



Historic Saluda, Tryon & Columbus, NC

ZIP AND SIP ALONG THE FIRST PEAK OF THE BLUE RIDGE

Historic Saluda, Tryon and Columbus, N.C.

The First Peak of the Blue Ridge is a scenic mountain destination that provides nature's playlist – but the 'volume' of your experience is up to you. Keep the volume low with peaceful hikes to waterfalls, local wine tastings, and quiet 'porch time' at one of our cozy inns, B&Bs or cabins. Or, turn up the volume with America's steepest canopy zip line, guided whitewater adventures or local music.

THE GORGE: THE STEEPEST, FASTEST ZIP LINE CANOPY TOUR IN THE UNITED STATES



The tiny town of Saluda is home to the steepest, fastest zip line canopy tour in the United States. [The Gorge](#) launches visitors off their outpost back deck on a 3.5-hour tour through old growth forest with expansive mountain views. Comprised solely of tree-based platforms, The Gorge drops an unprecedented 1,100 vertical feet through 11 sections, including three rappels and a sky bridge. The hands-free mechanical braking system is worry-free and allows people to attain speeds of up to 40 mph, from kids as young as 10 to active seniors in good physical health. The canopy tour complements the guided inflatable kayak trips, whitewater kayak instruction and waterfall adventures already offered by its sister business, [Green River Adventures](#).

THE WORLD WILL BE WATCHING THE FEI WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES™ TRYON 2018

More than 80 years of Tryon Horse Country's local equestrian tradition helped pave the way for the 2014 opening of world-class [Tryon International Equestrian Center \(TIEC\) at Tryon Resort](#). Now, TIEC will welcome the world as it hosts the FEI World Equestrian Games™ Tryon 2018, the major international championship for eight core equestrian disciplines. 500,000 attendees are expected for the 14-day event in September 2018. Tickets are now on sale at www.tryon2018.com.

TIEC is a 1,600-acre development featuring spring, summer and fall sanctioned horse shows, 12 riding arenas, more than 1,200 permanent stalls plus a variety of year-round restaurants, shops, lodging and local events including the family-friendly 'Saturday Night Lights' festivals. Future plans include a 5-star luxury hotel and spa, and a 50-acre Tryon Village featuring a 180-room resort hotel, mixed-use retail, condos, 2-acre pool, 1,000-seat amphitheater and a visitor center.



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TRYON BIRTHPLACE OF NINA SIMONE SAVED BY NEW YORK ARTISTS

Nina Simone, world famous jazz singer known as the High Priestess of Soul, was born Eunice Waymon in Tryon in 1933. But for the last few years, the future of her birthplace was uncertain. In February 2017, the home's place in history was secured, thanks to its purchase by four prominent African-American artists: Adam Pendleton, Rashid Johnson, Ellen Gallagher and Julie Mehretu. No plans have been announced, but the intent to honor her influence and save this piece of history was clear.



Simone's natural musical talent was recognized early on, and the Tryon community came together to support her musical development through lessons and performances. Later, she would introduce the world to a unique musical infusion of pop, gospel, classical, jazz, folk and ballads that she called "Black Classical Music." Her voice and music were instrumental in the American Civil Rights Movement. In 2010, her eight-foot, [bronze-cast sculpture](#) was dedicated in Nina Simone Plaza in downtown Tryon.

MOUNTAIN WINERIES: VINEYARD VISTAS AND WINE TASTINGS



With nearly twenty vineyards and five wineries, the Tryon Foothills are becoming well known for wine excellence and are a top destination for visitors to this scenic area. This region has the perfect climate for growing grapes, thanks in part to our elevation and our thermal belt, which moderates temperatures along the mountains year-round. In the early 1900s, Tryon was well known for its wine grapes.

Just like our small towns, our wineries may grow similar varieties but have distinct personalities. [Green Creek Winery](#) opened in 2005 and created the world's first Red Chardonnay. Additional wineries have opened over the years, including [Overmountain Vineyards](#), [Parker-Binns Vineyard](#), [Mountain Brook Vineyards](#), and [Russian Chapel Hills Winery](#). All are located near Tryon and offer tours, tastings, scenic mountain views and picnic spots. Grapes from our vineyards go to local and regional wineries, including Biltmore Estate. Wine-related businesses and events are popping up.

TAP INTO TRYON: ANNUAL TRYON BEER FEST IN NOVEMBER

Tryon's sixth annual Oktoberfest-style event just wrapped up on Sat., Nov. 4, 2017. Watch for the 7th annual festival in November 2018, in downtown Tryon. Attendees will Tap Into Tryon at this intimate event full of local flavor and unlimited samples of the finest craft beers from local and regional breweries (and wine too). Extras include an oyster roast and authentic German food. Rain or shine. The festival starts at 12pm, but come early and see the great shops, restaurants, and galleries that Tryon has to offer. For more information and tickets go to www.tryonbeerfest.com.



WHERE IS THE FIRST PEAK OF THE BLUE RIDGE?

We are the closest [North Carolina mountains](#) to Atlanta - just 2 ½ hours (190 miles) from downtown. After a week of commuting, you'll enjoy this easy drive. You can get here with [only two turns](#): take I-85N for 2 hours, take Exit 70 to I-26W, cross the N.C. state line and choose the first or second exit. Welcome to the Blue Ridge Mountains. You choose what's next: get out and explore, or rest and rejuvenate. This area features a wonderful blend of scenic beauty and small town charm, with great lodging, restaurants, shops, events and outdoor activities. Historic Saluda, Tryon and Columbus are within a few miles of each other, but each has its own distinct personality.

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