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.

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 of Dan**

Forget a trip to Africa – this safari won’t break the bank! Guests have the 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 on-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.
GALAX
Includes Max Meadows.
Galan Visitors Center
110 E. Grayson St., Galax; 276-236-8120; visitgalax.com. Capitol of Old-time music, antiques, artisans, quaint shops, outdoor recreation. 🤩

**THINGS TO DO**
Chester Creek School of the Arts and Museum
200 N. Main St., Galax; 276-236-2050; chestercreekschool.org. Presents cultural heritage through classes in traditional crafts and music.

Jeff Matthews Memorial Museum
101 W. Stuart St., Galax; 276-236-6174; jmlmuseum.org. Displays Indian artifacts, Civil War memorabilia and more. 🤩

Judge Matthews State Forest
106, Matthews St., Galax; 276-236-2322; df.virginia.gov. Hiking, hiking, natural resource education programs, wildlife watching. 🦔

New River Trail State Park
136 Orphange Dr., Max Meadows; 276-697-6778; virginia.gov/trail. 🌲

Old Cranks Motocross Museum

The Rex Theater
113 West Grayson St., Galax; 276-236-5305; therextheatergalax.com. Venue for music, theater and weekly live bluegrass radio broadcasts. 🎵

GILES COUNTY
Includes Pearisburg, Appletown.

**THINGS TO DO**
Cascades Falls
Route 460 to Pearisburg, right onto Rt. 623 for 4 miles, Pearisburg; 540-552-6540; virginia.gov/trail. Enjoy a wide range of activities in a majestic, 69-foot tall waterfall. 🌫

Dismal Falls
Take Exit 78 from I-81, going north on VA-101, then Rt. 42 toward Blountville, Pearisburg; 540-552-6540; virginia.gov/trail. 15-foot Dismal Falls is peaceful, pretty and easily accessed. 🌫

Giles County Historical Society Museum and 1829 Andrew Johnson House
208 North Main St., Pearisburg; 540-921-1050; GilesCountyHistory.org. Historic house, museum and Civil War site. 🏡

Glen Alden
From Rt. 401, 2 miles west of Pearisburg to Rt. 135 for 21 miles, Pearisburg; 540-552-4820; virginiastateparks.gov/. Early 20th century farm. Rolling terrain through a variety of ecological habitats. 🏞️

Historic Newport Covered Bridge
Rt. 621, Newport, VA; Pearisburg; 540-921-2079; virginia.gov/trail. Historic, historic covered bridge with public access and picnic area. 🌳

New River Water Trail

Poor Cameron
Old Rt. 100, Pearisburg; 540-921-2079. Trailhead to P.C. to Falls Cemetery. 🎖️

Targert Outfitters
201 Cascade Dr., Pearisburg; 540-624-6572; newriveroutfitters.com. Coasting, boating, tubing and guided fishing. Outfitter store and cafe. 🌳

GRAYSON COUNTY
Includes Fries, Galax, Independence, Mouth of Wilson, Tazewell, Whitleyville.

Fries Visitor Center
Main St., Fries; 276-235-1104; hexva.com. Visitor center, local arts and crafts, regional merchandise.

Grayson County Tourism Office
107 E. Main St., Independence; 276-773-5852; graysoncountyva.com. Information on lodging, camping, outdoor recreation, attractions, events, dining and shopping. 🏨。

**VISITORS INFORMATION**
Open 7 Days a Week
276.525.1524
AbingdonOliveOilCo.com

**VISIT US**
With 9 major venues and over 60 affiliated venues & festivals!

**ATTR ACTIONS**
Barter Theatre
127 Main Street/276-628-3991
William King Museum of Art
415 Academy Street/276-628-5005
Whitetop Yoga
23910 Walden Rd., Abingdon

**SHOPPING**
Chellon on Main
182 East Main Street/276-608-9276
Forget-Me-Not
129 East Main Street/276-628-2700
Abingdon Olive Oil Company
152 East Main Street/276-655-1524
Holsten Mountain Artisans
214 Park Street/276-628-7721

**LODGING**
Creeper’s End Lodging
121 Railroad Street/276-525-2031
Martha Washington Inn & Spa
150 West Main Street/276-628-3161
Holiday Inn Express
130 Cook Street/276-677-1200
Fairfield Inn & Suites
923 East Main Street/276-619-5501

**RESTAURANTS**
Bonfire Smokehouse
260 West Main Street/276-623-0017
128 Pecan
128 Pecan Street/276-698-3159

**OUTFITTERS**
Virginia Creeper Trail Bike Shop
201 Pecan Street/276-676-2552

Abingdon, VA offers outdoor recreation, arts and culture, history, and an exclusive culinary experience. Stroll down Main Street, browse our unique shops, and visit local artisans right in their studios. Named USA Today 10 Best Small Town Food Scene 2019 and 2020. Explore the charm and make memories that will last a lifetime.

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It’s Always Play Time in Abingdon
Whether exploring the downtown streets, browsing the spacious galleries, or taking to the trail, Abingdon, VA is the right place for a refreshing getaway. Plan your trip and make memories that last a lifetime...
**Forrestville Poster**