

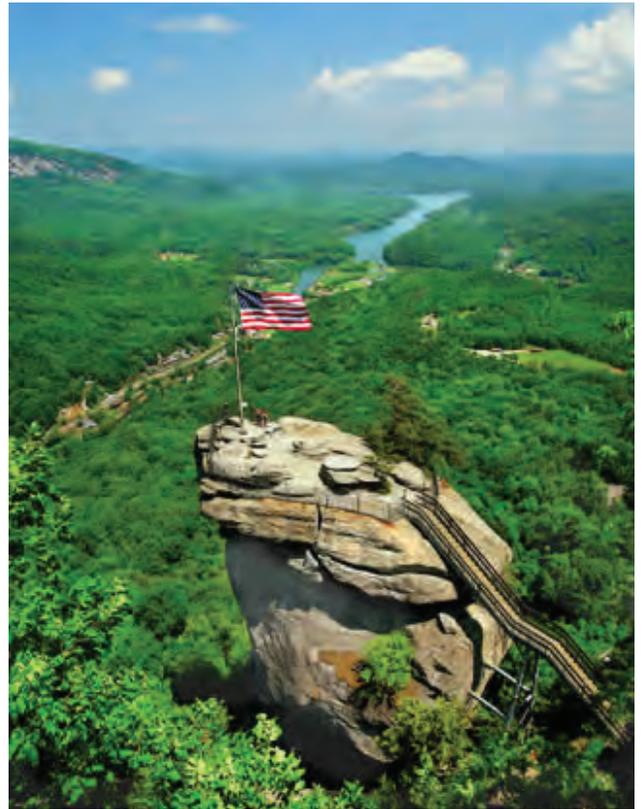
AREA ATTRACTIONS

LAKE LURE

Hidden away among the towering Blue Ridge peaks is a sparkling blue jewel... Lake Lure. And it's waiting for you to discover. Explore its history and beauty in the easy comfort of a guided boat tour from **Lake Lure Tours or the Resort Marina**. Splash in refreshing waves where they lap against a sandy beach, or set out across its shimmering serenity in a canoe or pontoon boat. Swimming, boating, waterskiing, fishing... the crystal perfection of Lake Lure is waiting – so dive in!

LAKE LURE DINNER CRUISE 9-694-3019

See exciting, beautiful sights along a picturesque shoreline! You will view many exquisite homes, scenic mountain views and more. Feel the mystique, relaxation and adventure of our dinner boat as you cruise in the evening air sipping a complimentary wine or beer. Taste exquisite flavors presented in a creative style. Enjoy a unique dining experience only offered by our chef. Reservations and advance payment required. Tuesday–Saturday (weather permitting)
6:00 pm–8:00 pm



CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK

9-625-9611

Located 20 miles southeast of Asheville, Chimney Rock is a towering granite formation that stands beside scenic Lake Lure. If you pay the entrance fee, you can ascend to the top of the rock either by stairs or elevator (when operating) where there are observation points and hiking trails that run to the spectacular 404-foot-high Hickory Nut Falls. The state park features 3 1/2 miles of nature trails, open year round, weather permitting. This is a popular and sometimes crowded attraction, but the views are wonderful!

CEDAR CREEK STABLES

9-625-2811

What better way to spend a morning or afternoon roaming mountain trails on horseback. Cedar Creek Stables is open 7 days a week (weather permitting) and is only 6 miles from the resort. Pony rides are available for kids (6 years of age and under). There is also gem mining and fishing.
www.cedarcreekstables.com

GOLF: Apple Valley & Bald Mountain

Not one, but two world class 18-hole championship courses. Imagine playing two championship courses in one day, then cap off the evening with a world class meal overlooking Lake Lure. Could you even dream-up a more perfect day? Each course has its own practiced facilities with driving



ranges, putting and chipping greens. Both courses offer golf clinics and private lessons taught by a qualified PGA professional.

Apple Valley: 9-694-3043

Bald Mountain: 9-694-3042

GOLF: Lake Lure Municipal

9-625-4472

Spend a day playing golf at the 9-hole Lake Lure Municipal Gold Course. Located only 5 miles from the resort on Highway 64/74, towards Chimney Rock.



THE ASHEVILLE AREA

Set in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Asheville (pop. 83,000) is the largest North Carolina city in the vicinity of the Appalachian Mountains and a popular resort and retirement center. It is a beautiful town, full of Art Deco architecture and several notable attractions:

BILTMORE ESTATE

Built by George W. Vanderbilt in the 1890's, the Biltmore Estate is a 250-room National Historic Landmark, the largest private residence in the United States. The mansion was modeled after a 16th century French chateau and is open for self-guided (though not inexpensive) tours. Highlights of the four-acre building include priceless art and antiques, a massive library, Banquet Hall, 65 fireplaces, an indoor bowling alley, pool, servants quarters, and now the recently restored fourth floor. Outside, there are 75 acres of gardens and landscaped grounds designed by Frederick Lay Olmstead, designer of New York's Central Park. A winery is also located on the grounds and open for tours and wine



tastings. The crowds are largest in November and December when Christmas festivities take place, and in April and May, when spring flowers adorn the grounds and rooms.

THOMAS WOLFE MEMORIAL STATE HISTORIC SITE

In downtown Asheville, the Thomas Wolfe Memorial preserves the boyhood home of the Southern novelist and Asheville native, often acclaimed to be among the greatest twentieth century American writers. The large, rambling boarding house was immortalized in Wolfe's autobiographical novel *Look Homeward, Angel*. A fire in 1998 heavily damaged the house, built in 1883, and forced its closure to the public for several years, but it is now reopened and fully restored. Adjacent is a museum and visitors center with tours offered daily, allowing visitors to step back into the world of 1916 in Asheville.

GROVE PARK INN

The Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa, built in 1913 from granite stones mined from Sunset Mountain, is one of the South's most famous grand resorts. Overlooking the Asheville skyline, it provides 510 guest rooms, two ballrooms, golf course, indoor and outdoor pools, resort shopping and four restaurants. The gem of the resort is The Spa, a world-class, 40,000 square foot subterranean retreat consistently ranked as one of the finest spas in the world.

PACK PLACE

In the heart of downtown Asheville, Pack Place is an education, arts, and science center. It is the home of the **Asheville Art Museum**, **Colburn Earth Science Museum**, the **Diana Wortham Theatre**, **The Health Adventure**, and the **YMI Cultural Center**.

FOLK ART CENTER

Located on the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway, the Folk Art Center offers a chance to explore the history and culture of Appalachia through crafts, art exhibits, events, exhibitions, shopping, concerts and classes.

BOTANICAL GARDENS

The Botanical Gardens at Asheville is an independent non-profit organization housing a collection of plants native to the Southern Appalachian Mountains, including approximately 700 species of trees, vines, shrubs, wildflowers, mosses, and other plants. Peak season is April to mid-May, but the gardens are open year round and admission is free. The gardens are located in north Asheville, next to UNC-A.

NORTH CAROLINA ARBORETUM

The North Carolina Arboretum is a 434-acre site nestled in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains outside of Asheville. An institution of the University of North Carolina, the Arboretum is a center for education, research, conservation and economic development, and garden demonstration, offering a wide range of activities for visitors of all ages. A wide variety of classes and workshops are taught by the staff and other plant experts. Educational programs target all ages and range from bonsai demonstrations to nature walks.

HENDERSONVILLE

Historic downtown Hendersonville is picturesque and is the hub of many of the community's economic, civic, cultural and social activities, drawing residents and visitors to its many offerings. One such event which draws an estimated 200,000 visitors and natives alike is the North Carolina Apple Festival, held yearly over Labor Day weekend. Henderson County produces 75% of the apples grown in the state and is recognized as one of the largest apple producing counties in the country.



WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

The western part of North Carolina is full of scenic and historic points of interest. The Appalachian Mountains rise to their highest point here, and vacationers enjoy the hiking, swimming, bird watching, camping, horseback riding, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, canoeing and rafting available throughout the area, which includes both the Great Smokies and the Blue Ridge Mountain chains. Major rivers include the French Broad, Pigeon, Catawba, Nantahala, Yadkin, New and Linville. Major recreational lakes include Fontana, Lake Toxaway, Lake James, Lake Lure, Lake Hiwassee, Nantahala, Thorpe Lake and Lake Santeelah. The Appalachian Trail runs across the mountains on its way from Alabama to Maine. Federally protected forest areas include the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. Beautiful waterfalls abound in the region, including Bridal Veil Falls, Whitewater Falls, Crabtree Falls, Linville Falls, Connetsee Falls, Toxaway Falls, Courthouse Falls and Sliding Rock. Unique sites such as the Cradle of Forestry in America, Cold Mountain, Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, Craggy Gardens on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Linville Caverns, Ghost Town in the Sky, Mount Pisgah, Wiseman's View, the Brown Mountain Lights and Clingman's Dome attract visitors with all types of interests. Colleges and universities feature libraries, beautiful campuses and performing and visual arts centers, including Appalachian State in Boone, Mars Hill College in Mars Hill, Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, Lenoir-Rhyne in Hickory and Warren Wilson in , and well as numerous community and technical colleges. The region is diverse, scenic and an increasingly popular vacation destination.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Thirty miles west of Asheville, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most visited national park in the country. Straddling the border between North Carolina and Tennessee, the park is world famous for its diversity of plant and animal life, the beauty of the ancient mountains, and its preservation of the Southern Appalachian mountain culture. The mountains get their name from the bluish haze that has always clung to them; they are thought to be among the oldest mountains on Earth, having formed over 500 million years ago. The park offers camping, backpacking, horseback riding, bird watching, fishing, sightseeing, and over 800 miles of trails. Wildlife abounds, as do waterfalls and several historic sites, including the remains of a frontier settlement at **Cades Cove**. Hiking opportunities abound – you'll need a back country permit for overnight

hikes, and they can be hard to come by in peak season. Reserve in advance, if possible: phone 423-436-1231. One of the parks biggest draws is the hike up **Mount Leconte** (one of your better chances of seeing a bear – but keep your distance if you do). If you'd like to drive to a high summit, you can take the road to **Clingman's Dome**, the highest point in the park.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

Located in the western portion of the state, and running through Asheville, this beautiful 470 mile drive begins in Virginia at the southern end of the Shenandoah National Park and ending at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It touches several mountain ranges, from the Smokies to the Shenandoahs, but basically follows the Blue Ridge Mountains on the eastern side of the Appalachians. It has been called America's Most Scenic Highway. Along the way, visitors will find historic sites, spectacular scenery, displays of mountain culture and museums on regional subjects. Although most popular in the fall (for foliage) and spring (for wildflowers), any time between May and October is good, when most of the visitor facilities are open. Be aware the parkway doesn't make for fast traveling: the speed limit is never above 45mph as the road winds up and down mountains, rather than skirting them. There are hundreds of scenic turnoffs and other sights you won't be able to resist. It will take at least three days to complete the full route.

MT. MITCHELL STATE PARK

The tallest mountain east of the Rocky Mountains, Mt. Mitchell stands 6,684 feet. You can drive to the top and the short walk to the observation tower where you will be rewarded with spectacular views... on a clear day. The 1,185 acre park offers camping, hiking, horseback riding and includes many rare species of plant and animal life. While Mt. Mitchell is the highest peak of the Black Mountain Range, this ancient group of mountains contains 6 of the 10 highest peaks in the eastern United States.

PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST

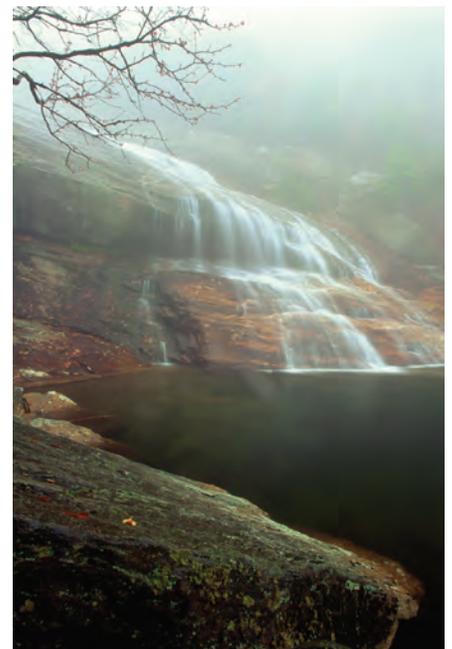
The Pisgah National Forest consists of over half a million acres of forest surrounding Mt. Pisgah. The beginnings of the Pisgah National Forest occurred when George Vanderbilt assembled property around his growing 125,000 acre estate at the confluence of the Swannanoa and French Broad Rivers. One of the acquisitions included Mt. Pisgah. Thousands of acres of his "Pisgah Forest" were managed for the production of timber, water, and other natural resources, first by Gifford Pinchot, forester, conservationist, and first Chief of the Forest Service. The forest today includes many waterfalls, hiking and camping opportunities, and sites such as the **Cradle of Forestry**, and the **Shining Rock and Middle Prong Wilderness Areas**.

WATERFALLS

Western North Carolina is renowned for its many beautiful waterfalls. Some of the most visited include Hickory Nut Falls at Chimney Rock, Linville Falls at the head of the Linville Gorge, and Looking Glass Falls in Pisgah National Forest. Transylvania County alone is home to over 250 waterfalls, including the 400-foot drop of Whitewater Falls, the highest east of the Rockies. Visit www.visitwaterfalls.com for more information, or for an interactive map, go to www.northcarolinawaterfalls.info.

HOT SPRINGS

Hot Springs, located in the mountains of Western North Carolina along the banks of Spring Creek and the French Broad River, is a town rich in history, serving as an intersection along the historic Appalachian Trail. Visitors enjoy the shops and restaurants of the town and are especially drawn by the famous thermal waters of Hot Springs. The 100 acre Resort & Spa features tubs supplied with a continuous flow of the 104 degree natural mineral waters.



FLAT ROCK PLAYHOUSE

The Flat Rock Playhouse is the State Theater of North Carolina. What began as a few weeks of summer performances in 1940 is now an eight month season of plays including Broadway musicals, comedy, drama, and theatre for young audiences. The Playhouse's dual mission of producing the performing arts and providing education in the performing arts includes a ten-show professional series; a summer and fall college apprentice and intern program; performances and cabaret series by the YouTheatre; year-round classes and workshops for students from kindergarten through adults. Flat Rock Playhouse now hosts over 80,000 patrons annually and is a major contributor to the local economy and the Arts in North Carolina.

CARL SANDBURG HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Carl Sandburg, nationally renowned poet, biographer, newspaper columnist, folksinger, and winner of two Pulitzer Prizes, lived the last 22 years of his life in Flat Rock. Sandburg's home, Connemara, is a national historic site which includes the Sandburg residence, a dairy goat farm and associated buildings that is home to the Connemara Farms goat herd, sheds, rolling pastures, mountainside woods, five miles of hiking trails on moderate to steep terrain, two small lakes, several ponds, flower and vegetable gardens, and an apple orchard.

NANTAHALA OUTDOOR CENTER – FRENCH BROAD RIVER OUTPOST

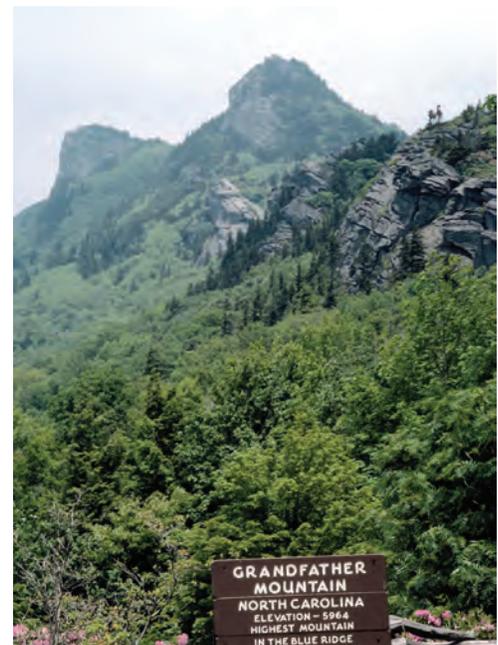
Nantahala offers rafting trips on one of the world's oldest rivers. The French Broad's whitewater section winds through a wide, lush valley north of Asheville. As you paddle the rapids, you'll enjoy panoramic views of Pisgah National Forest. All trips are guide-assisted. Discount coupons and additional information is available at the Front Desk.

CHEROKEE

Located near the Cherokee Indian Reservation, or Qualla Boundary, in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and home to the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians (those who escaped the forced move to Oklahoma over the infamous Trail of Tears). The Cherokee had established semi-permanent villages in this region as far back as 8000 B.C. This history is documented in the Museum of the Cherokee Indian. Other attractions include the Oconaluftee Indian Village (a community re-created to appear as it would have in the late 1700's); the summer symphonic outdoor drama *Unto These Hills*, which tells the story of the Cherokee from 1540 up through their removal to the West, and the Harrah's Cherokee Casino and Resort. The Cherokee Indian Heritage Days and Pow Wow (songs, dances, arts and crafts) takes place in July.

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN

At 5,362 feet above sea level, Grandfather Mountain (near Linville) is the highest point in the Blue Ridge Mountains. A trip to the top of this privately owned peak (about \$10 admission) offers more than great views. A nature preserve protects bald eagles, black bears, cougars and other native species... some of which can be viewed in their natural habitats. A nature museum has some excellent exhibits on the animals and plants of the area. The mountain's famous Mile High Swinging Bridge really does swing, and it's quite a thrill when you look at the chasm that's below you. But one of the best parts of Grandfather is the network of hiking trails that run 12 miles across the face of the mountain; some trails incorporate ladders to negotiate the rugged terrain. It's also possible to hike up and down the mountain along several routes, rather than drive it, though it's a strenuous climb of several hours each way. You need to buy a hiking pass before you make the climb (available at the entrance gate to the mountain or at wilderness outfitters in the area), which costs about half as much as the regular drive-up admission price. The Highland Games, a large Scottish heritage festival, takes place on the mountain in July.



BLOWING ROCK

Ten miles east of Grandfather is one of the most scenic stretches of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The town of Blowing Rock is perched over a lowland valley and has nice views of the mountains stretching away to the southwest. The town takes its name from its main attraction... the Blowing Rock, which catches strong winds rising from the valley. Drop something light, like a handkerchief, over the edge and it will supposedly blow back to you. Outside of town is the **Tweetsie Railroad**, an amusement park that centers on a train ride powered by a restored steam locomotive. Along the way, the train is attacked by mock robbers, so kids are advised to take along their cap pistols.

BOONE

North of Blowing Rock, Boone is the largest town in the northwestern North Carolina mountains and home to Appalachian State University. The town was named for Daniel Boone, who blazed a wilderness trail through the area in the late 1700's. The outdoor drama *Horn in the West* is staged late June through mid-August. Explore the town's shops, restaurants, arts and crafts, and the University, which features an Appalachian Cultural Museum on the traditional lifestyles of the mountain region.

CHARLOTTE

Farther east in the piedmont, lies Charlotte, with a skyline of modern and post-modernist skyscrapers. Our favorite building in the downtown area (known as Uptown) is the Cesar Pelli-designed Nations Bank Corporate Center. It houses a performing arts center, where the Charlotte symphony and local opera, theater and dance companies perform. Visitors should see the **Mint Museum of Art** (housed in the building that was the first branch of the U.S. Mint). It offers permanent and changing exhibitions of American and European



paintings, pottery, porcelain, period costumes, and African and pre-Columbian artifacts. Charlotte's **Discovery Place**, a hands-on museum, is one of the largest science centers in the country. It includes a tropical rain forest and an aquarium where you can handle living creatures from the sea. Families with children may want to schedule one day there and another at **Paramount's Carowinds** theme park. Eleven miles south of Charlotte, the park has more than 50 rides (including 13 different roller coasters), a water park, live shows and historic attractions. The **Charlotte Motor Speedway** is one of the nation's finest auto-racing facilities, and two major events on the NASCAR circuit take place here every year in May and October. Also, visit the newly opened NASCAR Hall of Fame, which has many interactive exhibits along with tributes to NASCAR legends. If you'd like to learn what it's like to pilot a stock car you can get behind the wheel and cruise around a pro track at the Richard Petty Driving Experience (don't expect the sport legend to be there, though). Charlotte has professional football (the NFL's Panthers) and professional basketball (the NBA's Bobcats). Among Charlotte's annual events is **Springfest**, an open-air arts and cultural festival that takes place in April.