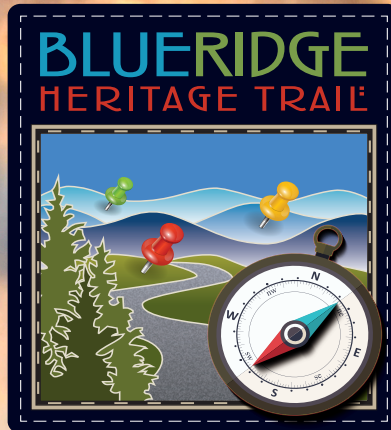


TRAIL MAP



Use this map to discover an abundance of natural and cultural treasures that lie along the Blue Ridge Heritage Trail.

Explore a trail of heritage treasures that winds throughout the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area.



On the Blue Ridge Heritage Trail you will discover stories about the people and places that have made North Carolina's Blue Ridge mountains so significant to the history of our country that the region was named a National Heritage Area.

Here among some of the world's oldest mountains, you'll get a glimpse into the distant past and learn about the earliest people who dwelt here, ancestors to the Cherokee.



You'll see spectacular scenery around virtually every bend in the road, views enriched by the stories on the trail signs that point out significant landmarks and the history of what happened there.

The music that was born and bred in these mountains is a living tradition, and many of the stops along the trail share the stories of the people and places that continue to pass along this rich musical heritage.

This region is one of the largest centers of handmade crafts in the nation, and as you follow the trail, you may meet mountain artists in their studios or sample a great variety of crafts at festivals, galleries, and museums.



An enriching adventure awaits you on the Blue Ridge Heritage Trail. Get started today!

Interactive kiosks at the five North Carolina Welcome Centers listed here offer more information that will enrich your visit.

The signs on the Blue Ridge Heritage Trail tell the stories of this magnificent scenic land and the diverse heritage of its people that together have created a culture unique to this region.

The 25 westernmost counties in North Carolina were designated the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area by the U.S. Congress in 2003. This honor was bestowed because of the impact the natural and cultural heritage of the region had on the history of North Carolina and the United States. The Blue Ridge Heritage Trail is a project of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership.



- 1 I-77 North Welcome Center**
I-77 southbound at Mile Marker 105, Dobson, NC
- 25 I-85 South Welcome Center**
I-85 northbound at Mile Marker 2, Kings Mountain, NC
- 32 I-26 East Welcome Center**
I-26 westbound at Mile Marker 68, Columbus, NC
- 42 I-26 West Welcome Center**
I-26 eastbound at Mile Marker 6, Mars Hill, NC
- 54 I-40 West Welcome Center**
I-40 eastbound at Mile Marker 10, Waynesville, NC



A QR code is located on each sign. Using a QR app on your smart phone, you can instantly link to a world of additional information at every site.

Welcome to the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area

A place unlike any other on Earth, where ancient landscapes enchant the eye and age-old traditions warm the heart.

You are now in one of America's most cherished and celebrated natural landscapes, the mountains and foothills of Western North Carolina. The natural heritage of these ancient mountains, some of the oldest in the world, combined with the cultural heritage of the people who have lived here over centuries have created a place so special in our country it has been honored with the designation of "National Heritage Area."

From high mountaintops to secluded coves, the natural beauty of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area meets the eye at every turn.

Here, you'll find...

- 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—the New River
- The most visited National Park lands in the country—Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway
- Cherokee heritage—more than 10,000 years old
- America's largest home—Billmeyer Estate
- Music born and bred in the more that has influenced
- Handcraft traditions—un
- Fresh, delicious food from markets.

Visit our website at www.blueridgeheritage.com

The North Carolina designated the recognition of their historical legacy and living traditions of music, craft, agriculture, and Cherokee culture. This location is part of a regional trail of distinctive heritage sites. Ask for information at area visitor centers.

More information online at: www.blueridgeheritage.com

The music born and bred in the more that has influenced the region's culture. This location is part of a regional trail of distinctive heritage sites. Ask for information at area visitor centers.

The region was designated a National Heritage Area in 1988 for its natural beauty, Cherokee, craft traditions, and farms, and music as well as its natural scenic beauty.

Top: David L. Lee; photos taken by a volunteer. Middle: Michaela Thompson, Photo: David L. Lee. Bottom: Michaela Thompson, Photo: David L. Lee.

QR code on a smartphone screen.



Create your own trail by visiting these sites along the Blue Ridge Heritage Trail.



2 Historic Earle Theatre

The theatre is home of the Merry-Go-Round, currently the second longest running live radio program in the nation, and the Old-Time Music Heritage Hall.

142 North Main Street, Mount Airy, NC
336-786-7998 • surryarts.org



6 St. Paul's Episcopal Church Ben Long Frescoes

Near the Old Wilkes Jail, two frescoes in the common area of St. Paul's Episcopal Church depict Biblical stories about the life of St. Paul. Part of the Benjamin F. Long IV Fresco Trail.

100 West Street, Wilkesboro, NC
336-667-4231 • blueridgeheritage.com



10 Mast Farm Inn

The Mast Farm Inn is an award-winning historic country inn and restaurant in the Valle Crucis Historical District and has been welcoming guests since the 1800s.

2543 Broadstone Road, Banner Elk, NC
828-963-5857 • themastfarminn.com



14 Gardens of the Blue Ridge

The oldest licensed plant nursery in North Carolina, Gardens of the Blue Ridge supplies wildflowers and native plants to customers in the U.S. and around the world.

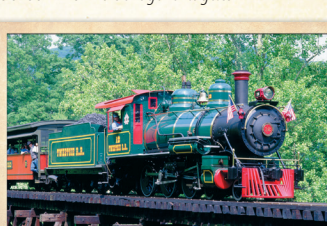
9056 Pittmans Gap Road, Newland, NC
828-733-2417 • gardensoftheblueridge.com



3 Town of Sparta

Sparta and Alleghany County have a rich heritage of music, crafts, and agriculture. A visit to Crouse Park and Sparta's quaint downtown is like a refreshing step back in time.

60 Cherry Street, Sparta, NC
336-372-5473 • visitalleghany.com



7 Tweetsie Railroad

Locomotive #12, built in 1917, takes visitors around a 3-mile loop in North Carolina's first theme park. Tweetsie offers Wild West fun for the whole family.

300 Tweetsie Railroad Lane, Blowing Rock, NC
828-264-9061 • tweetsie.com



11 Original Mast General Store

Opened in 1883, the original Mast General Store in Valle Crucis is still in full operation, with old-timey goods and candies on shelves side-by-side with contemporary merchandise.

Highway 194, Valle Crucis, NC
828-963-6511 • mastgeneralstore.com



15 Lost Cove Cliffs, Blue Ridge Parkway

Dense tree canopies shelter isolated forest inlets or "coves." From this overlook, the mysterious Brown Mountain Lights have been spotted over the centuries.

Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 310



4 Air Bellows Gap, Blue Ridge Parkway

This overlook provides a long range view of an area of mixed agriculture, with numerous Christmas tree farms dotting the landscape.

Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 236.9



8 Moses Cone Park, Blue Ridge Parkway

The Gilded Age Flat Top Manor welcomes visitors to the vast Cone estate. Inside you will find fine handicrafts in the store operated by the Southern Highland Craft Guild.

Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 294
828-295-7938 • blueridgeparkway.org



12 Grandfather Mountain

Located near Linville, Grandfather Mountain is a state park famous for its "Mile High Swinging Bridge," panoramic vistas, wildlife, events, and superb alpine hiking.

2050 Blowing Rock Highway, Linville, NC
800-468-7325 • grandfather.com



16 Linville Gorge, Brown Mountain Overlook

Nicknamed the "Grand Canyon of the East," Linville Gorge in Pisgah National Forest is one of the wildest, most rugged places in the eastern United States. It became a federal Wilderness Area in 1964.

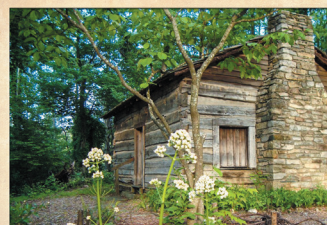
Mile marker 20 on NC Highway 181, Morganton, NC
888-462-2921 • discoverburkecounty.com



5 Old Wilkes Jail

Tom "Dooley" Dula, the subject of the well-known folksong, was one of many colorful characters to be incarcerated in the historic 19th century jail, part of the Wilkes Heritage Museum.

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



9 Hickory Ridge Living History Museum & Outdoor Drama

Learn about life on the North Carolina frontier in the days of Daniel Boone and the story of the role of mountaineers in America's war for independence.

591 Horn in the West Drive, Boone, NC
828-264-2120 • horninthewest.com



13 The Crossnore School Ben Long Fresco

Suffer the Little Children depicts this Biblical story in the chapel at The Crossnore School, a residential foster care home. Part of the Benjamin F. Long IV Fresco Trail.

100 DAR Drive, Crossnore, NC
828-733-4305 • crossnoreschool.org



17 Linville Caverns

Enchanting Linville Caverns offers tours of incredible "rooms" and fanciful underground labyrinths that have been carved in the subterranean rock by slowly moving groundwater.

19929 US-221 North, Marion, NC
800-419-0540 • linvillecaverns.com



18 Orchard at Altapass, Blue Ridge Parkway

More than 100 years old, this working apple orchard is also a place where mountain music can be heard during the warm season with dancing, performances, and jams.

Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 328.6
828-765-9531 • altapassorchard.org



22 City of Morganton Municipal Auditorium Ben Long Fresco

Sacred Dance and the Muses adorns the ceiling of this city-owned theater, a center for arts and music. Part of the Benjamin F. Long IV Fresco Trail.

401 South College Street, Morganton, NC
828-433-7469 • commaonline.org



27 Bostic Lincoln Center

The Center's exhibits tell an alternate history of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln—that he was born on Puzzle Creek, near Bostic, North Carolina, not in Kentucky.

112 Depot Street, Bostic, NC
828-245-9800 • bosticlincolncenter.com



31 Mill Spring Agriculture Development Center

This agricultural center, housed in the Historic Mill Spring School, supports local farmers and agriculture through an on-site produce store, area farmers' markets, and other projects.

156 School Road, Mill Spring, NC
828-436-0029 • polkcountyfarms.org



19 Hog Waller Market in Downtown Lenoir

Until the 1950s, this open-air market was a place for street performers, soap box orators, and musicians. Today, downtown Lenoir hosts numerous music events and festivals.

136 Main Street, Lenoir, NC
828-726-0323 • explorecaldwell.com



23 16th Century Native American Village

An outdoor living history exhibit in Catawba Meadows Park tells of 16th century Native American life in North Carolina's western Piedmont.

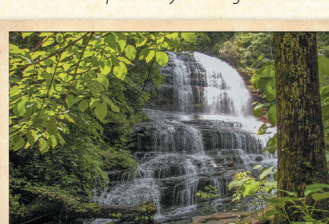
Catawba Meadows Park, 701 Sanford Drive, Morganton, NC
828-439-2463 • exploringjoara.org



28 Bechtler Mint

After NC's gold rush in the early 1800s, jeweler Christopher Bechtler opened a private mint. By 1837, he'd minted \$2.4 million in coins from local gold, including the first \$1 gold coin in the U.S.

342 Gilboa Church Road, Rutherfordon, NC
828-287-6113 • visitncgold.com



33 Pearson's Falls

Over 200 species of native deciduous and evergreen trees, flowering plants, wildflowers, and ferns thrive in this 268-acre sanctuary. A 1/4 mile, moderate trail leads to a 90-foot waterfall.

2748 Pearson Falls Road, Saluda, NC 28773
828-749-3031 • pearsonsfalls.org



20 Statesville Civic Center Ben Long Fresco

Images at the Crossroads depicts the goddess of the crossroads from ancient mythology. Two major interstate highways cross at Statesville. Part of the Benjamin F. Long IV Fresco Trail.

300 South Center Street, Statesville, NC
704-878-3493 • statesvillenc.net



24 South Mountains State Park

Outdoor enthusiasts are drawn to this park, considered the state's most rugged with its 80-foot waterfall, more than 45 miles of trails, and cold mountain streams.

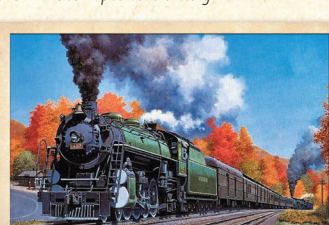
3001 South Mountains Park Avenue, Connelly Springs, NC
GPS: 35.5963, -81.6000 • 828-433-4772 • ncparks.gov



29 Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park

Enjoy 75-mile views from atop this ancient monolith that soars 1,200 feet above the valley floor. Park includes elevator access, hiking trails, waterfall, and children's trail.

431 Main Street, Chimney Rock, NC
800-277-9611 • chimneyrockpark.com



34 Saluda

Once a stop on the Drover's Road and a site of the storied Saluda Grade railroad, Saluda is home to writers and artists, with shops, galleries, and restaurants along its historic main street.

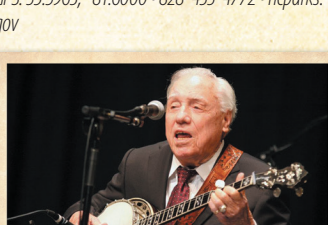
Saluda, NC • saluda.com



21 Waldensian Heritage Museum

Retrace the lives and journey of the Waldenses, a religious body in Italy that immigrated to America to escape persecution and founded the community of Valdese in 1893.

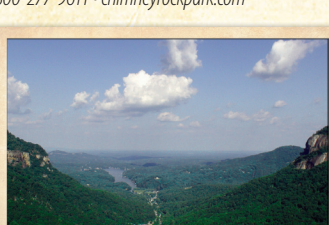
208 Rodoret Street South, Valdese, NC
828-874-1111 • waldensianheritagemuseum.org



26 Earl Scruggs Center

Learn about the life, music, and home of the legendary Earl Scruggs, who pioneered and popularized a banjo picking style that set the standard for bluegrass banjo players.

103 South Lafayette Street, Shelby, NC
704-487-6233 • earlscruggscenter.org



30 Hickory Nut Gorge

Rushing waters, rocky cliffs, a giant waterfall, lake views and pristine forests make Hickory Nut Gorge a popular destination for hikers, leaf-peepers, and photography buffs.

2932 Memorial Highway, Lake Lure, NC
828-625-2725 • hickorynutchamber.org



35 Perry N. Rudnick Art & Nature Trail

Whimsical outdoor art created by well-known artists combines with nature along this quiet one-mile pathway with interpretive signage and an array of regional plant species.

362 South Rugby Road, Hendersonville, NC
828-785-1357 • historichendersonville.org



36 Historic Johnson Farm

Once a thriving tobacco farm, later a summer boarding house, the Historic Johnson Farm now offers school children and visitors an authentic farm experience.

3346 Haywood Road, Hendersonville, NC
828-891-6585 • hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/johnson-farm



40 Historic Carson House

A rare example of an Up-Country plantation house, this was home to the Carson family which played a prominent role in politics and society during the 18th and 19th centuries.

1805 US Highway 70 West, Marion, NC
828-724-4948 • historiccarsonhouse.com



45 Thomas Wolfe Memorial

The Thomas Wolfe Memorial State Historic Site preserves the childhood home of one of the giants of American literature and showcases his life and writing.

52 North Market Street, Asheville, NC
828-253-8304 • wolferememorial.com



49 The Cradle of Forestry Blue Ridge Parkway

The Cradle of Forestry was the site of the Biltmore Forest School, the first forestry school in America. The Center includes exhibits, hiking trails, special events, a movie, and a gift shop.

Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 411
828-877-3130



37 Fletcher, Howard Gap Road

A former Native American trail, Howard Gap Road was used by settlers as part of a Drover's Road that ran for 300 miles from Charleston, SC, to the Continental Divide, near this site.

85 Howard Gap Road, Fletcher, NC
828-687-3985 • fletchernc.org



41 Mount Mitchell State Park

Mount Mitchell, easily accessible off the Blue Ridge Parkway, is the highest mountain east of the Mississippi River and the centerpiece of North Carolina's first state park.

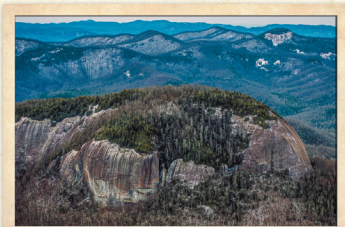
2388 NC Highway 128, Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 355.4
828-675-4611 • ncparks.gov



46 Shindig on the Green Summer Music Festival

Shindig presents authentic, traditional music and dance in a stage show on summer Saturday evenings "along about sundown" in Asheville's Pack Square Park.

121 College Street, Asheville, NC
828-258-6101, ext. 345 • folkheritage.org/shindigonthegreen



50 Looking Glass Rock, Blue Ridge Parkway

This 390-million-year-old granite monolith is named "Looking Glass" because of its appearance when rainwater freezes on its surface and reflects the sun like a mirror.

Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 413.2



38 Montreat College Ben Long Fresco

Return of the Prodigal Son rises 17 feet at the front of the Chapel of the Prodigal at Montreat College, just north of the Town of Black Mountain. Part of the Benjamin F. Long IV Fresco Trail.

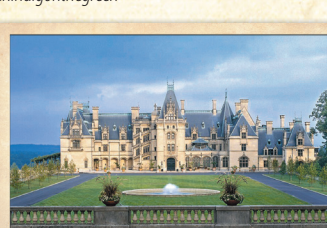
201 East State Street, Black Mountain, NC
800-669-2301 • blackmountain.org



43 Rural Heritage Museum

The stories of the history, the people, and life ways of the Southern Appalachians are told in the exhibits at the Rural Heritage Museum on the campus of Mars Hill University.

80 Cascade Street, Mars Hill, NC
828-689-1400 • mhu.edu/museum



47 Biltmore Estate

Elegant architecture, manicured gardens, a winery, restaurants, hotels, shops, and special events make a visit to "America's Largest Home" a memorable experience.

One Approach Road, Asheville, NC
800-411-3812 • biltmore.com



51 Bethel Rural Community

The Bethel Community is surrounded by natural beauty, with Black Balsam Knob, Cold Mountain, and Mount Pisgah providing striking contrast to farmlands and valleys below.

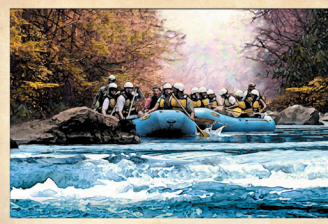
5868 Pigeon Road, Canton, NC 28716
828-421-0610 • bethelrural.org



39 Mountain Gateway Museum & Heritage Center

Open year round, the museum exhibits reflect western NC history from the pioneer era through the early 20th century, with programs, reenactments, and festivals.

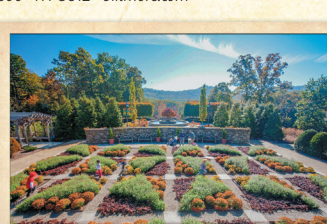
102 Water Street, Old Fort, NC
828-668-9259 • mountaingatewaymuseum.org



44 Hot Springs

The warm waters of the springs, the rush of the French Broad River, the Appalachian Trail, and a rich music tradition combine to attract visitors to Hot Springs.

106 Bridge Street, Hot Springs, NC
828-622-9932 • hotspringsnc.org



48 The North Carolina Arboretum

Considered one of the finest public gardens in the Southern Appalachians, the Arboretum emphasizes connections between local culture and the landscape.

100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, NC
828-665-2492 • ncarboretum.org



52 Museum of North Carolina Handicrafts

Housed in a Charleston-style mansion built in 1875, the museum showcases traditional North Carolina crafts and hand-crafted Native American pieces.

49 Shelton Street, Waynesville, NC
828-452-1551 • sheltonhouse.org



53 Haywood County Quilt Trails

Colorful painted quilt blocks adorn barns, public buildings, shops, and other structures with designs that represent the heritage of the people who live and work here.

44 North Main Street, Waynesville, NC
828-452-0152 • haywoodquilttrails.com



58 Unto These Hills Outdoor Drama

Unto These Hills Outdoor Drama tells the powerful story of the Cherokee from the first contact with Europeans through the infamous and tragic Trail of Tears.

Mountainside Theater, 688 Drama Road, Cherokee, NC
866-554-4557 • visitcherokeenc.com



62 North Carolina Bartram Trail

The North Carolina Bartram Trail commemorates the 1775 visit of Philadelphia naturalist William Bartram and parallels Bartram's actual route into Cherokee country.

12 East Main Street, Franklin, NC
ncbartramtrail.org



66 Cheoah, Heart of the Old Cherokee Nation

About 500 Cherokee lived in the Cheoah Valley before the United States Army forcibly deported Cherokees to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears in 1838.

At intersection of NC 143 & US 129, Robbinsville, NC
800-470-3790 • grahamcountytravel.com



55 Qualla Boundary, Blue Ridge Parkway

Here the Parkway overlooks the Qualla Boundary, home to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The Boundary is a small fragment of the extensive historical homeland of the Cherokee.

Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 458.9



59 Museum of the Cherokee Indian

Interactive video, intriguing displays, and a full sensory experience of the history of the Cherokee await visitors in this 12,000 square foot state-of-the-art museum.

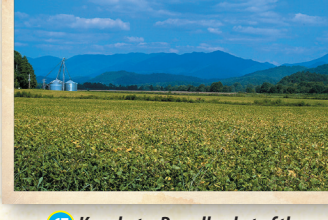
589 Tsali Boulevard, Cherokee, NC
828-497-3481 • cherokeemuseum.org



63 Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum

Hundreds of specimens on display highlight the rich gem and mineral history of this region. Visitors enjoy "mining" for rubies and other precious stones at many gem mines nearby.

25 Phillips Street, Franklin, NC
(828) 369-7831 • fgmm.org



67 Konehete, Breadbasket of the Old Cherokee Nation

The rich, fertile soil and protection from the weather of the "Long Valley" provided ideal conditions for agricultural cultivation. Immigrants changed the name to Valleytown.

Andrews Visitor Center, US 19-74-129, Andrews, NC
828-557-1185 • visitcherokeecountync.com



56 Oconaluftee Indian Village

This recreated Cherokee village of the 18th Century immerses visitors in the history and culture of the Cherokee through traditional arts, weaponry, ceremony, and dances.

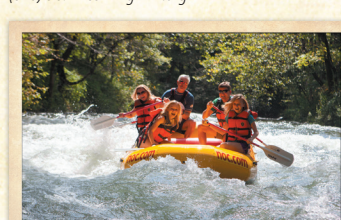
218 Drama Road, Cherokee, NC
828-497-2111 • visitcherokeenc.com



60 Judaculla Rock Petroglyphs

One of the Cherokee's most important ancestral places, Judaculla Rock is carved with approximately 1,548 designs, more than any other known petroglyph boulder in the eastern U.S.

Caney Fork Road, Cullowhee, NC
GPS: N35° 18' 05.8" W083° 06' 36.0"
800-962-1911 • mountainlovers.com



64 Nantahala Outdoor Center

The Nantahala Outdoor Center is popular for whitewater rafting, canoeing and kayaking. The campus includes two restaurants, outfitters shop, and is a destination for the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad.

13077 West Highway 19, Bryson City, NC
828-785-4834 • noc.com



68 Clay County Heritage

The Hiwassee River Valley was once home to hundreds of Cherokee, a history that comes to life at the Clay County Historical & Art Museum and five other interpretive sites.

21 Davis Loop, Hayesville, NC
828-389-6814 • clayhistoryarts.org



57 Qualla Arts & Crafts

Exquisite handmade Cherokee crafts are on display and available for sale at the oldest Native American artisan cooperative in the nation.

645 Tsali Boulevard, Cherokee, NC
828-497-3103 • quallaartsandcrafts.com



61 Little Tennessee River Greenway

This Greenway meanders along the river through Franklin, where visitors can experience wetlands and upland woods, wildflowers, and wildlife, especially migratory birds.

573 East Main Street, Franklin, NC
828-369-8488 • littletennessee.org



65 Nantahala Lake

Located in the Nantahala National Forest at an elevation 3,012 feet, the lake is the second highest lake east of the Mississippi.

17838 Wayah Road, Topton, NC



69 John C. Campbell Folk School

Visit this historic folk school founded in 1925 and immerse yourself in classes in craft and art, music, dance, cooking, gardening, and writing, as well as special events.

1 Folk School Road, Brasstown, NC
828-837-2775 • folkschool.org



70 Oconaluftee Visitor Center,
Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Museum exhibits tell of life in these mountains from Native American and early European settlement through the development of the national park.

1194 Newfound Gap Road, Cherokee, NC
828-497-1904 • nps.gov/grsm

*A special thank you to these
partners for their support.*



*Haywood
County
Government*

NC Department of Transportation

NC Department of Commerce

GIS assistance provided by NC Commerce.



For More Information
828-298-5330
BlueRidgeHeritageTrail.com
BlueRidgeHeritage.com