

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!

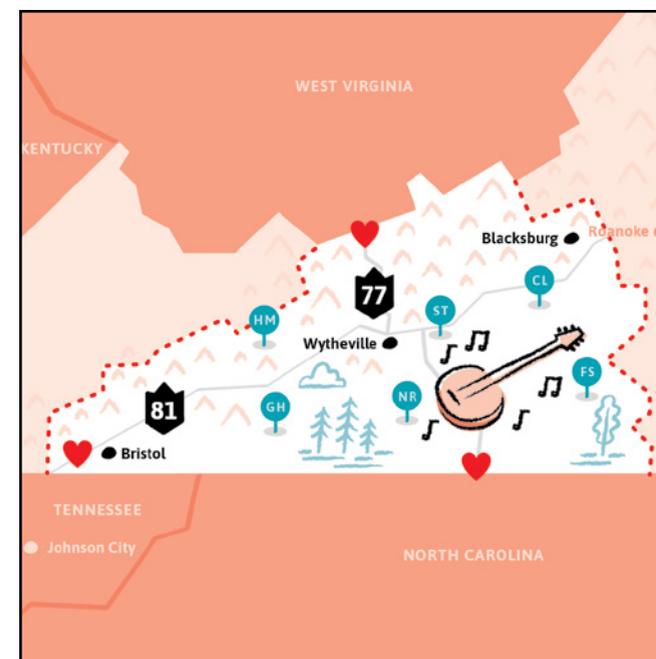
WHAT WE RECOMMEND FOR FIRST-TIMERS

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?



MABRY MILL
Meadows of Dan

Welcome Center at Bristol Virginia Tourism Corporation Mile Marker 0, I-81 Northbound Bristol 24201 276-466-2932

Welcome Center at Rocky Gap Virginia Tourism Corporation Mile Marker 61, I-77 Southbound Rocky Gap 24366 276-928-1873

Welcome Center at Lamsburg Virginia Tourism Corporation Mile Marker 0, I-77 Northbound Lamsburg 24351 276-755-3931

Blue Ridge Parkway Mileposts 162.9 to 192.5, Meadows of Dan; 828-298-0398; nps.gov/blri. "America's most scenic drive." Shopping, gas, food and scenic views.

The Crooked Road: Virginia's Heritage Music Trail One Heartwood Cir., Abingdon; 276-492-2409; thecrookedroadva.com. Promotes the traditional music heritage of Southwest Virginia.

Virginia Creeper Trail vacreepertail.org. Multi-use rail-trail. Open year-round to hiking, biking and equestrian use.

ABINGDON

Abingdon Visitor Center I-81, Exit 17, 208 West Main St., Abingdon; 276-676-2282; visitabingdonvirginia.com. Open seven days a week, public restrooms and free Wi-Fi.

Virginia Creeper Trail Welcome Center 300 Green Spring Rd., Abingdon; 276-676-2282; visitabingdonvirginia.com. Visitor information, merchandise and maps, open Friday-Monday, 10am-4pm.

THINGS TO DO

128 Pecan 128 Pecan St., Abingdon; 276-698-3159; 128pecan.com. Local, quirky, fun little restaurant with simple good food and friendly professional service.

Abingdon Muster Grounds 1780 Muster Pl., Abingdon; 276-525-1050; abingdonmustergrounds.com. Revolutionary War historic site and Overmountain Victory Trail visitor center.

Abingdon Olive Oil Company 335 Cummings St., Abingdon; 276-525-1524; abingdonoliveoilco.com. Over 85 varieties of olive oil. Experience the taste of good health!

Barter Theatre 127 W. Main St., Abingdon; 276-628-3991; bartertheatre.com. Experience the Historic State Theatre of Virginia!

Bonefire Smokehouse 260 West Main St., Abingdon; 276-623-0037; thebonefiresmokehouse.com. Delicious smoked meat. Unique southern high country side dishes and live music.

Historical Society of Washington County 341 W. Main St., Abingdon; 276-623-8337; hswcv.org. Free genealogy & local history library and exhibits.

Holston Mountain Artisans 214 Park St., Abingdon; 276-628-7721; holstonmntarts.com. One of the oldest traditional craft cooperatives in the nation.

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail's Commemorative Motor Route 1780 Muster Pl., Abingdon; 276-525-1050; nps.gov/ovvi. Start of driving trail following patriots' march to Kings Mountain.

Plumb Alley Day Plumb Alley, Abingdon; abingdonkiwanis.org/plumballeyday. Plumb Alley comes alive with a variety of arts, crafts, food, book sales, and much more!

'Round the Mountain: Southwest Virginia's Artisan Network One Heartwood Cir., Abingdon; 276-492-2400; roundthemountain.org. Unique handmade artisan products from Southwest Virginia.

Sinking Spring Cemetery Russell Rd., between Main & Valley Sts., Abingdon; 276-676-2282; visitabingdonvirginia.com. Graves dating to 1776, self-guided tours available.

Southwest Virginia Cultural Center & Marketplace One Heartwood Cir., I-81 Exit 14, Abingdon; 276-492-2400; swvaculturalcenter.com. Your gateway to Southwest Virginia craft, music and local culture.

Sprout Consignment 123 Charwood Dr., Abingdon; 276-206-8941; sproutconsignment.com. Handpicked kids items from your favorite brands.

Tumbling Creek Cider Co. 112 Court St., Abingdon; 276-477-9184; tumblingcreekcider.com. Heritage inspired, handcrafted hard cider, live performance and great food.

SHANNON TERRY

Virginia Creeper Trail Bike Shop 201 Pecan St., Abingdon; 276-676-2552; vacreepertailbikeshop.com. Daily shuttle service, bicycle rentals and your expert source for creeper trail information.

Virginia Highland Festival 276-623-5266; vahighlandsfestival.com. July 22-31, 2022.

White's Mill 12291 Whites Mill Rd., Abingdon; 276-628-2960; whitesmill.org. 1797 water-powered grist and flour mill.

William King Museum of Art 415 Academy Dr., Abingdon; 276-628-5005; williamkingmuseum.org. Three exhibition galleries featuring art of the region and the world.

BLAND COUNTY

THINGS TO DO

Wolf Creek Indian Village & Museum 6394 N Scenic Hwy., Bastian; 276-688-3438; indianvillage.org. Re-created prehistoric village, museum, gift shop, picnic area.

BRISTOL

Discover Bristol: Bristol Convention & Visitors Bureau 20 Volunteer Pkwy., Bristol; 423-989-4850; discoverbristol.org. Advancing the economic vitality of Bristol as a year-round destination.

THINGS TO DO

Birthplace of Country Music Museum 101 Country Music Way, Bristol; 423-573-1927; birthplaceofcountrymusic.org. Celebrating Bristol's music history; a Smithsonian Institution affiliate.

Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion 423-573-1927; birthplaceofcountrymusic.org/festival. September 8-10, 2023.

Bristol Sign State St., Historic Downtown, Bristol; 423-989-4850; discoverbristol.org. National Register of Historic Places landmark spanning downtown Bristol, TN/VA.

Bristol Speedway 151 Speedway Blvd., Bristol; 866-415-4158; bristolmotorspeedway.com. Group tickets, travel packages and track tours available.

The Cameo Theater 703 State St., Bristol; 276-296-1234; thecameotheater.com. Circa 1925, newly renovated. Come experience music in its purest form.

Country Music Mural and Marker 810 State St., Bristol; 423-764-4171; bristoltn.org. 1927 "Bristol Sessions" noting Bristol as the Birthplace of Country Music.

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Bristol 500 Gate City Hwy., Bristol; 276-696-3660; hardrockhotelcasinobristol.com. Coming summer 2024. Featuring over 870 slots, 21 table games, 3 restaurants.

South Holston Lake Off Hwy. 421, South Holston Lake, Bristol; 423-878-6931; tva.org. Known for smallmouth bass fishing and many fishing tournaments every year.

CARROLL COUNTY

Blue Ridge Plateau Regional Visitor Center I-77 Exit 14, 239 Farmers Market Dr., Hillsville; 276-730-3100; visittheblueridge.com. Traveler and visitor information regarding Plateau Region.

Town of Hillsville Visitors Center 410 N. Main St., Hillsville; 276-728-2128; townofhillsville.com. Small visitor center open 24/7 in downtown Hillsville.

Historic Hale-Wilkinson-Carter Home 405 N. Main St., Hillsville; 276-728-2494; townofhillsville.com. 4.5-story home of industrialist George L. Carter refurbished in 1920s.

Historic Sidna Allen Home 5935 Fancy Gap Hwy., Fancy Gap; 276-728-2594; visittheblueridge.com. Historic Queen Anne-style home, tours, listed in National Register.

Stewarts Creek Wildlife Management Area State Rt. 795, Hillsville; 276-728-4938; itsourstyle.com. 1,087-acre preserve below crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

DAMASCUS

Town of Damascus P.O. Drawer 576, Damascus; 276-475-3831; visitdamascus.org. Beautiful small town destination for those seeking outdoor recreation!

Virginia Creeper Trail Welcome Center The Red Caboose, Damascus Town Park, Damascus; vacreepertail.org. Virginia is for Lovers merchandise, visitor information for the entire trail, outdoor rec attractions and history.

Damascus Trail Center 209 West Laurel Ave., appalachiantrail.org. Regional hub for outdoor recreation in Southwest Virginia, provides information and programs for visitors and volunteers

THINGS TO DO

Adventure Damascus Bicycles 128 West Laurel Ave., Damascus; 276-475-6262. adventuredamascus.com Virginia Creeper Trail bike rentals and shuttles. Open seven days a week year-round. Located where all the trails cross. 8:30am-6pm, daily. Exit 19 & 29, off I-81. Visit downtown Damascus. More info at: DoltInDamascus.com.

Carroll County Historical Museum 515 N. Main St., Hillsville; 276-728-4938; visittheblueridge.com. History exhibits and information. Tuesday-Friday, 10:30am-4pm; Saturday, 10am-2pm.

Damascus Outfitter 128 West Laurel Dr., U.S. Rt. 58, Damascus; 276-475-6252; damascusoutfitter.com Your one-stop source for gear and trail information for all trails in the Damascus area. Appalachian Trail resupply and gear purveyor. 9am-6pm, daily, year-round.

Crooked Creek Wildlife Management Area Access Route 620 south from Route 58 at Woodlawn, Hillsville; 276-783-4860; pickplaystay.com. 1,600 acres, six miles of stocked trout streams, hiking, birding trails.

Devil's Den Nature Preserve Cemetery Rd., Fancy Gap; 276-730-3100; pickplaystay.com. 280 acres, cave, forest, open meadow, trails and picnic facilities.

Harmon's Museum 5122 Carrollton Pke., Woodlawn; 276-236-4884; harmonstore.com. Home of Stoneman historical marker. Artifacts. Open Monday-Saturday, 9am-6pm.

Floyd Chamber of Commerce 108 West Main St., Floyd; 540-745-4407; floydchamber.org. Providing information and support to the Floyd area business community.

Floyd County Visitor Center & Tourism Office 108 West Main St., Floyd; 540-745-4407; visitfloydva.com. Providing information to visitors, vacationers and Floyd residents.

THINGS TO DO

Bell Gallery and Garden 112 N. Locust St., Floyd; 540-745-4494; bellgalleryandgarden.com. Features the work of 100+ local and regional artists/craftspeople.

Buffalo Mountain Natural Area Preserve Moles Rd. SW, Willis; 276-676-5673; dcr.virginia.gov/dnh/buffalo.htm. At nearly 4,000 feet, this rounded summit features beautiful hiking.

Floyd Artisan Trail 540-745-2784; floydartisantrail.org. Annual June Tour featuring local art, craft and agricultural products.

The Floyd Center for the Arts 220 Parkway Ln. S, Floyd; 540-745-2784; jacksonvillecenter.org. Art galleries, gift shop, artist studios, art & craft workshops.

Floyd County Historical Society Museum 217 North Locust St., Floyd; 540-745-3247; floydhistoricalsociety.org. Preserving and sharing a unique history in SW Virginia.

June Bug Center 251 Parkway Ln., Floyd; 540-745-6550; junebugcenter.org. A community space for theatre and life-enhancing events.

Mabry Mill Blue Ridge Parkway, M.P. 176.1, Meadows of Dan; 540-952-2947; brptrails.com/brp1762.htm. One of the Blue Ridge Parkway's most visited sites.

Rock Castle Gorge National Recreation Trail Milepost 167, Blue Ridge Parkway, Floyd; 540-593-3503; blueridgeparkway.org/vatrails.htm. Moderate 10.8-mile loop trail through diverse terrain.

Rocky Knob Visitor Center Milepost 169, Blue Ridge Parkway, Floyd; 276-952-2947; nps.gov/blri/rockknob.htm. Blue Ridge Parkway information, picnic area and Blackridge trailhead parking.

The Sun Music Hall 302 S. Locust St., Floyd; 540-745-6836; sunmusicall.com. Diverse national and regional music! Concerts, dances and workshops.

GALAX

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.

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, Narrows, Ripplemead

Giles County

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

THINGS TO DO

Cascades Falls

Route 460 to Pembroke, right onto Rt. 623 for four miles, Pembroke; 540-552-4641; virginiasmtmplayground.com/cascades. Enjoy a four-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; virginiasmtmplayground.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; facebook.com/gilescountyhistoricalsociety. Historic house, museum and Civil War site.

Glen Alton

From Rt. 460, two miles west of Pembroke to Rt. 635 for 13 miles, Ripplemead; 540-552-4641; virginiasmtmplayground.com/outdoors. Restored early 20th century farm.

Historic Newport Covered Bridge

Rt. 601, Pearisburg; 540-921-2079; virginiasmtmplayground.com/history. Historic covered bridge with public access & picnic area.

Mill Creek Nature Park

Northview St., Narrows; 540-726-2423; virginiasmtmplayground.com/parks-and-recreation. Offers waterfalls, hiking trails, biking trails & easy parking.

New River Water Trail

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

Pearis Cemetery

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

Tangent Outfitters

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

Whitt-Riverbend Park

999 Ripplemead Rd., Pearisburg; 540-921-0340; pearisburg.org. On the banks of the New River, walking trails, public.

GRAYSON COUNTY

Includes Elk Creek, Fries, Independence, Mouth of Wilson, Troutdale, White Top

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; graysoncountytva.com. Information on lodging, camping, outdoor recreation, attractions, events, dining and shopping.

Grayson County Welcome Center

107 E. Main St., Independence; 276-773-8002; graysoncountytva.com. Visitor Center, Museum, auditorium rental, gift shop and weekly jam.

Town of Fries

276-235-9294; friesva.com. Four seasons of family fun on the New River.

THINGS TO DO

Appalachian Trail - Elk Garden Trailhead/Whitetop Trailhead

State Route 600, Whitetop. Access the Appalachian Trail at several locations in Grayson County.

Blue Ridge Discovery Center

6402 Whitetop Rd., Troutdale; 276-293-1232; blueridgediscoverycenter.org. Dedicated to exploring and sharing the natural history of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Elk Creek Dragway

711 Victory Ln., Elk Creek; 276-655-4551; elkcreekdragway.com. Drag racing every Saturday night May-September.

Grayson County Historical Society

107 East Main St., Independence; 276-773-3320. Dedicated to uncovering and preserving the rich history of Grayson County.

Grayson County Virginia Heritage Foundation

578 East Main St., Independence. Promotes, preserves and educates the cultural heritages of Grayson County.

Grayson Crossroads Museum

107 E. Main St., Independence; 276-773-3711; historic1908courthouse.org. Old photos of the county, old maps and cultural antiques.

Grayson Highlands State Park

829 Grayson Highland Ln., Mouth of Wilson; 276-579-7092; virginiastateparks.gov/grayson-highlands.

Historic 1908 Courthouse and Grayson County Visitor Center

107 E. Main St., Independence; 276-773-8002; graysoncountytva.com. History museum and tourism information. Free live music Wednesday nights 6:30 pm, rain or shine.

Historic Fries Theater

Main St., Fries; 276-744-2531. Weekly jam every Thursday at 6:30pm, a Crooked Road venue.

Matthews Living History Farm Museum

476 White Pine Rd., Galax; 276-773-3080; matthewsfarmmuseum.org. Preserving cultural heritage of upper New River Valley since 1900.

Matthews State Forest Mountain Bike Trails

655 White Pine Rd., Galax; mtbproject.com/trail/7016941; matthews-state-forest-mtb-trail. 8.2 miles of single-track adventure.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Includes Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Elliston

Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery County Regional Tourism

Mailing address: 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2E, Christiansburg; 540-394-4770; gotomontva.com. Go To Town in Montgomery County with two of Virginia's largest towns - Blacksburg and Christiansburg. In the heart of the New River Valley among the Blue Ridge Mountains of Southwest Virginia. Home to the Huckleberry Trail and Virginia Tech. Easy access to the Appalachian Trail, Blue Ridge Parkway, Brush Mountain Biking and the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail (U.S. Route 76).

Downtown Blacksburg, Inc.

318 N. Main St., Blacksburg; 540-951-0454; downtownblacksburg.com. Featuring unique cuisine, boutique shopping, art galleries, a farmers market and a historical movie theatre. Annual festivals include Summer Solstice fest, Art at the Market and Steppin' Out.

THINGS TO DO

Alexander Black House & Cultural Center

204 Draper Rd. SW, Blacksburg; 540-443-1600; blacksburgmuseum.org. Historic home of Alexander Black.

Cambria Historic District

500 Depot St., Christiansburg. Historic railroad depot, antique and specialty shops.

Coal Mining Heritage Park

Mile 4 of The Huckleberry Trail, Christiansburg; 540-382-6975; montva.com/parks-and-rec/parks-facilities/coal-mining-heritage-park. The former Merrimac Mine is a passive park and trail.

Fotheringay House

Route 11/460, Elliston; 202-354-2211; waymarking.com/waymarks/wm1k4q_fotheringay_elliston_virginia. Legend of American Revolution Colonel said to be buried standing.

The Huckleberry Trail

755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg; 540-382-6975; huckleberrytrail.org. Maintained rail to trail winds between Blacksburg and Christiansburg.

Kentland Farm

5250 Whitethorne Rd., Blacksburg; 540-731-9353; vaes.vt.edu/college-farm. College farm includes a manor house, meat house and dairy.

LOVEworks Sculpture in Christiansburg

595 North Franklin St., Christiansburg; 540-394-2120; virginia.org/listings/thearts/loveworkinchristiansburg. A water-themed sculpture representing connection to the water.



USA TODAY'S BEST SMALL TOWN FOOD SCENE

Abingdon VIRGINIA

ONE OF AMERICA'S COOLEST SMALL TOWNS

It's Always Play Time in Abingdon!

LODGING

Blacks Fort Inn
410 Green Spring Rd./276-628-6263

Creepers End Lodging
121 Railroad St./276-525-2031

Fairfield Inn & Suites
923 E. Main St./276-619-5501

Holiday Inn Express
130 Cook St./276-477-1200

Martha Washington Inn & Spa
150 W. Main St./276-628-3161

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Barter Theatre
127 W. Main St./276-628-3991

Holston Mountain Artisans
214 Park St./276-628-7721

Virginia Creeper Trail Bike Shop
201 Pecan St./276-676-2552

Virginia Highlands Festival
vahighlandsfestival.com

FOOD & DRINK

128 Pecan
128 Pecan St./276-698-3159

Bone Fire Smokehouse
260 W. Main St./276-623-0037

Tumbling Creek Cider Co.
112 Court St.

SHOPPING

Abingdon Olive Oil Co.
335 Cummings St./276-525-1524

Sprout Consignment
123 Charwood Dr./276-206-8941



VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS
VisitAbingdonVirginia.com

THE CROOKED ROAD
Experience the Mountains of Music

With 9 major venues and over 60 affiliated venues & festivals!

For trip planning information, contact The Crooked Road at info@thecrookedroad.org or call 276.492.2409
THECROOKEDROADVA.COM

VIRGINIA IS FOR MUSIC LOVERS
#VAMUSIC

Photos Courtesy: Floyd Country Store by Brent Latshaw

The Lyric Theatre
135 College Ave., Blacksburg; 540-951-0604; thelyric.com. This historic theatre offers films, live music and more!

Montgomery Museum of Art and History
4 East Main St., Christiansburg; 540-382-5644; montgomerymuseum.org. Artifacts from the New River Valley and local art exhibits.

Moss Arts Center
190 Alumni Mall, Blacksburg; 540-231-5300; artscenter.vt.edu. Serves southwest Virginia with performing and visual arts experiences.

Nature Conservancy's Falls Ridge Preserve
Falls Ridge Rd., Elliston; 434-295-6106; hikingupward.com/ovh/fallsridgepreserve. A breathtaking travertine waterfall, old limekiln and caves.

SEEDS - Blacksburg Nature Center
Historic Price House, 107 Warren St. SE, Blacksburg; 540-961-1132; seedskids.org/naturecenter.html. Rain or shine, fun discovery learning for children and the young at heart.

Solitude
Virginia Tech Campus, Blacksburg; 540-231-9593; vt.edu/about/locations/buildings/solitude.html. Historic home circa 1801; home to two Virginia governors.

St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall
203 Gilbert St., Blacksburg; 540-443-1600; blacksburgmuseum.org. Museum of African American Culture. Open by appointment 540-443-1600.

Starlite Drive-In Theater
275 Starlight Dr. SE, Christiansburg; 540-382-2202; starlitedriveinva.com. One of the few original drive-in theaters in the country! \$

Virginia Tech
314 Burruss Hall, Blacksburg; 540-231-3548; vt.edu. One of Virginia's largest universities. Museums, galleries open to public.

Virginia Tech Museum of Geosciences
2062 Derring Hall, VT Campus, Blacksburg; 540-231-3001; geos.vt.edu/museum-of-geosciences.html. Largest display of minerals in Virginia plus seismograph, gemstones, fossils.

William Preston's Smithfield
1000 Smithfield Plantation Rd., Blacksburg; 540-231-3947; historicsmithfield.org. Historic home of Colonel William Preston. Interpreters and demonstrations. \$

Wonder Universe: A Children's Museum
782 New River Rd., unit 812, Uptown Christiansburg Mall, Christiansburg; 540-953-0103; wonderuniverse.org. Enjoy the benefits of playful learning! Ideal for kids birth-age 10. \$

PATRICK COUNTY

Includes Ararat, Bassett, Critz, Meadows of Dan, Stuart, Woolwine

Blue Ridge Visitor Center
2609 JEB Stuart Hwy., Meadows of Dan; 276-694-6012; patrickchamber.com. Located one minute from the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Patrick County Visitors Center
126 North Main St., Stuart; 276-693-2005; visitpatrickcounty.org. Discover Patrick County's wonders - Eat, stay & play!

THINGS TO DO

Fairy Stone State Park
967 Fairystone Lake Dr., Stuart; 276-930-2424; virginiaastateparks.gov/fairy-stone. Home of the fairy stones, cabins, trails and more. \$

IC DeHart Memorial Park
2631 Charity Hwy, Woolwine; 276-694-3917; dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/sites/i-c-dehart-memorial-park. Home to the Virginia State Championship Mountain bike trails.

Jack's Creek Covered Bridge
1274 Jacks Creek Rd., Woolwine; 276-693-2005; visitpatrickcounty.org. Built in 1914, one of eight remaining covered bridges.

Laurel Hill: Birthplace of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart
1091 Ararat Hwy, Ararat; 276-251-1833; jebstuart.org. Birthplace and home of Civil War General J.E.B Stuart.

Lover's Leap Scenic Overlook
8550 Jeb Stuart Hwy., Meadows of Dan; 276-693-2005; visitpatrickcounty.org. An impressive mountainside cliff tied to an Appalachian love story.

Mayberry Presbyterian Church
MP180.1, Blue Ridge Parkway, Meadows of Dan; 276-952-8422; mayberrypres.org. Built in 1925, one of five historic rock churches.

Mayberry Trading Post
883 Mayberry Church Rd., Meadows of Dan; 276-952-2155. Offering local artisan crafts, antiques, gems, refreshments and more.

Patrick County Historical Museum
116 West Blue Ridge St., Stuart; 276-694-2840; patcovahistory.org. Features Moonshine & Civil War history, Genealogy room & more.

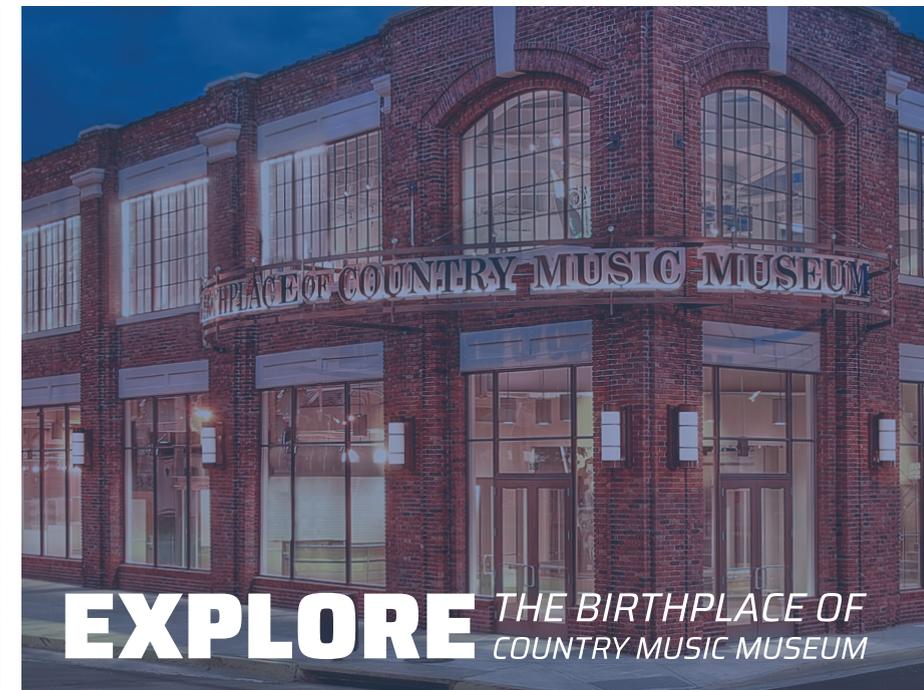
Philpott Lake Recreation Area
1058 Philpott Dam Rd., Bassett; 276-629-2703. Offering boating, swimming, picnicking, hiking, biking, hunting, fishing and camping.

Primland Auberge Resort
2000 Busted Rock Rd., Meadows of Dan; 276-633-4413; aubegeresorts.com/primland. A luxury resort featuring world-class golf, spa and fine dining.

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

Stanburn Winery
158 Conner Dr., Stuart; 276-694-7074; stanburn.com. Nature uncorked, with the rolling hills of the Piedmont and the mountains as a backdrop.

Villa Appalacchia Winery
752 Rock Castle Gorge Rd., Floyd; 540-593-3100; villaappalaccia.com. Italian inspired wines, located on the Blue Ridge Parkway between milepost 170 and 171.



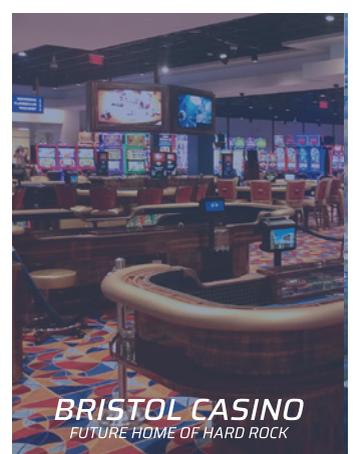
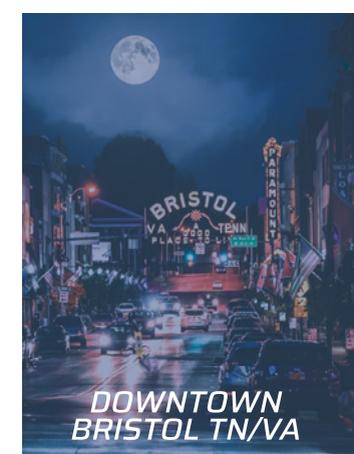
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EXPLORE BRISTOL



EXPLOREBRISTOL.COM

BIRTHPLACEOFCOUNTRYMUSIC.ORG

Wood Brothers Racing Museum
21 Performance Dr., Stuart; 276-694-2121; woodbrothersracing.com. Features Wood Brothers Racing, the longest active NASCAR racing team.

PULASKI COUNTY
Includes Draper, Dublin, Newbern

Pulaski County Visitor Center
4440 Cleburne Blvd., Dublin; 540-674-4161; pulaskichamber.info. Exit 98, I-81, Dublin. 9am-5pm, seven days a week.

THINGS TO DO

Claytor Lake State Park
6620 Ben H Bolen Dr., Dublin; 540-643-2500; virginiastateparks.gov/claytorlake.

D. C. Wysor Observatory and Museum
600 Dunlap Rd., Dublin; 540-643-0755. Meade 16" LX200 telescope, vast collection of fossils and more.

Draper Mercantile & Trading Company
3054 Greenbriar Rd., Va. Route 658, Draper; 540-994-5659; drapermerc.com. Restored 1800s mercantile with restaurant, crafts, live music and more.

Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley
21 W. Main St., Pulaski; 540-980-7363; facnr.org. Art exhibits by local and regional artists.

New River Trail
New River Trail State Park; 800-933-7275; virginiastateparks.gov. 52 miles of biking, hiking, horseback riding.

Pulaski Railway Station
20 South Washington Ave., U.S. Route 11, Pulaski; 540-994-8696; pulaskitown.org. Restored 1880s depot, farmers market and Dora Connector to the New River Trail.

Pulaski Theatre
14 West Main St., Pulaski; 540-994-9555; pulaskitheatre.org. Restored 1911 vaudeville house. Movies, live performances.

Raymond F. Ratcliffe Memorial Transportation Museum
51 Commerce St., Pulaski; 540-980-2307; theratcliffemuseum.com. Milton Brockmeyer O-Gauge Diorama, a scale replica of Pulaski's downtown.

Wilderness Road Regional Museum
5240 Wilderness Rd., Newbern; 540-674-4835; newriverhistoricalsociety.com. Located in 1800s house. Local area books, records. \$

RADFORD

Radford Info & Welcome Center
701A W. Main St., Radford; 540-267-3153; visitradford.com. Stop by for info about Radford University, the New River.

THINGS TO DO

Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery
600 Unruh Dr., Radford; 540-731-5031; glencoemuseum.org. Museum & art gallery, Tuesday-Saturday 10am-4pm & Sunday 1-4pm.

Ingles Farm
9 Wilderness Rd., Radford; 540-267-3153; visitradford.com. Re-built Mary Draper Ingles cabin. Open dates available at VisitRadford.com.

Mary Draper Ingles Statue
601 Unruh Dr., Radford; 540-267-3153; marydraperinglestrail.com. Frontier heroine Mary Draper Ingles, adjacent to Radford Visitor's Center.

Museum of the Earth Sciences
Center for the Sciences, Radford University, Radford; 540-831-1171; radford.edu. An educational resource for earth science-related themes.

Radford Fiddle & Banjo Jam, a Crooked Road Affiliated Venue
333 W. Main St., Radford; 540-838-2399. Monday evening bluegrass jam, all musicians welcome, full menu available.

Radford Theatre
1065 E. Main St., Radford; 540-639-0722; radfordtheatre.com. Landmark 1935 theatre with first run movies, special oldie screenings. \$

Radford University Art Museum on Tyler
214 Tyler Ave., Radford; 540-831-5754; radford.edu. Exhibitions open to the public throughout the year.

Radford University Planetarium
801 E. Main St., Radford; 540-831-5441; radford.edu/planetarium. See website or call for showtimes, special children's shows.

St. Albans
6248 University Park Dr., Radford; 540-260-3111; stalbans-virginia.com. Paranormal investigation site/tours. \$

SMYTH COUNTY/MARION

VIRGINIA MAIN STREET COMMUNITY
Includes Atkins, Chilhowie, Saltville

Smyth County Regional Visitor Center
408 Whitetop Rd., Chilhowie; 276-646-3306; visitsmythcountyva.com. Explore Virginia's highest peaks, wildest adventures and coolest small towns.

THINGS TO DO

Appalachian Spirit Gallery
144 W. Main St., Marion; 276-709-2909; appalachianspiritgallery.org. Celebrate the arts, traditions, lore and spirit of our mountains.

Hungry Mother State Park
2854 Park Blvd., Marion; 276-781-7400; virginiastateparks.gov/hungry-mother.

The Lincoln Theatre
117 E. Main St., Marion; 276-783-6092; thelincoln.org. Historic landmark featuring live performances including Song of the Mountains. \$

Mount Rogers National Recreation Area
3714 Highway 16, Marion; 276-783-5196; smythcounty.org.

GET OUTTA TOWN!

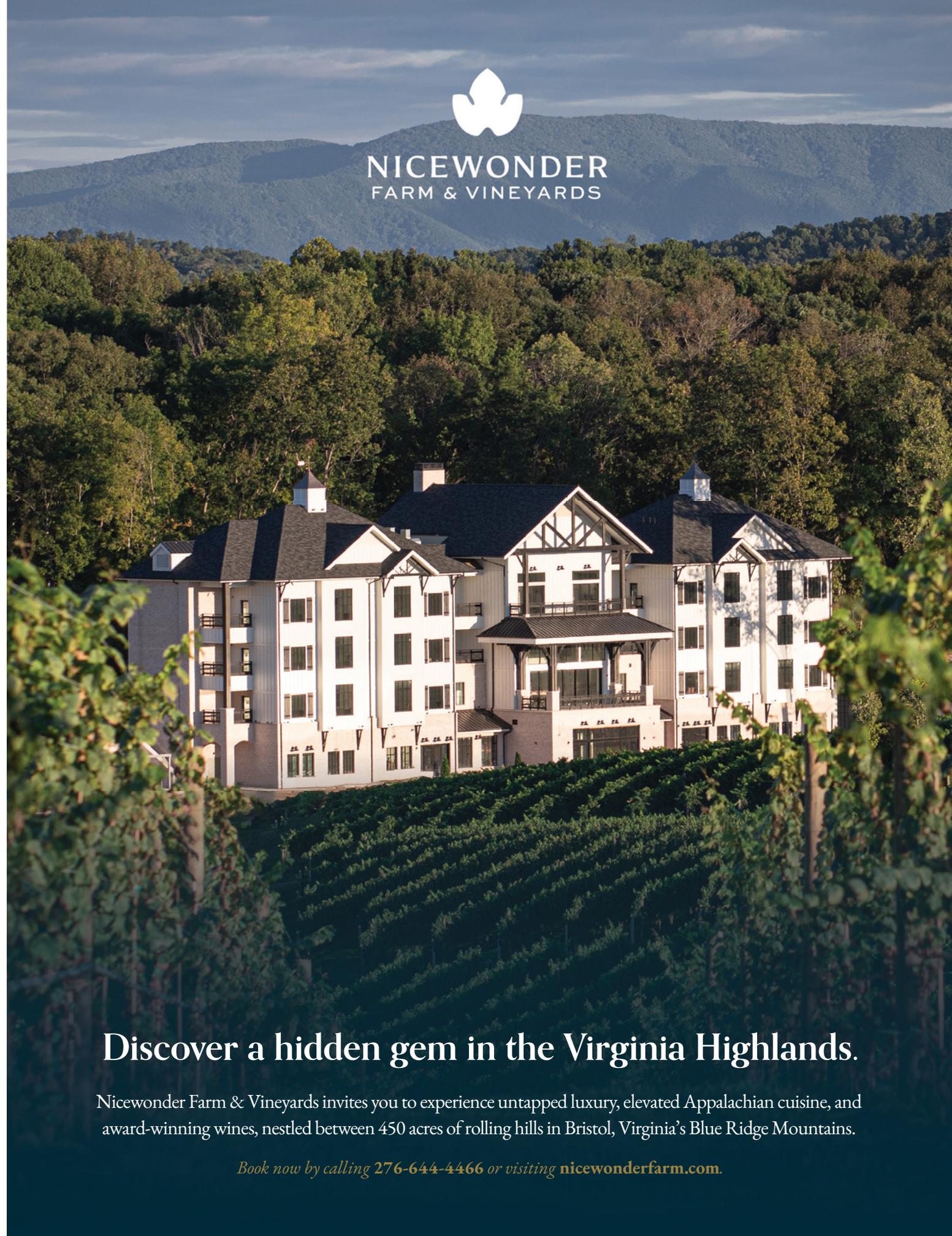
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Visit the Patrick County Visitors Center at 126 N. Main St, Stuart, VA

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Museum of the Middle Appalachians

123 Palmer Ave., Saltville; 276-496-3633; museumofthemiddleappalachians.org. Explore the Geology, ice-age, Woodland Indians, salt and gypsum industry, company town life and video tour of The Civil War at the Salt Works. \$

Settlers Museum of Southwest Virginia
1322 Rocky Hollow Rd., Atkins; 276-686-4401; settlersmuseum.com. Experience the story of those who settled in Southwest Virginia.

Smyth County Museum & Historical Society
123 East Main St., Marion; 276-783-7286; smythcountymuseum.org. Experience the history of Smyth Co. with free museum tours.

Wayne C. Henderson School of Appalachian Arts
203 North Church St., Marion; 276-706-4010; thehenderson.org. Preserving, promoting and providing learning experiences rooted in Appalachian Culture.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

McGlothlin Center for the Arts at Emory & Henry College
30481 Garnand Dr., Emory; 276-944-6333; ehc.edu/mcglathlincenter. Theatre, music, visual arts, guest artists series.

WYTHEVILLE/WYTHE COUNTY

VIRGINIA MAIN STREET COMMUNITY
Includes Austinville, Max Meadows

Wytheville Convention & Visitors Bureau and Regional Visitors Center
975 Tazewell St., Wytheville; 877-347-8307; visitwytheville.com. Local, regional and state visitor information. Daily 9am-5pm.

THINGS TO DO

African American Heritage Museum
410 E. Franklin St., Wytheville; 276-625-0042; wythevilletrainingschool.org. Photos, stories & memorabilia tell the history of African American education.

Big Walker Lookout
8711 Stoney Fork Rd., Wytheville; 276-663-4016; bigwalkerlookout.com. Panoramic views, craft shop w/demos, hiking trails, open all year.

Claw of the Dragon
Off I-77 and I-81 in Southwest Virginia, Wytheville; 877-347-8307; clawofthedragon.com. Motorcycle trail showcasing the beautiful back roads of Southwest Virginia!

Crystal Springs Recreation Area
723 Pump Hollow Rd., GPS:36.900-81.092, Wytheville; 877-347-8307; wytheville.org/recreation/crystalsprings.php. Hiking, biking, picnicking, primitive camping, backpacking, guided hikes, nature workshops, geocaching.

Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Museum
145 East Main St., Wytheville; 276-223-3484; edithbollingwilson.org. Discover the first lady who was acting president. \$

Fort Chiswell Animal Park
569 Red Hollow Rd., Max Meadows; 276-637-6754; fortchiswellanimalpark.com. Take guided safari bus ride through 45 acres of animals. \$

Fort Chiswell Mansion
I-77/81 Exit 80, Max Meadows; 276-637-1832; fortchiswellmansion.com. Historic mansion dates to 1840. Tours. \$ for hours.

Graze on Main
170 E. Main St., Wytheville; 276-223-2334; bollingwilsonhotel.com/en-us/dining1. Voted best in Virginia! Restaurant, bar, steaks, seafood, outdoor dining.

Great Lakes to Florida Highway Museum
975 Tazewell St., Wytheville; 276-223-3330; museums.wytheville.org. Recreated 1926-1950's era gas station. \$

Haller-Giboney Rock House Museum
205 Tazewell St., Wytheville; 276-223-3330; museums.wytheville.org. Home of Wytheville's first resident Dr. John Haller. \$

Homestead Museum
975 Tazewell St., Wytheville; 276-223-3330; wythevillemuseums.com. 10-acre interpretative site depicting rural life from the late 1700s to the mid-20th century.

Millwald Theatre
205 West Main St., Wytheville 276-625-6953; themillwald.org. Restored 1928 historic theatre featuring films, live performances, classes. info@themillwald.org.

New River Trail State Park
176 Orphanage Dr., Max Meadows; 276-699-6778; virginiastateparks.gov/new-river-trail.

Octagon Mansion History Museum
585 West Main St., Wytheville; 276-920-9037; facebook.com/octagonmansionat585. Collection of American military history with emphasis on Civil War, paranormal investigation events.

Shot Tower Historical State Park
I-77, exit 24, north on Rt. 52, Austinville; 276-699-1791; virginiastateparks.gov/shot-tower.

Thomas J. Boyd Museum
295 Tazewell St., Wytheville; 276-223-3330; museums.wytheville.org. Exhibit on early Wytheville history and polio epidemic. \$

Wytheville Heritage Preservation Center
115 W. Spiller St., Wytheville; 276-223-3330; museums.wytheville.org. Education and orientation center, exhibits, special events.

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