

# Blue Ridge Country

EXPERIENCE THE MOUNTAINS OF THE SOUTH

## **BEST MAIN-STREET LOCAL SHOPPING TOWN**

- 1 Blowing Rock, NC
- 2 Waynesville, NC
- 2 Blue Ridge, GA

## **BEST ARTS TOWN**

- 1 Asheville, NC
- 2 Blowing Rock, NC
- 3 Floyd, VA

## **BEST RETIREMENT TOWN**

- 1 Hendersonville, NC
- 2 Brevard, NC
- 3 Roanoke, VA
- 3 Boone, NC

## **BEST REVITALIZED DOWNTOWN**

- 1 Hendersonville, NC
- 2 Staunton, VA
- 3 Blue Ridge, GA

## **TOWN ON MY BUCKET LIST**

- 1 Asheville, NC
- 2 Helen, GA
- 2 Boone, NC

## **BEST COLLEGE TOWN**

- 1 Boone, NC
- 2 Blacksburg, VA
- 3 Charlottesville, VA

## **BEST WALKABLE TOWN**

- 1 Blowing Rock, NC
- 2 Staunton, VA
- 3 Blue Ridge, GA

## **FRIENDLIEST TOWN**

- 1 West Jefferson, NC
- 2 Hendersonville, NC
- 2 Floyd, VA

### **BEST FOODIE TOWN**

- 1 Asheville, NC
- 2 Abingdon, VA
- 3 Boone, NC

### **BEST RIVER TOWN**

- 1 Asheville, NC
- 2 Bryson City, NC
- 3 Helen, GA

### **BEST BIKING TRAIL**

- 1 VA Creeper Trail, Damascus, VA
- 2 New River Trail State Park, Max Meadows, VA
- 3 Swamp Rabbit Trail, Greenville, SC
- 3 Roanoke River Greenway, Roanoke, VA

### **BEST MOTORCYCLE ROUTE**

- 1 Tail of the Dragon, Route 16, NC
- 2 Blue Ridge Parkway, NC-VA
- 3 Back of the Dragon, Route 16, VA

### **BEST FISHING LAKE**

- 1 Smith Mountain Lake, VA
- 2 Watauga Lake, TN
- 3 Lake Lure, NC

### **BEST FISHING RIVER**

- 1 New River, VA
- 2 James River, VA
- 3 Davidson River, Pisgah National Forest, NC

### **BEST PADDLING LAKE**

- 1 Claytor Lake State Park, VA
- 2 Hungry Mother State Park, VA
- 3 Price Lake, Blowing Rock, NC

### **BEST PADDLING RIVER**

- 1 New River, VA-WV
- 2 James River, VA
- 3 French Broad River, NC

### **BEST RAIL-TO-TRAIL SYSTEM**

- 1 Virginia Creeper Trail, VA
- 2 New River Trail State Park, VA

3 Greenbrier River Trail, WV

**BEST SWIMMING HOLE**

- 1 Blue Hole Falls, Carter County, TN
- 2 Sliding Rock, Transylvania County, NC

**FAVORITE WATERFALL**

- 1 Cascade Falls, Giles County, VA
- 1 Crabtree Falls, Nelson County, VA
- 3 Linville Falls, McDowell County, NC

**BEST ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION**

- 1 The Nature Conservancy

**BEST CAVERNS**

- 1 Luray Caverns, Luray, VA
- 2 Linville Cavern, Marion, NC
- 3 Bristol Caverns, Bristol, TN
- 3 Dixie Caverns, Salem, VA

**BEST GEM MINING**

- 1 Franklin, NC
- 2 Emerald Village, Little Switzerland, NC
- 3 Dahlonega, GA

**BEST HISTORIC ATTRACTION**

- 1 Biltmore Estate, Asheville, VA
- 2 Monticello, Charlottesville, VA
- 3 Oconaluftee Village, Museum of the Cherokee, Cherokee, NC

**BEST LOOP DRIVE ON A TANK OF GAS**

- 1 Blue Ridge Parkway, NC-VA
- 2 Cades Cove, TN

**BEST SCENIC TRAIN RIDE**

- 1 Great Smoky Mountains Railroad, Bryson City, NC
- 2 Blue Ridge Scenic Railway, Blue Ridge, GA
- 3 Cass Scenic Railroad, Cass, WV

**BEST MUSEUM**

- 1 Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Cherokee, NC
- 1 Frontier Culture Museum, Staunton, VA
- 3 Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke, VA

### **BEST THEME PARK**

- 1 Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, TN
- 2 Tweetsie Railroad, Blowing Rock, NC

### **BEST PLACE TO HEAR MOUNTAIN MUSIC**

- 1 Floyd Country Store, Floyd, VA
- 2 Galax, VA
- 3 Carter Family Fold, Hiltons, VA

### **BEST HISTORIC THEATER**

- 1 Barter Theatre, Abingdon, VA
- 2 American Shakespeare Center's Blackfriars Playhouse, Staunton, VA
- 3 Lincoln Theatre, Marion, VA
- 3 Grandin Theatre, Roanoke, VA

### **BEST SPA**

- 1 The Spa at Omni Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC
- 2 The Omni Homestead Resort, Hot Springs, VA
- 2 The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, WV

### **BEST PLACE FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

- 1 Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC
- 2 Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg, TN
- 3 Asheville, NC

### **BEST ANTIQUING**

- 1 Antique Tobacco Barn, Asheville, NC

### **BEST CRAFTS VENUE**

- 1 Southern Highland Craft Guild, Asheville, NC

### **BEST OUTLET SHOPPING**

- 1 Tanger Outlets, Pigeon Forge, TN
- 2 Tanger Outlets, Blowing Rock, NC
- 3 Asheville Outlets, Asheville, NC

### **BEST COUNTRY STORE**

- 1 Mast General Store, original in Valle Crucis, NC (others in various locations)
- 2 Floyd Country Store, Floyd, VA

### **BEST FARMERS MARKET**

- 1 WNC Farmers Market, Asheville, NC
- 2 Historic Roanoke City Market, Roanoke, VA
- 3 Staunton Farmers' Market, Staunton, VA

### **BEST SOUTHERN COOKING**

- 1 Dan'l Boone Inn, Boone, NC
- 2 The Dillard House, Dillard, GA
- 3 Southern Charm Restaurant, Blue Ridge, GA
- 3 Moose Café, Asheville, NC

### **BEST MOUNTAIN SPIRITS TRAIL**

- 1 Route 151 Nelson County VA

### **BEST MOUNTAIN WINE TRAIL**

- 1 Nelson 151 Craft Beverage Trail, Nelson County, VA
- 2 Monticello Wine Trail, Charlottesville, VA
- 3 Blue Ridge Parkway - Chateau Morrisette and Villa Appalaccia, VA

### **BEST MOUNTAIN BEER TRAIL**

- 1 Nelson 151, Craft Beverage Trail, Nelson County, VA

### **BEST FAMILY DESTINATION**

- 1 Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg area/ Dollywood, TN
- 2 Great Smoky Mountains National Park, NC/TN
- 3 Tweetsie Railroad, Blowing Rock, NC

### **BEST LUXURY RESORT**

- 1 The Omni Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC
- 2 The Omni Homestead Resort, Hot Springs, VA
- 3 The Greenbrier Hotel, White Sulphur Springs, WV

### **BEST GOLF RESORT**

- 1 Primland Resort, Meadows of Dan, VA
- 2 The Omni Homestead Resort, Hot Springs, VA
- 3 Wintergreen Resort, Nellysford, VA
- 3 The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, WV

### **BEST ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW**

- 1 Virginia Highlands Festival, Abingdon, VA
- 2 Crozet Arts and Crafts Festival, Crozet, VA
- 2 Arts in the Park, Blue Ridge, GA

### **BEST MUSIC FESTIVAL**

- 1 FloydFest, Floyd, VA
- 2 Old Fiddlers' Convention, Galax, VA
- 3 MerleFest, Wilkesboro, NC

### **BEST FALL FESTIVAL (NON-MUSIC FOCUS)**

- 1 Woolly Worm Festival, Banner Elk, NC
- 2 NC Apple Festival, Hendersonville, NC
- 3 Blue Ridge Folklife Festival, Ferrum, VA

#### **BEST QUIRKY FESTIVAL**

- 1 Woolly Worm Festival, Banner Elk, NC
- 2 Queen City Mischief & Magic, Staunton, VA
- 3 Appalachian Trail Days Festival, Damascus, VA

#### **BEST HOLIDAY FESTIVAL**

- 1 Dollywood's Smoky Mountain Christmas, Pigeon Forge, TN
- 2 Dickens of a Christmas, Roanoke, VA
- 3 Wintertide, Highland County, VA
- 3 Bristol Light Festival, Bristol, TN/VA
- 3 Blowing Rock WinterFest, Blowing Rock, NC
- 3 Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC

*For more information, visit [blueridgecountry.com](http://blueridgecountry.com).*