



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](https://www.GreatSmokies.com/media). There you'll also find links to our "Bryson City in 30 seconds" video, fact sheet, trip ideas and itineraries.

2020: 75th Anniversary of Fontana Dam

The first water came through Fontana Dam in January of 1945, making 2020 the 75th anniversary of this magnificent structure. The dam is operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority, which built the dam in 3 years to serve the growing electricity demands in the Tennessee Valley at the height of World War II. At 480-feet-high, Fontana is the tallest dam in the Eastern United States.

The dam impounds the 29-mile-long Fontana Lake, which spreads across a scenic stretch of the Little Tennessee River along the southwestern boundary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Its reservoir required the purchase of 68,292 acres of land, 5,125 acres of which were forested and had to be cleared. 1,311 families, 1,047 graves, and over 60 miles of roads had to be relocated. [GreatSmokies.com/fontana](https://www.GreatSmokies.com/fontana)



Newly Opened: Appalachian Rivers Aquarium

Have you ever seen a Hellbender (aka Snot Otter, Devil Dog or Grampus)? Or viewed trout from the underside of a waterfall? You can experience all this and more at the Appalachian Rivers Aquarium. Located on the Tuckasegee River, the aquarium is part of the Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians, also in Bryson City. The combination of these two facilities provides a one-of-a-kind discovery place to learn about the diversity of nature in our streams, rivers and other waters. [FlyFishingMuseum.org/aquarium](https://www.FlyFishingMuseum.org/aquarium)

Dining with a unique perspective

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. There are 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.

There are special trains with unique food & drink pairings throughout the year. What goes better with an evening ride to Fontana Lake? **BBQ & Brews**, of course! Craving **surf & turf paired with wine**? Experience "uncorked" with an onboard narrator presenting each wine pour. **Moonshine** more your idea of fun? Settle into the 'Shine & Dine' car on Nantahala runs for triple-distilled samples along with your meal. [GSMR.com](https://www.GSMR.com)





Relax in unique, treetop soaking cabanas with beautiful lake views

Searching for something romantic and memorable? Or just need to relax or detox? Check out the treetop soaking cabanas at Lakeview at Fontana, a boutique mountain inn and spa. Set on a forested hillside each 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

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

Want to have a full day of outdoor fun for \$6 a person? Just 5 minutes outside Bryson City is the Deep Creek 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



'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/road-nowhere

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 50-feet tall; the old toymaker spins his tales and makes wooden toys; Santa sits on the cabin porch for visits with children; wish lists are written; 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 & 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.

For more information contact:

Ellen Snodgrass, Marketing

828-497-2574 direct line

Ellen@GreatSmokies.com

Bryson City NC / Swain County Chamber of Commerce

210 Main Street • PO Box 509

Bryson City, North Carolina 28713

828-488-3681

GreatSmokies.com