



# Burnsville, NC

ExploreBurnsville.com

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## Hike the Highest Trails in the East

With more than 100 miles of public hiking trails, including the highest trails in the Eastern United States, Burnsville is the Hiking Capital of Western North Carolina. Mount Mitchell Trail is the hiking centerpiece, beginning in a campground at 3,000 feet elevation and ascending to the 6,684-foot summit of Mount Mitchell — **the highest point east of the Mississippi.**

Approximately a third of Burnsville's 100 trail miles are above 6,000 feet in elevation. For those who want 80-mile views from Mount Mitchell's peak without the strenuous hike, a .15-mile paved trail stretches from the parking lot to the observation deck.

## Meet the Artists of the Toe River Valley

Follow any road in Yancey County's Toe River Valley area, and you'll likely arrive at an artist's studio. Hundreds of artists and crafters live and create along the rural backroads, drawing inspiration from the surrounding natural beauty. Artists work with clay, glass, wood, metal, fiber, paint and more. The Toe River Arts Council hosts a studio tour twice a year to give people an opportunity to meet and talk with artists. **(The 2021 fall tour is Nov. 12-14.)** As you journey through the country from one studio to the next, you'll meet artists like Nathan Favors (pictured), a skilled wood turner who uses a lathe to craft beautiful wooden bowls and other pieces of hand-made art.



## Savor Appalachian Flavor at Homeplace & Second Home

Burnsville native John Silver believes in his hometown, and he wants others to feel the same. A veteran of the WNC brewery industry, he opened Homeplace Beer Co. in 2017. The brewery focuses on sessionable beers with ingredients true to the region, such as corn grits and local honey, served in a welcoming three-story showplace with an expansive beer garden. Next door, Silver and his team recently opened Second Home, which serves elevated comfort food described as "down home, done up." Think hushpuppies with jalapeño tartar sauce, a cheese board with boiled peanuts and trout cakes with zucchini noodles.



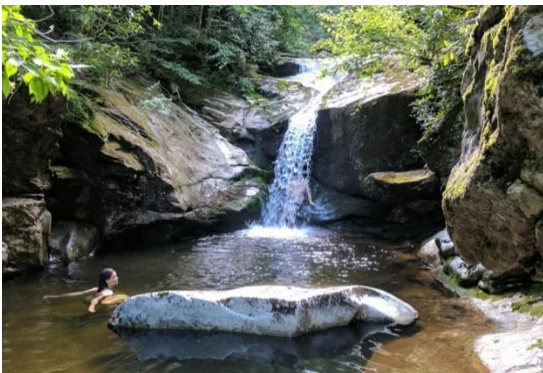


### **Take Your Sights to New Heights at Bare Dark Sky Observatory**

The depths of the night sky feel a little closer when you step up to the Sam Scope at Bare Dark Sky Observatory in Burnsville. The area is certified by the International Dark Sky Association for its absence of light pollution and pristine night sky views. Perched at 2,736 feet in elevation, the observatory houses the largest telescope in the state for public access. Pick out the craters of the moon, Jupiter's Great Red Spot and Saturn's rings during community viewing nights.

### **Reconnect with Nature at Mount Mitchell Eco Retreat**

Charlotte commercial photographer Sean Busher and wife Heather longed for a simpler, more purpose-driven life. They found it in the mountains near Burnsville. The Bushers opened Mount Mitchell Eco Retreat this month, a former guest ranch with beautiful views of Mount Mitchell. There are 16 guest rooms spread across the property, supported by a community kitchen and other amenities. The focus is on communing with nature while reducing the carbon footprint. An on-site food forest debuts in spring.



### **Learn the Language of the Trees with Snakeroot Ecotours**

Did you know trees communicate with each other? Tal Galton might not know what they're saying, but the tour guide continues to grow more in tune with his natural surroundings and shares that knowledge with others. Take a hike through the Black Mountains and encounter waterfalls, cloud forests, orchids, fireflies, butterflies, wildflowers and other wonders depending on the season. Galton offers half-day and full-day outings, as well as multiday retreats.

### **Breakfast Meets Barbecue at Pig & Grits**

Come in the morning for biscuits filled with an egg, pork chop, livermush or gravy. Later in the day, order smoked-in-house pork, brisket, turkey, chicken and ribs. Deliciously unexpected creations include a smoked-chicken sandwich with fig jam, goat cheese and sliced pears, and shrimp and grits topped with smoked bacon jam, charred tomatoes and onions. Walk to this restaurant from the charming Town Square and receive a welcome as warm as the meal.



### **Revel in the Stillness of Buck House Inn**

About 20 minutes west of downtown Burnsville, The Buck House Inn sits on Bald Mountain Creek. The flowing creek sets the pace for this relaxing retreat. Innkeepers Sam and Debbie Stebbins have preserved original features of the 1904 home, such as chestnut wood walls and ceilings, while incorporating modern amenities, like luxurious linens and modern, en suite bathrooms. The inn is surrounded by 750 conserved acres of forest, where guests hike, ride horses or take guided ATV trail rides.