads and historic structures complement spectacular views of distant mountains and neighboring valleys.

The Parkway incorporates several recreation areas, some exceeding 6,000 acres. These sites within the Parkway have visitor centers, campgrounds, picnic areas, trails and, in many instances, concessioner-operated lodges, restaurants and other facilities.

The Parkway offers something for everyone. To make the most of your visit, stop at any of the area's visitor information centers and you will quickly see why it is often called "America's Favorite Drive".





Blue Ridge Music Center



To make the most of your visit, stop at any of the area's visitor information centers to see why the Parkway is often called "America's Favorite Drive".

The Parkway offers a myriad of opportunities for enjoying all that makes these mountains so special. Here are a few destinations you won't want to miss:



MP 5.8

Humpback Rocks

Hike to the famed rock outcropping high on the mountain to enjoy the magnificent view or stroll through the farm museum and imagine scratching out a living in the rocky soil here. Traditional lifestyle demonstrations occur seasonally.

Highlights: *Visitor center and museum, historic farm, hiking trails, picnic area.*

See page 35



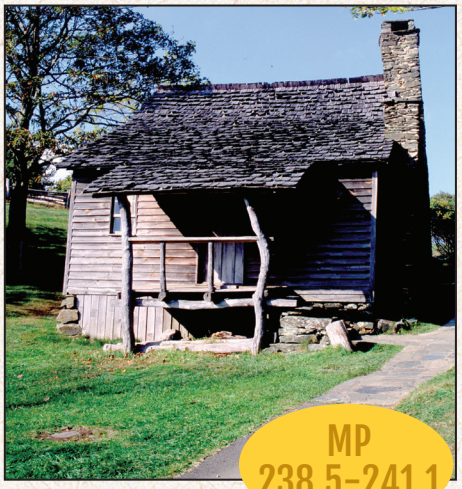
MP 167.1–176.3

Rocky Knob & Mabry Mill

The sights and sounds of rural life in Appalachia resonate throughout the Rocky Knob area during the summer and fall. Stop by Mabry Mill to view corn being ground, enjoy cultural demonstrations, or tap your toes to traditional mountain music on Sunday afternoons.

Highlights: *Visitor center, historic mill, cultural demonstrations, summer concerts, hiking trails, campground, picnic area, restaurant.*

See page 47



MP 238.5–241.1

Doughton Park

Many visitors and locals alike call this area "their favorite Parkway spot". Appalachian history comes to life among the ridgetop meadows and steep mountainsides here. Hike 30 miles of trails, visit Brinegar Cabin, and stop for a bite at Bluffs Restaurant. **Highlights:** *Visitor center, Brinegar Cabin, Bluffs Restaurant, hiking trails, campground, picnic area.* ***See page 58***



MP 85.9

Peaks of Otter

Stunning mountain views, cool summer temperatures, and amazing natural resources have enticed visitors to Peaks of Otter for centuries. Climb to the rocky peak of Sharp Top, run your fingers through a black bear's pelt at the Nature Center, or simply relax on the shore of Abbott Lake.

Highlights: *Visitor center, nature center, historic lodge, Polly Wood's Ordinary, Johnson Farm, hiking trails, campground, picnic area, restaurant.* ***See page 40***



MP 213

Blue Ridge Music Center

Music is a natural part of these mountains. Traditional folk music and dance has been created and kept alive in this region over the decades. Here visitors can explore the interactive Roots of American Music museum and enjoy live music daily from May through October. **Highlights:** *Visitor center and museum, live folk music and jam sessions, hiking trails.* ***See page 55***



MP 292.7–295.8

Moses H. Cone Memorial Park

Moses H. Cone fashioned a textile empire by bringing denim production to the south in the late 1800s. He and his wife Bertha built Flat Top Manor as a summer retreat at the turn of the 20th century. Come explore the manor or stroll along 25 miles of carriage trails on the estate.

Highlights: *Visitor center, craft store, historic estate and grounds, hiking trails, horseback riding.* ***See page 66***



Julian Price Memorial Park

MP 296.4–298.6

Julian Price established one of the nation's largest insurance companies and purchased this land in the 1930s as a recreational retreat for his employees. Visitors today find opportunities to explore the mountains by camping, picnicking, and canoeing and fishing on Price Lake. **Highlights:** *Hiking trails, canoeing, fishing, campground, picnic area.* ***See page 66***



The Museum of North Carolina Minerals

MP 330.9

Discover the area's rich mineral resources and mining heritage with hands-on, interactive exhibits to explore the creation of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the region's wide variety of minerals. **Highlights:** *Visitor center and museum.* ***See page 71***



Mount Pisgah

MP 407.6

Reach new heights in the high country of Mount Pisgah, the birthplace of forestry. Hike historic trails, spend the night at the Parkway's highest campground or lodge, and be sure to catch the sunrise. **Highlights:** *Historic lodge, hiking trails, campground, picnic area, restaurant.* ***See page 81***



Linn Cove Viaduct

MP 304

The rugged slopes of Grandfather Mountain challenged engineers as they completed this last section of the Parkway in 1987. A world renowned marvel of engineering the viaduct was painstakingly designed to protect the ecologically sensitive slopes of the mountain. **Highlights:** *Visitor center, historic architecture/ Parkway design, hiking trails.* ***See page 66.***



Craggy Gardens

MP 364.1

These high elevation summits are home to spectacular rhododendron displays in May and early June, and to a unique forest of gnarled and twisted trees that have been shaped by harsh weather. **Highlights:** *Visitor center, hiking trails, rhododendron blooms, picnic area.* ***See page 74.***



Waterrock Knob

MP 451.2

It feels as if you can touch the clouds at the southernmost and highest elevation visitor center on the Parkway. Come prepared for cooler weather and spend time enjoying mountain views that stretch to the horizon. For an unforgettable experience, pause to watch a sunrise or sunset. **Highlights:** Visitor center, hiking trails. ***See page 86.***



Linville Falls

MP 316.4

The Linville River flows from its headwaters high on the steep slopes of Grandfather Mountain and cascades through two falls as it begins a nearly 2,000 foot descent through this rugged and spectacularly beautiful gorge. **Highlights:** *Visitor center, waterfalls, hiking trails, campground, picnic area.* ***See page 69.***



Folk Art Center

MP 382

Tucked inside the Folk Art Center you will find a National Park Service visitor information counter as well as a large array of regional crafts created by members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild. Craft demonstrations provide the chance to meet the artists at work. **Highlights:** *Visitor center and folk art exhibition hall, hiking trails.* ***See page 76***



Parkway Visitor Center in Asheville

MP 384.5

Watch an orientation video and learn how to make the most of your visit to the Parkway and region at this visitor center. View exhibits featuring the unique Parkway design and construction, the natural and cultural history, and recreational opportunities of the Blue Ridge. **Highlights:** *Visitor center and park film, National Heritage Area information and hiking trails.* ***See page 74***

The designed landscape of the Parkway offers hundreds of spectacular views. To best enjoy these views, get out of your vehicle or off your motorcycle and use the Parkway's many overlooks.

PLACES TO PAUSE...

Check www.nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/eatingsleeping.htm for availability of food and lodging

	Milepost	Visitor Center	Exhibits	Programs	Restrooms	Picnic Areas	Camping
Humpback Rocks	5.8	H	H	HP	H	X	
Otter Creek	60.9			H	HP		HP
James River	63.8	H	H	X	X	X	
Peaks of Otter*	85.9	H	H	H	H	HP	HP
Explore Park VC	115	H	H		H		
Roanoke Mountain	120.4			H	H	HP	
Rocky Knob	169	H		HP	HP	HP	HP
Mabry Mill **	176.2		HP	HP	HP		
Groundhog Mountain	188.8				HP	H	
Blue Ridge Music Ctr	213	H	H	H	H		
Cumberland Knob	217.5		HP		HP	HP	
Doughton Park **	241	H	HP	HP	HP	HP	HP
NW Trading Post	258.6				H		
Jeffress Park	272				HP	HP	
Moses Cone Park	294	H	H	H	H		
Price Park	297.1			H	HP	HP	HP
Linn Cove Viaduct	304.4	H	H		H		
Linville Falls	316.4	H	H	X	HP	HP	HP
Minerals Museum	331	H	H	H	H		
Crabtree Campground	339.5				HP	HP	HP
Craggy Gardens	364.5	H	H	X	X	HP	
Folk Art Center	382	H	H	H	H	H	
Parkway Visitor Ctr.	384	H	H	H	H	H	
Mt Pisgah*	408.6			HP	HP	HP	HP
Waterrock Knob	451.2	H	H	H	H	HP	

H – Wheelchair Accessible. HP – Accessible with Assistance.
X – Not Handicapped Accessible.
* - Lodging and Dining Available. ** - Dining Available.



Gas Availability

No gasoline is available on the Parkway. Gas is available not far off the Parkway at any of these US or State Highway intersections:

VIRGINIA

MP 0 – less than 3 miles west on US 250
MP 27.2 – 3 miles east on VA 56
MP 45.6 – less than 5 miles west on US 60
MP 63.7 – less than 1 mile south on US 501
MP 90.9 – less than 5 miles north on VA 43
MP 106 – less than 4 miles west, less than 2 miles east on US 460
MP 112.2 – less than 3 miles east or west on VA 24
MP 121.4 – less than 2 miles north or south on US 220
MP 135.9 – less than 5 miles south on US 221
MP 165.3 – less than 7 miles north on NC 8 to US 221 north or south
MP 177.7 – less than 1 mile east on US 58
MP 199.4 – less than 1 mile north on US 52
MP 215.8 – less than 6 miles north on VA 89

NORTH CAROLINA

MP 229.7 – less than 4 miles north or south on US 21
MP 248.1 – less than 6 miles north on NC 18 to NC 88 west
MP 261.2 – less than 1 mile north on NC 16
MP 291.8 – less than 1 mile south on US 321
MP 312 – less than 2 miles north on NC 181
MP 330.9 – less than 3 miles north on NC 226
MP 344.1 – less than 10 miles north on NC 80
MP 382.5 – less than 1 mile east or west on US 70
MP 384.7 – less than 2 miles east or west on US 74A
MP 388.8 – less than 1 mile south, less than 3 miles north on US 25
MP 393.6 – less than 3 miles north or south on NC 191
MP 411.8 – 10 miles north or 15 miles south on US 276
MP 443.1 – 5 miles east or 6 miles west on US 74/23
MP 455.7 – 4 miles north on US 19
MP 469.1 – less than 1 mile south on US 441

For locations of EV charging stations near the Blue Ridge Parkway, visit: **www.plugshare.com**

Accessibility:

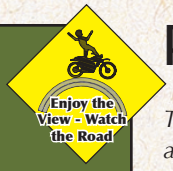
Most Parkway facilities are wheelchair usable. Some facilities have minor slopes and/or structural barriers. Use the grid on the left for site specific information. If more detailed information is needed, please contact the Blue Ridge Parkway Headquarters, 199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville NC 28803 or call 828-298-0398.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
– A Responsible Visit





GENERAL DRIVING SAFETY



Because of its unique design, the Parkway drive differs from most and can mean taking some extra care to ensure a safe visit. "Enjoy the view but watch the road!" is our way of reminding visitors to pay extra attention along the Parkway.

WATCH OUT FOR...

STEEP GRADES – In some places, the Parkway has steeper grades than normally found on highways. Without paying close attention, your speed can increase far more than you expect.

UNFORGIVING ROAD SHOULDERS – The Parkway's road shoulders are narrow in many places and some sections may have deep edge ruts. Give extra attention to staying on the paved surface, especially in long corners.

BUILT-IN DISTRACTIONS – Wildlife, wildflowers, and extraordinary views...all of these contribute to the Parkway experience. They can also be serious distractions to drivers. Every driver's first responsibility is to arrive safely at their destination.

LIMITED SIGHT DISTANCES – There aren't many straight lines in the natural world and the Parkway was designed with gentle curves and not many straight sections. This is part of what makes the road seem to lay gently on the land and it also requires some extra attention while driving.

SPEED CHANGES – The Parkway speed limit is mostly 45 mph, but occasionally you will find yourself in developed areas where the driving speed drops to 25 mph.

SPIRAL CURVES – Some of the tight curves do not have a consistent radius so extra care needs to be taken, especially on motorcycles.

TUNNELS – Most tunnels provide plenty of clearance, although several near Cherokee have a minimum height of less than 12' at the road's edge, and drivers of especially tall vehicles should consider an alternate route. For complete list of tunnel heights, visit: **www.blueridgeparkway.org/tunnels or see page 94.**



Parkway Dos and Don'ts:

To help protect and preserve the Blue Ridge Parkway, observe all park regulations. Be alert for uncontrolled fire, safety hazards, accidents and emergencies. Please report such conditions by calling ***9-1-1.***

ROADSIDE PARKING - Parking is generally allowed on road shoulders as long as all four wheels are off of the pavement. During wet weather, please use paved parking areas and pull-outs to protect our road edges.

TRAILS - Trails are for hiking only. Bicycles and motorized vehicles are not permitted. Several horse riding trails are available.

CAMPING - Camping is permitted only in park campgrounds or designated back-country sites. See camping information, page 10.

PETS - All pets must be leashed (maximum six') and under physical control at all times. Electronic collars are not considered leashes or a means of physical control. Only service animals are permitted in Parkway facilities.

LAKES, RIVERS & PONDS - These are for fishing and scenic beauty only, with no swimming allowed. Nearby U.S. Forest Service recreation areas, state parks, and mountain resorts often have swimming facilities.

PREVENT FOREST FIRES - Fires are permitted in the provided grills or fire pits in campgrounds and picnic areas only.

BOATS - Boating is permitted only on Price Lake. No motors or sails are allowed.

LITTER - Deposit all litter in the trash cans provided.

ALL NATURAL RESOURCES ARE PROTECTED - Leave wildflowers and other vegetation in their natural condition for others to enjoy. Do not disturb animal or plant life in any way. Hunting and trapping are prohibited. Do not interfere with animals by feeding, touching, or frightening them. Do not cut, deface, or damage trees.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES - Possession of open containers of alcohol in vehicles is prohibited. Alcohol is permitted in picnic areas from 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM, and in campgrounds by registered campers and guests.

Camping

The Parkway's eight campgrounds offer restrooms, drinking water, picnic tables and grills. Most can accommodate sizeable recreational vehicles, but no hook-ups are available. The settings are tranquil and scenic, and offer ready access to miles of hiking trails for those who want to explore on foot. ***Be sure to ask about Ranger programs that are offered seasonally.*** Most campgrounds are at elevations greater than 2,500', which means that temperatures are usually cooler than the surrounding area. Even in summer a sweater can come in handy.

Campgrounds are open May through October. First-come, first-served sites are available at all Parkway campgrounds.

Reservations may be made for any campground by visiting ***www.recreation.gov/camping/gateways/2593*** or calling toll-free **877-444-6777**. Typically, demand is higher on weekends and holidays. Shower facilities are available at Mt. Pisgah and Julian Price Park campgrounds.

Group camping is available at Linville Falls, Doughton Park and Rocky Knob campgrounds. Reservations may be made online by visiting ***www.recreation.gov/camping/gateways/2593*** or calling toll-free **877-444-6777.** In addition, limited backcountry camping is available by permit at Basin Cove in Doughton Park 336-372-8877 May-October, (828-348-3487 off-season), Old Johns River in Julian Price Park 828-963-5911 May-October, (828-348-3510 off-season), and Rock Castle Gorge in Rocky Knob 540-745-9664 May-October, (540-745-9660 off-season).



Lodging & Dining

Lodges are located on the Parkway at:

- **Peaks of Otter** *(MP 86)*
- **Mt. Pisgah** *(MP 408)*

Restaurants on the Parkway can be found at:

- **Peaks of Otter Lodge** *(MP 86)*
- **Mabry Mill** *(MP 176)*
- **Bluffs Restaurant at Doughton Park** *(MP 241)*
- **Pisgah Inn** *(MP 408)*

Other facilities and services are available seasonally. For Operating Hours & Seasons, visit www.nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/hours.htm



Peaks of Otter



Pisgah Inn

Fishing

The Parkway lies along the headwaters of many regional watersheds. Thirteen lakes were constructed for aesthetic beauty and recreational opportunities. Streams, ponds, and rivers give anglers ample opportunity to test their skills for trout, bass, and panfish. A state license from either North Carolina or Virginia is valid for fishing in all park waters. Creel limits and other regulations vary. Ask a Ranger for details.

Firewood

Tree-killing insects and diseases, brought in on firewood, threaten the forests and wildlife dependent on the food produced by those trees. To reduce the threat, the National Park Service requires campers to use heat-treated firewood that is bundled and displays a seal issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or a state department of agriculture. Several on and off-Parkway visitor centers and stores sell certified firewood from May to November. Campers may also use fallen dead wood found within 100 yards of their campsite. Stop at a campground kiosk to learn more about these new regulations.



Cultural Demonstration and Special Events

The sights and sounds of traditional rural life in Appalachia are portrayed through cultural demonstration and special events in many locations on the Parkway.

Numerous special events celebrate different aspects of the Parkway's history and heritage. These include: Music and Art in the Mountains at the Peaks of Otter, The Transportation Festival at James River and the Overmountain Victory Celebration at the Minerals Museum of North Carolina.

For More events: www.nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/calendar.htm

Join the crowd to experience the unique music and culture of the region at Humpback Rocks, Mabry Mill, Brinegar Cabin, Roanoke Mountain Picnic Area and the Blue Ridge Music Center.



Farmfest at Humpback Rock



Overmountain Victory Celebration



Music and Dancing at Mabry Mill

Keeping Music Traditions Alive



Mid-day Mountain Music

Music is an important part of the story and the visitor experience. The people of this region have created and continue to keep alive some of the richest traditions of music and dance in the nation. Serious followers of regional music can explore the Blue Ridge Music Trail in North Carolina (blueridgemusic.org), a project of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, leading them to towns and venues throughout the region. Visit the Roots of American Music museum at the Blue Ridge Music Center to learn more about the history and growth of the region's musical heritage.

You can find music in a variety of places on the Parkway, especially on weekends May through October.



- The Blue Ridge Music Center (Milepost 213) is dedicated to the subject — Mid-Day Mountain Music occurs on a daily basis and weekend concerts are held in the outdoor amphitheater. "The Roots of American Music" is an interactive exhibition that tells the compelling story of the region's rich musical heritage.
- Sunday afternoon music and dancing at Mabry Mill (Milepost 176) is a long tradition as are the Sunday evening concerts at Roanoke Mountain Picnic Area (Milepost 120).
- Monthly concerts are held at Humpback Rocks Farm (Milepost 6) during the summer.



Blue Ridge Music Center Outdoor Amphitheater Concert



HIKING

Important Safety Advice

- Hiking shoes or boots are recommended for most trails, especially the more strenuous ones. Steep and rocky areas and slippery stream crossings require extra attention and careful footing. Even for trails marked "easy," you should wear flat or rubber-soled shoes for comfort and good traction. Wearing sandals, flip-flops, or high heels can result in accidents.
- Lock valuables in the trunk of your car or take them with you.
- Sudden changes in weather are common in these mountains. Even in mild seasons, rapid dips in temperature and unexpected thunderstorms frequently occur, and at higher elevations the wind and temperature can carry a surprising chill. Be prepared for weather changes by bringing along suitable clothing.
- Bring water with you. Do not drink the water from streams or springs.

Kids In Parks / Track Trails

The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation's Kids in Parks TRACK Trails program is a network of self-guided hiking trails for kids. Each trail has brochures designated to turn an ordinary hike into a fun-filled, discovery-packed adventure. Kids who hike these trails can register on the Kids in Parks website to win prizes. Visit the Parkway's TRACK Trails at the Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center in Asheville, Julian Price Park, Blue Ridge Music Center, Mabry Mill, Rocky Knob Picnic Area, Peaks of Otter, and the James River Visitor Center. Visit www.kidsinparks.com to find dozens of additional TRACK Trails in communities near the Parkway.

Junior Ranger Programs

A Junior Ranger is someone like you who cares for and learns about America's national parks so that others in the future may enjoy them. Ask for the family friendly activity sheets at any visitor center and begin your journey to becoming a Parkway Junior Ranger.

Mount Mitchell State Park, NC

Mount Mitchell is the highest point in eastern North America, rising to 6,684'. A Mount Mitchell State Park map with trail information is available at the state park headquarters, two miles up NC State Highway 128 from the park entrance at Milepost 355.4. Write to Mount Mitchell State Park, 2388 State Hwy 128, Burnsville, NC 28714 or call (828) 675 4611. ***www.ncparks.gov***

Appalachian Trail, VA

The Appalachian Trail parallels the first 100 miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway to a point just north of Roanoke VA. There are many trail access points along this section of the Parkway. For more information, please refer to Appalachian Trail publications. ***www.nps.gov/appa***

Ranger Led Programs

A variety of interpretive programs are offered from June through October. Campfire talks, guided hikes, historic craft demonstrations, music, and nature study are some of the activities you and your family can enjoy. Specific schedules are posted at all developed areas.





See National Historic Wonders for Free!

The free pass provides fourth graders and their families with free entrance to the national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and marine sanctuaries.

Visit this website:
everykidoutdoors.gov
to obtain your pass and start your outdoor adventure!

POPULAR HIKING TRAILS OF
The Blue Ridge Parkway

Hiking maps are available for some of the trails listed below. Check with the Visitor Center closest to the trailhead.

Virginia Trails

Milepost	Trail - Miles - Difficulty
5.9	**Farm Museum Trail 0.25** *easy*
34.4	**Yankee Horse** (logging RR) **0.2** *moderate*
60.8	**Otter Creek 3.5** *moderate*
63.1	**Otter Lake Loop 0.8** *moderate*
63.6	**James River**(canal locks) **0.2** *easy*
63.6	**Trail of Trees Loop 0.5** *moderate*
78.4	**Apple Orchard Falls 1.2** *strenuous* **
83.1	**Fallingwater Cascades 1.6** *moderate* **
83.5	**Flat Top** 4.4 *strenuous*
85.7	**Abbott Lake Loop 1.0** *easy*
85.9	**Elk Run Loop 0.8** *easy*
85.9	**Johnson Farm Loop 2.1** *moderate*
85.9	**Harkening Hill 3.3** *moderate*
86.0	**Sharp Top 1.6** *strenuous*
110.6	**Stewarts Knob 1.2** *moderate*
114.9	**Roanoke River Loop 0.35** *easy*
120.4	**Roanoke Mountain Summit 0.11** *moderate*
154.5	**Smart View Loop 2.6** *moderate*
167.1	**Rock Castle Gorge Loop 10.8** *strenuous*
176.2	**Mabry Mill 0.5** *easy*
213.0	**Fisher's Peak Loop 2.25** *moderate*

North Carolina Trails

Milepost	Trail - Miles - Difficulty
217.5	**Cumberland Knob 0.5** *easy*
230.1	**Little Glade Millpond Loop 0.4** *easy*
241.0	**Fodder Stack 1.0** *moderate*
271.9	**Cascades Loop 0.5** *moderate*
294.0	**Flat Top Mountain 3.0** *moderate*
294.1	**Figure 8 Loop 0.7** *easy*
296.5	**Boone Fork Loop 5.5** *moderate-strenuous*
297.0	**Price Lake Loop 2.7** *moderate*
304.4	**Linn Cove Viaduct Access 0.16** *easy*
305.2	**Beacon Heights 0.2** *moderate*
305.5	**Tanawha** (MP 297 - 305) **13.5** *moderate-strenuous A*
316.4	**Linville Falls, Erwins View 0.8** *moderate*
316.4	**Linville Falls, Plunge Basin 0.5** *strenuous*
339.5	**Crabtree Falls 2.5** *strenuous*
364.2	**Craggy Pinnacle 0.7** *moderate*
407.6	**Mt. Pisgah Summit 1.3** *moderate-strenuous*
407.6	**Buck Springs** (lodge to view) **1.06** *easy-moderate*
408.5	**Frying Pan Mountain 1.06** *moderate-strenuous*
418.8	**Graveyard Fields Stream Loop 2.3** *moderate*
431.0	**Richland Balsam 1.5** *moderate*
451.2	**Waterrock Knob Summit 0.6** *moderate-strenuous*

North Carolina's Mountains-to-Sea Trail

The Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) stretches 1,150 miles from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to the Outer Banks. In the North Carolina mountains, much of the MST parallels the Blue Ridge Parkway. To find the trail, look for markers along the Parkway with a hiker symbol and a white circle blaze.

Volunteers maintain this and other Parkway trails. Learn more at mountainstoseatrail.org

Please note: Distances are one way except for loop trails. See trail maps for distances, features, walking conditions and important advice.

*** Designated National Recreation Trail. A =Tanawha has nine Parkway access points, several in the Grandfather Mountain area.*

Waterfall Hikes

- *Always take caution while enjoying waterfalls!*
- *Do not climb on rocks near waterfalls.*
- *Use extreme caution when walking along riverbanks, since these rocks are slippery.*
- *Never dive or jump into park waters. Submerged rocks, trees or debris could be immediately below the surface of the water.*

Hiking to a waterfall can be a wonderful and rewarding experience. On the right is a list of popular hikes featuring waterfalls along the Parkway.

MP 78 **Apple Orchard Falls** - These falls have a viewing platform directly underneath the falls, creating a refreshing shower during the summer months.

MP 83 **Falling Water Cascades** - Near Peaks of Otter, the trail is lined with rhododendrons, creating a beautiful setting.

MP 316 **Linville Falls** - Linville Falls has four different overlooks to properly appreciate the falls.

MP 339 **Crabtree Falls** - Originally, these falls were known as Murphy's Falls until the Park Service changed the name to Crabtree Falls when the Parkway was built in the 1930's.

MP 411 **Looking Glass Falls** - Looking Glass Falls is one of the most symmetrical waterfalls in western North Carolina. Travel east on 276. Sliding Rock and Moore Cove Falls are nearby.

MP 417 **Skinny Dip Falls** - Skinny Dip Falls features a swimming hole at the bottom of the cascades. These falls lie along the Mountains-to-Sea trail.

MP 419 **Graveyard Fields Falls** - The name "Graveyard Fields" originates from a time when a great windstorm felled hundreds of spruce and fir trees in the area. The moss covered stumps resemble graves.

WHAT'S PEAKING ALONG THE PARKWAY?

Many questions posed to Parkway staff have to do with peak seasons. When things happen in the natural world can't be predicted precisely because of the variety of factors coming into play. The following short list gives some guidance and may help you find your favorite peak event.

Rhododendron

Catawba rhododendron is the purple variety that blooms from early June around the Peaks of Otter in Virginia to the third week of June at Craggy Gardens in North Carolina. Any time between these dates, there are spots of the variety in bloom. Rosebay rhododendron is the larger, white or pink variety that begins in late June and blooms into July, primarily through Rocky Knob, Virginia.

Hawk Migration

Many species of hawks migrate south during the winter and one of their major routes follows the spine of the Blue Ridge. Warm air in the valleys rises up the sides of the mountains and hawks catch a ride on these thermals, circling higher and higher, almost going out of sight. Then they head south, coasting or gliding in order to save energy and flying as far down the ridge as possible. They will find another thermal, make another twisting, corkscrew ascent, and then another glide south. This pattern takes them hundreds of miles down the mountains toward their winter destination. North of Roanoke, Virginia at Harvey's Knob Overlook (Milepost 93.5) is a favorite spot for hawk watchers from September through November. Mahogany Rock (Milepost 235) in North Carolina is also a popular spot. Tens of thousands of hawks, along with a few Peregrine Falcons and perhaps a Bald Eagle are counted by local birding clubs each year during this spectacular migration.

Fall Foliage

Fall is the season when the Blue Ridge attracts the most attention. Travelers, nature writers, photographers, and artists come to enjoy the visual display created by hardwood leaves changing from summer green to autumn gold, red, and orange. Visiting here in the peak of the fall color season is a sight that few fail to appreciate. Finding the right window of time and the perfect spot can perhaps be nothing more than good fortune, but keeping a few things in mind and exercising some patience can increase anyone's changes of seeing the Blue Ridge in its autumn glory. Typically, the Parkway experiences the much anticipated change in fall foliage around the middle of October. Many factors contribute to variations in when and where colors will peak, with moisture throughout the year and the colder temperatures being key factors. In a park that is 469 miles north to south and varies over 5,000' in elevation, the best plan for witnessing fall color is to drive some distance on the Parkway, changing elevations and north-south orientation. A little planning in mid to late October will yield at least some of the spectacular color that we're famous for.

Monarch Butterflies

During the latter half of September, a little-known aspect of the grand scheme of nature unfolds along the Parkway as Monarch butterflies begin an epic migration. These familiar orange and black striped beauties are often seen on milkweed plants late in the summer. At Cherry Cove Parking Overlook (Milepost 415.7) south of Mt. Pisgah, visitors gather in mid-September to witness the north to south migration. Thousands of Monarchs may pass by here and other nearby places on a daily basis.

Wildflowers

Although visitors may know the precise place and time on the Parkway to view their favorite species of wildflowers in bloom, there is little doubt that May is, overall, the best month for wildflowers. May Apple, Trillium, some lingering Bloodroot, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Lady Slippers, Bleeding Heart, and Firepink – all of which are among the most admired and photographed in the region – make their appearance at some time during the month. As with any blooming species, elevation can make lots of difference, so enjoy a long, leisurely drive, meander down a trail, and enjoy this special month of the year.

Fall leaf guide

Use this guide to identify the brilliant colors of Blue Ridge Parkway trees during fall leaf season.



PARKWAY BY THE SEASONS

As you plan your trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway, keep in mind that elevation and, to a lesser degree, your north-south orientation can make a big difference! The Parkway's elevation ranges from 649' at Virginia's James River to 6,053' south of Mount Pisgah in North Carolina. Sudden changes in weather are common in these mountains. It is always a good idea to have a jacket and cap on hand, dress in layers, and to be aware of the local weather forecasts.

SPRING – Springtime in the mountains is a transitional period and very unpredictable. Winter weather can linger long after trees are greening up in the lowlands. Sunny skies can be followed quickly by cold fronts and snowy conditions. Afternoon rain showers are common. Below-freezing temperatures are still common throughout March and into mid April.

SUMMER – Summer is hot and humid as it is in most of the southeastern United States, but it is much more pleasant in the higher elevations. July and August high temperatures are typically in the 80s at mid to high elevations, warmer at the lower elevations. The summer temperatures can be considerably cooler at times and many times you will be glad to have a light jacket. Afternoon showers and thunderstorms are common and can move in quickly.

FALL – Warm days and cool nights are the normal conditions, with frost common at high elevations beginning in late September. By the time leaf color has peaked in late October, expect high temperatures to sometimes remain in the 50s and 60s. Freezing temperatures and snow are a possibility beginning in November.

WINTER – Extreme winter weather can occur here, with wind, ice and snow occuring even when the Piedmont has pleasant conditions. Always be prepared for fast-approaching winter weather conditions and expect parts of the road to be closed due to ice and snow.

Check for weather or construction-related closures updated by Blue Ridge Parkway staff at: www.nps.gov/blri

SHOWY BLOOMS

A Quick Guide to some flowers & shrubs on the Parkway

Shrubs



Catawba Rhododendron
(Rhododendron catawbiense):
A medium shrub with pink to purple flowers growing above 3000' on exposed ridges.
June – Early July



Rosebay Rhododendron
(Rhododendron maximum):
also called White Rhododendron: A large shrub with white to pink flowers, over a wide range of elevations.
June – July



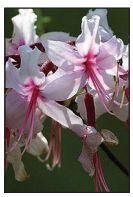
Flame Azalea
(Rhododendron calendulaceum):
A medium shrub with bright orange to red flowers. Azaleas are in the rhododendron family.
June – July



Wild Hydrangea
(Hydrangea arborescens):
A medium shrub with large clusters of white flowers.
May – August



Mountain Laurel
(Kalmia latifolia):
A medium shrub with pink flowers.
June – July



Pinxter Flower
(Rhododendron nudiflorum):
A medium shrub with pink honeysuckle-like flowers, common at lower elevations.
April – May

Flowers



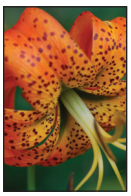
Fire Pink
(Silene virginica):
This 6-20 inch plant has bright red flowers up to 1-1/2" wide.
April – June



Goat's Beard
(Aruncus dioicus):
3-5' tall with flower plumes 3-5" wide and 6-10" long.
May – June



Bluets
(Houstonia species):
3-6" tall with many small 4-petal flowers, light to dark blue. Bluets sometimes grow in large beds.
May-August



Turks-Cap Lily
(Lilium superbum):
6 to 10 ft tall with flowers 2-4" wide with a green star at center. The Carolina Lily (L. michauxii) is similar but lacks the green star & bears fewer flowers. *July-August*



White Trillium
(Trillium grandiflorum):
The largest of several trilliums found along the Parkway, grows to about 15". Trilliums have 3 leaves and a single 3-petal flower.
April – May



Bee Balm
(Monarda didyma also called Oswego Tea):
2-5' tall with bright red 2-inch flowers. Wild Bergamot is similar but pink.
July – August

OTHER COMMON FLOWERS

Birdfoot Violet - (Viola pedata) 4-10" tall, bluish-purple flower. March — June
Columbine - (Aquilegia canadensis) about 2' tall, nodding red and yellow flower. June — July
Sun Drops - (Oenothera fruticosa) 1-2' tall, yellow 4-petal flower. June — July
Evening Primrose - (Oenothera biennis) 3-5' tall, yellow 4-petal flower. June — July
Phlox - (Phlox species) 2-6' tall, magenta-pink flowers. July — October
Touch-me-not - (Impatiens species) 3-6' tall, nodding yellow or orange flower. July — August
Tall Bellflower - (Campanula americana) 2-6' tall, blue, 5-petal flower. July — August
White Snakeroot - (Eupatorium rugosum) 3-5' tall, bright white flower heads. July — Sept
Dense Blazing Star - (Liatris spicata) 2-4' tall, rose-purple flowered spike. August — Sept
Goldenrod - (Solidago species) about 3' tall, golden-yellow spikes or plumes. August — Sept
Ox Eye Daisy - (Chrysanthemum leucanthemum) 1-3' tall; white petals, yellow center.
Black-Eyed Susan - (Rudbeckia hirta) 3-6' tall, yellow petals, black center.
Tall Coneflower - (Rudbeckia laciniata) 2-3' tall, drooping yellow petals, green center.
Coreopsis - (Coreopsis major) 2-3' tall, golden-yellow petals, green center.
Jerusalem Artichoke - (Helianthus tuberosus) 5-10' tall, yellow petals, yellow center.
Aster -(Aster species) 2-5' tall; many small flowers; blue, purple, or white petals.

THE BLACK BEAR

Be Bear Aware!



Photo by Kristina Plaas

For many visitors, a Parkway trip is not complete without a glimpse of a mammal considered by many to be the very symbol of wildness, the Black bear (Ursus americanus). In both Virginia and North Carolina, bear populations are healthy and stable – a great natural history success story. Much of the reason for their stable population is due to your responsible actions.

Seeing a bear is exciting and the highlight of any visit to a National Park. These encounters are better if they are memorable for good reasons rather than bad ones. You can help protect these bears by being **"Bear Aware!"**

For Your Safety and Theirs



- Stay at least 50 yards away. If a bear's behavior changes when it sees you, you are too close!
- Stay in your vehicle when viewing bears along the roadside.
- Remember that "a fed bear will become a dead bear". Carry out or dispose of your trash properly. Don't be responsible for giving bears their first taste of human food. Our food is not part of a bear's healthy, natural diet.
- If a bear approaches you, it is demanding more space. Don't run, but slowly back away, watching the bear. Increase the distance between you and the bear. The bear will probably do the same.

How Do You Compare to a Black Bear?

- **SMELL** Bears have a sense of smell that is more than seven times better than a bloodhound's! In fact, scientists believe that bears have the best sense of smell of any land mammal.
- **HEARING** A bear's hearing is over twice as sensitive as a human's and exceeds the frequency range humans can hear.
- **VISION** Bears have color vision.
- **SPEED** Think that you can outrun a bear? Think again. Bears can run 30 miles per hour—faster than the world record 100 meter sprinter! Bears are also good tree climbers and can swim very well.
- **INTELLIGENCE** Bears have large brains compared to body size. They have excellent long-term memory.



Watch for Elk crossing at southern entrance to Parkway in Cherokee. Photo from RomanticAsheville.com

Elk – The New Big Guy in Town

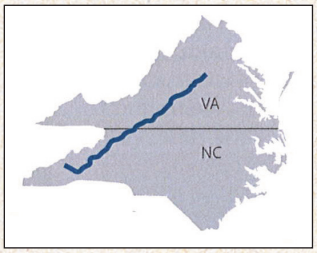
Elk once roamed the southern Appalachians, but were eliminated from this area in the late 1700s by over-hunting and habitat loss. Reintroduced to nearby Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 2002, elk can now be found on the southern end of the Parkway.

Elk are large animals—much larger than black bears. Adult males, known as "bulls", can weigh 700 pounds. Females are called "cows" and average 500 pounds. Adults are 7-10' long from nose to tail, and up to 5' tall at the shoulder.

These imposing creatures are an increasingly common sight on the Parkway's southernmost stretches. If you see an elk while traveling the Parkway stay in your vehicle and do not approach them. These wild animals deserve their space and your respect for their safety and yours. Elk can become aggressive, particularly in the fall which is their mating season.

BIODIVERSITY AND THE BLUE RIDGE

More than just a road



Blue Ridge Parkway stretches 469 miles

The Blue Ridge Parkway is so much more than just a road. In fact, the extraordinary number and variety of living organisms found on the Parkway is one of its most unique and least understood resources.

What contributes to this variety? The species variety found in these mountains, referred to as biodiversity, is the result of the varied ecosystems or habitats found here. The temperate climate found in the Appalachian Mountains combined with elevations ranging from 649 ft at James River to 6053 ft at Richland Balsam and the 469 mile geographic span of the Parkway make for remarkably diverse habitats.

The habitats vary so widely that plants growing on a mountain summit at the park's northern end may be quite different from those on a summit at the southern end. Some of these habitats are exceptionally rare.

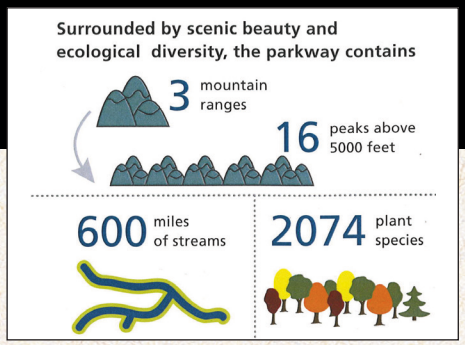
Rock outcrops at high elevations contain a fragile group of alpine species that were pushed southward during glacial times and eventually left stranded on the southern mountains.

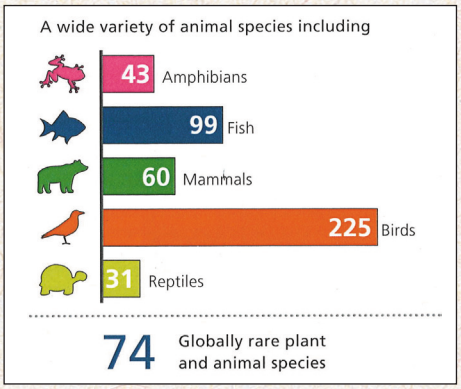
Grassy balds are treeless grassy meadows that occur on select ridgetops in the southern Appalachian Mountains. These meadows, once grazed by native animals such as bison and elk in centuries past, are now maintained by park biologists to preserve the unique habitat they provide.

By the Numbers*:

Blue Ridge Parkway	3071 species
Grand Canyon NP	2633 species
Yosemite NP	1965 species
Yellowstone NP	2042 species

It may be thought of by many as just a road, linking Shenandoah and the Great Smokies but without a doubt, the Blue Ridge is one of the most diverse places on earth.





You can help biologists continue to discover the amazing diversity of life found in nature by becoming a "citizen scientist." As an amateur scientist, you can help count and record useful information that can add to the numbers of plant and animal species found here and in your community.

** information provided by NPSpecies Checklist*

Keep it wild

- The best diet for all animals is a natural one. Human food can make any wild animal sick. The digestive system of a white tail deer, common around campgrounds and picnic areas, only breaks down the natural food sources including twigs, bark, leaves, grasses and acorns. Wild animals like the taste of human food, but for their safety and health, do not feed them.
- Rabies can be transmitted by most wild animals. Animals in the park should not be treated as pets or lured close enough to feed or touch. If a wild animal approaches you, it could be a sign of serious illness. Please tell a Ranger.
- Many of the Parkway's rare and endangered plants are threatened by foot traffic. Whether rare plants are present or not, please stay on the trail - if for no other reason than to protect all plants and to prevent erosion.
- All plants on the Parkway are protected. Many of our native wildflowers in the Blue Ridge are threatened by illegal harvesting. You can help stop this poaching - if you see anyone collecting plants on the Parkway, report it to a Ranger.



Wildlife Observation:

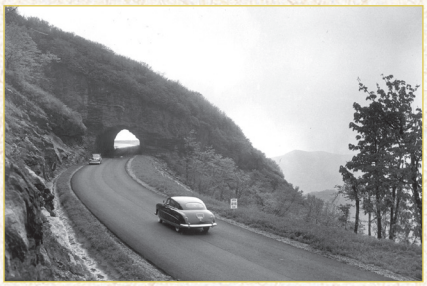
Did you see an interesting wildlife observation or something rare?

Email us at BRP_Wildlife@nps.gov with information on what you saw, the date and location. Sending a photograph of your sighting is always helpful.

MORE THAN JUST A ROAD

Designing the Parkway

Unlike most national park areas, the Blue Ridge Parkway is a planned landscape – planned on a grand scale but also planned down to the smallest detail - in ways that most visitors do not notice at first glance.
The skills and genius of both landscape architects and engineers came together to create what is now often called "America's favorite drive" for the millions who have enjoyed this drive for almost eight decades.



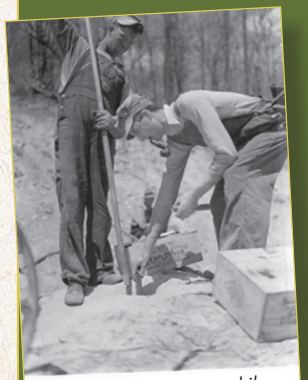
The landscape architects and engineers who designed and built the Parkway thought of this project as more than just a road...but as a work of art.

Overall, the Parkway was "to reveal the charm and interest of the native American countryside" as the designers perceived that to be. Log cabins and barns, rail fences, and "pioneer ways" were looked upon much more favorably than some of the more modern influences that had already impacted American mountain living in the 1930s and 1940s. Broadly speaking, the road was to lie gently on the land, to blend into a protected corridor, and to give the impression that the park boundary extended to the horizon. Nothing in the view shed, as far as the eye could see, would spoil the travelers' experience. The Parkway and all of its associated structures, including its fences, guardrails, and even the stone-lined ditches, would be characterized by simplicity and informality in order to harmonize with the environment. In this respect, "All elements must compose" became the guiding principle of the project.

In contrast to the Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park, the Parkway was to offer a variety of viewing experiences. Routing the road along mountainsides, through plateaus, beside streams and through broad river valleys was intentional and are documented in the 830 original park land use maps. This variety, evident as one travels through the various sections of the Parkway, was considered the "spice" of the roadway by Stanley W. Abbott, one of the most important park visionaries, who was influenced by Frederick Law Olmsted, famous for co-designing New York City's Central Park.

Large parcels of land were acquired where visitors could camp, picnic, hike, or find overnight lodging. These areas took in the whole "scenic pictures," were thought of as wayside parks, and have become popular visitor destination areas. Traveling the Parkway continues to be a "ride-a-while, stop-a-while" experience fulfilling the intentions of the earliest visionaries and continue to inform present day park planners. The skills and genius of both landscape architects and engineers came together to create what is now often called "America's favorite drive" for the millions who have enjoyed this drive for more than eight decades.

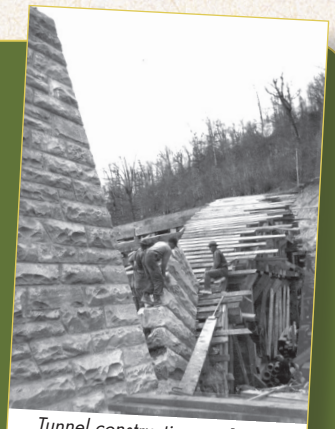
When construction of the Parkway began in 1935, the Blue Ridge and Southern Appalachian region had already been scarred by floods, fires, excessive logging, and the accompanying hillside erosion. The Parkway was, in many ways, a restoration project – to restore the land and restore the economy by providing jobs after the Great Depression of the 1930s.



Packing explosives while smoking a pipe, ca. 1935



Transplanting trees by the Civilian Conservation Corps, ca 1936



Tunnel construction ca 1935

Companies were required to hire as many unemployed local men as possible, often under quotas stated in their contracts. Thousands of trees and shrubs were planted to line the roadway. Although the stone masonry portals on most Parkway tunnels were not part of the original design, they were added later, mostly in the 1950s and 1960s, to maintain the harmonious look intended in the Parkway vision.

MANAGING PARKWAY VIEWS

More than Meets the Eye



North Carolina High Country, ***before.***



North Carolina High Country, ***after.***



Skilled arborists selectively restore designed vista.

Managing the scenic beauty of the Blue Ridge Parkway is a complex and important task. The Blue Ridge Parkway was designed to maximize scenic views and give visitors the impression that they are in a park with boundaries to the horizon. Today, the Parkway has some 500,000 acres of viewshed within 469 mile-long corridor.

Studies through the years consistently cite the primary purpose for visiting the Parkway is to enjoy outdoor recreation and view scenic beauty. As trees have grown over the years, views have been impacted and park visitors frequently communicate with park staff, partner groups, elected officials and others that because of this growth, their experience was diminished.

Park managers are working to identify potential vistas for restoration keeping in mind the original design intent of the Parkway, while also addressing natural resource protection in this biologically diverse park.

In recent years, neighboring communities and Parkway partner organizations have gotten involved and provide funding for vista restoration.

Several counties in North Carolina, including Haywood, Watauga, and Henderson County, donate funds through their Tourism Development Authorities. Additionally, the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation provides support for these important vista clearing projects. Donated funds are used to bring highly skilled arborists into the park to address the tallest trees (50-70 years of growth) at the bottom edge of an overgrown vista and have had remarkable success in revealing the spectacular views the Blue Ridge Parkway was designed to provide.

Effective management and conservation of one of the Parkway's signature features is a complex undertaking. Thankfully, with increased awareness of the issue and support from partners and communities, these successful projects will continue.



Three Ridges Overlook in Virginia, ***before.***



Three Ridges Overlook in Virginia, ***after.***

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY
Protecting its future



Moses H. Cone Memorial Park, Milepost 294, is a focus of restoration and rehabilitative efforts by the Foundation.

In 1997, the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation started as a simple idea: Give people who love the awe-inspiring scenic route the opportunity to protect and guide its future. As the Foundation celebrates two decades of success, it continues to bring donors and volunteers together to support new projects and programs that will have a lasting impact on one of the nation's most visited national park units. Funding for our national parks continues to decline, threatening the abundant resources along the Blue Ridge Parkway, which draws more than 15 million recreational visitors each year, exceeding the number of visitors to Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Grand Canyon National Parks combined.



Caught on camera: Over the past few years, more than 50 motion-activated wildlife cameras were purchased with donated funds. Images, like this one, of mammals, birds, and insects in their natural environment help inform park biologists.

For more than 20 years, the Foundation has grown into a dedicated Community of Stewards made up of individuals, businesses, and organizations that are committed to ensuring the Blue Ridge Parkway remains a place of abundant outdoor recreational opportunities, a vibrant and sustaining habitat for flora and fauna, a touchstone to mountain history, an economic engine for neighboring communities, and most of all, America's Favorite Drive.

The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation's Community of Stewards has invested more than $14 million to:

- Protect natural resources through wildlife surveys, trail repairs, environmental studies, training for rangers, and more.
- Expand education and outreach by introducing young park stewards to the outdoors through the Kids in Parks program, update museum and visitor center exhibits, fund youth conservation crews, engage in citizen science projects, and more.
- Preserve history and culture by placing Moses H. Cone Memorial Park on the National Register of Historic Places, support musical programming at the Blue Ridge Music Center, restoration projects at Mabry Mill, Humpback Rocks, Peaks of Otter, and more.
- Enhance visitor amenities and experiences at stops up and down the Parkway, including Peaks of Otter, Graveyard Fields, Price Lake, Linville Falls, Craggy Gardens, and many more locations.

As the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation embarks on its third decade, it is calling on every visitor to consider how extraordinary this journey is and make a commitment to protect it for future generations to enjoy.

Through gifts, feedback, and ideas, this vision can be accomplished.



Photo: Vicki Dameron

Generous donations to the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation funded the replacement of the waterwheel at Mabry Mill, milepost 176, helping to retain the historic landscape at this popular site.

HOW YOU CAN HELP



Join the National Park Service team!

Volunteer services, internships and a variety of partnerships have become an essential and effective means for the National Park Service to fulfill parts of our mission and foster a shared sense of stewardship that is so crucial for our future.

If you are a student looking for a meaningful internship or someone with extra time who'd like to volunteer, you can make a difference by bringing your unique experience, background, interest and perspective to our work.

There are thousands of opportunities for high school, college, and graduate school students to work alongside National Park Service staff to explore potential careers, gain valuable job experience, fulfill college requirements, and learn new skills. Many internships are filled at the park level so contact the park that interests you - but others are advertised and recruited nationally by the National Park Service or in partnership with several national organizations.

For more information about volunteering
www.nps.gov/blri/getinvolved/volunteer.htm

In addition, the Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) Program at Blue Ridge Parkway works to preserve the cultural heritage, history, and natural resources of the Parkway region by helping to provide visitor services, education, interpretation, and resource protection programs and activities.

We welcome the interest and involvement of all generations who will help us care for our nation's environment and preserve her history.

www.nps.gov/subjects/youthprograms/jobs-and-internships.htm to learn more about student internships.

Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation

Contact

For a full list of Foundation projects, please visit:
BRPFoundation.org
or call (866) 308-2773



BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY FOUNDATION

"A Community of Stewards"

www.BRPFoundation.org

The Blue Ridge Parkway is no ordinary road. With rich Appalachian culture, stunning landscapes, and outdoor adventures from beginning to end, this exceptional journey connects us to the natural wonders and enriching heritage of our mountains.

Maintaining the ribbon of road, overlooks, forests, trails, historic sites, and more requires steady commitment, ample resources, and on-the-ground work. Unlike many popular National Parks, the Parkway receives no income from entrance fees. By supporting the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, you play a role in sustaining and nurturing this national treasure. Without you, many of the resources, amenities, and services often taken for granted would vanish. Whether your interests are in education, environmental and resource protection, visitor amenities, or cultural heritage, you can join the thousands of others who understand the importance of preserving this route that forever ties us to the grandeur and rich history of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Visit www.BRPFoundation.org to become a member of our Community of Stewards.

"Discover Your Journey. Then Help Protect It."

PARKWAY PARTNERS



The first National Park Service Director Stephen T. Mather said "establishment of parks is not enough, what is needed are more people who will take the time to gain a better understanding of the important issues facing our National Parks."

Increasingly, partnerships are essential and effective means for the National Park Service to fulfill parts of our mission and foster a shared sense of stewardship. Stephen Mather knew that building public support for a fledgling National Park System was crucial for its future.

Fortunately, many nonprofit partner groups now work hand-in-hand with the Blue Ridge Parkway. While these organizations have differing missions, they share an overarching goal: to preserve and enhance the national treasure that is the Blue Ridge Parkway.

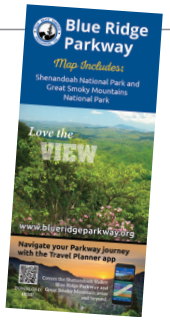
Learn more about how you can participate in the vital work partners perform – educating, protecting and promoting the natural and cultural assets along "America's Favorite Drive."

Visit
Blue Ridge Parkway Association

Local Businesses | Attractions | Mobile App
Accommodations | Online Resources
Recreation | Tourism

Ways to Help:

- Join BRPA's business association to support our regional tourism economy and improve visitor experiences. Work together with other regional business owners, communities, and nonprofits to provide maps and Parkway information for travelers.



blueridgeparkway.org

Enhance
Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation

Preservation | Natural Resources
Education Visitor Safety | Blue Ridge Music Center

Ways to Help:

- Become a member of our Community of Stewards. Make a donation or purchase NC & VA specialty license plates to support a wide range of projects on the Parkway from historic preservation to environmental initiatives.



brpfoundation.org

Explore
Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail

Hiking guidebooks | Volunteer trail crews | Stewardship

Ways to Help:

- Become a member; volunteer to maintain trail; hike the MST; purchase a NC MST license plate



photo by Mitzi Gellman

mountainstoseatrail.org

Learn

America's National Park™ Stores

Support | Visitor Services | Passport Cancellations

Ways to Help:

- Shop at 14 America's National Parks™ stores located at visitor centers on the Blue Ridge Parkway to support education and interpretation in the park!



americasnationalparks.org

Whether it's Southern Appalachian handicrafts, early American music, a waterfall gateway to wilderness, or high-elevation mountaintops—each America's National Parks store on the Blue Ridge Parkway has its own story to tell. From Humpback Rocks to Waterrock Knob, uniquely themed product collections and informative store staff help visitors stay connected to each Parkway experience. Collect Passport To Your National Parks® cancellation stamps at every location. Your purchase supports this park!

VIRGINIA

Humpback Rocks **MP 5.8**
James River **MP 63.8**
Peaks of Otter **MP 85.9**
Rocky Knob & Mabry Mill **MP 169 & 176.2**
Blue Ridge Music Center **MP 213**

NORTH CAROLINA

Doughton Park **MP 241.1**
Moses Cone Memorial Park **MP 294.1**
Linn Cove Viaduct **MP 304**
Linville Falls **MP 316.4**
Minerals Museum **MP 330.9**
Craggy Gardens **MP 364.5**
Folk Art Center **MP 382**
Blue Ridge Parkway Asheville Visitor Center **MP 384.5**
Waterrock Knob **MP 451.2**

Preserve

Carolina Mountain Club

Volunteer | Hike | Trails

Ways to Help:

- Help construct and maintain the trails along the southern portion of the Blue Ridge Parkway, including the NC Mountains to Sea Trail. Hike with us on the Blue Ridge Parkway.



carolinamountainclub.org

Protect

Conservation Trust for NC

Land Protection | Youth Conservation Corps | Hikes

Ways to Help:

- Join us for a hike and learn how we work with landowners and local land trusts to protect spectacular Parkway vistas. Support our NC Youth Conservation Corps to help build more Parkway trails!



ctnc.org

Experience

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area

Appalachian History | Performances and Festivals
Traditional Arts & Crafts | Blue Ridge Music Trails

Ways to Help:

- Protect and preserve the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area through the development of natural and cultural resources. Promote economic opportunity through heritage tourism.



blueridgeheritage.com

Connect with the Blue Ridge Parkway!
Get the latest news and updates including photos, events, and road conditions.

BlueRidgeNPS *@blueridgenps* *BlueRidgeNPS*
@blueridgenps *nps.gov/blri*

About the THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY



The Blue Ridge Parkway is a scenic highway connecting Shenandoah National Park and Skyline Drive in Virginia with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee. Traversing Virginia and western North Carolina, the Parkway encompasses a 469-mile drive through many areas of natural and cultural significance.

The majority of the Parkway in Virginia runs through the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, along mountain crests into the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests in North Carolina. This National Scenic Byway is a two-lane road with a maximum speed limit of 45 mph. For those who enjoy road trips and nature, traveling the Parkway is not to be missed.

A Parkway trip can be the opposite of hectic daily life. People are busy, inundated with information and connected as much as possible. We often rely on secondary sources rather than personal experiences. A Parkway experience defies much of this. Slow and relaxed, the Parkway provides sunshine, mountain gusts and up-close views of the Blue Ridge region.



You will hug the crest of the world's oldest mountain range as you wind through the coves and forest slopes of southern Appalachia. The breathtaking views stamp an unforgettable impression on your mind.

It has been said, "Too many places we see in America today look like too many places we see in America today." Interstates, cities and subdivisions can look alike no matter where you are. But America's National Parks are each unique, with remarkable experiences unattainable anywhere else.

The landscapes along the Virginia portion of the Parkway differ from those in North Carolina. A glimpse of traditional early days of settlement is visible in Virginia, with recreated farms near Humpback Rocks and Mabry Mill further south. In North Carolina, Linville Falls and the Cradle of Forestry highlight mountain forests and natural wonders.

In addition to stops along the Parkway, the road runs near historic towns from top to bottom for accessing the areas' heritage and culture. The Blue Ridge Parkway Headquarters are located in Asheville, N.C. – a city well loved by literary figures Carl Sandburg, Thomas Wolfe and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Exploration of their homes and haunts presents an interesting side trip.

The Parkway inspires pride, appreciation and responsibility. Whether enjoying an afternoon drive or visiting for the first time, pride is important to protecting the Parkway. Appreciation may be found in the streams, trails, wildlife, historic structures, cool air, vistas or absolute serenity. Responsibility lies in the stewardship required of all visitors to National Park sites. This place can only stay as we know it with community, regional and individual help. Whatever your Parkway experience, respect other visitors and wildlife and keep to the trails to enjoy all of it.



A GRAND VIEW OF THE STARS

The perfect place to star gaze

Starry, starry night…these words might conjure up an image of van Gogh's famous painting or bring back memories of a popular 1970's song. A new memory to add to these is the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the evenings.

Imagine driving along the Blue Ridge Parkway as the sun begins to set and you are surrounded by the changing light of the late afternoon. As the bright blue sky begins to darken and the day transitions to twilight, you decide to pull into an overlook and wait for the evening show to begin.

Natural sounds and natural lightscapes are essential in keeping our national treasures whole. They are magnificent in their own right and inspirational to the visitors who come to national parks. Studies have shown that visitors to national parks are beginning to understand the value of protecting the natural nighttime conditions including the night sky and nocturnal sounds. These resources are vital to the protection of wilderness character, fundamental to the historical and cultural context, and critical for park wildlife.

For more information on the value of these resources go to:

www.nps.gov/subjects/nightskies/wilderness.htm and
www.nps.gov/orgs/1050/index.htm

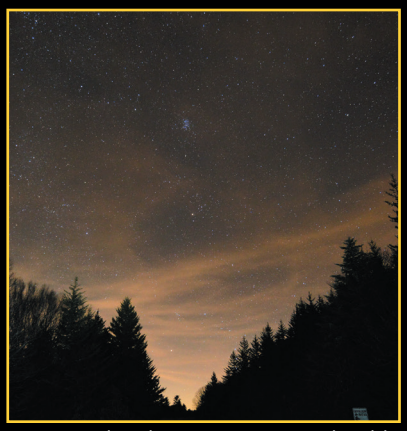
Did you know:

The National Park Service mission includes night skies as a resource and value worth preserving—a protection that matters in an era when light pollution is increasing. America's national parks contain many cherished treasures. Among them are captivating natural sounds and awe-inspiring night skies. The joy of listening to the quiet sounds of nature and the wonderment of seeing the Milky Way stretching overhead are unique experiences that can still be found in many of our national parks.

Tips for optimal stargazing:

Parkway overlooks can provide an excellent place to observe the Parkway's dark skies. Just after sunset and evening twilight, you may first be able to see some larger planets and the moon. As you wait a little longer, the sky darkens and stars begin to appear. If your timing is right and the weather cooperates, you might be lucky enough to view the Milky Way.

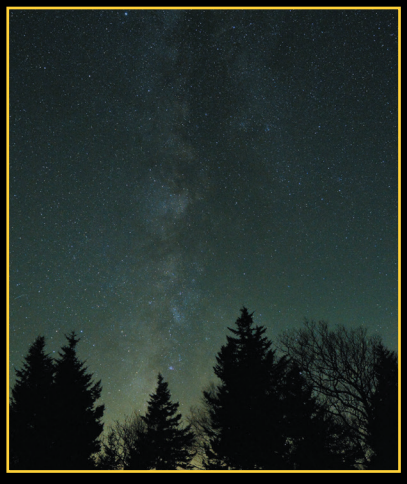
- Check with park staff or locals for their recommendations on the best place to view the night sky.
- Your best viewing is when no moon is visible and you are away from surrounding lights. Much of the Blue Ridge Parkway is protected from light pollution.
- Search for overlooks with a wide view overhead and with minimal lights in the surrounding areas. Once you have located a suitable spot for observing, safely park and turn off your car lights.
- It is also a good idea to carry a small red or white LED flashlight in order to see and avoid obstacles such as curbs. Using a red LED flashlight or placing red cellophane over a white flashlight will help preserve your night vision.
- A planisphere or star map can help you identify the objects in the night sky.
- Look for star gazing programs, astronomy apps, magazines and local astronomy clubs to learn from others who share this interest.



Pleiades Near Graveyard Fields. Photo courtesy PARI



3 Galaxies Over the Balsams. Photo courtesy PARI



Dark Skies on the Parkway. Photo courtesy PARI

To learn more about the preservation of dark skies, visit the International Dark Sky Association website at www.dark-sky.org.

Thanks to the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute for their input and images for this article. PARI is a public non-for-profit organization dedicated to providing hands-on educational and research opportunities.

Virginia Is For Motorcycle Lovers!

The 216 miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia and 105 miles of Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park offer overlooks, picnic areas and hiking trails, as well as stunning sun-swept vistas. In the spring and summer, hillsides and road shoulders are awash with blooms including ubiquitous rhododendron and mountain laurel. In the fall, yellow and orange leaves drift to the pavement along the scenic route; at a pace averaging 35 miles per hour, travel is slow enough to spot the reds of maples and sourwoods and the yellows of birches and poplars as well as the goldenrod, aster and other late-blooming flowers dotting the roadsides. You can experience the weather of several seasons in a single day, so come prepared for sun, rain, and fog.

In addition to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive, Virginia offers a variety of additional motorcycle routes: The Claw of the Dragon includes loops of varying lengths, some traversing portions of the parkway, in the Galax, Marion, and Wytheville areas of Virginia. The routes can be combined to form a 237.1-mile loop that offers challenging curves and thrilling elevation changes. The Back of the Dragon (a subset of the Claw of the Dragon) connects Tazewell and Marion, Virginia via a curvy 30-mile ride on VA 16. There's also a Meadows of Dan loop beginning in Fancy Gap and multiple loops comprising the 268-miles of The Jagged Edge. Here, you'll explore some of the curviest and most picturesque roads in the southeast, following the Blue Ridge Parkway from near Fancy Gap all the way to Roanoke on any one of the eight loops. One run even navigates 12 separate mountains!

Nelson County's 151 Trail provides scenic views of Virginia's Piedmont and the Blue Ridge Mountains, interspersed with orchards, wineries, and craft breweries. Many motorcycle-friendly attractions, lodging and dining opportunities are available in the picturesque small towns and larger cities that dot the routes.

For additional bucket-list routes and things to see and do, like the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, visit www.virginia.org.





The Park holds more than 500 miles of trails, including 101 miles of the Appalachian Trail. Trails may follow a ridge crest, or they may lead to high places with panoramic views or to waterfalls in deep canyons.

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

AMERICA'S BYWAYS™

Shenandoah National Park lies astride a beautiful section of the Blue Ridge Mountains, which form the eastern rampart of the Appalachian Mountains between Pennsylvania and Georgia. The Shenandoah River flows through the valley to the west, with Massanutten Mountain, 40 miles long, standing between the river's north and south forks. The rolling Piedmont country lies to the east of the Park. Skyline Drive, a 105-mile road that winds along the crest of the mountains through the length of the Park, provides vistas of the spectacular landscape to east and west. Many animals, including deer, black bears, and wild turkeys, flourish among the rich growth of an oak-hickory forest. In season, bushes and wildflowers bloom along the Drive and trails and fill the open spaces. Apple trees, stone foundations, and cemeteries are reminders of the families who once called this place home. Shenandoah National Park has many stories waiting to be told, and a world of beauty that can renew and bring peace to the spirit.

Facilities and Services

Includes visitor centers, bookstores, campgrounds, showers and laundries, picnic areas, gift shops, lodges, cabins, restaurants, gas station, ATMs, waysides, campstores, a stable, & restrooms.

- Most facilities and services are available April through November
- Plan to obtain all food, gas, and lodging outside of the Park in December, January, February, and March.

Check the Park's website or call (540) 999-3500 for current information.

www.nps.gov/shen

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Visitors can participate in Ranger-guided activities, view audio-visual programs or exhibits at visitor centers, enjoy the panoramic views from overlooks, hike to peaks and waterfalls, fish or just plain relax in the peaceful surroundings.

Continuing a tradition set by George Freeman Pollock, who founded a resort at Skyland long before Shenandoah National Park was established, Delaware North at Shenandoah National Park, the Park's concessioner offers a variety of activities for visitors in spring, summer, and fall, providing a terrific way to have fun and learn more about the Park's history and wildlife as well as regional arts, music, and crafts. For a calendar of events visit the concessioner's website at ***www.goshenandoah.com***

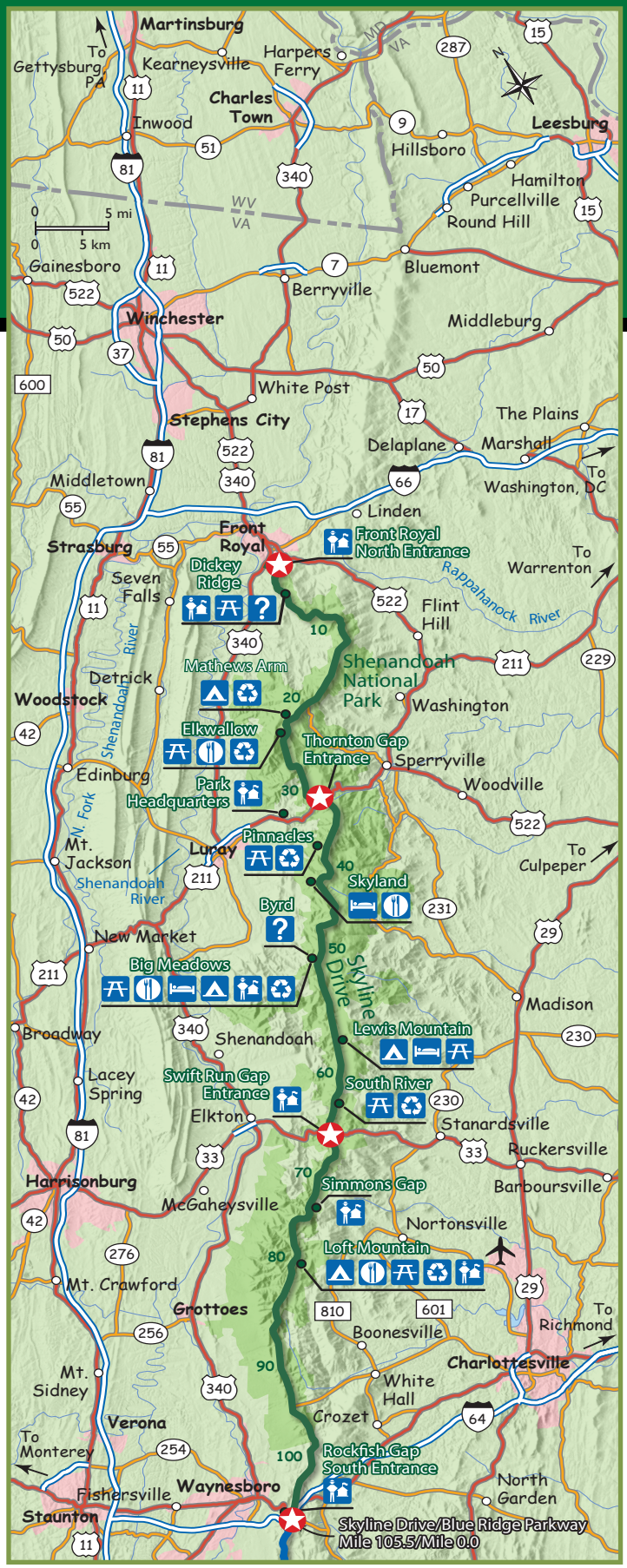
A LITTLE HISTORY

In 1926, U.S. Congress authorized creation of Shenandoah National Park. Today nearly 200,000 acres of eastern deciduous forest are a sanctuary for more than 100 varieties of trees, 200 bird species, and 1,100 flowering plants.

Private lands were purchased by the Commonwealth of Virginia. On December 26, 1935, Virginia gave the deeds to the Federal Government, formally establishing the Park. In 1936, Shenandoah was dedicated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt for the recreation and re-creation found here.

Visit Shenandoah and step back in time. Over 400 buildings and structures within the Skyline Drive Historic District are listed on the National Register of Historic Places as being nationally significant for their architecture and association with the history of the 1920s and 1930s.

Today, approximately 1.4 million visitors come to Shenandoah each year. It is our hope that this park, created as a peaceful refuge for nearby urban populations, will continue to offer relaxation, recreation, and inspiration for many generations to come.



Shenandoah National Park Region:

Northern Gateway to the Blue Ridge Parkway

Near Skyline Drive & Shenandoah National Park

LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA

Visit Loudoun: DC's Wine Country. Located 1-hour East of Winchester, VA. Loudoun is a perfect place to start your Blue Ridge Adventure with a stop at one of our beautiful wineries or a stroll through one of our quaint historic towns. www.visitloudoun.org

WINCHESTER/FREDERICK CO., VA

18 miles north of the Skyline Drive via US 522, I-81 Exits 310, 313, 315, 317. Historic district, quaint towns, museums, professional theatre, cinema, golf, and fine restaurants. For more info: Winchester-Frederick County Visitors Center 1400 S. Pleasant Valley Road Winchester, VA 22601 www.visitwinchesterva.com (877) 871-1326.

Dinosaur Land - 3848 Stonewall Jackson Hwy, White Post, VA. Intersection 522, 340, & 277. 8 mi. S of Winchester. Over 50 dinosaurs, gift shop. www.dinosaurland.com (540) 869-2222.

Museum of the Shenandoah Valley - Regional history museum complex including Glen Burnie Historic House, 7 acres formal gardens, & The Trails at MSV on 90 acres of green space. www.themsv.org (888) 556-5799.

SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VA

Venture off the Pkwy and experience OUR Rush Hour. Scenic drives, hiking, paddling, history, vineyards, breweries, restaurants, caverns. There's only one Shenandoah County in the Shenandoah Valley! www.VisitShenandoahCounty.com (540) 459-6227.

FRONT ROYAL, VA

Located at Milepost 0, Front Royal is a stepping on and off point for a wonderful and spectacular Skyline Drive tour through the Shenandoah National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway. www.discoverfrontroyal.com (540) 635-5788.

MAP KEY:

- PICNIC AREA
- RANGER STATION
- CAMPING
- FUEL
- LODGING
- INFO
- FOOD
- AIRPORT
- ACCESS POINTS

Skyline Caverns - US 340, 1 mi. S of Front Royal. Open all year. Miniature train, gift shop with snacks, Enchanted Dragon Mirror Maze, rock shop. Guided tour is impressive & educational. Unusual Anthodite formations. www.skylinecaverns.com (800) 296-4545.

Super 8 - 111 South St. 1/4 mile from Shen Natl Park. Located near historic downtown & restaurants. Free cont. breakfast & free Wi-Fi. (540) 636-4888.

Baymont by Wyndham Front Royal - N entrance Shen. Natl Park, bike parking, free breakfast, pool, restaurant, free Wi-Fi. www.bit.ly/BaymontWyndhamFrontRoyal (540) 635-3161.

0 **Access Point US 340 and Skyline Drive**. From Front Royal east 35 miles to Middleburg. 63 mi. to Washington D.C.; southeast 18 mi. to Washington, VA; north 21 mi. to Winchester.

0.6 **Front Royal (North) Entrance Station** is staffed by National Park Service personnel who, besides collecting entrance fees, can answer your questions and give other assistance.

2.8 **Shenandoah Valley Overlook** provides a sweeping view across the valley to Signal Knob, a Civil War communications post to the right on Massanutten Mountain. The mountain divides the valley and the Shenandoah River, with the south fork on the near side and the north fork on the far side. The two forks meet north of Front Royal.

4.6 **Dickey Ridge Visitor Center**. Exhibits, movie, publications, water, comfort stations and picnic grounds. Alt. 1,940.



Wild Geranium grows in Shenandoah and on the Parkway.
Photo by Matt Celko



Biking the roadway is fine but trails are pedestrian only
Photo by Jeff Greenberg

6.8 **Gooney Run Overlook** gives a view across the valley and towards Dickey Ridge on the right.

17.1 **Range View Overlook** offers a spectacular view of a large section of the Blue Ridge.

21 **Hogback Overlook**. 11 bends of Shenandoah River visible on clear days. Alt. 3,385 ft.

22.2 **Mathews Arm Campground** is open late May through October. Tent and trailer sites, sewage disposal station. No showers or laundry. Camp store two miles south on Skyline Drive.

24 **Elkwallow**. Picnic grounds and wayside, grills, snack bar, gift shop, camp store, water & comfort station.

28.4 **Beahms Gap Overlook** provides access to the Appalachian Trail and shorter trails.

? DID YOU KNOW?

Skyline Drive uses its own Milepost numbering system, separate from the Blue Ridge Parkway's Milepost numbers.

LURAY-PAGE COUNTY, VA

Nestled between the Blue Ridge & Massanutten Mountains, the Shenandoah Valley is a beautiful escape any time of the year. "Once you visit us, you may never want to leave." www.VisitLurayPage.com (888) 743-3915.

ATTRACTIONS

Luray Caverns - Eastern America's largest and most popular caverns. A U.S. Natural Landmark featuring the world's only Stalacpipe Organ. Skyline Drive and Shenandoah National Park 10 min; I-81, 15 min. www.luraycaverns.com (540) 743-6551.

FOOD, LODGING, & CAMPING

Luray Caverns Motels - Opposite Luray Caverns entrance. Quiet, scenic locations with Blue Ridge Mountain views. Discount food coupons, free Wi-Fi, pools. Golf packages at Caverns Country Club Resort. (540) 743-6551.

The Mimslyn Inn & Cottages -"Vintage Southern Hospitality" Luxury historic hotel, quality and comfort. Restaurant, spa, weddings. www.mimslyninn.com or (540) 743-5105.

Shenandoah River Outfitters & River Log Cabins - Canoe, kayak, raft, tube the Shenandoah or stay in the river cabins. www.shenandoah-river.com (800) 6-CANOE2.

SHENANDOAH CAVERNS, VA

5 miles north of New Market, I-81 Exit 269.

Shenandoah Caverns - Underground world of wonders and Virginia's only cavern with elevator service! Open all year. www.shenandoahcaverns.com (540) 477-3115.

Shenandoah Valley Cultural Heritage Museum - Edinburg Mill - 214 S Main St, Edinburg VA. Gift shop, Mon.-Sat. 9:30-5:30, Sun. noon-5. www.edinburgmill.com (540) 984-8400.

Shenandoah Valley Travel Association - ***Request an official Shenandoah Valley Travel Guide at www.VisitShenandoah.org or call (800) VISIT-SV. Mail requests to P.O. Box 261, Luray, VA 22835.***



Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, just north of the BRP | Photo courtesy SVTA

Luray & Page County, VA

Contact

Visitor Center Hours:
9am-5pm Daily
18 Campbell Street
Luray, VA 22835



1-888-743-3915
www.VisitLurayPage.com

A land called Shenandoah, Luray and Page County are home to Shenandoah National Park and Luray Caverns. The fabled Shenandoah River also traverses the gently rolling farmland of this central Shenandoah Valley region. The picturesque, rural setting boasts charming towns with historic sites, loads of antique shops, farmers markets, fairs, and festivals. Outdoor activities abound with canoeing and kayaking on the storied Shenandoah and discovery is available through horseback riding in the George Washington National Forest. The region is a destination for hiking, cycling, racing, and many participatory events along with hundreds of weddings in outdoor venues, area lodges, barns, and more. Closer to nature, find campsites and camp resorts, with cabins galore; Page County is aptly designated as the Cabin Capital of Virginia. So, from the geological wonders beneath the earth to the vistas of lush farm fields reaching for the foothills in the Blue Ridge Mountains – you really can Choose Your Level when visiting Luray and Page County.

Historic Culture • Friendly Atmosphere • Natural Beauty
www.CabinCapital.com

NEW MARKET, VA

15 miles west of Skyline Drive on US 211. I-81 Exit 264.

Virginia Museum of the Civil War & New Market Battlefield State Historical Park - Exhibit on entire Civil War in VA, Battle of New Market exhibit. Museum shop, picnic area, overlooks, walking trail. *www.vmi.edu/newmarket* (866) 515-1864.

31.5 **Thornton Gap Entrance Station** - West 9 mi. to Luray, 24 mi. to New Market. East 7 mi. to Sperryville, 26 mi. to Culpeper. Alt. 2,304. Thornton Gap is one of the major entrances to the park. Park Rangers at the entrance station can answer your questions and give other assistance. Park Headquarters is four miles west on US 221.

32 **Mary's Rock Tunnel** built in 1932, goes through 600′ of rock with a 12′ 8 inch clearance.

36.6 **Pinnacles**. Picnic grounds with shelter, tables, fireplaces, water and comfort station. Alt. 3,350. Access to Appalachian Trail.

38.6 **Stony Man Mountain Overlook**. Straight ahead as you enter the overlook from the north is the profile of a man looking up toward the sky. Across the valley is Massanutten Mountain.

39.1 **Little Stony Man Cliffs** can be reached by a round trip hike of 0.9 mile from the parking area. Access to Appalachian Trail.

41.7 **North Entrance to Skyland**. Highest point on Skyline Drive at 3,680′. One of the primary tourist facility stops. Naturalist George Freeman Pollock who built Skyland resort in the 1890s, was a major proponent for establishing the park. Lodge, dining room, gift shop, riding horses, Stony Man Nature Trail and other trails, conducted hikes and evening programs.

Skyland Resort - Located in the Shenandoah National Park at MP 41.7. Open late March through late November. Features 177 rooms ranging from rustic cabins to cozy suites with fireplaces, full service restaurant, a gift shop with handcrafted items and special gifts, & bar with entertainment 7 days a week. Guided horse rides, special events & scheduled Ranger activities. *www.goshenandoah.com* Call (877) 247-9261.

42.5 **South Entrance to Skyland**

42.6 **Whiteoak Canyon has six waterfalls.** A 4.6 mile round-trip trail leads to the first waterfall, the park's second highest at 86′.



Bluets are one of the wildflowers found in Shenandoah | Photo by William A. Bake

43 **Limberlost Trail** (accessible), a 1.3 mile loop, passes through an old orchard and the remains of a grove of ancient hemlocks. It is an accessible trail (with assistance), with a crushed greenstone walkway, wooden boardwalk and bridge, and many benches.

44.2 **Crescent Rock Overlook** 25 yards from the Skyline Drive, provides the best view of Hawksbill Mountain.

45.5 **Hawksbill Gap Parking Area** trails lead to Hawksbill Mountain, at 4,051′ the highest point in the park.

50.4 **Dark Hollow Falls**, the waterfall closest to the Drive, cascades 70′ over greenstone. Round trip from the parking area is 1.4 miles.

51 **Big Meadows** offers a multitude of activities and services at three sites, all connected by a network of trails. Byrd Visitor Center is one of the park's two major information facilities, providing exhibits on the area's human and natural history; film and Ranger programs; sales outlet for publications and maps; and conducted hikes. The wayside facilities include a coffee shop, camp store, gift shop and service station. One mile from the Drive, using either entrance, is Big Meadows Lodge with rooms, dining room and gift shop open in spring, summer and fall. Big Meadows Campground has tent and trailer sites, trailer sewage disposal station, showers, laundry, ice, firewood, picnic ground and an amphitheater for ranger programs. During the summer and fall, campsites at the campground may be available by reservation only. Byrd Visitor Center, the Big Meadows Campground, the Lodge, and wayside are usually closed in winter. Byrd Visitor Center is open winter weekends, weather and drive conditions permitting. Please call the park for current information or if you plan to visit in winter. Shenandoah National Park Headquarters (540) 999-3500.

Big Meadows Lodge - Located in Shenandoah National Park at MP 51. Open late April through early November. Features 93 rooms from rustic cabins to cozy suites with fireplaces, full service restaurant & bar with entertainment 7 days a week. Gift shop with handcrafted items and special gifts. www.goshenandoah.com Call (877) 247-9261.

56.4 **Bearfence Mountain Summit** provides a 360 degree view. The round trip from the parking lot is only 1.2 miles but part of it is a rock scramble and can be difficult, especially if wet. Wear sturdy shoes.

57.2 **Lewis Mountain**. Facilities and services include cabins, campground with tent and trailer sites, camp store, picnic ground and campfire facilities. Alt. 3,390.

62.5 **South River Picnic Grounds** is a fine place to stop for a picnic and then take a hike to South River Falls, 2.6 miles round trip.

MADISON, VA

Let us help you plan a visit filled with outdoor activities, wineries, events, restaurants & fine dining, or simply relaxation. Madison County Visitor Center - 110 N Main Street, Madison VA. www.madisonva.com (540) 948-4455.

65.5 **Swift Run Gap Entrance Station** Access point US 33. East 12 miles to Standardsville, west 7 mi. to Elkton, 24 mi. to Harrisonburg. South 25 mi. to Grottoes. Alt. 2,365. Park Rangers at the entrance station can answer your questions and give other assistance.

HARRISONBURG, VA

In the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, near Shen. Nat'l Park & George Washington Nat'l Forest, exquisite local cuisine, hand-crafted beer, a recognized bronze cycling destination. www.visitharrisonburgva.com (540) 432-8935.

Massanutten - 1822 Resort Dr. 15 miles from Parkway. Indoor WaterPark, skiing, day spa, golf, hiking, shopping, dining. www.massresort.com (540) 289-9441.



Bring plenty of water if you plan to hike!



Loft Mountain Ampitheater | Photo courtesy NPS

The Village Inn & Restaurant - I-81 Exit 243. Scenic rural setting, relaxing pool & hot tub, deluxe playground, Wi-Fi, in-room coffee, microwave & refrigerator. AAA 3 Diamond. Family-owned 3 generations. www.thevillageinn.travel (540) 434-7355.

GROTTOES, VA

From MP 0, 4 miles West of the Skyline Drive via US 250 and 12 miles North via US 340.

Grand Caverns - America's oldest continuously operated show cave & voted #2 in U.S. by Parade magazine. Experience nature's handiwork. Open daily. www.grandcaverns.com (888) 430-CAVE.

66.3 **Hightop Mountain Parking**, at an elevation of 2,635', is on the west side of the Drive and provides access to the Appalachian Trail and outstanding views on the summit of Hightop Mountain.

66.8 **Swift Run Overlook** offers a view of the Piedmont to the east and Flattop to the south.

72.8 **Simmons Gap Ranger Station** personnel are responsible for the southern portion of the park. Stop if you need assistance from the Rangers.

77.8 **Rockytop Overlook** provides a good view of the Big Run watershed.

79.5 **Loft Mountain**. Loft Mountain Wayside has a restaurant and gift store. Loft Mountain Campground (one mile up the access road from Skyline Drive) has both tent and trailer sites, a trailer sewage disposal station, camp store, showers, laundry, ice, firewood, and conducted ranger programs in the summer. This campground usually closes in late October. Amphitheater; hikes in summer. Alt. 3,300

81.1 **Doyles River Trail** takes you to the upper falls, 2.6 miles round trip, lower falls, 3.2 miles round trip.

84.1 **Jones Run** is a good place to park for a rewarding hike of 3.6 miles, round trip to the 42 foot Jones Run Falls. The reward: mosses and flowering plants growing on the water-sprayed cliff.

84.8 **Blackrock Summit Parking** is the start of a one-mile round trip hike to Blackrock and outstanding views.

93.8 **Turk Gap Parking Area** is east of the Drive near a crossing of the Appalachian Trail.

98.5 **Calf Mountain Overlook** provides a spectacular 360 degree view.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

We can't wait to welcome you to Charlottesville & Albemarle County! We operate 2 mobile visitor centers which frequent our most popular attractions in the city & county. For where and when to find our 2 mobile visitor centers each day, visit www.visitcharlottesville.org.

Barboursville Vineyards & Historic Ruins - 30 min E of Pkwy. Tasting & tours, restaurant, inn & cottages, Virginia's most honored winery. www.bbvwine.com (540) 832-3824.

Monticello, Home of Thomas Jefferson - Special tours including Behind-the-Scenes, Gardens & Grounds. Cafe & The Shop at Monticello. www.monticello.org (434) 984-9800.

? DID YOU KNOW?

The Parkway follows the Blue Ridge Mountains, which are a part of the Appalachian Mountain chain. These mountains span from Georgia to Pennsylvania, containing the highest mountains in the eastern United States.

CROZET, VA

10 miles East of Parkway, Exit Milepost 0.

Montfair Resort Farm - 18 mi. from Parkway, MP 0. 9 mi. N. of Crozet. Eco-friendly vacation cabins by mtn lake. All cabins have Wi-Fi. Pets welcome. Hiking, fishing, canoes, bikes included! www.montfairresortfarm.com (434) 823-5202.

104.9 **Rockfish Gap Entrance Station** is staffed by the Park Service who can answer questions and provide assistance.

105.4 **Rockfish Gap Access Point Skyline Drive**, Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive, US 250 Access point. West 4 miles to Waynesboro, 15 mi. to Staunton and 60 miles to Monterey. East 20 mi. to Charlottesville. Alt. 1,909. Afton, VA Exit US 250, MP 105.4.

Charlottesville & Albemarle County, VA

Contact

Instagram: @charlottesvilleva
Twitter: @visitcville
Facebook: facebook.com/charlottesvillevirginia



1-877-386-1103
www.VisitCharlottesville.org

On your short drive into the city from the Blue Ridge Parkway, you'll pass through one of the most acclaimed wine regions in the United States. Explore the Monticello Wine Trail, where you will find dozens of picturesque wineries with sweeping views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The homes of former U.S. presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe are a short drive away from the historic pedestrian Downtown Mall, a vibrant eight-block stretch of shops, cafes, restaurants, performance venues, and theaters. Start planning your trip to Charlottesville & Albemarle County today at visitcharlottesville.org!

We can't wait to welcome you to Charlottesville and Albemarle County!



Blue Ridge Parkway Ridge Region:

Milepost 0, Rockfish Gap to Milepost 106, Roanoke, VA

0 **Rockfish Gap Access Point** Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive, US 250 Access point. West 4 miles to Waynesboro, 15 mi. to Staunton and 60 miles to Monterey. East 20 mi. to Charlottesville. Alt. 1,909. Afton, VA Exit US 250, MP 0.

STAUNTON, VA

Staunton's historic downtown delights visitors with its vibrant arts scene & great restaurants. The amazing architecture & compact downtown make for great walking & exploring opportunities. www.VisitStaunton.com (540) 332-3865.

Blackburn Inn - MP 0. Virginia boutique hotel with artful design, 49 rooms, historic roots with modern architecture, 40-seat intimate indoor bistro and bar. www.blackburn-inn.com (540) 712-0601.

Walnut Hills Campground - RV park, campground, 15 mi. from Parkway MP 0. Rental cabins, clean bathrooms, dog park, pool. www.walnuthillscampground.com (540) 337-3920.

WAYNESBORO, VA

4 miles west of Parkway via US 250 or I-64. Shops, restaurants, gas, and outdoor recreation. Information center located at exit 99 off of I-64. www.VisitWaynesboro.net or (540) 943-5187.

Best Western Plus Waynesboro - I-64 Exit 94. Award-winning hotel 5 min. from MP 0. Pet-friendly, mountain views, hot breakfast, pool & restaurants nearby. www.bwwaynesboro.com (540) 942-1100.

Blue Ridge Bucha Kombucha Taproom - Organic kombucha tastings & growler fills. Kids play area, outdoor seating. 1809 E Main St. www.BlueRidgeBucha.com (540) 221-6500.

Days Inn by Wyndham Waynesboro - I-64 exit 94. 5 mi. from Pkwy. Oversized guest rooms boast panoramic mtn views. Comp. cont. breakfast & outdoor pool. (540) 943-1101.

MAP KEY:

- PICNIC AREA
- RANGER STATION
- CAMPING
- FUEL
- LODGING
- INFO
- FOOD
- AIRPORT
- ACCESS POINTS



Parkway in Virginia | Photo by Jeff Greenberg

Holiday Inn Express - 20 Windigrove Drive. 5 miles W. MP 1. Great service and good rooms with breakfast, indoor pool and Jacuzzi. Call now: (540) 932-7170.

Stable Craft Brewing & Cidery - Beer, food, cider, airbnbs, cornhole golf, patios, outdoor bar, multiple indoor dining spaces. MP 0, 375 Madrid Rd. Waynesboro. *www.stablecraftbrewing.com* (540) 490-2609.

NELSON COUNTY, VA

From MP 0 to the mighty James River, explore 471 miles of wineries, breweries, cideries, distilleries, orchards, unique lodging, restaurants & shopping. For free travel & event information, visit www.nelsoncounty.com (800) 282-8223.

5.8-9.3 **Humpback Rocks. Visitor Center and Park Store.** Mountain farm exhibit (Milepost 5.8), Picnic area, comfort station (Milepost 8.8). 800 acres.

8.8 **Greenstone Parking Overlook.** Self-guiding nature trail.

13.5 **Reids Gap Access Point.** Route 664.

13.7 **VA Route 664 Access Point.**

WINTERGREEN, VA

5.5 miles east on Route 664 and Route 151, exit at Milepost 13.5.

DeVine Cafe and Wine Shop - 5.5 miles from Parkway MP 14. Small cafe with coffee and wine bar, gourmet grocery and gifts, local products. *www.stauntongourmet.com* (434) 326-1940.

Wintergreen Resort - Lodging, dining, 45 holes of golf, tennis, pools, skiing, snowboarding, tubing, ice skating, spa, hiking, fishing. *www.wintergreenresort.com* (434) 325-2200.

DID YOU KNOW?

that the Parkway borders on five designated U.S. Wilderness Areas?

Waynesboro, VA

Contact

301 West Main Street
Waynesboro, VA 22980
Ph: 540-942-6512
yourway@visitwaynesboro.net



www.VisitWaynesboro.net

Perfectly situated where Skyline Drive, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and Appalachian Trail meet, Waynesboro, VA, offers travelers a getaway as relaxing or adventurous as their tastes.

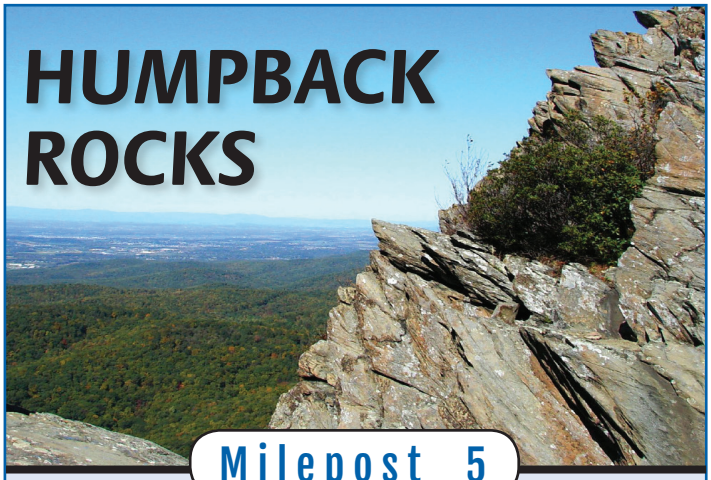
The South River, one of two urban trout fisheries in the state, flows through downtown providing the opportunity to catch trophy-size rainbow and brown trout. Historic downtown boasts trendy restaurants, coffee shops, art galleries, and museums. The vaudeville-era Wayne Theatre attracts national acts as well as house-produced theater. Tempt your tastebuds at three craft breweries located on the Shenandoah Beerwerks Trail or sample the many flavors of kombucha at Blue Ridge Bucha's taproom.

Some of Virginia's best hiking is at Waynesboro's back door, including the popular one-mile hike up Humpback Rocks, featuring breathtaking views of both the Shenandoah and Rockfish valleys, and the recently opened trail through the Blue Ridge Tunnel.

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

Divinely placed among the adventure, Waynesboro is your gateway to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Shenandoah National Park.

HUMPBACK ROCKS



Milepost 5

Travelers heading south from Rockfish Gap experience a scenic drive through a mountain forest interspersed with agricultural lands. Climbing and descending ridge tops and gaps offers magnificent views of the Shenandoah Valley to the west and Rockfish Valley to the east, along with the flora and fauna of Appalachian hardwood forests. This is a region that was once cleared for agriculture, trade routes, timber harvesting, and subsistence living. Now it supports mature forests, designated wilderness, US Forest Service lands, and the return of many species of wildlife not seen in years.

Humpback Rocks at Milepost 5.8 is perhaps the best representation of the varied combination of natural and cultural resources anywhere along the Parkway corridor. The prominent rock outcrop was a landmark guiding wagon trains over the Howardsville Turnpike in the 1840s. A portion of the historic trace still exists. This was a major route across the narrow Blue Ridge until railroads came through the mountain gaps. The view from "the rocks" is spectacular any time of the year.

Adjacent to NPS Humpback Rocks Visitor Center, an outdoor farm museum is surrounded by nearly 3,000 acres of predominantly forested lands. Early Parkway designers collected buildings from nearby and assembled them here in an arrangement that allows for an easy stroll along the pathway. The farm museum consists of a single-room log cabin and a series of outbuildings that represent elements of regional architecture of the late nineteenth century. Costumed interpreters provide demonstrations seasonally, including weaving, basket making and gardening. Interpretation focuses on and emphasizes the generalized life styles of subsistence farmers.



A visit to Humpback Rocks will help travelers better understand the difficulties and advantages associated with farming and living in these mountains and get a sense of how transportation routes across the mountains linked residents and communities in the region. Participate in "hands on" cultural demonstrations depicting domestic and farm chores including gardening and music.

16 **VA 814 to Sherando Lake Access Point.** (4.5 mi.) in George Washington National Forest. Swimming, picnicking, camping.

LOVE, VA

West of Parkway, exit at Milepost 16.

Royal Oaks Cabins - Love, VA. Exit at Milepost 16, 500 ft west on Route 814. Royal Oaks Cabins Store, deli, gifts - "Come in Love. Stay in Love. Leave in Love." Experience love in our 13 cabins and 4 large chalets with mtn. views, fireplaces, hot tubs, equipped kitchens, free Wi-Fi, TV/VCR/DVD. Open year round. www.vacabins.com (540) 943-7625.

12 Ridges Tasting Room and Vineyard - Wine tasting, events & weddings. MP 25 at the top of the Blue Ridge Mountains, with views of the Shen. Valley. www.12ridges.com (434) 996-4252.

27.2 **Tye River Gap. Access Point** Rt 56, West to Vesuvius, Steeles Tavern, East to Montebello. Alt. 2,969.

STEELES TAVERN, VA

West of Parkway on VA 56, exit at Milepost 27.

Steeles Tavern Manor Bed & Breakfast and Cabins - MP 27.2, manor house on 50 acres w/ 5 guest rooms, 3 cabins, fishing pond and pool. www.steelestavern.com (540) 377-9494.

Sugar Tree Inn - 3/4 mi W. of MP 27 is a haven of natural beauty called The Sugar Tree. Set on 28 acres at 2800', the inn is a place of peace and tranquility. Relax in rustic elegance and enjoy 40-mile views from our front porch. Wood-burning fireplaces in every room. A full country breakfast is included; dinner is available for inn guests with advance reservations. www.sugartreeinn.com (540) 377-2197.



Historic sites and visitor centers are great places to learn about natural and cultural history | Photo by Jeff Greenberg

FAIRFIELD, VA

11 miles west of Parkway on VA 56 and US Hwy 11. Exit at MP 27.

Ecco Adesso Vineyards - Convenient to Blue Ridge Parkway & I-81, off Rte. 11. Farm winery, beautiful views, hiking, lodging, wine. www.eccoadesso.com (540) 817-0419.

Fox Hill B&B Suites - 38 acres, pet friendly. Between MP 27 & 45.6; king beds, 3-course breakfast, Wi-Fi. www.foxhillbb.com (540) 377-9922.

MONTEBELLO, VA

2.5 miles east of Parkway on VA 56, exit at MP 27.

Montebello Resort - Exit MP 27, Rt 56 East 3 miles. Full service campground with shaded sites for RVs, campers, tents (seasonal). Cabins year round. Fee-based trout ponds, no license required. Country store w/fuel, groceries & gift items open year round. www.MontebelloVA.com (540) 377-2650.

34.4 **Yankee Horse Parking Area**. Logging Railroad Exhibit.

45.6 **US 60 Access Point**. East to Amherst, West to Buena Vista and Lexington.

FREE DOWNLOAD: Blue Ridge Parkway Travel Planner App. Includes maps & works even without cell reception!



Otter Creek Campground | photo by Jeff Greenberg

BUENA VISTA, VA

Milepost 45.6 - US 60 Crossover West to Buena Vista.

Glen Maury Park Campground - 10th St., 5 miles from Parkway. 315 acres with 52 sites or 250 units, group camping. Clean modern facilities. LP gas. (800) 555-8845.

Nelson County, VA

Contact

Nelson County Tourism
Post Office Box 636
Dept. BRPD
Lovingston, VA 22949



434-263-7015
www.nelsoncounty.com

From milepost 0 of the Blue Ridge Parkway to the mighty James River, plan to experience a getaway full of adventure and relaxation. Remember how to have fun in our 471 square mile playground, then rest at a unique local bed and breakfast or cabin.

Relax and unwind as you marvel at Nature's bounty. Whether it's the pink and white of the spring apple blossoms or the spectacular fall foliage, the backdrop is picture perfect for your vacation.

Be entertained with the simple things – take time to relax, enjoy the scenery, the local music scene or the farm-to-the-table culinary delights from local restaurants, wineries, breweries, cideries or distilleries.

Experience the Sunrise Side of the Blue Ridge

LEXINGTON, BUENA VISTA & ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY, VA

Natural Wonders, Great American Heroes & Charming Towns! The homes and final resting places of "Stonewall" Jackson and Robert E. Lee, breathtaking scenery, and charming downtown eateries & shops. www.lexingtonvirginia.com (540) 463-3777.

Brierley Hill B&B - 985 Borden Rd, Lexington VA, MP 45.6. Large rooms & suites, country b'fast, views, voted One of the Top 10 Romantic Inns in the US. Pet friendly cottage. www.brierleyhill.com (540) 464-8421.

The Georges Historic Boutique Hotel - 11 N. Main St. 12 mi. from US 60 exit. Deluxe rooms/suites, two restaurants, on site free parking. www.thegeorges.com (540) 463-2500.

60.8 **Otter Creek.** Campground, trails and scenic roadside cascade.

61.4 **Rt 130 Access Point** East to Lynchburg 20 mi. West to Glasgow 9 mi. and Natural Bridge 15 mi.

Lynchburg NW/Blue Ridge Parkway KOA - 6252 Elon Rd. Monroe, VA. MP 61.5 - Rt. 130 East, 1 mile from Parkway. RV/tent/cabins - big rigs welcome! www.lynchburgkoa.com (800) 562-8717.

63.6 **James River Visitor Center and Park Store.** Exhibits.

NATURAL BRIDGE, VA

15 miles west of Parkway via US 501 or VA 130, exit at Milepost 61.6 or 63.7. I-81 Exits 175 or 180.

ATTRACTIONS

Natural Bridge Zoological Park - Discover the largest & most complete collection of birds & animals in the state of Virginia. Ride an African elephant, stand next to & feed the giraffes, gaze into the eyes of a huge white tiger. Feed over 300 tame beautiful parakeets in our huge new parakeet landing aviary. Enjoy monkeys, mandrills & gibbons as they raise their babies in their spacious habitat displays. Enjoy the only nesting colony of beautiful pink Chilean flamingos in Virginia & watch the rare Himalayan black bears soaking in their swimming pool. Our staff members give educational & entertaining talks throughout the day with select baby animals & colorful parrots. Feed, pet, & photograph hundreds of tame animals & birds up close. Free picnic area & Safari gift shop. Off I-81 between exits 175 & 180. 15 minutes off Parkway. Open daily 9-6pm. www.naturalbridgezoo.com (540) 291-2420.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Blue Ridge Parkway was designed as a recreational motor road, connecting Great Smoky Mountains and Shenandoah National Parks.

Lexington / Buena Vista / Rockbridge County, VA

Contact

Stop by our Visitor Centers located at:
106 E. Washington St., Lexington
595 E. 29th St. (U.S. Route 60)
Buena Vista | Mile Post 45.6



1-540-463-3777
www.lexingtonvirginia.com

The Southern gateway to the Shenandoah Valley, Lexington, VA—a USA Today's "Top 10 Best Southern Small Towns"— is walkable with over 65 indie-owned shops and eateries, historic sites, and tours such as Lexington Carriage Company.

Explore our "big backyard"—65,000 acres of public forests, parks, and rivers beckoning outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels. Visit the awe-inspiring Natural Bridge State Park, an International Dark Sky Park, and paddle along the Upper James River Water Trail. Tap your toes at a music festival at Glen Maury Park, enjoy a craft brew along the Shenandoah Beerwerks Trail, and catch a movie at Hull's Drive-in. After a scenic day on the parkway, trail, or river, relax in a cabin, B&B, hotel or campground. Lexington, Buena Vista and Rockbridge County is the perfect place to disconnect to reconnect.

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

Small towns, natural wonders, and a big backyard

DID YOU KNOW?

TUNNELS

Because of the generally higher and more rugged elevation of the mountains in North Carolina, there are 25 tunnels in NC and 1 in VA for 26 total

Virginia Safari Park - Virginia's only 180-acre drive-thru zoo! Drive 3 miles of road where animals of all sizes, shapes and colors approach your vehicle in search of a tasty bucket of feed. See deer, camels, bison, zebras, elk, giraffe, and many more! 4 mi. North of Natural Bridge on Rt. 11. Left @ NB KOA. Open March-Nov. www.VirginiaSafariPark.com (540) 291-3205.

LODGING & CAMPING

Natural Bridge Historic Hotel & Conference Center - MP 61.4 & 63.7. Spectacular mountain views, dining, tavern, state park, caverns. www.naturalbridgeva.com (540) 291-2121.

Natural Bridge KOA Campground - Rt. 130 west to The Natural Bridge, Rt. 11 North 4.5 miles, RV, tent, cabin, deluxe cabins. Open all year. www.naturalbridgekoa.com (800) 562-8514.

63.9 **US 501 Access Point** West to Natural Bridge 15 miles. East to Lynchburg 22 miles. Alt. 670.

LYNCHBURG, VA

Take a detour at Milepost 63.7 and experience celebrated historic places, diverse local cuisine, and unique shops as Lynchburg is the perfect place to stay while exploring Central Virginia! www.LynchburgVirginia.org (434) 485-7290.

SeaQuest - 3405 Candlers Mtn Rd, River Ridge Mall, Interact with sharks, stingrays, reptiles, mammals, birds & fish. https://lynchburg.visitseaquest.com (800) 484-9745.

Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest - Experience Thomas Jefferson through his personal retreat. Step into his private world with a guided tour. www.poplarforest.org (434) 534-8120.



More than 250 bird species have been observed along the Parkway



Parkway Tunnel | Photo by William A. Bake

74.7 **Thunder Ridge Parking Area**. Ten minute loop trail to superb view of Arnold's Valley. Alt. 3,485.

76.5 **High Point on the Parkway in Virginia**. Apple Orchard Mountain. (El. 4,229.) Alt. 3,950.

83.4 **Fallingwater Cascades National Scenic Trail**. Divided into two sections or may be hiked as one continuous loop. Fallingwater Cascades section is a 1.5 mile loop of moderate hiking. Flat Top section is more strenuous, 2.5 miles to summit and 4.4 mi. to Peaks Picnic Area on VA 43.

BEDFORD, VA

Exit via VA 43 at the Peaks of Otter and take a peek at Bedford's orchards, potteries, country inns, arts, & shops. Visit the Bedford Welcome Center via Hwy 460 & 122, near the D-Day Memorial. www.destinationbedfordva.com (877) 447-3257, (540) 587-5681.

ATTRACTIONS

Bedford Welcome Center - 816 Burks Hill Road (Hwy 460 & 122 - near the D-Day Memorial), Bedford, VA 24523. Toll free (877) 447-3257, (540) 587-5681.

National D-Day Memorial - The Nation's monument to D-Day. Admission includes guided tour. www.dday.org (540) 587-3619.

Peaks of Otter Winery & Orchards - Seasonal or by appt. Free tours, tastings & animal visits. Farm vacation rental house. Website: www.PeaksofOtterWinery.com (540) 586-3707.

FOOD, LODGING, & CAMPING

Bedford VA Lodging Group - MP 86. Several B&B's, cabins, cottages and vacation rentals. www.bedfordvalodging.com

Cedar Post Inn B&B - 8 mi. from Pkwy MP 63.7. 2 rooms w/ priv. bath, full breakfast, Wi-Fi, fish, hike, enjoy wildlife & views, relax on the porch. www.cedarpostinn.com (434) 299-6327.



Regional lakes and rivers offer mild to wild adventures.

Gross' Orchard & Apple Valley Homeplace - Vacation home rental. Open year-round. Mountain grown fruit & produce. U-pick or U-select. Apple Festival 3rd Sat. in Oct. Bedford, VA. Rt. 43 in Apple Valley. www.grossorchards.com (540) 586-2436.

Olde Liberty Station Restaurant - Your ticket for casual dining. 12 mi. from MP 86; Open 11-9 Tues.-Thurs., 11-10 Fri./Sat., 1st class dining in beautifully restored train station. Great prices. www.oldelibertystation.com (540) 587-9377.

Vanquility Acres Inn - Rt 43S 8 mi. to Rt 838. Beautiful views of Peaks of Otter, mtns & lake, priv. baths, kitchens, cable/Wi-Fi, pool. www.vanquilityacresinn.com (540) 587-9113, (540) 761-3652.

85.9

Peaks of Otter Area Visitor Center and Park Store - 5,000 acres. Three Peaks: Sharp Top [El 3,875], Flat Top [El. 4,004], and Harkening Hill [El. 3,364]. Self-guided trail, historic farm interpretive programs. Picnic area, campground, restrooms

85.9

VA 43 Access Point East to Bedford 10 miles and Smith Mountain Lake via VA 43 and VA 122.

Peaks of Otter Lodge - MP 86 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Open daily from April through November. Restaurant, lounge. Shuttle to Sharp Top Mountain. www.peaksofotter.com (888) 454-7711.

Bedford, VA

Contact

Bedford Area Welcome Center
adjoining the entrance to
the National D-Day Memorial
at the junction of
Routes 460 & Hwy 122.



1-877-447-3257
DestinationBedfordVA.com

Located just minutes from the legendary Peaks of Otter, Bedford offers delightful diversions from your travels along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

American heroes are honored and remembered at the National D-Day Memorial, an extraordinary tribute in the community which suffered the largest casualties per capita on D-Day. Just down the road is Thomas Jefferson's retreat, Poplar Forest, which provides an intriguing glimpse into his personal life. Purchase a combo ticket and save money off the regular ticket prices.

Located in historic downtown is the Bedford Museum, Bower Center for the Arts, Civil War Trail markers, Beale's Brewery, art galleries, antique shopping, and a variety of dining options.

Smith Mountain Lake offers boat cruises aboard the Virginia Dare and many recreational offerings, including hiking, fishing, swimming, and camping at Smith Mountain Lake State Park.

Bedford offers overnight accommodations to include mountain lodging, waterfront condominiums, country cabins, B&Bs and much more! Begin your stay at the Bedford Welcome Center, open daily. To reach Bedford from the Parkway exit at MP 121.4 (Rt. 460 East), MP 63.8 (Hwy 501) or Milepost 86 (Route 43 East) at the Peaks of Otter. Follow signs to the Visitor's Center.

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

The majestic Peaks of Otter are best seen from the mountain's base in Bedford



Pick up trail maps at Parkway Visitor Centers. | Photo by Jeff Greenberg

91 **Bearwallow Gap. Access Point** VA 43, 4 miles west to Buchanan. Alt. 2,258.

BUCHANAN, VA

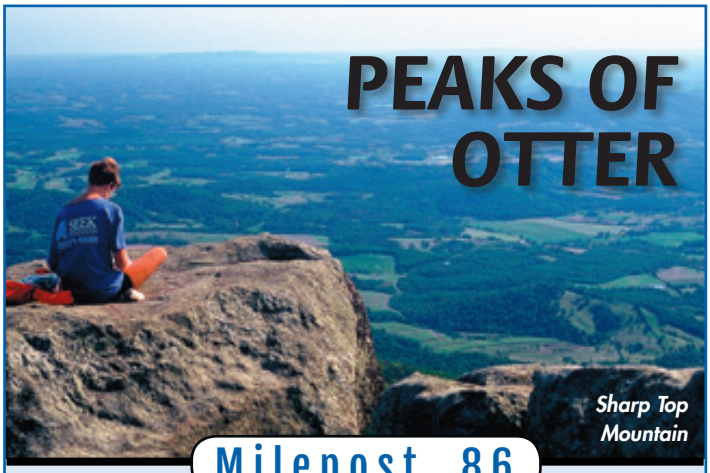
4 mi. from Parkway MP 90.9. Downtown historic district with structures dating from 1750 - 1950. Shops filled with antiques, art, furniture & collectibles. Walk our Swinging Bridge or paddle the James River. www.townofbuchanan.com (540) 254-1212.

Twin River Outfitters - 4 miles from Parkway. Kayak, tube, canoe the scenic James River. Great fun! www.canoevirginia.net (540) 261-7334.

Wattstull Inn - Foot of the Mountain Cafe & 24 hour Shell gas station. Hot tub, Wi-Fi, kayak rentals, shuttle to App. Trail. Rt. 43 from Pkwy. www.wattstullinn.com (540) 254-1551.

DID YOU KNOW?

The National Park Service regards natural sounds, darkness and starry night skies as essential parts of the natural and cultural resources that must be protected. They are vital to the protection of the wilderness character, fundamental to the experience of visiting historical and cultural sites, and critical for park wildlife. National parks contain some of the last remaining areas where natural sounds and lightscapes can still be found. Learn more at ***www.nature.nps.gov/sound/***



Milepost 86

Visitors to the Peaks of Otter gain a sense of both the history of community and the history of tourism in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. The community had its beginning in 1766 when Thomas Wood settled here from Pennsylvania. By the mid 1800s, there were twenty families, a school, and a church integrated into the business of tourism, providing food and labor for a large resort hotel.

Polly Wood's early tavern or "ordinary" provided the basic necessities for travelers as early as 1840 and is preserved at the Peaks of Otter as well. Visitors will get a sense that many of the things attracting them to the Peaks of Otter today have attracted visitors for centuries. Prominent historical figures such as Thomas Jefferson and Robert E. Lee have visited or written about the Peaks of Otter, signifying its importance as a natural landmark in Virginia's Blue Ridge.

The Johnson Farm provides opportunities for insight into community life in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with hands on living history demonstrations that convey a sense of visiting an occupied family home. The farmhouse is perhaps the Parkway's best example of a log cabin home that was enlarged over time, clap boarded and otherwise modified to reflect the evolution and development of Appalachian homes. The Johnson farm represents what may be thought of as "middle class" life in the mountains, providing a significant contrast to log homes selectively preserved by Parkway planners, and breaking down the stereotypes often associated with mountain residents.

Natural history also abounds at the Peaks of Otter, an area that is representative of the hardwood forests common along the mid range elevations of the Parkway. The area is also home to rare plants and animal species and an extensive trail system offers visitors access to these areas. A hike to the top of Sharp Top, one of the three "peaks", along with Flat Top and Harkening Hill, is a long standing tradition dating back over a century. Overnight lodging and food service makes the Peaks especially attractive.

What attracts visitors today, abundant wildlife, the high mountains, cool summer temperatures, and diversity of natural resources, have made the Peaks of Otter a hunting destination for humans for 10,000 years and a destination for travelers for centuries. Newly developed exhibits in the visitor center convey this in more detail.



Blue Ridge Parkway Plateau Region:

Milepost 106, Roanoke, VA to Milepost 217, Virginia/North Carolina Border

105.8 **Access point Parkway and US 460.** 9 mi. southwest to Roanoke, VA. 21 mi. northeast to Bedford, Lynchburg and Appomattox, VA.

112.2 **Access point Parkway and VA 24.** 5 miles south to Roanoke. Nearest access to Smith Mountain Lake via VA 24 & 122.

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE, VA

500 miles of glistening shoreline. Year-round appeal, history & wine anytime, fish, boat, golf, dine, shop, stay. FREE Visitor's Guide: www.visitsmithmountainlake.com (540) 721-1203.

114.9 **Roanoke River Overlook**. Trail.

115 **Visitor Center at Explore Park**. Contains a gift shop featuring local artisan crafts and Parkway memorabilia, public restrooms, and a media center with videos on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Campgrounds at Explore Park - Home to a variety of new overnight accommodations with direct access to the Parkway at MP 115, and minutes from the cultural amenities of downtown Roanoke. Primitive camping, group sites, tents, yurts, pod cabins and RV sites. www.ExplorePark.org (540) 427-1800.

Explore Park - Adventure begins at the Explore Park Visitor Center at Milepost 115. Check out the museum and artisan gift shop before exploring recreation options including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, paddle sports, disc golf and special events. www.ExplorePark.org (540) 427-1800.

MAP KEY:

- PICNIC AREA
- RANGER STATION
- CAMPING
- FUEL
- LODGING
- INFO
- FOOD
- AIRPORT
- ACCESS POINTS

120.4 **Mill Mountain Discovery Center** - Located on top of Mill Mountain, exit Milepost 120.4. An environmental education and regional information center providing nature programs, hands-on exhibits, and visitor information. Open 5 days a week year round. (April-Thanksgiving: Thursday-Saturday 10am-4pm; Sun. noon-4pm) (Thanksgiving-March: Wednesday-Sunday noon-4pm). (540) 853-1236.

SALEM, VA

Virginia's Championship City! Visit historic downtown Salem, only 30 min. from the Parkway. Visit the Farmers Market, Lake Spring Park, Salem Museum, unique dining, shopping, antiques & an array of good eats. www.visitsalemva.com (540) 375-4044.

VINTON, VA

The Parkway - A Part of The Community. Convenient full service shopping, restaurants, festivals and events, farmers' market, history museum. www.vintonva.gov or (540) 983-0613.

120.4 **Roanoke Mountain.** Day-use area, trails.

ROANOKE, VA

The Roanoke Valley and the neighboring scenic towns and counties - together known as Virginia's Blue Ridge - is the quintessential mountain destination. As the largest metropolitan region along the Blue Ridge Parkway, Virginia's Blue Ridge has so much to offer visitors. Endless choices for creative cuisine and more shopping than you can squeeze into a weekend are just the beginning. The vibrant arts and culture scene includes one-of-a-kind opportunities like the Taubman Museum of Art, the renovated Center in the Square, the Virginia Museum of Transportation and more. It's all surrounded by the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains, which means outdoor fun on the rivers, streams, lakes, trails and back roads. Get a bird's eye view of Virginia's Blue Ridge from the Roanoke Star and Overlook, featured on the cover, just off of Milepost 120. Visitor Information Center open Mon-Sat 9:30am-4:30pm, Sun 11am-3pm. Plan a perfect Blue Ridge Day. www.VisitVBR.com or 800-635-5535 or 540-342-6025.

ATTRACTIONS

Virginia Museum of Transportation - Downtown Roanoke. Trains, antique vehicles, cars, model train layout, museum store. Wed-Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5. www.vmt.org (540) 342-5670.

FOOD, LODGING, & CAMPING

Bent Mountain Lodge B & B - MP 136. 10 suites all with priv. baths, 20 min. to Floyd, VA, 20 min. to Roanoke, VA. Non-smoking rooms, cont. breakfast. 15K sq. ft. lodge. Weddings. www.bentmountainlodgebedandbreakfast.com (540) 651-2500.

Hampton Inn and Suites Downtown - 27 Church Avenue SE. 3.5 miles from MP 121. Spacious rooms with amazing views, walking distance to restaurants. (540) 400-6000.

Holiday Inn Tanglewood - Roanoke, 4468 Starkey Rd., 2 mi. from MP 121. Best Views in the Valley. Renovated 2012. Micro, fridges, restaurant, lounge. (540) 774-4400.

Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center Curio by Hilton - Four Diamond historic hotel & resort in Roanoke VA. The Regency Room dining, pool, spa, and Pub. www.hotelroanoke.com (540) 985-5900.

King George Inn B&B - MP 120, 4 miles off Pkwy. L Franklin Rd, R King George Ave. Restored mansion in historic district. Walk to restaurants. www.KingGeorgeInnBandB.com (757) 675-4034.

Roanoke Boutique Hotel - Greater Downtown Roanoke. Walk downtown, bike to our Star. We love outside! Book at www.roanokeboutiquehotel.com (540) 420-4455.

Roanoke Co+op - Virginia's largest food co-op, 2 locations, deli & groceries, 1319 Grandin Road SW, downtown & convenient, 1 Market Sq SE. www.roanoke.coop

Roanoker Restaurant - Est. 1941. Homestyle breakfast, lunch, dinner. Fresh veg., breads, salad, sandwiches, seafood. Kids menu & to-go. Tues.-Sun. 7 mi. from Pkwy. (540) 344-7746.

Shirley's Bed and Breakfast - Roanoke, VA. MP 115 at Explore Park, easy Parkway access. Luxurious rooms, exceptional breakfast, pool, wine. www.shirleysbandb.com (540) 589-5600.

Springhill Suites - 301 Reserve Avenue SW. 5.8 miles from Parkway MP 122. Oversized suites with superior amenities and free covered parking. (540) 400-6226.



Smart View, Milepost 154 | Photo by Alex Armstrong

CLAW OF THE DRAGON

Southwest Virginia's Premier Motorcycle Ride



Looping through the Blue Ridge Mountain range, the Claw of the Dragon is one of the most popular destinations in the South among motorcyclists. It ventures over to the community of Marion to the west and Galax to the east. The drive meanders through parts of seven Virginia counties but is easily accessible from I-77 or I-81 as a starting point. With the charming town of Wytheville, Virginia at the trail's center, this ride features loops totaling over 350 miles, including a challenging ride up Big Walker Mountain. As the 16-mile scenic byway makes its way to the top, you are immersed in the breathtaking flora and fauna of each season. At the top, riders can take a rest at Big Walker Lookout, climb the 100 foot tower, and enjoy the country store.

Request a printed guide and maps:
www.clawofthedragon.com

121.4 **Access point Parkway and US 220**, 5 mi. north to Roanoke. 5 mi. south to Boones Mill. 21 mi. to Rocky Mount, 45 mi. to Martinsville. Smith Mountain Lake by way of US 220 to Rocky Mount and VA Rte. 40.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

A distinct outdoor destination with miles of roads, trails, and waters. Bike nearly 50 miles of local scenic byways. It's a paddlers' paradise with five blueways, Philpott Lake & Smith Mountain Lake. Finish the day with a craft beverage at a fine winery, brewery or distillery! www.visitfranklincountyva.com (540) 483-3030.

Bent Mountain Mercantile - 9513 Bent Mountain Rd/ Hwy 221. MP 136, 3.5 mi. N from Pkwy. Local goods & cafe. www.facebook.com/BentMountainMercantile (540) 410-0995.

129.6 **Roanoke Valley Parkway Overlook**. Fine view of Roanoke.

144 **Devils Backbone Parking Overlook**. Fine view.

144.8 **Pine Spur Parking Overlook**. Named for the pine which is the tree depicted on Parkway emblem. Alt. 2,703.

154.5 **Smart View**. 500 acres, hiking trails, large picnic grounds, comfort stations, drinking water. The cabin home of W.J. Trail is picturesque.

Franklin County, VA

Contact

Franklin County Tourism
Office of Economic Development
1255 Franklin Street, Suite 112
Rocky Mount, VA 24151
(540) 483 – 3030



VisitFranklinCountyVa.com

Day trip, road trip or extended stay – make Franklin County your destination. Our rural community has plenty of open spaces, great views, small towns and welcoming people. As a land of two lakes, four rivers and 10,000 springs, with a landscape spanning from the crest of the Blue Ridge down to the Piedmont with the foothills in between, we offer a little something for everyone.

It's your gateway to landscapes, world-class outdoor recreation and incredible touchstones of Appalachian music and history. We are your gateway to Virginia's mountains.

Plug into the vibrancy of Smith Mountain Lake or quite literally unplug to the serene essence of Philpott Lake. Experience regional heritage at the Blue Ridge Institute & Museum and the Booker T. Washington National Monument, birthplace of America's prominent African American educator and orator.

Visit Virginia's Franklin County: Your Gateway

FERRUM, VA

East of Parkway via Rts. 640 & 602, exit Milepost 152 or via Rts 860 & 40, exit Milepost 159.

Blue Ridge Farm Museum - Route 40. 1800 VA-GR farm complex w/ livestock & interpreters of farm life. Mid-May thru Aug. Sat. 10-4, Sun. 1-4. www.blueridgeinstitute.org (540) 365-4416.

Blue Ridge Institute and Museum - Route 40. State Center for Blue Ridge Folklore. Changing exhibits on folk life and folk art. Mon-Sat 10-4 www.blueridgeinstitute.org (540) 365-4416.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Enter Montgomery County, VA 21 miles from MP 165.2 via Rt 8 North. www.gotomontva.com or @GotoMontVA. (540) 394-4470.

Historic Smithfield - 1000 Smithfield Plantation Rd., 36 mi. from Parkway, original, historic house, museum. (540) 231-3947. www.historicsmithfield.org

Quality Inn - Exit 118C of I-81, 20 miles from Parkway. Next to Cracker Barrel. Free breakfast & internet. Seasonal pool. (540) 382-2055 or (800) 4CHOICE.

RADFORD, VA

"Find it in Radford" - New River easy access to tube/fish/kayak. Mary Draper Ingles statue, Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery, Radford Univ. planetarium, Monday evening Fiddle & Banjo Jam, Radford Visitor's Center. www.VisitRadford.com (540) 267-3153.

165.3 **Tuggle Gap. Access Point** VA Rt. 8, East 6 mi. to Woolwine, VA; 16 mi. to Fairy Stone State Park. Swimming, boating, picnicking. North 6 mi. to Floyd, 20 mi. to Christiansburg.

FLOYD, VA & FLOYD COUNTY

At MP 165, take Rt 8 six miles. Enjoy a unique blend of new and heritage music, arts, shops, restaurants and spirits, hiking & biking along 40 mi. of the Pkwy, historic rock churches & heritage sites. www.VisitFloydVa.com (540) 745-4407.

ATTRACTIONS

Floyd Center for the Arts - 220 Parkway Ln (Rt. 8). From MP 165, go N on Rt. 8 for 5.5 mi. Galleries, studios, gift shop, classes & more. www.floydartcenter.org (866) 787-8806.

Riverstone Organic Farm - 3 mi. from MP 150. Certified Organic working farm, walking paths, riverside picnic area and store w/ local produce & gifts. www.riverstoneorganicfarm.com

FOOD, LODGING, & CAMPING

Bella La Vita Inn B&B - 1.7 mi west of the BRP between MP 161-162. Extraordinary affordable accommodations. Voted #1 in Floyd! www.bellalavitainn.com (540) 421-0433.

Floyd County, VA

Contact

Floyd County Visitor Center
109 East Main St.
Floyd, VA 24091



540-745-4407
www.VisitFloydVA.com

Running on Floyd Time… Floyd is as much a state of mind as it is a destination.

Floyd County is a haven of natural beauty renowned for our hospitality and for a vibrant culture of music, arts, local foods, wines and spirits, and outdoor adventure.

Along our 40 miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway, explore the historic Mabry Mill, Rocky Knob, Smartview, and Rock Castle Gorge National Recreation Area.

At Milepost 165, head to the Town of Floyd, a key stop on The Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail – with our celebrated Friday Night Jamboree when streets overflow with musicians. Also enjoy live music from Thursday to Sunday.

Shop, dine, wine, explore at venues throughout the county. Hike to the panoramic view atop Buffalo Mountain Natural Area Preserve or kayak along the Little River. Let our history take you back to a simpler time of old mills and stone churches. You just may need to stay awhile – and a variety of unique lodging awaits you.

The colorful Town of Floyd is 6 miles west of the Parkway. Take VA 8 at Milepost 165.

Chestnut Ridge Farm - Cozy 3BR, 1BA farmhouse at MP 152. Porch rockers, farm animals, mtn. views, peaceful, stars galore! Pets OK. www.chestnutridgefarm.net (540) 493-8372.

Cocoa Mia Chocolate Lounge - 109 E. Main St Floyd. Hot chocolate, coffee, baked goodies, and chocolate. www.cocoamiachocolates.com (540) 695-0224.

Dogtown Roadhouse - 302 S Locust St, Floyd VA. Wood-fired pizza, bands, & brews. Live music Fri. & Sat. 6 miles from Parkway. www.dogtownroadhouse.com

The Floyd Country Store - Downtown Floyd, VA. Traditional music & dancing, country food & shopping. www.FloydCountryStore.com (540) 745-4563.

Hotel Floyd - Downtown Floyd, 6 mi. off MP 165.2. Green hotel, 40 unique rooms themed after Floyd's character, and pet friendly! www.hotelfloyd.com (540) 745-6080.

Oak Haven Lodge - Comfortable, affordable, overnight accommodations. 7 mi. from MP 165.3 on Route 8. Lovely 12-room lodge. www.oakhavenlodge.com (540) 745-5716.

FREE DOWNLOAD: Blue Ridge Parkway Travel Planner App. Includes maps & works even without cell reception!

Pickett's Thickett - Milepost 170.4. 2 houses on 95 acres. 3 BR & 4 BR, AC, pond, fully equipped, very private. Near 2 wineries & Mabry Mill. Call (336) 292-0999.

Pine Tavern Lodge - Beautiful 1927 historic hotel. Wi-Fi, pets, & amenities expected by today's travelers. 2-room suites, private cottage. www.thepinetavernlodge.com (540) 745-4428.

Red Rooster Coffee & Cafe - 823 E. Main St. Floyd VA. Award-winning coffee roasted daily. 6 miles from MP 165. www.redroostercoffee.com (540) 745-5638.

Tuggles Gap Restaurant & Motel - Great restaurant, clean affordable lodging, hot coffee, gas, ice. Floyd County, VA. www.tugglesgap.biz (540) 745-3402.

SHOPPING & RECREATION

Harvest Moon Food Store - Unique gourmet & health foods, supplements, gifts, toiletries, wine & beer. Supporting 30+ local producers of organic produce, meats, cheese, eggs & fresh bread. www.harvestmoonstore.com (540) 745-4366.

Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary - Tours, workshops, campground. 401 Hideaway Ln / Floyd; 6 mi. from Pkwy off MP 160. www.spikenardfarm.org

Villa Appalaccia Winery - 752 Rock Castle Gorge. Tuscan-style winery, just off Parkway on SR 720. www.villaappalaccia.com (540) 593-3100.

Patrick County, VA

Contact

Patrick County Tourism
126 N. Main Street
Stuart, VA 24171



276-693-2005
www.visitpatrickcounty.org

As you travel through time on the Blue Ridge Parkway, the adorable community of Meadows of Dan magically appears from the rolling land. Meadows of Dan is also your gateway to beautiful Patrick County, VA. There is enough history, hiking, wine and wonder to keep visitors busy for a weekend or a lifetime. From the 5-star luxury of Primland Resort to the rugged outdoors, Patrick County has something for everyone. Swimming, camping, hiking and many other activities are available at Fairy Stone State Park and Philpott Lake, along with others. See history in person at Jack's Creek Covered Bridge and Groundhog Mountain Lookout Tower and historic birthplaces at the Reynolds Homestead and Laurel Hill. Satisfy your sweet tooth at Nancy's Candy Company, or find local wines at Stanburn and Villa Appalaccia.

Soaring vistas, historic sites, water adventure and sheer relaxation, Patrick County has it all.

Wrenn Pottery - Functional porcelain pottery for home. Located right off Parkway near MP 153. Gallery is always stocked with pots. Stop & shop. www.wrennpottery.com (704) 562-9825.

167 **Rocky Knob**, 4,800 acres. Picnic area, comfort stations, campground, 15 miles of trails including Rock Castle Gorge National Recreational Trail. Alt. 3,572.

169 **Rocky Knob Visitor Center and Park Store** - 15 miles of trails including Rock Castle Gorge National Recreational Trail. Alt. 3,572.

WILLIS, VA

9 miles west of Parkway on Rt. 799, exit at MP 174.

Buffalo Mountain Getaway - There's no place like home, except here. Visit our website to see all of our properties. www.buffalomountaingetaway.com (540) 789-8335.

Cabins Off The Parkway - 579 Halls Store Rd, Willis VA. MP 174. 1, 2, 3 bedrooms with scenic views, 5 star reviews, free Wi-Fi, TV, eco-friendly. www.cabinsofftheparkway.com (704) 807-1886.

176.2 **Mabry Mill**. Self-guiding, features restored mill and exhibits on rural life in Appalachia.

PATRICK COUNTY, VA

Experience the Simple Life! In the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains you are free to explore natural beauty, outdoor recreation, historical sites, 5-star luxury, music festivals both large & small. www.visitpatrickcounty.com (276) 694-6094.

Dominion Valley Park - MP 177.7 near Stuart, VA. Outdoor event venue & live music, 150 campsites w/ water & electric. www.dominionvalleyllc.com (276) 694-4245.

Motorcycle Manor at Wolf Creek Farm B&B - MP 192, family-friendly, private, fishing lake, pool, patio, fire pit. www.wolfcreekfarmva.net (276) 952-8869.

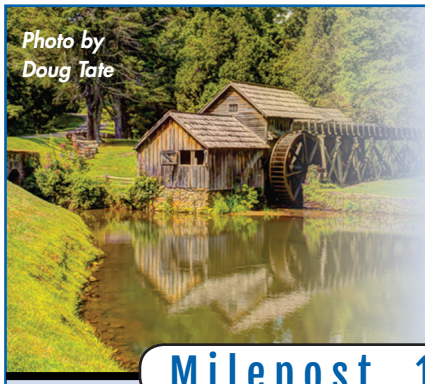
Stanburn Winery - 58 East from Meadows of Dan, MP 177. Vineyard and winery tour, tastings and events. www.stanburn.com (276) 694-7074.

MEADOWS OF DAN, VA

Just off Parkway on US 58, exit at Milepost 177.7.

FOOD, LODGING, & CAMPING

Crooked Road Cabin - Cozy, fully equipped log cabin, private, sleeps 7. 1.5 mi. from MP 177.7. Fireplace, peaceful deck, & onsite café. www.crookedroadcabin.com (276) 293-1233.



MABRY MILL & ROCKY KNOB

Milepost 176.2

The cultural sites, facilities, and adjacent farms throughout the Rocky Knob area speak of a settled and ancient landscape. Farming has been a way of life in this part of Virginia for generations, and continues here where a drive off the Parkway into crossroads communities will demonstrate. You will also be rewarded with great views as well!

Travelers see the daily patterns of life on the high plateau at Puckett's Cabin, and, of course, at Mabry Mill. The Parkway has played a significant role in influencing change in the area. Seeing how people have interacted with the landscape over time is fascinating for those who slow down and experience the pace of life on or off the Parkway. The rural countryside experience is a delight, whether during the rosebay rhododendron bloom in late June, or during the fall harvest and foliage display along the plateau around mid-October.

Ed and Lizzy Mabry's gristmill is over a century old and graces the pages of countless calendars and postcards. It is arguably the most picturesque spot on the entire Blue Ridge Parkway. Ed built this mill and the Mabrys ground corn for their neighbors for three decades, creating a community gathering place for the folks who called Meadows of Dan home. Although the mill itself is the focal point of the area, visitors are reminded that Ed Mabry was talented in many other areas as well, adding a wheelwright shop, sawmill and blacksmith shop to his enterprise in addition to a two-story frame house. Parkway designers of the 1930s preferred the look of rustic cabins and dismantled the Mabry's home in favor of bringing in the Matthews' log cabin from nearby.

Cultural history demonstrations are offered in summer and fall. The sights and sounds of rural life in Appalachia, community, mountain industry, and the change from an agricultural to an industrial society resonate from this place on a regular basis during the summer season.

Rangers and volunteers staff Matthew's Cabin in the visitor season, often carding, spinning and making baskets while orienting visitors to the area. Blacksmith demonstrations are presented several days weekly in the blacksmith shop. On weekends in October, visitors delight at the sight and smells of apple butter made over an open fire. This is one of the most popular gathering places anywhere on the Parkway. Old time music has filled the air here for decades on Sunday afternoons. Flat-footing is encouraged!

A network of trails through the 3,500 acre Rock Castle Gorge, just a few miles north, offers access to some of the most botanically diverse areas of the Parkway. Trails into the Gorge are accessible from several points, including the Rocky Knob campground, located at Milepost 167.



Puckett's Cabin | Photo by Vicki Dameron

Mabry Mill Restaurant & Gift Shop - Famous sweet potato, cornmeal & buckwheat pancakes. Country-style, breakfast all day, crafts. www.mabrymillrestaurant.com (276) 952-2947.

Meadows of Dan Campground - US Hwy 58 West, MP 177.7. Clean, quiet, peaceful at 3,000 ft. Full hookups, bathhouse, dump stat. Separate wooded tent area. Pets on leash-CG only. Furnished cozy or luxury log cabin rentals, some w/whirlpools & gas log fireplaces. No pets in cabins. Open year round. www.meadowsofdancampground.com (276) 952-2292.

Meadows of Dan River Walk Cabins - 2 miles east of MP 177 BRP on Hwy 58. Peaceful mountain retreat with extraordinary cabins. www.meadowsofdanriverwalkcabins.com (336) 312-1421.

Primland Resort, Auberge Resorts Collection - Meadows of Dan, VA. 4 mi. from Parkway MP 177. At the heart of this pristine wilderness, Primland Resort awaits on its own 12,000-acre estate where winding trails lead to fresh discoveries. www.aubergeresorts.com/primland (866) 960-7746.

Ridge Rider Cabins - 1/2 mile from Parkway MP 184. Apr-Oct for motorcyclists. A/C, private bath, firepit. www.ridgeridercabins.com (910) 619-9087.

177.7 **US 58 Access point**. 22 mi. west to Hillsville. East to Stuart, Martinsville, and Danville.

MARTINSVILLE, VA

40 miles east of Parkway MP 177.7 on US 58. Martinsville-Henry County Visitor Center, 191 Fayette St. History, art, recreation, & more. Fun in Record Time! www.VisitMartinsville.com (888) 722-3498.

188.8 **Groundhog Mountain Parking Overlook**, high point affording 360 degree view. Observation tower. Examples of various types of old chestnut rail fences. Picnic area, Comfort station. Alt. 3,030.

189.9 **Puckett Cabin home of Orleana Hawks Puckett**, storied local midwife. Alt. 2,850.

CARROLL COUNTY, VA

In the heart of the Blue Ridge Plateau and VA's famous Crooked Road, enjoy hiking, fishing, golfing, canoeing, bird-watching, flea markets, gun shows, mountain music & annual festivals. Visit www.PickPlayStay.com.

Lake Ridge RV Resort - 8736 Double Cabin Rd. Hillsville. Best kept secret in VA! We offer cabin rentals, RV & tent camping. Enjoy our new waterslides, pools, mini golf, paddle boats, catch & release fishing and much more! www.LakeRidgeRV.com (276) 766-3703.

199.4 **Fancy Gap**, **Access Point**. US 52, 8 mi. north to Hillsville, VA, 1.5 miles to I-77, 20 mi. to Wytheville, VA, 33 mi. to Pulaski, VA, 14 mi. south to Mt. Airy, NC. Alt 2,920.

PULASKI COUNTY, VA

Information on Pulaski County and New River Valley - Pulaski County Visitor & Tourism Center. www.visitpulaskiva.org (540) 674-4161.

HILLSVILLE, VA

11 miles North of Parkway at MP 199.5 via Hwy 52, or I-77 Exit #14.

The Gap Deli at the Parkway - US 52 & MP 199.5. Homemade soup, sandwiches, salads & desserts. Open daily with seasonal hours. (276) 728-3881.

Planet Chopper - Blue Ridge Parkway motorcycle tours. Ride custom motorcycles! Gas, food and beer included. Don't ride? We sleep 15+, pool table + lounge areas. (276) 266-5684 or visit www.planetchopper.world.



Mabry Mill | Photo by Jeff Greenberg

FANCY GAP, VA

Exit Parkway at MP 199.5. Hwy 52. I-77 Exit #8.

LODGING, & CAMPING

Blue Ridge Manor B&B - 4 miles from Blue Ridge Parkway. Exit Parkway MP 193, Orchard Gap. Farm stay, B&B. www.blueridgemanorbnb.com (276) 920-1945.

Fancy Gap Cabins and Campground - Picturesque, quiet, family-owned property directly on Parkway. RV, tent camping, cabins & motel rooms. Come enjoy the fresh mtn. air. MP 202.5. Motorcycles, bicycles welcome. Free Wi-Fi. www.fancygapcabinsandcampground.com (276) 730-7154.

Grassy Creek Cabooses - Refurbished RR cabooses w/2 person Jacuzzis, satellite TV, decks, great views. Just 1.5 mi. off BRP at MP 193.5. Open year round. Call (276) 398-1100. www.grassycreekcabooses.com

SHOPPING & RECREATION

Mountain Star Gallery - Located at the Fancy Gap exit next to the Parkway MP 199.5, fine artisan crafts and handmade pottery. www.mountainstargallery.com (276) 728-3359.

Skyland Lakes Golf Club - Milepost 202.2 at Rt. 608, bordering Parkway. Public 18-hole golf course around mountains and lakes. Accommodations available. (276) 728-4923.

Treasure Potts Antique & Garden Shoppes - Hwy 52 and BRP at MP 199.5. Period furniture, pottery, clocks, china. Garden accessories. www.treasurepotts.com (276) 728-3880.

SMYTH COUNTY, VA

"Mountains of Possibilities" include: outdoor recreation, great motorcycle trails, history & heritage, music & arts, museums & shopping, events & festivals, and beautiful scenery. www.visitsmythcountyva.com (877) 255-9928.

ABINGDON, VA

Off Interstate 81, Exits 14, 17, 19.

Barter Theatre - Professional Live Theatre - Unleash your imagination with 2 unique stages and endless adventures. I-81 exit 17. www.bartertheatre.com (276) 628-3991.

The Crooked Road - Virginia's Heritage Music Trail. Visit the place where America's Music was born...and lives on. www.thecrookedroadva.com (276) 492-2409.

? DID YOU KNOW?

The speed limit on the Parkway is never higher than 45 mph. Drive safe!

Galax, VA

Contact

Galax Visitor's Center
110 East Grayson St.
Galax, VA 24333



888-217-8823 • 276-238-8130
www.visitgalax.com

Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and just 7 miles from the Blue Ridge Parkway, via Rt. 89 exit at MP 215, Galax is close enough for a leisurely drive from several metropolitan areas, but far enough to escape the toil and turmoil of urban living.

Once a furniture and textile town, Galax has evolved into an eclectic blend of small businesses offering unique shopping, enticing dining, and a musical heritage unlike any other. This hamlet is a preeminent destination on the Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail, dubbed one of the 10 Best Driving Vacations by USA Today. Be it Bluegrass and Old Time music in the Spring, BBQ and Beach Music in July, or the World's Oldest and Largest Old Fiddler's Convention in August, you'll have a toe tappin' knee slappin' good time during our special events. Whether a day trip for a fun adventure or a weekend stay to explore all that Galax has to offer, visitors find themselves enchanted with the area and wanting to return again and again, and we welcome it.

Dubbed one of the 10 Best Driving Vacations by USA Today.

the Blue Ridge Parkway

The Blue Ridge Parkway is literally the "Backbone" of a great scenic mountain region embracing the Southern (and highest) portion of the Appalachian mountain range, an area of approximately 20,000 square miles. Opening up vast mountain areas for the benefit and enjoyment of all, the Parkway forms a broad avenue of approach, and at the same time a high balcony from which to view the natural wonders and cultural significance of this mountain region.

This great 469-mile scenic Parkway follows closely the highest ridges between the Shenandoah and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, attaining altitudes of more than 6,000' and averaging between 3,000 and 4,000'. It is designed especially for leisurely enjoyment of the scenic wonders along the way—a high road of adventure intended for leisure travel on the ride-awhile, stop-awhile basis. The numerous overlooks provide parking areas from which to enjoy some of America's finest scenic views.

You may enter or leave the Parkway at any of the US or State highway intersections. These intersecting roads lead to scores of towns, mountain resorts, and scenic areas close to the Parkway on either side, where accommodations, meals and service stations are available. The ★ symbol on the 6 sectional maps will help you easily identify these Parkway entrances/exits. We have also shown on the six detailed section maps, the approximate location of every tenth Milepost.





This travel planner is designed to help you select accommodations and to enjoy to the fullest the scenic attractions along the Parkway. There is a numbered Milepost each mile along the Parkway. You will note in this directory in bold type, the mileage which will correspond with the Mileposts.

The wondrous profusion of mountain flowers in spring and early summer, the high altitude coolness of the forest-clad mountains in summer, and the glorious coloring of these mountains in autumn provide an everchanging appeal.

The Blue Ridge Parkway is open 365 days a year, weather permitting. Sometimes road repair is undertaken in the winter months. The Parkway is not plowed or salted in the winter so, after snow or ice events, portions may be closed until the weather warms and makes the roadway safe for travel again. You can visit: www.nps.gov/blri to access Blue Ridge Parkway road condition information.

A PLACE OF BEAUTY – A PLACE OF SONG...

This is The Crooked Road.

The Crooked Road is Virginia's Heritage Music Trail, a 300 mile driving route through the Appalachian Mountains from the Blue Ridge to the Coalfields region, following U.S. Route 58. The trail connects major heritage music venues in the region such as the Blue Ridge Music Center, Birthplace of Country Music Alliance, and the Carter Family Fold. The traditional gospel, bluegrass, and mountain music heard today was passed down from the generations and lives on through a wealth of musicians and instrument makers along the trail. Annual festivals, weekly concerts, live radio shows, and informal jam sessions abound throughout the region. A variety of handcrafted woodwork, weaving, and pottery can be found in country stores and small workshops. Numerous opportunities for outdoor activities, from hiking, biking, fishing and boating are also available.

Find Venues Online At
www.thecrookedroadva.com

Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority - ***Overflowing with adventure from ATV riding & whitewater rafting to picturesque wineries & tranquil waterfalls, you'll find what your heart desires in the Heart of Appalachia*** ***www.heartofappalachia.com***

GRAYSON COUNTY, VA

Grayson County Visitors Center - 107 E Main St. Independence VA, 24348. ***www.graysoncountyva.com*** ***(276) 773-8002.***

BRISTOL, VA / TN

Located on I-81 at the Tennessee/Virginia state line.

Birthplace of Country Music Museum - A Smithsonian Institution affiliate, tells the story of the 1927 Bristol Sessions' impact on music. *www.birthplaceofcountrymusic.org* (423) 573-1927.

Bristol Caverns - 5 miles southeast of Bristol on US 421. Only 8 miles from I-81 Exit 3. A journey through the caverns will take you through millions of years of timeless beauty. Largest and most beautiful in Smoky Mountain region. Open daily. *www.bristolcaverns.com* (423) 878-2011.

Northeast Tennessee - ***Bordering NC, VA and KY in the Appalachian Mountains. Explore the true outdoors, music, history, small town charm and southern culture.*** ***www.NortheastTennessee.org***

Wytheville, VA

Contact

Wytheville… There's Only One!
975 Tazewell Street
Wytheville, VA 24382
cvb@wytheville.org
877-347-8307
www.visitwytheville.com



877-347-8307
www.VisitWytheville.com

Conveniently situated at the crossroads of Interstates 77 & 81, Wytheville has been welcoming travelers from all directions with a blend of small town charm, incredible Blue Ridge mountain views and Southern hospitality for hundreds of years. Uncover Wytheville's rich history on display in the many museums including the birthplace of a First Lady. The outdoor recreation options, from mountain biking to motorcycling are endless. Experience a safari with exotic animals, sip delicious wines and craft beers, stroll through lavender gardens and a butterfly house or take in a Broadway style show at the dinner theatre. Unique shopping, distinctive restaurants and deluxe accommodations abound. The new downtown, revitalized with excitement, offers something for the whole family. Come be a part of the mountain fun in Wytheville… There's Only One!

Wytheville is located at the crossroads of interstates 77 & 81, just 30 minutes from the Fancy Gap entrance to the Blue Ridge Parkway.

GALAX, VA

I-77 Exit 14 - 10 mi. W on Rt 58. Live radio show each Friday night from the Rex Theater. Downtown shops, area museum, New River Trail, August Old Fiddler's Convention, Crooked Road Historic Music Trail. www.visitgalax.com (276) 238-8130.

Cool Breeze Campground - MP 215 3/4 mile N on Rt. 89. Left on Edmonds Rd #613, 2.5 miles on Right. Full hook-ups, big rig friendly, bathhouse, laundry, Rally Center. Clubs welcome. Free Wi-fi & pet friendly. Open year round. (276) 236-0300. www.coolbreezecampground.com

Blue Ridge Travel Association - ***Free travel guide of the attractions, accommodations and events for locations along I-77 and I-81, and scenic byways of the mountains of Virginia. www.virginiablueridge.org (800) 383-9114.***

WYTHEVILLE, VA

Outdoor recreation, arts, music, theater, history, wineries, motorcycle trails, mountains—an authentic getaway awaits you. Wytheville…There's Only One. www.VisitWytheville.com (877) 347-8307.

Appalachian Backroads - Ride the Wild Side! 14 vetted motorcycle routes. Visit www.appalachianbackroads.com.

Beagle Ridge Herb Farm - South of Wytheville. Lavender, butterflies, wildlife, views and hiking. www.beagleridge.org (276) 621-4511.



Early Spring on the BRP | Photo by Alex Armstrong

Mount Airy "Mayberry" NC

Contact

Mount Airy Visitors Center
200 N. Main Street
Mount Airy NC 27030
Open 7 Days a Week



800-948-0949
visitmayberry.com

Mount Airy is part of the Yadkin Valley Wine Region, home to over 35 wineries!

Mount Airy captures the spirit of small town Mayberry with friendly people, great food, and a peaceful, scenic setting. We have Mayberry attractions, as well as great music and entertainment, shopping, dining, wineries, and accommodations - hotels, cabins, B&Bs, and campgrounds. Mayberry attractions include the Andy Griffith Museum, a statue of Andy and Opie, Squad Car Tours, Wally's Service Station, and Floyd's Barbershop.

Shop and dine in Downtown Mount Airy and enjoy wine tastings at Old North State Winery. Visit the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History. Enjoy weekly bluegrass and old-time music & jam sessions at the Earle Theatre, as well as a new Blue Ridge & Beyond music series & a Summer Concert Series at the Blackmon Amphitheatre.

Only 15-minutes from the Blue Ridge Parkway - take the parkway exit at Milepost 199.5, and travel on Highway 52 S, 12 miles south of Fancy Gap, VA.

Mount Airy, NC: Mountains, Music, Mayberry, Merlot
Visit Andy Griffith's hometown, the inspiration for Mayberry on "The Andy Griffith Show"



Milepost 213

BLUE RIDGE MUSIC CENTER

The sounds of the fiddle, banjo, and guitar are likely to welcome you when you visit the Blue Ridge Music Center that straddles the North Carolina/ Virginia border. As part of Virginia's Heritage Music Trail:The Crooked Road and the Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina, some of the region's finest traditional music can be heard on weekends at the outdoor amphitheater late May through October. Weekdays, visitors are welcome to a front porch experience with local musicians on the breezeway.

The Blue Ridge Music Center is managed cooperatively by the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation with a mission to share traditional music and the bounty of our mountains with visitors. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1985, the site includes an outdoor amphitheater, indoor theater, and interpretive center, and gift shop. The Roots of American Music exhibit gives insight to the history and culture of regional music traditions. Trails are accessible from the parking lot including a Kids in Parks TRACK Trail which offers a special hiking experience to children of all ages.

Music seems to be a natural part of these mountains – practically inseparable from those who call this special place home. Nowhere is that heritage felt more strongly than here on the banks of Chestnut Creek and in the shadow of Fisher Peak. The people of these mountains have created and kept alive some of the richest traditions of folk music and dance in our nation, much of it being commercially recorded in the 1920s and 1930s. The region is nationally recognized as a center of traditional Blue Ridge Music. Music here arises from diverse ethnic groups, European and African, and has evolved over generations into distinct styles with distinct identities. It reflects community, personal values, and cultural connections to the wider world.

Enjoy the music, the concerts, and the experience at the Blue Ridge Music Center, a place near to the heart of America and its music.
www.blueridgemusiccenter.org

Big Walker Lookout - Observation tower, scenic views, hiking trails, cafe & craft shop. Exit at Fancy Gap, US 52 North, past Wytheville. Open all year. *www.scenicbeauty-va.com* (276) 663-4016.

Bolling Wilson Hotel - 1927 hotel elegantly redesigned to pay homage to Wytheville's most prominent citizen, Edith Bolling Wilson. *www.bollingwilsonhotel.com* (276) 223-2333.

TAZEWELL COUNTY, VA

The adventure tourism capital of the Appalachians. Home to the best ATV trails, motorcycle routes including the famed "Back of the Dragon," & scenic vistas that create a photographer's paradise! www.visittazewellcounty.org (800) 588-9401.

MT. AIRY, NC

Exit Parkway at Milepost 199.5, Hwy 52 South. 12 miles south of Fancy Gap, VA. Visit Andy Griffith's hometown and inspiration for the fictional town of "Mayberry." Visit the Andy Griffith Collection, squad car tours, regional museum, Floyd's Barbershop, Wally's Service Station, historic downtown, Andy Griffith Playhouse & homeplace, Pilot Mountain State Park, historic homes & the world's largest open-face granite quarry. Bluegrass shows/jams weekly. (800) 948-0949 or www.visitmayberry.com for visitor information.

BLUE RIDGE HERITAGE TRAIL



As you travel along the Blue Ridge Parkway, you can find six of the 70 interpretive signs that are on the Blue Ridge Heritage Trail, a collection of special places throughout the North Carolina mountains and foothills that embody the remarkable history and culture of the region.

Words and photographs tell an illuminating story about each site and highlight aspects of the region's natural and cultural heritage including Cherokee, traditional music, agriculture, craft, and the natural scenic beauty of the NC Blue Ridge mountains.

On the Parkway, Blue Ridge Heritage Trail signs can be found at overlooks at Air Bellows Gap, MP 236.9; Moses Cone Park, MP 294; Lost Cove Cliffs, MP 310; Orchard at Altapass, MP 328.6; Looking Glass Rock, MP 413.2; and Qualla Boundary, MP 458.9.

Download a trail map brochure and learn more at
www.BlueRidgeHeritage.com
The Blue Ridge Heritage Trail is a program of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area

Hampton Inn - Exit 101 off I-77 to I-74 exit 11 to US 601 North. Left at stoplight 1 1/2 mile on right. Award winning hotel! www.mountairy.hamptoninn.com (336) 789-5999, (800) 565-5249.

Old North State Winery - 199.5, US 52. Winery & restaurant in downtown Mt. Airy. Open Tues.-Sun. (336) 789-9463. www.oldnorthstatewinery.com

SURRY COUNTY, NC

Surry NC, S of the Parkway on Hwys. 21, 18, 89 and 52. Lodging, restaurants, shopping, wineries, outdoor recreation, and more! www.yadkinvalleync.com (800) 948-0949.

DOBSON, NC

A small community in the heart of North Carolina Wine Country and home to some of NC's premier wineries. Exit Parkway at MP 199.5 to I-77S exit 93. For more information visit: www.dobson-nc.com or call (336) 356-8962.

Hampton Inn & Suites - MP 199.5 US 52 to I-77 S exit 93. Wine bar, indoor pool, exercise room, hot breakfast, meeting rooms. www.hamptoninn.com (336) 353-9400.

Shelton Vineyards and Harvest Grill - 199.5 US 52 to I-77S to NC exit 93 and follow the signs. Estate winery, offering tours and tastings daily. Restaurant serving lunch and dinner Mon-Sat, lunch on Sun. www.sheltonvineyards.com (336) 366-4724.



Blue Ridge Music Center | Photo by Alex Armstrong

PILOT MOUNTAIN, NC

10 miles south of Mt. Airy, via US 52.

Pilot Knob Inn - Tobacco barn cabins & honeymoon suites, whirlpools, fireplaces. On 100+ acres, lake with boating & fishing, sauna. www.pilotknobinn.com (336) 325-2502.

213 **Blue Ridge Music Center** - Visitor Center and Park Store. Outdoor stage and amphitheater features regularly scheduled seasonal performances (June-September) of old-time and bluegrass music. (276) 236-5309. Open Daily Summer-October. Visit www.blueridgemusiccenter.org for concert schedule.

215.8 **VA 89 Access point**. 7 mi. North to Galax.

Surry County, NC • Yadkin Valley • Wine Country

Contact

Milepost 229 Hwy 21 to Elkin and
Milepost 199.5 Hwy 52 South



800-948-0949
www.yadkinvalleync.com

Elkin – Mount Airy – Dobson – Pilot Mountain

Whether you enjoy walking, biking, paddling or relaxing with a Yadkin Valley wine—Surry and the Yadkin Valley have it all! It's our very gracious, very spirited and festive nature that makes Surry a delightful place to visit for a day or two or more. From Mayberry to Merlot...from cruise-ins to mandolins...from scenic wonder...to wonderful dining, Surry is a rich blend of Southern pleasures.

Visit one of over 30 Yadkin Valley wineries and savor the rich history of our region.

The Yadkin Valley has it all!

Blue Ridge Parkway Highlands Region:

Milepost 217, VA/NC Border to Milepost 340, Crabtree Falls



216.9 **NC - VA State Line**. Alt. 2,547.

217.3 **NC 18 Access Point**.

217.5 **Cumberland Knob**. 1,000 acres, picnic area, comfort stations, drinking water. 15-minute loop trail to Cumberland Knob. (Elev. 2,855). Loop trail into Gully Creek Gorge. 2 hours.

218.6 **Fox Hunters Paradise**. Overlook and parking area. A one-minute walk on a paved trail takes you to a rock pedestrian overlook near the spot where old-time hunters listened to their hounds. Alt. 2,805.

229.7 **US 21 Access Point**. West 7 mi. to Sparta, NC. 17 mi. to Independence, VA. East 4 mi. to Roaring Gap, NC.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY, NC

Slow down. Breathe easy. Stay as busy or un-busy as you want. Conquer a mountain or play checkers on the front porch. Stay, dine, hike, explore, canoe, fish, shop & play. Visitor Center downtown Sparta. www.authenticallyalleghany.com (336) 372-5473.

John Harmon Gallery - 10100 US Hwy 21 S Roaring Gap. MP 229, south on 21, four miles. Fine art, pottery & chainsaw carving. www.JohnHarmonGallery.com (336) 363-9138.

GLADE VALLEY, NC

North of the Parkway via US 21, exit at MP 229.

Olde Beau Resort - 729 Olde Beau Blvd, Glade Valley. MP 229.7 - 5 miles, South Hwy 21, entrance left. Rooms, golf, pool. www.oldebeau.com (800) 752-1634.

MAP KEY:

- PICNIC AREA
- RANGER STATION
- CAMPING
- FUEL
- LODGING
- INFO
- FOOD
- AIRPORT
- ACCESS POINTS

ROARING GAP, NC

5 miles south of Parkway on US 21, exit at MP 229.

High Meadows Inn & Nikola's Restaurant - 3.5 miles S. of BRP, spacious rooms, suites, cable/TV, free Wi-Fi. Inn (336) 363-2221, Rest. (336) 363-6060. www.highmeadowsinnnc.com

JONESVILLE, NC

Heart of the Yadkin Valley. Exit at Milepost 229, go South of Parkway on US 21 to I-77 Exit 82. The Jonesville area offers a true hub for visitors to the Yadkin Valley Wine Region. Yadkin County boasts at least 12 wineries that offer tours, tastings, and refined dining. We also have abundant opportunities for the antique collector or outdoor adventurer. Need overnight accommodations? Stay at our first class hotels with 301 rooms. We also have numerous gas stations nearby to fill up and unique locally owned restaurants for your dining pleasure. Once you have finished eating and drinking, you can go outdoors and walk our greenway, kayak the Yadkin River or hike nearby Stone Mountain. For more info visit Jonesville Welcome Center I-77 Exit 82, www.visitjonesvillenc.com (336) 835-2000.

Quality Inn - Jonesville NC. I-77 Exit 82. 22 miles to Parkway. Free hot breakfast, indoor pool, pets welcome. (336) 559-1015. www.bit.ly/QualityInnJonesville

SPARTA, NC

North of Parkway on US 21. Exit at MP 229 or 248.

Alleghany Inn - 341 N Main St, Sparta, NC 28675. 64 rooms, free wireless internet, cable TV 100+ chan., guest laundry. Restaurant on site. 48 solar panels, 7.5 miles MP 229. Reserve online: www.AlleghanyInn.com or (888) 372-2501.

ELKIN, NC

Exit at Milepost 229 - travel south on Hwy 21. Visit more than 6 wineries of the Yadkin Valley on your way to historic Elkin. Lodging, restaurants, shopping and more! www.ExploreElkin.com

GoYadkinValley.com - ***It starts with a river. MP 276.4 through 199.5 to discover wineries, outdoor adventure and small town charms***. www.GoYadkinValley.com

? DID YOU KNOW?

Parkway "Gunboards"

In the early days of Parkway design, the long rifle and accompanying powder horn were thought to be the best and most iconic image to represent the stories of the mountain settlers and frontiersmen. These were incorporated into the original signs at overlooks and developed areas. They are now recognized as part of the Parkway's history and early design elements.

Alleghany County & Sparta, NC

Contact

Alleghany County Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Center
58 South Main Street,
Sparta, NC 28675
(336) 372-5473



336-372-5473
www.authenticallyalleghany.com

In the Heart of the Blue Ridge Parkway, you will find unspoiled views, pristine nature, and quiet solitude- a place where life is still simple, and the air is clean. Explore the Blue Ridge Parkway with access to national, state, and local parks. Enjoy fishing or canoeing the scenic New River, and spend the afternoon in our downtown shops, art and craft galleries, and restaurants. Join friends in the local brewery or venture out to experience the family- owned winery.

With new wider sidewalks and charming lamp posts pedestrians can wander around Sparta's main street area to their hearts' content.

Throughout the year we share our heritage through music, festivals, art, literature, and agricultural events. You can see our history and hear our story in everything we do.
Stop by the Visitors Center at 58 South Main Street, Sparta, NC, for information to help guide your Alleghany County experience.

"Heart of the Blue Ridge Parkway"

238.5 **Doughton Park** - Named after Robert L. Doughton, a staunch supporter and neighbor of the Parkway. 6,000 acres. More than 30 miles of hiking trails meander through the park's pastures and along its streams. Hikers may encounter 25 stream crossings through ankle to knee-deep water. Visitors can stretch their legs on modest strolls or embark on more ambitious, day-long outings. Some trails may be strenuous.

238.5 **Brinegar Cabin** built by Martin Brinegar about 1880 and lived in until the 1930s when the homestead was purchased from his widow for the Parkway.



Ice Rock Falls at Doughton Park | Photo by William A. Bake

239 **Campground trailer sites, comfort stations, drinking water.**

241 **Doughton Park Visitor Information Station** Park Store, and The Bluffs Restaurant - historic, restored restaurant serving traditional Southern breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Elevation 3702'.

241.1 **Wildcat Rocks**. View the Caudill House, a survivor from a community largely destroyed by an early 20th century flood.

248.1 **NC 18 Access point**. 2 mi. west of Laurel Springs. 24 mi. east to North Wilkesboro, NC.

LAUREL SPRINGS, NC

Just north of Parkway on NC 18, exit at MP 248.

Miller's Camping - 1 mi. N of Hwy 18 at MP 247. FHU 30 & 50 amp, tent sites, hot showers, laundry, adjacent to MST, Wi-Fi, open Apr. 1-Oct. 31st. *www.millerscamping.com* (336) 359-2828.

DID YOU KNOW?

Swimming in the Linville River and climbing on the rocks is dangerous and not allowed.

Yadkin Valley, NC

Contact

Interested in visiting the area and want more information?
www.GoYadkinValley.com



www.GoYadkinValley.com

With abundant outdoor activities, local arts and crafts, charming bed and breakfasts, and exquisite food and wine offered at local restaurants, in North Carolina's Yadkin Valley you have the makings of a great wine country getaway or family vacation. If your idea of fun includes hiking, biking, kayaking, canoeing, disc golf, and fishing, the Yadkin Valley offers all of that and more. Visit shops, restaurants, galleries, and antique stores, take in a farmer's market or festival. Tour a distillery and try some moonshine, or visit our vast array of wineries and sample award-winning wines. Here in the Yadkin Valley you'll discover a thriving, vibrant region, proud of its history and heritage and welcoming you to partake in its bounty. Exit the Parkway at Mileposts: 199.4, 215.8, 217.3, 229.7, 276.4 to enjoy all the Yadkin Valley has to offer.

vineyards • history • music • craft
art festivals • outdoor fun

Thistle Meadow Winery - Family-owned winery located 3 mi. from MP 246. Over 30 kinds of wines made. Wi-Fi available. www.thistlemeadowwinery.com (800) 233-1505.

Wild Woody's Campground & 3 Antique Stores - We buy, sell, trade and rent vintage campers. Tent camp on trout stream. Firewood, showers, beer, wine, snacks, ice cream, rare records, unusual antiques. Must see to believe! Open May-Nov. Thur.-Sun. (336) 984-8088.

ASHE COUNTY, NC

www.thecoolestcorner.com. Enjoy scenic views, hiking, biking, canoeing, golf, 3 historic towns, arts district, crafts, festivals. Ashe Chamber, PO Box 31, West Jefferson, NC 28694. www.ashechamber.com (888) 343-2743.

258.7 **Northwest Trading Post** offers crafts and packaged food gifts from North Carolina's northwestern counties. (336) 982-2543

GLENDALE SPRINGS, NC

100 yards west of Northwest Trading Post, MP 259.

Glendale Springs Inn & Restaurant - 7414 NC Hwy 16, Glendale Springs, NC. 0.3 mile from Parkway MP 259, inn/restaurant/bar. www.glendalespringsinn.com (336) 982-3103.

Greenhouse Crafts Shop - 1/4 mile west of Trading Post. Beautiful gifts, crafts, books, CDs, instruments, garden. Open 7 days. www.greenhousecrafts.com (336) 982-2618.

Northwest Trading Post - Souvenirs, apparel, maps, games, snacks & drinks for picnics, educational demonstrations, hikes. www.gofindoutdoors.org/northwest-trading-post (336) 982-2543.

261.2 **NC 16 Access point**. West 12 mi. to Jefferson, 14 mi. to West Jefferson, 26 mi. to Grassy Creek. East 20 mi. to North Wilkesboro.



Spring meadow along Parkway | Photo by William A. Bake



Milepost 238

DOUGHTON PARK & BRINEGAR CABIN

Rolling ridgetop meadows and steep mountainsides characterize the Doughton Park area. Remote mountain places like this were settled in the mid-to-late 1800s by growing families seeking more land by moving farther up the mountain creeks and valleys, while remaining in proximity to parents, grandparents, and other relatives. While people in many other parts of the country were rushing into the modern ways of the 20th century, these close-knit families–like the Brinegars, Caudills, Joines, Crouses and Pruitts–still raised most of their own food, built their own homes, and lived well into the 1900s without modern conveniences.

Martin Brinegar and Caroline Joines were married in 1878 and built a log cabin near Caroline's parents' home. It still stands here on the ridge along with their springhouse and granary. Here they raised and provided for their three children. Below the Brinegar cabin is Basin Cove. Settled in the 1880s by Harrison Caudill, Basin Cove grew into a community of 20 families with a store, church, and school. In 1916, torrential flooding throughout the mountains caused mud slides and destruction to cascade down the valley, destroying all but one home and killing several people.

Today, Parkway visitors can experience the ruggedness and beauty of life here. Glimpse Basin Cove and the remaining cabin from Wildcat Rocks near Bluffs lodge. Or hike some of the more than 30 miles of trails that meander through the meadows and climb the steep hillsides. The Brinegar cabin is open several days a week during the summer and fall. Visitors can tour a demonstration garden and the cabin, and see exhibits, learning how Caroline made her family's clothes from the flax she grew and sheep she raised herself.



Flame Azalea in Boone, NC

WEST JEFFERSON, NC

Historic West Jefferson, located 14 mi. from MP 261. Art galleries, restaurants, unique shops. (866) 607-0093. Find us online: www.visitwestjefferson.org

Hole Lotta Doughnuts - Downtown West Jefferson NC, MP 262. Fresh & delicious doughnuts. www.holelottadoughnuts.com (336) 846-6000.

Mountain Aire Golf Club - Beautiful 18 hole public golf course. Great condition, reasonable rates. Exit Parkway at Glendale Springs or Deep Gap. 1396 Fairway Ridge Dr., West Jefferson, NC 28694. www.mountainaire.com (336) 877-4716.

Park Vista Inn & Restaurant - BRP Milepost 268. Queen & King bedrooms, pet friendly rooms. Events, weddings, lunch & dinner. www.parkvistainn.com (336) 266-6368.

268 **Benge Gap**.

272 **E.B. Jeffress Park**. Picnic area, comfort station, trail to Cascades.

WILKES COUNTY, NC

Visit local apple orchards & acres of vineyards, festivals, camp at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, boat, bird watch, mtn bike, fish, climb at Stone Mtn State Park. Exit MPs 248.2, 261, or 276.4. www.explorewilkes.com (336) 838-8662.

Serenity Haven Camping - 15 mi. South of Pkwy off Hwy 421. Trout fishing, RVs, 5th wheels, primitive tent site. Open all year. www.serenityhavencamping.com (828) 270-8200.



Price Park Meadows by William A. Bake

West Jefferson, NC

Contact

Exit at Milepost 259
800-438-7500



888-343-2743
MountainsofNC.com

Named one of North Carolina's "Best Main Streets" and winner of numerous best small town awards, West Jefferson is located just 20 minutes off the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Take a downtown walking tour of the 15+ mountain murals in the downtown arts district. Stop by the Ashe County Cheese Factory for some fresh cheese curds from the only cheese plant in NC. Visit a local brewery or dine in a historic building. Make sure to view the three Ben Long Frescoes in St. Mary's Church on your way into town!

Stroll the Lighting of the Town in the largest Christmas tree producing county in the United States and Choose & Cut your own Christmas tree.

Visit one of the festivals, the farmers market, and listen to live music on the backstreet on cool summer evenings. View the changing fall leaves with a barn quilt tour through the countryside. Every season is celebrated in West Jefferson!

The NC High Country:
Home to 121 miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

NORTH WILKESBORO, NC

Living starts here! Located in the foothills of the NC Blue Ridge Mtns. www.downtownnorthwilkesboro.com (336) 667-7129.

276.4 **Deep Gap. Access Point** US 421, W. 11 mi. to Boone. East 26 miles to North Wilkesboro.

FLEETWOOD, NC

6 miles north of Parkway via US 221, exit at MP 276.4.

Fleetwood Falls® - A quiet place nestled in the mountains, along the New River. Real estate for sale. Open all year. 9 1/2 miles NW of Parkway off Hwy. 221 on State Road 1106. 3108 Railroad Grade Road, PO Box 128, Fleetwood, NC 28626. www.fleetwoodfalls.com (336) 877-1110.

GREENSBORO, NC

Explore Greensboro, NC featuring over 135 attractions, where the fun never ends. Centrally located in North Carolina's picturesque heartland, it's the perfect place to relax and be immersed in entertainment. Dine with a selection of more than 500 restaurants. Feel at home with more than 90 accommodations to choose from. Visit art galleries, theatres, our minor league ballpark, Revolutionary War battlefields and exceptional historical museum. Be in the center of it all! www.visitgreensboronc.com or (800) 344-2282.



Flat Rock Trail | Photo by William A. Bake

HICKORY, NC

Explore Hickory! Just 45 miles from the Blowing Rock, NC Parkway exit. Experience beautiful Lake Hickory and get a taste of the area's booming culinary scene. Visiting Hickory isn't complete without a stop at the Hickory Furniture Mart, home to the best selection and price in well-crafted furniture. www.VisitHickoryMetro.com (828) 322-1335.

CALDWELL COUNTY, NC

Sculpted by Nature. Crafted by Man. Experience our rich history, quaint towns, live music, live theatre, festivals & car shows, world class sculpture exhibits, local crafts, antiques. 30 min. S of MP 294. www.explorecaldwell.com (828) 726-0616.

Wilkes County, NC

Contact

Wilkes Chamber of Commerce
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

(Funded by Wilkesboro Tourism Development Convention and Visitors Bureau)



336-838-8662
www.ExploreWilkes.com

Explore Wilkes, where outdoor beauty and recreation thrive!
Mountain streams, rivers, and lakes meander through lush green valleys with tall trees as visitors enjoy fly fishing, boating, and "tubbing." Wilkes hosts miles of public mountain biking and hiking trails with features like waterfalls, historic monuments and bird watching. Visitors will enjoy the fruits of our labor from local vineyards, wineries, orchards, and fresh vegetables and handmade crafts sold at the Yadkin Valley Marketplace and Wilkes Fresh locations. MerleFest, The Blue Ridge Music Hall of Fame, Faith Fest, Brushy Mountain Apple and Peach Festivals feature the best of Americana, Bluegrass, Gospel, and mountain heritage music. Clean, quiet and accessible accommodations include modern hotel rooms, secluded cabins, and picturesque campsites.

Visit www.ExploreWilkes.com – Find Your Back Road

Wilkes County offers outdoor adventure, living history and amazing experiences in a vast, beautiful, mountain landscape.

ELIZABETHTON, TN

"Birthplace of American Democracy," two state parks, largest rhododendron gardens in U.S., oldest frame house in TN, 134' covered bridge. Enjoy the outdoors, camping, water sports & hiking. www.tourcartercounty.com (423) 547-3850.

291.8 **US 221/321 Access point**. 7 mi. north to Boone, 2 mi. south to Blowing Rock.

BOONE, NC

Our welcoming mountain town offers year round epic outdoor adventures, world-famous spas, cozy mountain cabins, and grand historic inns. There are many reasons why it's better in Boone. Visit www.exploreboone.com (828) 266-1345.

NC High Country Host & Regional Visitor Center - ***Travel info for Boone, Blowing Rock, Beech Mtn, West Jefferson area. Open 7 days a week, located at BRP Milepost 291 exit. Order a free vacation planner. www.MountainsofNC.com (800) 438-7500.***

DID YOU KNOW?

The Parkway is carried across streams, railway ravines and crossroads by 176 bridges and six viaducts.

FOOD, LODGING, & CAMPING

Art of Living Retreat Center - Stunning views & deep relaxation with workshops, yoga, delicious food, pottery classes & more. www.artoflivingretreatcenter.org (800) 392-6870.

Comfort Suites - 1184 Hwy 105, 6 miles from Parkway. 96 suite hotel rooms, heat, indoor pool, exercise and game rooms. Hot breakfast. (888) 770-6800.

Country Inn and Suites - 818 E King St Boone. Close to all local attractions, free Wi-Fi, hot breakfast, indoor pool & gym. Standard rooms and suites. (828) 264-4100.

Courtyard by Marriott - 1050 Hwy 105 Boone, NC 28607. Brand new hotel in the High Country of NC. Phone (828) 265-7676. www.marriott.com/hkybn

Fairfield Inn & Suites - 2060 Blowing Rock Rd. 5 miles from Parkway. Continental breakfast. Call (800) 228-2800.

Foscoe Rentals - Cabins, condos and vacation homes centrally located to Boone, Banner Elk and Blowing Rock. (800) 723-7341 www.foscoerentals.com.

The Gamekeeper Restaurant & Bar - MP 294, Right on Shull's Mill Rd, 2.5 miles. Eclectic stone cottage, outdoor dining, local harvests. www.gamekeeper-nc.com

Elizabethton/Carter County, TN

Contact

Visitor Center
615 E Elk Ave.
Elizabethton, TN 37643
Email: Info@TourCarterCounty.com



1-423-547-3850
www.TourCarterCounty.com

You'll find plenty to do, whatever your interests during a visit to Elizabethton. Historic Downtown Elizabethton is filled with diverse restaurants, antique shops, and plenty more. Take a stroll through downtown and across our covered bridge, built in 1882. Visit nearby Sycamore Shoals State Park to learn about the rich history that took place here during the 18th century. Hike the Appalachian Trail, which passes by several waterfalls in the Cherokee National Forest. Hire a fly fishing guide and float the Watauga River, renowned for its trophy trout. Rent a boat or paddle board to explore Watauga Lake. Stay the night in one of our bed and breakfasts, a campground or in one of the cozy cabins at Roan Mountain State Park. Come and see for yourself all that Tennessee's Mountain Playground has to offer!

Family-friendly outdoor activities, antiques, diverse local dining and cozy accommodations.

Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton - MP 291.9, Boone's only Hilton hotel. Opened Oct 2016. 1252 US 421 South. Heated pool, free Wi-Fi. (828) 386-6464.

Hidden Valley Motel - Hwy 105 in the Foscoe Valley between Boone & Banner Elk. Enjoy birds, blooms & butterflies in our country garden. *www.hiddenvalleymotel.com* (828) 963-4372.

The Horton Hotel & Rooftop Lounge - 611 W. King Street. 15 room boutique hotel, pet friendly, 2 lounges. (828) 832-8060. *www.thehorton.com*

KOA Kampground - From Boone, 194N 3 mi. Left on Ray Brown Rd 1 mi. Beautiful view. Rec room, mini-golf, laundry, pool, general store. 123 Harmony Mtn Lane. (828) 264-7250.

La Quinta Inn & Suites - 165 Hwy 105 Ext. Boone. Walking distance to ASU and downtown. Close to Grandfather Mountain and popular ski areas. (828) 262-1234.

Lost Province Brewing Company - Brewpub in downtown Boone, authentic & innovative craft beer & savory wood-fired fare. *www.lostprovince.com* (828) 265-3506.

Pepper's Restaurant - Famous sandwiches since 1975. Featuring steaks and seafood, soup & salad bar and homemade desserts. Open 7 days. Located at the Shops at Shadowline near Harris Teeter. All ABC permits. *www.peppers-restaurant.com* (828) 262-1250.

Quality Inn & Suites University - 840 E King St Boone. Close to all local attractions. Free hot breakfast, Wi-Fi and pool. Refurbished rooms, suites and Jacuzzi rooms available. (828) 266-1100.

Willow Valley Resort - 3 miles off Hwy 105 from Boone. Eff. 1 br/2 br/3 br cabins & condos. Fully furn. Golf, pool, fireplaces. Excellent getaway. 8am-9pm Sun-Sat. (828) 963-6551.



Fishing at Price Lake (or any Parkway waters) is permitted with either an NC or VA fishing license. | Photo by William A. Bake



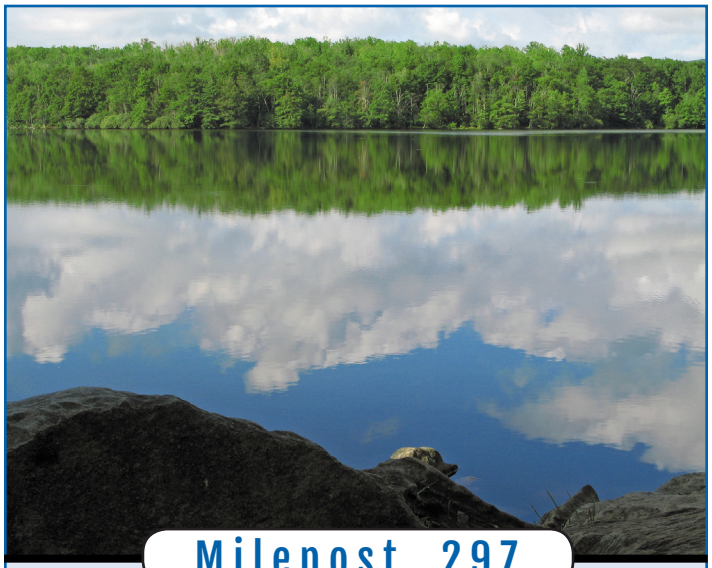
Milepost 294

MOSES H CONE MEMORIAL PARK

As unlikely as it sounds, blue jeans, farming and fine art largely define this country estate - turned Parkway recreation area. Moses Cone and his wife Bertha built what was then known as Flat Top Manor at the turn of the twentieth century. The son of a German Jewish immigrant who came to America as a peddler, Moses and his brother Caesar fashioned a textile empire, making them the leading producers of denim in the world. Visitors here will gain an understanding of the influence of this textile giant, and the role that the landscape architecture movement and country estate movement of the nineteenth century had on life in the Appalachian mountains.

In the 1890s and early 1900s, Cone fashioned this country place at Blowing Rock with its 23-room Colonial Revival mansion as a retreat from the rigors of his business empire and as a way to showcase his prosperity. He built approximately twenty five miles of well-planned and exquisitely maintained carriage roads and two lakes. On Flat Top Mountain and Rich Mountain he and Bertha raised cattle and sheep and planted tens of thousands of apple trees. Soon after Bertha's death, the family offered the property to the Parkway with the understanding that it would be operated as a "public park and pleasuring ground."

The manor and the entire estate has been designated as a historic district and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Carriage roads are popular for hiking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing, especially by residents of the Boone/Blowing Rock area. During the summer and fall, National Park Service staff provide frequent tours of the house. The manor house is both a good starting point and a highlight of any visit. Browse the bookstore and the craft center, with its assortment of contemporary and traditional crafts. Craft demonstrations are offered frequently in the summer.



Milepost 297

JULIAN PRICE MEMORIAL PARK

Julian Price purchased this land as a recreational retreat for his employees after establishing one of the nation's largest insurance companies. After his untimely death in 1946, his heirs left the land to the Blue Ridge Parkway as a memorial to a man who shared the natural beauty of the area with others.

Today, visitors see the rebirth of a hardwood forest on hillsides where lumber companies cut virgin tracts of hemlock, poplar, and chestnut in the early 20th century. According to some, it was the "best boundary of timber in Carolina." Julian Price Memorial Park contains 4,200 acres with elevations ranging from 3,400' to nearly 4,000'.

Price Park is a haven for relaxation and recreation with the 47-acre Price Lake as its focal point. Visitors enjoy one of the most popular and largest picnic areas on the Parkway, along with camping, boating and fishing on Price Lake, and ample opportunities to explore the mountains on hiking trails. Grandfather Mountain, at 5,946', rises majestically nearby.

The wilderness appeal of forested highlands and cold mountain streams at Price Park welcomes those who want to enjoy the outdoors. The Green Knob Trail, Boone Fork Trail, and Price Lake Trail offer ample hiking opportunities. The Tanawha Trail, perhaps the crowning achievement of all Parkway trails, stretches 13.5 miles from Price Park to Beacon Heights, paralleling the Parkway and rising along the slopes of Grandfather Mountain. A trek along the Tanawha Trail crosses fragile habitats and ecosystems, tunnels through laurel and rhododendron thickets, and crosses many boulder fields and cascading streams.

Whether delighting in the calm waters while driving across the dam, camping, picnicking, or experiencing the Parkway by foot, most visitors will understand why Price Park is one of the most popular of all Parkway stops.

VALLE CRUCIS, NC

via Rts US 421N or NC 194, 5 miles SW of Boone.

Mast General Store - Established 1883. Authentic & nostalgic emporium with clothing, camping gear, shoes & boots, housewares, candy, unique gifts. *www.MastStore.com* (828) 963-6511.

BLOWING ROCK, NC

Charming resort village on the Parkway. Exit Hwy 221 & 321, MP 293 & 295. Lodging, dining, boutique and outlet shopping. Near The Blowing Rock, Mystery Hill, Tweetsie Railroad and Grandfather Mountain attractions. www.BlowingRock.com (828) 295-4636.

ATTRACTIONS

The Blowing Rock - Breathtaking view 4090' above John's River Gorge. Prevailing winds return light objects thrown over the void. Hwy. 321 S, Blowing Rock, NC. *www.theblowingrock.com*

Blowing Rock Art & History Museum - Free admission, open year round. Must-see destination for visual art & Appalachian heritage. *www.BlowingRockMuseum.org* (828) 295-9099.

High Gravity Adventures Zip Line & Aerial Park - High country adventure for the whole family. Experience our award-winning zip tour, scream on the giant swing, and explore 75+ challenges in our aerial adventure park. Tickets and information available online. *www.highgravityadventures.com* (828) 266-0151.

Mystery Hill - NC's only Natural Gravitational Anomaly, hands-on science activities, giant soap bubbles, gem mining, axe/knife throwing, world's 2nd largest collection of Native American Artifacts, fossil museum. Open daily. MP 291.9, 3 min. from Pkwy. *www.mysteryhill.com* (828) 274-2792.



Doughton Park Lone Rider | Photo by William A. Bake

DID YOU KNOW?

Rhododendron, mountain laurel, and a variety of azaleas put on their big show from May through late June. See the bloom guide on Page 15.

Tweetsie Railroad - As the Carolina's first theme park, Tweetsie Railroad is a unique attraction where guests can relive the Wild West featuring a ride through the Blue Ridge Mountains on a historic steam locomotive. Children of all ages enjoy western themed shows, amusement rides, shopping, panning for gold, and the animals in the Deer Park Zoo. Hours vary by season, visit www.tweetsie.com for current schedule. 877-TWEETSIE (877-893-3874)

FOOD, LODGING, & CAMPING

Alpine Village Inn - 297 Sunset Dr. Cozy rooms & suites with AC, free Wi-Fi. Some fireplaces & Jacuzzi. Pet friendly rooms. www.alpine-village-inn.com (828) 295-7206.

Blue Ridge Mountain Rentals - Offers nearly 250 luxurious vacation homes throughout NC's High Country, many at or near the Blue Ridge Parkway. Whether you are planning a family vacation or a romantic getaway, let us help! Off-season discounts available for 3+ night stays. www.BlueRidgeRentals.com (800) 237-7975.

Chetola Resort - A family resort with magnificent views on 78 acres. Chetola Lodge, Bob Timberlake Inn, and spacious condominiums. Spa at Chetola Resort, Timberlake's Restaurant, new fitness center, Orvis® Endorsed Fly Fishing, lakeside activities, fishing, sporting clays. 185 Chetola Lake Drive, Blowing Rock NC. www.chetola.com (828) 243-8652.

Green Park Inn - National Historic Register hotel opened 1891. Complimentary full breakfast, Wi-Fi, restaurant/tavern, year round. Pet-friendly by reservation. www.GreenParkInn.com (828) 414-9230.

Hemlock Inn - "A Blowing Rock Tradition". Open all year. One of downtown's best locations. Located 2 miles from Blue Ridge Parkway. Hemlock Inn is one building off main street, within walking distance of shops, restaurants, and park. Kings, queens, and king suites are available. Handicap accessible rooms also available. All rooms have color cable TV, A/C, telephones, microwaves, small refrigerators and coffee pots. Suites have fully equipped kitchens. Gazebo sitting area with fire pit and fountain. Free Wi-Fi available. www.hemlockinn.net (828) 295-7987.

Holiday Inn Express Blowing Rock - 1 mile South on 321. Rooms with King or 2 Queen beds, microwave, refrig. Complimentary hot breakfast, internet, indoor pool. (828) 295-4422.

Homestead Inn - In the heart of town, open year round. Sun.-Thurs. discount. A/C, flat screen TV, coffee/fridge/micro, fireplaces, Jacuzzis. Free Wi-Fi. www.homestead-inn.com (828) 295-9559.

Boone, NC

Contact

Boone, NC
Exit at Milepost 291
ExploreBoone.com



828-266-1345
ExploreBoone.com

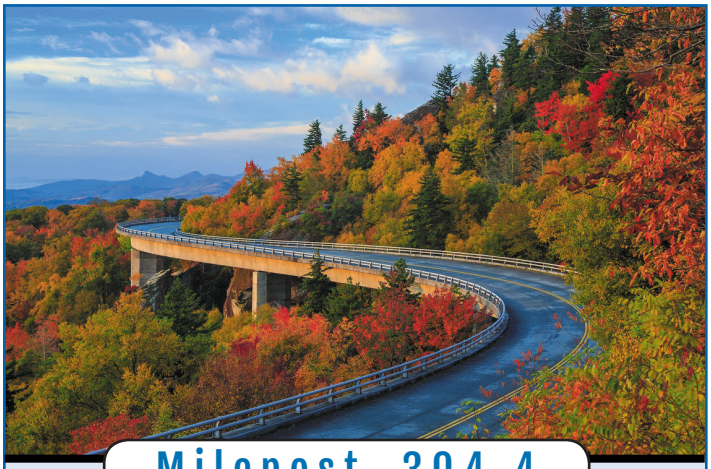
From epic outdoor adventures to world-famous spas, and from cozy mountain cabins to historic inns, it's just better in Boone.

Whether you're after the rush of zip lining, skiing, or mountain biking or the rush that comes from a great day of shopping, we've got you covered. Boone also has something for those of you who are overdue for a relaxing day at the spa or prefer wine trails to hiking trails.

Enjoy a romantic stay at a cozy bed and breakfast, a secluded mountain cabin, or a luxurious, modern hotel. Or bring the whole family and live like locals for a few days. Our wide variety of mountain cabins, and condos provide all the comforts of home while immersing you in distinctly different surroundings.

Spring, summer, fall, or winter, it's better in Boone.

It's better in Boone.



Milepost 304.4

LINN COVE VIADUCT

A seven mile unfinished section of the Blue Ridge Parkway was delayed for twenty years as environmentalists, adjacent landowners, engineers, and architects put their skills together on how to preserve the scenic and fragile environment on the slopes of Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina. The resulting Linn Cove Viaduct is a symbol of pride to landscape architects and engineers for its marriage of beauty with utility and habitat protection.

Visitors here will gain an appreciation for the relationship between the building of the Linn Cove Viaduct and the overall Parkway design and engineering, as well as its role in protecting the fragile habitat on Grandfather Mountain.

From the first explosion of colorful wildflowers in the spring to the refreshing coolness of summer to the fall extravaganza of color to the beauty of snow covered peaks in winter, each season provides the traveler with a completely different Parkway experience.

Jenkins Rentals - The finest vacation rentals in the Blowing Rock area. Homes with hot tubs, long range mountain views. www.jenkinsrentals.com (800) 438-7803.

Meadowbrook Inn - 711 Main St, Blowing Rock, MP 291.9, heart of downtown. Rates include breakfast & Wi-Fi, indoor pool. www.meadowbrook-inn.com (828) 295-4300.

Swiss Mountain Village - 2324 Flat Top Rd. Blowing Rock NC. 1/4 mile from Park. 40 cabins and swiss style chalets for retreat, fishing pond, relaxation. www.swissmountain.com

Westglow Resort & Spa - 1 mile from Parkway on Hwy 221. Open all year. Enjoy day spa packages, fine dining, and overnight visits. www.westglow.com (828) 295-4463.

Woodlands BBQ - Best in BBQ. Located on 321 Bypass. Featuring barbeque beef, pork, chicken & ribs. Open 11am-10pm. Take out available. www.woodlandsbbq.com (828) 295-3651.

SHOPPING

Southern Highland Craft Guild Moses Cone Manor - One of the guild's stops located @ MP 294, it represents 400 makers of the Southern Appalachians on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Craft demonstrations offered from April to November. Open daily April 1 to November 30, 10-5 daily. Closed Thanksgiving. www.craftguild.org (828) 295-7938.

292.7 **Moses H. Cone Memorial Park, 3,600 acres.** Many miles of horse and carriage trails, hiking, fishing.

294 **Moses Cone Manor House; Visitor Center and Park Store.** Parkway Craft Center; comfort station.

297 **Julian Price Memorial Park.** 4,344 acres. Campground, picnic area, lake, boating, fishing, trails. Alt. 3,400. Reservations for camping: www.recreation.gov

304.4 **Linn Cove Viaduct Information Center and Park Store.** Visitor information, comfort station, publications. Trail access viaduct. Alt. 4,000.

305.1 **Access point Parkway and US 221.** 3 mi. west to Linville.

SEVEN DEVILS, NC

11 miles from MP 305.2 - Via 221S to 105N. Awesome views from rental cabins! Otter Falls Park, hiking trails, tennis & pickleball courts, playground, zipline, tubing. www.sevendevils.net (828) 963-5343.

AVERY COUNTY, NC

Home of the Woolly Worm Festival. Christmas trees, top resorts & attractions, skiing hub. Located in the "High Country" in the western mountains of North Carolina. Chamber of Commerce, 4501 Tynecastle Hwy Unit 2, Banner Elk NC. Open M-F 10-4. www.averycounty.com (800) 972-2183.



Cone Manor in Winter | Photo by William A. Bake



Bass Lake Summer Evening | Photo by William A. Bake

BANNER ELK, NC

Banner Elk is a resort town not far from the Parkway. Basecamp for Grandfather Mtn. with dining & lodging plus 2 ski resorts in winter! www.bannerelk.com (828) 898-5398.

Best Western Mountain Lodge at Banner Elk - Located on Hwy. 184, 7 mi. from MP 304. Full service hotel. Seasonal packages. www.bestwesternbannerelk.com (877) 877-4553.

Carlton Gallery - 10360 Hwy 105 S. between Boone & Banner Elk, NC. Celebrating 36 years, local/regional artists, paintings, clay, wood, glass, fiber art, jewelry, art workshops. www.carltongallery.com (828) 963-4288.

Grandfather Vineyard and Winery - Enjoy award-winning wines in our serene setting. MP 305, Linville exit US 221 Right at light onto 105 South, then 7.6 mi. to Vineyard Lane on R. Tastings Mon-Sat. 12:00-6:00, Sun. 1:00-5:00. www.grandfathervineyard.com

The Pedalin' Pig - 4235 NC Hwy 105. Open daily 11am-9pm. Southern style BBQ, ribs, brisket, chicken, trout. Inside/outside dine-in/takeout. Large, easy parking, Wi-Fi. www.thepedalinpig.com

Smoketree Lodge - 12 mi. S of Boone on Hwy 105. Studio, 1 & 2 BR condos w/ kitchenettes, Wi-Fi, indoor heated pool, saunas, Jacuzzi. www.smoketree-lodge.com (800) 422-1880.

SUGAR MTN., NC

8 mi. from Pkwy MP 305.1, Hwy 221 S. to 184 N. Enjoy golf, clay tennis courts, mtn biking, scenic lift rides, rafting, gem mining, skiing, tubing, snowshoeing, & ice skating. Stay for a special event like Oktoberfest or SugarFest. www.seesugar.com

Resort Real Estate & Rentals at Sugar Mountain - 3390 Tynecastle Hwy, Banner Elk NC 28604. Fully equipped homes, condos. Cabins on Sugar. Rent by day/wk/mo. Book online 24/7. www.staysugarmountain.com (800) 438-4555.

BEECH MTN., NC

Cresting at 5,506', Beech Mtn. is the highest town in Eastern America. Summer temps rarely exceed 75 degrees F, creating an ideal climate for hiking, mtn. biking, golf, and tennis. Winters are rich in snowfall, creating ideal ski conditions. Lodging options range from hotels to cabins. www.beechmtn.com

Fred's General Mercantile - 30 min. from MP 305.2, everything a general store used to be & more! "If we don't have it, you don't need it" www.fredsgeneral.com (828) 387-4838.

LINVILLE, NC

3 miles from Parkway on US 221, exit at MP 305.1.

ATTRACTIONS

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games - America's finest gathering of Scottish Clans. Music, dancing, pageantry, athletic & children's events. www.gmhg.org (828) 733-1333.

New Blue Ridge Craft Trails

Come Make an Experience



Wind through Western North Carolina's scenic mountains and foothills brimming with talented artists eager to share their legendary heritage of handmade crafts.

Explore the living arts of the Cherokee and the stories of local makers of traditional and contemporary crafts such as glass, pottery, woodworking, and more. If the spirit moves you, try your hand at creating something original at one of the many hands-on experiences.

For maps, artist profiles and more:
www.blueridgecrafttrails.com

Grandfather Mountain - Grandfather's lofty heights offer guests opportunities for rejuvenation, excitement and family memories in a natural haven that will endure forever. Marvel at 360-degree views from the Mile High Swinging Bridge, stand eye-to-eye with bears, cougars, otters, eagles and elk in natural habitats, and interact with our friendly, knowledgeable staff. Two miles from the Linn Cove Viaduct, one mile from Parkway. Take Linville Exit, MP 305 to US 221. Open daily (weather permitting in winter). www.grandfather.com Phone (828) 733-4337 or (800) 468-7325.

LODGING

Pixie Motor Inn - Intersection of NC 105 and US 221. Wi-Fi and cable TV, air conditioned. Seasonal April-October. Family-owned since 1958. (828) 733-2597.

308.2 **Flat Rock Parking Area**. Self-guiding nature trail to superb view of Linville Valley and Grandfather Mountain.



Linn Cove Viaduct | Photo William A. Bake

PINEOLA, NC

2 miles north of Parkway on US 221, exit at Milepost 305.1 or 312.

Christa's Country Corner - General store, deli, ice cream, clothing and gifts. Choose and cut Christmas trees. Straight across from Entrance/Exit. Milepost 312 Morganton - Pineola Exit. (828) 733-3353.

Down by the River Campground - 292 River Campground Rd. At MP 312, Right on Hwy 181 North, 1 mile down on left. 30 & 50 amp service, hot showers, spacious, level sites, laundry. (May-Oct.) www.downbytherivercampground.com (828) 733-5057.

The Pineola - Lodge, cabins, RV park & campground. Store, beer cave & taproom with local brews and wine. 1.5 mi. off Parkway MP 312. www.thepineola.com (828) 733-4979.

312.2 **NC 181 Access point**, 32 miles southeast to Morganton, 2 mi. north to Pineola.

CROSSNORE, NC

6 miles south of Linville off Hwy 221, exit at Milepost 305.9 or 312.

Crossnore Weavers & Gallery - "A working museum." Traditional hand-woven textiles produced since 1920. Open Mon.-Sat. Off Hwy 221. www.crossnoreweavers.org (800) 374-4660.

Blowing Rock, NC

Contact

Exit Milepost 292 & 294,
Blowing Rock Tourism
(828) 295-4636
www.blowingrock.com



877-750-INFO (4636)
www.BlowingRock.com

ROCK your vacation in our #parkwaytown! One of the few towns located directly on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Blowing Rock offers visitors sweeping mountain vistas and storybook village charm. Explore hiking and biking trails, go horseback riding and fly fishing, and ski & snowboard at Appalachian Ski Mountain. Shop in our unique downtown boutiques or Tanger Outlets. Visit family attractions including The Blowing Rock, Tweetsie Railroad and Grandfather Mountain and discover annual events including Blowing Rock WinterFest (Jan), Art in the Park (May-Oct), Blowing Rock Charity Horse Show (Jun-Aug), and Blowing Rock Plein Air Festival (Aug). Take time to pamper yourself at one of our spas and indulge in several highly-rated restaurants. Rest up in style in our varied accommodations, from cozy inns and cabins to luxury suites.

Known as the "Crown of the Blue Ridge," Blowing Rock offers visitors sweeping vistas of the Blue Ridge Mountains, which are cool and refreshing in the spring and summer, before blazing into a beautiful tapestry of changing leaves in autumn and frosting with snow in winter.

Snowy Mountain Christmas Shop & Sweets - 5 miles north of MP 317.4 on US Hwy 221. Open Mon-Sat 10-6, May through Christmas Eve. *www.snowymountainchristmasshopandsweets.com*

BURKE COUNTY, NC

Brown Mountain Lights mystery seen near here in the Pisgah Nat. Forest. Parkway MP 312 south on NC Hwy 181. Hike Table Rock and Hawksbill Mtns. See the Linville Gorge. Pristine Lake James State Park. www.discoverburkecounty.com (888) 462-2921.

316.3 **Linville Falls Visitor Center and Park Store, campground**. For camping reservations visit *www.recreation.gov*.

316.4 **Linville River Parking Area**. One of the Parkway's largest stone arch bridges. Three spans of 80' each. Fish in Linville River. Picnic area. Comfort station. Alt. 3,250. Take Spur Rd. to Linville Falls, campground and visitor center.

317.5 **US 221 Access point**. South 1 mi. to Linville Falls community. 24 mi. to Marion.

? DID YOU KNOW?

When construction began in 1935 the Parkway was the longest single-unit road ever designed.



Hwy 181 Bridge at MP 312 | Photo by William A. Bake

LINVILLE FALLS, NC

1 mile south of Parkway on US 221, exit at MP 317.5.

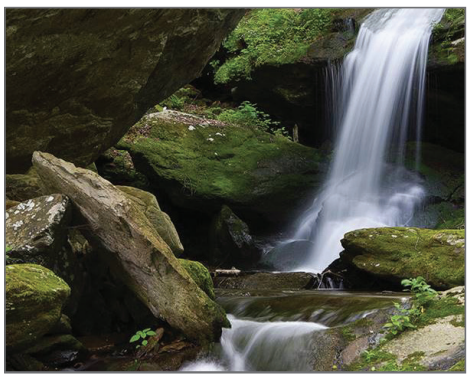
ATTRACTIONS

Linville Caverns - North Carolina's only show caverns, 4 mi. from Pkwy. Courteous, experienced guides, outstanding gift shop. *www.linvillecaverns.com* (800) 419-0540.

Seven Devils, NC

Visit

11 miles from MP 221S to 105N. Awesome views from rental cabins! Otter Falls Park, hiking trails, tennis & pickleball courts, playground, zipline, tubing.



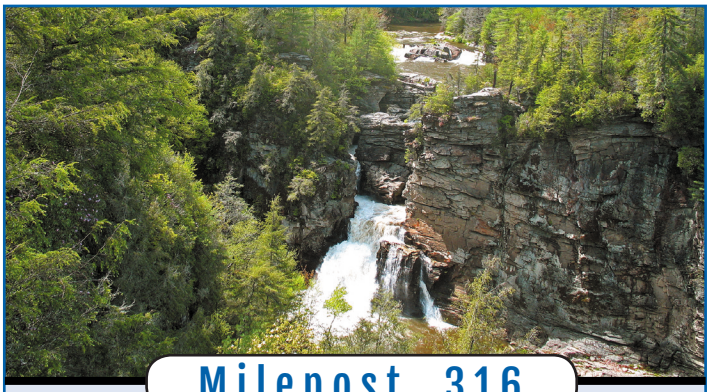
828-963-5343
www.sevendevils.net

Convenient to the Blue Ridge Parkway, Grandfather Mountain and Bear Paw State Natural Area, the Town of Seven Devils offers a great starting point for your visit to the NC High Country. Located between Boone and Banner Elk, visitors can take advantage of easy access to area hiking, shopping, golfing, skiing, and fishing, and more, while enjoying the truly peaceful atmosphere of our quaint mountain community.

Come visit our Otter Falls Park, a 1.2 mile hiking trail through a cool mountain forest, leading to a waterfall and Valley Creek. Stunning mountain views are everywhere you look from rental cabins, condos, and homes in the Town of Seven Devils. Come, Relax, Enjoy, Stay...for a weekend, a season, or a lifetime!

"Discover our Positive Altitude"

Seven Devils— A unique Destination!



Milepost 316

LINVILLE FALLS

The English botanist Mark Catesby observed, described, and sketched the natural world of the Blue Ridge for seven years in the eighteenth century. His particular interest was the extensive network of streams and rivers arising along the mountains and gathering volume and speed as they descended to the coastal plain and beyond.

"The larger rivers in Carolina and Virginia," he wrote, "have their sources in the Appalachian Mountains, generally springing from rocks, and forming cascades and waterfalls… uniting into single streams… innumerable brooks and rivulets, all which contribute to form and supply the large rivers." Here at Linville Falls, Catesby's descriptions become real for the Parkway visitor.

The Linville River flows from its beginning point high on the steep slopes of Grandfather Mountain and cascades through two falls as it begins a nearly 2,000 foot descent through a rugged and spectacularly beautiful gorge. The Cherokee knew this river as "Eeseeoh" or "river of cliffs," and a hike into the gorge leaves no doubt about the origin of the name.

Towering hemlocks, dense stands of rhododendron and native wildflowers grow along the trails that encircle the falls. Little wonder this is one of the Parkway's top destinations. And what awaits the visitor who hikes down from the visitor center at Linville? A forested gorge of virgin timber stands as pristine and primitive as in the days when only Native Americans called this place home. The aquatic and forest ecology and the unique geological stories told here make a visit special.

In the early days of Parkway planning, under the shade of a hemlock tree above the falls, philanthropist John D. Rockefeller was treated to a fine picnic lunch and convinced of the necessity of protecting this piece of Appalachian scenery. The lunch was spread out within earshot of sawmills that had already begun timbering the area. After some months of negotiations, Mr. Rockefeller agreed to "pick up the tab" for the Linville Falls property, ensuring protection for Parkway visitors today.

We may not immediately think of the Blue Ridge Parkway as a park rich in water resources. But from Native Americans to colonial botanists and 21st century tourists, the waterways and streams of the Blue Ridge have played a vital role in the overall ecology and unsurpassed beauty of our region. The Blue Ridge Parkway, like all national parks, is set aside to protect these special parts of our world.

FOOD, LODGING, & CAMPING

Cross Creek Cabins - 5 cozy log cabins, 2 mi. from MP 317.5. Open all year. Pet friendly. Ponds, creek, walk to Linville Falls & gorge. www.crosscreekcabins.com (828) 765-9701.

The Catawba River Inn - MP 317.5, 5 mi. S on Hwy 221. Large rooms, fireplace, fridge, private deck, hot farm-fresh breakfast, plush bedding, free Wi-Fi. www.catawbariverinn.com (828) 756-7001.

Linville Falls Campground, RV Park & Cabins - Milepost 317, left (south) on US 221, 500 ft. beautifully shaded, full hookup sites. Separate wooded tent area. Cabin rentals. Hot showers, playground, laundry. May 1-Nov. 1. www.linvillefalls.com (828) 765-2681.

Linville Falls Lodge & Cottages - MP 317.5, US 221S, left ½ mile to Rt. 183. Walk to falls & gorge. www.linvillefallslodge.com (828) 765-2658.

Linville Falls Winery - Enjoy the High Country's premier wine experience. 1/2 mi. off the BRP, MP 317 on US 221 N. Tours & tasting. www.LinvilleFallsWinery.com (828) 765-1400.

320.7 **Chestoa View** offers an unusually fine view from one of the many vertical cliffs on Humpback Mountain.

Bear Den Mountain Resort - Blue Ridge Pkwy @ MP 324. 144 sites. Deluxe cabins, tents to RVs, Campin' cabins. Mar 15-Nov 30. Spruce Pine, NC. www.bear-den.com (828) 765-2888.

McDOWELL COUNTY, NC

Between Linville Falls and Crabtree Falls, Mileposts 316 to 344. Explore our gem mines, waterfall trails, trout streams, caverns, the Orchard at Altapass, Lake James, unique lodging, crafts & more. www.blueridgetraveler.com (888) 233-6111.

Inn on Mill Creek - B&B in Pisgah National Forest, just 20 min. east of MP 382.5 or exit the Parkway at MP 344. A casual & comfortable homebase while exploring from Linville to the Asheville area. 3895 Mill Creek Rd. Old Fort NC. www.innonmillcreek.com (828) 668-1115.

Mountain Stream RV Park - 6954 Buck Creek Road, MP 344: 4 miles off Parkway. Creekside sites, full hook up, close to attractions. "Prettiest Little Park This Side of Heaven" (828) 724-9013.

? DID YOU KNOW?

The Parkway's protected corridor provides a migration route for many species both along ridgetops and as it crosses the region's many creeks and major rivers.

330.9 **NC 226 Access point**. 6 mi. north to Spruce Pine. 14 mi. south to Marion.

330.9 **Museum of North Carolina Minerals Visitor Center and Park Store**. Access point at NC 226. Features minerals found in North Carolina and regional geology. Mitchell County Chamber of Commerce.

330.9 **Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail** - Commemorates the campaign leading up to the American victory at Kings Mountain in 1780. Route crosses the Blue Ridge Parkway at Gillespie Gap, near the Mineral Museum. Administered by the National Park Service. www.nps.gov/ovvi

PENLAND, NC

8 miles north of Parkway via NC 226N, exit at Milepost 331.

Penland Gallery - At Penland School of Crafts featuring contemporary crafts & info. on area studios. Exit Pkwy at US 226, 226N 7.5 mi. www.penland.org/gallery (828) 765-6211.

MITCHELL COUNTY, NC

Exit Milepost 331. Gem mining, gem & mineral shops, Gem & Mineral Festival, Rhododendron Festival, whitewater rafting, Appalachian Trail/Roan Mountain, Penland School of Crafts, NC's largest indoor recreational facility. Visitor Center at 79 Parkway Rd, Spruce Pine NC. For accommodations, event dates & attractions: www.craftyouradventure.com (828) 765-9483.

NC Outdoor Adventures - 21 guided adventures for all ages & ability levels, rock climb, rappel, whitewater, tubing & much more. www.ncoutdooradventures.org (828) 260-4505.

SPRUCE PINE, NC

6 miles north of Parkway via NC 226, exit at Milepost 331.

ATTRACTIONS

Gem Mountain - Located at MP 331. Mine trips to an active mine. Flume mining at its best. Free fluorescent mineral display, picnic area, gem & jewelry store, general store. People's choice for gem mining! Open Mar.-Dec. Summer hours 9-6, open 7 days a week in Jun.-Aug. All other open months Mon.-Sat. 9-5. www.gemmountain.com (828) 765-6130.

LODGING & CAMPING

Peak Mountain Cottages & Retreat Center - On 300 acres 7 mi. N of Pkwy. Room to play or relax. Hiking trails, clear mtn streams. Individuals, families, groups up to 25. (828) 765-9559.

Springmaid Mountain Campground/Cabins - Retreat, horses/tubing/fishing. 7 mi N of MP 331 @ 2171 Henredon Rd. Year round. www.springmaidmountain.com (888) 297-0725.

FREE DOWNLOAD: Blue Ridge Parkway Travel Planner App. Includes maps & works even without cell reception!

Avery County, NC

Contact

Avery County Chamber of Commerce
Shoppes of Tynecastle,
Intersection of NC 105 & NC 184
4501 Tynecastle Highway, Unit 2
Banner Elk, NC 28604
828-898-5605



800-972-2183
www.averycounty.com

Avery County, North Carolina, located in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains welcomes fun seekers of all ages. While visiting, experience our distinct four seasons in an area that offers true Southern hospitality and home of the Official Woolly Worm Festival of North Carolina, one of the top 10 fall festivals in the region.

Ski the highest summits of the South at our 3 state of the art ski resorts, Appalachian Ski Mountain, Beech Mountain Resort and Sugar Mountain Resort. Activities abound year round including hiking, biking, rafting, tubing, horseback riding, antiquing, zipline, swimming, fine art festivals, art galleries and more. Avery County is a sought after place to live, work and play.

Exit the BRP at Milepost 305.1, 312-Hwy. 221 and Hwy. 181

Come for the day, spend a lifetime.

SHOPPING

Blue Ridge Soap Shed - See soap made, 150 varieties in retail shop. Less than 1 mi. from MP 331 on NC 226N. Order year round at www.soapshed.com or (828) 765-6001.

333.9 NC 226A Access point to Little Switzerland.

LITTLE SWITZERLAND, NC

Just off Parkway on Rt. 226A, exit at Milepost 334.

ATTRACTIONS

Emerald Village - 3 miles from Parkway at Little Switzerland. Gem mining, gold panning, mine tours, waterfall, free exhibits, real mines, fun shopping! NC's Gem! www.emeraldvillage.com (828) 765-6463.

FOOD, LODGING, & CAMPING

Alpine Inn - Clinging to the side of Grassy Mountain with THE most spectacular views in Little Switzerland. Rooms with large private balconies. Free sunrise, Wi-Fi, picnic area, grill, fire pit. Reasonable rates. From MP 334, 1 mi. S on 226A. www.AlpineInnNC.com (828) 765-5380.

FREE DOWNLOAD: Blue Ridge Parkway Travel Planner App. Includes maps & works even without cell reception!



Trillium blooming along the Parkway | Photo by Matt Celko

LS Books & Beans - 9426 Hwy 226A Little Switzerland NC. EV charging, restroom, best coffee shop on Parkway, open seasonally 9-5. www.lsbooksandbeans.com (828) 467-8107.

Switzerland Cafe & General Store - Hwy 226A, Milepost 334. Open 7 days. Serving lunch daily Easter - Halloween. Imported beers, wines & cheeses, picnic supplies, t-shirts, crafts. www.switzerlandcafe.com (828) 765-5289.

Switzerland Inn & Chalet Restaurant - Located directly on Parkway. Established in 1910. Variety of accommodations including mountain view suites, cottages & rooms in the main lodge. Chalet Restaurant serves three meals daily. Gracious casual atmosphere with old world charm. Tennis, golf privileges, swimming, fire pit, unique shops on property. Milepost 334. PO Box 399, Little Switzerland, NC 28749. www.switzerlandinn.com (828) 765-2153 (800) 654-4026.

Mitchell County, NC

Contact

Mitchell County Visitors Center
79 Parkway Maintenance Road
Spruce Pine, NC 28777



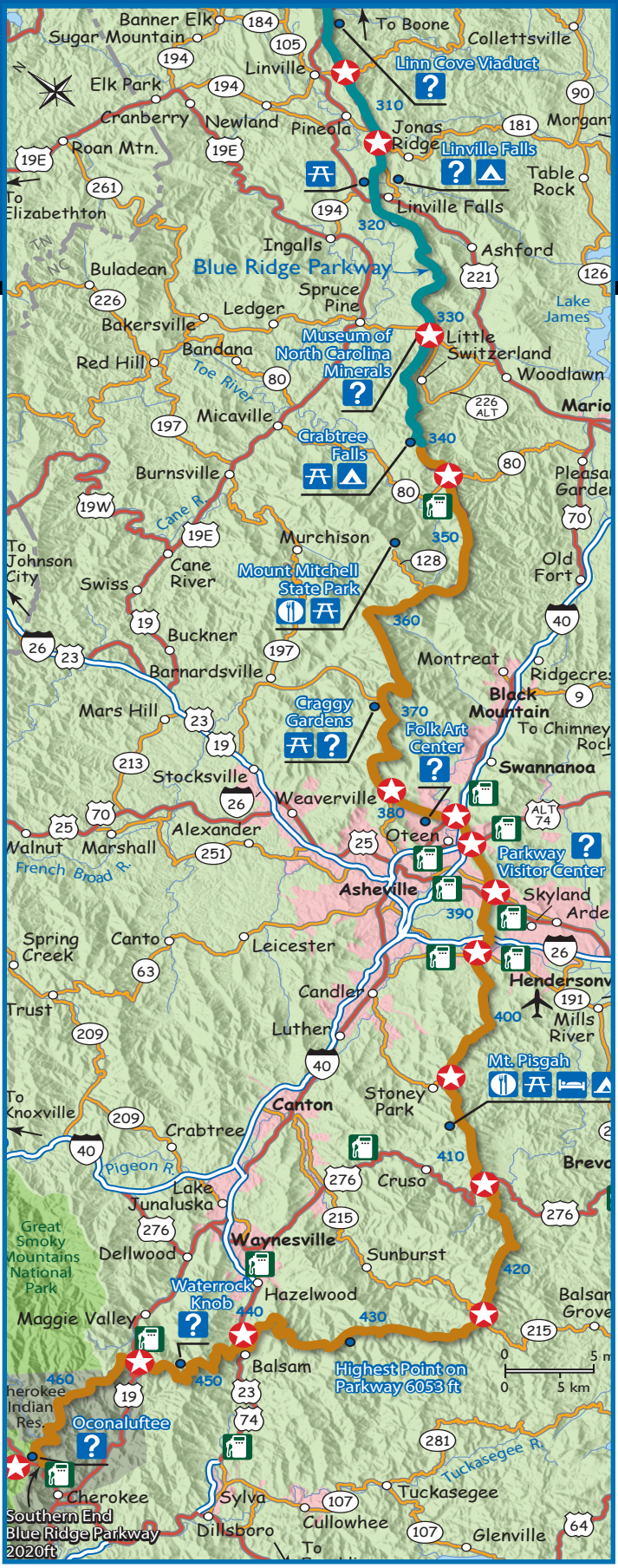
1-828-765-9483
www.threepeaksnc.com

Explore all three of NC's Famous Peaks from right in the center of them all! From your basecamp in Spruce Pine, Bakersville and Little Switzerland, you can discover Roan Mountain, Grandfather Mountain and Mt. Mitchell and check all three off your mountain bucket list! From your basecamp you can also take in mountain hikes, river fun, gem mining, apple orchards, motorcycle and sports car driving routes, shopping in our quaint towns, and discover more artist studios than any other area in the country...and that's just the beginning of the list of activities you and your family can enjoy in a amazing memory making tour of the Three Peaks region. Jump off the Blue Ridge Parkway at Mileposts 331 and 334 to begin your adventure!

Explore all three of NC's Famous Peaks from right in the center of them all!

Blue Ridge Parkway Pisgah Region:

Milepost 340, Crabtree Falls to Milepost 469, Cherokee, NC



339.5 **Crabtree Falls**. 250 acres. Hiking, camping, comfort station, drinking water. 40 minute walk to Crabtree Falls.

340.4 **Crabtree Falls Picnic Area**.

344.1 **NC 80 Access Point. Buck Creek Gap**. North 16 mi. to Burnsville, south 16 miles to Marion.

BURNSVILLE, NC

Enjoy small town charm with bed & breakfasts, inns, handmade crafts, shops, summer theatre, golf, hiking, camping, musical events & festivals on Burnsville's Town Square. (828) 682-7413. www.exploreburnsville.com

LODGING & CAMPING

Albert's Lodge at Mt. Mitchell - 5 min N of BRP, large rms, kitchenette, A/C, HDTV, Wi-Fi, prvt. deck w/ spectacular view of mtns, walk to Roaring Fork Falls. http://AlbertsLodge.com (828) 675-4691.

Black Mountain & Briar Bottom - 46 primitive sites/6 group sites. 50 Black Mountain Campground Rd., Burnsville, NC. Enjoy fly fishing, swimming, & tubing. www.gofindoutdoors.org (877) 444-6777.

Carolina Hemlocks Recreation Area - 31 campsites. 6000 Hwy. 80 South, Burnsville, NC. Some sites with river access, near Mt. Mitchell. www.gofindoutdoors.org (877) 444-6777.

Mount Mitchell Golf Club & Lodge - 2 miles off Pkwy at MP 344, rooms, condos, houses. Award-winning golf, great dining at Hawtree's Grill and Pub. Open April-November. (828) 675-4923. www.mountmitchellgolf.com

Toe River Campground - 225 Patience Park Rd. M.P. 344 - Apprx. 10 miles North on Hwy. 80. Family campground on South Toe River. toeriver@yanceycountync.gov. (828) 675-5104. www.toerivercampground.com

MAP KEY:

- PICNIC AREA
- RANGER STATION
- CAMPING
- FUEL
- LODGING
- INFO
- FOOD
- AIRPORT
- ACCESS POINTS

SHOPPING

OOAK Art Gallery - 14 miles north of MP 344. Fine, folk, & funky local art and live music. www.ooakartgallery.com (828) 675-0690.

Something Special Gift Shop - Downtown Burnsville. A unique shop in a country store setting. One block from picturesque town sq. www.facebook.com/somethingspecialburnsvillenc (828) 682-9101.

355 **NC 128. To Mount Mitchell State Park.** Highest peak in Eastern U.S.A., observation tower, tent camping area, trails, nature study, picnic area, Natural History Museum, restaurant. (May-October).

364.5 **Craggy Gardens Visitor Center and Park Store.** Exhibits, publications. (May-October) Trails.

367.6 **Spur to Craggy Gardens.** Picnic area, comfort station, trails.

375.6 **NC 694, Ox Creek Road.** Scenic Elk Mountain Highway. 8 miles to Weaverville. 7 miles to Asheville.

377.4 **NC 694 Access Point.** Town Mountain Road. 7 miles to Asheville.

WEAVERVILLE, NC

10 miles north of Asheville on US 19-23.

Dry Ridge Inn B&B - A relaxed small town B&B. 10 minutes from downtown Asheville, the Biltmore, and the Parkway. www.dryridgeinn.com (828) 658-3899.

BLACK MOUNTAIN, NC

"The Little Town That Rocks." Near Asheville. Arts/crafts, antiques, galleries, museum, specialty shops. Hiking/biking, golf, festivals, breweries, music. 40 restaurants. B&Bs, cabins, hotels. Pet friendly. Free guide. www.exploreblackmountain.com (828) 669-2300.

Town Hardware & General Store - Aisles of smiles! Three historic buildings jam-packed with an extensive and eclectic mix of products. Open 7 days/wk. 103 W. State St. (828) 669-7723. www.townhardware.com

382.5 **Access Point Parkway and US 70.** West 1 mi. to Oteen, 5 mi. to Asheville. East 10 mi. to Black Mountain.

384 **Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center and Park Store** - Museum-quality exhibits, traveler information, and a dramatic 24-minute Parkway movie. Open daily. ***www.blueridgeheritage.com*** (828) 298-5330.

384 **Blue Ridge Parkway Headquarters** is located just off the Parkway at Milepost 384. Information may be obtained by writing to: 199 Hemphill Knob Rd, Asheville, NC 28803 or calling (828) 298-0398. Detailed information may be found on the National Park Service's Parkway website at ***www.nps.gov/blri***

384.7 **US 74A Access Point.** West 3 mi. to Asheville. East to Chimney Rock, Bat Cave, Gerton, and Lake Lure.

Yancey County, NC

Contact

Burnsville Chamber
of Commerce
106 West Main Street
Burnsville, NC 28714



828-682-7413
exploreburnsville.com/brp

Burnsville, NC is home of the Bare Dark Sky Observatory and Mt. Mitchell, the highest peak east of the Mississippi River. With nearly 100 miles of public hiking trails, there's no better place to explore.

Known for its rural-artistic vibe, downtown Burnsville offers a walkable Main Street, shops, galleries, and restaurants, Homeplace Brewery, and more. Stay in a cozy mountain cabin, a modern apartment, or the historic inn downtown while you enjoy cool summer temperatures.

Across this small region are hundreds of makers. The annual Mt. Mitchell Crafts Fair, the first weekend in August, transforms the streets around Burnsville's Town Square into a festival for art and craft lovers. The Toe River Arts Gallery, located downtown, showcases local artists and sponsors the Toe River Arts Studio Tour, an annual self-guided tour of studios and galleries in this region. MP 317.5, 330.9

**Come and experience our home –
you may find you belong here!**

CHIMNEY ROCK & GERTON, NC

25 miles SE of Asheville on US 64/74A, exit at Milepost 384.7.

ATTRACTIONS

Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park - The best of the NC mountains in one place. Stunning 75-mile views over Lake Lure, several unique hiking trails and geological features such as Devil's Head and the Opera Box, a 26-story elevator built inside the mountain, a 404 foot waterfall. Pet friendly. Just 25 mi. SE of Asheville, NC. *www.chimneyrockpark.com* (800) 277-9611.

FOOD & LODGING

The Esmeralda Inn & Restaurant - Chimney Rock, NC. Historic inn, restaurant, Select Registry member, cabin rentals. *www.theesmeralda.com* (828) 625-2999.

SHOPPING

Bubba O'Leary's General Store - 17 miles east of MP 384.7 US Hwy 74 Alt., open year round, old timey fun stuff and gear for all your mountain adventures. *www.bubbaolearys.com* (828) 625-2479.

LAKE LURE, NC

28 miles southeast of Asheville on US 74A, exit at Milepost 384.7.

Fox Run Townhouses - Lake Lure. Townhouses with full kitchens, fireplaces, washer/dryers and Jacuzzi tubs, golf, tennis and water activities. *www.vriresorts.com* (866) 469-8222.

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Lake Lure, Chimney Rock & the Blue Ridge Foothills. Welcome Center 2932 Memorial Hwy, Lake Lure NC 28746, MP 384.7. www.visitncsmalltowns.com (828) 287-6113.



The Parkway is a favorite ride among motorcyclists



Milepost 364

CRAGGY GARDENS

The name here is appropriate - Craggy Gardens. Twisted, jagged, rocky "crags" give the place its name, but these high elevation summits are home to the most spectacular floral display along the 469 mile Parkway corridor. For generations, visitors have headed for the Craggies in mid to late June, typically the prime time for viewing the pink and purple blooms of Catawba rhododendrons that blanket much of the area.

In addition to the "rhodies," the Craggies turn red in the fall with a spectacular show of mountain ash berries that can cast a scarlet glow over the entire area. The same species dominates parts of the highlands of Scotland as well and "craggy" is a term that many of the early settlers brought from their homeland to describe the rugged Blue Ridge.

High elevations such as Craggy Gardens yield an abundance of wildflowers and rare plants. From a distance, treeless areas such as the craggies appear bare and have become known as "balds." There are two types of appalachian balds... grassy and heath. The former are dominated by grasses, wildflowers and occasional members of the heath family. Heath balds are typically home to low growing rhododendron, mountain laurel, blueberries and flame Azalea. Although these balds are disappearing for reasons that are unclear, both can still be found at the craggies. Because of the presence of rare and endangered plants, easily damaged by careless hikers, please stay on the trails – for their safety and for your own!

Harsh weather can invade these exposed, high elevation ridgetops, resulting in the gnarled forests of twisted beech, birch, and buckeye. At 5,500' elevation, weather conditions here are severe. Strong winds, ice storms, and the short growing season dwarf and twist anything that dares to grow here.

With or without warning, severe weather can come to the Craggies, so always be prepared for colder temperatures and high winds.

ASHEVILLE, NC

This mountain resort city at Milepost 382.5 of the Blue Ridge Parkway beckons lovers of festivals, the outdoors, fine restaurants, distinctive shopping, and Biltmore Estate, a 250-room French Renaissance chateau. The Visitors Center at Exit 4C off I-240 is open every day, 8:30-5 M-F, and 9-5 on weekends. www.exploreasheville.com (828) 258-6129.

ATTRACTIONS

Biltmore Estate - Discover the timeless hospitality of Biltmore® in Asheville, NC. Experience the breathtaking beauty of Biltmore House—America's largest home®—and century-old gardens. Explore our 8,000-acre Blue Ridge Mountain backyard, then taste award-winning wines, dine, and shop in Antler Hill Village. Relax in our two splendid hotels for a complete getaway. Located on US 25, just north of the Parkway and I-40. Plan your visit online at www.biltmore.com or call 1-877-BILTMORE.

The North Carolina Arboretum - Entrance at MP 393. Renowned gardens, hiking & biking trails and engaging exhibitions. www.ncarboretum.org (828) 665-2492.

WNC Nature Center - MP 382.5, 75 Gashes Creek Rd. 60+ native species of the Southern Appalachians. Cougars, bears, otters, red wolves & more! www.wildwnc.org (828) 259-8080.

FINE ARTS, CRAFTS, & SHOPPING

Appalachian Mural Trail - Within driving distance of the Parkway. Beautiful historic murals telling the stories of our cultural heritage. www.muraltrail.com (828) 293-2239.

Bellagio Art-to-Wear - Showcases exquisite collections of distinctive clothing, jewelry and decorative accessories by acclaimed art to wear artists in an opulent boutique setting. Located steps away from its sister gallery, New Morning Gallery. 5 Biltmore Plaza, Exit MP 388.8. www.bellagioarttowear.com (828) 277-8100.

Blue Spiral 1 - Presents contemporary fine art and craft through over 25 annual exhibitions in a stunning three-level, 15,000 sq. ft. setting. The gallery features the work of over one hundred artists and object makers. This spacious gallery is located in downtown Asheville, one block South of Pack Square. 38 Biltmore Ave; Exit MP 388.8. www.bluespiral1.com (828) 251-0202.

Folk Art Center - Milepost 382. Home facility of the Southern Highland Craft Guild. Features craft shop of regional crafts, 3 exhibition galleries, daily craft demonstrations, special events. Parkway information and bookstore. National Park Service programs during season. Open daily 10-5. www.craftguild.org (828) 298-7928.

Grovewood Village - 111 Grovewood Rd. Adjacent to the Omni Grove Park Inn. Experience Asheville's historic arts and crafts destination. Free on-site parking. www.grovewood.com (828) 214-7768.

Asheville, NC

Contact

Asheville Visitor Center
36 Montford Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 258-6129
ExploreAsheville.com



828-258-6129
ExploreAsheville.com

This thriving mountain city makes for a vibrant and stylish basecamp with its eclectic downtown, independent restaurants, craft breweries and an engaging arts and music scene. Spend a day in the nearby River Arts District where creative makers mingle with outfitters along this stretch of greenway beside the French Broad River. In fact, many of the region's top adventure outfitters and excursion outposts are in Asheville, offering compelling and unforgettable experiences, including whitewater rafting, float trips, mountaintop yoga and ziplining. Don't miss Asheville's top attraction, Biltmore, America's Largest Home, constructed by George Vanderbilt in the late 1890s. The 8,000-acre estate is also home to beautiful gardens and the nation's most-visited winery. With accommodation choices ranging from cozy cabins, mountainside lodges and downtown rooms with a view, you'll want to stay a week to soak up Asheville's creative spirit.

You'll want to stay a week to soak up Asheville's creative spirit.



Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center Asheville

New Morning Gallery - A fine crafts destination for over 30 years, offers a unique selection of hand-crafted furniture, home accessories, pottery, glass, jewelry, garden sculpture and other imaginative gifts by American artisans in a 12,500 sq. ft. setting. The gallery is located in Historic Biltmore Village, two blocks from Biltmore Estate's entrance. 7 Boston Way; Exit MP 388.8. www.newmorninggallerync.com (800) 933-4438.

Rug & Home - Over 20,000 oriental rugs & home accessories. Finest rugs from India, China, Pakistan, Persia, Turkey, Egypt, Karastan, Milliken. Tapestries, needlepoints, oil paintings, antique furniture, brass, crystal, & Tiffany lamps, mirrors. Local & national artists. Sculptures and fine porcelain. Located at I-26, exit 33 behind Ethan Allen. Open 7 days. www.rugandhome.com (828) 667-4585.

Southern Highland Craft Gallery - Featuring fine regional crafts. 26 Lodge St., Biltmore Village, Asheville, NC. (828) 277-6222. www.craftguild.org

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area - ***Protecting, preserving & celebrating one of the most beautiful regions on earth and the cultural heritage of those who shaped its history & traditions. www.blueridgeheritage.com (828) 298-5330.***

FOOD, LODGING, & CAMPING

1899 Wright Inn - 7 mi. to Visitor's Ctr. 235 Pearson Dr. Queen Anne Victorian with updated & luxurious amenities. Historic district. www.wrightinn.com (828) 251-0789.

Asheville Bed & Breakfast Association - Stay at the best inns of Asheville! Exits MP 377.4 to 393.6. Rates and availability at www.ashevillebba.com.

Asheville Biltmore Fairfield Inn & Suites - Left onto 191, 2.5 mi. on left across from Asheville Outlets. www.marriott.com/avlbs (828) 665-4242.

Asheville Cabins of Willow Winds - 25 Luxury cabins, 38 acres adjacent to Parkway & Mountains-to-Sea Trail. www.ashevillecabins.com (800) 235-2474.

Asheville East KOA Campground - 6 1/2 miles from Parkway. Go east on Hwy 70. Kamping Kabins, lodges, RV & tent sites. 2 fishing lakes, pool, trout stream on 55 acres. Open year-round. www.ashevilleeastkoa.com (828) 686-3121 or (800) 562-5907.

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area

Contact

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Offices at the Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center
195 Hemphill Knob Road
Asheville, NC 28803



828-298-5330
www.blueridgeheritage.com

Discover the natural and cultural heritage of the North Carolina mountains and foothills with a visit to the Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center near Asheville at Milepost 384. Here you'll find personal guidance and information from park rangers and regional information materials. The gift shop offers guidebooks, children's goods, souvenirs, and unique regional products. A 1.2-mile loop trail starts from the parking lot of the Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center and joins the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. This is a moderate 45-minute hike, great for stretching legs after a road trip.

The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership (BRNHA) is a non-profit organization protecting, preserving and celebrating one of the most beautiful regions on Earth and the cultural heritage of the people who shape its history and living traditions. BRNHA serves 25 counties in Western North Carolina and provides grants, training, and cultural programs such as the Blue Ridge Craft Trails, Blue Ridge Music Trails, and the Blue Ridge Heritage Trail.

Start your journey through the breathtaking Blue Ridge National Heritage Area at the Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center.

Asheville West KOA - I-40 Exit 37, min. to Biltmore, gem mining, rafting, music, arts & crafts - full hookups, tents & kabins. www.AshevilleKOA.com (800) 562-9015.

At Cumberland Falls B&B - 254 Cumberland Ave, Asheville, MP 384. Luxury rooms, gourmet 2-course breakfast. www.cumberlandfalls.com (828) 253-4085.

Baymont Inn Biltmore - I-40 Exit 50 or 50B. Near Biltmore, 2 mi. N of Pkwy, US 25. Indoor pool & spa. Free b'fast. AAA, AARP. www.bit.ly/BaymontWyndhamAsheville (828) 274-2022.

Bear Creek RV Park - From Blue Ridge Parkway, exit Hwy 191 North. Open all year. Full hookups, paved sites, laundry, heated pool May 15-Sept. 15. www.ashevillebearcreek.com (800) 833-0798.

Bent Creek Lodge - MP 394, 1/2 mi. S on 191. Elegantly rustic lodge, mtn views, comfy beds, hiking trails, fireplace & great breakfast. www.bentcreeknc.com (877) 231-6574.

Campfire Lodgings - 7 mi. from dwtn. Asheville. Mtn. top camping, full service RV sites, yurts, cliff house, cabins, and tent sites. Open year-round. www.campfirelodgings.com (828) 658-8012.

Clarion Inn - Asheville Airport, restaurant on-site, 24/7 airport shuttle, full hot breakfast, fitness ctr, free Wi-Fi. (828) 684-1213. www.choicehotels.com/north-carolina/fletcher/clarion-hotels/nc674

Clarion Inn Biltmore Village - I-40 to exit 50 or exit 50B. Nearest to Biltmore Estate & Biltmore Village, 2 mi. from Pkwy. Outdoor pool, free Wi-Fi, deluxe cont. breakfast. (828) 274-0101.

Country Inn & Suites - I-26 Exit 33. 1 mile from Parkway & NC Arboretum. Free continental breakfast. Close to Asheville Outlets & Biltmore Estate. Outdoor pool. (828) 670-9000.

Country Inn & Suites Asheville - Westgate, free Shuttle to downtown, free hot breakfast, pet friendly, TripAdvisor award-winning hotel. (828) 772-3188.

Country Inn & Suites Asheville Downtown Tunnel Road - 199 Tunnel Road. 3 miles from Parkway. Newly renovated. 100% non-smoking, indoor pool & spa, free hot breakfast, 1 mile from downtown, 3 miles from Biltmore House. (828) 254-4311.

Courtyard by Marriott - 1 Buckstone Place. Exit MP 382, 2.5 mi. W on US 70. Bistro Restaurant, indoor pool, spa, fitness center. www.courtyardasheville.com (800) 321-2211 or (828) 281-0041.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Blue Ridge Parkway ranges in elevation from 649' at James River in Virginia to over 6,050' at Richland Balsam, south of Mount Pisgah, North Carolina.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mount Mitchell State Park offers flora such as wildflowers, including ox-eye daisy, white snakeroot, purple-fringed orchid, St. John's wort and pink turtlehead.

Crowne Plaza Resort - Exit 3A, 1 mi. from downtown, 5 min. from Pkwy. Wellness ctr, spa, golf, tennis, pools, zipline, restaurant, bar, free Wi-Fi, pet friendly. www.ashevillecp.com (828) 254-3211.

Econo Lodge-Airport - I-26 exit 40. Minutes to Pkwy, airport, Biltmore, WNC Ag Center. Free Wi-Fi, breakfast, seasonal pool. www.choicehotels.com/hotel/NC194 (828) 684-1200.

Engadine Inn and Cabins - 2630 Smoky Park Highway, Asheville (Candler) NC, 10 min. from MP 393.6. 5 B&B rooms in circa 1885 Inn, 6 cabins. www.engadineinnandcabins.com

Fairfield Inn & Suites Asheville Airport - Close to Biltmore Estate, Chimney Rock Park, DuPont Rec. Forest. Indoor pool, fitness & bus. centers, free Wi-Fi. www.marriott.com/avlff (828) 684-1144.

Greybeard Rentals - Nearly 200 Asheville area cabins and cottages. Many pet-friendly options w/ hot tubs, views and more. www.greybeardrentals.com (828) 373-8851.

The Omni Grove Park Inn - 290 Macon Ave. via Charlotte St. Exit from downtown I-240. Historic resort with world-class spa, dining, and golf. www.omnihotels.com/grovepark (800) 438–5800.

Hampton Inn & Suites Biltmore Area - MP 393.6, 2.5 mi. N on 191. Free breakfast, Wi-Fi, lobby craft beer/wine bar, comp. shuttle. www.ashevillebiltmorearea.hamptonbyhilton.com (828) 575-9593.

Hampton Inn Tunnel Rd - Exit Milepost 382.5, go 2.5 miles west on US 70. Hotel is on the right. Free hot breakfast, cozy outdoor fire pit, and free area shuttle. Close to Downtown Asheville and Biltmore. www.ashevilletunnelroad.hamptoninn.com (828) 255-9220.

Hickory Nut Gap Farm - 9 miles east on 74A. Visit animals, pick berries, picnic, purchase meats, kitchen & butchery! www.hickorynutgapfarm.com (828) 628-1027.

Hilton Garden Inn - Asheville South - Exit MP 393.6, go 2.5 miles north on Hwy 191. Full restaurant & bar, cooked-to-order breakfast, free local area shuttle. www.ashevillesouth.hgi.com (828) 633-6024.

Holiday Inn Biltmore East - 1 mi. from Pkwy on US 70 East. Mtn view rooms, pet friendly, restaurant, fitness ctr, seasonal outdoor pool. 7 min. to Biltmore & downtown. (828) 298-5611.

Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites - I-26 exit 33. Free hot continental breakfast, 1 mile from Parkway, pool, indoor heated spa, fitness center. www.hiexpressasheville.com (828) 665-6519.

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Arden - Asheville Airport - Between Asheville & Hendersonville and moments from the Asheville Regional Airport. (828) 684-6000 or (800) 315-2621.

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Asheville-Biltmore Village Area - I-40, Exit 50/50B in Historic Biltmore Village and near Biltmore Estate. (828) 277-0026 or (800) 315-2621.

Homewood Suites - MP 382, 3 mi. W on US 70. All-suite hotel, free hot breakfast, comp. area shuttle. Close to downtown Asheville and Biltmore. www.asheville.homewoodsuites.com (828) 252-5400.

Mama Gertie's Hideaway - MP 382.5, E 6 mi. on Hwy 70. RV sites, tenting, cabins. Secluded, peaceful, unique setting, open year round. www.mamagerties.com (877) 686-4258.

The Mountaineer Inn - 1.5 mi. from MP 382.5. Clean, quiet rooms, cont. breakfast. Coffee & fridge in rooms. 1 mi. from downtown & mall. www.themountaineerinn.com (828) 254-5331.

Oakland Cottage B&B - 74 Oakland Rd. Asheville, MP 388.8. Full breakfast, Wi-Fi, pet/family friendly, 1 mi. to Biltmore, 1.5 to vibrant downtown. www.oaklandcottage.com (828) 994-2627.

Pinecrest B&B - 249 Cumberland Ave. 6 mi. to Pkwy MP 382. Historic 5-room inn, 1 mi. to downtown AVL. Free breakfast. www.pinecrestbb.com (828) 281-4275.

The Pines Cottages - Vintage cabins & cottages with modern amenities. 9 mi. from MP 376. 6 mi. to downtown Asheville. www.thepinescottages.com (828) 645-9661.

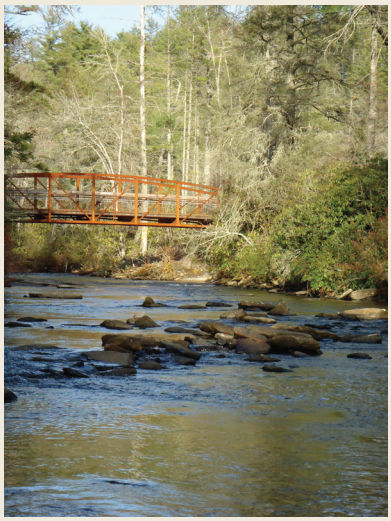
The Princess Anne Hotel - 1 mile to downtown Asheville. Charming historic hotel in a quaint neighborhood. (828) 258-0986. www.princessannehotel.com

Ramada Inn - 1/2 mile off Parkway at US 74 and I-240 Exit 8. 174 rooms, suites with kitchenettes and Jacuzzis. Playground area, pool, free continental breakfast. (828) 298-9141.

Shoji Spa & Lodge - Asheville's only Japanese outdoor hot tub spa. The Lodge, Loft and Studio at Shoji offer unique, luxurious and cozy accommodations surrounded by the majesty of nature overlooking the Pisgah National Forest and minutes from the Blue Ridge Parkway. Serenity and scenery are paramount, yet only 8 minutes from downtown Asheville. Spectacular views and fireplaces in each unit make this the perfect couple's escape! Spa packages and lodging for large groups available. www.shojispa.com (828) 299-0999.

SpringHill Suites by Marriott - 2 Buckstone Place. Exit Milepost 382, go 2.5 miles west on US 70. Free breakfast, indoor pool, studio suites. Be sure to check out our Bike the Blue Ridge Package or ask about our special Blue Ridge Parkway discount rates. www.springhillsuitesasheville.com (828) 253-4666.

DUPONT
State Recreational Forest



DuPont State Recreational Forest contains 10,400 spectacularly beautiful acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina. Elevations range from 2,240′ at Cascade Lake to 3,620′ at the peak of Stone Mountain. Little River runs through the forest, with four major waterfalls along its course. The forest also contains five lakes. The largest is 99-acre Lake Julia. The forest has more than 80 miles of roads and trails that are shared by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians.

Habitats within the forest include Upland oak forests, cove forests, granite domes, riparian areas, mountain bogs, small wildlife openings, lakes, streams and the Little River.



The DuPont State Recreational Forest is located in Henderson and Transylvania Counties between the towns of Hendersonville and Brevard. The forest is open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.



For more information:
www.dupontstaterecreationalforest.com
828-877-6527

Wildberry Lodge - 135 Potato Branch Road, Leicester NC. Suites w/ fireplaces, private decks, 3-course breakfast, hot tub, trails. www.wildberrylodge.com (828) 683-2525.

Wingate Asheville Airport - Airport shuttle 24/7, hot breakfast, indoor pool, fitness center. (828) 684-4311.

RECREATION

RomanticAsheville.com - Insider's Guide to Asheville & surrounding mountains, Biltmore, hiking, waterfalls, Parkway, packages. www.RomanticAsheville.com

Van in Black - Quality, affordable, and safe scenic tours, winery tours, or pub crawls in Sprinter vans. www.VanInBlack.com (800) 903-2503.

388.8 **US 25 Access Point**. North 5 mi. to Asheville.

393.6 **NC 191 Access Point**. 6 miles north to Asheville. 20 miles south to Hendersonville.

FLETCHER, NC

Located on US 25, halfway between Asheville and Hendersonville. Exit at Milepost 388.8.

Foam & Fabric - Hwy 25, 6 mi. S of Pkwy. Area's largest selection of dress, upholstery & drapery fabric. Open Mon-Sat. www.fletcherfoamandfabric.com (828) 684-0801.

Smiley's Huge Flea Mkt & Yard Sale - Every weekend. Daylight to 2; over 1000 spaces. Free park/admission. 12+ food vendors; 100's of sellers, 1000's of buyers, 1,000,000's of items; antiques to produce. 5360 Hendersonville Rd, Fletcher, NC. www.smileysfleamarkets.com (828) 684-3532.

HISTORIC HENDERSONVILLE AND FLAT ROCK AREA, NC

Hendersonville is located 22 miles south of Asheville and Biltmore Estate. Escape from life's hectic pace to Flat Rock Playhouse - the State Theatre of NC, Carl Sandburg Home, and DuPont State Recreational Forest waterfalls. Venture to the many state and national forests with a variety of terrain for hiking or mountain biking. The area offers family activities for children of all ages. Historic downtown features interesting architecture, delightful shops, museums, and locally owned restaurants. Henderson County wineries, cideries, and breweries provide tours and tasting rooms. Henderson County is home to Sierra Nevada Brewing Company's east coast brewing operation. For a free Vacation Planner call (800) 828-4244 or visit www.visithendersonvillenc.org.

Elijah Mountain Gem Mine - Treasure Hunt of your Life. Keep what you find! Mine for ruby, emerald & more! Open all year. 2120 Brevard Rd. www.ElijahMountain.com (828) 692-6560.

Mountain Fresh Orchards - 2887 Chimney Rock Rd. Apples, bakery, The Apple Express train ride, cider. (828) 685-7606. www.mtnfreshorchards.com

Hendersonville, NC

Contact

Hendersonville Visitor Center:
201 South Main Street
Hendersonville, NC 28792
VisitHendersonvilleNC.org
800-828-4244



Photo: Michele Schwartz

800-828-4244
VisitHendersonvilleNC.org

Outdoor adventure and a vibrant downtown await in Hendersonville. Hike to waterfalls in DuPont State Forest, kayak and zipline in the Green River Gorge, or enjoy a panoramic view from Jump Off Rock.

Hendersonville's serpentine Main Street flows through a downtown described as "one of the nation's most attractive small-town shopping districts." Within eight blocks are stores, boutiques, museums and two dozen restaurants. Visit the Appalachian Pinball Museum and Team ECCO Aquarium & Shark Lab, or stroll the Art Gallery Trail.

Cultural treasures include Flat Rock Playhouse, the state theater of NC, and Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site. Hendersonville becomes apple country each fall with dozens of orchards for apple picking, hayrides, cider doughnuts, apple cannons and more.

Visitors can toast their adventure with wine, beer, cider or mead along the Hendersonville Cheers! Trail.

Hendersonville is a small town that's big on hospitality.



Monarch at Wolf Mountain Overlook | photo by Alex Armstrong

POLK COUNTY, NC

First Peak of the Blue Ridge. I-26E, Exits 59 & 67. Explore gorges, hiking, birding, waterfalls, kayaking, scenic drives & historic small towns - Saluda, Tryon & Columbus. Enjoy horse shows, wineries, inspired shops/galleries, local restaurants & year-round events. Rejuvenate at historic inns, cozy cabins & hotels. www.firstpeakblueridge.org (800) 440-7848.

405.5 **Access Point NC 151**. 15 miles north to Candler.

408.6 **Mount Pisgah**. Campground w/showers, picnic area, trails, (May-November). Mount Pisgah was part of the 100,000-acre estate bought in the late 1800's by George W. Vanderbilt. The first forestry school in America was established on the estate. A large part of the woodland, the first large tract of managed forest in this country, became the nucleus of Pisgah National Forest. For camping reservations www.recreation.gov

Pisgah Inn - "Peak of the Parkway". Full service restaurant, lodging, gift shop and country store. Panoramic views from our Observation Deck and all guest rooms. Milepost 408.6 Blue Ridge Parkway. www.pisgahinn.com (828) 235-8228.

411.8 **Wagon Road Gap**. US 276 Access point. South 18 mi. to Brevard, north 8 mi. to Cruso, 22 mi. to Waynesville.

417 **Looking Glass Rock**. So named because it reflects light brilliantly when water and ice are on the rock's granite face.

CANTON, NC

A few miles off the Parkway, exit at MP 412 or 423.2.

Laurel Bank Campground - 350 Campers Lane. Canton NC. 7 miles from MP 412 on pristine Pigeon River. Follow US 276 North. Full hookups & tent sites. Laundry & hot showers. Open May 1st - Oct 15th www.facebook.com/LaurelBankCampground (828) 235-8940.

LEAVE NO TRACE

As we travel the Parkway, we all have the option to make it a better place. We do this by being aware of our impact on the landscape and to other visitors. This way, everyone has an enjoyable experience on the Parkway. **Let's take a quick look at 7 ways that we can ensure an excellent visitor experience on the Blue Ridge Parkway for all of us:**

Plan Ahead & Prepare

- Bring a map, don't just trust your GPS.
- Learn about the area- know what's open and what the current regulations are.
- Choose lesser-known areas and off-peak travel times like weekdays & off season and have a back-up plan in case your destination is closed or already full.
- Bring appropriate clothing for the weather.

Travel & Park on Durable Surfaces

- Stay on the trail- don't take shortcuts as that kills plants and causes erosion.
- Park on durable surfaces, too.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Take all your trash with you off of the Parkway, including doggie waste and toilet paper. Overflowing trash cans produce nuisance wildlife.

Leave What You Find

- Leave natural items like fossils and flowers for others to appreciate.
- To prevent the spread of invasive species, don't transport plants, flowers or wood.
- Refrain from leaving your mark on trees, benches, rocks or other structures.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Use wood that is dead and on the ground or bring in heat-treated wood that is certified free of invasive insects.



- Make sure that your fire is completely cool to the touch before leaving.
- Use a camp stove instead.

Respect Wildlife

- View wildlife from a distance that doesn't cause them to change their behavior.
- Don't feed wildlife; it is bad for their health and safety, as well as ours.
- Keep your food and trash secure so wildlife can't access it.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Make space on the trail so that others can pass you.
- When parking at trailheads and overlooks, leave space for others and keep your vehicle off the roadway.
- If you are on a bicycle or other slow moving vehicle, pull over to allow others to pass.

If we all practice these simple tips, we can enjoy the road and trail and protect the landscape for generations of visitors yet to come.

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY, NC

Enchanted forests. Exhilarating mountains. Ancient rivers. 250 magical waterfalls. And America's coolest small town. Escape to Brevard and Transylvania County for your next great vacation adventure. Request your free adventure guide and waterfall map at www.explorebrevard.com or (800) 648-4523.

BREVARD AND PISGAH FOREST, NC

18 miles south of Parkway, exit Milepost 412.

Cradle of Forestry Historic Site - Trails, hands-on exhibits, movie, programs, gift shop. Cafe serves lunch. Visit cabins, explore Adventure Zone. www.CradleofForestry.com (828) 877-3130.

Hampton Inn Brevard - 13 miles in Pisgah Forest. Free hot breakfast, pool, free Wi-Fi, motorcycle park. (828) 883-4800. www.hilton.com/en/hotels/bvdnchx-hampton-brevard

Inn at Brevard - Lodging, dining, cocktails. Full country breakfast. 16 antique furnished rooms. Private baths. 315 East Main St., Brevard, NC. www.theinnatbrevard.com (828) 884-2105.

? DID YOU KNOW?

The Blue Ridge Parkway provides critical habitat for over 50 threatened and endangered plant species.



Wildflower Bloodroot Milepost 85 | Photo by Alex Armstrong

Pisgah Forest Gem Mine - 507 N Main St. Hendersonville, 3338 Asheville Hwy, Pisgah Forest. Open all year, indoor/outdoor mining, unique rock/retail shop, waterfalls. www.pfgems.com (828) 367-8330.

Pisgah Visitor Center - 1001 Pisgah Hwy, Pisgah Forest NC. Hiking, biking, camping, interactive exhibits, gift shop. www.gofindoutdoors.org/pisgah-visitor-center (828) 877-3265.

The Sunset Motel - 523 S Broad St. (downtown area). Kitschy remodeled retro motor court, 20 unique rooms. (828) 884-9106. www.thesunsetmotel.com

Brevard & Transylvania County, NC

Contact

Brevard/Transylvania County
Visitor Center
175 East Main St.
Brevard, NC 28712



1-800-648-4523
www.explorebrevard.com

Exit the Blue Ridge Parkway at Mile Marker 412 and discover the perfect spot to stay and play. Wind your way down US 276 through Pisgah National Forest and enter some of Transylvania County's most iconic landscapes. Along the way, you'll pass the family-friendly Cradle of Forestry, Sliding Rock and Looking Glass Falls. The lush foliage and spectacular waterfalls may recall a storybook fantasy, but the opportunities for adventure and relaxation are very real and include world class mountain biking, hiking, climbing and camping. In all, Transylvania County is home to over 100,000 acres of public lands, encompassed by Pisgah National Forest, DuPont State Recreational Forest, Headwaters State Forest and Gorges State Park. Just beyond the forest is the charming historic city of Brevard, voted one of the "Coolest Small Towns in America" by Budget Travel. Here you'll find vibrant local art, culture, outstanding restaurants, the soaring melodies of the Brevard Music Center and a host of welcoming accommodations. Order your free Adventure Guide and Waterfall Map at www.explorebrevard.com or by calling (800) 648-4523.

Discover Brevard &
North Carolina's Land of Waterfalls!

Trout House Falls Luxury Waterfront Vacation Rentals - "Waterfall Cabin," "Streamside Home," & "Riverfront Fishing Cottage" sleeps 14. https://TroutHouseFalls.com (704) 691-2131.

418.8 **Graveyard Fields Overlook**. Loop trail of moderate difficulty, 2.3 miles, to Yellowstone Falls.

422.4 **Devil's Courthouse Parking Area**. Strenuous 1/2 mile hike to "Courthouse" for 360 degree view. Sensitive habitat area. Please stay on trail.



Graveyard Fields Second Falls | Photo by William A. Bake



RVs are always welcome on the Blue Ridge!

LAKE TOXAWAY, NC

15 miles west of Brevard on US 64, exit at Milepost 423.2.

The Greystone Inn - A mountain retreat on the shores of Lake Toxaway. Luxurious accommodations, lakefront restaurant, bar & spa. Pet friendly. www.greystoneinn.com (828) 966-4700.

Cabins at Seven Foxes - 5 wildlife-themed, private, fully equipped cabins on 7 acres. Pet friendly. Open year round. Free Wi-Fi, fireplaces, porches, Jacuzzi. www.sevenfoxes.com (828) 877-6333.

423.3 **Beech Gap. Access Point** NC 215. North 24 mi. to Waynesville, South 17 mi. to Rosman

Visit NC Smokies

Contact

Instagram @VisitNCSmokies
Facebook.com/VisitNCSmokies
Twitter.com/VisitNCSmokies
#HayNow



828-944-0761
VisitNCSmokies.com

Haywood County is a unique mountain destination nestled in the heart of the North Carolina Smokies. Here you can explore five charming mountain towns that offer unforgettable experiences for all. A short drive off the Blue Ridge Parkway will lead you to these captivating communities for outdoor explorations and entertainment. Discover handcrafted artisan goods in Waynesville, spot elk in Maggie Valley, or explore the scenic beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Tube down the Pigeon River in Canton, uncover rich Appalachian history in Clyde, and stroll the Rose Walk around Lake Junaluska. This County is lively year-round, and excitement can be found around every turn. Pull off the parkway and let Haywood's adventures take you on a whole new journey you'd never expect. Plan your trip at www.VisitNCSmokies.com.

Where every route is the scenic route!



Milepost 451

WATERROCK KNOB

You've entered "high country" at the Parkway's southern end, and Waterrock Knob is one of the best examples of the rugged nature of the area. The Plott Balsam and Great Balsam ranges meet at Waterrock, rising in elevation to almost 6,400'. It is the second highest of all Parkway peaks and one of the highest in the eastern United States.

Waterrock Knob is known for its beautiful long range views of several major mountain chains in the Appalachians, including the Great Smoky Mountains, Pisgah Ridge, Nantahala, Cowee, and the Blue Ridge Ranges. With a nearly 360 degree vantage point, it is uniquely suited for viewing sunrises and sunsets, especially during the equinoxes in March and September.

The name Waterrock Knob comes from a spring located on the hillside at a place called "camp rock". Generations of explorers, hunters, and loggers have rested here and enjoyed the cool waters.

A small visitor center with interpretive displays introduces visitors to the area's rugged terrain and tremendous scenic qualities. Stories of black bear and elk are told here as well.

The 0.6 mile Waterrock Knob Trail takes you up to the summit, yielding even more spectacular views from the higher elevation.

ROSMAN, NC

50 miles west of Hendersonville via US 64.

PARI - Former NASA facility now active center for research and STEM education. Campus tours, scenic views, trails, space flight artifacts, meteorites, minerals. www.pari.edu (828) 862-5554.

HIGHLANDS, NC

A mountain respite for over a century in the Nantahala National Forest. World class spa facilities, outstanding restaurants, quaint, historic bed & breakfasts, cabins & private home rentals, & fine resorts. www.highlandschamber.org (828) 526-2112.

Cliffside Lake - 13908 Highlands Rd., Highlands, NC. Two picnic pavilions, fishing pier, 7 trails. www.gofindoutdoors.org (877) 444-6777.

Fire Mountain Inn & Cabins - Contemporary inn, private Treehouses, cabins with fireplaces, Jacuzzis. Spectacular views, pet friendly. www.firemt.com (800) 775-4446.

Van Hook Glade Campground - 18 spacious campsites. 14014 Highlands Rd., Highlands, NC. Near beautiful Cliffside Lake. www.gofindoutdoors.org (877) 444-6777.

431.0 **Haywood-Jackson Overlook**. 1 1/2 mile self-guided loop trail, of moderate difficulty, to summit of Richland Balsam.

431.4 **Richland Balsam Overlook**. Highest point on Blue Ridge Parkway motor road. Alt. 6,053.



Richland Balsam Overlook, Milepost 431.4 | Photo by Amy Ney



Keep your eyes open for wildlife.

HAYWOOD COUNTY, NC

Maggie Valley / Waynesville / Lake Junaluska / Canton / Clyde. Authentic Appalachian, pure and simple. Featuring 46 miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway, The Wheels Through Time Museum, Cataloochee Ski Area, locally crafted beers, U-Pick farms, local music, and so much more. For more information visit: www.visitncsmokies.com or call (800) 334-9036.

Haywood County Hotel & Motel Association - Lodging & dining minutes from 4 BRP exits, MP 420-450. Quality rooms, cabins, great food. www.hike-bike-ride-smokies.com

WAYNESVILLE, NC

27 miles west of Asheville via US 19-23-74, or exit at Milepost 423.2 or 443.1.

Best Western - Smoky Mountain Inn - 4 mi. from Pkwy, Exit 98 off Hwy 23/74. Free breakfast & Wi-Fi, fridge/micro. in rooms. www.bwsmokymountaininn.com (828) 456-4402.

443.1 **Balsam Gap. Access Point**. US 74-23. East 7 mi. to Waynesville, west 12 mi. to Sylva.

BALSAM, NC

Just off Parkway on US 23-74, exit at MP 443.1.

Moonshine Creek Campground - Cool & secluded, back to nature camping on beautiful rambling creek. FHU sites & cabins, campfires & hot showers. Off US 74/23 turn at Balsam Hwy sign. www.moonshinecreek.com (828) 586-6666.

? DID YOU KNOW?

Blue Ridge Parkway rangers conduct curriculum-based educational programs for about 30,000 school children in the region each year as part of Parks As Classrooms.

Your Next Summer Destination: Jackson County, NC

Contact

Jackson County TDA
Visitor Center
773 West Main Street
Sylva, NC 28779



1-800-962-1911
www.DiscoverJacksonNC.com

In the charming mountain towns of Cashiers, Cherokee, Dillsboro, and Sylva, there's no shortage of unique attractions and outdoor activities to explore this summer. Breathe in the fresh mountain air while dining al fresco at one of our local restaurants. Spend the day whitewater rafting or fly fishing on the Tuckasegee River. Hike your way along the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway and stop at the famous Richland Balsam Overlook for stunning mountain views for miles.

Jackson County borders 45 miles of the 470-mile Blue Ridge Parkway, including the entrance to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park just outside Cherokee, NC. Whatever adventures you choose, you can count on Jackson County for wide open spaces to roam this summer.

Visit DiscoverJacksonNC.com to plan your trip today!



False Solomon's Seal grows in shade along the BRP | Photo by Matt Celko

SYLVA & DILLSBORO, NC

14 miles west on US 23-74, exit at Milepost 443.1.

Dogwood Crafters - Craft Coop, a showcase of handmade arts and crafts since 1976. 90 Webster St. Dillsboro, NC. Open 10-6 daily. *www.dogwoodcrafters.com* (828) 586-2248.

JACKSON COUNTY, NC

Explore the best of the western North Carolina mountains! From epic hikes and top-rated fly fishing to artisan shopping and our very own Ale Trail, Jackson County is your gateway to adventures big and small. Visit www.DiscoverJacksonNC.com, 800-962-1911.

Smoky Mountain Host of NC - ***The region boasts 300+ travel attractions, businesses & national treasurers: Great Smoky Mtns National Park, Blue Ridge Parkway, Cherohala Skyway, Nantahala & Pisgah National Forests. www.visitsmokies.org (828) 369-9606.***

451.2 **Waterrock Knob Visitor Center and Park Store** - Parking overlook. Comfort station. 4-state view including fine panorama of the Great Smoky Mountains. Trail, with pedestrian overlooks, to the Knob.

455.7 **Soco Gap, US 19 Access Point**. 12 miles west to Cherokee, 5 miles east to Maggie Valley.

MAGGIE VALLEY, NC

US 19, Eastern entrance to the Great Smokies. Nestled in Nature's Glory. Maggie Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, 2781 Soco Rd, Maggie Valley NC 28751 www.maggievalley.org (800) Maggie1 or (828) 926-1686.

ATTRACTIONS

Wheels Through Time Museum - 62 Vintage Ln. Thurs.-Mon. 10am-5pm. 5 miles from Blue Ridge Parkway. Over 300 rare and historic machines back to 1903. *www.WheelsThroughTime.com* (828) 926-6266.

FOOD, LODGING, & CAMPING

Boyd Mountain Log Cabins - Seven restored antique hand hewn log cabins with 2-4 bedrooms on 150 acres with a Christmas tree farm. Open all year. MP 443 Waynesville or MP 455 Maggie Valley/Soco Gap, 10 min. off Pkwy. *www.boydmountain.com* (828) 926-1575.

Cataloochee Ranch - 5000' atop the Great Smokies with direct entrance into Park. Horseback riding by reservation, group or private rides. *www.cataloocheeranch.com* (828) 926-1401.

Country Cabins - 5 mi off Pkwy in Maggie Valley with authentic log cabins. Peaceful mountain retreat. Fireplaces, porches, hot tubs. Open all year. Pet friendly. *www.countrycabinsmv.com* (828) 926-0612 or (888) 222-4611.

Jonathan Creek Inn and Villas - Room types are Creekside, Fireplace, Hot Tub, and Creekside w/ Screened-in Porches. Gazebo and grill. *www.jonathancreekinn.com* (800) 577-7812.

458.2 **Heintooga Ridge Rd**. Spur to Mile High Overlook. 12 miles to Great Smoky Mtns. National Park Campground.

461.9 **Big Witch Overlook**.

469.1 **Access Point Parkway and US 441**. 2 miles south to Cherokee, 29 miles north to Gatlinburg. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is located equally in North Carolina and Tennessee. The Park's 507,168 acres may be viewed from paved roads and many wilderness trails. Information bulletin board. Oconaluftee Visitor Center near Parkway & US 441.



Waterrock Knob Sunset | Photo by William A. Bake

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, located in the states of North Carolina and Tennessee, encompasses 815 square miles of which 95 percent are forested. World renowned for the diversity of its plant and animal resources, the beauty of its ancient mountains, the quality of its remnants of southern Appalachian mountain culture, and the depth and integrity of the wilderness sanctuary within its boundaries, it is one of the largest protected areas in the East. The park is open year-round. Visitor centers at Sugarlands, Oconaluftee, and Cades Cove are open all year, except December 25. There is no entrance fee due to restrictions in deeds that transferred state highways to the Park.

What to See and Do - Much of what the Smokies offers, including wildflowers, flowering trees, colorful fall foliage, mountain vistas, and historic buildings can be seen from your car. There are abundant opportunities for hiking, bicycling, and camping in the Park.

Cable Mill in Cades Cove - Open from late March - late November: 9:00-5:00. Located inside the park near the mid-point of the 11-mile, one-way Cades Cove Loop Rd. Exhibits - Water-powered grist mill.

Mingus Mill - Open from mid April - Late November: 9:00-5:00. Located inside the park, 2.6 miles north of Cherokee, NC, on US 441. Exhibits - Turbine-powered grist mill.

Camping - Reservations can be made at ***www.recreation.gov*** or (877) 444-6777.

Horse Camps - Open seasonally April - October. The reservations for both the horse camps and front country camping are made at ***www.recreation.gov*** or (877) 444-6777.

Ridge upon ridge of endless forest straddling the border between North Carolina and Tennessee, Great Smoky Mountains National Park is one of the largest protected areas in the Eastern United States and attracts over nine million visitors each year.

A part of the Cherokee homeland, the Smokies is a hiker's paradise with over 800 miles of trails.



VISITOR CENTERS

(Open all year, with varying seasonal hours)

- **Cades Cove Visitor Center** - Located inside the park near the mid-point of the 11-mile, one-way Cades Cove Loop Road.
- **Oconaluftee Visitor Center** - Located inside the park, 2 miles north of Cherokee, NC, on US 441.
- **Sugarlands Visitor Center** - Located inside the park, 2 miles south of Gatlinburg on US 441.
- **Clingmans Dome Visitor Contact Station** - Located near the parking area. Open seasonally April through November.

For more information

Great Smoky Mountains National Park
107 Park Headquarters Road • Gatlinburg, TN 37738

www.nps.gov/grsm

Visitor Information Recorded Message: | (865) 436-1200

To Support the Smokies

Great Smoky Mountains Association (GSMA)

GSMA supports perpetual preservation of Great Smoky Mountains National Park by promoting greater public interest and appreciation through education, interpretation, and research.
PO Box 130 Gatlinburg, TN 37738
865.436.7318 | membership@gsmassoc.org

www.smokiesinformation.org

Elevations in the park range from 800' to 6,643' and topography affects local weather. Temperatures are 10 to 15 degrees cooler on the mountaintops.

- ***Spring*** *brings unpredictable weather, particularly in higher elevations. Snow may fall in March, but by May daytime highs often reach the 80s. Nighttime temperatures vary from below freezing in March to the 50s in May. Rainfall is common during the season.*

- ***Summer*** *is hot and humid, but more pleasant in higher elevations. July and August highs reach the 80s and 90s. Evening lows are in the 60s and 70s. Afternoon showers and thunderstorms are common.*

- ***Fall*** *has warm days and cool nights and is the driest period. Frosts occur starting in late September. Daytime highs are in the 70s and 80s during September, falling to the 50s and 60s in early November. By November, nighttime lows are usually near freezing and snow is possible.*

- ***Winter*** *is generally moderate, but extreme conditions can occur. It is not unusual to have warm temperatures in the low elevations and snow in the higher areas. Half the days in the winter have high temperatures of 50 degrees or more. Nighttime lows are normally at or below freezing, but can drop to -20°F at high elevation. In the lowlands, snows of 1" or more occur 1-5 times a year.*



Great Smokies Region:

Southern Gateway to the Blue Ridge Parkway

Near Great Smoky Mountains National Park & Tennessee

CHEROKEE, NC

At the southern entrance/exit to Parkway. Home of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Museums, cultural & family attractions, motels, campgrounds, restaurants, shops, famous outdoor drama "Unto These Hills" and Harrah's Cherokee Casino. Downtown Visitor Center, 498 Tsali Blvd, Cherokee NC 28719. www.visitcherokeenc.com (800) 438-1601.

ATTRACTIONS

Oconaluftee Indian Village - Poses the question, "Is it actually Cherokee history if it's still happening?" Today you can transport back to an 18th century village full of authentic stickball demonstrations, dance, staged war reenactments—you name it. If it happened then, it's happening now. Tickets and times are available at www.visitcherokeenc.com or (866) 554-4557.

Qualla Arts & Crafts Mutual Inc. - Largest selection of authentic Cherokee weaponry, basketry, beadwork, finger weaving, wood & stone carving. www.quallaartsandcrafts.org (828) 497-3103.

"Unto These Hills." - Where Cherokee history comes alive, and drama is part of your adventure's DNA. This outdoor drama is the Cherokee story, as portrayed by the Cherokee themselves. Tickets are available at www.visitcherokeenc.com or (866) 554-4557.

LODGING

Cherokee Grand Hotel - 196 Paint Town Rd, Cherokee. All new rooms at the entrance of the Casino. Near the Southern Gateway of Great Smoky Mtns National Park. www.cherokeegrandhotel.com (828) 497-0055.

MAP KEY:

- PICNIC AREA
- RANGER STATION
- CAMPING
- FUEL
- LODGING
- INFO
- FOOD
- AIRPORT
- ACCESS POINTS

Chestnut Tree Inn - 154 rooms with free hot breakfast. Banquet & meeting facilities, outdoor pool, & guest laundry. Free Wi-Fi. www.chestnuttreeinnnc.com (828) 497-9181.

Fairfield Inn & Suites - Across from Harrah's on US 19 North. Free hot breakfast, free Wi-Fi, indoor pool, fitness center, meetings, rooms and suites designed to work or relax. (828) 497-0400.

FRANKLIN & MACON CO., NC

US 23, 441, 64, NC 28. Gem and ruby mines. Scenic waterfalls. For more information on accommodations and attractions, please write or call the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce, 98 Hyatt Rd, Franklin, NC 28734. (828) 524-3161 (800) 336-7829.

A Sapphire Inn - 761 E. Main St., Franklin, NC 28734. Downtown, restaurants & shops. Easy access to Appalachian & Bartram Trails. www.sapphireinnfranklin.com (828) 524-4406.



Oconaluftee River in Cherokee, NC

PARKWAY BOUNDARIES

The Parkway touches boundaries with state parks, four national forests, and five federally designated wilderness areas which expand visitors' opportunities for recreational activities including hiking, bicycling, boating, horseback riding, fishing, swimming and more.







To learn more, please visit:

NC State parks
www.ncparks.gov

VA State Parks
www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks

Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests (NC)
www.fs.usda.gov/nfsnc

Jefferson and George Washington National Forests (VA)
www.fs.usda.gov/main/gwj/about-forest

Cherokee, NC

Contact

Cherokee Welcome Center
498 Tsali Blvd.
Cherokee, NC 28719
Email: travel@nc-cherokee.com



800-438-1601
VisitCherokeeNC.com

Where vacations become legendary.

Your adventure begins by taking the Blue Ridge Parkway to the southern gateway of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where you'll find it drops you right into Cherokee. There, with your curiosity about ancient cultures close at hand, you'll discover hundreds of authentic ways to interact with the Cherokee people, their stories, and their history. And if you like stunning outdoor beauty, Cherokee has that to spare. From the Oconaluftee Indian Village to the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, to Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual, Inc. and the outdoor drama, "Unto These Hills," an overnight stay in Cherokee leaves a lasting impression. Go to www.VisitCherokeeNC.com to create your personalized itinerary.

Explore a land of historic adventure. Cherokee.



Spring Sunset on Clingman's Dome | Photo by Douglas Tate

Franklin RV Park - 3 mi. S of Franklin, Hwy 441. Big rig pull thru, shaded back-ins, 50 amp, Wi-Fi, cable, pavilion, bathhouse, 24 hour managers. www.franklinrvpark.com (828) 349-6200.

Sleepy Hollow Mountain Cabins - 130 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Franklin NC. 7 cabins, 2 creeks, dog-friendly. www.sleepyhollowmountaincabins.com (828) 347-0882.

SWAIN COUNTY, NC

Have a big vacation in a small town! Enjoy pristine mountain beauty, whitewater rafting, Fontana Lake, trout fishing, horseback riding, hiking, scenic train ride, rich Cherokee & Southern Appalachian history. www.GreatSmokies.com (828) 488-3681.

BRYSON CITY, NC

10 miles west of Cherokee on US 19-74, exit at Milepost 469.1.

ATTRACTIONS

Great Smoky Mountains Railroad - 15 miles from Blue Ridge Parkway MP 469.1. Round-trip scenic excursions take you from historic depot through the beautiful countryside. Variety of train excursions & special event trains. Dine in First Class Cars or take it all in while riding in an open air gondola! Step on board for your next rail adventure! Schedule varies seasonally. Information & reservations www.gsmr.com or (800) 872-4681.

Bryson City, NC | Swain County

Contact

Visitor Center in the
Historic Courthouse
2 Everett Street
visitorservices@explorebrysoncity.com



Photo: Carolina Bound Adventures

828-488-7857
ExploreBrysonCity.com

Bryson City is a hidden gem next to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Big adventures, unique attractions, and an awesome getaway await you at the southern terminus of the parkway. It's the perfect basecamp for exploring the Smokies!

- **Great Smoky Mountains National Park:** Minutes from downtown Bryson City you can enjoy beautiful waterfalls, uncrowded hiking trails, and incredible wildlife viewing, like eagles, herons, black bears, and majestic elk.
- **Water Sports Galore:** Fishing, rafting, tubing, swimming, paddling - Enjoy it all with Fontana Lake, the Tuckasegee, Nantahala River, and Deep Creep nearby.
- **Friendly Small Town Vibe:** Chill out in one of the historic downtown's craft breweries, shops, galleries, or eateries.
- **Epic Rail, Trail, and Road Rides:** Experience the Tail of the Dragon, Tsali trails, or historic Great Smoky Mountains Railroad.

Recharge and Reconnect in the Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Smokies!

LODGING & RECREATION

Calhoun House Inn & Suites - Large 4-room suites in a historic inn with modern amenities, just 1 block to downtown shops, restaurants and GSMR train depot. Virtual tours at www.CalhounHouse.com (828) 788-0505.

Nantahala Outdoor Center - 500-acre campus offers white-water rafting, zipline, mountain bike & hike, riverfront retail & dining, stay in a cozy trailside cabin, kayak or canoe on Fontana Lake, and more NOC adventures! www.noc.com (800) 232-7238.

GATLINBURG, TN

The Mountains are Calling and there's no better time to go to Gatlinburg, TN. It's the kind of place that brings people together and where memories are made around every corner. Come see why. www.gatlinburg.com (865) 436-4178.



Misty Autumn Morning in Great Smokies | Photo by Douglas Tate

DID YOU KNOW?

The Parkway accommodates more visitors than any other unit of America's National Park System.

ATTRACTIONS

Ober Gatlinburg - Ride the 120 passenger Aerial Tramway to indoor ice skating, Alpine Slide, Ski Mountain Coaster, skiing, snow-boarding, & tubing! www.obergatlinburg.com (865) 436-5423.

Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies - Best U.S. aquarium! Big sharks, penguins & thousands of exotic sea creatures. www.ripleysaquariumofthesmokies.com (888) 240-1358.

LODGING & RECREATION

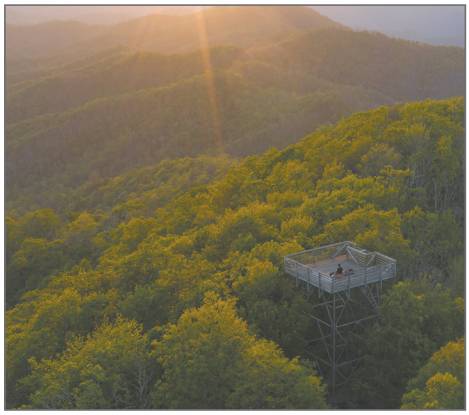
Gatlinburg Timeshare Rentals - Found at a variety of popular resorts such as Laurel Point Resort and the Mountainloft Resort, available by-owner at 70% off! 877-815-4227.

Rafting in the Smokies - 813 E Parkway. Raft, zip, rope, rock, paddle or saddle. www.raftinginthesmokies.com 800-PRO-RAFT.

Franklin / Nantahala / Macon County, NC

Contact

Franklin & Nantahala TDC
98 Hyatt Road
Franklin, NC 28734



800-336-7829
www.exploringwnc.com

Franklin and Nantahala are towns born from gem mining and agriculture, which over the years have transformed from the small rural areas, into thriving outdoor adventure towns, inviting people of all ages to set out and explore the beauty of the Nantahala National Forest. Travel the Mountain Waters Scenic Byway and visit the waterfalls of the Cullasaja River and Nantahala Gorges. The area is known for our beautiful waterfalls, scenic views, and hundreds of miles of rivers, streams and lakes. What was once known as the "Gem Capitol of the World", discover active gem mines where you can sit down with a bucket of dirt and sift for precious gems and minerals that are abundant to this day. Get to know your mountain side, in Mother Nature's Paradise, Franklin and Nantahala, NC!

Get to know your mountain side, in Mother Nature's Paradise, Franklin and Nantahala, NC!

CHEROHALA SKYWAY

National Scenic Byway

The Cherohala Skyway was opened and dedicated in 1996. The road has been designated a National Scenic Byway. The road cost more than 100 million dollars to construct. The Cherohala Skyway crosses through the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee and the Nantahala National Forest in North Carolina. The name "Cherohala" comes from the names of the two National Forests: "Chero" from the Cherokee and "hala" from the Nantahala. The Cherohala Skyway is located in southeast Tennessee and southwest North Carolina. The Skyway connects Tellico Plains, Tennessee, with Robbinsville, North Carolina, and is about 40+ miles long. The Cherohala Skyway is a wide, paved 2-lane road maintained by the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The elevations range from 900' above sea level at the Tellico River in Tennessee to over 5400' above sea level at the Tennessee-North Carolina state line at Haw Knob.







The Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center in Tellico Plains is a "must stop" before starting up the Skyway. Stop by for free maps, Skyway driving conditions and local area souvenirs and gifts. Picnic tables and spotless restrooms are available. A friendly staff will welcome you with important Skyway and area information

For more information visit: www.Cherohala.org
Toll Free: (800) 245-5428 or (423) 253-8010



Elk reintroduced to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Photo by Amy Ney.

PIGEON FORGE, TN

Variety of music, shopping, attractions, restaurants, and accommodations, plus Dollywood and the Great Smoky Mountains. Website: www.mypigeonforge.com
Call 1-800-251-9100.

SEVIERVILLE, TN

Dolly's hometown, where shopping, entertainment, attractions, accommodations and mountain history come together in Sevierville to create an atmosphere that can't be found anywhere else in the Smokies. www.visitsevierville.com (888) 738-4378.

TOWNSEND, TN

25 mi. west of Gatlinburg via Rt. 321.

Tuckaleechee Caverns - 25 miles west of Gatlinburg on US Hwy 321 & Tenn. Hwy 73. One of the greatest natural attractions of the Great Smokies. Open seasonally (March & Nov. 10am-5pm; Apr.-Oct. 10am-6pm). Rated a Diamond attraction by AAA. www.tuckaleecheecaverns.com (865) 448-2274.

? DID YOU KNOW?

WATCH THE WEATHER!

The Blue Ridge Parkway is a place of extremes, varying greatly in elevation, ecosystems, and climatic conditions. Weather changes can occur rapidly, so be prepared when clouds roll in. Watching the weather while standing at a Parkway overlook can be a grand and interesting experience.

MARYVILLE, TN

West of Gatlinburg via Rt. 321, south of Knoxville.

Smoky Mountain Harley-Davidson - Rider's Destination. Full service dealership - Open 7 days a week. Events/concert info. www.SMH-D.com (865) 977-1669.

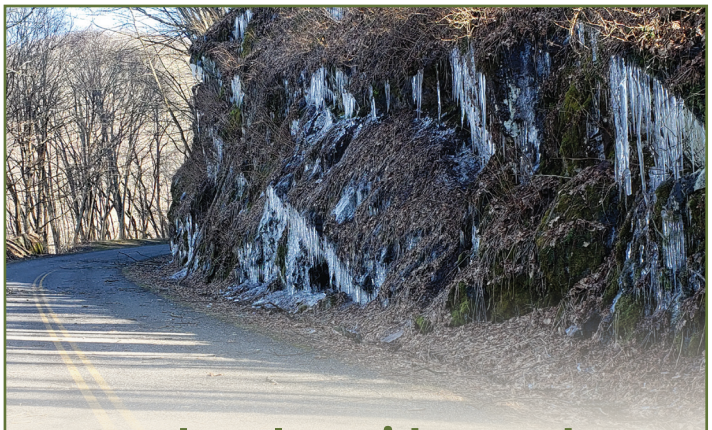
SWEETWATER, TN

North of Chattanooga on I-75, Exit 60.

Lost Sea - U.S. Registered Natural Landmark. Cavern tour and glass-bottom boat ride. Exit I-75 at Sweetwater. Open daily 9 a.m. Adults $23.95, Children 4-12 $13.95, 3 & under free. (423) 337-6616.



Grazing in the Smokies | Photo by Douglas Tate



Does the Blue Ridge Parkway Close for the Winter?

(NC/VA) – Visitors to the Blue Ridge Parkway often ask when the Parkway closes for the winter. The Parkway motor road remains open, weather permitting, although most park facilities close seasonally. Temporary weather or maintenance related closures may impact Parkway travel during the winter months. An online chart was developed to help you keep up with the ever changing road conditions along the historic 469-mile route. The chart is updated once daily.

For details, visit

www.nps.gov/blri

Sevierville, TN

Contact

Sevierville Convention
& Visitors Bureau
110 Gary Wade Blvd
Sevierville, TN 37862



888-738-4378
VisitSevierville.com

There are plenty of new things to do in Sevierville, Tennessee this year. Explore the historic downtown area for boutiques, galleries and a trendy new food scene including restaurants like The Appalachian, Seasons 101, 101 Sky Lounge, Graze Burgers and more. While there, snap a photo at one of two new murals and pay a visit to the bronze statue of Dolly Parton. Just down the road, Soaky Mountain Waterpark offers fun in the sun. Thrilling waterslides, a first-of-its-kind watercoaster, a not-so-lazy rapid river, and plenty of slides and activities for the kids mean fun for the whole family. Explore Rainforest Adventures Discovery Zoo and pay a visit to Sevier Air Trampoline & Ninja Warrior Park, NASCAR SpeedPark, or the Tennessee Museum of Aviation, too.

Start planning your Smoky Mountain vacation at VisitSevierville.com

APPALACHIAN MURAL TRAIL

Take an exciting journey through the beauty of nature and mural art! The Appalachian Mural Trail travels through North Carolina, Virginia & Tennessee. Over 130 magnificent outdoor murals provide transformational moments. Once in front of a mural, take a selfie with your smartphone, then read the stories about the mural and artist at www.blueridgeparkway.org/members/appalachian-mural-trail/

Exit BR Parkway MilePost: 294



"CROOKED ROAD MURAL"

The downtown Coeburn mural is made of ceramic tiles that were painted with glazes, fired, and then attached to the block wall.

Artist: Charles McConnell

Location: 521 Front St., Coeburn, VA

Exit BR Parkway Milepost: 0

"POOCHIE"

This mural was painted on the building right next to the Wayne Theatre in Waynesboro, VA by

Artist: Nils Westergard

Location: 247 West Main St., Waynesboro, NC



Exit BR Parkway Milepost: 177.7



"CIRCUS PARADE"

In Uptown Martinsville, elephants march permanently in a mural painted on the wall of New College Institute.

Artist: John Stiles

Location: 30 Franklin St., Martinsville, VA

Exit BR Parkway MilePost: 261

"ANGEL WALL"

After the night club disaster in Florida a friend shared a photo of angel wings that an artist had painted on a wall to represent the victims.

Artist: Raney Rogers

Location: 5 West Main St. West Jefferson, NC



www.muraltrail.com

TUNNEL CLEARANCES

Note: Maximum height shown is at centerline stripe of the road. Minimum height shown is at edge stripe. Measurements may vary by 1 to 6″ due to pavement fluctuations. List accurate as of June 28, 2021, from National Park Service data.



To view the tunnel locations on our interactive map, visit *www.blueridgeparkway.org/parkway-map* and select Tunnels. Our free Blue Ridge Parkway Travel Planner mobile app also shows the locations of the tunnels and their height and length.

Milepost	Tunnel Name	Length	Tunnel Height at Edgeline	Tunnel Height at Centerline
53.1	Bluff Mountain	630′	13′ 1″	18′ 6″
333.4	Little Switzerland	575′	14′ 3″	19′ 2″
336.8	Wildacres	350′	13′ 5″	19′ 1″
344.5	Twin Tunnel #1	350′	13′ 10″	19′ 0″
344.7	Twin Tunnel #2	407′	14′ 6″	18′ 11″
349.0	Rough Ridge	182′	13′ 8″	18′ 11″
364.4	Craggy Pinnacle	246′	13′ 0″	18′ 10″
365.5	Craggy Flats	403′	14′ 4″	18′ 7″
374.4	Tanbark Ridge	843′	14′ 3″	19′ 1″
397.1	Grassy Knob	802′	14′ 3″	18′ 6″
399.1	Pine Mountain	1462′	14′ 3″	18′ 8″
400.9	Ferrin Knob #1	605′	13′ 6″	18′ 8″
401.3	Ferrin Knob #2	457′	13′ 9″	18′ 8″
401.5	Ferrin Knob #3	402′	13′ 10″	18′ 10″
403.0	Young Pisgah Ridge	418′	14′ 2″	18′ 10″
404.0	Fork Mountain	392′	14′ 2″	18′ 7″
406.9	Little Pisgah Ridge	583′	13′ 4″	18′ 9″
407.3	Buck Spring	468′	13′ 2″	18′ 5″
410.1	Frying Pan	582′	13′ 6″	19′ 0″
422.1	Devil's Courthouse	721′	14′ 2″	18′ 8″
439.7	Pinnacle Ridge	859′	13′ 7″	18′ 7″
458.8	Lickstone Ridge	406′	11′ 8″	17′ 7″
459.3	Bunches Bald	290′	12′ 3″	18′ 0″
461.2	Big Witch	353′	11′ 7″	18′ 0″
465.6	Rattlesnake Mountain	415′	14′ 8″	19′ 3″
466.2	Sherrill Cove	590′	13′ 11″	19′ 1″

blue ridge MUSIC TRAILS of North Carolina



The Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina are nestled within the mountains and foothills of the state, a region known for its spectacular beauty, moderate climate, Cherokee heritage, handmade crafts, small family farms, and, of course, its rich musical traditions. The geographic footprint of the Blue Ridge Music Trails NC comprises twenty-nine counties in the western third of the state.

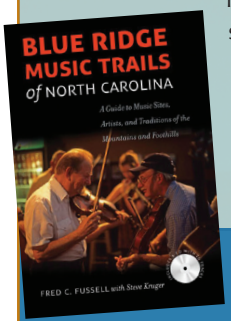
Western North Carolina has a national reputation as a music-rich region, and its traditions of old-time stringband music, ballad singing, and bluegrass are internationally renowned.

This region has been home to musicians whose artistry has shaped many forms of American music. Today young people in the region are learning these traditions and transforming them into new forms of roots music.





A popular guidebook, *Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina*, was created by the North Carolina Arts Council and published by UNC Press. It is available in gift shops along the Parkway. The book gives details of the history of the music, profiles of many of the artists and places where the music can be experienced.



www.BlueRidgeMusicNC.com
#BlueRidgeMusicNC

For more information you may contact these state tourism offices:

NC SM
NORTH CAROLINA
VISITNC.COM

Visit NC
15000 Weston Parkway, Cary, NC 27513
800-VISITNC
www.visitnc.com

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS®

Virginia Tourism Corporation
901 E Byrd Street • Richmond, VA 23219
800-VISITVA
www.virginia.org

The SOUNDTRACK of AMERICA
MADE IN TENNESSEE™

Tennessee Travel & Tourism
320 6th Avenue #500 • Nashville, TN 37243-7000
800-GO2-TENN
www.tnvacation.com



Moonlight over the Smokies | Photo by Douglas Tate

Some nearby National Park Service Historical Sites to Visit



Overmountain Historic Victory Trail

On to Victory and Independence!

The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVNHT) follows the Revolutionary War route of Patriot militia men from Virginia, today's eastern Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia to the battle of Kings Mountain, S.C., site of the Kings Mountain National Military Park. The OVNHT is part of the National Trails System. While there are hiking segments, the primary public access is by car over the commemorative motor route. The only trail marked portion is access from Old Hwy. 221/Linville Mountain Road.

Overmountain Victory NHT
2635 Park Road • Blacksburg, SC 29702
(864) 936-3477 • www.nps.gov/ovvi



Kings Mountain National Military Park

The turn of the tide of success

Explore the Visitor Center, which includes a 26-minute film, exhibit area and 1.5 mile battlefield trail, you will learn why the battle occurred, who the Overmountain men were and how the outcome of the battle helped to change the course of the Revolutionary War.

Kings Mountain NMP 45 minutes east of Charlotte and is free to enjoy! Check website for dates and event details.
2625 Park Road • Blacksburg, SC 29702:
(864) 936-7921 • www.nps.gov/kimo



Carl Sandburg Home – Connemara

A Poet of the People

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site offers keen insight into the memory and the many literary contributions of Carl Sandburg. Connemara, the 262-acre farm is available for visitors to explore and learn of this great American writer. The site consists of more than five miles of trails, historic buildings, and a small representative goat herd.

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site
81 Carl Sandburg Lane (Mail address)
1800 Little River Rd. • Flat Rock, NC 28731
(828) 693-4178 • www.nps.gov/carl



Booker T Washington

National Monument

The Booker T. Washington National Monument is located near Hardy, Virginia, in Franklin County. It preserves portions of the 207-acre tobacco farm on which educator and leader Booker T. Washington was born into slavery on April 18, 1856. Begin your visit at the visitor center. Exhibits and an audio-visual presentation orient you to the life of Booker T. Washington. There is also a sales area with books and related items focusing on African American history. Uniformed park personnel and volunteers can answer your questions and assist you in making the most of your visit.

12130 Booker T. Washington Hwy • Hardy, VA 24101
(540) 721-2094 • www.nps.gov/bowa

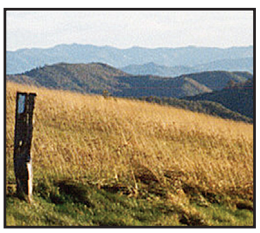


Guilford Courthouse

National Military Park

The museum exhibits provide visitors with information on the American Revolution, the battle, the campaign and the people involved. You will find displays of weaponry, military equipment, everyday items, musical instruments and information on soldiers, women, Quakers, commanders and the aftermath of the battle and the meaning of the War for Independence. Exit the Blue Ridge Parkway from Roanoke at Milepost 121.4 onto US 220 South.

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park
332 New Garden Road • Greensboro, NC 27410
(336) 288-1776 • www.nps.gov/guco



Appalachian National Scenic Trail

The Appalachian Trail is a 2,180+ mile long public footpath, from Maine to Georgia, that traverses the scenic, wooded, pastoral, wild, and culturally resonant lands of the Appalachian Mountains. Conceived in 1921, built by private citizens, and completed in 1937, today the trail is managed by the National Park Service, US Forest Service, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, numerous state agencies and thousands of volunteers.

Appalachian Trail Park Office
P.O. Box 50 • Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
(304) 535-6278 • www.nps.gov/appa

I • N • D • E • X

NORTH CAROLINA

ALLEGHANY COUNTY 56
ASHE COUNTY 59
ASHEVILLE 76
AVERY COUNTY 66
BALSAM 85
BANNER ELK 67
BEECH MOUNTAIN 67
BLACK MOUNTAIN 74
BLOWING ROCK 64
BOONE 62
BREVARD & PISGAH FOREST 82
BRYSON CITY 90
BURKE COUNTY 69
BURNSVILLE 73
CALDWELL COUNTY 61
CANTON 81
CHEROKEE 88
CHIMNEY ROCK & GERTON 75
CROSSNORE 68
DOBSON 55
ELKIN 57
FLEETWOOD 61
FLETCHER 80
FRANKLIN & MACON COUNTY 89
GLADE VALLEY 56
GLENDALE SPRINGS 59
GREENSBORO 61
HAYWOOD COUNTY 85
HENDERSONVILLE/FLAT ROCK 80
HICKORY 61
HIGHLANDS 84
JACKSON COUNTY 86
JONESVILLE 57
LAKE LURE 75
LAKE TOXAWAY 83
LAUREL SPRINGS 58
LINVILLE FALLS 69
LINVILLE 67
LITTLE SWITZERLAND 72
MAGGIE VALLEY 86
McDOWELL COUNTY 70
MITCHELL COUNTY 71
MT. AIRY 54
NORTH WILKESBORO 61
PENLAND 71
PILOT MOUNTAIN 55
PINEOLA 68
POLK COUNTY 81
ROARING GAP 57
ROSMAN 84
RUTHERFORD COUNTY 75
SEVEN DEVILS 66
SPARTA 57
SPRUCE PINE 71
SUGAR MOUNTAIN 67
SURRY COUNTY 55
SWAIN COUNTY 90
SYLVA & DILLSBORO 86
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY 82
VALLE CRUCIS 64
WAYNESVILLE 85
WEAVERVILLE 74
WEST JEFFERSON 60
WILKES COUNTY 60

TENNESSEE

ELIZABETHTON 62
GATLINBURG 91
MARYVILLE 92
PIGEON FORGE 92
SEVIERVILLE 92
SWEETWATER 92
TOWNSEND 92

VIRGINIA

ABINGDON 49
BEDFORD 39
BRISTOL 52
BUCHANAN, VA 41
BUENA VISTA 37
CARROLL COUNTY 48
CHARLOTTESVILLE 33
CROZET 33
FAIRFIELD 37
FANCY GAP 49
FERRUM 45
FLOYD, VA & FLOYD COUNTY 45
FRANKLIN COUNTY 44
FRONT ROYAL 28
GALAX 53
GRAYSON COUNTY 52
GROTTOES 32
HARRISONBURG 32
HILLSVILLE 48
LEXINGTON, ROCKBRIDGE CO 38
LOUDOUN COUNTY 28
LOVE 36
LURAY-PAGE COUNTY 30
LYNCHBURG 39
MADISON 32
MARTINSVILLE 48
MEADOWS OF DAN 47
MONTEBELLO 37
MONTGOMERY COUNTY 45
NATURAL BRIDGE 38
NELSON COUNTY 35
NEW MARKET 31
PATRICK COUNTY 47
PULASKI COUNTY 48
RADFORD 45
ROANOKE 43
SALEM 43
SHENANDOAH COUNTY 28
SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE 42
SMYTH COUNTY 49
STAUNTON 34
STEELES TAVERN 36
TAZEWELL CO, VA 54
VINTON 43
WAYNESBORO 34
WILLIS 47
WINCHESTER/FREDERICK CO 28
WINTERGREEN 35
WYTHEVILLE 53



INFORMATION RESOURCES

Blue Ridge Country Magazine
Award winning magazine covering history, attractions & outdoor recreation. Great photos & travel tips. Go to www.blueridgecountry.com to learn more.

Blue Ridge Digest
The most widely distributed travel guide in the mountains. Available at most visitor centers & motels. www.blueridgedigest.com

Blue Ridge Parkway Golf Trail
Golf packages include lodging at your choice of upscale log homes, golf villas, or luxury hotels and selection of championship mountain golf courses. www.brpgolftrail.com (866) 650-6644.

Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine
The trusted resource for adventure travel inspiration for 25 years. www.blueridgeoutdoors.com (434) 817-2755.

Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation
The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation is a strong protector of the Blue Ridge Parkway, providing a wide range of support for initiatives along the 469-mile route, including historical and cultural preservation, environmental protection, visitor amenities, and education and outreach. Thanks to the generosity of its Community of Stewards, the nonprofit is working to keep mountain music alive at the Blue Ridge Music Center, reopen the shuttered buildings at Doughton Park, rehabilitate Moses H. Cone Memorial Park, protect rare species from poachers, and engage young people with the outdoors through its Kids in Parks program. For more information: www.BRPFoundation.org (866) 308-2773

Conservation Trust for NC
Join us for a hike and learn how we work with landowners and local land trusts to protect spectacular Parkway vistas. Support Conservation Corps North Carolina to help build more Parkway trails! www.ctnc.org/parkway

FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge
A non-profit, volunteer, and membership organization dedicated to protecting and preserving the Blue Ridge region. Members financially support FRIENDS programs. FRIENDS chapters are community-based organizations that empower and coordinate volunteers, projects, and events in their local areas. We extend our reach by working with local and regional government, common-minded nonprofits, clubs, and other organizations. For more information, please visit www.friendsbrp.org or call (540) 772-2992.

Our State Magazine
Celebrating the very best of North Carolina from the mountains to the coast. www.ourstate.com

Smoky Mountain Living
Embracing the history, culture & outdoors of the Southern Appalachian Mtns. 6 issues per year only $25, subscribe online: www.smliv.com

TUCKALEECHEE CAVERNS

Townsend, TN
Page 92

PRIMLAND

aubergeresorts.com/primland
Milepost 177
Page 48

ALONG THE PARKWAY...

There are 469 miles of spectacular scenery from the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee.





Great Smoky Mountains Railroad

Bryson City, NC
Exit at Milepost 469.1



Folk Art Center

Asheville, NC
Milepost 382



Southern Highland Craft Guild, Moses Cone Manor

Milepost 294