



## MARION | LAKE JAMES | LITTLE SWITZERLAND | LINVILLE FALLS | OLD FORT



A truly diverse section of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Let's begin with a feeling, one created by our mind-blowing creative culture.

The 310 District in downtown Marion is the result of vision, imagination, and determination. Follow The Founders' Art Walk and tour the walkable three tenths of a mile retail neighborhood. It's home to a micro-brewery, meadery, bake shop,, gallery, farmers' market, restaurants, music hall, an "indie" movie house, and more.



Marion is also known for Sasquatch calls, competitive liver mush eating, and for being the only place on the planet celebrating New Year's Eve by dropping a giant gold nugget onto an equally enormous, custom baked Mr. Bob's Donut.



Old Fort's waterfalls, hiking/biking, and running trails are scattered throughout our area of Pisgah National Forest. On your way to Catawba Falls, stop to enjoy Dragonfly Studio's amazing metal sculpture garden. Old Fort's public art installations are related to its history and outdoor recreation sites. Don't miss the 7 Wonders!



## The Blue Ridge Traveler

Marion, Old Fort, Little Switzerland, Lake James, and Linville Falls, North Carolina

[www.blueridgetravelers.com](http://www.blueridgetravelers.com) 888-233-6111



The number one reason visitors spend time with us, the Blue Ridge Parkway. We enjoy one of the largest sections of Parkway between Crabtree Falls and Linville Falls (Milepost 316.4 and Milepost 344). Between these Mileposts, you'll find lots of things to see and do.

Discover the century-old summer colony of Little Switzerland at MP 334. Cool, a word to describe everything related to Little Switzerland, including the weather! With elevations between 3200 and 4000 feet above sea level, atmospheric conditions put a new twist on each day.

Mountain culture is shared through traditional arts, storytelling, and music. Summertime square dances are still popular ways to spend a Saturday night. Drop by Geneva Hall in July and August.

These mountains are where you'll find the "curvy roads" like the infamous DiamondbackNC with 190 curves covering 12 miles of two-lane blacktop. North Carolina Highway 226-A was re-named by Switzerland Inn owner, Gary Jensen. The property now includes the Diamondback Lodge and retail store. Pick up Diamondback swag, glassworks, jewelry and more when you shop with local vendors across from the Switzerland Inn.

Little Switzerland Downtown, or the local's term "LSD" is where you'll find a North Carolina Barbecue Society favorite stop at the Switzerland Cafe and General Store. Drop by the neighboring bookstore and art gallery where you'll find copies of Louisa Duls book, The Story of Little Switzerland.

Known for its minerals, Emerald Village was once a large, multi-site commercial mine. Today it operates as a mining museum and recreational mine. Lots to see and do here, during the day and some evenings as part of their special black light series.

Just north of Little Switzerland is the iconic Orchard at Altapass. Their logo includes the note, saving the good stuff. They do it well! For more than 100 years, these hills have produced heirloom apples, traditional music, and today dancing with Bill is a popular activity. If you accept his dance invitation, you're presented with a special "card" acknowledging the accomplishment! Take a look at their website to find details on upcoming events and musical performances.

[www.altapassorchard.org](http://www.altapassorchard.org)