

North Carolina Mountain Towns of Cashiers, Cherokee, Dillsboro, Sylva, Balsam, Cullowhee, Glenville and Sapphire



Jackson County, NC

Cashiers, Cherokee, Dillsboro, Sylva, Balsam, Cullowhee, Glenville and Sapphire are the distinct locales that make up Western North Carolina's Jackson County, a place of lofty peaks, rushing water and spectacular scenery. Each of these Blue Ridge Mountain towns provide rich natural beauty that invites visitors to experience the idyllic North Carolina mountains. Explore miles of hiking trails surrounded by unspoiled forests or discover the area's shopping, dining, culture and hometown atmosphere. Experience the thrill of whitewater rafting and tubing or the more laid back adventures of fly fishing, boating, golf or a scenic drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway. www.MountainLoversNC.com

Hooked on Jackson County



Jackson County, North Carolina is home to the nation's first only fly fishing trail, the Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail. Created in 2009, the trail maps out 15 prime spots to catch brown, rainbow and brook trout. With more than 4,600 miles of streams, Jackson County features the state's longest contiguous stretch of Mountain Heritage Trout waters. In June 2016, state legislators recognized Jackson County as the Premier Fishing Destination in the state. An official designation recognizing Jackson County as the N.C. Trout Capital could come as early as January 2017. The waters are stocked with more than 92,800 fish annually-more than any other county in the state. Outfitters and angler guide services such as Brookings, Hookers, BlackRock/Orvis Outdoor and AB's Fly Fishing are ideal for both novice and advanced fishermen. Whether you're looking for wide-open rivers or secluded mountain streams, the WNC Fly Fishing Trail has you covered. The heart of the trail,

the Tuckasegee River, is the county's largest body of water, flowing some 40 miles. www.flyfishingtrail.com

Autumn Adventures

Jackson County is the only place in the country where you can see the fall phenomena known as the "Shadow of the Bear." From mid-October to mid-November, when the sun sets behind Whiteside Mountain, its shadow casts the perfect image of a black bear over the mountain's colorful landscape. That's not the only superlative in fall: Jackson County makes up a significant stretch of the Blue Ridge Parkway, including Richland Balsam, the highest point on the parkway at 6,047 feet above sea level. Hike under a blanket of fall foliage in Jackson County, which includes a gateway to the southeastern entrance of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Backpack in Panthertown Valley, known as the "Yosemite of the East." This Blue Ridge National Heritage Area features 12 waterfalls and more than 30 miles of backcountry trails. For families, Whiteside Mountain has a two-mile loop hike that straddles the Eastern Continental Divide. Throughout the hike the ridgeline showcases stunning views of the red and gold tones of the Appalachian Mountains. The mountain is believed to be one of the oldest mountains in the world, between 390 to 460-million-years-old.



I Do's with a View

No matter the time of year, Jackson County is perfect for a destination wedding. Whether brides want a rustic, mountain-chic theme or are looking for romantic elegance, Jackson County has the answer. Bear Lake Reserve, Lonesome Valley, Sapphire Valley Resort, Balsam Mountain Preserve, High Hampton Inn and the Sawyer Family Farmstead are a few of the full-service venues with stunning mountain views and exceptional wedding services. The county boasts wedding accommodations that include bed and breakfasts, cabins, cottages, resorts and hotels, which are



perfect for all budgets. There are plenty of spas and salons ideal for helping the bride get ready on her special day. www.mountainloversnc.com/wedding-destinations

Wacky Races and Winter Celebrations

Imagine watching someone climb into a decorated outhouse built on skis, sit on a toilet seat and fly down a modest snow-packed slope—all while attempting to stay upright without crashing into the banks. That's a taste of Sapphire Valley's annual Outhouse Races, happening on Feb. 20, 2017. Skiers, snowboarders, and tubers can hit the slopes at Sapphire Valley all winter long. Make holiday memories with the family by visiting a Fraser fir farm to choose and cut a Christmas tree—the Richland Balsam mountain range is home of the southernmost natural stand of Fraser fir in the world. During the holidays, join in Jackson County's small-town festivities including Christmas parades, the Cashiers Festival of Trees, and a display of 2,500 luminaries for Dillsboro's Lights and Luminaries.



Best spot to view the Total Solar Eclipse

On Aug. 21, 2017, the Great American Eclipse will cross the United States and cities inside the 70-mile-wide path of the eclipse from Oregon to South Carolina will experience darkness in the middle of the day. Jackson County towns are in the direct path of totality. Times of total darkness include 1:45 for Sylva, 1:50 for Dillsboro, 1:55 for Cullowhee, and 2:23 for Cashiers. At 2:35 p.m. on Aug. 21, 2017, the sky will turn pitch black, the air will cool, and the stars will be visible. Jackson County is turning the once-in-a-lifetime occurrence into an entire weekend of concerts, educational events and more. Hotel rooms are expected to sell out – visit www.NCEclipse.com and book your trip today.



Multigenerational Weekend Getaways

Multigenerational family vacations are becoming more popular, as grandparents want to make memories with their grown-children and their grandchildren. Encourage family bonding in a new kind of way, with a mountain escape filled with easy-to-access waterfalls, fishing, outdoor festivals and a family-sized cabin to act as home base. A short drive outside of Cashiers takes visitors to Sliding Rock or Silver Run Falls, where in warm weather, kids can splash in swimming holes. Witness one of North Carolina's natural wonders, Whitewater Falls, the second-highest cascade east of the Rockies at 811 feet. Year-round, celebrate the season with outdoor festivals, from Greening Up the Mountains in Spring to ColorFest and Cashiers Fall Leaf Festival in Autumn. In the summer from Memorial Day to Labor Day, live and local outdoor concerts are hosted every weekend in Cashiers and Sylva. The quintessential place to stay in the mountains is a historical inn or a cabin, and Jackson County is full of vacation rentals and cabins that are large enough to host families.



www.MountainLoversNC.com/stay

Elevated Appetites & Brews

Jackson County's cuisine runs the gamut from high-end, white linen dining to no-frills food truck burgers and fries, all with stunning mountain views to match. Make a reservation at The Orchard or Lonesome Valley's Canyon Kitchen in Cashiers, or Lulu's On Main in Sylva—expect creative plate presentations and a date-night atmosphere. For families, Slab Town Pizza in Cashiers serves pizzas with home-made NY-style dough, and Sylva's Guadalupe Café is reminiscent of a retro soda fountain shop. Eat outdoors at Cornucopia in Cashiers, known to have the best covered porch dining in the county.

Sylva is home to three walkable breweries, all within one mile of each other.

Heinzelmännchen Brewery pours German brews and visitors can stop by local chocolatier Baxley's to create their own "chocolate and beer tasting." Innovation Brewing serves 37 beers on tap, with something for everyone. Sneak E. Squirrel has nine rotating beers on tap and a special "Hop Infusion" option where you choose hops to infuse into one of their IPAs via a French Press. All are family-friendly and offer a non-alcoholic house-made soda on draft. Be it hop-infused craft beer, artisan chocolates, farm-to-table fare, or good ole country cooking, visitors are sure to get a unique culinary experience in Jackson County.

www.MountainLoversNC.com/eat

