

## Highway 28 (toward Walhalla)

### SECRET FALLS

Once a long-held secret, this fall is now accessible via a trail constructed across public lands. Enjoy the seclusion and undeniable sense of mystery that shrouds this charmer.

**To get there:** Travel south (towards Walhalla) on N.C.28 from Highlands' Main Street. Follow this road just more than four miles and turn left onto Rich Gap Road. After 0.6 mile, make a right on Forest Service Road FR45670, a gravel road that may be marked as Big Creek Road. You will see an old truck just before the turn. Drive approximately 1.75 miles on this unpaved road to the Upper Trail Head parking area on the right. The old road turns into a footpath which leads to the falls.



Secret Falls

**To get there:** At the intersection of US 64 and NC 28 (where fourth and main street intersect) continue south down NC 28 for 5.8 miles and then take a sharp right onto SR1618, Blue Valley Road. Continue on this road for 3.6 miles, then take a left at the intersection. The trail (an old road) is located 0.6 miles past the intersection on the right. Head up the road about a half a mile to a wildlife clearing, then continue through to a creek. Take the trail to the right upstream for 100 yards.



Whitewater Falls

### U.S. 64 East (Cashiers)

### WHITewater FALLS

This is the highest waterfall east of the Rocky Mountains, with the upper portion falling 411 feet. Fed by the Whitewater River, it cascades over massive rock pillars.

**To get there:** Take U.S. 64 East from Highlands to Cashiers and turn right onto N.C. 107 South. Travel about nine miles, crossing into South Carolina, and turn left onto S.C. 130 South. Follow the signs to Whitewater Falls.

### PICKLESIMER ROCKHOUSE FALLS

This waterfall has been used as a shelter for hundreds of years with its deeply recessed rock house or "cave". You can walk behind this waterfall making it a unique waterfall to explore.



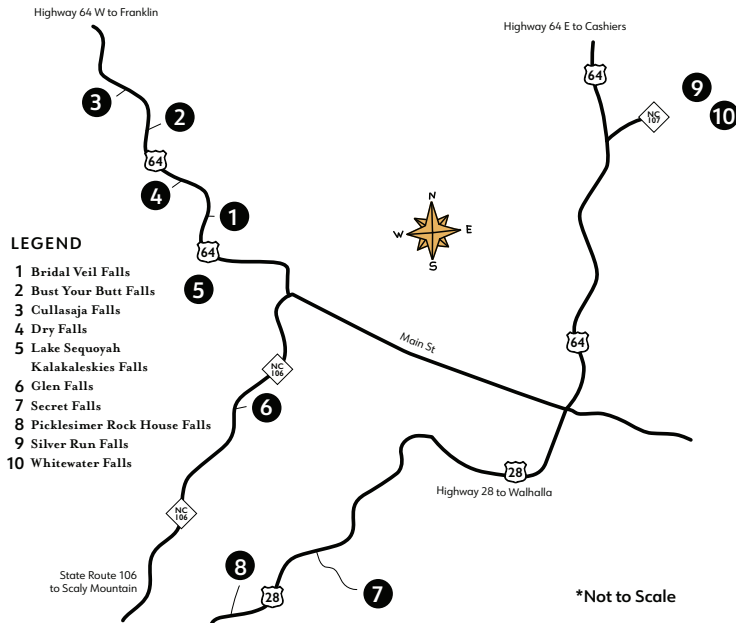
Silver Run Falls

### SILVER RUN FALLS

Silver Run Falls is a beautiful 25-foot waterfall with a great pool for swimming or plenty of rocks to lounge on. The short 500-foot walk to the falls makes it a great waterfall to visit with kids.

**To get there:** From Highlands, head down U.S. 64 East toward Cashiers for 10 miles. At the light in Cashiers, turn right onto NC 107. Continue on NC 107 for 4.1 miles, then on the left you will see the sign and parking for Silver Run Falls. Use caution when crossing lanes to park.

## Waterfall Map



Chasing Waterfalls?  
Scan the QR code for more.



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# Waterfall Guide



THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS



HIGHLANDS  
NORTH CAROLINA

ELEV. 4118

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High atop a mountain plateau and nestled by a unique rainforest, Highlands' waterfalls draw visitors from around the world. Some are quiet and diminutive, just more than a rivulet.

Others call with raging waters that tumble over granite cliff faces with commanding force.

All are beguiling.

To enjoy the beauty of our falls safely, keep these tips in mind:

- The best way to enjoy a waterfall is from a safe distance.
- Heed posted warning signs and stay on established trails. Avoid "shortcuts."
- Never climb on or around waterfalls. Stay behind guard rails and fences.
- Never wade or play in water feeding a waterfall. Rocks can be slippery and currents swift; it is easy to lose your balance.
- Keep children and pets close.

### Mountain Waters Scenic Byway (U.S. 64 West)

No trip to Highlands is complete without a trip along U.S. 64 West, the Mountain Waters Scenic Byway, which offers four, sequential waterfalls just outside of town: Bridal Veil, Dry, Bust Your Butt and Cullasaja. The waterfalls listed below are arranged in the safest and most efficient order to experience them along the scenic byway.

### BRIDAL VEIL FALLS

This small, picturesque fall – one of three main waterfalls in the Cullasaja Gorge – is one of the most unusual and popular in the South. Its 120-foot cascade is seen from U.S. 64 West and visitors may walk behind its gentle "veil." According to Cherokee lore, a woman who walks behind the falls in the spring will be married by the first snow. Look for its rainbow in the afternoon sun.

**To get there:** From downtown Highlands, travel less than three miles on U.S. 64 and look for it on the **right**.



Bridal Veil Falls



Bust Your Butt Falls

### BUST YOUR BUTT (Quarry Falls)

A series of stair-step falls on the Cullasaja River, this is a highly popular spot. Park, stretch your legs, soak in the view, and dangle your toes in the water. (But be aware of swift currents and slippery or hidden rocks!)

**To get there:** Continue from Bridal Veil for a little over 3 miles. Use the large pull off on the right and walk a short distance to access the "falls" on the left.

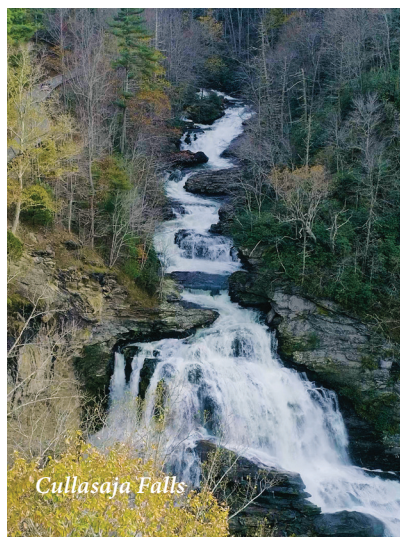
**OR** from downtown Highlands, drive about six miles on U.S. 64 West and pull over on the right. Carefully cross the road to view the falls on the left.

**When heading from Franklin to Highlands, stop by these waterfalls on your right.**

### CULLASAJA FALLS

This is a powerful series of rushing waterfalls along the Cullasaja River – 250 feet high and framed with a dramatic cliff face. While the gorge is breathtaking in the spring and fall, winter is when its rock formations can be seen. The falls are easily viewed from the road; it is not safe to try and hike down to the base.

**To get there:** After you pass Cardinal Ridge Drive on the left, go about 1 mile and notice the small pull off on the right side of the road. Be sure to park your vehicle completely off the road, as passing trucks need two lanes to navigate the curve. Be safe!



Cullasaja Falls

### DRY FALLS

Thundering over a cliff, this 75-foot fall allows visitors to walk underneath while staying relatively dry. From the parking area, a pleasant walk down stone steps leads to a path that goes behind the waterfall fed by the Cullasaja River. This waterfall has a handicap accessible viewing platform.

**To get there:** After Cullasaja Falls, continue up 64 West for about 5 miles and turn into the parking area on your right. A nominal parking fee is required.

**OR** from Highlands, drive just more than three miles on US 64 West to the parking area on the left.



Dry Falls



Kalakaleskies Falls

### KALAKALESKIES FALLS (Lake Sequoyah Dam Falls)

Though less popular than other falls along the Cullasaja Gorge, Kalakaleskies offers a series of smaller falls below the Lake Sequoyah Dam. Great caution should be taken when hiking the trail, as the riverbanks are steep. Taking young children and pets below the dam is not recommended.

**To get there:** From Dry Falls head back up 64 West toward Highlands for 1 mile and use the pull off on the right at the green "Highlands" sign.

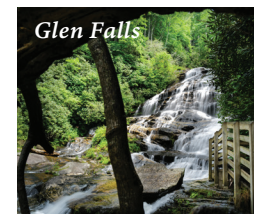
**OR** from Highlands, take U.S. 64 West from Highlands about two miles from the intersection at Highway 106 and 64 West. The pull-off will be on your left.

### Highway 106 (Dillard Road)

### GLEN FALLS

Comprised of three, 80-foot falls dropping 640 feet, the entire Glen Falls' trail descends some 700 feet in one mile. So, the hike down is easy, but back up is steep.

**To get there:** From Highlands, take N.C. 106 towards Dillard, Ga. In about two miles, look for the sign to the falls. Turn left, then immediately right onto a dirt road. Drive just more than one mile to the parking area.



Glen Falls