

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.



Billmore Estate

Photo courtesy of Billmore™

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 **Billmore 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.)

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, blues and sacred music.



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



David Holt and Doc Watson at MerleFest
Photo courtesy of BanjoMan



Avery County Christmas tree farm

Photo courtesy of High Country Host

Cherokee culture thrives in the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area.

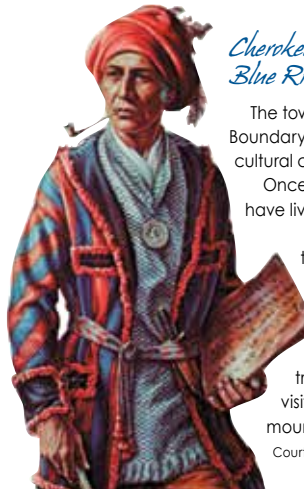
The town of Cherokee, located within the Qualla Boundary in the far western part of the state, is the cultural center of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

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



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: Biltmore Estate
 - The Southeast's most popular whitewater river: Nantahala River

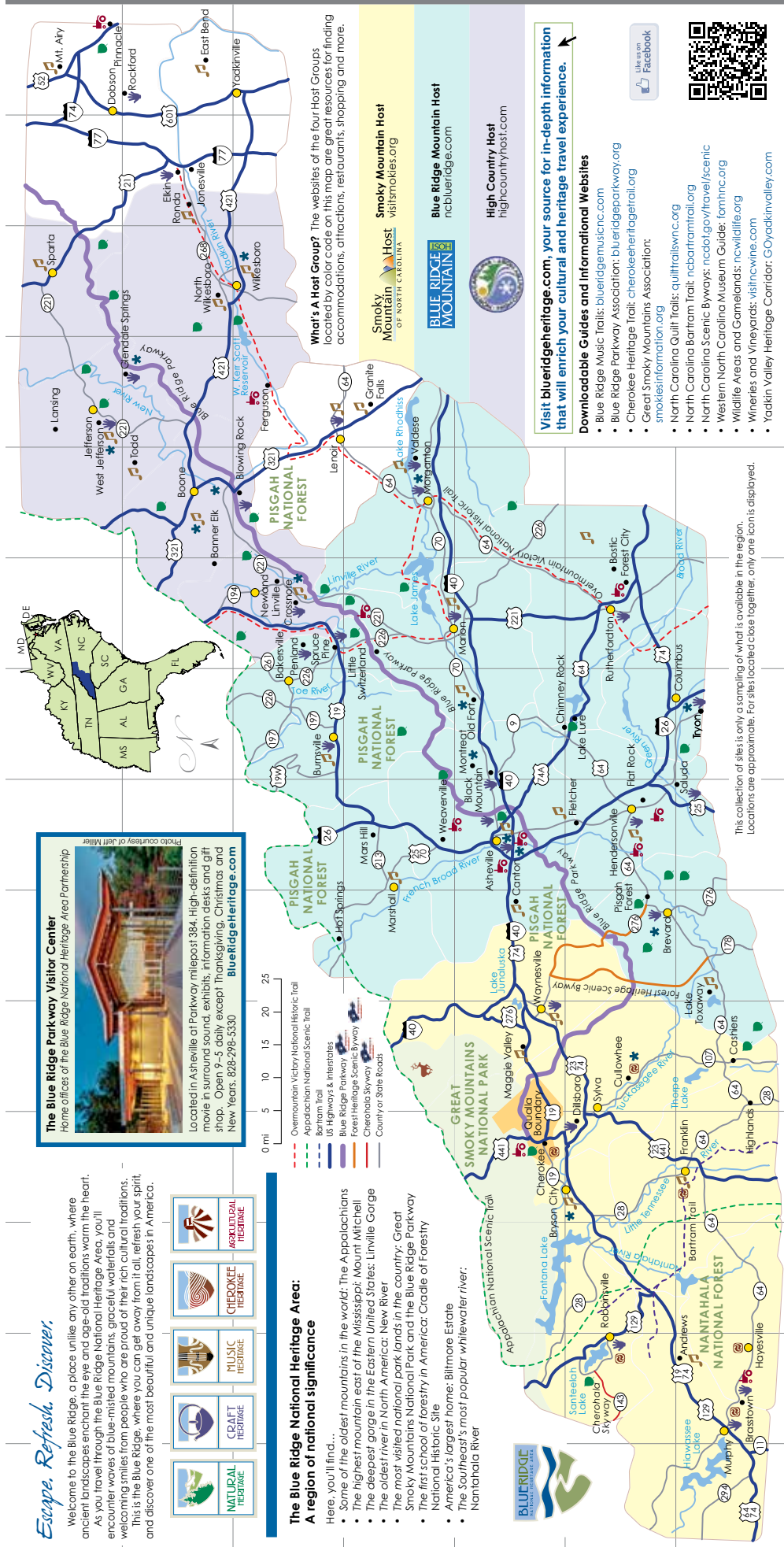


The Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center
Home offices of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership

Located in Asheville at Parkway milepost 384. High-definition movie in surround sound, exhibits, information desks and gift shop. Open 9-5 daily (except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's). 828-298-5330. BlueRidgeHeritage.com

Photo courtesy of Jeff Miller

- 0 mi 5 10 15 20 25
- Appalachian National Scenic Trail
- Pisgah National Forest
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- US Highways & Interstates
- Forest Heritage Scenic Byway
- Cherokee Scenic Byway
- County or State Roads



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.

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

Downloadable Guides and Informational Websites

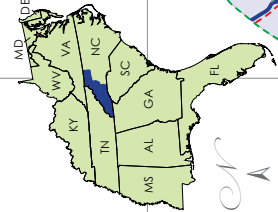
- Blue Ridge Music Trails: blueridgemusicnc.com
- Blue Ridge Parkway Association: blueridgeparkway.org
- Cherokee Heritage Trail: cherokeeheritagetrail.org
- Great Smoky Mountains Association: smokiesinformation.org
- North Carolina Quilt Trails: quilttrailsnc.org
- North Carolina Bartram Trail: ncbartramtrail.org
- North Carolina Scenic Byways: ncdot.gov/travel/scenic
- Western North Carolina Museum Guide: famhnc.org
- Wildlife Areas and Game Lands: ncwildlife.com
- Wineries and Vineyards: visitingwinery.com
- Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor: GOyadkinvalley.com



Smoky Mountain Host
visitsmokies.org

Blue Ridge Mountain Host
ncblueridge.com

High Country Host
highcountryhost.com



| SITE | TOWN | PHONE | GRID |
|--|---------------------|--------------|------|
| NATURAL HERITAGE SITES | | | |
| BR Parkway Visitor Center | Parkway MP 384 | 828-298-5330 | G5 |
| Chimney Rock State Park | Chimney Rock | 800-277-9611 | H6 |
| 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 |
| Dupont State Forest | Near Hendersonville | 828-877-6527 | G7 |
| Elk Knob State Park | Near Todd | 828-297-7261 | J2 |
| Gorges State Park | Near Cashiers | 828-966-9099 | E7 |
| Grandfather Mountain State Park | Near Linville | 800-468-7325 | J3 |
| Great Smoky Mountains National Park/Oconaluftee Visitor Center | Near Cherokee | 828-497-1905 | D5 |
| Holmes Educational State Forest | Near Hendersonville | 828-692-0100 | G6 |
| Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest | Near Robbinsville | 800-470-3790 | B6 |
| Julian Price Memorial Park | Parkway MP 295 | 828-295-7591 | J3 |
| Lake James State Park | Near Marion | 828-584-7728 | I4 |
| Linville Caverns | Marion | 828-756-4171 | I4 |
| Linville Gorge Wilderness & Falls | Parkway MP 316.4 | NA | I3 |
| Mount Mitchell State Park | Near Burnsville | 828-675-4611 | H4 |
| Mount Jefferson State Park | West Jefferson | 336-246-9653 | K1 |
| Museum of NC Minerals | Parkway MP 331 | 828-765-2761 | I4 |
| New River State Park | Near Jefferson | 336-982-2587 | K1 |
| Pearson's Falls | Saluda | 828-749-3031 | H7 |
| Pilot Mountain State Park | Pinnacle | 336-325-2355 | N1 |
| Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education | Near Brevard | 828-877-4423 | F6 |
| Rendezvous Mountain State Forest | Near N. Wilkesboro | 336-667-5072 | L2 |
| Roan Mountain | Near Bakersville | NA | I3 |
| South Mountains State Park | Near Morganton | 828-433-4772 | J5 |
| Stone Mountain State Park | Near Sparta | 336-957-8185 | L1 |
| 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 |

| CRAFT HERITAGE SITES | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------|----|
| Appalachian Heritage Crafters | Murphy | 828-835-3500 | 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 |
| Dogwood Crafters | Dillsboro | 828-586-2248 | D6 |
| Energy Xchange | Burnsville | 828-675-5541 | H3 |
| Florence Art School | Glendale Springs | 336-982-2499 | K2 |
| 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 |
| 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 |

| SITE | TOWN | PHONE | GRID |
|---|---------------|--------------|------|
| 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 |
| The Market on Oak | Spruce Pine | 828-765-0571 | I3 |
| 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 |
| Valley River Arts Guild | Murphy | 828-321-9541 | B7 |
| 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 |
| Fletcher Feed & Seed | Fletcher | 828-216-3492 | G5 |
| Jimmy's Pick n Grin | Andrews | 828-361-6878 | B7 |
| Lake Toxaway Community Center | Lake Toxaway | 828-966-4060 | F7 |
| Maggie Valley Opry House | Maggie Valley | 828-926-9336 | E5 |
| Marion Depot Bluegrass | Marion | 828-652-2215 | I5 |
| Marshall Railroad Depot | Marshall | 828-206-2436 | G4 |
| Monday Night Street Dance in Downtown Hendersonville | Hendersonville | 800-828-4244 | G6 |
| 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/EARLE Theater | Mount Airy | 336-786-7998 | N1 |
| Pickin' on the Square | Franklin | 828-524-2516 | D7 |
| Redding's Country Kitchen | Ronda | 336-984-3455 | M2 |
| Shindig on the Green | Asheville | 828-258-6101 | G5 |
| Sims Country Bar-B-Que | Granite Falls | 828-396-5811 | K4 |
| Smokey Creek Barbeque and Music Barn | Lenoir | 828-728-5398 | K3 |
| The Jones House | Boone | 828-262-4576 | J2 |
| The Old Rock School | Valdese | 828-879-2129 | J4 |
| Todd General Store (May-Dec) | Todd | 336-877-1067 | J2 |
| Todd Mercantile (Jan-May) | Todd | 336-877-5401 | J2 |
| 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 |
| Zuma's Coffeehouse | Marshall | 828-649-1617 | G4 |

| CHEROKEE HERITAGE SITES | | | |
|--|---------------|--------------|----|
| Cherokee County Historical Museum | Murphy | 828-837-6792 | B7 |
| Cherokee Homestead Exhibit | Hayesville | 828-389-3704 | B7 |
| Clay County Historical & Arts Council Old Jail Museum | Hayesville | 828-389-6814 | 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 |
| Oconaluftee Indian Village and Cherokee Visitor Center | Cherokee | 800-438-1601 | D5 |

Continued

CHEROKEE HERITAGE SITES (CONTINUED)

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|--------------|----|
| 📍 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

| | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------|----|
| 📍 Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site | Flat Rock | 828-693-4178 | G6 |
| 📍 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 |
| 📍 Vance Birthplace State Historical Site | Weaverville | 828-645-6706 | G5 |
| 📍 Whippoorwill Academy and Tom Dooley Museum | Ferguson | 336-973-3237 | K3 |
| 📍 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 |
| ★ 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 Gateway Museum | Old Fort | 828-668-9259 | H5 |
| ★ Mountain Heritage Center | Cullowhee | 828-227-7129 | E6 |
| ★ Thomas Wolfe Memorial State Historic Site | Asheville | 828-253-8304 | G5 |
| ★ Tweetsie Railroad | Blowing Rock | 800-526-5740 | J2 |
| ★ YMI Cultural Center | Asheville | 828-252-4614 | G5 |

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 Jackson County Travel & Tourism.



Photo courtesy of High Country Host



Photo courtesy of Nantahala Outdoor Center



Learn more about all there is to see and do in the North Carolina mountains and foothills!

www.BlueRidgeHeritage.com