



BRYSON CITY

North  Carolina

Have a Big Vacation in a Small Town!

Get immediate access to over 500 hi-res images of the NC Smokies and Bryson City at GreatSmokies.com/media. There you'll also find links to our "Bryson City in 30 seconds" video, fact sheet, trip ideas and itineraries.

"If you can't find something exciting to do in Bryson City, you're not breathing"*

Bordering the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Western North Carolina, Bryson City is a laid-back, non-touristy town where you don't have to worry about what to wear or having a set of concrete plans. With only 1,500 residents, it's an easily stroll-able town with local bookstores, galleries with working artisans, family friendly museums, two breweries, & a surprising variety of restaurants. And a river flows through it ...enjoy standup paddleboarding, kayaking and fishing delayed harvest waters of the Tuckasegee River right in our downtown. GreatSmokies.com/downtown



Yet the town's size and easy-going atmosphere belies Bryson City's reputation as a premier outdoor adventure capital. It's the activities *surrounding* town that draw thousands to the area each year – activities such as whitewater rafting, hiking, tubing, boating, kayaking, mountain biking, paddleboarding, fishing, horseback riding, and ziplining.



'Brew-son City' – expect the unexpected

Known for two breweries and plenty of restaurants serving locally-crafted brews, Bryson City also has two taprooms in unexpected places. Imagine coming back from an afternoon of flying on single-track trails and having a beer at Tsali Cycles where you rented your bike. Or returning your paddle board rental to Bryson City Outdoors and enjoying a cold brew while shopping for outdoor gear or picking up a selection of bottled international brews to go. Or just stop by either place anytime. You don't really need a reason to visit the mountains, but just in case you do ...

GreatSmokies.com/winebrew

Scenic train excursions bound to please family members of all ages

See the Smokies by train! Great Smoky Mountains Railroad's historic #1702 steam engine and diesel engines give you an easy ride to enjoy mountain and river views on trips across the Fontana Lake trestle to the Nantahala Gorge, or through a tunnel and past The Fugitive movie train wreck to historic Dillsboro.



Try one of the BBQ & Brews or Wine Pairing special trains, or just some good old moonshine in the 'Shine & Dine' car on Nantahala runs. Packages are available to add ziplining, jeep tours or rafting to your train experience. Special themed excursions include Peanuts Easter Beagle Express, Peanuts Pumpkin Patch Express, & Polar Express (November – December). GSMR.com

*101 Best Outdoor Towns" guidebook by Greg Melville and Sarah Tuff.

Mountain tubing can be an easy float or a wild, whitewater ride

Want to have a full day of outdoor fun for just \$6 a person? Just 5 minutes outside Bryson City is the Deep Creek Recreation Area of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where the tubing is amazing. The tube run starts wild and bouncy, then the creek widens and slows down to a lazier run just below a great swimming hole. You'll pass right below one of the 3 waterfalls in Deep Creek on your tube. Enjoy hiking to the other two falls, mountain biking, picnicking, and fly fishing – lots of family friendly, affordable activities. GreatSmokies.com/deepcreek



Relax in a unique, treetop soaking cabana with a beautiful lake view

Searching for something romantic and memorable? Or just need to relax or detox? Check out the treetop soaking cabana at Lakeview at Fontana, a boutique mountain inn and spa. Set on a forested hillside the secluded, open-air cabana features an oversized stand-alone tub (large enough for two), private deck, and a spectacular view of Fontana Lake & the Smoky Mountains. LakeviewAtFontana.com

'The Road to Nowhere' – a haunting and beautiful first-time adventure

Known to locals as 'The Road to Nowhere,' Lakeview Drive is a scenic 6-mile drive into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park that ends at the mouth of a tunnel. What's the story? When Fontana Dam was built and the National Park was created in the 1940s, NC Highway 288 was covered by water. A replacement road was promised and construction was begun in the 1960s but stopped permanently soon after due to environmental issues. It's a beautiful mountain drive by car or bike with overlook of Fontana Lake and access to several Park trails and great fly fishing. GreatSmokies.com/roadnowhere



The small town that goes big for Christmas

Starting with the first rides on The Polar Express in early November, Bryson City embraces the Christmas spirit. The streets are decorated with holiday lights and garlands; the Town Christmas Tree stands tall; the old toy maker spins his tales and makes wooden toys; Santa sits on the cabin porch for visits with children; letters are written and mailed to Santa; the "Biggest Little Christmas Parade in the Smokies" takes to the streets; and our shops offer plenty of gifts and one-of-a-kind arts and crafts, as well as tasty foods and wines. Enjoy the mountains at Christmas-time.

GreatSmokies.com/Christmas



Bryson City is 1 hour west of Asheville; just 2 hours from Greenville, Knoxville & Chattanooga; and 3 hours from Atlanta and Charlotte.

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