



VISIT NC  SMOKIES

Haywood County is home to the North Carolina Great Smoky Mountains and 46 of the most scenic miles on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Featuring five distinctive mountain towns, we cater to outdoor enthusiasts, romantic vacationers, entrepreneurs, foodies, beer lovers, winter explorers, weekend warriors, relaxation seekers, live music groovers and more. Grab your family, friends or pets and see why our mountains offer the perfect balance of adventure and serenity.



Haywood County

## WINTER IN THE SMOKIES



Summer in Haywood offers the respite of mild mountain air and fall delivers stunning displays of foliage, but winter brings its own unique joys and story opportunities. Although the winter months don't get too cold, when cool weather mixes with precipitation, there is little as picturesque as a blanket of fresh mountain snow. Regardless of the weather, there's plenty to like, from tranquil winter hikes to top-notch skiing at **Cataloochee Ski Area**, which is open throughout the season thanks to its state-of-the-art snow-making technology. After a long day in the woods or on the slopes, stop by one of many diverse restaurants for some well-deserved comfort food paired with local beers or spirits — spirits that draw inspiration from a local history of moonshining.

## UNIQUE STORY OPPORTUNITIES

Home to glampgrounds, train-caboose vacation rentals, cabins, creekside hotels, and much more, Haywood has perfect lodging options for folks looking for anything from unabridged adventure to luxurious pampering or anything in between. One of the best things about summer and fall travel is having the excuse to cruise the scenic **Blue Ridge Parkway**. Even better, packing cheese and crackers for a sunset picnic at one of our 74 overlooks or vistas along the BRP provides an unmatched romantic experience. We are also home to many great hotels and motels. Stay in Maggie Valley to have quick access to the world-famous **Dale's Wheels Through Time** motorcycle museum, hundreds of miles of hiking trails and spirits tasting. Try Lake Junaluska for an easy yet beautiful stroll featuring stunning waterfront mountain views. Stay in Waynesville for access to several golf courses, downtown shopping and a plethora of dining options. Clyde is home to a 65-acre bison farm and delivers a slowed-down lifestyle that makes folks forget all about the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Canton offers breweries, riverside dining and a quick drive over to Asheville.

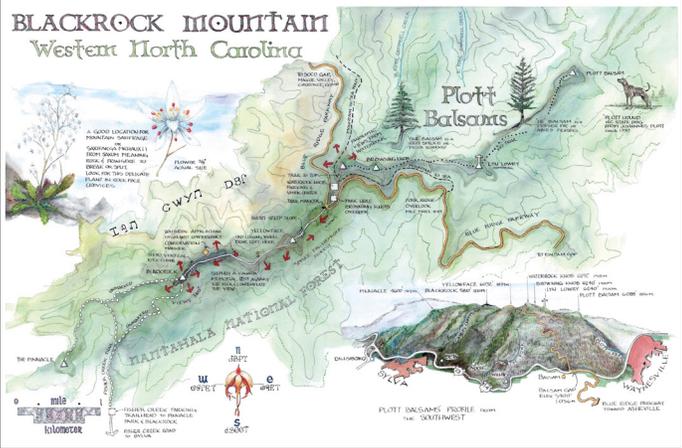


## FRESH NEW STORIES

- **Winchester Creek Farm** — Enjoy spending some quality time with new furry friends — including alpacas, mini-horses, mini-cows and a couple of pigs — each with their own delightful personality — Penelope the pig even plays the piano!
- **Lake Junaluska Outfitters** — This spot, right near the lake, offers a convenient location where anyone can rent whatever they need for an adventure on the water, including canoes, kayaks and paddleboards.
- **Chestnut Mountain** — Experience the county's newest recreation opportunity. East of downtown Canton, this 448-acre property is intended to both conserve the unique habitat and provide fresh hiking and mountain biking opportunities.

# DRAWN TO NATURE

If your readers appreciate the true “art” of hiking, you will love local naturalist Ken Czarnomski’s collection of hand-drawn hiking guides. The Lake Junaluska and **Blackrock Mountain** maps join Sam’s Summit Loop Trail and Purchase Knob hiking guides as exclusive, one-of-a-kind maps available only in Haywood County. The Blackrock Mountain guide, which covers the most scenic portion of the **Plott Balsam Mountain Range**, depicts a 4.6-mile roundtrip hike that includes majestic ridgelines, exquisite flora and fauna and sweeping vistas. The guide is such a work of art that hikers will need one for the trail and one to frame when they get home!



# SMOKY MOUNTAIN ELK FEST 2022

After being postponed due to the pandemic, the **Smoky Mountain Elk Fest** will return to Maggie Valley in 2022. The festival, which enjoyed immediate success, was founded in 2019 to celebrate the wild beauty elk have brought to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park since their reintroduction in 2001, as well as Haywood’s other outdoor wonders. The Smoky Mountain Elk Fest is a family-friendly event with a focus on conservation of elk and their habitat. The Festival also offers activities such as educational hikes, elk tours, creekside demonstrations, kids’ activities, wildlife artists, cultural performances, timbersports and plenty of food and music. The Maggie Valley Festival Grounds, which hosts the event, is nestled between towering ridgelines and is just a 35-minute drive from Asheville.

**Cataloochee Valley**, tucked in the eastern end of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, is the site where elk were reintroduced in 2001. Initially, 52 elk were released, but the growing population has now risen to over 150. While they can mainly be found in Cataloochee Valley, they have also been spotted in other popular areas around the park, such as Maggie Valley and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Fall is the “rut,” also known as mating season, which will offer you the chance to see bulls bugling into the crisp autumn air and even occasionally tangling antlers in a fight to prove who’s most dominant.

[www.smokymtnelkfest.com](http://www.smokymtnelkfest.com)



# FUN FACTS

Haywood is the only “headwaters county” east of the Mississippi River. This means all rivers flows outward, a characteristic that gives it some of the cleanest, best-tasting water around.

The county’s 46 mile-section of the Blue Ridge Parkway boasts the highest elevation of the entire 469 miles of roadway, which makes sense considering Haywood has the highest average elevation of any county in the east.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, also known as the “Salamander Capital of the World,” is the most visited national park in the country.



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