



OLD FORT ART WALK

Home to a colorfully diverse collection of murals, many artists have left their mark in Old Fort across the decades. Walk along Catawba Avenue and Main Street to discover a vivid range of art styles and creative influence painting our Blue Ridge Mountain Town. From the pioneer-era beginnings of Old Fort, to the modern influence of outdoor recreation, Old Fort has murals that speak to every person.

One iconic mural vividly stands out as a marker of significant social change in Western NC: The Albert Joyner Mural depicting his efforts to end school segregation. This historic mural is set against the 37 E. Main Street building and continues to honor his work and life.

You will also find historical block paintings throughout downtown which showcase some of Old Fort's favorite places. There are also six McDowell Quilt Trail Blocks located in downtown Old Fort.

Inspired by the art installations along our main streets?

Discover more at: www.mcdowellquilttrails.com
or www.appalachianmuraltrail.com.



91 Catawba Avenue | Old Fort, NC 28762 | 828-668-4282

DESTINATIONMCDOWELL.COM

REV. 9-2024

OLD FORT

NORTH CAROLINA



Basecamp

DESTINATIONMCDOWELL.COM

#LovedbyLocals: Below you will find a list of regional dining, unique boutiques, awe-inspiring venues, and one-of-a-kind lodging accommodations.

TASTE

Black Beary's Cafe

14 West Main Street
828-668-6242

Davis Country Store & Cafe

75 East Main Street
828-668-6416

Deb's Diner

189 Catawba River Road
828-203-3100

Go Go's Cinnamon Rolls

212 East Main Street
828-668-6024

Catawba Vale HUB

37 East Main Street
828-668-6161

Euda Wine

164 Commerce Street
828-317-2113

Abbiocco Pizza

178 Catawba Avenue
828-900-7703

Hillman Beer

78 Catawba Avenue
828-668-6372

Seeker Coffee

39 Catawba Avenue

27 Main

27 East Main Street
828-668-7676

Whaley's Farm Brewery

178 Catawba Avenue
828-668-6352

SHOPPING

The Common Pine

31 East Main Street
828-668-6177

Davis Country Store & Cafe

75 East Main Street
828-668-6416

Waterways

123 East Main Street
828-575-2128

LODGING | EVENT VENUES

Mountain Appalachian Inn

38 West Main Street
828-460-3438

Inn on Mill Creek

3895 Mill Creek Road
828-668-1115

Catawba Falls Campground

35 Peggy Loop
828-668-4831

Sky Island Retreat and Campground

88 Flatlander Drive
828-668-4928

Curtis Creek Campground

Seasonal U.S. Forest Service
Site Reservations Required
3799 Curtis Creek Road
recreation.gov

Camp Grier

Seasonal - Cabins/Campsites
985 Camp Grier Road
828-668-7793

Greybeard Realty

Vacation Rentals
243 Catawba Avenue
828-668-6077

Indigo Nature Retreat

1037 Newberry Creek Road
828-619-0900

The Pond at Laurel Cove

1718 Bat Cave Road
828-442-8631

Old Fort RV Park

1371 Parker Padgett Road
828-655-6333

Mountain Gateway Museum

24 Water Street
828-668-9259

Find more properties on
[Airbnb](#), and [VRBO](#), and
[DestinationMcDowell.com](#)

ATTRACTIONS

Arrowhead Gallery

78-C Catawba Avenue
828-668-1100

Davidson's Fort

140 Bud Hogan Drive
828-407-8300

Fonta Flora Trailhead and Park

180 Bud Hogan Drive

Catawba Falls

3074 Catawba River Road
Pisgah National Forest

Mountain Gateway Museum

24 Water Street
828-668-9259

Andrews Geyser Park

2111 Mill Creek Road
828-668-4244

Turtle Island Pottery

2782 Bat Cave Road
828-337-0992

Nanu Gallery

78-A Catawba Avenue

OUTFIT YOUR ADVENTURE

Mountain Top Shuttles

828-668-2255
[mountaintopshuttles.com](#)

Old Fort Bike Shop

276 Catawba Ave
828-653-3678

Waterways

123 East Main Street
828-575-2128

FISHING GUIDES

Connecting the Dots

Fishing Guides
925-408-2055
[www.connectingthedotsfishingguides.com](#)

The Catawba Angler

Fishing Guide Service
828-460-2390
[www.thecatawbaangler.com](#)

High Fins Expeditions

828-387-6773



HIKING/BIKING TRAILS

Bernard Mountain Trail

3.2-mile-long trail that starts out along a nice ridgeline, and then descends to the Point Lookout Trail with technical switchbacks. Start at the parking area on Mill Creek Rd.

Copper Ridge Trail / Lower Heartbreak

Natural surface trail, trailhead is on Old US 70. From Main St. (US 70) go west and turn right onto Old US 70. Continue approx. one mile and parking is on the right. Part of the Fonta Flora State Trail.

Pisgah Gateway Trails

Located off Curtis Creek Road, experience Old Fort's newest multi use trails. Designed for beginner and intermediate bikers, combine trails to create multiple loop options. Hikers and equestrians will also enjoy the six miles of trails going up Salt Gap and connecting with Jarrett's Creek Rd. for a loop back down.

Kitsuma Peak / Young's Ridge

Two trails merge to create an eight-mile trail opening to breathtaking views winding around Old Fort Mountain. Narrow trail, moderate to difficult. Parking available in Ridgecrest or the Old Fort Picnic Area.

Newberry Creek

A scenic five-mile strenuous trail that ends at the Blue Ridge Parkway. Take Curtis Creek Rd approximately 5 miles to Newberry Creek Rd (water wheel on left) turn left. Trail begins approx. one mile at the end of the road at the Forest Service gate.



Shred the gnar. Grab a cold one in the town of Old Fort. Repeat.



Point Lookout Trail

Paved hiking/bicycle 3.62-mile trail rising approx. 1,000 feet. Non-motorized cycles only. Benches are placed on trail. Main Street Old Fort (US 70) to Old US 70, 2.4 miles to Mill Creek Rd at Old Fort Picnic Area. Park at picnic area or at end of road in designated parking area.



Snook's Nose

A hiking only trail that rises steeply to the Blue Ridge Parkway with great views along the way. Start across from the Curtis Creek Campground, the trail ascends over 2500'.

Meadow Loop Accessibility Trail

This unique scenic experience at the Pisgah Gateway Trails allows all levels of accessibility to enjoy our local forests. The one-mile hiking only trail is wheelchair accessible and provides a beginner-friendly experience along a wide gravel surface adjacent to Curtis Creek. A raised boardwalk with seating for wildlife viewing is also a main feature.



Pisgah National Forest, Old Fort

WATERFALLS TRAILS

Catawba Falls Trail

Follow this trail along the scenic headwaters of the Catawba River for a 4-mile round trip hike that includes the beautiful 205 ft lower waterfall and the breathtaking 80ft upper waterfall. Historic buildings are scattered along the trail, including the remnants of the 1920's hydropower dam that provided power for the town of Old Fort. The quarter-mile route between the lower and upper falls has 580 steps and is equivalent to climbing a 30-story building. Hikers with pre-existing medical conditions should use caution.

Hickory Branch Falls

Moderate 3-mile round trip to view 20-foot falls. Trailhead is located in the Curtis Creek Campground, on the back side of the tent camping area.



OLD FORT AREA PUBLIC TROUT STREAMS

Mill Creek

102 Water Street | 35.627487, -82.180546

Bank access, hatchery supported, stocked stream, Brook, Brown, and Rainbow.

Curtis Creek

Curtis Creek Road | 35.655295, -82.179128

Universally accessible with handicap pier, bank access. Hatchery supported, stocked with Brook, Brown, Rainbow.

Newberry Creek

Game land portion of Newberry Creek, off Curtis Creek Road (see above), catch and release, artificial flies and trout lures only. Game land Newberry Creek access and game land tributaries only. | 35.68003, -82.20098

Old Fort Recreation Area

35.620049, -82.200015

Hatchery supported waters, Brook, Brown, and Rainbow.

NC MOUNTAIN HERITAGE TROUT WATERS

Old Fort's Mill Creek is designated NC Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. Visitors may purchase a 3-day fishing license by visiting www.ncwildlife.org or by calling 888-248-6834.

DESTINATIONMCDOWELL.COM



OLD FORT - YOUR BASECAMP FOR BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES

Welcome to Old Fort, North Carolina! Officially designated Old Fort in 1873, our small mountain town has grown to reflect the enduring spirit of artists, farmers, heritage craftsmen, entrepreneurs, outdoor recreation enthusiasts, and those passionate about our beautiful natural surroundings. Come experience the charm of our growing downtown streetscape, filled with enticing local dining and iconic murals painted by renowned artists. Or, immerse yourself in Pisgah National Forest with our unparalleled trail networks.



Old Fort Train Depot and Arrowhead



**REDISCOVER
CATAWBA FALLS.**

-NC Forest Service



HIKE, BIKE, AND MORE IN PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST

Minutes from downtown Old Fort, 70,000 acres of national forest await you. Immerse yourself in nature with our Gateway Trails System and Curtis Creek area, located within Pisgah National Forest. This old growth, hardwood forest hosts numerous hiking, biking and equestrian trails, stunning waterfalls, roaring trout streams and abundant wildlife.



With spectacular, year-round views of the Royal Gorge, the paved (non-motorized) Point Lookout Trail is a popular spot for hikers and cyclists.



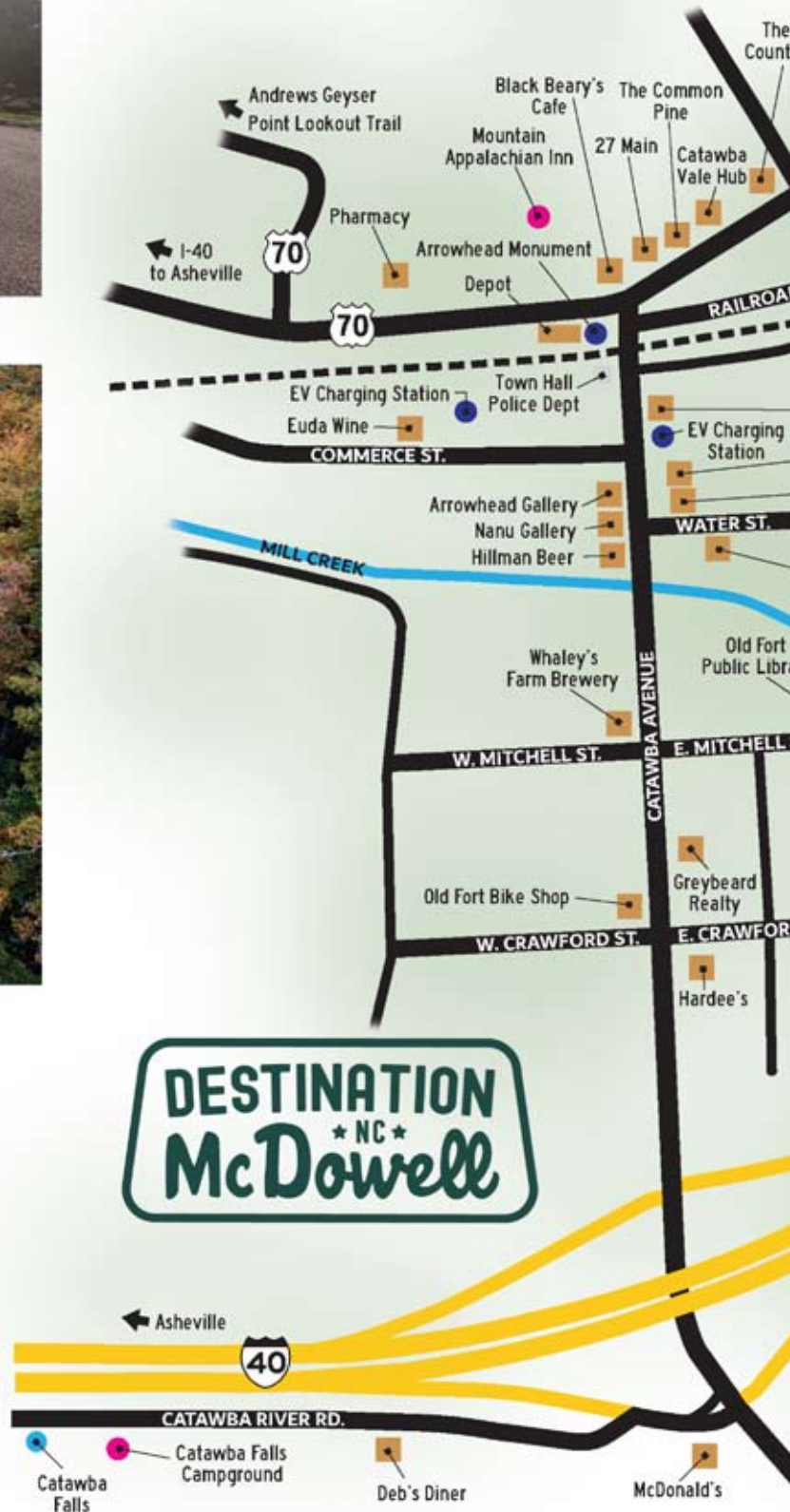


Mountain Top Shuttles



Above: Inn on Mill Creek

Below: Mountain Appalachian Inn

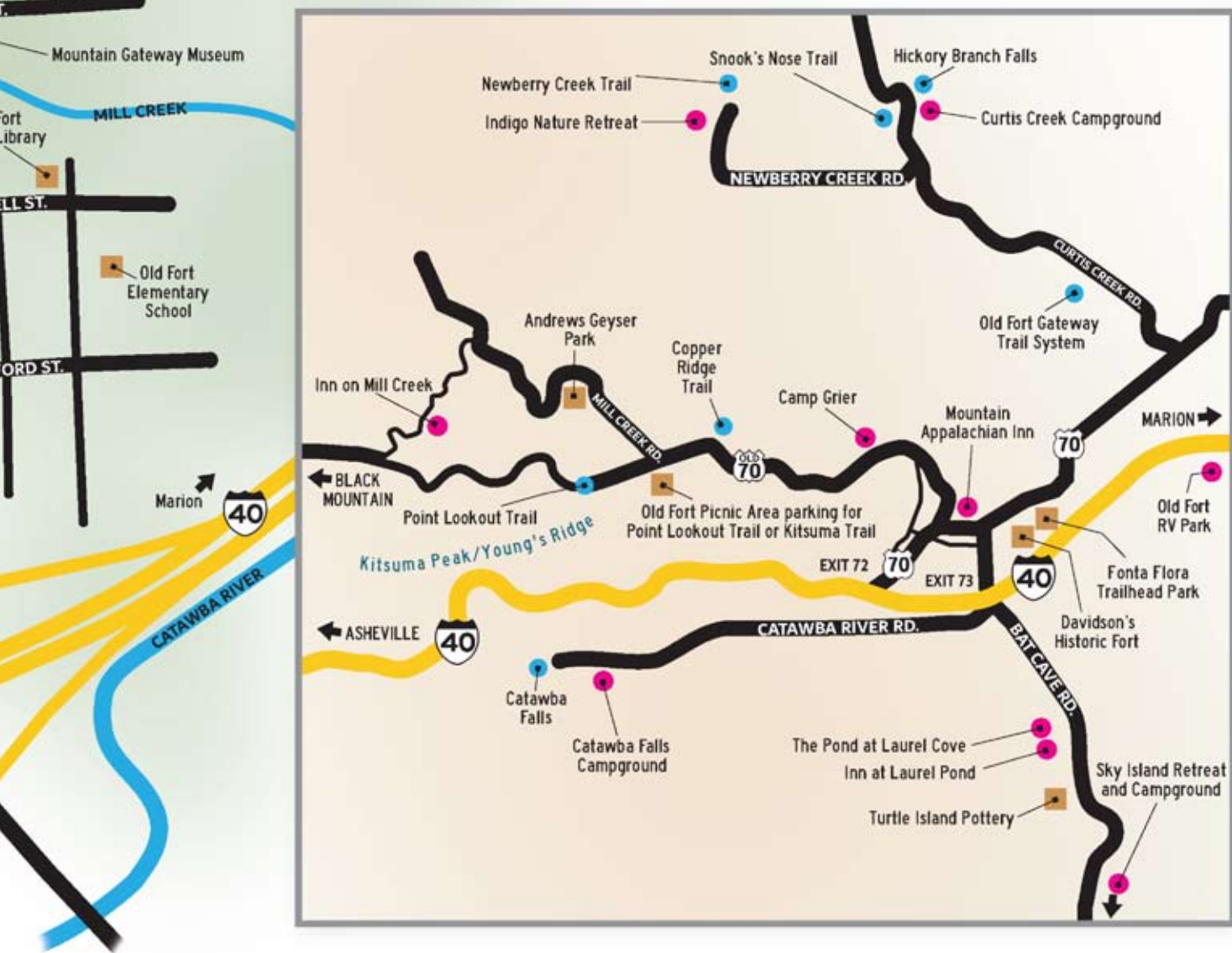




OLD FORT Basecamp



Go-Go's handmade Pumpkin Spice buns.



REDWOODS CATAWBA FALLS.

-NC Forest Service

