



#### Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center

Located in Asheville at Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 384, the Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center offers a high definition movie, exhibits, information desks, and a gift shop where you can purchase the *Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina* guidebook. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. 828-298-5330.

The 25 westernmost counties of the state and the Cherokee Qualla Boundary were designated the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area by Congress in 2003 in recognition of the region's natural splendor and living traditions of music, craft, agriculture, and Cherokee culture.



#### Traditional Artist Directory

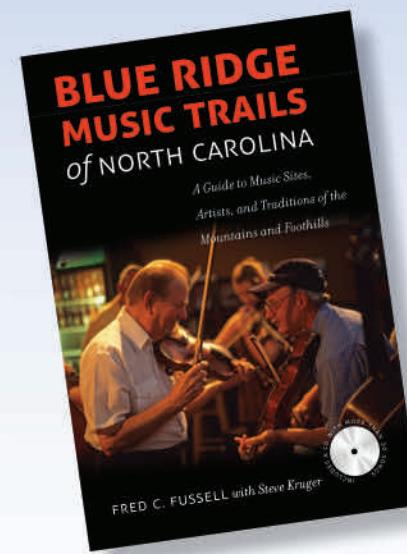
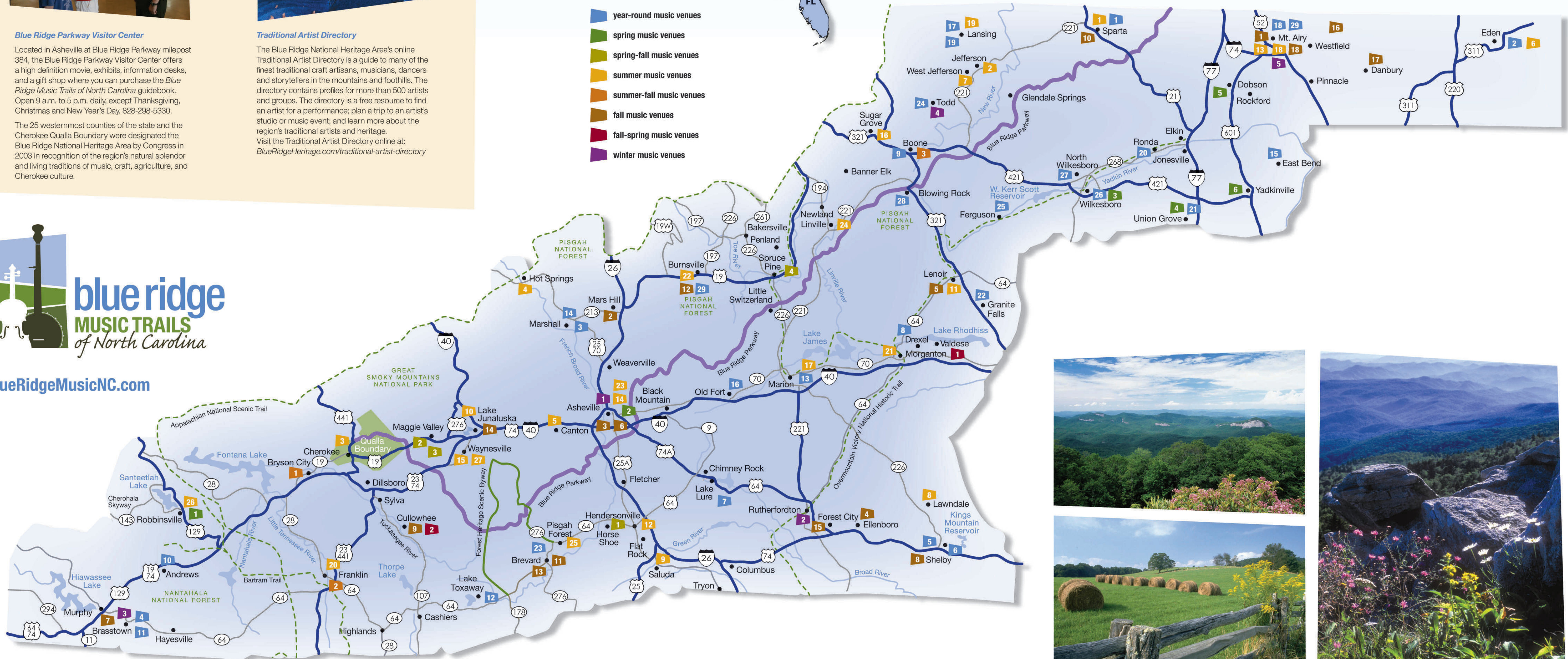
The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area's online Traditional Artist Directory is a guide to many of the finest traditional craft artisans, musicians, dancers and storytellers in the mountains and foothills. The directory contains profiles for more than 500 artists and groups. The directory is a free resource to find an artist for a performance; plan a trip to an artist's studio or music event; and learn more about the region's traditional artists and heritage. Visit the Traditional Artist Directory online at: [BlueRidgeHeritage.com/traditional-artist-directory](http://BlueRidgeHeritage.com/traditional-artist-directory)



[BlueRidgeMusicNC.com](http://BlueRidgeMusicNC.com)



- year-round music venues
- spring music venues
- spring-fall music venues
- summer music venues
- summer-fall music venues
- fall music venues
- fall-spring music venues
- winter music venues



#### Buy the Blue Ridge Music Trails guidebook

Published in association with UNC Press, the N.C. Arts Council and the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership, *Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina* by folklorist Fred C. Fussell is an insider's guide to the great music and dance traditions of the mountains and foothills. It also features a 20 music track CD. Visit [BlueRidgeMusicNC.com](http://BlueRidgeMusicNC.com) to purchase.



All locations on map are approximate. Please call ahead to confirm directions, dates and hours of events.

The map was funded with a Federal Transportation Enhancement Grant through the N.C. Department of Transportation. 75,000 copies were printed at a cost of \$0.138 per copy in March 2014.







BlueRidgeMusicNC.com

Western North Carolina is known internationally as a region rich in traditional old-time stringband music, ballad singing and bluegrass, and abounds in opportunities to experience this authentic artistry in person.

Traditional music can be heard throughout the region in a range of settings, from hometown oprys and informal jam sessions to concert stages. Festivals and old-time music conventions, some dating back almost a century, are reliable opportunities for enjoying traditional music and dance in family-friendly settings.

*The Blue Ridge Music Trails is a project of the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, and the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership to preserve and promote traditional music in western North Carolina. Visit [BlueRidgeMusicNC.com](http://BlueRidgeMusicNC.com) for more information on the region's music, venues, events, and artists.*



#### Western North Carolina Distinctions in Traditional Music

Western North Carolina has many distinctions in traditional music that set it apart, and here's a sample:

- No other state has had more influence on the development of the banjo in America: Earl Scruggs, Charlie Poole and Snuffy Jenkins, among many, created modern banjo styles.
- The fiddle and banjo ensemble tradition in Surry County's Round Peak community is emulated by musicians around the world.
- Flat-footing and clogging in Western N.C. are recognized as the most highly-developed dance traditions in the country. Team square dancing originated in Haywood County in the 1930s.
- One of the longest, unbroken ballad singing traditions in America is found in Madison County.
- Asheville's Mountain Dance and Folk Festival is the oldest continuous folk festival in the United States.
- WPAQ AM 740 in Mount Airy is the oldest live radio show that continues to program regional music from the Blue Ridge, first signing on in 1948.
- MerleFest is one of the nation's largest and most influential "Americana" music events. It was founded in 1988 by Doc Watson in memory of his son Merle.



#### Along the Music Trails

The Blue Ridge Music Trails are set in the majestic landscape of the North Carolina mountains and foothills, where you will find an abundance of great experiences:

- Scenic drives with mountain views
- Historic small towns
- Invigorating hikes and nature walks
- Hidden waterfalls
- Handmade crafts
- Bustling farmers' markets
- Pit-cooked barbeque
- Local beers and wines

As you travel the Music Trails, you'll also encounter a variety of music styles, including:

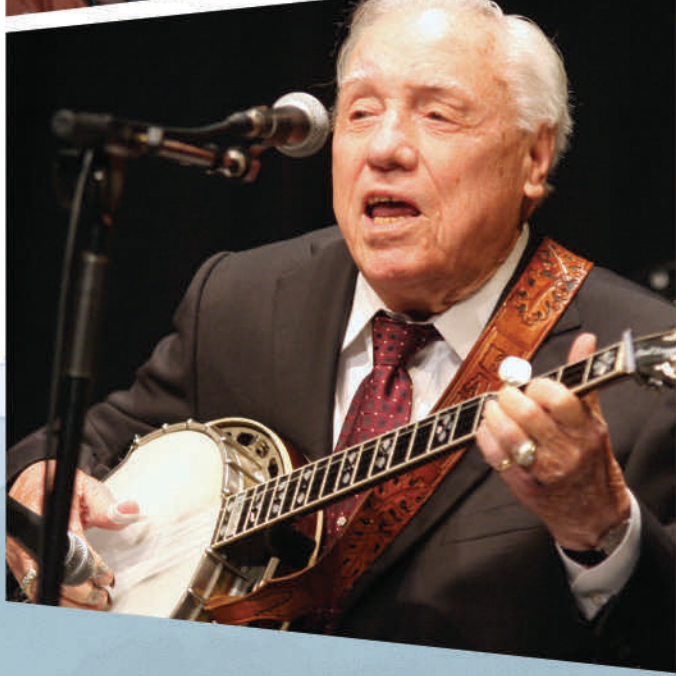
- the lonesome strains of old-time fiddling
- the fiery rhythms of bluegrass music
- the stately charm of blues guitar, Piedmont style
- the unadorned power of shaped-note singing
- and the quiet intensity of age-old ballads



#### Jam Protocol

Jam sessions in Western North Carolina are friendly events where people gather to play and listen to traditional music in an informal setting. The seating or standing arrangement of the participants varies from place to place. There is a general custom that the most experienced musicians will occupy the most central positions of the group. Typically, the assembled players at jam sessions form a circle, and the veteran musicians sit or stand right in the middle of the circle.

Other musicians often place themselves closer to or more distant from the center in accordance with their particular skill levels. There are no hard-and-fast rules. Visitors are most always welcome to participate, but every jam is different, so musicians who have an interest in joining in should be observant and respectful of local protocol. Visit [BlueRidgeMusicNC.com](http://BlueRidgeMusicNC.com) for more jam protocols.



Here's a sampling of Western North Carolina radio stations that play traditional music:

**WCQS 88.1 FM**, Asheville  
Close to Home, Saturdays at 8 p.m.;  
Country Roots with Wayne Erbsen, Sunday at 7 p.m.  
(Traditional, old-time and classic folk music)

**WKYK 1450 AM**, Burnsville  
Bluegrass every Friday at 4 p.m.

**WKVS 103.3 FM**, Lenoir  
Bluegrass all day, daily, featuring a mix of classic and current bluegrass music. Also spotlights local music

**WDSL 1520 AM**, Mocksville  
Gospel, bluegrass and country

**WPAQ 740 AM**, Mount Airy  
Bluegrass and country  
Live Radio Broadcast of Merry-Go-Round at the  
Downtown Cinema Theatre  
Every Saturday from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**WKBC 800 AM**, North Wilkesboro  
Live musical performance, Hometown Opry  
broadcast at 8 a.m. every Friday morning; Mountain  
Music Time with John Roten, Saturdays at 8 a.m.

**WNCW 88.7 FM**, Spindale  
Western North Carolina Public Radio offers a mix of music  
from bluegrass to world music. Features local artists



#### Before You Hit the Trail

Welcome to the Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolinal Included on the map are venues featured in the Blue Ridge Music Trails guidebook and a sampling of major festivals and other locations dedicated to presenting the music.

The venues are alphabetized in a seasonal at-a-glance list. Whether you can spend a week or a weekend, we invite you to sing, dance and celebrate with us.

As you begin your journey, keep in mind that even though all the events listed occur on a regular basis, it is always best to verify the information before heading out. For the most up-to-date information on venues and events, please visit [BlueRidgeMusicNC.com](http://BlueRidgeMusicNC.com).

Happy Trails!



#### year-round music venues

- 1 Alleghany Jubilee** Tuesdays & Saturdays  
The Spartan Theater, 25 North Main St., Sparta, NC 800-372-5473
- 2 The Barn** Tuesdays, 2nd & 4th Saturdays  
151 Gant Rd., Eden, NC 336-706-2144
- 3 Bluegrass Jam at Zuma Coffee** Thursday nights  
7 North Main St., downtown Marshall, NC 828-649-1617
- 4 Clay's Corner Weekly Jam Session** Fridays  
11005 Old Hwy. 64 West, Brassstown, NC 828-837-3797
- 5 Don Gibson Theatre**  
318 South Washington St., Shelby, NC 704-487-8114
- 6 Earl Scruggs Center**  
Old Cleveland County Courthouse  
103 South Lafayette St., Shelby, NC 704-487-6233
- 7 Fletcher Feed & Seed** Fridays & Saturdays  
3715 Hendersonville Rd., Fletcher, NC 828-216-3492
- 8 Jam Session at The Drexel Barber Shop**  
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays  
100 South Main St., Drexel, NC 704-907-8863
- 9 Jam Sessions at Jones House Community Center** Thursdays  
Jones House, 604 West King St., Boone, NC 828-262-4576
- 10 Jimmy's Pick n Grin** Saturdays  
220 Country Hearth Ln., Andrews, NC 828-361-6878
- 11 John C. Campbell Folk School Concert series**  
Fridays, 1st & 3rd Saturdays  
1 Folk School Rd., Brassstown, NC 800-365-5724
- 12 Lake Toxaway Community Center** Fridays  
81 Slick Fisher Rd., Lake Toxaway, NC 828-966-4060
- 13 Marion Depot Bluegrass** Thursdays  
Railroad St., Marion, NC 828-652-2215
- 14 Marshall Railroad Depot** Fridays  
The Old Railroad Depot, Main Street, Marshall, NC 828-206-2332
- 15 O'Henry's Restaurant** Fridays & Saturdays  
10225 NC 67 Hwy, East Bend, NC 336-699-8693
- 16 Old Fort Mountain Music** Fridays  
Rockett Building, Main St., Old Fort, NC 888-233-6111
- 17 Old Helton School Hog Stomp** Thursdays  
Sturgills Community  
Old Helton School Rd., Lansing, NC 336-384-4707
- 18 Old-Time Music Heritage Hall** Thursdays & Saturdays  
Earle Theatre, 142 North Main St., Mount Airy, NC 336-786-7998
- 19 Phipps General Store Jam** Fridays  
Phipps General Store  
2425 Silas Creek Rd., Lansing, NC 336-384-2382

- 20 Redding's Country Kitchen** Fridays  
708 Redding Rd., Ronda, NC 336-984-3455
- 21 Saturday Morning Jam at the Cook Shack** Saturdays  
1901 West Memorial Hwy., Union Grove, NC 704-539-4353
- 22 Sims Country Bar-B-Que** Fridays & Saturdays  
6160 Petra Mill Rd., Granite Falls, NC 828-396-5811
- 23 Thursday Night Jam at the Silvermont Mansion** Thursdays  
364 East Main St. (US 276 S), Brevard, NC 828-884-3575
- 24 Todd General Store Jam Session** Fridays  
3866 Railroad Grade Rd., Todd, NC 336-877-1067
- 25 Whippoorwill Academy and the Tom Dooley Museum**  
April – December; open by appointment only  
January – March, Saturdays & Sundays  
11929 NC 268, Ferguson, NC 336-973-3237
- 26 Wilkes Heritage Museum & the Blue Ridge Music Hall of Fame** Exhibits  
100 East Main St., Wilkesboro, NC 336-667-3171
- 27 WKPC Hometown Opry** 2nd Friday of the month  
Main Street Music and Loan  
302 Main St., North Wilkesboro, NC 336-667-2274
- 28 Woodlands Barbeque and Pickin' Parlor**  
8304 Valley Blvd., Blowing Rock, NC 828-295-3651
- 29 Young's Mountain Music** Saturdays  
26 Mountain Music Dr., Burnsville, NC 828-675-4790

#### spring music venues

- 1 Fading Voices Festival and the Snowbird Mountain Singing**  
Memorial Day weekend, Saturday  
Little Snowbird Baptist Church  
1897 Little Snowbird Rd., Robbinsville, NC 828-479-4727
- 2 Fiddlers and FolkLife Festival** April, 3rd Saturday  
Warren Wilson College  
Warren Wilson Rd., Asheville, NC 828-771-3722
- 3 MerleFest** April, last Thursday – Sunday  
Wilkes Community College  
1328 S Collegiate Dr., Wilkesboro, NC 800-343-7857
- 4 Old Time Fiddlers' Convention** Easter Weekend  
Vanhoey Farms Family Campground  
Union Grove, NC 704-539-5493
- 5 Surry Old Time Fiddlers Convention** March  
Surry Community College  
630 S Main St., Dobson, NC 336-401-8390

#### spring-fall music venues

- 1 Etowah Christian Harmony Singing**  
May & September, Saturday before the 1st Sunday  
Cummings Memorial Methodist Church  
1 Banner Farm Rd., Horseshoe, NC 828-577-1889
- 2 Maggie Valley Opry House** May – October  
3605 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 828-296-9336
- 3 Music and Dance at the Stompin' Ground**  
April – November, Fridays & Saturdays  
3116 Soco Rd. (Route 19), Maggie Valley 828-926-1288
- 4 Orchard at Altapass Live Music**  
May – September, Wednesday – Sunday, and weekends in October  
Milepost 328.3, Blue Ridge Parkway  
1025 Orchard Rd., Spruce Pine, NC 888-765-9531

#### summer music venues

- 1 Alleghany County Fiddlers' Convention** July, 1st weekend  
Alleghany Fairgrounds  
1585 U.S. 21 North, Sparta, NC 800-372-5473
- 2 Ashe County Bluegrass & Old Time Fiddlers Convention** August  
527 Ashe Park Rd., Jefferson, NC 336-846-9550
- 3 Bluegrass in Cherokee Festival** June, 2nd weekend  
1553 Wolfetown Rd., Cherokee, NC 877-782-2765
- 4 Bluff Mountain Music Festival** June, 2nd Saturday  
Hot Springs Spa & Resort  
315 Bridge St., Hot Springs, NC 828-649-1301
- 5 Canton Pickin' in the Park** June – September  
77 South Penland St., Canton, NC 828-646-3411
- 6 Charlie Poole Music Festival** June, 2nd Friday & Saturday  
Governor Morehead Park, 422 Church St., Eden, NC 336-823-1043
- 7 Christmas in July** July, 1st Saturday  
downtown, West Jefferson, NC 336-846-9196
- 8 Clear Mountain View Music Festival** August  
Elliott Family Farms, 356 London Rd., Lawndale, NC 704-472-9667

- 9 Coon Dog Day** July, 1st Saturday  
Downtown, Saluda, NC 828-749-2581
- 10 Fines Creek Bluegrass Jam** August, 2nd weekend  
190 Fines Creek Rd., Lake Junaluska, NC 828-627-3080
- 11 Heritage Day and Kiln Opening at Bolick Family Pottery**  
June, last Saturday  
Bolick Family Pottery, Blackberry Rd., Lenoir, NC 828-295-5099
- 12 Monday Night Street Dance** July – August  
Hendersonville Visitors Information Center Parking Area  
downtown, Hendersonville, NC 800-828-4244
- 13 Mountain Dance and Folk Festival**  
June, 1st weekend, Friday & Saturday  
Mount Airy Veterans Memorial Park  
691 West Lebanon St., Mount Airy, NC 336-345-7388
- 14 Mountain Dance and Folk Festival**  
August, 1st Thursday – Saturday  
Diana Worthingham Theatre, 2 South Pack Square, Asheville, NC 828-258-6101; 828-257-4530
- 15 Mountain Street Dance** July – August  
Haywood County Courthouse  
285 N Main St., Waynesville, NC 828-456-3517
- 16 Music Fest 'n Sugar Grove** July, 2nd weekend, Friday & Saturday  
Cove Creek School  
207 Dale Adams Rd., Sugar Grove, NC 828-297-2200
- 17 North Carolina State Bluegrass Festival**  
Mid-August, Thursday – Saturday  
Tom Johnson's Camping Center  
1885 US 70 West, Marion, NC 706-864-7203
- 18 Nunn Brothers Bluegrass Festival** July, last weekend  
354 Woodville Rd., Mount Airy, NC 336-351-5543
- 19 Ola Belle Reed Music Festival** August  
Lansing Creeper Trail Park  
9281 Hwy. 194, Lansing, NC 336-977-1320
- 20 Pickin' on the Square** May – early August, Saturdays  
On The Square, downtown, Franklin, NC 828-524-2516
- 21 Red, White and Bluegrass Festival** June 30 – July 4  
Catawba Meadows Park  
220 Catawba Meadows Dr., Morganton, NC 828-439-1866
- 22 RiddleFest** June, Saturday after Father's Day weekend  
Town Center, 6 South Main St., Burnsville, NC 828-682-9654
- 23 Shindig on the Green**  
July 4th – Labor Day weekend, most Saturdays  
Pack Square Park, 121 College St., Asheville, NC 828-258-6101
- 24 Singing on the Mountain at MacRae Meadows**  
June, 4th Saturday  
Grandfather Mountain  
2050 Blowing Rock Hwy., Linville, NC 800-468-7325

- 25 Songcatcher Music Series at the Cradle of Forestry**  
July, Sundays  
11250 Pisgah Hwy. (US 276), Pisgah Forest, NC 828-877-3130
- 26 Stecoah Valley Cultural Arts Center Concert Series**  
End of June – August, Saturdays  
121 Schoolhouse Rd., Robbinsville, NC 828-479-3364
- 27 Waynesville Street Dance**  
July – August, 1st Fridays after July 4th  
Haywood County Courthouse  
downtown, Waynesville, NC 828-456-3517

#### summer-fall music venues

- 1 Bryson City Depot** June – October, Saturdays  
226 Everett St., Bryson City, NC 828-488-3681
- 2 Jam Sessions at the T.M. Rickman General Store**  
May – October, Fridays  
251 Cowee Creek Rd., Franklin, NC 828-369-5595
- 3 Music at the Jones House Community Center: Concerts**  
June – September, Fridays  
Jones House, 604 West King St., Boone, NC 828-262-4576

#### fall music venues

- 1 Autumn Leaves Festival** October  
Veterans Memorial Park  
691 W Lebanon St., Mt. Airy, NC 336-786-6116
- 2 Bascom Lamar Lunsford "Minstrel of Appalachia" and Mars Hill Heritage Festival** October, 1st Saturday  
Mars Hill College Campus  
100 Athletic St., Mars Hill, NC 828-689-1571
- 3 Brewgrass Festival** September  
Martin Luther King Jr. Park  
50 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Asheville, NC
- 4 Ellenboro Fiddlers' and Bluegrass Convention**  
November, Saturday before Thanksgiving  
Ellenboro School Auditorium  
813 Piney Mountain Church Rd., Ellenboro, NC 704-453-8185
- 5 Happy Valley Old-Time Fiddler's Convention**  
September, Labor Day weekend, Friday – Sunday  
Jones Farm, 3590 NC 268, Lenoir, NC 828-396-5811
- 6 Heritage Weekend at the Folk Art Center** mid-September  
Milepost 382 Blue Ridge Pkwy., Asheville, NC 828-298-7928

- 7 John C. Campbell Folk School Fall Festival**  
October, 1st full weekend  
1 Folk School Rd., Brassstown, NC 800-365-5726
- 8 Livermush Expo and Art of Sound Music Festival**  
October, 3rd Saturday  
Old Cleveland County Courthouse  
103 South Lafayette St., Shelby, NC 704-482-7882
- 9 Mountain Heritage Days** September, last Saturday  
Campus of Western Carolina University  
1 University Dr., Cullowhee, NC 828-227-7129
- 10 Mountain Heritage Festival** September  
Main St., Sparta, NC 800-372-5473
- 11 Mountain Song Festival** mid-September  
Brevard Music Center, Whittington-Pfohl Auditorium  
349 Andante Lane, Brevard, NC 828-243-3496
- 12 Music in the Mountains Folk Festival** September, last Saturday  
Burnsville Town Center  
6 South Main St., Burnsville, NC 828-675-4790
- 13 Old-Time Mountain Music Competition at Halloween**  
October or November, Saturday closest to Halloween  
downtown, Brevard, NC 828-884-3575
- 14 Smoky Mountain Folk Festival**  
Labor Day weekend, Friday & Saturday  
Lake Junaluska Conference Center, 91 N. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Junaluska, NC 828-452-2881
- 15 Snuffy Jenkins Festival** September  
Globe Park, 153 Shakespeare Dr., Forest City, NC 877-768-3395
- 16 Stokes County Fiddlers' Convention** October  
1565 Collinstown Rd., Westerfield, NC 336-983-4951
- 17 Stokes Stomp** September, 2nd weekend, Saturday & Sunday  
Moratock Park  
Off NC 89, Sheppard Mill Rd., Danbury, NC 336-593-8159
- 18 Todd New River Festival** October, 2nd Saturday  
Cook Park, Railroad Grade Rd., Todd, NC 828-964-1362  
Veterans Memorial Park  
691 W Lebanon St., Mt. Airy, NC 336-786-6116

#### fall-spring music venues

- 1 Bluegrass at the Old Rock School**  
September – April, Friday or Saturday each month  
400 West Main St., Valdese, NC 828-879-2129
- 2 Western Carolina University Concert & Jam Session**  
October – May, 1st Thursdays  
Mountain Heritage Center Auditorium  
150 H.F.R. Building, Cullowhee, NC 828-227-7129

#### winter music venues

- 1 Bluegrass First Class** February  
Crowne Plaza Resort, Asheville, NC 828-275-8650
- 2 Christian Harmony Singing at Saint John's Church**  
December, Saturday before the 2nd Sunday  
702 North Main St., Rutherford, NC 828-287-0390
- 3 Clay's Corner New Year's Eve Celebration** December  
11005 Old Hwy. 64 West, Brassstown, NC 828-837-3797
- 4 Todd Mercantile Dances**  
January – April, one Friday each month  
3899 Railroad Grade Rd., Todd, NC 336-877-5401
- 5 Tommy Jarrell Festival** February, last weekend  
The Old-Time Music Heritage Hall at the Earle Theatre  
142 North Main St., Mount Airy, NC 336-786-7998

