

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area



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



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



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

The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area comprises the 25 westernmost counties and the Qualla Boundary (Cherokee Indian Reservation) in the state of North Carolina. The region encompasses nearly 11,000 square miles of mountains, forests, lakes, streams, small towns, farms and fields.

In designating Western North Carolina as a National Heritage Area in 2003, Congress recognized the cultural and natural resources of the region that played a significant role in the history of the United States and the state of North Carolina.

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

Two of the most visited national parklands in the country lie within the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area — the **Great Smoky Mountains National Park** and the **Blue Ridge Parkway**, known as "America's Favorite Drive."

The **Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest** in the **Nantahala National Forest** preserves one of the largest stands of old growth trees in the Eastern United States. The highest mountain east of the Mississippi River, **Mount Mitchell**, soars above the **Pisgah National Forest** and is one of the

many state parks located within the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area.

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



Biltmore Estate

Photo courtesy of Biltmore™

Museums, heritage sites and America's largest home.

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

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

Farming traditions preserve a beloved land.

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

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

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

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



Avery County Christmas tree farm

Photo courtesy of High Country Host

Photo courtesy of NC Department of Commerce



Blue Ridge Parkway / Linville Viaduct

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

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

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

The **Southern Highland Craft Guild**, one of the nation's premier craft organizations,

is headquartered in the region.

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

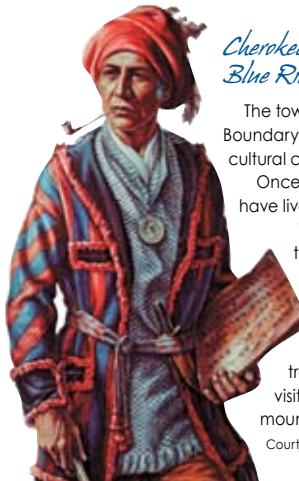
A fertile meeting ground for European and African music traditions, the North Carolina mountains still ring with the sounds of the fiddle, banjo, string bands and cloggers, which can be heard everywhere from front porches to festival stages and town squares. The music includes lively strains of old-time,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



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



David Holt and Doc Watson at MerleFest
Photo courtesy of BanjoMan



Cherokee culture thrives in the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area.

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

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

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

Courtesy of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation

Outdoor adventures abound in the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area.

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



Photo courtesy of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation



Photo courtesy of High Country Host



Photo courtesy of Nantahala Outdoor Center

An advertisement for the Blue Ridge Multi-Attraction Pass. It features a collage of images showing people enjoying outdoor activities like hiking, fishing, and rafting. The text reads: "One Multi-Attraction Pass, One Low Price!" and "Do MORE for LESS!". Below the text, it says "Buy at blueridgeheritage.com". There is also a small graphic of a pass card with an arrow pointing right.

Escape. Refresh. Discover.

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



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

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

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

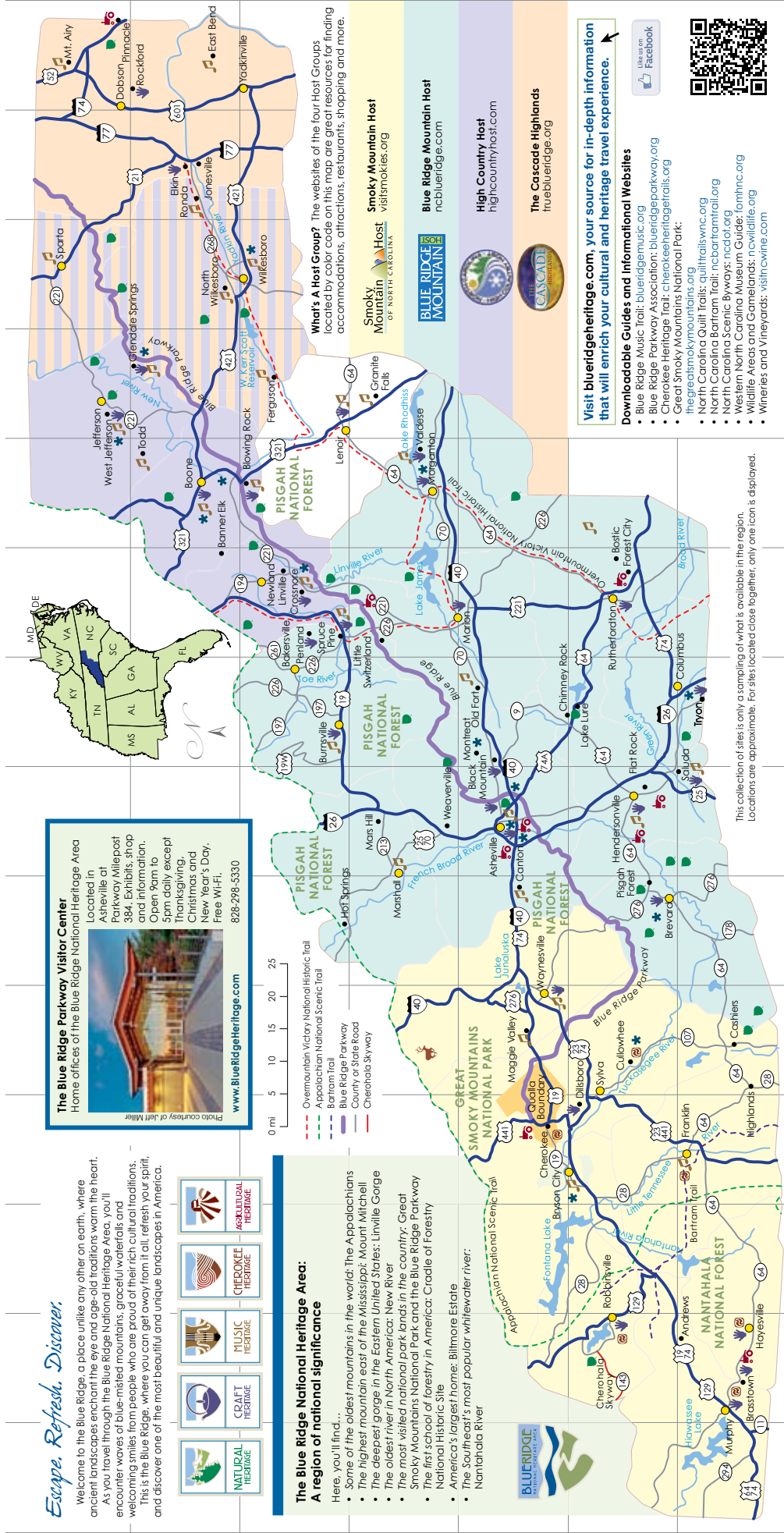
Located in Asheville at Parkway Milepost 384. Exhibits, shop and information. Open 9am to 5pm daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Free WiFi. 828-298-5330

www.BlueRidgeHeritage.com

Photo courtesy of Jeff Miller

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- Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail
- Appalachian National Scenic Trail
- Bartram Trail
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- County or State Road
- Cherokee Skyway



What's a Host Group? The websites of the four Host Groups located by color code on this map are great resources for finding accommodations, attractions, restaurants, shopping and more.

Smoky Mountain Host
visitsmokies.org

Blue Ridge Mountain Host
ncblueridge.com

High Country Host
highcountryhost.com

The Cascade Highlands
trueblueridge.org

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

Downloadable Guides and Informational Websites

- Blue Ridge Music Trail: blueridgemusic.org
- Blue Ridge Parkway Association: blueridgeparkway.org
- Cherokee Heritage Trail: cherokeeheritagetrails.org
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park: thegreatsmokymountains.org
- North Carolina Quilt Trails: quilttrails.wnc.org
- North Carolina Bartram Trail: ncbartramtrail.org
- North Carolina Scenic Byways: ncdot.org
- Western North Carolina Museum Guides: tomhnc.org
- Wildlife Areas and Game Lands: n.wildlife.org
- Wineries and Vineyards: visitwine.com



This collection of sites is only a sampling of what is available in the region. Locations are approximate. For sites located close together, only one icon is displayed.

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

SITE	TOWN	PHONE	GRID
Cradle of Forestry	Pisgah Forest	828-877-3130	F6
Craggy Gardens	Parkway MP 364.6	NA	H4
Doughton Park	Parkway MP 238.5	NA	L1
Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest	Near Robbinsville	800-470-3790	B6
Julian Price Memorial Park	Parkway MP 295	828-295-7591	J3
Linville Caverns	Marion	828-756-4171	I4
Linville Gorge Wilderness & Falls	Parkway MP 316.4	NA	I3

NATURAL HERITAGE SITES

SITE	TOWN	PHONE	GRID
Museum of NC Minerals	Parkway MP 331	828-765-2761	I3
Pearson's Falls	Saluda	828-749-3031	H7
Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education	Near Brevard	828-877-4423	F6
Roan Mountain	Near Bakersville	NA	I3
W. Kerr Scott Environmental Education Center	Near Wilkesboro	336-921-3390	L3
Whitewater Falls	Near Cashiers	NA	E7
WNC Nature Center	Asheville	828-298-5600	G5

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SITE	TOWN	PHONE	GRID
CRAFT HERITAGE SITES			
👤 Appalachian Heritage Crafters	Murphy	828-835-9176	B7
👤 Ashe Arts Center	West Jefferson	336-846-2787	K1
👤 Black Mountain Center for the Arts	Black Mountain	828-669-0930	G5
👤 Burke Arts Gallery	Morganton	828-433-7282	J4
👤 Caldwell Arts Council Gallery	Lenoir	828-754-2486	K3
👤 Center for Craft, Creativity & Design	Hendersonville	828-890-2050	G6
👤 Clay County Historical & Arts Council Old Jail Museum	Hayesville	828-389-6814	B7
👤 Dogwood Crafters	Dillsboro	828-586-2248	D6
👤 Energy Xchange	Burnsville	828-675-5541	H3
👤 Folk Art Center	Parkway MP 382	828-298-7928	G5
👤 Guild Crafts	Asheville	828-298-7903	G5
👤 Heartwood Gallery	Saluda	828-749-9365	G7
👤 Heritage Arts Center	Valdese	828-874-1849	J4
👤 Hickory Ridge (Seasonal)	Boone	828-264-2120	J2
👤 Home of the Perfect Christmas Tree Store	Spruce Pine	828-765-0571	I3
👤 John C. Campbell Folk School	Brasstown	800-365-5724	B7
👤 McDowell Arts Council Gallery	Marion	828-652-8610	I5
👤 Mountain Made	Asheville	828-350-0307	G5
👤 Museum of North Carolina Handicrafts	Waynesville	828-452-1551	E5
👤 Northwest Trading Post	Parkway MP 258.6	336-982-2543	K2
👤 Number 7 Cooperative	Brevard	828-883-2294	F6
👤 Old Depot Gallery	Black Mountain	828-669-6583	G5
👤 Parkway Craft Center at Moses Cone Manor	Parkway MP 294	828-295-7938	J3
👤 Penland School of Crafts	Penland	828-765-2359	I3
👤 Rockford General Store	Rockford	336-374-5317	N2
👤 Rutherford County Visual Artists Guild	Rutherfordton	828-288-5009	I6
👤 South Mountain Crafts	Morganton	828-433-2607	J4
👤 Stecoah Valley Arts and Cultural Center	Robbinsville	828-479-3364	B6
👤 Toe River Arts Gallery	Burnsville	828-682-7215	H3
👤 Toe River Arts Gallery	Spruce Pine	828-765-0520	I3
👤 Transylvania Arts Gallery	Brevard	828-884-2787	F6
👤 Tryon Arts & Crafts	Tryon	828-859-8323	H7
👤 Tryon Fine Arts Center	Tryon	828-859-8322	H7
👤 Tucker's Streetscape Gallery	Lenoir	828-759-0075	K3
👤 Weaving Room and Gallery	Crossnore	828-733-4660	I3
👤 Yadkin Valley Craft Guild	Elkin	336-835-2717	M2
MUSIC HERITAGE SITES			
🎵 Alleghany Jubilee/Old Spartan Theater	Sparta	800-372-5473	L1
🎵 Bryson City Depot	Bryson City	828-488-3681	D6
🎵 Canton Pickin' in the Park	Canton	828-646-3411	F5
🎵 Carolina Theatre	Spruce Pine	828-766-5525	I3
🎵 Maggie Valley Opry House	Maggie Valley	828-926-9336	E5
🎵 Marshall Railroad Depot	Marshall	828-206-2436	G4
🎵 Monday Night Street Dance in Downtown Hendersonville	Hendersonville	800-828-4244	G6
🎵 Mountain Gateway Museum	Old Fort	828-668-9259	H5
🎵 Mountain Music Jamboree	Glendale Springs	336-384-4079	K2
🎵 Mountain Street Dance	Waynesville	828-456-3517	E5
🎵 O'Henry's Restaurant	East Bend	336-699-8693	N2
🎵 Old Fort Mountain Music	Old Fort	888-233-6111	H5
🎵 Old-Time Music Heritage Hall	Mount Airy	336-786-7998	N1
🎵 Pickin' on the Square	Franklin	828-524-2516	D7
🎵 Redding's Country Kitchen	Ronda	336-984-3455	M2
🎵 Saluda Mountain Jamboree	Saluda	828-749-3676	G7
🎵 Shindig on the Green	Asheville	828-258-6101	G5
🎵 Sims Country Bar-B-Que	Granite Falls	828-396-5811	K4

SITE	TOWN	PHONE	GRID
🎵 Smokey Creek Barbeque and Music Barn	Lenoir	828-728-5398	K3
🎵 Stompin' Ground	Maggie Valley	828-926-1288	E5
🎵 The Fiddlin' Pig	Asheville	828-251-1979	G5
🎵 The Jones House	Boone	828-262-4576	J2
🎵 The Old Rock School	Valdese	828-879-2129	J4
🎵 The Town Center	Burnsville	828-682-7209	H3
🎵 Todd General Store (May-Dec)	Todd	336-877-1067	J2
🎵 Todd Mercantile (Jan-May)	Todd	336-877-5401	J2
🎵 Voice of the Blue Ridge, Downtown Cinema Theater	Mount Airy	336-786-7998	N1
🎵 Whippoorwill Academy and Tom Dooley Museum	Ferguson	336-973-3237	K3
🎵 Wilkes Heritage Museum	Wilkesboro	336-667-3171	L3
🎵 WKBC's Hometown Opry at Minton Music and Pawn	North Wilkesboro	336-667-2274	L2
🎵 Woodlands Barbeque and Pickin' Parlor	Blowing Rock	828-295-3651	J3
🎵 Young's Mountain Music	Burnsville	828-675-4365	H3
CHEROKEE HERITAGE SITES			
🏛️ Cherokee County Historical Museum	Murphy	828-837-6792	B7
🏛️ Judaculla Rock	Near Cullowee	NA	E6
🏛️ Junaluska Memorial & Museum	Robbinsville	828-479-4727	B6
🏛️ Mingo Falls	Cherokee	NA	D5
🏛️ Nikwasi Mound	Franklin	NA	D7
🏛️ Museum of the Cherokee Indian	Cherokee	828-497-3481	D5
🏛️ Nelson Heritage Park / Cherokee Homestead Exhibit	Hayesville	828-389-3704	B7
🏛️ Oconaluftee Indian Village and Cherokee Visitor Center	Cherokee	800-438-1601	D5
🏛️ Oconaluftee Visitor Center	Cherokee	828-497-1900	D5
🏛️ Qualla Arts and Crafts	Cherokee	828-497-3103	D5
🏛️ Unto These Hills (outdoor drama)	Cherokee	828-497-2111	D5
AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SITES			
🏡 Henderson County Farmers Curb Market	Hendersonville	828-692-8012	G6
🏡 Historic Johnson Farm	Hendersonville	828-891-6585	G6
🏡 Horne Creek Living Historical Farm	Pinnacle	336-325-2298	N1
🏡 Mountain Home & Farm Museum	Hendersonville	828-697-8846	G6
🏡 Mountain Farm Museum/Mingus Mill	GSMNP	828-497-1900	D5
🏡 NC Arboretum	Asheville	828-665-2492	G5
🏡 Orchard at Altapass	Parkway MP 328.3	888-765-9531	I4
🏡 Rutherford County Farm Museum	Forest City	828-248-1248	I6
🏡 WNC Farmers Market	Asheville	828-253-1691	G5
OTHER SITES			
★ Basilica of Saint Lawrence	Asheville	828-252-6042	G5
★ Ben Long Frescoes	Multiple	336-838-1076	H5, I3, J4, K1, K2, L3
★ Biltmore Estate	Asheville	877-245-8667	G5
★ BR Parkway Visitor Center	Parkway MP 384	828-298-5330	G5
★ Brevard Music Center (classical)	Brevard	828-862-2100	F6
★ Foothills Equestrian Nature Center	Tryon	828-859-9012	H7
★ Great Smoky Mountains Railroad	Bryson City	800-872-4681	D6
★ Horn in the West	Boone	828-264-2120	J2
★ Mountain Heritage Center	Cullowhee	828-227-7129	E6
★ Tweetsie Railroad	Blowing Rock	800-526-5740	J2
★ YMI Cultural Center	Asheville	828-252-4614	G5