



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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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](http://DestinationMcDowell.com) or call: 888-233-6111 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 over 10 miles of singletrack. 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.

## Long Distance State Trails

### **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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.ncparks.gov)

# MARION, NEBO AND LAKE JAMES

Explore Marion, “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.



*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](http://DESTINATIONMCDOWELL.COM)

## Accommodations Marion area

**America’s Best Value Inn**  
828-659-2567  
[www.redlion.com](http://www.redlion.com)

**Budget Inn**  
828-652-7276  
[www.budgetinn.com](http://www.budgetinn.com)

**Comfort Inn**  
828-652-4888  
[www.choicehotels.com/hotel/nc844](http://www.choicehotels.com/hotel/nc844)

**Cottages at Spring House Farm**  
828-738-9798  
[www.springhousefarm.com](http://www.springhousefarm.com)

**Eco Cove House Wildlife Sanctuary**  
828-724-9757  
[www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com)

**Gold River Camp & Cabins**  
828-351-6283  
[www.goldrivercamp.com](http://www.goldrivercamp.com)

**Hampton Inn Marion**  
828-652-5100  
[www.hamptoninn.com](http://www.hamptoninn.com)

**Spacious Skies Hidden Creek Cabins**  
828-652-7208  
[www.spaciousskiescampgrounds.com/hidden-creek/](http://www.spaciousskiescampgrounds.com/hidden-creek/)

**Holiday Inn Express & Suites**  
828-527-0035  
[www.hiexpress.com/marionnc](http://www.hiexpress.com/marionnc)

**The Tabletop Inn**  
914-297-9048  
[www.tabletopinn.com](http://www.tabletopinn.com)



## Accommodations

### Marion area

#### Mountain Stream Yurts

828-724-9013

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

#### Rock House at Maple Hill

828-652-7208

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

#### Sportsman Inn

828-659-7525

#### Super 8 Motel

828-659-7940

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



*Woods Mountain Trail*



*Catawba River at Phillips Landing*

Make Marion your Main Street! Choose from cozy cabins and cottages to luxurious Lake James vacation rentals to your favorite national hoteliers.

Marion's downtown is filled with eclectic shops, locally owned-taprooms, breweries and a weekly farmers market on Saturdays in season.

## Campgrounds Marion

### Catawba Falls Campground

828-668-4831

### Buck Creek Campground

828-724-4888

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

### Camping World

800-225-7802

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

### Gold River Camp & Cabins

828-351-6283

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

### Lucky Strike Campground

828-738-4893

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

### Mountain Paradise & Pool

828-765-4085

### Mountain Stream RV Park

828-724-9013

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

### River Breeze Campground

828-925-8524

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

### Spacious Skies Hidden Creek

828-652-7208

[www.spaciousskiescampgrounds.com/hidden-creek/](http://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 enjoying Lake James State Parks' Catawba River and Paddy's Creek areas. 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 will enjoy the Holly Discovery Trail, an easy 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](http://www.discovermarionnc.com)

### **McDowell Chamber of Commerce**

828-652-4240

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

### **Big League Camp**

828-527-0052

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

### **Buck Creek Trout Farm**

828-724-9612

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

### **Catawba River Outdoors**

828-442-6048

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

### **Flavors on Main & General Store**

828-528-8145

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

### **Founders Art Walk**

828-668-4282

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

### **Historic Carson House**

828-724-4948

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

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

828-738-4893

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

### **Marion Hot Wheelz**

828-559-2270

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

### **McDowell Arts Council Gallery & Gift Shop**

828-652-8610

[www.mcdowellarts.org](http://www.mcdowellarts.org)

### **Vintage Market Marion**

828-659-2700

## Accommodations

Lake James/Nebo area

### Airbnb: Lake James

[airbnb.com/lake-james-nc/stays](https://airbnb.com/lake-james-nc/stays)

### Airbnb: Nebo

[airbnb.com/nebo-nc/stays](https://airbnb.com/nebo-nc/stays)

### Appalachian Dream Cabin

251-363-3142

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

### Barefoot Landing Cabins

828-829-5005

[barefootlandingonlakejames.com/cabins](http://barefootlandingonlakejames.com/cabins)

### Jason's Getaway

980-253-3905

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

### Greybeard Vacation Rentals

855-688-9574

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

### Lake Front Retreat

919-426-6723

[www.vrbo.com/398753](http://www.vrbo.com/398753)

### Lake James Rentals

828-442-5890

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

### Lake James Property Management

828-443-1715

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

### Newman's Nook Lakefront Vacation Rental

919-564-9021

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

### Sarah's Song Cabin

828-659-2879

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

### Tamarca Hollow Retreat

828-460-7973

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

### VRBO - Lake James/Nebo

[vrbo.com](http://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.

## Black Bear Campground and Park

Blackbear Campground also on Lake James and minutes from downtown Marion offers a day use area, fishing pier, a section of the Fonta Flora State Trail and a full service campground.

## Campgrounds/RV Parks Lake James/Nebo

### Barefoot Landing Camping Resort

828-829-5005

[barefootlandingonlakejames.com](http://barefootlandingonlakejames.com)

### Blackbear Campground & Park

6192 Lake James Road

[blackbearcampgroundandpark.com](http://blackbearcampgroundandpark.com)

### Lake James Camping Resort & Marina

828-584-0190

[lakejamescampingresortandmarina.com](http://lakejamescampingresortandmarina.com)

### Lake James State Park

828-544-6800

[ncparks.gov/state-parks/lake-james-state-park/camping](http://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](http://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 Tahoe*



*The Historic Carson House*

## Celebration, Wedding Event Venues

### MARION

#### Historic Carson House

828-724-4948

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

#### Marion Train Depot

828-652-3551

[www.marionnc.org/101/Services](http://www.marionnc.org/101/Services)

#### Oak Hill Farm

828-582-0320

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

#### Something Blue Mountain Venue

828-528-5115

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

#### The Box Factory

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

#### The Courtyard at Little Acres

828-442-8416

[www.facebook.com/eventsvenue/about](http://www.facebook.com/eventsvenue/about)

#### The Emerald Woods

847-226-4626

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

#### The Wilson Farm Event Center

828-925-5352

[www.facebook.com/thewilsonfarm](http://www.facebook.com/thewilsonfarm)

### OLD FORT

#### The Pond at Laurel Cove

828-442-8631

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

### NEBO/LAKE JAMES

#### The Back 40

828-808-7971

[www.theback40nebonc.com](http://www.theback40nebonc.com)

#### Bear Creek Marina & Event Center

828-925-0576

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

### LITTLE SWITZERLAND LINVILLE FALLS

#### North Cove Leisure Club & Disc Golf

828-756-8225

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

#### Switzerland Inn

828-385-4500

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



# 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](http://www.brucesfabulousfoods.com)

### Burrito Bros

828-559-0643

### Chance of Sprinkles Bakery

828-559-2161

### Countryside BBQ

828-652-4885

[www.countrysidebbq.net](http://www.countrysidebbq.net)

### Crabby Abby's

828-559-2726

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

### Copper Creek Distillery

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

### Elevate Breakfast Company

828-559-0148

[www.facebook.com/ElevateBreakfast](http://www.facebook.com/ElevateBreakfast)

### Heathen's Den

828-559-2333

### J Hartman's

828-652-3354

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

### Keeper's Cut Meadery

828-527-6326

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

### Marion Wing Factory

828-559-2520

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

### McDowell Local

828-559-0654

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

### Mica Town Brewing Company

828-559-0027

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

### Pelican's

828-559-0833

### Reece's Delectables

828-559-0089

### Refinery 13 Taproom

828-559-0027

[www.facebook.com/Refinery13Taproom](http://www.facebook.com/Refinery13Taproom)

### Spillway Bridge Co

828-559-0223

### Smoke A Lil' Smoke

828-559-0495

### Taylor's Brewing Company

828-559-0778

### The Country Diner

828-652-4461

## 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](http://www.eudawine.com)

### Gogo's Bakery

828-668-6024

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

### Hillman Beer

828-668-6372

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

### 27 Main

828-668-7676

### Watershed

828-216-2966

### Whaley Farm Brewery

828-668-6352

[www.whaleymfarmbrewery.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.silverforkwinery.com)

## LITTLE SWITZERLAND LINVILLE FALLS

### Linville Falls Winery

828-765-1400

### Little Switzerland Books & Beans

828-766-2601

### Little Switzerland Winery, Cidery & 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

*Highlighted places are part of the High Spirits Trail*

## Attractions/Shops Old Fort

### Arrowhead Gallery & Studios

828-668-1100

[www.arrowheadart.org](http://www.arrowheadart.org)

### Camp Grier

[www.campgrier.org](http://www.campgrier.org)

### Davis Country Store

828-668-6416

### Davidson's Fort Historic Park

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

### Mountain Gateway Museum

828-668-9259

[www.mgmnc.org](http://www.mgmnc.org)

### Nanu Gallery

901-491-6055

### Old Fort Bike Shop

828-668-6198

### Old Fort Train Depot and Museum

828-668-4244

### The Catawba Angler

828-460-2390

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

### Painters Greenhouse

828-668-7225

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

### The Common Pine

[thecommonpine.com](http://thecommonpine.com)

### Turtle Island Pottery

828-337-0092

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

### Waterways

828-575-2128

OLD FORT  
**Basecamp**

## 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 are we the "Birthplace of Pisgah"? In 1911, The Weeks Act made it possible to purchase land for conservation and preservation creating the national forest system.

This section of Pisgah and the Curtis Creek Recreation Area includes the recently opened Old Fort Gateway Trails 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 Hellbender 100 (foot race), the Rock n Roller - Old Fort Edition

### Campgrounds Old Fort

#### Catawba Falls Campground

828-668-4831

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

#### Sky Island Retreat & Campground

828-668-4928

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

#### Curtis Creek Campground

828-652-2144

[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

#### Mountain View RV Park

828-527-3020



*Old Fort Depot*

(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 legendary Kitsuma Trail and the Lower Heartbreak Ridge and Bernard Mountain Trails.

[www.g5trailcollective.org/oldfort](http://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](http://www.greybeardrentals.com)

#### **Camp Grier**

828-668-7793  
[www.camgrier.org](http://www.camgrier.org)

#### **Catawba Falls Preserve**

828-284-7893  
[www.catawbafallspreserve.org](http://www.catawbafallspreserve.org)

#### **Greybeard Vacation Rentals**

828-669-1072  
[www.greybeardrentals.com](http://www.greybeardrentals.com)

#### **Indigo Nature Retreat**

828-619-0900  
[www.indigoretreat.com](http://www.indigoretreat.com)

#### **Inn on Mill Creek**

877-735-2964 or 828-668-1115  
[www.innonmillcreek.com](http://www.innonmillcreek.com)

#### **Isobel Acres**

828-669-1072  
[www.isobelacres.com](http://www.isobelacres.com)

#### **Jarrett Creek Cottage**

828-231-4132  
[www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com)

#### **Kibbin on Mackey Creek**

828-669-1072  
[www.greybeardrentals.com](http://www.greybeardrentals.com)

#### **Lookout at Trail's End**

828-419-9128  
[www.vrbo.com](http://www.vrbo.com)

#### **Mary Ida's Place**

828-460-2486  
[www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com)

#### **Mountain Appalachian Inn**

828-460-3438  
[www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com)

#### **Mountain Time Memories**

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

#### **Newberry Creek Log House**

828-652-1234  
[www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com)

#### **Railway Rest**

828-460-2486  
[www.vrbo.com/921905](http://www.vrbo.com/921905)

#### **Rivers Ridge Lodge**

828-243-5762  
[www.rrlodge.com](http://www.rrlodge.com)

#### **Sky Island Cabins**

828-668-4928  
[www.campingasheville.com](http://www.campingasheville.com)



*Golf course with beautiful views*

**Marion Lake Golf Club**

828-652-6232

[www.marionlakeclub.com](http://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](http://www.thenorthcove.com)

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



*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.



*Disc Golf at North Cove Leisure Club*



*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](http://www.alpineinn.com)

### Bear Ridge Lodge

828-419-9128

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

### Between the Falls

386-299-9681

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

### Big Lynn Lodge

828-765-4257

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

### Blue Ridge Parkway Cabin Rentals

919-602-6722

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

### Catawba River Inn

866-756-7001

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

### Chalet Switz

407-678-9383

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

### Haus Edelweiss Guest Suite

828-527-2564

[www.vrbo.com](http://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](http://www.linvillefallslodge.com)

#### Little Switzerland Vacation Rentals

866-766-0611 or 828-765-7111

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

#### Rocky Falls Retreat

704-489-1559

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

#### Skyline Village Inn

828-765-9394

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

#### Switzerland Inn & Chalet

828-385-4500

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

#### Whispering Creek Cottage

813-215-8906

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

## Campgrounds

### Little Switzerland/Linville Falls

#### Spacious Skies Bear Den Campground & Cabins

828-765-2888

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

#### Crabtree Falls Campground

828-675-5444

[www.recreation.gov](http://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*

16 MARION

LAKE JAMES

LITTLE SWITZERLAND

LINVILLE FALLS

OLD FORT





*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 mountain culture and traditions including 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](http://www.visitlittleswitzerland.com/artisan-league)

**DiamondbackNC**

Hwy 226-A

Motor route covering 12 miles of steep and winding road.

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

**Emerald Village**

828-765-6463

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

**English Farmstead Cheese**

828-756-8166

[www.facebook.com/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](http://www.altapassorchard.org)

**Linville Caverns**

828-756-4171

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

**Linville Gorge Wilderness Area**

828-652-2144

[www.fs.usda.gov](http://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](http://www.gloryhoundevents.com)

### Mt Mitchell Heartbreaker 50K and 50 mile runs

Camp Grier  
[www.tanawahaadventures.com](http://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](http://www.trisignup.com)

### Annual Herb Festival

Painter's Greenhouse  
[info@paintergreenhouse.com](mailto:info@paintergreenhouse.com)

### Mountain Thunder Car Show

### Spring Arts and Craft Market

Little Switzerland  
[www.visitlittleswitzerland.com](http://www.visitlittleswitzerland.com)

### Rock N Roller Bike

Short Edition: 26 miles  
Long Edition: 65 miles  
Old Fort  
[www.mcdowelltrails.org](http://www.mcdowelltrails.org)

### Pioneer Day

Mountain Gateway Museum Old Fort  
[www.mgmnc.org](http://www.mgmnc.org)



*Mountain view*



*Downtown Marion*



*South Creek Winery and Vineyard*



*Mountain Gateway Museum*





*Linville Falls*

## *May*

### **Hellbender 100**

Trail Run  
Camp Grier  
[www.Hellsbender100.com](http://www.Hellsbender100.com)

### **Art by the Creek**

Old Fort  
[arrowheadart.org](http://arrowheadart.org)

### **Assault on Mount Mitchell**

Spartanburg to Mt Mitchell  
102.7 miles  
Spartanburg to Marion 74.2 miles  
[www.theassaults.com](http://www.theassaults.com)

## *June*

### **Trails and Trains Festival and 5k**

Old Fort  
[www.blueridgetraveler.com](http://www.blueridgetraveler.com)

### **Livermush Festival**

Main Street Marion

### **Gateway Youth Express Bike Race**

Camp Grier  
[www.pisgahproduction.com](http://www.pisgahproduction.com)

### **Ridges to Rails Trail Race Half Marathon and 10k**

Camp Grier  
[www.tanawhaadventures.com](http://www.tanawhaadventures.com)

### **Sasquatch Scrambler**

15 miles MTB race  
[www.blueridgeadventure.net](http://www.blueridgeadventure.net)

### **Woods Mountain**

36.4 MTB race  
[www.Blueridgeadventure.net](http://www.Blueridgeadventure.net)

### **Juneteenth Freedom Festivals**

[www.Westmarion.org](http://www.Westmarion.org)

## *July*

### **Jerdon Mountain Challenge**

26-mile MTB race  
Old Fort  
[www.blueridgeadventures.net](http://www.blueridgeadventures.net)

### **ORAMM**

60 mile MTB race  
Old Fort  
[www.blueridgeadventures.net](http://www.blueridgeadventures.net)

## *August*

### **Pisgah Enduro**

High speed technical single track racing  
Camp Grier  
[www.pisgahproductions.com](http://www.pisgahproductions.com)

### **WNC Bigfoot Festival**

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

## *September*

### **ASAP Farm Tour**

[www.asapconnections.org](http://www.asapconnections.org)



*Jumping in to Lake James*

## *October*

### **Lake James Dragon Boat Festival**

[www.lakejamesdragonboat.org](http://www.lakejamesdragonboat.org)

### **Outdoors for All**

Camp Grier  
[www.outdoorsforalloldfort.org](http://www.outdoorsforalloldfort.org)

### **Mountain Glory Festival**

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

### **Mountain Glory 5K**

Marion Road Run  
[www.runsignup.com](http://www.runsignup.com)

### **Geyser Growl Half-Marathon Presented by Hillman Beer**

Run Black Mountain to Old Fort, NC  
[www.gloryhoundevents.com](http://www.gloryhoundevents.com)

### **Gateway Trail Race**

5K and 10K Trail Runs  
[www.runsignup.com](http://www.runsignup.com)

## *November*

### **Old Fort Turkey Trot**

5K Road Race  
[www.runsignup.com](http://www.runsignup.com)

## *December*

### **Appalachian Potters Market**

[www.McDowellarts.org](http://www.McDowellarts.org)

### **Blue Ridge Artisans Show and Sale**

[www.McDowellarts.org](http://www.McDowellarts.org)

### **Carolina Christmas Show**

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

### **Resolution Run**

5K Road Race  
Marion  
[www.Runsignup.com](http://www.Runsignup.com)

### **New Year's Eve Street Celebration**

Marion Rotary Club

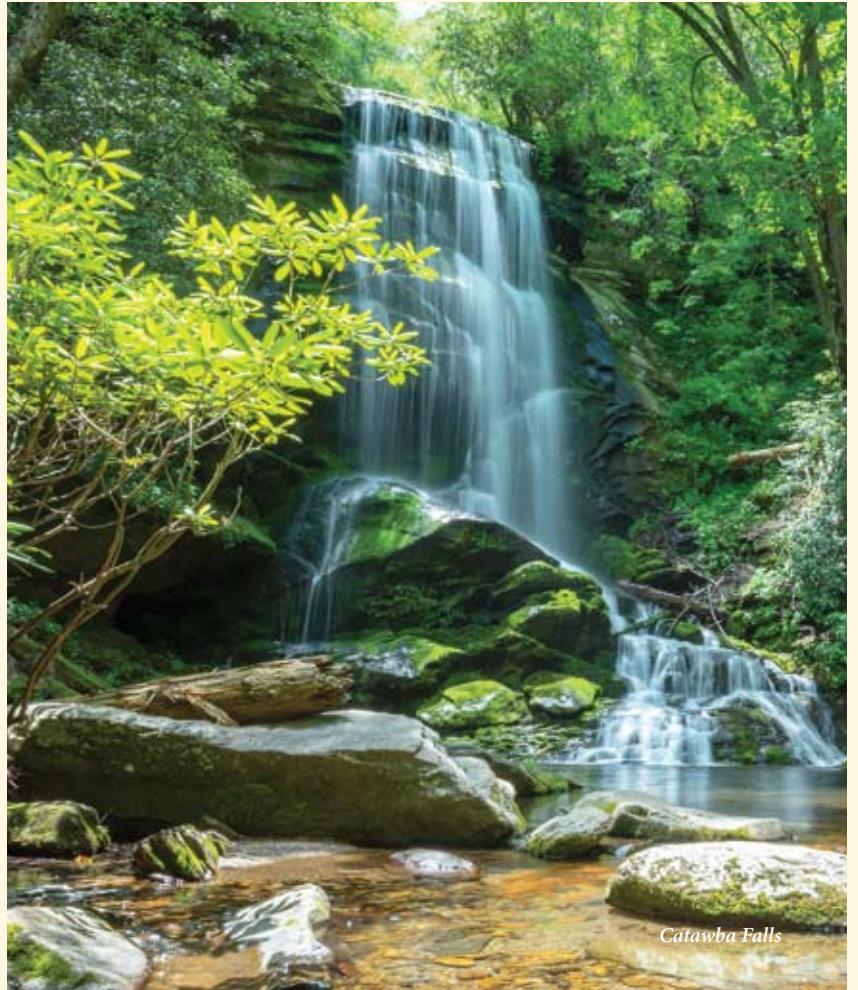
# DESTINATION ★ NC ★ McDowell

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Old Fort, North Carolina 28762  
828-668-4282 | 888-233-6111

Proud to be part of the



REV. 2-2025



Catawba Falls

OLD FORT

**Basecamp**

MARION

**Main Street**

LAKE JAMES

**The Blueway**

LINVILLE FALLS

**The Gorge**

LITTLE SWITZERLAND

**The Outpost**

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