

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA:

BLUE RIDGE HIGHLANDS

Home of the Birthplace of Country Music, the **BLUE RIDGE HIGHLANDS** region echoes with the passion of history's most dominant country music pioneers. Annual festivals, historic venues and nightly jamborees celebrate Virginia's global influence, creating a rich musical soundtrack for all travelers – whether meandering along winding roads, exploring small towns with big character, or venturing out onto scenic trails and waterways.



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AUBERGE RESORTS COLLECTION
Meadows of Dan



CLAYTOR LAKE STATE PARK
Dublin

**Add these experiences
to your travel bucket
list for the region!**

Horseback Riding in Grayson's High Country, Grayson County

Horse enthusiasts can't miss this stop! Miles of trails and plenty of horse camps throughout the county will accommodate you, including Mt. Rogers, Virginia's highest peak. Experience the limitless beauty of the mountains with 360-degree views and, of course, see the amazing wild ponies!

The Bad Apple, Pembroke

Located inside a redeveloped 1900s sheep barn, this Prohibition-era restaurant provides the freshest local spirits and cocktails in a speakeasy setting. Their world-class menu changes seasonally, while Tapas Sunday offers a variety of small plates and live music to enjoy.

Bristol Music Scene, Bristol

Music is infused throughout this historic, vibrant city. It's home to Bristol Rhythm and Roots Reunion, one of the largest music festivals in the Southeast covering the best in roots music, and the Birthplace of Country Music Museum, an interactive museum documenting Bristol's extensive heritage. And book a room at the Sessions Hotel, with its rooftop bar and two live music venues, for a fully immersive experience.

Fort Chiswell Animal Park, Meadows

Forget a trip to Africa – this safari won't break the bank! Guests have a rare opportunity to interact with over 200 animals from six continents and experience Virginia's most interactive zoo.

Claytor Lake State Park

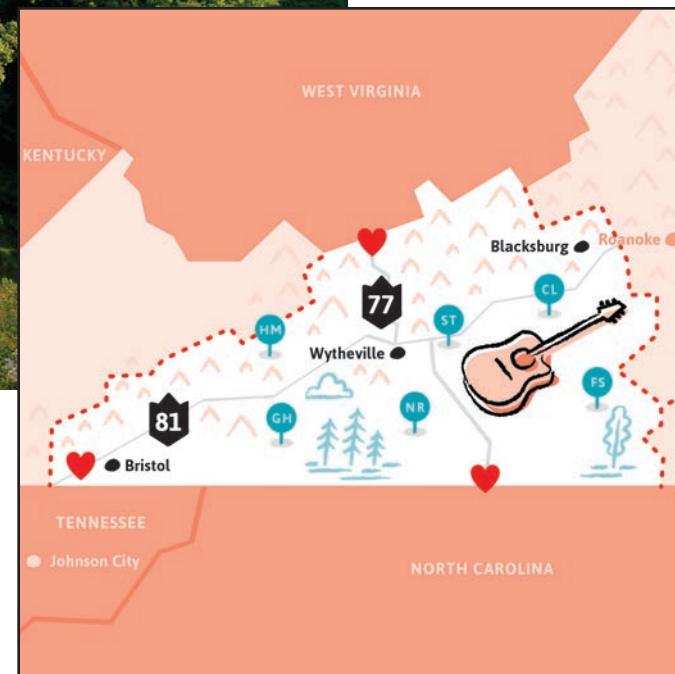
The 4,500-acre lake is the crown jewel of this park, with a beach, swimming area and dive tower, plentiful fishing and four miles of hiking and biking trails. Fifteen cabins, three lodges and additional camping options are available in site. And be sure to stop in at favorite hangouts like Draper Mercantile and Whitebarrel Winery while in the area.

Salt Trail, Glade Spring

This 8.7-mile trail offers hiking and biking options for all skill levels and features a river view for when you need to break for lunch. Bring Fido, too, as leashed pets are welcome along this peaceful, shaded path.

Patrick County Overlooks

Scenic overlooks await to take your breath away! Patrick County is uniquely situated with both mountains and valleys, making it the perfect location to stop and enjoy multiple overlooks. Discover the legend behind Lovers Leap Scenic Overlook, or meander along the Blue Ridge Parkway, stopping at the Rocky Knob, Rock Castle Gorge and Saddle Overlooks.



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SAM DEAN / ILLUSTRATION BY NATE PADAVICK




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Galax Visitors Center

110 E. Grayson St., Galax; 276-238-8130; visitgalax.com. Capital of old-time music, antiques, artisans, quaint shops, outdoor recreation.


THINGS TO DO

Chestnut Creek School of the Arts and Museum
100 N. Main St., Galax; 276-236-3500; chestnutcreekarts.org. Preserves cultural heritage through classes in traditional crafts and music.

Jeff Matthews Memorial Museum

606 W. Stuart Dr., Galax; 276-236-7874; jeffmatthewsmuseum.org. Displays Indian artifacts, Civil War memorabilia and more.


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Photos Courtesy: Floyd Country Store by Brett Latham

Judge Matthews State Forest

106 Matthews Ln., Galax; 276-236-2322; dof.virginia.gov. Hiking, biking, natural resource education programs, wildlife watching.

New River Trail State Park

116 Orphanage Dr., Max Meadows; 276-699-6778; virginiastateparks.gov/new-river-trail.

Old Cranks Motorcar Museum

407 Railroad Ave., Galax; 276-236-5114; oldcranks.com. Collection of vintage automobiles and farm equipment. Open weekends.

The Rex Theater

113 East Grayson St., Galax; 276-236-5309; rextheatregalax.com. Venue for music, theater and weekly live bluegrass radio broadcasts. \$

GILES COUNTY

Includes Pearisburg, Pembroke, Ripplemead

Giles County

203 N Main St., Pearisburg; 540-921-2079; virginiasmtnparkground.com. For Giles County tourism information.

THINGS TO DO

Cascades Falls

Route 460 to Pembroke, right onto Rt. 623 for 4 miles, Pembroke; 540-552-4641; virginiasmtnparkground.com/cascades. Enjoy a 4-mile round-trip hike to a majestic 69-foot vertical waterfall. \$

Dismal Falls

Take Exit 98 from I-81 going north on VA-100, then Rt. 42 toward Bland, Pearisburg; 540-552-4641; virginiasmtnparkground.com/dismal-falls. 15-foot Dismal Falls is peaceful, pretty and easily accessed.

Giles County Historical Society Museum and 1829 Andrew Johnston House

208 North Main St., Pearisburg; 540-921-1050; gilescountyhistory.org. Historic house, museum and Civil War site.

Glen Alton

From Rt. 460, 2 miles west of Pembroke to Rt. 635 for 13 miles, Ripplemead; 540-552-4641; virginiasmtnparkground.com/outdoors. Restored early 20th century farm. Rolling terrain through a variety of ecological habitats.

Historic Newport Covered Bridge

Rt. 601, Newport, VA, Pearisburg; 540-921-2079; virginiasmtnparkground.com/history. Historic covered bridge with public access and picnic area.

New River Water Trail

New River, Pearisburg; 540-921-2079; newriverwatertrail.com. Water activities for all experience levels. Fishing and paddle sports.

Pearis Cemetery

Old Rt. 100, Pearisburg; 540-921-2079. Trailhead to A.T. and historic cemetery.

Tangent Outfitters

201 Cascade Dr., Pembroke; 540-626-4567; newrivertrail.com. Canoeing, kayaking, rafting and guided fishing. Outfitters store and cafe.

GRAYSON COUNTY

Includes Fries, Galax, Independence, Mouth of Wilson, Troutdale, Whitetop

Fries Visitor Center

Main St., Fries; 276-233-1104; friesva.com. Visitor center, local arts and crafts, regional merchandise.

Grayson County Tourism Office

107 E. Main St., Independence; 276-773-8002; graysoncountyva.com. Information on lodging, camping, outdoor recreation, attractions, events, dining and shopping.





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Attractions	Shopping	Lodging	Restaurants
Barter Theatre 127 West Main Street/276-628-3991	Chellas on Main 182 East Main Street/276-608-9276	Creeper's End Lodging 121 Railroad Street/276-525-2031	Bonefire Smokehouse 260 West Main Street/276-623-0037
William King Museum of Art 415 Academy Drive/276-628-5005	Forget-Me-Not 129 East Main Street/276-628-2700	Martha Washington Inn & Spa 150 West Main Street/276-628-3161	128 Pecan 128 Pecan Street/276-698-3159
Whitetop Yoga 23910 Walden Road/276-492-6901	Abingdon Olive Oil Company 152 East Main Street/276-525-1524	Holiday Inn Express 130 Cook Street/276-477-1200	OUTFITTERS Virginia Creeper Trail Bike Shop 201 Pecan Street/276-676-2552
	Holston Mountain Artisans 214 Park Street/276-628-7721	Fairfield Inn & Suites 923 East Main Street/276-619-5501	

visitabingdonvirginia.com



800.435.3440

Reynolds Homestead
463 Homestead Ln., Critz; 276-694-7181; reynoldshomestead.vt.edu. National historic plantation/birthplace of R.J. Reynolds. \$   



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