



Jackson County, NC

You're looking for a place that's real and true and full of great things to do. And Jackson County, North Carolina, is the perfect spot. No matter what your idea of adventure is. Explore miles of hiking trails surrounded by unspoiled forests or discover the area's shopping, dining, culture and hometown atmosphere. Experience the thrill of whitewater rafting and tubing or the more laid-back adventures of fly fishing, boating, golf or a scenic drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway. All you have to do is jump right in. It's all here, so come ready to Play On. Cashiers, Cherokee, Dillsboro, Sylva, Balsam, Cullowhee, Glenville and Sapphire are the distinct locales that make up Western North Carolina's Jackson County, a place of lofty peaks, rushing water and spectacular scenery. Each of these Blue Ridge Mountain towns provide rich natural beauty that invites visitors to experience the idyllic North Carolina mountains. www.DiscoverJacksonNC.com

Get Extreme in Jackson County

In its 494 square miles, outdoor enthusiasts can explore a variety of landscapes ranging from picturesque peaks, rolling valleys, cascading waterfalls and winding rivers. Unique to Jackson County, Panthertown Valley, has 6,295 acres of Nantahala National Forest lands with more than 30 miles of hiking, biking and multi-use trails. Known as the "Yosemite of the East," the backcountry trails wander through a pristine section of the southern Appalachian Mountains, and lead to over a dozen waterfalls in the valley. Sylva's Pinnacle Park is known as one of the more difficult hikes in the area for both its elevation and distance, offering more than 1,800 feet of elevation gain in the 1,100-acre park, with a 270-degree view of the surrounding towns. The normally dormant High Falls at Lake Glenville transforms into a powerhouse of flowing water during its spring and summer dam releases.

Water rumbles over High Falls and into the West Fork of the Tuckasegee River, where whitewater kayakers can tackle more than five miles of Class II, III and IV rapids. Cyclists will find a wide array of challenges in and around Jackson County, including the annual Tour de Cashiers. The grueling race with challenging ascents has total elevation gains of up to 10,500 feet and offers a 25, 50 and 100-mile course.

www.DiscoverJacksonNC.com/Outdoors



Hooked on Jackson County

Anglers travel from across the country to experience Jackson County's abundance of rivers and streams, teeming with brown, rainbow and brook trout. With 92,800 fish stocked in its waters annually, it's no wonder Jackson County is recognized as the North Carolina Trout Capital. The county is also home of the Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail, which maps out 15 prime spots in the crystal-clear streams of the Great Smoky Mountains. Whether you're looking for wide-open rivers or secluded mountain streams, the Fly Fishing Trail has you covered. The heart of the trail, the Tuckasegee River, is the county's largest body of water, flowing some 40 miles. With more than 4,600 miles of streams, Jackson County has the state's longest contiguous stretch of Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. AB's Fly Fishing, Blue Chip Fly Fishing, Brookings Anglers, Dream Catcher's

Fishing, Fontana Guides, Play On Adventures and Tuckasegee Fly Shop read the river with years of experience to guide both novice and experienced anglers to the best spots to fish. www.DiscoverJacksonNC.com/Outdoors/Fishing



Weekend Getaway

Jackson County is only a few hours from several of the Southeast's major towns. Escape everyday life, lace up hiking boots and trek the two-mile loop at Whiteside Mountain, considered by geologists to be the oldest mountain in the world, estimated at 390 to 460 million years old. Known as the "Jewel of the Appalachians," hikers should keep an eye out for the endangered peregrine falcons and diverse flora and fauna. Cool off at Sliding Rock or Silver Run Falls, two of Cashiers' waterfalls that offer wading pools for swimming. For a beach feel with a mountain view, visit Lake Glenville, one of the country's highest lakes, for water activities or just to lounge on the sand-filled beach. Take in a stunning scene and find the way to Whitewater Falls, where the upper and lower falls combined create an 811-foot fall, making this the highest waterfall east of the Rockies. Discover the Appalachian heritage in Jackson County, where local artisans and crafters tell tales of the mountains through pottery, paintings, fly rods, beer and chocolate. Be sure to take a piece of the mountains home with these local mountain-made crafts. On the way in or out of town, stop by the smallest post office in the United States, Grimshawes, that operated from 1903-1953. The ramshackle wood-framed post office is located on Whiteside Cove Road. Accommodation options in the area range from historic inns and bed and breakfasts to cozy mountain cabins and campgrounds or RV parks.



Sip Suds on the Jackson County Ale Trail

A husband and wife brewing team, an online gaming mastermind, and a new mother—these are the brewers that are innovating the beer scene in a small Western North Carolina town. Sylva boasts three breweries within one mile of each other, creating the Jackson County Ale Trail. Innovation Brewing is now in its fourth year, and its name is true to its beers, featuring both traditional brews and a number of seasonal and experimental beers. The seven-barrel brew house turns out more than 30 beers on tap, with 12 year-round favorites. Innovation is opening a second location dedicated to sours and an additional tasting room this year. Sneak E. Squirrel offers 13 beers on tap, with well-balanced and classic styles, while a French press method allows guests to make their own hop infusions. Balsam Falls Brewing, the newest addition to Jackson County's brewery scene, features over a dozen beers on tap including a rotating selection of IPAs, pale ales and sours, along with six staple beers regularly on tap. Husband and wife

partners in the brewery, Corey and Laurie Bryson, plan to utilize fruits, herbs and even vegetables in their brewing treatments. www.DiscoverJacksonNC.com/Attractions/Brewery-Trail

Elevated Appetites

In Jackson County, the restaurants make as much of a lasting impression as the towering mountainscapes that surround you. In Cashiers, restaurants feature pretty porches, apple orchards and country dining. Cornucopia is consistently named as one of the best porches in Cashiers, with a covered dining area that is comfortable no matter the weather, with fans or heaters to please guests. Award-winning chef Adam Hayes is waiting to serve one of his farm-to-table specialties at Canyon Kitchen in Sapphire. One of the most popular spots in Sylva is Lulu's on Main. Chef Devin McCardle helms the kitchen, and his French culinary training influences the menu, which feature a range of vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free items to suit special diets. Guadalupe Café offers Caribbean-inspired fusion, a diverse selection of wines from Spain and Latin America and micro-brewed beers. Consider this spot a farm-to-table tropical fusion eatery, where most ingredients are organic, fair-trade, and/or natural. Set in a 100-year-old farmhouse, the dining ambiance at The Orchard reflects rustic elegance with mountain charm, and features several historical artifacts on display. In cooler temperatures, dine outside on the porch or patio for a view of the apple orchard, lawn and gardens. The Orchard's extensive menu touches on American cuisine with Southern flavor. www.DiscoverJacksonNC.com/Eat-Like-A-Local

