



Blue Ridge Parkway

MCDOWELL COUNTY VISITOR GUIDE

DESTINATION
★ NC ★
McDowell



Lake James



Crabtree Falls



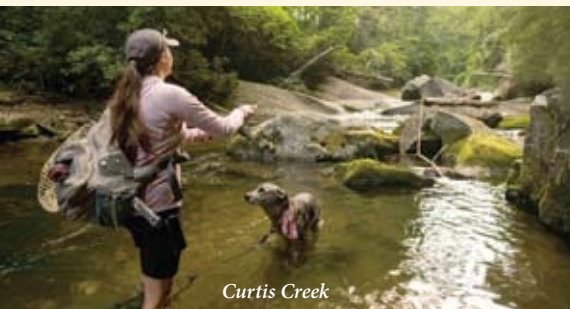
Gateway Trails



Little Switzerland



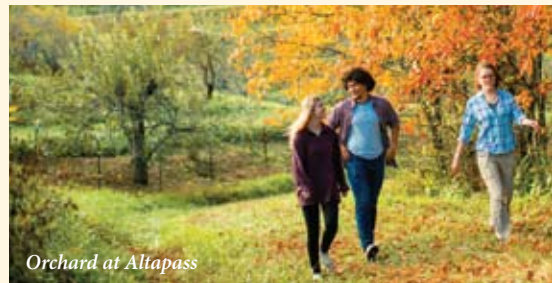
Old Fort Depot



Curtis Creek



Marion



Orchard at Altapass

MARION

LAKE JAMES

LITTLE SWITZERLAND

LINVILLE FALLS

OLD FORT



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Events Calendar

18-19



Mural Trail



Sunset in the Blue Ridge mountains

SMALL TOWNS, BIG ADVENTURES!

Make your #DestinationMcDowell and immerse yourself in the beauty of five scenic mountain communities: Marion, Old Fort, Little Switzerland, Lake James and Linville Falls.

Our four season wonderland knows no boundaries with over 70,000 acres of Pisgah National Forest at our doorstep. McDowell County is the ideal location for hiking, trail running, fishing, mountain biking, cycling, waterfall chasing and camping.

Discover world-class views, breathtaking scenic overlooks, and the charming community of Little Switzerland while driving along “America’s Favorite Drive” - the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Our towns are our base camps and the City of Marion is Where the Mountains meet Main Street full of shopping, dining, breweries and

more. Four popular state parks, Lake James State Park, Mt. Mitchell State Park, Chimney Rock, and South Mountains State Park are all within an hour’s drive of McDowell County, NC. Plan memorable day trips full of history, paddling, boating, horse-back riding, swimming or tubing!

From award-winning cinnamon rolls, to regionally crafted wines and brews, McDowell County offers adventures for those with a curious palate, or those seeking tried n’ true favorites like local barbeque, ice cream, and traditional Appalachian cuisine.

We are here to help with your travel plans and introduce you to the people, places, and happenings in the area. Visit us online at DestinationMcDowell.com or call: 828-668-4282 to plan your next adventure.

PLAY IN MCDOWELL COUNTY

Whether hiking and biking our trails, fishing and boating on our waterways or playing a round of golf, McDowell County is the perfect location for a memorable adventure!



Kitsuma Trail

ON A TRAIL

Old Fort Area

Bernard Mountain Trail

A new 3-mile trail linking Mills Creek Rd to Lookout Point Trail with technical bike features and diverse terrain.

Catawba Falls Trail

Moderate to Strenuous 3.4-mile round trip trail that offers stunning views of 280 foot multi-cascading waterfall. The new Ridge Trail offers a return loop.

Copper Ridge Trail

Moderate/Strenuous hiking/biking 3-mile trail with switchbacks.

Curtis Creek Recreation Area /Pisgah National Forest

Multiple moderate to strenuous trails for hiking, biking and equestrian adventures.

Hickory Nut Branch

Moderate 3-mile round trip trail with waterfalls and wildflowers.

Snook's Nose

Climb steeply to the rock outcrop that gives the trail its name and go further to the Green Knob Overlook on Blue Ridge Parkway. Strenuous hike.

Kitsuma Peak Trail

8.7 mile out and back challenging trail. Very popular with mountain bikers.

Newberry Creek

Easy walk on gravel forest road before a strenuous ascent to the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Old Fort Gateway Trail System

Multi-use trail system with 6 miles completed of a 42 miles planned expansion. Off Curtis Creek Road. Easy to moderate with multiple loop options.

Point Lookout Trail

Paved non-motorized trail with views of the Royal Gorge. 3.7 miles one way.

State Long Distance Trails that Pass Through McDowell

Fonta Flora Trail

A hiking/biking trail that will eventually connect Morganton to Asheville. Completed sections can be found at Lake James, Marion, and Old Fort.

Mountains to Sea Trail

Parts of section four traverse McDowell County.

Wilderness Gateway State Trail

100-mile trail that will connect Chimney Rock to the South Mountain State Parks. Runs along the southern border of McDowell County.

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail

National Historic Trail covering four states and 300 miles. Varying lengths and skill levels. Part goes through McDowell County between Lake James and the Blue Ridge Parkway. There are 57 accessible miles of trail. Some sections are for motorized travel.

Picnic Areas

Old Fort Picnic Area

Greenlee Park

Crabtree Meadows mp 339

Linville River mp 316

Mountain Gateway Museum

Joseph McDowell Greenway

Blue Ridge Parkway Overlooks

Singecat Ridge

Three Knobs

Curtis Creek Area

Blue Ridge Parkway Access Points

Hwy 80

Hwy 226A

Hwy 226

Hwy 221

Curtis Creek Road (unpaved)

OUTDOOR RECREATION

When it comes to trails, elevation matters. In this region, elevation ranges between 1500 to 3500 feet above sea level.

Create memorable adventures by hiking a waterfall trail, casting flies on cool mountain trout streams, or entertaining the family by identifying “critters” and plants. Lake James is filled with a variety of sports fish and is host to annual bass fishing tournaments. Find fishing guidelines and locations online. www.ncwildlife.org

Marion’s McDowell Greenway is a relaxing way to spend time at the Catawba River. The handicap accessible, paved trail includes plenty of benches and overlooks. It’s a site on the N.C. Birding Trail, a perfect way to start the day.

Schedule a tee time at North Cove Leisure Club and Disc Golf Course or the Marion Lake Golf Club.



Miles of hiking trails

ON A TRAIL Marion Area

Joseph McDowell Greenway

Paved non-motorized 1.5 mile trail, easy walk or bike ride, bordering the Catawba River.

Mt Ida Trail

Half mile moderate/strenuous trail overlooking downtown Marion.

Peavine Trail

1.5-mile former railroad corridor repurposed trail in Marion starting on State St.

Tom’s Creek Falls

One-mile round trip hike to an 80 ft multi-cascading waterfall in the Pisgah National Forest.

Wood’s Mountain

Hike or bike this 26-mile loop. Not for the faint of heart! Rollercoaster climbs with epic descents.



Point Lookout Trail

Near By

Mt. Mitchell State Park

At 6,684 feet, the mountain is the highest point east of the Mississippi River, and an observation deck provides breathtaking mountain views on a clear day. Easy trails at the summit explore the Fraser fir forest, while a vast network of challenging trails — including the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail — extend into adjacent wilderness areas and lead to backpacking opportunities within Pisgah National Forest.
828-675-4611
www.ncparks.gov

Linville Gorge Wilderness Area/ Linville Falls

The Linville Gorge Wilderness is part of the Pisgah National Forest. The gorge is formed by the Jonas Ridge on the east and Linville Mountain on the west and is bisected by the Linville River which drops 2,000 feet into the valleys below. The terrain is

steep and rugged with numerous rock formations. Recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, fishing and hunting.
828-652-2144
www.fs.usda.gov

Lake James State Park

Lake James State Park includes two areas to access this picturesque lake that is perfect for boating, swimming, and fishing. Campsites at both Catawba River and Paddy’s Creek accesses provide an opportunity to spend the night by the lake, with some sites accessible only by paddling. Trails include bike trails at Paddy’s Creek, the kid-friendly Holly Discovery Trail, the historic Overmountain Victory Trail, and the Fonta Flora State Trail.
828-554-6800
www.ncparks.gov

MARION, NEBO AND LAKE JAMES

Explore “Where Main Street Meets the Mountains” and stroll through a historic downtown district set against the backdrop of Mt. Ida. Savor local flavors as you explore Marion’s many pubs, restaurants, breweries and meadery. Shop locally produced foods, handmade artisan crafts, unique heritage art, and an authentic Main Street General Store in downtown Marion.



Downtown Marion

Main Street is the site of many annual celebrations including a fall arts and crafts festival, pop up street fairs, the iconic Bigfoot Festival, New Year’s Eve celebration and more.



Downtown Marion



Check our event calendar for events, details, and updates.

DESTINATIONMCDOWELL.COM

Accommodations Marion area

America’s Best Value Inn
828-659-2567
www.redlion.com

Backyard Bunkies
828-527-4428
www.backyardbunkies.com

Budget Inn
828-652-7276
www.budgetinn.com

Comfort Inn
828-652-4888
www.choicehotels.com/hotel/nc844

Cottages at Spring House Farm
828-738-9798
www.springhousefarm.com

Eco Cove House Wildlife Sanctuary
828-724-9757
www.airbnb.com

Fossie’s Cabin – Buck Creek Trout Farm
828-724-9612
www.buckcreektroutfarm.com

Gold River Camp & Cabins
828-351-6283
www.goldrivercamp.com

Hampton Inn Marion
828-652-5100
www.hamptoninn.com

Spacious Skies Hidden Creek Cabins
828-652-7208
www.spaciousskiescampgrounds.com/hidden-creek/

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
828-527-0035
www.hiexpress.com/marionnc

Accommodations

Marion area

Mountain Stream Yurts

828-724-9013

www.mountainstreamrvpark.com

Rock House at Maple Hill

828-652-7208

www.greybeardrentals.com

Sportsman Inn

828-659-7525

Super 8 Motel

828-659-7940

www.wyndhamhotels.com



Catawba River at Phillips Landing

Make Marion your base camp! Choose from cozy cabins and cottages to luxurious Lake James vacation rentals to your favorite national hoteliers. Find individually owned properties by searching AirBnb, VRBO and

others for Marion, Old Fort, Little Switzerland, and Nebo.

Marion's downtown is filled with eclectic shops, locally owned taprooms, breweries, a music hall. Lots to see and do!



Woods Mountain Trail

Campgrounds Marion

Catawba Falls Campground

828-668-4831

Buck Creek Campground

828-724-4888

www.buckcreekcampground.com

Camping World

800-225-7802

www.campingworld.com

Gold River Camp & Cabins

828-351-6283

www.golddrivercamp.com

Lucky Strike Campground

828-738-4893

www.luckystrikegoldandgem.com

Mountain Paradise & Pool

828-765-4085

Mountain Stream RV Park

828-724-9013

www.mountainstreamrvpark.com

River Breeze Campground

828-925-8524

www.riverbreezecampground.com

Spacious Skies Hidden Creek

828-652-7208

www.spaciousskiescampgrounds.com/hidden-creek/

Public Campgrounds

Marion and Lake James area

Lake James State Park

828-584-7728



Catawba River

Spend a day or two checking out Lake James State Parks, the Catawba River Area and the Paddy's Creek Area. There is no fee to hike or ride the trails. Beginning mountain bikers head over to Paddy's Creek. You'll find additional trails and loops designed for the moderate, experienced rider. Children enjoy the Holly Discovery Trail. An easier walk with interpretive stops.

The Catawba River area features easier hiking trails. The old growth forest canopy keeps you cool during summer weather. Amenities at both parks include picnic tables and restrooms.



Ride at Lake James



Boating on Lake James

Attractions/Shops Marion area

For a complete listing of local businesses visit:

Marion Business Association

828-652-2215

www.discovermarionnc.com

McDowell Chamber of Commerce

828-652-4240

www.mcdowellchamber.com

Big League Camp

828-527-0052

www.bigleaguecamp.com

Buck Creek Trout Farm

828-724-9612

www.buckcreektroutfarm.com

Catawba River Outdoors

828-442-6048

www.catawbariveroutdoors.com

Flavors on Main & General Store

828-528-8145

www.flavorsonmain.com

Founders Art Walk

828-668-4282

www.exploremarion.com

Historic Carson House

828-724-4948

www.historiccarsonhouse.com

Lucky Strike Gold & Gem Mine

828-738-4893

www.luckystrikegoldandgem.com

Marion Hot Wheelz

828-559-2270

www.marionhotwheelz.com

McDowell Arts Council Gallery & Gift Shop

828-652-8610

www.mcdowellarts.org

Vintage Market Marion

828-659-2700

Accommodations

Lake James/Nebo area

Airbnb: Lake James

airbnb.com/lake-james-nc/stays

Airbnb: Nebo

airbnb.com/nebo-nc/stays

Appalachian Dream Cabin

251-363-3142

www.appalachiadreamcabin.com

Barefoot Landing Cabins

828-829-5005

barefootlandingonlakejames.com/cabins

Jason's Getaway

980-253-3905

www.jasonsgetaway.com

Greybeard Vacation Rentals

855-688-9574

www.greybeardrentals.com

Lake Front Retreat

919-426-6723

www.vrbo.com/398753

Lake James Rentals

828-442-5890

www.lakejamesrentals.com

Lake James Property Management

828-443-1715

www.lakejamesrentalproperties.com

Newman's Nook Lakefront Vacation Rental

919-564-9021

www.newmansnook.com

Sarah's Song Cabin

828-659-2879

www.sarahsongcabin.com

Tamarca Hollow Retreat

828-460-7973

www.vrbo.com

VRBO - Lake James/Nebo

vrbo.com

ON THE WATER



Lake James State Park at Paddy's Creek

Lake James and Lake James State Park

Cool, deep waters and warm surface waters provide a variety of sport fishing. Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, White Bass, Bluegill, Robin, Catfish, Muskellunge, Bream, Sunfish, Perch, Crappie and Channel Catfish.

Fishing

All Wildlife Resources Commission regulations apply, whether you are sports fishing on Lake James and the Catawba River or searching for a great public trout stream.

Campgrounds/RV Parks Lake James/Nebo

Barefoot Landing Camping Resort

828-829-5005

barefootlandingonlakejames.com

Blackbear Campground & Park

6192 Lake James Road

Lake James Camping Resort & Marina

828-584-0190

lakejamescampingresortandmarina.com

Lake James State Park

828-544-6800

ncparks.gov/state-parks/lake-james-state-park/camping



Visitor Center
91 South Catawba Ave.
Old Fort, NC

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 trout waters on Mill Creek at Mountain Gateway Museum. The Old Fort section is included in the Wildlife Commission's Mountain Heritage Trout Town Program. Licenses are available online at www.ncwildlife.org or by calling 888-248-6834.



Trout Fishing

Public Trout Streams

Little Buck Creek

Game lands portion. 4 miles with tight creek, well-stocked.

North Fork of the Catawba River

Headwaters located in North Cove community.

Armstrong Creek

2 miles with large holes.

Mill Creek

6 miles. • Delayed Harvest

Curtis Creek

5 miles with easy access. • Catch & Release/Artificial Lures-Only Waters. Season is year-round. Fish may not be harvested or possessed. Lure restrictions are artificial lures with one single hook only.

Newberry Creek

3 miles stocked with Brook Trout.

Wild Trout Waters

No closed season. Daily creek limit is four with minimum size of 7". Lures are restricted to artificial lures with one single hook only.

Mackey Creek, Armstrong Creek, Catawba River

Gameland sections

Trout Ponds & Farms

Little Buck Creek

2525 Buck Creek Road (NC 80).

Elliot's Trout Farm

Buck Creek Road (NC 80). South of Mountain Stream RV Park.

Harris Creek Trout Farm

Huskins Branch Road, off US 221 North.



Kayaking on the Catawba River

Canoeing, Kayaking or Swimming

Lake James and the Catawba River offer a variety of opportunities for other watersports. The lake has boat ramps, paddling rentals and swimming. Rafting and kayaking the Catawba River can take visitors on a relaxing cruise.

Upper Catawba River Trail

Float from Greenlee County Park or Phillips Landing to Lake James along the Catawba River. Take out at Black Bear or Hidden Cove Landing.

Blue Ridge Snorkel Trail

The trail is sited in the Joseph McDowell Greenway Park.

Catawba River Outdoors

Offers rental tubes and shuttle rides or bring your own tube on Greenlee Park where you'll find parking, picnic tables and river access. 828-442-6048



Preparing to fish in Mill Creek



Cycling at Lake Tahoma



The Historic Carson House



Celebration, Wedding Event Venues

MARION

Historic Carson House

828-724-4948

www.historiccarsonhouse.com

Marion Train Depot

828-652-3551

www.marionnc.org/101/Services

Marion Municipal Event Center

828-652-4242

www.blueridgetraveler.com/attractions/municipal-event-center/

Oak Hill Farm

828-582-0320

www.oakhillfarmnc.com

Something Blue Mountain Venue

828-528-5115

www.somethingbluemountainvenue.com

Station 80

828-237-0400

www.station80nc.com

The Courtyard at Little Acres

828-442-8416

www.facebook.com/eventsvenue/about

The Emerald Woods

847-226-4626

www.theemeraldwoods.com

The Wilson Farm Event Center

828-925-5352

www.facebook.com/thewilsonfarm

OLD FORT

The Pond at Laurel Cove

828-442-8631

www.thepondatlaurelcove.com

NEBO/LAKE JAMES

The Back 40

828-808-7971

www.theback40nebonc.com

Bear Creek Marina & Event Center

828-925-0576

www.bear-creek-marina.com

LITTLE SWITZERLAND LINVILLE FALLS

North Cove Leisure Club & Disc Golf

828-756-8225

www.thenorthcove.com

Switzerland Inn

828-385-4500

www.switzerlandinn.com

10 MARION

LAKE JAMES

LITTLE SWITZERLAND

LINVILLE FALLS

OLD FORT

EAT LIKE A LOCAL

Locally owned eateries and beverage makers partner with regional growers to create unique tastes and experiences.



MARION

Artesana Ice Cream
828-559-2023

Blanton House Restaurant & Venue
239 S Main St.

Bruce's Fabulous Foods
828-659-8023
www.brucesfabulousfoods.com

Burrito Bros
828-559-0643

Chance of Sprinkles Bakery
828-559-2161

Countryside BBQ
828-652-4885
www.countrysidebbq.net

Crabby Abby's
828-559-2726
www.crabbyabbys.com

Copper Creek Distillery
www.coppercreekshine.com

Elevate Breakfast Company
828-559-0148
www.facebook.com/ElevateBreakfast

J Hartman's
828-652-3354
www.jhartmansmarion.com

Keeper's Cut Meadery
828-527-6326
www.keeperscut.com

Marion Wing Factory
828-559-2520
www.themarionwingfactory.com

McDowell Local
828-559-0654
www.mcdowelllocal.com

Mica Town Brewing Company
828-559-0027
www.micatownbrewing.com

Refinery 13 Taproom
828-559-0027
www.facebook.com/Refinery13Taproom

Smoke A Lil' Smoke
828-559-0495

Taylor's Brewing Company
828-559-0778

OLD FORT

Black Beary's Cafe
828-668-6242

Catawba Cafe & Cones
828-668-4737

Catawba Vale Hub
828.668-6161

Euda Wine
828-317-2113
www.eudawine.com

Gogo's Bakery
828-668-6024
www.gogosoven.com

Headwaters Kitchen
828-668-6110

Hillman Beer
828-668-6372
www.hillmanbeer.com

Highlighted places are part of the High Spirits Trail

Whaley Farm Brewery
828-668-6352
www.whaleymfarmbrewery.com

NEBO/LAKE JAMES

Bear Creek Marina
828-659-4111

Drew's Diner
828-527-6117

Elliott's Diner
828-659-5801

Mica Town Brewing Nebo
828-527-0963
www.micatownbrewing.com

Roma Restaurant
828-652-7377

Slices Bistro at Marion Lake Club
828-652-9910

Silver Fork Vineyard
828-391-8783
www.silverforkwinery.com

South Creek Winery & Vineyard
828-652-5729
www.southcreekwinery.com

LITTLE SWITZERLAND LINVILLE FALLS

Linville Falls Winery
828-765-1400

Little Switzerland Books & Beans
828-766-2601

**Little Switzerland Winery,
Cider & Brewery**
828-377-4354

North Cove Leisure Club & Grill
828-756-8225

**Switzerland Inn's Chalet
Restaurant And Fowl Play Pub**
828-765-2153

Switzerland Café
828-765-5289

Attractions/Shops Old Fort

Arrowhead Gallery & Studios

828-668-1100

www.arrowheadart.org

Camp Grier

www.campgrier.org

Davis Country Store

828-668-6416

Davidson's Fort Historic Park

www.davidsonsforthistoricpark.com

Mountain Gateway Museum

828-668-9259

www.mgmnc.org

Old Fort Train Depot and Museum

828-668-4244

The Catawba Angler

828-460-2390

www.thecatawbaangler.com

Painters Greenhouse

828-668-7225

www.paintersgreenhouse.com

Turtle Island Pottery

828-337-0092

www.turtleislandpottery.com

Campgrounds Old Fort

Catawba Falls Campground

828-668-4831

www.catawbafalls.com

Sky Island Retreat & Campground

828-668-4928

www.skyislandretreatandcampground.com

Curtis Creek Campground

828-652-2144

www.recreation.gov

Mountain View RV Park

828-527-3020

OLD FORT - BIRTHPLACE OF THE PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST

Old Fort has been called the promised land of mountain biking. Surrounded by 70,000 acres of Pisgah National Forest, the steep slopes and single tracks appeal to both bikers and hikers.

Why "Birthplace Of The Pisgah National Forest?" In 1911, The Weeks Act made it possible to purchase land for conservation and preservation creating the national forest system.

This section of Pisgah Forest and the Curtis Creek Area includes Phase I (six miles of the 42-mile plan) of the recently opened Old Fort Gateway Trail System. The mixed-use trail complex includes a handicap-accessible section and a trout fishing deck.

This terrain lends itself to off-road racing. Check out the



Old Fort Depot

Hellbender 100 (foot race), the Rock n Roller - Old Fort Edition (back road bicycle ride), and the mountain bike races including the Off-Road Assault on Mt. Mitchell, the Jerdon Mountain Challenge, and the Pisgah Enduro Race.

Don't miss Old Fort's new Gateway Trail System, and the Lower Heartbreak Ridge and Bernard Mountain Trails.

www.g5trailcollective.org/oldfort



Curtis Creek

12 MARION

LAKE JAMES

LITTLE SWITZERLAND

LINVILLE FALLS

OLD FORT



Exploring the creeks



Cyclists in Old Fort

Andrew's Geyser Park

Built in 1879 as a tourism attraction, Andrews Geyser was named to honor Western North Carolina Railroad officer, Alexander Boyd Andrews. The geyser was part of the property surrounding the Round Knob Hotel. In 1903, the hotel burned, and the owners decided not to rebuild. The geyser was such a popular attraction, one of its admirers paid to have it moved to the opposite side of the creek, and today it's part of a public park owned by the Town of Old Fort. Park hours are dawn until dusk. Picnic tables are available on-site, there are no toilet facilities.

Accommodations Old Fort area

Bear Haven Cabin

828-668-4831
www.greybeardrentals.com

Camp Grier

828-668-7793
www.camgrier.org

Catawba Falls Preserve

828-284-7893
www.catawbafallspreserve.org

Greybeard Vacation Rentals

828-669-1072
www.greybeardrentals.com

Indigo Nature Retreat

828-619-0900
www.indigoretreat.com

Inn on Mill Creek

877-735-2964 or 828-668-1115
www.innonmillcreek.com

Isobel Acres

828-669-1072
www.isobelacres.com

Jarrett Creek Cottage

828-231-4132
www.airbnb.com

Kibbin on Mackey Creek

828-669-1072
www.greybeardrentals.com

Lookout at Trail's End

828-419-9128
www.vrbo.com

Mary Ida's Place

828-460-2486
www.airbnb.com

Mountain Appalachian Inn

828-460-3438
www.airbnb.com

Mountain Time Memories

919-410-9856
<https://mountaintimememories.stay-directly.com/>

Newberry Creek Log House

828-652-1234
www.airbnb.com

Railway Rest

828-460-2486
www.vrbo.com/921905

Rivers Ridge Lodge

828-243-5762
www.rrlodge.com

Sky Island Cabins

828-668-4928
www.campingasheville.com



Golf course with beautiful views

Marion Lake Golf Club

828-652-6232

www.marionlakeclub.com

Enjoy a round of golf with spectacular views of Lake James and the surrounding mountains.

North Cove Leisure Club & Disc Golf

828-756-8225

www.thenorthcove.com

Disc Golf and social club with 3 world-class courses meandering along the Catawba River in North Cove.



Catawba Falls - lower falls



North Cove Disc Golf

ON THE GREENS

Looking for more time outdoors? Practice your disc golf game, book a tee time at the North Cove Leisure Club and Disc Golf Course. This 157-acre property includes two challenging courses and is a short drive to Linville Caverns and the Blue Ridge Parkway. If disc golf isn't for you, hit the links at Marion Lake Club. This public course is the only golf course with views of spectacular Lake James. Both courses include onsite bar and grill service.



On the Greenway

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY COMMUNITIES

Within the National Park Service system, the Blue Ridge Parkway is one of the most visited parks. In our area, you have access to three entry points, NC Highway 80 (at the intersection of US 70), from downtown Marion US Highway 221N, and US Highway 226N. A local and visitor favorite, you'll find the seasonal community of Little Switzerland between two favorite waterfalls, Crabtree and Linville at Milepost 334.



Blue Ridge Parkway

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 storytelling and traditional arts and music. Summertime square dances are still popular ways to spend a Saturday night.

These mountains are where you'll find the "curvy roads" like the infamous DiamondbackNC with

190 curves covering 12 miles of two-lane blacktop. Take home DiamondbackNC swag, locally crafted glassworks, jewelry, and more when you visit the shops at the Switzerland Inn.



Blue Ridge Parkway

Accommodations

Little Switzerland/Linville Falls area

Alpine Inn

828-765-5380

www.alpineinn.com

Bear Ridge Lodge

828-419-9128

www.cottonwoodrentals.com

Between the Falls

386-299-9681

www.betweenthefalls.com

Big Lynn Lodge

828-765-4257

www.biglynnlodge.com

Blue Ridge Parkway Cabin Rentals

919-602-6722

www.blueridgeparkwaycabinrentals.com

Catawba River Inn

866-756-7001

www.catawbariverinn.com

Chalet Switz

407-678-9383

www.chaletswitz.com

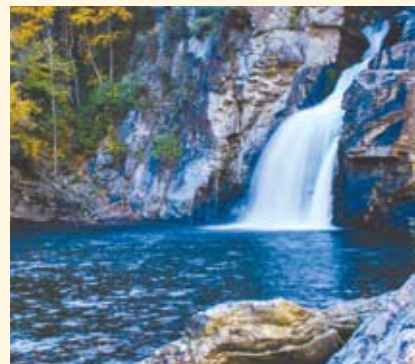
Haus Edelweiss Guest Suite

828-527-2564

www.vrbo.com

LaPetite Chalet

888-828-1654



Linville Falls

MARION

LAKE JAMES

LITTLE SWITZERLAND

LINVILLE FALLS

OLD FORT 15

Accommodations

Little Switzerland/Linville Falls area

Linville Falls Lodge & Cottages

828-527-2564

www.linvillefallslodge.com

Little Switzerland Vacation Rentals

866-766-0611 or 828-765-7111

www.littleswitzerlandvacationrentals.com

Rocky Falls Retreat

704-489-1559

www.rockyfallsretreat.com

Skyline Village Inn

828-765-9394

www.skylinevillageinn.com

Switzerland Inn & Chalet

828-385-4500

www.switzerlandinn.com

Whispering Creek Cottage

813-215-8906

www.whisperingcreekcottage.com

Campgrounds

Little Switzerland/Linville Falls

Spacious Skies Bear Den Campground & Cabins

828-765-2888

www.bear-den.com

Crabtree Falls Campground

828-675-5444

www.recreation.gov

Linville Falls Campground, RV Park & Cabins

828-765-2681

Triple C

828-724-4099

Orchard at Altapass

The 100+ year old Orchard at Altapass opens to views of the famous Clinchfield Loops. Visitors from across the globe travel to view this engineering marvel created by the Carolina Clinchfield and Ohio Railway.



Orchard at Altapass

Little Switzerland Downtown is where you'll find the Switzerland Cafe, a favorite stop on the North Carolina Barbecue Society Trail. The neighboring General Store offers picnic foods, treats, souvenirs, your favorite craft beverages, and pre-packaged foods from the Switzerland Cafe.

Check out the Little Switzerland Books and Beans shop and the second story Artists and Artisans of Little Switzerland gallery. Just down the road, don't miss Emerald Village. Once a commercial mine, this recreational mining property and museum have a lot to offer!



Little Switzerland



Apple trees in bloom



Blue Ridge Parkway

North of Little Switzerland, drive the Parkway to Milepost 328.3. The iconic Orchard at Altapass operates between May and October. Their mission, “saving the good stuff” is focused on preserving the mountain culture and traditions. Heirloom apples! Pick your own or buy a bag. Spend time enjoying the nature programs and historic, interpretive areas. Ask about the Carson family and how they transformed this declining property into a thriving, non-profit organization.



Little Switzerland

Attractions/Shops

Little Switzerland/Linville Falls

Artisan League of Little Switzerland Gallery

828-766-2601

www.visitlittleswitzerland.com/artisan-league

DiamondbackNC

Hwy 226-A

Motor route covering 12 miles of steep and winding road.

www.diamondbacknc.com

Emerald Village

828-765-6463

www.emeraldvillage.com

English Farmstead Cheese

828-756-8166

www.facebook.com/EnglishFarmsteadCheese/

[EnglishFarmsteadCheese/](https://www.facebook.com/EnglishFarmsteadCheese/)

Geneva Hall

Uptown Little Switzerland

July and August Square Dances

Historic Orchard at Altapass

828-765-9531

www.altapassorchard.org

Linville Caverns

828-756-4171

www.linvillecaverns.com

Linville Gorge Wilderness Area

828-652-2144

www.fs.usda.gov

North Cove Leisure Club & Disc Golf

828-756-8225

<https://www.thenorthcove.com/>



ANNUAL EVENTS

March

St. Patrick's Day Downtown Pub Crawl

Marion

Land and Lakes Relay Run

Warren Wilson College to Lake James
www.gloryhoundevents.com

Mt Mitchell Heartbreaker 50K and 50 mile runs

Camp Grier
www.tanawahaadventures.com

April

SwimRun Lake James

Long course (teams of 2) 4 miles
swimming, 15 miles running
Short course (teams of 2 or solo)
2.7 mile swimming 10 miles running
www.trisignup.com

Annual Herb Festival

Painter's Greenhouse
info@paintergreenhouse.com

Mountain Thunder Car Show

Spring Arts and Craft Market

Little Switzerland
www.visitlittleswitzerland.com

Rock N Roller Bike

Short Edition: 26 miles
Long Edition: 65 miles
Old Fort
www.mcdowelltrails.org

Pioneer Day

Mountain Gateway Museum Old Fort
www.mgmnc.org



Mountain view



Downtown Marion



South Creek Winery and Vineyard



Visitor Center - 91 S. Catawba Ave. | Old Fort, NC



Mountain Gateway Museum





Linville Falls

May

Hellbender 100

Trail Run
Camp Grier
www.Hellsbender100.com

Art by the Creek

Old Fort
arrowheadart.org

WNC Bigfoot Festival

www.marionbigfootfestival.com

Assault on Mount Mitchell

Spartanburg to Mt Mitchell
102.7 miles
Spartanburg to Marion 74.2 miles
www.theassaults.com

June

Trails and Trains Festival and 5k

Old Fort
www.blueridgetraveler.com

Livermush Festival

Main Street Marion

Gateway Youth Express Bike Race

Camp Grier
www.pisgahproduction.com

Ridges to Rails Trail Race Half Marathon and 10k

Camp Grier
www.tanawhaadventures.com

Sasquatch Scrambler

15 miles MTB race
www.blueridgeadventure.net

Woods Mountain

36.4 MTB race
www.Blueridgeadventure.net

Juneteenth Freedom Festivals

www.Westmarion.org

July

Jerdon Mountain Challenge

26-mile MTB race
Old Fort
www.blueridgeadventures.net

ORAMM

60 mile MTB race
Old Fort
www.blueridgeadventures.net

August

Pisgah Enduro

High speed technical single track racing
Camp Grier
www.pisgahproductions.com

September

ASAP Farm Tour

www.asapconnections.org



Jumping in to Lake James

October

Lake James Dragon Boat Festival

www.lakejamesdragonboat.org

Outdoors for All

Camp Grier
www.outdoorsforalloldfort.org

Mountain Glory Festival

www.mtngloryfestival.com

Mountain Glory 5K

Marion Road Run
www.runsignup.com

Geyser Growl Half-Marathon Presented by Hillman Beer

Run Black Mountain to Old Fort, NC
www.gloryhoundevents.com

Gateway Trail Race

5K and 10K Trail Runs
www.runsignup.com

November

Old Fort Turkey Trot

5K Road Race
www.runsignup.com

December

Appalachian Potters Market

www.McDowellarts.org

Blue Ridge Artisans Show and Sale

www.McDowellarts.org

Carolina Christmas Show

www.Carolinaonstage.com

Resolution Run

5K Road Race
Marion
www.Runsignup.com

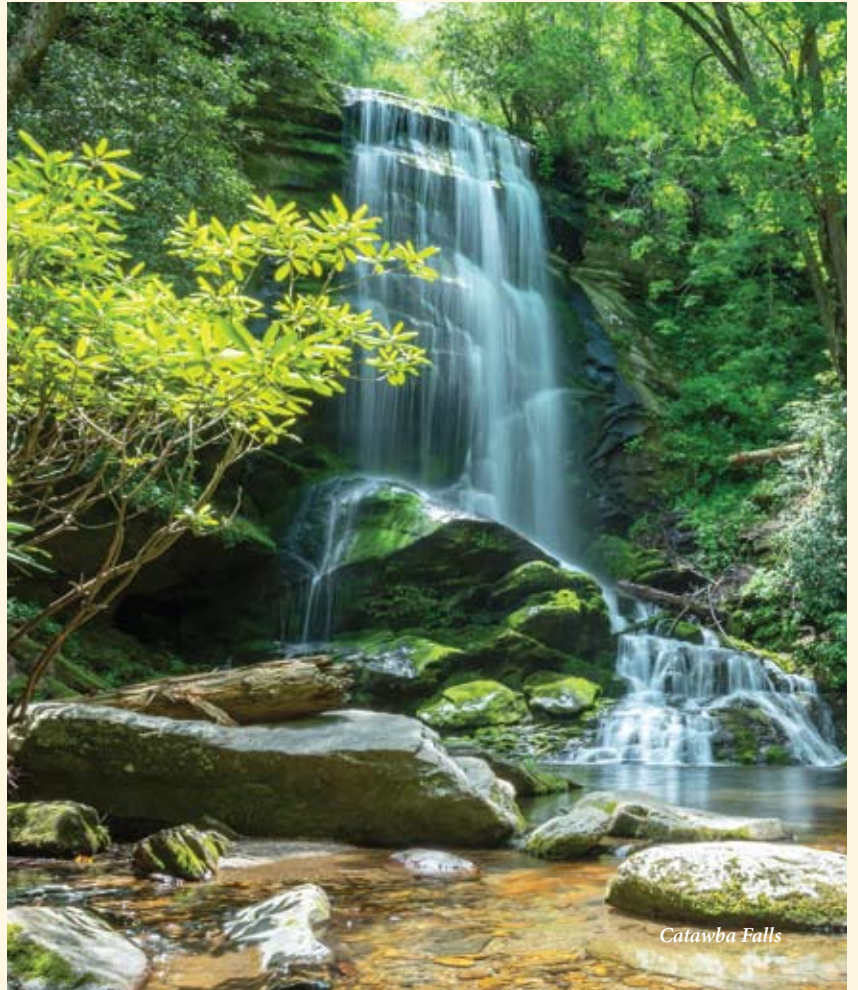
New Year's Eve Street Celebration

Marion Rotary Club

DESTINATION ★ NC ★ McDowell

91 South Catawba Avenue
Old Fort, North Carolina 28762
828-668-4282 | 888-233-6111

Proud to be part of the



OLD FORT

Basecamp

MARION

Main Street

LAKE JAMES

The Blueway

LINVILLE FALLS

The Gorge

LITTLE SWITZERLAND

The Outpost

DESTINATIONMCDOWELL.COM