



Points of Interest in Western North Carolina



MAGGIE VALLEY AREA VISITORS BUREAU
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www.smokeymountains.net

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Appalachian National Scenic Trail – Open year-round this trail is a 2,167 mile footpath through fourteen states and upwards of 250,000 acres of mountains in the eastern U.S.
Phone (304-535-6331)

Biltmore Estate is located in Buncombe County off Interstate 40 near Asheville. This magnificent former home of George Vanderbilt is the largest privately-owned house in the country. It is a 250 room French Renaissance chateau on an estate of more than 8,000 acres with original furnishings and art works. For more information call 1-800-543-2961 or visit www.biltmore.com.

Blue Ridge Paper provides an interesting tour and allows the visitor to see how paper is made. To arrange a tour in Canton at the mill call Judy Stamey at 646-2841.

The Botanical Gardens at Asheville are located adjacent to the UNC Asheville Campus off U.S. 19-23. Take N.C. 191, Broadway exit to UNC-A.

Cataloochee Valley is one of the best kept secrets in the N.C. mountains. Very secluded and peaceful, it is well worth the trip. You will see a 95 year old home, an old church and an old one room school house. These buildings are scattered throughout the valley, so pack a picnic lunch and beverages and make a day of it. Elk were reintroduced into the Smoky Mt. National Park in 2001 when two dozen radio-collared elk were released. The best times to see the elk are in the early morning and in the late evening. They may also be seen on cloudy summer days and before or after storms. To get to Cataloochee Valley turn right out of the Maggie Valley Visitor's Center and go to the second traffic signal. Turn left on 276 North and follow that road to Cove Creek Road on the left (about five miles.) Take Cove Creek Road and follow the signs to Cataloochee Valley.

Cherochala Skyway – This mile- high skyway runs 61 miles from Robbinsville, N.C. to Tellico Plains, Tennessee and winds along the tops of the Appalachian Mountains providing spectacular views of the Nantahala and Cherokee National Parks.

Chimney Rock Park is located in Rutherford County about twenty-five miles southeast of Asheville on U.S. 74-A. A scenic park provides a lovely drive to the base of Chimney Rock where visitors can take an elevator ride to the Sky Lounge gift shop and café.

Folkmoor USA International Folk Festival is North Carolina's official International Festival and is a two week celebration of the world's cultural heritage through folk music and dance. This very popular folk festival attracts performers from many different countries around the world and is held in Western North Carolina counties. This festival runs the last two weeks of July.

Fontana Dam is the highest dam east of the Rockies and is located 35 miles west of Bryson City, N.C. Towering 480 feet in height, this dam backs water for 30 miles and provides a major source of energy for the Tennessee Valley. It provides water sports such as boating, skiing, knee

boarding and it also boasts some of the best bass and pike fishing anywhere.

Great Smoky Mountains Railway has depots located in Dillsboro, Bryson City, and Andrews. The trains operate year-round but it would be helpful to call for a complete schedule. Phone: 1-800-872-4681. Web site: www.grmr.com

John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, N.C. is the nation's oldest folk school. It was founded in 1925 and is part of the National Historic District. It is south of Murphy, N.C.

Judaculla Rock is a huge boulder with unexplained hieroglyphics said to be carved by Indians. It is on Judaculla Rock Road in Jackson County.

Lake Lure is located in Rutherford County on Hwys. 74 and 64 West. Lake Lure offers swimming, boat rentals, scenic boat tours, fishing, and water skiing.

Mingus Mill – This operating mill is located in Swain County on US 441N, three miles north of Cherokee and is open spring through fall. This mill was built in 1886 and was operated as a "custom mill", grinding to each customer's taste.

Mountain Farm Museum – One and one half miles north of Cherokee on Hwy. 441N is located an open-air museum featuring historic farm structures which were moved to the site from many locations in the Smoky Mountains National Park.

Nantahala Outdoor Center provides world class rafting and paddling instruction. This is whitewater rafting at its best. For more information phone: (866-554-3439)

Oconaluftee Indian Village is located in Swain County near the Mountainside Theater off 441 N. Phone: (828-497-2315) Website: www.oconaluftee.com

Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education – Visit this Wildlife Education Center and view both indoor and outdoor exhibits that focus on mountain wildlife. The exhibits are designed to show the relationship between wildlife and people, and the resources that they share. The center is located in Transylvania County near Pisgah Forest and is easily accessible off U.S., Hwy. 276. For more information call 828-877-4423.

Riverside Cemetery in Asheville (53 Birch Street) dates back to the early 1800's and has unusual monuments and mausoleums with large trees reminding visitors of a park. The cemetery is the final resting place of Thomas Wolfe and O. Henry.

Santa's Land is a family theme park and zoo, featuring the famous Rudicoaster. Located in Cherokee, this is a park for all ages. For information call 1-828-497-9191. It is open daily May through October from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

National Historic Sites

The Shook Museum at the Shook-Smathers House. This museum features early American pioneer construction and architecture. The earlier portion of the house was built in what was then wilderness (1800's). You will also see the later rustic Victorian construction. The museum is located in Clyde, N.C. For scheduling a tour for 10 or more call 1-877-620-2300.

Sliding Rock is located in Transylvania County on U.S. 276 eight miles into the Pisgah National Forest from the Transylvania County entrance. Enjoy "taking the plunge" down the 60 foot cascade into a six-foot-deep pool of clear, cold mountain water, or you may want to observe the sliders from an observation deck.

Tail of the Dragon at Deals Gap boasts 318 curves in just eleven miles of roadway and is indisputably America's number one motorcycle and sports car road. From Maggie Valley take Hwy. 19 through Cherokee and Bryson City to Hwy. 74. Follow Hwy. 19-74 to Hwy. 129 near Robbinsville.

Unto These Hills, outdoor drama, is the tragic story of how the Cherokee Indians were driven out of their home in the Great Smoky Mountains and forced to march 1,200 miles to Oklahoma on the infamous "Trail of Tears" in 1828. Cherokee, NC Telephone: 866-554-3439

Western North Carolina Nature Center. This center is located in Asheville near the eastern city limits and behind the Asheville Recreation Park on Hwy. 81. Follow directional signs along I-40 and 240, US 70 or N.C. 81. The Nature Center is a living museum of animals and plants in their natural environment.

Wheels Through Time Transportation Museum can be found in the heart of Maggie Valley, N.C. This museum boasts over 250 rare antique American motorcycles and automobiles in running condition. Web site: www.wheelsthroughtime.com

The Smith-McDowell House Museum at 283 Victoria Road was once the home of mayors and a Confederate major. This restored antebellum mansion is the oldest surviving house in Asheville.

Whiteside Mountain – Take highway 64 into Highlands and follow the signs to the Whiteside Mountain Trailhead. This is one of the most spectacular peaks on the entire east coast. It has been called the "Yosemite of the East" because of the abundance of exposed granite. Great climbing, views, beautiful falls and scenery are waiting for all to explore.

The Western North Carolina Farmer's Market can be found at 570 Brevard Road. It is a thirty six acre state owned farmer's market featuring fresh produce, jellies, jams, plants and crafts.

Carl Sandburg Home – National Historic site is located in Henderson County three miles south of Hendersonville at Hwy. 25 and Little River road in Flat Rock. Guided tours of the poet's house and farm are available.

Cradle of Forestry in America – Located in The Pisgah National Forest on Hwy. 276, 14 miles NW of Brevard; four miles SE of Blue Ridge Parkway, Milepost 412. This is the original location where scientific forestry was first practiced and taught in America over 100 years ago.

State Historic Sites

Thomas Wolfe Memorial is located in downtown Asheville. This memorial to the famous NC writer is a state historic site. Restoration of the ambling Victorian boarding home where Wolfe lived continues.

Vance Birthplace. This is the Appalachian Mountain birthplace and early childhood home of NC's Civil War Governor Vance. A two story log house, six outbuildings, visitor center, museum and picnic are on the grounds. It is located near Weaverville, off Hwys. 19 & 23 on Reems Creek Road.

Waterfalls

Bridal Veil Falls is located in Macon County on Hwy. 64 two miles west of Highlands. The height of this fall is over 120 feet. Cars can be driven under the falls.

Cullasaja Falls is accessible by a hiking trail. Cullasaja's 250 feet of water is visible from US 64.

Dry Falls is located in Macon County on Hwy. 64, three miles west of Highlands. Pull off the roadside to view the falls.

Looking Glass Falls is located in Transylvania County in the Pisgah National Forest on Hwy. 276, five and one half miles from the intersection of highways 276, 280, and 64. This is a scenic waterfall, 30 feet wide, 60 feet high, dropping down a sheer rock into a pool below.

Toxaway Falls – US 64 passes right over the 125-foot falls.

Whitewater Falls – At 411 feet, Whitewater is the highest cascade in the eastern United States. It is located on US 64.

Trout Fishing

There are hundreds of miles of trout streams in Haywood County and many stocked ponds in Maggie Valley and surrounding areas. Please

check with the NC Wildlife on fishing regulations. Listed below are some of the stocked ponds.

Ferguson's Trout Pond	828-627-6404	Clyde
Holland's Trout Pond	828-926-0313	Maggie Valley
Marvin's Soco Gap Trout Ponds	828-926-3635	Maggie Valley
Sorrell's Creek Trout Farm	828-648-9903	Canton

Horseback Riding Stables

Cataloochee Ranch	828-926-1401	Maggie Valley
Hemphill Mtn. Campground	828-926-0331	Waynesville
Panther Creek Outfitters	828-627-1913	Waynesville
Utah Mountain Riding Stables	828-926-1143	Waynesville

Miniature Golf

Fantasy Golf and Game Room	828-926-8180	Maggie Valley
Maggie Valley Carpet Golf	828-926-3255	Maggie Valley
Red Barn Miniature Golf	828-926-1901	Maggie Valley

Golf Courses

Iron Tree Golf Course	828-627-1933	Clyde
Junaluska Driving Range	828-454-0660	Waynesville
Lake Junaluska Golf Course	828-456-5777	Lake Junaluska
Springdale Country Club	828-234-8451	Waynesville
Waynesville Country Club	828-452-4617	Waynesville
Maggie Valley Club	828-926-6013	Maggie Valley

Blue Ridge Parkway & the Great Smoky Mts. National Park

Folk Art Center – This craft center is located on the Blue Ridge Parkway at milepost 382; about one half mile north of US 70 in east Asheville. From I-40 take exit 55. Phone 828-298-7928

Clingman's Dome is the Great Smoky Mountains National Park's highest point at 6,643 feet. It is the highest point in Tennessee, and the second highest east of the Mississippi. Only NC's Mt. Mitchell (6,684 ft.) rises higher.

Cold Mountain is about thirty miles from downtown Asheville and can be viewed from milepost 412.2 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. More extensive views of Cold Mountain can be enjoyed from the top of Mt. Pisgah at milepost 407. Hike a three mile trail roundtrip to the top for a wonderful view of Cold Mountain.

Craggy Gardens, Milepost 364.4 is a short drive from Asheville (24 miles from downtown) and will take you up in elevation to the Craggy Gardens Visitor's Center with great views to the east and west. Enjoy a big picnic area, rhododendron and easy to moderate hiking trails.

Devil's Courthouse is a rugged, exposed mountaintop with 360 degree views. Milepost 423.

Graveyard Fields, elevation 5,120 ft., is located on the Blue Ridge Parkway at milepost 419. The name Graveyard Fields was given to the area because of a natural disaster that occurred there 500 to 1,000 years ago. A tremendous "wind blow" uprooted the spruce forest. As the years passed the old root stumps and trees rotted leaving only dirt mounds resembling the appearance of a graveyard and thus became known as Graveyard Fields. The forest eventually recovered only to be destroyed by a tremendous fire in 1925. It is slowly recovering.

Great Smoky Mountain National Park – The Park covers 523,000 acres of natural forest area. The Oconaluftee Visitor Center is one and one half miles north of Cherokee on US 441 N. Phone 828-497-1900.

Heintooga Overlook is a mile-high overlook 1.3 miles off the Parkway heading west toward Chreokee from The Soco Gap intersection.

Mt. Pisgah is located at milepost 407.6 and is a popular hiking and picnic spot. The picnic area is at milepost 407.8.

Mt. Mitchell is found at milepost 355.4. Drive to the top of the tallest mountain east of the Mississippi for 85 mile views from the observation tower. It is usually 15 to 20 degrees cooler than lower elevations. Hike through the forests or pick up some food at the restaurant and have a picnic. No admission fee.

Pisgah Inn is found at milepost 408.7. The only inn and restaurant (and gas station) in this stretch of Parkway is located at 5,000 feet. This is a great place to stop for lunch since the dining room has big windows with beautiful views of the mountains.

Waterrock Knob provides a panoramic view of the Great Smokies and provides breath-taking views of sunsets. Milepost 450.

