



A place unlike any other on Earth...

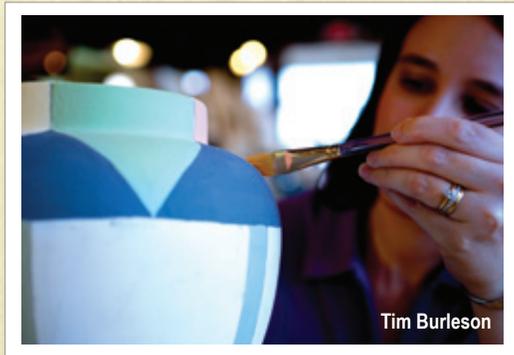
The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area encompasses 11,000 square miles of unsurpassed natural beauty in the mountains and foothills of North Carolina, where ancient landscapes enchant the eye and age-old traditions warm the heart.

This region, rich in Heritage Treasures, has been honored with the federal designation of National Heritage Area because of the significant role it has played in the history of the United States and North Carolina.

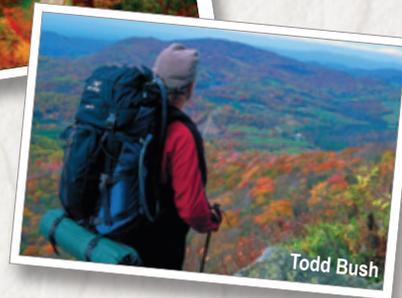
Five times the treasure...

The unique character and culture of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area are built on five treasured themes:

- The natural beauty of these ancient mountains
- The 11,000 year-old culture of the Cherokee
- Deeply-rooted agricultural traditions
- Music distinctive to the Blue Ridge mountains
- Mountain craft traditions



Tim Burleson



Todd Bush



828.298.5330

www.BlueRidgeHeritage.com

Visit the websites of these Heritage Treasures.

Inside is your treasure map to lead you to some of the intriguing Heritage Treasures in the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area.

Heritage Treasures of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area



Hugh Morton

Discover the Heritage Treasures of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area

Whether on the streets of a city or the winding backroads of the mountains, Heritage Treasures are just around the bend.

For nature lovers, your treasure may be the hundreds of square miles of majestic scenery, hiking and biking trails, waterfalls, whitewater, and rare and unusual ecosystems.



Agricultural treasures come in many forms—from the preserved homes of pioneers and plantation owners to the present-day abundance of farmers' and tailgate markets and the fresh taste of locally raised food.

A visit to Cherokee and nearby related sites will reveal the treasures and traditions of this ancient culture. Learn their history, hear their stories, and see how those traditions are being preserved today by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians who still dwell on their native land.

Traditional music treasures abound in the region, from festival performances to street dances and front porch jams.

Handcrafted treasures found in galleries and studios throughout the region reflect a blend of traditions from many cultures and centuries.



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Penland School of Crafts



Town of Lake Lure/Hickory Nut Gorge



John C. Campbell Folk School

The mission of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership is to protect, preserve, interpret and develop the unique natural, historical and cultural resources of Western North Carolina for the benefit of present and future generations, and in so doing, sustain our heritage and stimulate improved economic opportunity in our region.

1 Historic Johnson Farm

This working farm and tourist retreat (c.1913-1958) is open for tours with a museum and animals. It is an educational resource about our North Carolina mountain heritage.

3346 Haywood Road
Hendersonville, NC 28791
828-891-6585
www.historicjohnsonfarm.org

2 Pearson's Falls

Visitors can enjoy hiking the quarter-mile trail to the 90-foot waterfall; 268-acre botanical preserve; over 200 flowering plants, native trees, ferns, algae and mosses. Nominal fee.

2720 Pearson Falls Road
Saluda, NC, 28733
828-749-3031
www.pearsonsfalls.org

3 Hickory Nut Gorge

Over the ages, the Rocky Broad River has cut through the mountainous terrain to create this 14-mile gorge, with rushing waters, rocky cliffs, a giant waterfall, and pristine forests. Enjoy the gorge from Lake Lure,

Chimney Rock Village, Bat Cave and Gerton.
828-625-2725
www.hickorynut.org

4 Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park

Visitors are awed by the 75-mile breathtaking views seen from atop Chimney Rock. Hiking trails to 404-foot Hickory Nut Falls, unique rock formations and handcrafted sculptures beckon to be explored.

Highway 64/74A
Chimney Rock, NC 28720
800-277-9611
chimneyrockpark.com

5 Blue Ridge Frescoes

Return of the Prodigal: Depicting this familiar Bible story, this is one of the luminous, life-size frescoes created by world-famous fresco artist Benjamin F. Long IV.

Chapel of the Prodigal
Montreat College
Montreat, NC 28757
828-669-8012
www.montreat.edu
www.benlongfrescotrail.org

6 Biltmore Estate

Discover the wonders of Biltmore® where you can experience the breathtaking beauty of America's largest home®, historic gardens, Antler Hill Village featuring a winery and farm, and four-star inn.

1 Lodge Street
Asheville, NC 28803
800-411-3812
www.biltmore.com

7 Rural Life Museum

Exhibits and interpretation of rural life artifacts relevant to the history and culture of the Southern Appalachian region foster a better understanding of rural heritage.

100 Athletic Street
Mars Hill, NC 28754
828-689-1262
www.mhc.edu/ramsey-center/rural-life-museum

8 Blue Ridge Parkway Graveyard Fields

Stunning waterfalls, a distinctive landscape, and abundant plant and animal life make this high mountain valley one of the most popular hiking areas in the North Carolina mountains.

Located about an hour south of Asheville at Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 418.8.
828-298-5330
www.blueridgeheritage.com

9 Historic Carson House

Built in 1793 by Col. John Carson, this restored plantation home includes period furnishings and textiles, some original to the house and family, and a restored 19th century barn and farm exhibit.

1805 US Hwy 70 W
Marion, NC 28752
828-724-4948
www.historiccarsonhouse.com

10 Blue Ridge Frescoes

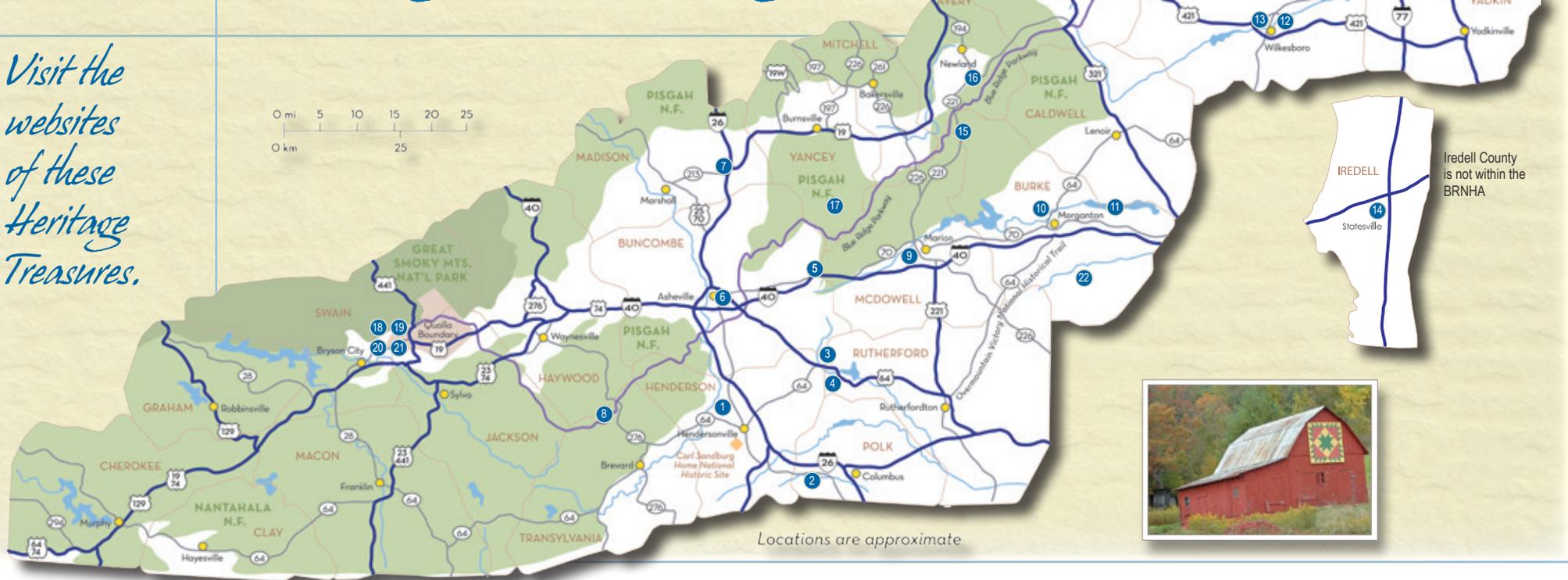
Sacred Dance & the Muses: Majestically depicting the goddesses who preside over the arts & sciences, this brilliant ceiling fresco was created by world-renowned fresco artist Benjamin F. Long, IV.

Morganton Municipal Auditorium
Morganton, NC 28655
800-939-7469
www.ci.morganton.nc.us
www.benlongfrescotrail.org

Discover the Heritage Treasures of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area.



Visit the websites of these Heritage Treasures.



Locations are approximate

11 Waldensian Heritage Museum
Exhibits and programs interpret the history of the settlement of Valdese by the Waldensians. The museum houses the oldest and largest collection of Waldensian history in the United States.

208 Rodoret Street South
Valdese, NC 28690
828-874-1111
www.visitvaldese.com

12 Blue Ridge Frescoes
Apostle Paul's Conversion Experience and *Apostle Paul Writing His Epistles* by artist Benjamin F. Long, IV, sponsored by St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Cultural Arts Council of Wilkes County.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
336-667-4231
www.cacwilkes.org
www.benlongfrescotrail.org

13 Old Wilkes Jail
Part of the Wilkes Heritage Museum, the jail that once incarcerated Tom "Dooley" Dula is one of the most authentically preserved 19th century buildings in the state.

203 North Bridge Street
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
336-667-3171
www.wilkesheritagemuseum.com

14 Blue Ridge Frescoes
Images at the Crossroads: Hecate, goddess of the crossroads, is the subject of one of the luminous, life-size frescoes created by world-famous fresco artist Benjamin F. Long IV.

Statesville Civic Center
Statesville, NC 28677-5839
704-878-3493
www.ci.statesville.nc.us
www.benlongfrescotrail.org

15 Linville Caverns
Explore the inside of the Blue Ridge Mountains where fascinating geological formations have been carved in the subterranean rock by slowly moving groundwater.

19929 US 221 N.
Marion, NC 28752
828-756-4171
www.linvillecaverns.com

16 Blue Ridge Frescoes
Suffer the Little Children: Nowhere is Crossnore School's mission to provide hope and healing for children from families in crisis more lovingly portrayed than through Ben Long's rendering of Mark 10:14.

E.H. Sloop Chapel,
The Crossnore School
Crossnore, NC 28616
828-733-4305
www.crossnoreschool.org
www.benlongfrescotrail.org

17 Mount Mitchell State Park
The highest mountain east of the Mississippi River, lofty Mount Mitchell is the centerpiece of Mount Mitchell State Park. Enjoy a 360-degree view of surrounding mountains from the new viewing platform.

Off the Blue Ridge Parkway
on NC 128
828-675-4611
www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/momi/main.php

18 Museum of the Cherokee Indian
Preserving and interpreting the history and culture of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, whose ancestors lived in these mountains for more than ten thousand years.

589 Tsali Boulevard
Cherokee, NC 28719
828-497-3481
www.cherokeemuseum.org

19 Qualla Arts and Crafts
The oldest and leading Native American Arts cooperative in the country offers authentic handmade Cherokee baskets, pottery, beadwork, woodcarving and other traditional crafts.

P.O. Box 310
645 Tsali Boulevard
Cherokee, NC 28719
828-497-3103
www.quallaartsandcrafts.com

20 Unto These Hills Outdoor Drama
For over 50 years, this thrilling outdoor drama has portrayed the story of the Cherokee, tracing their intriguing heritage through the ages to present day.

Mountainside Theater
Cherokee, NC 28719
866-554-4557
www.cherokee-nc.com

21 Oconaluftee Indian Village
A living history exhibit that depicts an 18th century Cherokee village and features demonstrations of tribal customs and tours based on scholarly research and Cherokee oral tradition.

218 Drama Road
Cherokee, NC 28719
866-554-4557
www.cherokee-nc.com

22 South Mountains State Park
Considered one of the state's most rugged parks, visitors can view an 80-foot waterfall and enjoy over 40 miles of trails used by hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders.

3001 South Mountains
State Park Ave.
Connelly Springs, NC 28612
828-433-4772
www.ncparks.gov