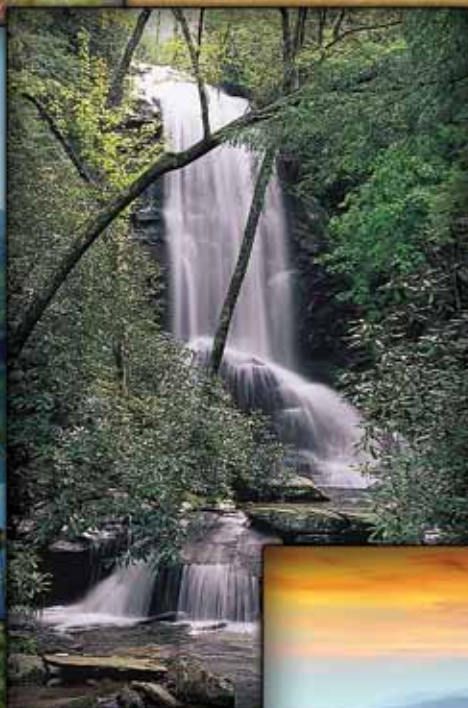
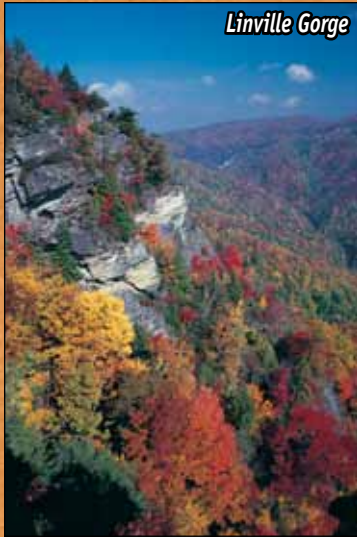


# A, Traveler's Guide

to McDowell County, North Carolina  
featuring Lake James, Linville Falls,  
Little Switzerland, Marion & Old Fort



# Welcome to McDowell County!



**Linville Gorge**

When it comes to fun and outdoor recreation, there are *no boundaries* in our spectacular region of the Blue Ridge Mountains. These unforgettable footpaths and roadways meander through a vast countryside. Elevations top 4,000 feet above sea level opening up to views of the green valley floors below.

Yes, a *river does run through it*. The sparkling waters of the Catawba River divide the county as they flow east to west with beginnings just



**Catawba Falls**

for landmarks and legends, underground treasures like those found in our caverns, gold and gem mines or special finds in antique and bargain shops. You may prefer the entertaining and free weekly bluegrass performances scattered throughout these communities. Foodies? Check out the world class, locally produced livermush, cheesecake, barbecue and wines.

Area restaurants serve up everything from down home cooking to inspired, original cuisine.



A great night's sleep is critical to vacation fun! Choose that special place from a diverse selection of cabins, cottages, lodges, inns, bed and breakfasts or motels. Prefer to sleep outdoors? Campgrounds are tucked in the hillsides from the Blue Ridge Parkway to Lake James. If you need more ideas, go online, [www.visitmyblueridge.org](http://www.visitmyblueridge.org) or call us at 877-377-6757.

## Table Of Contents:

Welcome .....	1
Historic Marion .....	2
Old Fort .....	3
Lake James .....	3
Blue Ridge Parkway Communities .....	4
Blue Ridge Drives, Rides & Trails .....	5
Area Map .....	7
Area Attractions .....	9
Where to Stay .....	10
Waterfalls & Trails .....	13
Calendar of Events .....	14



**Marion Depot**

outside Old Fort at Catawba Falls. This surprising two-tiered fall is one of many awe-inspiring outdoor wonders to discover on your exploration of Marion, Old Fort, Little Switzerland, Linville Falls and Lake James. Adventures may include the search



**Lake Tahoma**

Photographs courtesy of Roger Engelke, J. Craig Greene, Paul King, Camp Lake James and the McDowell Tourism Authority.

# Where Main Street Meets the Mountains –Historic Marion



Framed by Mt. Ida, downtown Marion is filled with an eclectic mix of restaurants, coffee houses and retail shops including model trains, local arts and crafts, antiques and vintage stores. Unique events include



a weekly bluegrass jam, summer concert series, year-round gallery exhibits and

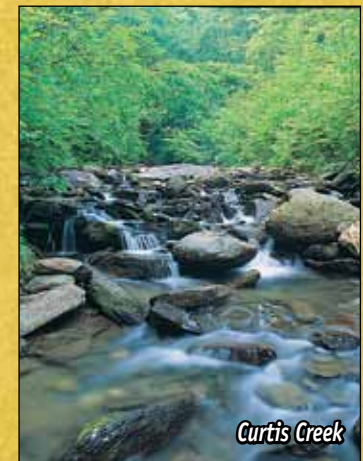
theater performances at the McDowell Arts Council. Don't miss the unique smells and flavors of Marion's Livermush Festival held the first Friday night in June or their popular Mountain Glory Festival, celebrated on the second Saturday of October.

Get outdoors to enjoy the Joseph McDowell Catawba River Greenway! This paved, handicapped accessible trail includes benches and picnic tables for relaxation plus wooden decks and overlooks for fishing. Marion's pleasant climate makes it a perfect get away any time of year!  
[www.hometownmarion.com](http://www.hometownmarion.com)



## Fishing & Watersports

All N.C. Wildlife Commission regulations apply whether you are sports fishing on Lake James and the Catawba River or searching for a great public trout stream. Exceptions include privately owned ponds and farms and the specially designated waters on Mill Creek in Old Fort at Mountain Gateway Museum. The Old Fort section is included in the Wildlife Commission's Mountain Heritage Trout Town program and a special \$5, three day license is available online or by phone. [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org)  
(888) 248-6834



# Singing Rails and Whistle Stops

## Old Fort - NC Mountain Trout Town



**Mountain Gateway Museum**

Known for its pioneer spirit and railroad history, the Historic Old Fort interprets its roots through two museums and its seasonal festivals. Encircled by the Pisgah



**Old Fort Arrowhead**

National Forest, Old Fort sets the stage for outdoor enthusiasts to test their skills while soaking up the dramatic scenery.

Point Lookout Trail, Catawba

Falls, Curtis Creek Recreation Area, Hickory Branch Falls, Mill Creek and Newberry Creek are playgrounds for bicyclists, hikers and fly fishing devotees. Distinguished by its 14 ft. rose granite arrowhead, Old Fort is also identified for an unusual water feature, known as Andrews Geyser.

Old Fort Mountain Music is a nationally admired weekly Friday night performance in the historic Rockett Building. Play an instrument? New musicians are welcome!

Stop by the visitor center located inside the Old Fort Train Station and Museum to pick up maps, lodging and camping details or information on area attractions, restaurants and events. [www.visitoldfort.com](http://www.visitoldfort.com)



**Andrews Geyser**



**Old Fort Depot & Railroad Museum**

## Lake James

Tucked away at the base of the Linville Gorge, breathtaking mountain views cover over 6,510 acres with 150 miles of shoreline. Access the lake from one of the two sections of Lake James State Park or



**Lake James**

at one of several boat access ramps. The park's Catawba section features 565-acres with hiking trails, picnic areas and campsites. Paddy's Creek boasts 2,915 acres with a swimming beach, bathhouse and canoe rentals. Birders! The parks are on the N.C. Birding Trail.

Sports fishermen search these waters year round for Walleye, White Bass, Crappie, Bluegill, Catfish and record-setting Muskellunge. A record setting 33.8 lb. Muskie was caught here in 1988 and the record has not been beaten...yet! Check out the fishing tournaments too!

Lake James Road is a favorite of motorcycle and sports car riders.



**Camp Lake James**

Bicyclists also share this road with its sweeping curves and hillsides. It is part of a larger 65-mile ride linking Lake James to the colony of Little Switzerland via The DiamondbackNC. Check out the "Blue Ridge Drives" section.

*For more park information, maps, etc. call 828-652-5047. [www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov)*

# Blue Ridge Parkway Communities

*Lower Linville Falls Plunge Basin*



Linville Falls and Linville Gorge are two of the most spectacular sites in western North Carolina. Views of the waterfall are easy to access; stop by the Linville Falls Visitor Center at Milepost 316.5 for details and maps. Challenging trails exist for seasoned hikers through Linville Gorge and the less difficult trails are appreciated by the rest of us!

*Linville Caverns*



Outdoor activities include fishing the Linville River or a visit to Linville Caverns. These are the only public caverns in North Carolina taking you to an unparalleled underground world

of amazing sites and sounds. Linville Falls Club is a perfect place to test your backswing with beautifully groomed fairways, designed by Lee Trevino, and perfect mountain views.

Hungry? Two locally owned restaurants are a few yards off the Parkway and



open year round. Need a place for the night? Distinctive accommodations and campgrounds are also close by!



Little Switzerland, at Milepost 334 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, is a century old summer community seated at the top of Grassy Mountain. With elevations between 3200 and 4000 feet, this perfect get away features stunning views with mild summer days and cool evening breezes. The area is known for its gem mines, music, artists and

*A View From Little Switzerland*



*DiamondbackNC*



craftsmen, square dances and delightful restaurants. Lodging sites range from cabins and cottages to beautiful lodges and inns! Looking for a bit of history? Ask about Charlie McKinney and the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, but only if you can sit and stay a while!

Adventurous? Drive the 12 miles of challenging road on the DiamondbackNC, where hundreds of curves take you to Little Switzerland or choose the preferred route of Hwy. 226 North, a short 16-mile drive from I-40/Exit 85 in Marion.

*Fun Fact:* The century-old Orchard at Altapass was built by the railroad to feed its employees. Visitors from across the globe travel to the orchard to view the famous Clinchfield Loops. *Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 328.3*



# Blue Ridge Drives, Rides & Trails

## Sports Car and Motorcycle Trails

**Fun Fact:** Did you know the Overmountain Men marched through the communities of Little Switzerland, Altapass, North Cove and Marion? On September 25, 1780 over 1,000 men assembled in present day Elizabethton, Tennessee before



continuing their march south “mustered” additional Patriots along their route. Their mission was to capture British Major Patrick Ferguson and his Tory army. Mission accomplished on October 7, 1780 at Kings Mountain, South Carolina where every Tory soldier and Major Ferguson were killed.

Thomas Jefferson called it, “The turn of the tide of success” referring to the first major victory of the Revolution since the British invaded Charleston. Annual reenactments and details are on our event calendar.



**Fun Fact:** Woven into the fabric of our lives are cherished family quilts, handed down through generations. Today, we share them with you through the miles of brightly colored quilt blocks scattered throughout the hillsides, mountains and valleys of McDowell County. Stories, news and maps are online at [www.mcdowellquilttrail.org](http://www.mcdowellquilttrail.org).



Carson House Barn



Downtown Little Switzerland

In downtown Little Switzerland, the DiamondbackNC rises up to meet you hugging the sides of Grassy Mountain as you make your way around 190 curves looping almost 360 degrees through gorgeous mountain scenery.

Extend your ride with the Lake James Route. The Diamondback picks up the Blue Ridge Parkway traveling north to Hwy. 181 South, to Rose Creek Road, onto Fish Hatchery Rd., then merges into NC 126. to South Mountains Road to Lake James Road & onto Hankins Road. Hankins intersects Highway 221/226 North taking you back to the DiamondbackNC. *65 mile loop.*



Autumn Parkway View

## The Devil's Staircase

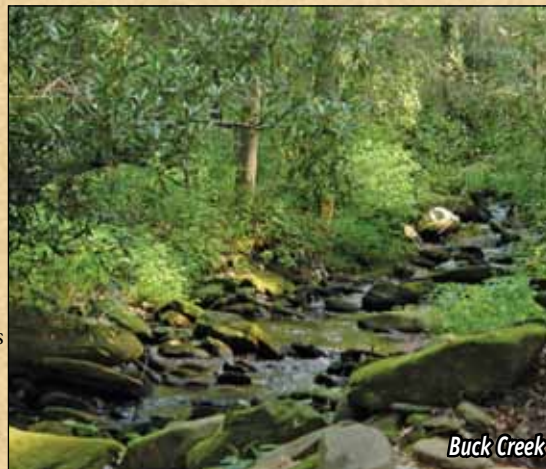


Lake Tahoma

Following the flow of Buck Creek along 15 miles of picturesque scenery, including Lake Tahoma and the old casino, NC Highway 80 continues through protected U.S. Forest Service lands and the Buck Creek Watershed. This road intersects the Blue Ridge Parkway just below Crabtree Falls and climbs approximately 2500 feet along the way.

## Bat Cave - Old Twisty

Bat Cave Road/Highway 9 begins in Old Fort at the historic Train Depot and Museum heading south on Catawba Avenue, under the I-40 bridge changing names to Bat Cave Road. Drive 12 miles through scenic countryside dotted with cattle. This curvy road intersects Highway 9 before taking you south into the Lake Lure and Chimney Rock communities. Lots of views, forest and foliage for the camera as you make your way south. Some people like to call this road, “Old Twisty.”



Buck Creek

## *Bicycling Trails – On Road*



**Blue Ridge Parkway, 828-259-0701** Designated bike route provides challenging climbs with breathtaking scenery and downhill plunges.

### **Lake James Road – NC Hwy. 126**

This designated route circles Lake James. Spectacular mountain lake views are shared with motorists & motorcycles.

### **Lake Tahoma Road – NC Hwy. 80**

Recently designated as a bicycle route, this section of road is part of the annual Assault On Mt. Mitchell. Steep and curvy climbs joining the Blue Ridge Parkway before rapidly descending towards Marion. You'll recognize Lake Tahoma and the old casino when you ride by.



*View of Short-Off Mountain*



**Point Lookout Trail** – This portion of Old Highway 70 is now a non-motorized bicycle and hiking trail. Magnificent views of the Royal Gorge with visible railroad tunnels and track. 3.75 miles of steep mountainside. Read

the story here. [http://www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/download/bikeped\\_funding\\_offroad\\_point\\_lookout.pdf](http://www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/download/bikeped_funding_offroad_point_lookout.pdf)

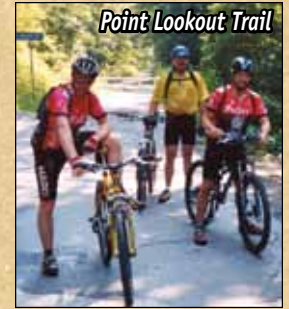
## *Bicycle Trails – Off Road*

**Kitsuma Trail/Young's Ridge** – 5-mile rugged trail access from USFS Old Fort Picnic Area on Old Hwy. 70. Elev. approx. 3150 ft.

**Curtis Creek** – 8 mile dirt & gravel road through the recreation area between Hwy. 70 and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Blind curves, no guard rails on steep overhangs. Caution - used by cars, ATVs, motorcycles and hikers.

**Heart Break Ridge** – Recently adopted by organizers of the Off Road Assault on Mt. Mitchell, begin your ride from the Blue Ridge Parkway then down 21 switchbacks leading to Pritchard Creek and onto Curtis Creek Road.

**Snook's Nose** – Extremely steep trail leading from the Curtis Creek Campground to the Blue Ridge Parkway then across to the fire tower on Green Knob.





## BUNCOMBE COUNTY



## RUTHERFORD COUNTY

### ATTRACTIONS

- Linville Caverns • 800-419-0540 or 828-756-4171
- Lake James State Park • 828-652-5047
- Linville Gorge Wilderness Area • 828-652-2144
- Orchard at Altapass • 888-765-9531 or 828-765-9531
- Bear Creek Marina • 828-655-1400
- South Creek Vineyards & Winery • 828-652-5729
- Buck Creek Trout Farm • 828-724-9612
- Davidson's Fort • www.davidsonfort.org

### GOLFING

- Buck Creek Driving Range • 828-724-4888
- Marion Lake Club Golf Course • 828-652-6232
- Old Fort Golf Course • 828-668-4256

### MUSEUMS

- Historic Carson House • 828-724-4948
- Mountain Gateway Museum • 828-668-9259
- NC Museum of Minerals • 828-765-2761
- Old Fort Railroad Depot & Museum • 828-668-4282

### WATERFALLS

- 1.) Crabtree Falls
- 2.) Duggers Creek Falls
- 3.) Hickory Branch Trail Falls
- 4.) Linville Falls
- 5.) Roaring Fork Falls
- 6.) Setrock Creek Falls
- 7.) Tom's Creek Falls
- 8.) Catawba Falls

### MINING

- 9.) Emerald Village • 828-765-6463
- 10.) Linville Mountain Gem Shop • 828-756-7206
- 11.) The Lucky Strike • 828-738-4893
- 12.) Carolina Emerald Mine & Vein Mtn. Gold Camp • 828-738-9544

### ACCOMMODATIONS

\* Restaurant on Site

- 13.) Alpine Inn • 828-765-5380
- 14.) Barn House Inn • 866-690-9182 or 828-738-4526
- 15.) Bear Creek Marina Townhouse • 828-659-7700 or 800-351-2606
- 16.) Bear Creek Marina Log Cabins • 828-655-1400
- 17.) Bear Haven Cabin • 828-668-4831
- 18.) Bear Den Creek-Side Cabins • 828-765-2888
- 19.) Big Lynn Lodge • 800-654-5232 or 828-765-4257
- 20.) Blue Ridge Parkway Cabin Rentals • 919-602-6722
- 21.) Budget Inn • 828-652-7276
- 22.) Chateau Vista • 828-765-4275
- 23.) Comfort Inn • 828-652-4888 or 877-424-6423
- 24.) Cottages at Spring House Farm • 828-738-9798 or 877-738-9798
- 25.) Days Inn • 828-659-2567
- 26.) Eco-Cove Wildlife Sanctuary • 828-724-9757
- 27.) Essie Mae's Cottage • 804-482-1798
- 28.) Fossie's Cabin • 828-724-9612
- 29.) Grandview Lodge • 407-463-2458
- 30.) Hampton Inn • 828-652-5100 or 800-426-7866
- 31.) Hidden Lake Cabins • 828-460-8252
- 32.) Inn at Blue Ridge • 828-756-7001
- 33.) Inn on Mill Creek • 877-735-2964 or 828-668-1115
- 34.) Lake James Bayshore Cabin • 828-584-9999
- 35.) Lake James Cottage • 828-724-9333
- 36.) Lake James Cabin at Bear Creek • 828-659-8363
- 37.) Linville Falls Lodge & Cottages\* • 800-634-4421 or 828-765-2658

- 38.) Little Switzerland Vacation Rentals • 866-766-0611 or 828-765-7111
- 39.) Log Cabin Lodging • 828-756-4339
- 40.) McDowell Mountain Getaway Cabin • 980-254-0244
- 41.) Morning Star Cabin • 225-439-0281
- 42.) Mountain Majesty Log Cabin • 386-314-1158
- 43.) Mountain Paradise Rentals • 828-756-4085 or 828-652-9893
- 44.) Newberry Creek Cabin • 828-659-7700 or 800-351-2606
- 45.) Old Fort Historic Area Apartment • 828-668-6500
- 46.) Potter's Loft • 828-668-8084
- 47.) Rivers Ridge Lodge • 828-243-5762 or 828-668-7529
- 48.) Rocky Falls Retreat • 704-489-1559 or 704-641-9500
- 49.) Sky Island Retreat • 828-668-4928
- 50.) Skyline Inn\* • 828-765-9394
- 51.) Sportsman Inn • 828-659-7525
- 52.) Super 8 Motel • 828-659-7940
- 53.) Switzerland Inn\* • 800-654-4026 or 828-765-2153
- 54.) Timberline Properties • 828-766-8900
- 55.) Tranquility Cabin • 828-738-4893
- 56.) Whispering Creek Cottage • 813-832-3128
- 57.) Yogi Bear's Jellystone Campground Log Cabins • 828-652-7208

### CAMPGROUNDS

- 58.) Bear Den • 828-765-2888
- 59.) Buck Creek • 828-724-4888
- 60.) Burnett's Landing • 828-652-3531
- 61.) Catawba Falls • 828-668-4831
- 62.) Cove Creek RV Park • 828-668-7507
- 63.) Mountain Paradise • 828-756-4085
- 64.) Mountain Stream RV Park • 828-724-9013

- 65.) Mountain View RV Park • 828-527-3020
- 66.) North Star • 828-724-4798
- 67.) Sky Island Retreat • 828-668-4928
- 68.) Tom Johnson's RV Park • 888-266-0551
- 69.) Triple C • 828-724-4099
- 70.) Yogi Bear's Jellystone RV Park & Campground • 828-652-7208

### PUBLIC & PRIMITIVE CAMPING

- 71.) Crabtree Meadows • 828-675-5444
- 72.) Curtis Creek Campground • 828-652-2144
- 73.) Lake James State Park • 828-652-5047
- 74.) Linville Falls • 828-298-0398
- 75.) Linville Gorge Wilderness Area • 828-652-2144

### AREA ATTRACTIONS

- 76.) Mt. Mitchell State Park • 828-675-4611
- 77.) Grandfather Mountain State Park • 800-468-7325
- 78.) Chimney Rock State Park • 800-277-9611
- 79.) Biltmore House • 800-411-3812

## Golf Courses

### **Buck Creek Driving Range**

2576 Tom's Creek Road  
Marion, NC 28762  
828-724-4888

### **Linville Falls Golf Club**

210 Blue Ridge Drive North  
Marion, NC 28752  
828-765-4653

### **Marion Lake Club**

2030 NC Hwy. 126  
Nebo, NC 28761  
828-652-62332

### **Old Fort Golf Course**

1001 Golf Course Road  
Old Fort, NC 28762  
828-668-4256



## Area Attractions

### **Bear Creek Marina**

608 Marina Drive  
Nebo, NC 28761  
828-655-1400

### **Buck Creek Trout Farm**

74 Rainbow Trout Drive  
Marion, NC 28752  
828-724-9612

### **Davidson's Fort Historic Park**

Lackeytown Road  
Old Fort, NC 28762  
828-668-4831

### **Emerald Village**

*McKinney Mine Rd*  
Little Switzerland, NC 28748  
828-765-6463



### **Historic Carson House**

1805 Highway 70 West  
Marion, NC 28752  
828-724-4948

### **Linville Caverns**

19929 US 221 North  
Marion, NC 28752  
800-419-0540



### **Linville Mountain Gem Shop**

18393 US 221 North  
Marion, NC 28752  
828-756-7206

### **The Lucky Strike Gold & Gem Mine**

Lucky Strike Drive  
Vein Mountain, NC 28752  
828-738-4893

### **Mountain Gateway Museum**

102 Water Street  
Old Fort, NC 28762  
828-668-9259

### **North Carolina Mineral Museum**

Highway 226 & Blue Ridge Parkway  
Spruce Pine, NC

### **Old Fort Train Station & Museum**

25 West  
Main Street  
Old Fort, NC 28762  
828-668-4282



### **Orchard at Altapass**

Milepost 328.3  
Blue Ridge Parkway  
888-765-9531



### **South Creek Vineyards & Winery**

2240 South Creek Road  
Nebo, NC 28761  
828-652-5729

# Where to Stay

## Motels, Lodges & Retreats

### **Big Lynn Lodge**

800-652-5232

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

Rustic inn with contemporary rooms, cottages and condos providing full service breakfast and dinner within a few seconds of Little Switzerland. Located parallel to Blue Ridge Parkway on Highway 226-A, The Diamondback.



**View from the Parkway**

### **Budget Inn**

(828) 652-7276

Small renovated motel in Marion.

*Year-round.*

### **Comfort Inn**

877-424-6423

Indoor pool, hot tub and meeting facilities. Executive suites available.

Close to Lake James and the Blue Ridge Parkway. *Year-round.*

### **Days Inn**

828-659-2567

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

Located at the intersection of I-40 and exit 221 South, the Days Inn offers convenient location, meeting room,

laundry, outdoor pool and more.

*Year-round.*

### **Hampton Inn**

800-426-7866

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

I-40 at Exit 85/Hwy. 221 North. Full service and indoor pool. Minutes to downtown Marion, Lake James, Blue Ridge Parkway and Old Fort. *Year-round.*

### **Linville Falls Lodge & Cottages**

828-765-2658

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

Circa 1937, stone and pine lodge plus separate log cabin all located within walking distance of Linville Falls and less than a mile off the Blue Ridge Parkway. *Year-round.*

### **Skyline Village Inn and**

#### **Cavern Tavern**

828-765-9394

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

Secret tunnels and history at this traditional inn built into the side of a mountain and completed in 1948 with 16 guest rooms, outdoor viewing deck within seconds of the Blue Ridge Parkway. *Year-round.*

### **Sportsman Inn**

828-659-7525

Open year round, features include cable TV with HBO and outdoor swimming pool. *Year-round.*

### **Super 8 Motel**

Convenient to I-40, HBO and Internet access. Accepts pets. *Year-round.*

### **Switzerland Inn**

800-652-4026 or 828-765-2153

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

Main lodge, chalet, cottages with over 100 years of service to patrons of the Blue Ridge Parkway, featuring the Diamondback Lodge with full service restaurant and bar.

## Bed & Breakfasts, Inns

### **Alpine Inn**

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

Highway 226-A and Blue Ridge Parkway

Little Switzerland, NC 28749

828-765-5380

### **Barn House Inn**

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

11611 Montford Cove Rd

Marion, NC 28752

866-690-9182 *Year-round.*

### **Inn on Mill Creek**

877-735-2964 or 828-668-1115

[www.inn-on-mill-creek.com](http://www.inn-on-mill-creek.com)

Located between Old Fort and Black Mountain. Trout pond, orchards, hiking and biking trails. Accepts pets. *Year-round.*

### **The Inn at Blue Ridge**

828-756-7001 or 800-856-7001

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

Elegant rooms with fireplaces, private decks adjacent to spectacular golf course. Linville Falls and Blue Ridge Parkway are close by. Pets Accepted. *Year-round.*



**The English Farm**

## ***Cabins and Cottages***

### ***Bear Creek Marina***

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

828-655-1400

Log cabins sleep 1-4 people within walking distance to marina and other amenities with views of Lake James.

*Year-round.*

### ***Bear Haven Cabin***

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

828-668-4831

Riverside, authentically constructed log cabin on campus of Catawba Falls Campground.

### ***Bear Den Cabins / Big Bear Cabin***

828-765-2888

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

Creekside, furnished cabins and villas on Blue Ridge Parkway between Linville Falls and Little Switzerland. *Year-round*

### ***Camp Lake James***

828-391-6866

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

Two distinctive log cabins open year round with lake access, swimming pool, canoes and more.

*Year-round.*



### ***Chateau Vista***

828-756-4275

[RealtyOneService.net/default.asp?content=custom&menu\\_id=191385](http://RealtyOneService.net/default.asp?content=custom&menu_id=191385)

Studio vacation rental in Little Switzerland with excellent mountain views. Covered porch with outdoor swing, creek walk and foot bridge.

### ***Cottages At Spring House Farm***

877-738-9798 or 828-738-9798

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

Eco-retreat, secluded 92 acre farm with private, distinctive log cabins and historic cottage, listed on NC Birding Trail.

*Year-round*

### ***Eco-Cove Wildlife Sanctuary***

828-724-9757

[www.ecocove-rental.com](http://www.ecocove-rental.com)

Eco-retreat on 117 acres joining Pisgah National Forest with hot tub, hiking trails, pond and boat at your disposal. *Year-round*

### ***Fossie's Cabin***

828-724-9612

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

A small rustic cabin overlooking the Buck Creek Trout Farm. The "shabby chic" cabin with full amenities.

### ***Grand View Lodge***

407-463-2458

Log home in gated community with easy access to I-40. Extensive amenities. Pet friendly (request approval) *Year-round.*

### ***Hidden Lake***

828-460-8252

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

Multiple log home rentals in gated community. Ten-acre lake, board walk, fishing pier, pool and picnic area.

*Year-round.*

### ***Lake James Bayside Cabin***

828-584-9999

Custom, luxurious log home with

numerous stylish features creating a trendy retreat with dual boat deck and party deck granting access to Lake James. *Year-round.*



### ***Lake James Cottage***

828-724-9333

Unique cottage with covered boat dock on picturesque Lake James convenient to Bear Cliff Marina and area attractions.

*Year-round.*

### ***Little Switzerland Vacation Rentals***

866-766-0611 or 828-765-7111

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

Secluded mountaintop cabins with awe-inspiring views. Fireplaces, pool & tennis privileges.

### ***Log Cabin Lodging***

828-756-4339

Fully furnished mountaintop cabins. Five miles to the Blue Ridge Parkway.

*Year round.*

### ***McDowell Mountain Getaway Cabin***

980-254-0244

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

Nestled in the rolling hills of southern McDowell County in gated community with breathtaking views and full amenities.

*Year-round.*

### ***Morning Star Cabin***

225-439-0281

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

Log cabin located in the private community of Grandview Peaks at 1800 feet offering panoramic views of the South Mountains. *Year-round.*

### ***Mountain Dream Cabins***

919-602-6722

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

Two unique log cabins located directly on the Blue Ridge Parkway situated between Linville Falls and Little Switzerland. Fully equipped. *Year-round.*

### ***Mountain Paradise Rentals***

828-652-9893

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

Furnished log cabin located at Mountain Paradise Campground. Golf discounts. *Year-round.*

### ***Newberry Creek Log Cabin***

800-351-2606 or 828-659-7700

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

Custom log cabin bordering Newberry Creek, trout stream, surrounded by the Pisgah National Forest and close to Blue Ridge Parkway. *Year-round.*

**Old Fort Historic Area – Apartment**

828-668-6500 or 828-713-1722

Cozy apartment on Main Street in Historic Old Fort, close to hiking and cycling trails with easy access to I-40. Year-round.

**Rivers Ridge Lodge**

828-243-5762

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

Upscale timber lodge borders Crooked Creek on 17 acres featuring extensive deck and 3,000 ft. of creek frontage. Year-round.

**Rocky Falls Retreat**

704-489-1559

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

Little Switzerland vacation home with spectacular mountain views from 15 sided round house on 14+ acres.

**Sky Island Retreat & Cabins**

828-668-4928

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

Log cabin rentals on wooded campus including campground, 9 hole putt-putt golf course and weekly entertainment. Year-round.

**The Mountain Majesty**

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

Large, majestic log home inside gated community with mountain views and easy access to attractions. Year-round.

**The Potter's Loft**

828-668-8084

Fully-furnished apartment upstairs from pottery studio on 5 privately owned acres two miles from historic Old Fort. Year-round.

**Timberline Properties**

828-766-8900

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

Managing private rental homes, cabins and cottages in the Little Switzerland region. Some accept pets.

**Tranquility Cabin**

828-738-4893

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

Tranquil log cabin on Lucky Strike Gold and Gem Mine campus. Step outside for a little golden fun! Year-round.

**Whispering Cottage Retreat**

813-832-3128

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

Lovely period cottage in Little Switzerland off the Blue Ridge Parkway, in Turkey Cove with gorgeous mountain views.

**Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park, Camp & Resort**

828-652-7208

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

Variety of cabins situated on 63 acres as part of the Yogi Bear resort "experience." Easy access to I-40.



**Campgrounds**

**Bear Den Campground**

828-765-2888

[www.bear-den.com](http://www.bear-den.com)

400-acre site with 144 full hook-ups, tents, trailer sites located directly on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Fishing lake, playground and more!

**Buck Creek Campground**

828-724-4888

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

Full hook-ups and trailer sites adjacent to golf range.

**Catawba Falls Campground**

828-668-4831

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

Full RV hook-ups and tent camping on the Catawba River, close to Catawba Falls.

**Cove Creek RV Park**

877-668-7505 or 828-668-7507

RV and primitive sites with full hook up, hot showers and bathrooms. I-40 5 miles.

**Mountain Paradise Campground**

828-756-4085

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

Waterslide & pool, miniature golf, playground, and stream with picnic area close to Linville Falls and the Parkway.

**Mountain Stream RV Park**

828-724-9013

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

Picturesque RV, full hook-up and tent sites adjacent to mountain stream. Close to the Blue Ridge Parkway.

**Mountain View RV Park**

828-527-3020

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

828-527-3020

Full service, 23 acre, multi-purpose RV park and event venue three miles south of I-40 Exit 85. Laundry and bathhouse.

**North Star Campground**

828-724-4798

Full hook-ups, tents and trailer sites.

**Sky Island Retreat & Campground**

828-668-4928

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

RV sites with full hook-ups, tent sites, picnic areas, 9 hole putt-putt and weekly entertainment on private acreage outside the town of Old Fort.

**The Lucky Strike Gold & Gem Mine**

828-738-493

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

Campsites with hookups, Miner's Diner, restrooms, shower facilities all on site of former commercial mine. Enjoy it today as a recreational mine!



### **Tom Johnson's Camping Center & RV Park**

800-225-7802

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

RV campground adjacent to the Catawba River with performance area/Rally Park.

### **Triple C Campground**

828-724-2520

Full hook-ups, trailer sites and tent sites on Buck Creek, close to Blue Ridge Parkway.

### **Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park, Camp and Resort**

828-652-7208

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

Yogi's resort is on 63 lush acres with RV and tent sites, two lakes, pool, waterslide, covered picnic area/performance area and more.



## Waterfalls & Trails

**Catawba Falls:** A 340-foot cascade, upper falls is a 70-foot plunge. I-40 West bound to exit 73. Turn left and go under interstate. Make first right. At fork, bear left onto Catawba River Road. I-40 East bound exit 73. As you approach the stop sign at the end of this exit, Catawba River Road is to the right before you reach the stop sign. Road ends after 3 miles. Park on gravel shoulder on left. New parking area is under construction. Trail begins across bridge and to right. Hiking is permitted during daylight hours only. The McDowell County Sheriff's department patrols this area. Cars left after dusk will be towed. Some hikers will hike to falls from Ridgecrest Conference Center. Distance: 3 miles round-trip, moderate. Strenuous climb to upper falls!

**Crabtree Falls:** A 60-foot plunge down a wide and even rock face. At Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 339.5, turn into Crabtree Meadows Recreation Area. If campground is closed, walk is an additional 0.3 miles. Distance: 2.5 mile loop, moderate.

**Dugger's Creek Falls:** On the Blue Ridge Parkway, Milepost 316.5 is the Linville Falls parking area and visitor center. Once in the parking lot, you will find the visitor's center with a map of the park, and some pictures of the waterfalls. To see Dugger's Creek Falls, you will follow the edge of the parking lot back to the street. You will come upon a small, marked trailhead to your right. Once you enter the woods, you will follow a very short trail to a bridge over Dugger's Creek. The falls will be to your right. This is not a large waterfalls, but is breathtaking. Bring the camera to take great shots from the swinging bridge. There is also a trail going down below for other views of the falls./ .3 mile loop/easy

**Hickory Branch Trail Falls:** View of 20-foot falls can be seen from scenic Hickory Branch Trail at US Forest Service's Curtis Creek primitive campground



**Lower Catawba Falls**

near Old Fort. Approximately 2 miles east of Old Fort on US 70, turn onto Curtis Creek Road, go 4 miles to campground. Trailhead is on edge of field to right of campground. Distance: 4 miles round-trip, moderate.

**Linville Falls:** Most popular waterfall in Blue Ridge! A spectacular three-tiered waterfall plunging into Linville Gorge, the "Grand Canyon of the Southern Appalachians." Exit Blue Ridge Parkway spur at milepost 316.4. Falls Trail distance: 1.6 miles round-trip, easy; Gorge Trail: 1.4 miles round-trip, strenuous; Plunge Basin Trail: 1 mile round-trip, moderate.

**Roaring Fork Falls:** Located in Toecane District of Pisgah National Forest. A 30-foot rush down a narrow, zigzag slide. At Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 344.1, exit north onto NC 80. Drive north 2.3 miles, turn left onto FS 472 (South Toe River Road), just before Mt. Mitchell Golf Course. Take first left (after 0.1 miles) at sign indicating Roaring Fork Falls and Busick Work Center. Road dead-ends at work center. Park near gate on right. Distance: 1 mile round-trip, easy.

**Setrock Creek Falls:** Four distinct levels, totaling 50 feet of falling water. See directions under Roaring Fork Falls to FS 472. FS 472 becomes gravel after 0.8 miles. There are picnic tables on South Toe River at 1.5 miles. Neal's Junction (take right fork) is at 2 miles. Turn right into Black Mountain Campground - over stream on concrete bridge - go left toward Briar Bottom (group campsite). Park in small area on right before gate and begin hiking up gravel road. Distance: 1.4 miles round-trip, easy.

**Tom's Creek Falls:** 7 miles north of Marion on US 221.



**Tom's Creek Falls**

Turn left at Huskins Branch Road, just before Woodlawn Motel. Go 1.5 miles and park on right at gravel lot before small bridge. Trailhead begins at lot. When trail forks, follow left along creek. Gentle falls in picturesque area. Approximate height of falls: 100 feet. Distance: 2 mile loop, easy.

**Armstrong Creek:** 3640 ft. Primitive hiking trail on old logging road. Take NC 226A to Armstrong Fish Hatchery Road (1443). Trailhead begins past hatchery parking lot. Distance 6 miles, easy-moderate.

**Bad Fork:** 2940 ft. Primitive trail connects with Woods Mountain and Armstrong Creek Trails. Take NC 226A to Armstrong Fish Hatchery Road (1443). Drive 3 miles to trail head on left side at confluence of Bad Fork with Armstrong Creek. 8 miles, moderate.

**Betsy Ridge:** 3160 ft. Old logging road trail, with views of Black Mountains, intersects Little Buck Creek Trail and ends at Woods Mountain Trail. Take US 221, north of Marion. Left on Tom's Creek Road (1434). Take first right onto dirt road. Trailhead is second dirt road on left. Distance 9 miles, easy-moderate.

**Blue Ridge Pinnacle:** 5665 ft. Prominent peak near Mt. Mitchell, awesome views. Begin at swing-bar gate on road at Parkway Milepost 354.8. Distance 3 miles, easy.

**Kitsuma Peak:** 3195 ft. Short, 20-minute trail. Breathtaking views and unusual Carolina hemlocks. Take I-40 westbound to Ridgecrest exit. Turn onto "Old US 70." Park at Ridgecrest Overlook. Distance 1 mile, moderate.

**Lead Mine Gap:** 3460 ft. Mixed forested environment with long range views. Take Curtis Creek Road from US 70, east of Old Fort. Continue about 8 1/2 miles to trail head. Trail ends at Hickory Branch Trail, which after 2 miles rejoins Curtis Creek Road at lower point. Distance 5 miles, moderate.



*The Catawba Falls Trail*

**Linville Gorge:** 3400 ft. Eastern America's most scenic and rugged gorge. On NC 183 in village of Linville Falls, turn

right at dirt road (Kistler Memorial Highway, #1238) 3/4 mile from intersection with US 221. There are multiple strenuous trails accessible from Kistler Memorial Highway. Obtain Linville Gorge Wilderness Map from US Forest Service Grandfather District Office in Nebo, 828-652-2144

**Mackey Mountain:** 3400 ft. Excellent views in bear sanctuary. Take Curtis Creek Road, off US 70, east of Old Fort. Trailhead is 9 miles at entrance to Sugar Cove Road. Distance 16 miles, moderate.

**Newberry Creek:** 4300 ft. Scenic trail ends at Parkway. Take Curtis Creek Road, off US 70, east of Old Fort. Left at Newberry Creek Road (FS 482A). Trail begins after 4 miles at end of road. Distance 5 miles, easy-moderate.

**Point Lookout Trail:** 1800-2900 Feet above sea level depending upon area. Spectacular views of Royal Gorge and 19th century railroad tunnels. Paved hiking/bicycle trail, 3.62 miles one way. I-40 to exit 73, North on Catawba Ave., turn left onto Highway 70 at stoplight, then right onto Old Hwy. 70. 2.4 miles to Mill Creek Road, Old Fort Picnic Area to left with parking available. Trail begins at end of Old Hwy. 70, look for U.S.F.S. entry gate.

**Woodlawn Fitness Trail:** 1600 ft. Fitness trail consists of 7 stations, 2 exercises per station, on a 1/4 mile jogging path. Additional 1-mile loop surrounds exercise trail. Woodlawn Work Center is 6 miles north of Marion on US 221. Trail is behind picnic area on left. Distance 1.25 miles, easy-moderate.

**Woods Mountain:** 3600 ft. Excellent views of Black Mountains, Little Switzerland, Armstrong Creek watershed area, and Table Rock from section of North Carolina's "Mountains to Sea Trail." Trail begins near Buck Creek Gap overlook at intersection of Blue Ridge Parkway and NC 80. Trail may be exited on US 221, at US Forest Service rest area near Woodlawn. Distance 13 miles, moderate-strenuous.

**Young's Ridge:** 3165 ft. Trail begins at Old Fort Picnic Area. Incredible views of Kitsuma Peak where trail ends. From US 70, west of Old Fort, take first right onto Mill Creek Road (1407). Old Fort Picnic Area is several miles on left and marked by National Forest Sign. Distance 7 miles, easy-moderate.

# Come Back to See Us!

*Check the Online Calendar  
for Events, News and  
Seasonal Specials*

## *April*

Pioneer Day  
*Last Saturday in April*

## *May*

Lake James Triathlon  
Assault on Mt. Mitchell

## *June*

NC Gold Festival  
Marion Livermush Festival  
*First Friday in June*

## *July*

4th of July Celebrations  
Off Road Assault on  
Mt. Mitchell

## *September*

Marion Labor Day Concert  
Overmountain Victory Trail  
Events!

## *October*

Oktoberfest  
*1st Weekend in October*  
Mountain Glory Festival  
*2nd Saturday in October*

## *December*

Appalachian Potters' Market  
*First Saturday in December*  
Blue Ridge Artisans Sale

[www.visitmyblueridge.org](http://www.visitmyblueridge.org)  
877-377-6756