

Adventure Map!

Wilderness, Waterfalls, Waterways and Wanderings

WILDERNESS WALKS

1 Armstrong Creek

HIKE 3 miles, easy-moderate.
3640 ft. Primitive hiking trail on old logging road. Take NC 226A to Armstrong Fish Hatchery Road (1443). Trail head begins past hatchery parking lot, ends at Woods Mountain Trail.

2 Bad Fork

HIKE 2-6 miles, moderate.
2940 ft. Primitive trail connects with Woods Mountain and Armstrong Creek Trails. Take NC 226A to Armstrong Fish Hatchery Road (1443). Drive 3 miles to trail head on left side at confluence of Bad Fork with Armstrong Creek. Trail ends at Woods Mountain Trail.

3 Kitsuma Peak Trail/Young's Ridge

HIKE | MTB 9.7 mile loop, moderate.
3195 ft. Two trails merge to create an 8-mile trail opening to breathtaking views, winding around Old Fort Mountain. Also used as a mountain bike trail, listen for riders. Narrow trail, moderate to difficult. Parking available at Ridgecrest Overlook and at Old Fort Picnic Area. From US Hwy. 70, approx. 2.4 miles, U.S.F.S. Old Fort Picnic Area on left. From 1-40/Ridgecrest Exit, turn onto "Old Hwy. 70" to stop sign, past Ridgecrest Conf. Center. Drive straight ahead to road end at parking area.

4 Lead Mine Gap

HIKE 2.8 miles, moderate.
3460 ft. Mixed forested environment with long range views. Take Curtis Creek Road from US 70, east of Old Fort. Continue about 8 1/2 miles to trail head. Trail head is at the intersection of campground site #213. Trail descends to Mackey Creek. Offers a back country experience and can be hard to follow.

5 Linville Gorge

HIKE 3400 ft. Eastern America's most scenic and rugged gorge. On NC 183 in village of Linville Falls, turn right at dirt road (Kistler Memorial Highway, #1238) 3/4 mile from intersection with US 221. There are multiple strenuous trails accessible from Kistler Memorial Highway. Obtain Linville Gorge Wilderness Map from US Forest Service Grandfather District Office in Nebo, 828-652-2144

6 Mackey Mountain

HIKE 7 miles, difficult.
3400 ft. Excellent views in bear sanctuary. Take Curtis Creek Road, off US 70, east of Old Fort. Trailhead is 3.7 miles from Curtis Creek Recreation Area Campground. Follows the Mackey Mountain Ridge through old growth forests. Trail crosses Narrows Knob, elevation 3396, and trail can be hard to follow.

7 Joseph McDowell Greenway

HIKE | BIKE 1.5 miles, easy. The McDowell Greenway is a paved route, following the path of the Catawba River. Two sections are complete and cover approximately 1.5 miles (one way). Canoe/kayak and fishing access, handi-cap fishing decks. Enter the park at 136 US 70 West in Marion, parking is behind house.

8 Mt. Ida Wilderness Trail

HIKE 1.5 miles, moderate-difficult Gravel road leads to trailhead, covered picnic shelter and overlook. Trail is approximately .70 mile. Entrance at 1536 Rutherford Road in Marion, beside Ideal Rentals.

9 Newberry Creek

HIKE 5 miles, easy-moderate.
4300 ft. Scenic trail ends at Parkway. Take Curtis Creek Road, off US 70, east of Old Fort.

Left at Newberry Creek Road, parking on left side of road, just before road ends at trailhead. Trail begins after 4 miles at end of road.

10 Point Lookout Trail

HIKE | CYCLE 3.62 miles, easy-moderate.
Non-Motorized Trail. 1800-2900 Feet above sea level depending upon area. Spectacular views of Royal Gorge and 19th century railroad tunnels. I-40 to exit 73, North on Catawba Ave., turn left onto Highway 70, then right onto Old Hwy. 70. 2.4 miles to Mill Creek Road, Old Fort Picnic Area to left with parking available during season. Trail begins at end of Old Hwy. 70, look for U.S.F.S. entry gate.

11 Mountain to Sea Trail

HIKE 40 + Miles
Hike parts of segment four following forest ridgelines, climb peaks to dramatic views, forge rivers, and meander along creeks that lead to stunning waterfalls and crashing whitewater. The segment is very remote, with long departures from roads and little access to amenities. Traveling eastbound, the trail leaves Black Mountain Campground on the South Toe River and climbs gradually to the Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP). It travels through mostly mature forest and along the BRP. The trail then descends to the North Fork of the Catawba River and climbs Bald and Dobson Knobs, among the most challenging ascents on the entire MST. From these heights, hikers see some of the most spectacular views of the region, from Lake James to Little Switzerland.

12 Woods Mountain/Betsy Ridge

HIKE | HORSES | MTB 13 miles one way, strenuous, wilderness conditions.
3600 ft. Trail is approximately 6 miles north of Marion on US 221, turn left onto Green Mountain Road. Enter at the Woodlawn Work Center and Fitness Trail. Trail head is behind the picnic area on the left. Excellent views of the Black Mountains, Little Switzerland, and Armstrong Creek watershed areas.

13 Snook's Nose

HIKE Strenuous, 2.7 miles. Caution Experienced hikers only. Narrow trail, ascending approx. 2800 feet. From US 70 turn onto Curtis Creek Road, continuing approximately four miles to campground. Trailhead is marked on left side of Curtis Creek Road, across from the campground. Trail rises steeply to Blue Ridge Parkway with long range views along the ridge. Cross Parkway to access Green Knob Lookout Tower with views of Mt. Mitchell.

14 Old Fort Gateway Trails

HIKE | HORSES | MTB 6 miles, multi-level
The first phase of Old Fort Gateway Trails. Section 1 is a 6-mile multi-use system designed for mountain biking, hiking, and equestrians. Drive US 70 to Curtis Creek Road, proceed approximately 1 mile to 1450 Curtis Creek Road, parking entrance on the left.

15 Copper Ridge Trail

HIKE | MTB +3 miles, moderate
Beginning at the intersection of US Hwy. 70 and Catawba Avenue, drive west to Old US 70, turn right driving approx. 1.5 miles to the trailhead that is on the right. A 3-mile natural surface, steep trail. For hikers, it's moderate to strenuous climb with cool switchbacks on descent for MTB riders

16 Bernard Mountain Trail

HIKE | MTB 3.16 miles, intermediate
A 3.16 mile trail with nice views and technical switchbacks.



WATERFALLS

1 Catawba Falls

3 miles round-trip, moderate, strenuous.
A 340-foot cascade, upper falls is a 70-foot plunge. I-40 West bound to exit 73. Turn left and go under interstate. Make first right. At fork, bear left onto Catawba River Road. I-40 East bound exit 73. As you approach the stop sign at the end of this exit, Catawba River Road is to the right BEFORE you reach the stop sign. Road ends after 3 miles. Parking area is at the end of the road. Follow trail signs. Hiking is permitted during daylight hours only. The McDowell County Sheriff's department patrols this area. Cars left after dusk will be towed.

2 Crabtree Falls

2.5 mile loop, moderate.
60-foot plunge down a wide and even rock face. At Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 339.5, turn into Crabtree Falls Parking lot. Do not use the campground parking lot.

3 Dugger's Creek Falls

0.3 mile loop/easy
On the Blue Ridge Parkway, Milepost 316.5 is the Linville Falls parking area and visitor center. Once in the parking lot, you will find the visitor's center with a map of the park, and some pictures of the waterfalls. To see Dugger's Creek Falls, you will follow the edge of the parking lot back to the street. You will come upon a small, marked trailhead to your right. Once you enter the woods, you will follow a very short trail to a bridge over Dugger's Creek. The falls to your right. This is not a large waterfall, but is breathtaking. Bring the camera to take great shots from the swinging bridge. There is also a trail going down below for other views of the falls.

4 Hickory Branch Falls Trail

4 miles round-trip, moderate.
View of 20-foot falls. Approximately 2 miles east of Old Fort on US 70, turn onto Curtis Creek Road, go 4 miles to campground. Trailhead is on edge of field to right of campground.

5 Linville Falls

Falls Trail: 1.6 miles round-trip, easy;
Gorge Trail: 1.4 miles round-trip, strenuous;
Plunge Basin Trail: 1 mile round-trip, moderate.

Most popular waterfall in Blue Ridge!
A spectacular three-tiered waterfall plunging into Linville Gorge, the "Grand Canyon of the Southern Appalachians." Exit Blue Ridge Parkway spur at milepost 316.4.

6 Roaring Fork Falls

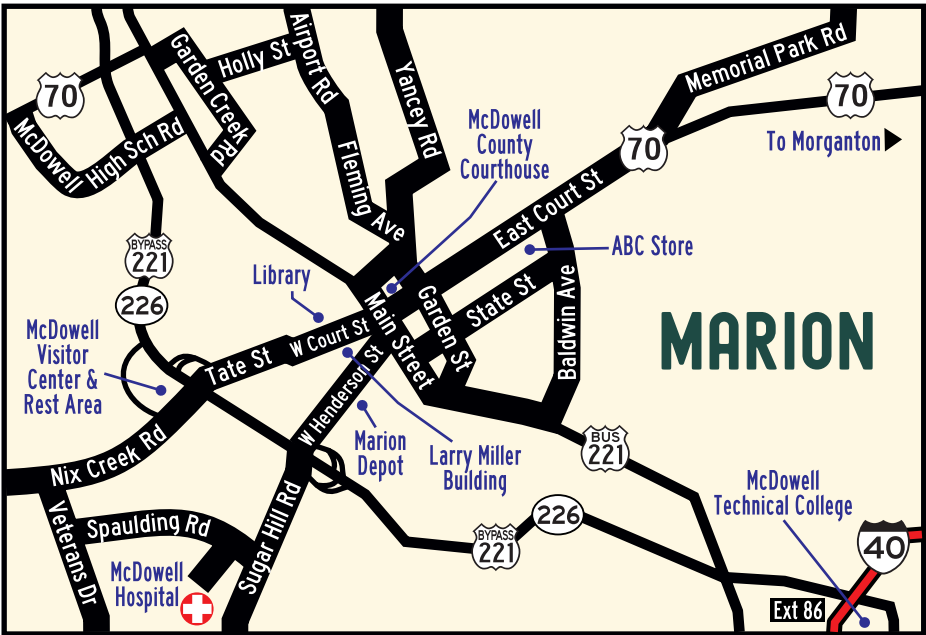
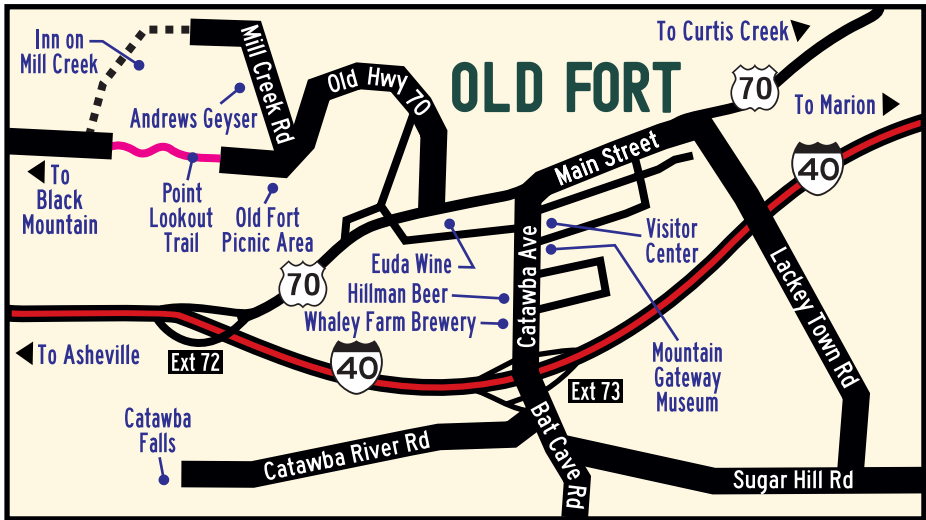
1 mile round-trip, easy.
Located in Toecane District of Pisgah National Forest. A 30-foot rush down a narrow, zigzag slide. At Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 344.1, exit north onto NC 80. Drive north 2.3 miles, turn left onto FS 472 (South Toe River Road), just before Mt. Mitchell Golf Course. Take first left (after 0.1 miles) at sign indicating Roaring Fork Falls and Busick Work Center. Road dead-ends at work center. Park near gate on right.

7 Setrock Creek Falls

1.4 miles round-trip, easy.
From the Blue Ridge Parkway at MP 344, continue south for 2.2 miles, left on South Toe River Rd (SR 1205). Follow Black Mountain Campground signs approx. 2.8 miles, at 2 miles there is a sharp turn. Park across from the campground entrance, if you're not camping. From here, walk across bridge into campground, take first road to left, then take second trail to the right, stake reads "Setrock Falls."

8 Tom's Creek Falls

2 mile loop, easy.
7 miles north of Marion on US 221. Turn left at Huskins Branch Road, just before Woodlawn Motel. Go 1.3 miles and park on right at gravel lot with kiosk. Trailhead begins at lot. When trail forks, follow left along creek. Gentle falls in picturesque area. Approximate height of falls: 100 feet.



WEEKEND ESCAPES

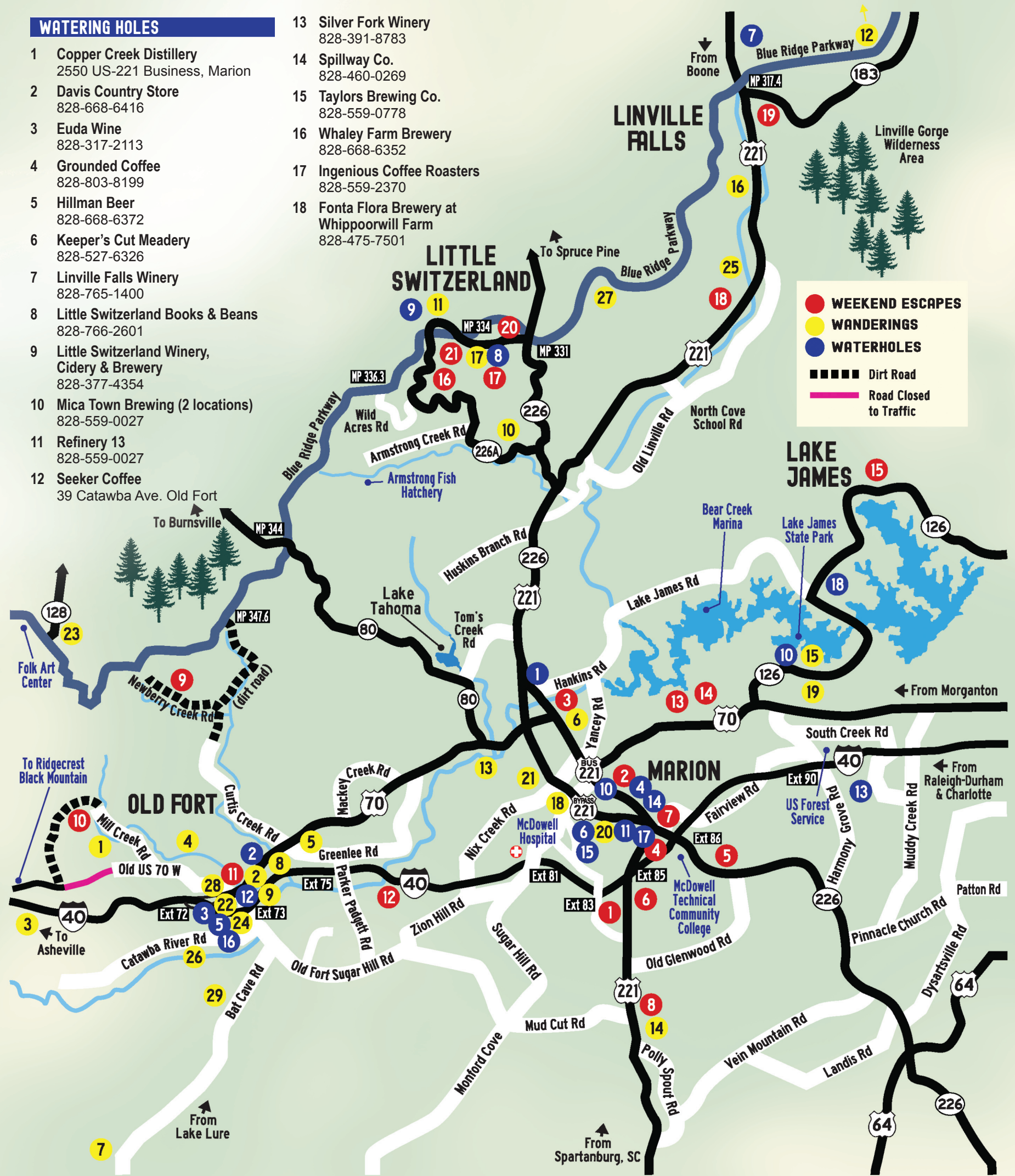
- Marion Area**
- 1 America's Best Value Inn
828-659-2567
 - 2 Budget Inn
828-652-7276
 - 3 Comfort Inn
828-652-4888
 - 4 Hampton Inn Marion
828-652-5100
 - 5 Holiday Inn Express & Suites
828-527-0035
 - 6 Super 8 Motel
828-659-7940
 - 7 The Tabletop Inn
914-297-9048
 - 8 Gold River Camp & Cabins
828-351-6283
- Old Fort Area:**
- 9 Indigo Nature Retreat
828-619-0900
 - 10 Inn on Mill Creek
828-668-1115

- 11 Mountain Appalachian Inn
828-460-3438
 - 12 Rivers Ridge Lodge
828-243-5762
- Lake James / Nebo Area**
- 13 Greybeard Vacation Rentals
855-688-9574
 - 14 Lake James Rentals
828-442-5890
 - 15 Lake James Property Management
828-443-1715
- Little Switzerland Area**
- 16 Alpine Inn
828-765-5380
 - 17 Big Lynn Lodge
828-765-4257
 - 18 Catawba River Inn
866-756-7001
 - 19 Linville Falls Lodge & Cottages
828-765-2658
 - 20 Skyline Village Inn
828-765-9394
 - 21 Switzerland Inn
828-385-4500

WATERING HOLES

- 1 Copper Creek Distillery
2550 US-221 Business, Marion
828-668-6416
- 2 Davis Country Store
828-668-6416
- 3 Euda Wine
828-317-2113
- 4 Grounded Coffee
828-803-8199
- 5 Hillman Beer
828-668-6372
- 6 Keeper's Cut Meadery
828-527-6326
- 7 Linville Falls Winery
828-765-1400
- 8 Little Switzerland Books & Beans
828-766-2601
- 9 Little Switzerland Winery, Cidery & Brewery
828-377-4354
- 10 Mica Town Brewing (2 locations)
828-559-0027
- 11 Refinery 13
828-559-0027
- 12 Seeker Coffee
39 Catawba Ave. Old Fort

- 13 Silver Fork Winery
828-391-8783
- 14 Spillway Co.
828-460-0269
- 15 Taylors Brewing Co.
828-559-0778
- 16 Whaley Farm Brewery
828-668-6352
- 17 Ingenious Coffee Roasters
828-559-2370
- 18 Fonta Flora Brewery at Whippoorwill Farm
828-475-7501



WANDERINGS

- 1 Andrews Geyser
2111 Mill Creek Rd, Old Fort
- 2 Arrowhead Gallery and Studios
828-668-1100
- 3 Biltmore House & Gardens
800-411-3812
- 4 Camp Grier Equestrian Center
828-668-7793
- 5 Catawba Angler Guides
828-460-2390
- 6 Catawba River Outdoors
828-442-6048
- 7 Chimney Rock State Park
828-625-9611
- 8 Davidson's Historic Fort
140 Bud Hogan Rd.
- 9 Destination McDowell Visitor Center
828-668-4282
- 10 Diamondback NC (Hwy 226A)
Diamondbacknc.com
- 11 Emerald Village
828-765-6463
- 12 Grandfather Mountain State Park
828-693-9522
- 13 Historic Carson House
828-724-4948
- 14 Lucky Strike Gold Mine
828-738-4893
- 15 Lake James State Park
828-544-6800
- 16 Linville Caverns
828-756-4171
- 17 Little Switzerland Artist League
828-766-2601
- 18 Marion Hot Wheelz
828-559-2270
- 19 Marion Lake Club Golf Course
828-652-6232
- 20 McDowell Arts Council Gallery
828-652-8610
- 21 McDowell Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center
828-652-4240
- 22 Mountain Gateway Museum
828-668-9259
- 23 Mt. Mitchell State Park
828-675-4611
- 24 NANU Gallery
901-491-6055
- 25 North Cove Disc Golf & Social Club
828-756-8225
- 26 The Watershed
828-668-6155
- 27 Orchard at Altapass
828-765-9531
- 28 Old Fort Train Depot
828-668-4244
- 29 Turtle Island Pottery
828-337-0092