

GROUNDHOG MOUNTAIN OVERLOOK PICNIC AREA
Hillsville

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

BLUE RIDGE HIGHLANDS

Magic is in the air in the Blue Ridge Highlands. With the magnetic mountain views drawing you in from every corner, you always feel the urge to explore. The Blue Ridge Parkway runs through this region, granting blissfully scenic drives to quirky towns with unique histories. And, if you hear a tune in the air, don't be surprised if you begin to whistle along—this region helped birth country music.

EXPERIENCES THAT DEFINE THE REGION

The Trails

With a name like Blue Ridge Highlands, you know there will be mountains and hills to explore (aka: trails galore!). And, every trail reaps a reward - blissful Blue Ridge Mountain vistas. So, don't forget your hiking shoes or sneakers.

The Music

Home to the Birthplace of Country Music, this region is undoubtedly a music mecca. Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion and FloydFest, some of Virginia's largest music festivals, happen here. Plus, it's easy to find local tunes and live performances anywhere you go.

Scenic Blue Ridge Parkway

It's hard to deny the enchanting blue aura of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The famed Blue Ridge Parkway winds right through this region, providing endlessly gorgeous mountain views without leaving your car - or motorcycle!

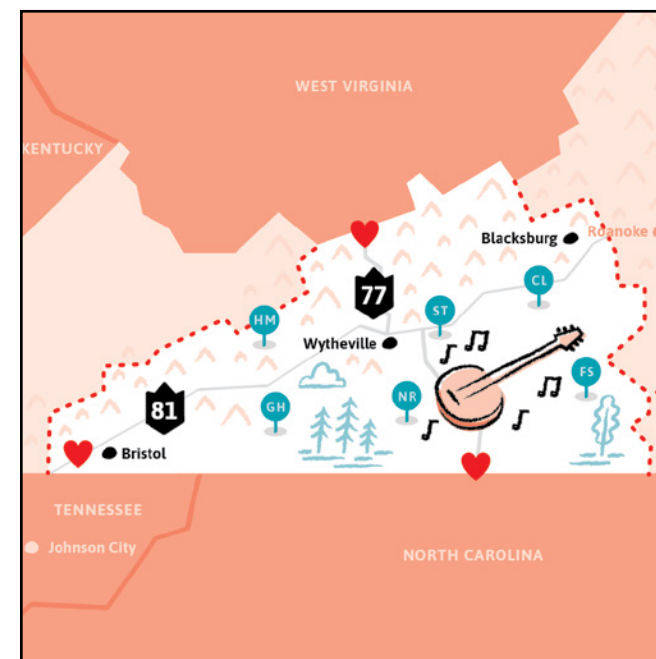
WHAT WE RECOMMEND FOR FIRST-TIMERS

Hike the Appalachian Trail

This region is home to a beautiful piece of the Appalachian Trail. What's fantastic is its accessibility - you can choose a beautiful mild hike for the day or go all in and camp for days. The choice is up to you.



CLAYTOR LAKE STATE PARK
Dublin



SAM DEAN / ILLUSTRATION BY NATE PADAVICK

Don't Miss Wythe County

A whole county to explore may sound like a challenge. But Wythe County does have it all. From historic museums to charming downtown Wytheville to an Alpaca farm, there are adventures for everyone to enjoy.

Birthplace of Country Music Museum

Bristol, Virginia is the place where country music began. So, why not explore its roots at its namesake museum with interactive exhibits of country music heritage? And, if you're a real fan, you can stay a night at The Sessions Hotel, the museum's music-inspired sister hotel.

LOCAL FAVORITES

Park Place Drive-In

There are very few drive-in movie theaters left, and one of them is in Marion. The Park Place Drive-In transports you back to the 1960s with an ice cream parlor to match. Do note it's open seasonally, Spring through Fall.

Lover's Leap Overlook

A sea view may be romantic, but a sea of mountains may just beat it. Named after a 17th-Century Romeo and Juliet-like tale, this overlook located in Stuart, Virginia has been a romantic spot for centuries with a majestic view of never-ending mountain bliss.

The Floyd Country Store

This country store is a charming Floyd staple. It's a place to find local knickknacks and bites. Even better, it's also a hub for Appalachian music and dance. How could you turn down lunch with live music?

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