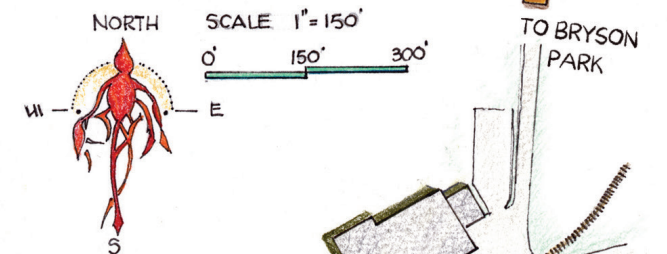


Legend

- BICYCLE RACK
- BUILDINGS
- PLAYGROUND
- PUBLIC PARKING
- PARKING WITH CHARGE STATION
- RAILROAD
- SCOTT CREEK
- VIEWS



BICENTENNIAL PARK
& GARDEN

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER
HISTORIC HOOPER HOUSE CIRCA 1905

Sylva
Jackson County, North Carolina

Sylva

With a historic downtown full of boutique shops, restaurants and bars, and public art, a booming brewing scene, a picturesque mountain backdrop, and the most photographed courthouse in North Carolina, Sylva brings together all the components to create a perfect mountain getaway for any season.

Shopping

Take a stroll through Sylva's pedestrian-friendly Main Street and stop into the eclectic restaurants and one-of-a-kind shops that line the way. Local retailers specialize in handmade goods and tasty treats, perfect for savoring the special mountain trip. Locally-sourced produce and products can also be found at the Farmer's Market in Bridge Park on Saturday mornings.



Eat & Drink

Sylva offers numerous options for a fun-filled weekend. Its booming brewery and craft cocktail scene has received numerous accolades. Be sure to stop in to our family-friendly breweries for a refreshing taste of locally crafted brews, and non-alcoholic beverages. Sylva's impressive dining scene ranges from a nostalgic diner that offers a daily assortment of mouth-watering homemade pies, to unassuming award-winning, farm-to-table restaurants whose food options are guaranteed to satisfy any culinary desire.



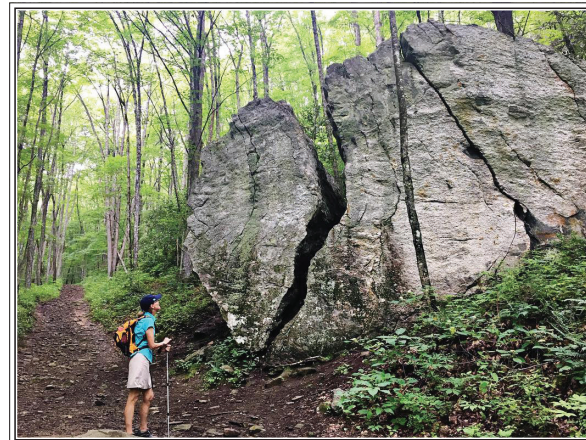
Get Outdoors

Named one of the "Top 10 Cleanest Cities in the US," by Expedia.com, due in part to its green and eco-friendly initiatives, Sylva is a certified Tree City with a Tree Walk that showcases over 50 different species of trees.

In addition, Sylva's Scott Creek is part of Jackson County's famed WNC Fly Fishing Trail, the first and only fly-fishing trail in the country. A stretch of Scott Creek through town is also designated by N.C. Wildlife as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters with delayed harvest fishing. Reserve a tour with one of the many local outfitters who navigate these waters day in and day out, and lead guests to fishing hot spots. Guided tours are available for novices or advanced fly fishers looking for a structured, yet authentic experience.



Less than ten minutes from Downtown Sylva is the town's 1,100-acre Pinnacle Park. Hikers are drawn to the terrain with a 7-mile round trip trek that ascends more than 3,000 ft in elevation. If you can make it to the top, you'll encounter sweeping views of the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains. For those just looking to stretch their legs and enjoy nature you'll encounter cascades, wildflowers and giant boulders less than a half-mile into the hike. Pack a lunch and bring a camera to make a day of it.



For those looking for a longer nearby hike, there's North Carolina's famed Mountains-to-Sea Trail. On its way from Great Smoky Mountains National Park to the Outer Banks, the Mountains-To-Sea Trail meanders through the Balsams, the range that divides Jackson and Haywood counties, offering leafy glades as well as stunning vistas. For Sylva visitors, the MST now offers an alternate route that sends travelers along the Tuckasegee River through the towns of Sylva and Dillsboro before rejoining the high elevation original trail via the Sylva's Pinnacle Park. For those just looking to stretch their legs and enjoy nature, you'll encounter cascades, wildflowers and giant boulders less than a half mile into the hike, including a certified Forest Bathing Trail.

Destination Library

Jackson County's most photographed building – its stately old Courthouse – is now part of Jackson County's amazing library. Sitting on a hilltop overlooking Sylva's historic downtown district, the library has a veranda with rocking chairs, a second-story balcony, a stained-glass skylight, and a spacious, light-filled atrium connecting the old Courthouse to the modern library. And it's open to the public, absolutely free. In addition to books and periodicals, the library wing offers a spacious children's area, state-of-the-art computer lab and free Wi-Fi.



Any Season

Sylva is an ideal destination for any season. In the spring, when mountain laurel and spring flowers brighten its mountainsides, the town also hosts two main festivals. In April, Sylva's downtown street festival, Greening Up the Mountains, draws over 10,000 people for arts, crafts, music and amazing food. With cooler mountain temps and a variety of water activities, summer is a great time to play in the mountains. Other fun activities that take place throughout the summer months include the outdoor Concerts on the Creek series that takes place every Friday night from Memorial Day to Labor Day at Sylva's Bridge Park. Fall provides a picturesque time of year with a blanket of colored trees as the towns backdrop and fun for families at Treat Street held in October. Known by Romantic Asheville as one of the top Christmas Towns in Western NC, Sylva's Experience the magical transformation of Main Street into a winter wonderland, offering a festive backdrop for holiday shopping. Don't miss the excitement of the annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting—a cherished tradition that lights up the town with holiday spirit.

History

The town of Sylva developed as a center of local commerce after the coming of the railroad in the 1880s. Some 30 years after Sylva's founding, local entrepreneur C.J. Harris led a successful, but contentious campaign to have Sylva replace Webster as the county seat, due to the proximity of the railroad in Sylva. County residents, by almost a two-to-one margin, approved the move. The courthouse was completed in 1914.

That Courthouse, Jackson County's most photographed building, is now part of Jackson County's amazing library. It's open to the public, absolutely free, six days each week.

Sylva's story since that time is one of steady progress. The Courthouse still watches over Main Street, though court functions and county administrative offices were moved to the Justice Center in 1994. Most of Sylva's downtown buildings date from the first three decades of the 20th century, though the stores and enterprises inside them have rotated through the years.



Named a Historic Downtown by the National Register of Historic Places, Sylva's vintage buildings date from about 1900 to 1964 and include notable examples of the Italianate, Classical Revival, Modern Movement, Queen Anne, and American Craftsman styles of architecture. The town was added to the National Register in 2014.

Visitors wishing to learn more about the town's past can obtain a brochure at the Visitor Center and embark on Sylva's Heritage Walk, a pictorial history of Main Street.

Visitor Center

The Jackson County Chamber and Visitor Center is located in downtown Sylva's Historic Hooper House (ca. 1905). Everyone who stops by will find a friendly and knowledgeable staff, and a beautiful Welcome Center stocked with robust area materials, including real estate, visitor and relocation information, restaurant and brewery guides, along with hiking maps and outdoor adventure offerings. Visitors will also find Trout Capital and North Carolina merchandise to complete their mountain experience. An exterior kiosk is conveniently located on site to provide information 24 hours a day. The Jackson County Chamber and Visitor Center is located at 773 W. Main Street; you can reach them by phone at 1-800-962-1911.

Photos: Nick Breedlove, Kelly Donaldson, Caitlin Pinegar, Rivers Edge Outfitters, Hunter Library/Western Carolina University

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