

Blue Ridge Mountains Trip Itinerary

2,416 miles of trucking / 1,721 miles of motorcycling

in and around the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains of the Great States of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee

Day 1: Saturday, June 1, 2019 - Skyline Drive / Shenandoah National Park / Charlottesville (9 h 44 min / 515 miles of driving)

3:00am - Depart with breakfast and lunch in tow!

7:00am - Coffee at **Java Joint Drive Thru Coffee** in Trexlertown, PA

Lehigh's Valley first-rate coffee and pastry joint, Java Joint Drive Thru Coffee is located in an old-fashioned diner kiosk and partners with a small-batch roaster out of Columbus, OH that uses the most elite coffee beans in the world to offer a variety of specialty coffees and pastries. Open Saturdays from 7am - 3pm. 3 h 21 min / 211 miles from Home.

10:45am - Drive through **Shenandoah National Park** along [Skyline Drive](#)

The famously scenic 105-mile Skyline Drive runs the entire length of Shenandoah National Park. The park entrance fee is \$30.00. The speed limit is 35 miles per hour, due to curves, wildlife and tourists. Skyline Drive is a two-lane road that has 75 overlooks and access to numerous trails, including the Appalachian Trail. Skyline Drive was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997, became a National Scenic Byway in 2005, and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2008.

3:00pm - Arrive in Charlottesville

Wine Tasting at the **Trump Winery**

Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains along central Virginia's Monticello Wine Trail, Trump Winery's stunning 1,300-acre estate lies just a few miles from James Monroe's Highland and Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, the birthplace of American viticulture. We pride ourselves on creating the finest terroir-driven sparkling, white, and red wines, which have won numerous national and international medals and best-in-class designations. Planted with 227 acres of French vinifera varieties, Trump Winery is Virginia's largest vineyard and the largest vinifera vineyard on the East Coast. \$12/tasting. Open from 10am-4pm Wed-Mon.

Wine Tasting at **Blenheim Vineyards**

Established in 2000 by owner Dave Matthews, Blenheim Vineyards is a family-owned and operated winery located 20 minutes southeast of Charlottesville. With two vineyard sites growing Chardonnay, Viognier, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon, the goal at Blenheim is to make high quality wines that reflect the climate, soil, and beauty of the surrounding piedmont landscape. Come visit our timber frame tasting room, where you can gaze out over the vineyards to Jefferson's "sea view" beyond. Peer through paneled glass floors into the tank and barrel room below. Established in 2000 by owner Dave Matthews. \$10/tasting; open daily 11am-5:30pm. 1 min down the road from the Trump Winery.

Oysters at **Public Fish and Oyster**

From the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, Public Fish and Oyster selects only the finest oysters—the meaty gems of the ocean—to serve raw everyday. Order a martini with an orange twist alongside a plate of Oysters Rockefeller and you'll feel like a captain of industry from another era, all at a reasonable price point. The tasty little morsels also pop up in the oyster stew, oyster Lyonnaise, and the PFO pan roast. Open 7 days/week from 4pm - 9 or 10pm. 8 min walk from Fairfield Inn & Suites.

Dinner at **Sultan Kebab**

Authentic Turkish Cuisine - this relaxed restaurant is terrific for those wanting to eat well but who also desire a laid-back vibe. The platters of kebabs of kofte will satisfy several hungry people, and the sandwiches slammed into homemade pita bread are tasty American takes on Mediterranean favorites. Baklava and rice pudding are available with Turkish coffee—some of the strongest brew available. Open daily from 11am - 9 or 10pm. 10 min walk from Public Fish and Oyster.

Sake Flight at **North American Sake Brewery**

One of the nation's first sake breweries, North American Sake Brewery just had its grand opening in August 2018. The project is the brainchild of two Certified Sake Professionals: award-winning filmmaker Jeremy Goldstein and longtime home brewer Andrew Centofante after years of research and practice. The brewery has its own cedar-lined culinary laboratory for producing koji - a mold treasured for its transformative powers that is essential to making classic, umami-rich Japanese foods like soy and miso. The brewery uses koji not only for sake making, but also for its food experiments, like smoked duck marinated in shio koji. Our goal is to combine the ingredients and flavors of Japanese and Asian cuisine with down south smoky barbecue culture. Our on-site smoker slow roasts an assortment of meats to create savory dishes. We use sake as a key ingredient in most of our recipes to enhance our flavors. Sake also pairs wonderfully with an assortment of foods. We brew all of our sake on site, so come on by to try a tasting flight. Join us on a tour of our facility, learn a little history of sake, how it's made, and why it's the most exciting beverage in the craft alcohol space today. Tours available upon request daily and best of all they are FREE! The brewery is open from 12pm-10pm on Saturday. 5 min walk from Sultan Kebab.

Stay at **Fairfield Inn & Suites Charlottesville Downtown/University Area by Marriott**

Free breakfast and free on-site parking. Check-in: 3pm; Check-out: Noon; 1 King room booked for total of \$194.28. Member ID: 82375201. 11 min walk from North American Sake Brewery & Restaurant.

Day 2: Sunday, June 2, 2019 - Upper Half of Blue Ridge Parkway to Bear Den Campground (approx. 8 h 37 min / 354 miles of driving)

6:00am - Depart Charlottesville

Ride along the **Blue Ridge Parkway** the entire way to **Bear Den Campground & Creekside Cabins!**

Breathtaking views. Plenty of easy curves. No stoplights, no billboards and no commercial vehicles. The Blue Ridge Parkway is one of the best motorcycle drives in America. The 469-mile, non-stop recreational motor road (part of the U.S. National Park Service) follows the ridge of the Blue Ridge Mountains, connecting Shenandoah and Great Smoky Mountains National Parks. It's not the drive for speed, with a 45-mph speed limit. There are plenty of overlooks to stop. You'll need to exit the Parkway to find food, gas and lodging. There is no admission fee and most of the things to do along the way are free. It's one of the most scenic routes in America.

9:30am - Coffee at **Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea** in Roanoke, VA

In the late 80's Dave Johnson, President and Founder of Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea, saw a void on the East Coast. That void was fresh, locally roasted coffee. The Virginia Tech alumni decided to leave Washington and start the journey to build a coffee empire. Since our start in 1990 we have dedicated countless hours to perfecting coffee to the taste of the Valley. Starting with our location in the heart of Downtown Roanoke we have grown to six distinct locations. In the endeavor of serving the best, most fresh product possible we roast coffee at 3 of our locations weekly. Alongside our artisan coffee we serve brewed teas from all over the world, fresh baked goods, and a full menu of breakfast and lunch items. There is a drive-through and abundant parking at their Starkey Road location, just off the Blue Ridge Parkway. Mon-Sat 6am-10pm; Sunday 7am - 10pm.

Noon - Lunch at **The Gap Deli** in Fancy Gap, VA

If you are traveling the Blue Ridge Parkway we are conveniently located just south of the Fancy Gap exit. From Delicious Sandwiches to Tempting Salads to our Homemade Desserts our menu has something for everyone. Love Hot Dogs? Build your own or try our General Lee or General Grant. Don't see quite the Sandwich you desire? Then build your own from our menu choices. We prepare all of our menu items with the freshest ingredients for taste and quality. Our sandwiches are known for their generous portions and their great taste! In the warmer months we offer outdoor dining where you can enjoy your meal while taking in the fresh air and cool breezes of

*our mountains. Our beautiful gardens add a special charm. Open from 11am-5pm Mon-Thurs;
11am-7pm Fri-Sun.*

4:30pm - Arrive at **Bear Den Campground & Creekside Cabins**

Nestled in the Pisgah National Forest, Bear Den Family Campground and Cabin adjoins the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 324.8. For hikers, we have over 13 miles of trails and a 50 foot waterfall. We also have a lake/beach, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, shuffleboard, horse shoe courts, and a game room with pool tables, air hockey and arcade games. There is free WIFI hotspots at 3 locations throughout the resort. Bear Den's Trading Post has ice, drinks, firewood, souvenirs, and some food items. Reservation for Site D-23. \$35/night. 50% pre-payment made. Quiet time begins at 10pm and ends at 8am. No open display of alcoholic beverages. Check-in at 3pm. Check-out at noon.

Get groceries at **Ingles Market** in Spruce Pine, NC (17 min away / Open from 9am - 9pm Mon-Fri; 9am - 6pm Sat & Sun) and/or fruits & vegetables from **The Produce Stand** in Spruce Pine, NC (15 min away / Open from 9:30am-5:30pm Mon - Sat; closed Sundays) and/or meat from **Foothills Butcher Bar** in Black Mountain, NC (55 min away / small scale artisan butcher shop embracing a "whole animal philosophy" with a "browse and buy" butcher counter, featuring fresh local meats, including ground beef, pork chops, dry-aged steaks, house-made hot dogs, sliced deli meats, bacon beef or pork. Monday-Thursday: 8am-9pm, Friday: 8am-10pm, Saturday: 9am-10pm, Sunday: 9am-9pm) and/or **Chop Shop Butchery** in Asheville, NC (1 h 7 min away / "Bringing back the neighborhood butcher shop" - These animals live natural stress-free lives and are not treated with antibiotics, hormones or fed animal by-products and therefore produce healthy, great-tasting meat, including beef, pork, poultry, lamb, bison, other game, house made sausages and charcuterie, many of which are finished in our smokehouse located in our shop. Closed on Monday. Tues - Sat 10am-7pm. Sun 11am-3pm).

This ride would take 6 h / 340 miles via Highway 81 from the beginning.

This ride would take 7 h 39 min / 363 miles if we jump on highway after coffee stop in Roanoke.

Day 3: Monday, June 3, 2019 - The Diamondback / Boone / Mile High Swinging Bridge at Grandfather Mountain / Blowing Rock (4 h 32 min / 154 miles or 5 h 29 min / 164 miles of riding)

The Diamondback - NC 226A:

The Diamondback - NC 226A is a densely wooded trek, from Marion in McDowell County to Little Switzerland, on the edge of Mitchell County, NC at Milepost 334. An exciting and challenging drive, the two-lane route has smooth, well-marked pavement, flanked by rocky outcroppings, shear drop-offs and quick, tight hairpin curves. Just outside Marion, NC, The Diamondback - NC 226A - has more than 190 steep, climbing curves in just 12 miles. The temperatures cool as you climb the steep switchbacks looping almost 360 degrees. Runs of S-curves climb and twist sharply as they snake through lush green forest en route to the Blue Ridge Parkway just above Spruce Pine, North Carolina.

At its peak, The Diamondback joins the Parkway above Little Switzerland, NC. Expansive views of the mountain valley, shopping, dining and beverages, plus full-service accommodations and recreational amenities are available at Milepost 334.

Half the fun is getting there via The Diamondback - NC 226A. Sweeping curves, amazing scenery and cool mountain breezes make The Diamondback, NC 226A, a quick, fun route to North Carolina's Blue Ridge Parkway.

194 from Banner Elk to Valle Crucis:

This route makes one feel that they are in Switzerland. You will pass a beautiful stone Church that overlooks a valley with white cattle grazing the hillsides. You will encounter many stone structure and amazing views of the North Carolina mountains. The trees in many sections will canopy the road and give quite a show in the fall. What a road. If you love a few good hairpins and can negotiate a few off camber turns you're in for a treat. Road surface and markings are top notch and the road calls for high pegs and those who like to pull hard on the right grip. 194 E offers a good deal of elevation gain as you climb to Banner Elk.

The Mast General store in Valle Crucis has always been a popular local and tourist spot. It offers an old fashioned candy store for the kids and high quality outdoor clothing for the adventurer. You can grab a Blenheim Ginger ale and a Moon Pie and enjoy local bluegrass music on the front porch while relaxing in a rocking chair. Or you could grab an ice cream and set by the creek that runs along the store. There are service stations and restaurants once you reach Banner Elk, but who has time for that when you're on a crooked road.

Coffee at **Hatchet Coffee Roasters** in Boone, NC

Boone, North Carolina, named for pioneer Daniel Boone, is like a smaller version of nearby Asheville, tucked in the Appalachian Mountains. Here, the focus of nearly every business is local and sustainable. Boone's population is mostly students of Appalachian State University, and also includes some seasonal and year-round residents, all of whom lend the area a distinct funkiness. Every college town needs a coffee roaster to caffeinate its masses, but Hatchet isn't exactly what you'd expect. Located in an unassuming warehouse on the way to Rocky Knob Park, Hatchet shares space with Center 45, an indoor climbing gym. This is just one indicator of what type of customers Hatchet serves: lovers of adventure. Hatchet's menu is both expansive, with options like nitro cold brew, and approachable. Every drink is \$4 and under. The name Hatchet reflects a love of Boone's surroundings. "We very much wanted a brand that reflected the outdoors that we love. With that, we wanted a symbol that would be easily recognizable and relatable to those who also love the outdoors, and we felt that a hatchet truly embodied that." Like the tool itself, the roastery's ideal is to be simple in design and function. It represents hard work, independence, and quality. Hatchet is, after all, where you stop by before an adventure in the Blue Ridge Mountains. M-F 6am-8pm | Sat 7am-8pm | Sun 8am-6pm. 2 h 12 min from Bear Den Campground along [The Diamondback](#), 19E and [194 from Banner Elk to Valle Crucis](#).

Visit the **Mile High Swinging Bridge at Grandfather Mountain** off of the [Blue Ridge Parkway](#)

One mile above sea level. A true landmark of a pioneering spirit, the Mile High Swinging Bridge welcomes all visitors to admire 360-degree panoramic views from Grandfather Mountain, a mountain estimated to be 300 million years old - with certain rock formations dating back 1.2 billion years. The bridge has been in place since 1952 — and for just as long it's excited the thousands who've walked across with the thrills of mile-high elevation. Whether you cross it to challenge yourself, for the scenery, or to admire this engineering masterpiece, the experience will make your trip to Grandfather complete. The Mile High Swinging Bridge, America's highest suspension footbridge, was built to give visitors easy access to the breathtaking view from Grandfather Mountain's Linville Peak. The 228-foot suspension bridge spans an 80-foot chasm at more than one mile in elevation. Erecting the bridge took three weeks, a process slowed by inclement weather created by a hurricane off the North Carolina coast, and cost \$15,000 in 1952. The bridge was rebuilt in 1999 using the original towers. The cables, floor boards and side rails were all replaced using galvanized steel. The cost of rebuilding was \$300,000. Hours: Daily from 9am - 6pm. \$22/adult. Ticket sales end one hour before the park closes. 47 min / 24.5 miles from Hatchet Coffee along the [Blue Ridge Parkway](#).

Lunch at **The Speckled Trout Restaurant and Bottle Shop** in Blowing Rock, NC

Located in downtown Blowing Rock, The Speckled Trout explores the roots of Appalachian food and beverage culture, and re-create it by preserving and reviving ingredients of our local heritage. To accompany the celebration of our regional dishes, our beverage program focuses on terroir-driven libations. The term terroir evokes a sense of place, and in our shop this is evident in everything we do. The bottle shop emphasizes traditions of fermentation practices by offering some of the best "home-grown" beers and ciders around. In addition, our wines highlight small producers from old world to new.

In the 1950s, The Speckled Trout was a place to stop and fill up your gas tank. Now, you can fill up on fresh mountain trout, soup beans and hoecakes, and wash it down with local farm beer or fresh rosé. Open from 11am - 9 or 10pm Thursday through Monday; closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays. 41 min / 18.6 miles from Mile High Swinging Bridge along 221.

Ride 51 min along the [Blue Ridge Parkway](#) from The Speckled Trout back to Bear Den Campground or 1 h 48 min through Globe along some other crazy mountain roads.

Day 4: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 - Roan Mountain / Johnson City / The Snake / Abingdon / Green Cove Station (7 h 14 min / 277 miles of riding)

[Roan Mountain:](#)

The ride over 6,000 foot high Roan Mountain from Tennessee to North Carolina is a well known classic motorcycle route. Fantastic views from the overlook at the top of Roan Mountain at the NC/TN line. Rip roarin' curves. Many switchbacks and very few straights and very few cars. You basically climb Roan

Mountain on one side and back down the other. There is nothing on the mountain except an overlook and hiking area.

Coffee at **Dos Gatos Coffee Bar** in Johnson City, TN

A coffee bar in the heart of downtown Johnson City, TN. You won't find actual cats here, but you will find delicious coffee, friendly baristas, and a great little community. We also accept resources for cats. The Market Square parking lot leads to our back entrance, and there's plenty of street parking and other parking lots throughout downtown. Our hours are 7 am-6 pm Monday-Friday, 9 am-6 pm Saturday, and 10 am-5 pm Sunday. 1 h 43 min / 66.9 miles from Bear Den Campground along [Roan Mountain](#).

If this trip is taken on Wednesday instead, visit the **Johnson City Farmers Market** in Johnson City, TN

The Johnson City Farmers Market has been around since 1976. It began as a cooperative effort between markets in Johnson City, Kingsport, and Bristol. As of 2016, the Johnson City Farmers Market is now located at The Pavilion at Founders Park. It is open mid-April through October on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. At the Johnson City Farmer's Market you will be able to enjoy fresh produce, baked and canned goods, arts and crafts, and community fellowship. 4 min ride / 6 min / 0.3 mile walk from Dos Gatos Coffee Bar.

The Snake:

This route takes you from Mountain City, TN to Holston Valley riding through the Cherokee National Forest. Riding through mountains and valleys with great vistas and ending with a view of South Holston Lake. The Snake is said to have "489 curves, 3 mountains, 1 valley packed into 33 miles!"

As you leave Mountain City, riding through the Cherokee National Forest, there are some great views as you ascend over the first mountain ridge on some of the best twisties in the area. The climb over the second ridge is as good as the first with more twisting/turning roads that will leave you feeling exhilarated. The ride ends up in Holston Valley after crossing Holston Lake. An Annual Rune Rally is held in nearby Erwin, TN and this ribbon of asphalt a definite favorite among the Rune riders.

Visit the **Shady Valley Country Store** in Shady Valley, TN

Right in the middle of [The Snake](#), Shady Valley Country Store is a must stop for [The Snake](#) merchandise. Built in 1948, the store is a famous stop for bikers traveling through. Don't forget to leave a push pin on their map of the world to help them track their visitors. They also offer non-ethanol gas and fried bologna sandwiches. Open Mon-Sat 7am-8pm & Sun 9am-6pm. 39 min / 25.1 miles from Bonefire Smokehouse along [The Snake](#).

Lunch at **Bonefire Smokehouse & Musictorium** in Abingdon, VA

We are a true Smokehouse offering delicious smoked meats and unique southern high country side dishes. We put no sauce on our meats. That's up to you. If you so choose, we have a variety

of tasty original recipe sauces. We are a true Musicorium dedicated to presenting exceptional live original music and bring to our stage some outstanding regional and national musicians. No cover bands. We will introduce you to some of the best live music offered in Southwest Virginia. We have been regionally and nationally recognized for our excellent smoked meats. In 2016, Bone Fire Smokehouse was the Regional Winner of Best BBQ by Virginia Living Magazine. In 2009, Bone Fire Smokehouse was awarded the honor of "Best Ribs in America" by Regis and Kelly. Sample menu items: Cornbread Fritters, Fried Pickled Okra, The Famous Smokehouse Wings (these jumbo wings are covered with our rib rub and then smoked for 2 hours before completing our 3 step cooking process), Bowl of Collard Greens, Mac Daddy Mac-n-Cheese, High Country Rueben, Baby Back Ribs, Cured Pork Loin. Open daily from 11am - 10/11pm. 50 min / 28.8 miles from Green Cove Station along Route 58.

Visit the **Green Cove Station**

Green Cove Station was built by the Norfolk and Western Railroad in 1914, and positioned on a stretch of track between Abingdon, Virginia and West Jefferson, North Carolina. The train and the line, became known as the Virginia Creeper because of its slow speed going up and over the mountains. Green Cove was a social center where folks gathered to get their mail, meet the train, and catch up on what was happening with their neighbors. Green Cove is the only original passenger station remaining on what was the Abingdon Branch. Green Cove Station and its contents were given to the Forest Service United States Department of Agriculture so that it might be restored and preserved. Today it serves as a gathering and resting spot for thousands of visitors to the Virginia Creeper Trail. No fee. Vault toilets. Open daily June - Oct 10am-4pm. 43 min / 25.6 miles from Boondocks Brewing Tap Room & Restaurant.

Maybe visit **Boondocks Brewing Tap Room & Restaurant** in West Jefferson, NC

Pub food with their own Brew Haus. Full service dining, two fully stocked bars with all ABC permits. Over 25 Craft Beers on Tap and a large bottle selection. Pet friendly covered outside dining and beer garden. Sample menu items: Chicken Wings (6, 12) with six choices of sauces/dry rubs, Cauliflower Zings, Fried Okra Salad, B.Y.O.Burger & Fries, Pot Roast Mac & Cheese, Shrimp & Grits, BBQ Pulled Pork Plate, Jalapeno Bottle Caps. Open from 11am - 9/11pm daily. 43 min, 25.6 miles from Green Cove Station.

Or stop for coffee at **Bohemia** in West Jefferson, NC

Small town coffee shop that surprises with quality and variety. Cozy atmosphere where you can sit on an assortment of comfortable chairs and couches, and take in the artwork or play board games. 1 min from Boondocks Brewing Tap Room & Restaurant.

Ride 2h 8 min / 80.7 miles back to Bear Den Campground along 88, 421, and the [Blue Ridge Parkway](#).

This ride could be 5 h / 205 miles if we skip Johnson City, Green Cove Station, and West Jefferson.

Day 5: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 - The Devil's Staircase / Lake James Loop / Chimney Rock / Black Mountain Rag / Asheville / Blue Ridge Parkway (5 h 42 min / 198 miles of riding)

This could also be a rain day to be spent in Asheville. The Devil's Staircase can be squeezed in with one of the prior days. Black Mountain Rag and Chimney Rock can be squeezed in on a trip from the other campsite.

The Devil's Staircase:

The section from the Blue Ridge Parkway south on Route 80 is named The Devil's Staircase because of the steep grade and abundance of tight curves as you descend down off the Parkway. Get the feel of the road and go easy on the throttle, because this is a challenging road for about 6 miles. There is good pavement with a good guard rail system and plenty of turn offs if needed.

Lake James Loop:

Tucked into the rolling hill country at the base of mighty Linville Gorge is Lake James, a sprawling 6,812-acre reservoir with more than 150 miles of shoreline. This impressive waterway is the centerpiece of Lake James State Park, where nature offers scenic vistas of the Appalachian Mountain range. You will head towards Lake James on a hilly and winding road and then run along the north side of the Lake with some nice sweeping turns. There are plenty of places to stop and take in the Lake. The road will start to loosen up with some straight-aways where you will get some wider views of the distant mountains.

Coffee at **Coffee on the Rocks** in Chimney Rock, NC

Located along the Rocky Broad River in the heart of Chimney Rock Village, Coffee on the Rocks serves the best fresh roasted coffee, espresso, lattes, blended ice frappes and smoothies. We offer an assortment of snacks, protein bars, granola, and cold drinks for all the hikers and climbers. We will gladly assist you with information about the area, and be sure to see the Old Time Photo Saloon when you visit. Take a stroll along the Rocky Broad Riverwalk while you enjoy your coffee in beautiful surroundings and watch the kayakers or folks trout fishing. Mon-Sun: 8am-6pm. Wednesdays: close early at 12pm. 2 h 52 min / 104 miles from Bear Den Campground along [The Blue Ridge Parkway](#), [The Devil's Staircase](#), [Lake James Loop](#) (126), 70, 1001/1008, 64/74.

Black Mountain Rag:

Black Mountain Rag is a scenic route named for an old fiddle tune about the dark green Lauada Firs that give the Black Mountains their name. In musical terms, a "rag" is a tune with multiple twists and curves up and down the scales. This scenic route twists and turns through the mountains like the music itself. This is a gorgeous ride through the country on gorgeous mountain roads, flanked by running water and beginning at beautiful Lake Lure. Around every bend is another piece of landscape that just makes you stop and take pause. As you get nearer to downtown Chimney Rock, you are flanked on right by a

roaring river and beautiful rock formations. Chimney rock in and of itself is impressive and the downtown area has many offerings for food, retail and even a Harley Davidson store. There are a lot of sweeping curves, but they are not intense curves. Road quality is good, very even. Many opportunities to stop.

Lunch at **Buxton Hall** in Asheville, NC

All-wood, whole hog barbecue. So much of Buxton Hall Barbecue was inspired by the venue chosen for the job: the old Standard Paper Sales Company building at 32 Banks Ave in the South Slope. It's an enormous, historic space that once served as a wood-floored roller rink in the 1930s, a boat show room before that, and various auto shops that had witnessed history in the making. Buxton Hall Barbecue smokes its hogs Eastern NC style, low and slow for 18 hours over hardwood coals, infused with vinegar mop, a Moss family recipe.

We look for the good stuff from local farms: Vandele Farms, Hickory Nut Gap Farm, Gaining Ground Farm, Wild Turkey Farms, Ten Mile Farm, Paper Crane Farm, Farm and Sparrow, Farm to Home Milk, and many others. Small parking lot across street for customers. Parking on the street is free. Open daily from 11:30-3pm and 5:30pm-10pm. 1 h / 33.6 miles from Coffee on the Rocks along [Black Mountain Rag](#) / 70.

Ride 1 h 45 min / 60.5 miles along the [Blue Ridge Parkway](#) back to Bear Den Campground.

Day 6: Thursday, June 6, 2019 - Switch Campgrounds / Black Mountain / Franklin (2 h 24 min / 120 miles of driving)

Pack up and Drive 2 h 24 min, 120 miles to Rose Creek Campground & Cabins

Stop for Coffee at **Dynamite Roasting Co.** in Black Mountain, NC

The simple act of buying a cup of coffee can drive social change in the communities where our coffee is grown, and here at home. We've been 100% certified organic and fair trade since day one, but we strive to go beyond that. Our mission is to track down the best coffee in the world. We work closely with our partners and growers to ensure the very best quality beans at a great price for our customers. Coffee is like any other perishable food. It has a pretty short shelf life, so roasting it locally is important. A fresh ripe tomato tastes infinitely better than one that's been shipped 2000 miles on a refrigerated truck. It's no different for coffee. Concentrating on serving our immediate community, as well as other dedicated customers in the southeast allows us to roast in small batches, ensuring Dynamite Coffee is always fresh, from farm to cup. Open weekdays 7am-7pm; Saturdays 7am-6pm; Sundays 8am-6pm. 57 min / 38.9 miles from Bear Den Family Campground as the GPS goes.

Set up Camp at **Rose Creek Campground & Cabins** in Franklin, NC

Secluded within a lush, serene valley surrounded by beautiful mountains and landscapes, Rose Creek Campground and Cabins in Macon County, North Carolina offers a 7 month season, private

retreat setting, unbound by endless adventure. Only 5 miles from downtown Franklin, our campgrounds provide shaded sites, swimming, bass fishing and gem-mining on the premises. Check in is 2pm Check out is 11am.

Get groceries at **Ingles Market** (11 min / 5.6 miles from Rose Creek Campground) and/or **Tallents Produce** (4 min / 1.3 miles from Ingles Market) in Franklin, NC and/or **Mountain Fresh Grocery** in Highlands, NC (43 min / 24 miles away)

Drinks at **Lazy Hiker Brewing Company** in Franklin, NC

We're brewing great craft beer in the mountains of Western North Carolina. In our little town of Franklin, we have a beautiful new brewery in the 5-bay garage out behind our comfortable taproom. Step outside and you need only look around to see the high mountains of the Southern Appalachians stretching out before you. Some folks around town are thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail. Some folks are tourists come up from Atlanta. Some are seasonal residents from Florida. For those of us fortunate enough to live here year-round, we take it slow, enjoy the mountains in every season, and enjoy our craft beer. We're Lazy Hiker. Mon-Thurs 12-9ish; Fri & Sat 12-11ish; Sun 12-8ish. 10 min / 5.3 miles from Rose Creek Campground.

Day 7: Friday, June 7, 2019 - Mountain Meander / Hellbender / Deal's Gap / Cherohala Skyway (5 h 2 min / 200 miles of riding)

Upper Slice of Route 28 ("Mountain Meander"):

This trip takes you from Franklin, NC to the intersection of US Highway 74. If you like turns, twisties, switch backs, nice black top, this is the road for you. Most people like the Dragons Tail or Deal's Gap, I like this road better. Less traffic and safer. It feels like a self propelled roller coaster. It's a nearly non-stop series of left and right handers with a seamless transition between them. Legal speed limit posted is 55 MPH. You will be lucky to do that. So many curves. Knee dragging curves. Fresh blacktop in August 2018.

There are no shopping, camping, restaurants. However, along US highway 74 there are plenty of amenities and if you continue on Route 28 south as it passes through Franklin and merges with Highway 64, you can take this into Cashiers where you will find gas stations, food stops, etc. Close to the bottom of Route 28 there is a Gem Store and they will give you a FREE MAP of all the waterfalls in the area. Stop in and get a FREE MAP.

Coffee at **Cardinal Coffee** in Bryson City, NC

Local coffee house focusing on responsibly sourced, high quality coffees from around the world. Full espresso menu, smoothies, treats and art. Closed on Monday. Tues - Fri 7am-3pm; Sat & Sun 8am-4pm. 35 min / 20.4 miles along [Mountain Meander](#).

Hellbender 28:

Heading north on the Hellbender 28, you find a completely different road experience with sweeping curves and drop offs, all lakeside in the Great Smoky Mountains. There are few drives in America that can equal the views as you travel this beautiful byway along Fontana Lake in North Carolina. The 22 mile stretch is surrounded by water and dense, forested mountains. The 22 mile stretch ends at Deals Gap and begins what is then called the famous "Dragon."

These two lane mountain side roads are in great shape. There is little commercial traffic which leaves plenty of wide open space for the cycling public.

At the halfway point on this roadway, you come to Fontana Village at Fontana Dam, NC. The motorcycle friendly resort looks directly into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and offers a lodge, cabins, camping and even houseboats for rent. They have a great selection of restaurants, retail outlets and amenities for the vacationing cycle enthusiast. Many cycle clubs use this resort to base their events out of because the Hellbender 28 intersects the famous Dragon at Deals Gap. In addition, the resort has a great roadside pitstop called "Hellbender 28 Pitstop" with food, gear and plenty of great tee shirts.

Deal's Gap ("The Tail of the Dragon"):

The *Tail of the Dragon*, or simply, *The Dragon*, on US-129, is known the world over as a biker destination. This eleven mile stretch of road has 318 curves, making it one of the most challenging and exciting motorcycle rides anywhere.

Thousands of motorcycle enthusiasts take their place in motorcycling lore by participating in the tradition of riding the *Tail of the Dragon* every year.

With all the talk of mountain vistas and great views, you may think you are missing out by focusing on the road. Don't worry, the views are not the point of the *Tail of the Dragon*. Take your eyes off the road and you and your bike will likely end up in the trees.

Lunch at **Sol Azteca Mexican Grill** in Madisonville, TN

Family-owned business opened in 2017 featuring Mexican dishes served in hot lava rocks and a salsa bar. Mon-Thurs 11-10; Fri & Sat 11-10:30; Sun 11-9. 2 h 13 min from Cardinal Coffee along Hellbender 28 and Deal's Gap.

Cherochala Skyway:

The *Cherochala Skyway* gets its name from combining the names of the two national forests it passes through, the Cherokee National Forest and the Nantahala National Forest. NOTE: It is a good idea to top off your tank at the Shell station across from Harrah's Casino in Cherokee. According to many motorcycling enthusiasts, this route is one of the best motorcycle rides in the United States. Since the Skyway is a point to point ride, it really doesn't matter if you begin in Robbinsville and end in Tellico Plains or vice versa. Either way, the 51.8 miles of road in front of you are straight out of a dream.

The Santeetlah Overlook is a must stop for anyone wanting the complete experience. This overlook is located in North Carolina, about 7 miles from the Tennessee state line. The views from this overlook are amazing given that it sits at 5,390 feet, the highest elevation on the Cherohala Skyway.

Highlights: Two national forests, long curves, scenic views, leisurely ride, low traffic

Or Lunch at **El Pacifico Restaurante Mexicano** in Robbinsville, NC

El Pacifico Restaurant is a family-owned and operated business that started October of 2003 located in Robbinsville, North Carolina. We take pride in our made-from scratch dishes, each made from the heart and crafted with pride and cooked according to honored family recipes. We use the freshest, finest ingredients from our scratch made salsas, sauces, guacamoles, tortillas, beans, sides and we use traditional Mexican items to ensure the best quality. Lunch Mon - Sat 11am-3pm; Dinner Sun-Thurs 3pm-9pm / Fri-Sat 3pm-10pm. 3 h 30 min / 140 miles from Cardinal Coffee along [Hellbender 28](#), [Deal's Gap](#) and [Cherohala Skyway](#).

Ride 58 min / 40.9 miles back to Rose Creek Campground & Cabins along the [Mountain Meander](#).

Day 8: Saturday, June 8, 2019 - Cherokee Run / Thunder Road / Wheels Through Time Motorcycle Museum / Waynesville (4 h 56 min / 184 miles of riding)

Thunder Road:

Drive *Thunder Road* and you can spend most of the day on a relaxing ride. This course begins and ends in Maggie Valley, NC, taking a 140 mile lollipop-type route (to borrow a hiking trail term).

The back roads give you plenty of time to just enjoy your bike and take in the scenery. A large portion of this route is under the cover of trees and next to the Wayah Creek.

You will find several turnouts along the route where you may stop and enjoy the Nantahala River. You might even spot a few rafters having a good time in the water.

Don't relax too much though! Wayah Road, which makes up a large percentage of the route, provides plenty of twisties and switchbacks to challenge your driving skills. You will not forget that you are riding on mountain roads.

If you are looking for beautiful scenery with lakes, creeks, trees, switchbacks, twisties, elevation changes, open roads, and fewer riders, try the [Thunder Road](#) motorcycle route.

Coffee at **Mountain Perks** in Bryson City, NC

Quaint, family-run coffee shop with outdoor seating and light eats, including gluten-free options. Coffee is locally crafted. Mon, Thurs & Sun - 7am-4pm. Fri & Sat - 7am-5pm. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday. 1 h 38 min / 59.0 miles from Rose Creek Campground & Cabins along [Thunder Road](#).

Cherokee Run:

The scenery along this route is some of the prettiest ever seen, with the road carved out of the mountain. The mountain is so close to the edge of the road if you have a passenger they could probably reach out and touch the rock. There is water at the bottom of the valley you are traveling through for most of the trip. For part of this road you will enter the Cherokee Nation's reservation. It carries you also through Maggie Valley which is worth the trip just by itself.

The road because of being cut through from the mountainside is narrow, and the top speed is about 40 at best. Some of the turns are difficult so if you are going through this route as a warm up to riding the Tail of the Dragon this would get you in the mood. Good twisties with large elevation changes along the way.

Cherokee itself offers a full up casino, and all the amenities that would involve. Getting gas along this route is chancy at best. If you have a thirsty bike it would be best to fill up at Lunaska Lake first. There is a gas station at Cherokee. Maggie Valley is a really nice tourist stop with camping, and food as well as shopping in a beautiful setting (Cherokee Run is a section of Thunder Road.)

Visit the **Wheels Through Time Motorcycle Museum** in Maggie Valley, NC

Wheels Through Time Museum is home to the world's premier collection of rare American motorcycles, memorabilia, and a distinct array of unique "one-off" American automobiles. Located just 5 miles off the Blue Ridge Parkway in Maggie Valley, North Carolina our 38,000 square foot facility houses a collection of over 350 rare machines, comprised of 25 makes including Harley-Davidson, Indian, Excelsior, Henderson, Pope, Yale, Crocker, Flying Merkel, and many more. \$15/adult. Hours: Thursday-Monday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; Closed: Tuesday and Wednesday. 43 min / 28.8 miles from Mountain Perks along [Cherokee Run / Thunder Road](#).

Lunch at **Haywood Smokehouse** in Waynesville, NC

Haywood Smokehouse knows barbecue! We are proud to serve the best Texas-style barbecue outside of Texas. Not a boast, just the truth! Our premium specialty meats; fresh, house-made sausages, house-made sauces and fall-off-the-bone ribs and smoked brisket will have you coming back again and again. Or enjoy our melt-in-your-mouth smoked pork or turkey breast. Closed Sunday and Monday. Tues - Sat 11am-8pm. 14 min / 9.2 miles from Wheels Through Time Motorcycle Museum.

Or Lunch at **Bourbon Barrel Beef & Ale** in Waynesville, NC

The Bourbon Barrel Beef & Ale is located in the Hazelwood area of the beautiful town of Waynesville, NC. We specialize in hand-cut, all natural steaks from local farms, incredible burgers, and other classic American comfort foods that are made using only the finest local and sustainable ingredients available. We also feature a great selection of microbrews and ales from local artisan brewers, and of course an extensive selection of small batch bourbons and whiskey. Tues-Sat 11:30am-2:30pm / 5pm-9pm. 1 min / 0.2 miles from Haywood Smokehouse.

Visit the **Ten Acre Garden** in Pigeon, NC

The Ten Acre Garden is one of the few century farms still in operation in the region. We have been farming the land using organic and environmentally friendly methods for the past 60 years, selling our specialty produce to local restaurants and at the Historic Haywood Farmer's Market. We take pride in offering fresh, organically grown produce and cut flowers, CSA's, U-Pick fruit and vegetables, and the grand experience of farm dinners instead of dining in some stuffy restaurant. Bring the whole family - we have a unique experience to offer to any age! Saturday afternoons we fire up the wood burning pizza oven to thank our customers for their support. Our biweekly Farm2Feast dinners are a great experience for the whole family, or a great date night in a very romantic setting. Featuring the best of local proteins and vegetables, each menu is carefully crafted to create new takes on our beloved Appalachian cuisine. Mon - Fri 10am - 6pm; Sat 1am - 6pm; Sun 1pm-5pm. 13 min from Bourbon Barrel Beef & Ale.

Visit **Wilderness Taxidermy** in Elizay, NC

Wilderness Taxidermy & Outfitters is located deep in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina in the small town of Franklin. Come to Wilderness Taxidermy & Outfitters state of the art wildlife museum to enjoy collections of animals from all throughout the world. Our studio which has recently been expanded to over 6,000 square feet, includes our work area, wildlife art gallery, and impressive wildlife museum. Do not miss your opportunity to see quality taxidermy in a beautiful setting. Visitors are always welcome to stop by and take a peek at the highest quality taxidermy work available. Please call Bill or Linda Fuchs at 828-524-3677 to schedule a visit. We are open every day except Wednesday and Sunday, our hours are 8am to 5pm except Saturday, 8am to 12 noon. 17 min from Rose Creek Campground & Cabins.

Ride 2 h 6 min / 80.5 miles back to Rose Creek Campground & Cabins along [Thunder Road](#)

Watch "**Unto These Hills**" **Outdoor Drama** in Cherokee, NC

Since its debut on July 1, 1950, "Unto These Hills" has entertained over six million people, telling the Cherokees' rich story from 1780 to the twenty-first century. And for the first time in over a decade, that original production—updated for cultural sensitivity and extra stage drama—is back. Yes, the original Kermit Hunter version of "Unto These Hills" is being performed live again, under the stars, at the Mountainside Theatre. This story has action. Violence. Bitter disappointments and broken agreements. You'll see triumph and tribulation. But you'll also see the hardships of Cherokee history—so be warned. Though a family-friendly production, this is a "keep you on the edge of your seat" experience audiences see and feel. Through amazing imagery, and even some pyrotechnics, one thing's for certain: you'll emerge thrilled by the beauty and astounding courage of the Cherokee people. Bring a blanket and someone to hold hands with. As you enjoy the fresh air and the 2,100-seat, newly renovated Mountainside Theatre, it's easy to be transported as the story unfolds thrillingly before your eyes. Join us and experience the power of Cherokee performing arts in a production certain to move you. "Unto These Hills" is performed at the Cherokee Mountainside Theatre, located at 688 Drama Road.

Free parking for "Unto These Hills" ticket holders. The 2019 season runs from June 1 to August 17. The show starts at 8:00 p.m. nightly. The theatre is closed on Sundays. \$28.00/adults. 41 min from Rose Creek Campground & Cabins.

Day 9: Sunday, June 9, 2019 - Shiner's Run ("The Rattler") / Hot Springs (5 h 37 min / 214 miles of riding)

Shiner's Run ("The Rattler"):

You've ridden the Dragon, now ride the best. Ride 209 The Rattler. Located just outside of Hot Springs, NC, it twists and turns all the way to Lake Junaluska, NC. Traveling through the Pisgah National Forest and over the Great Smokey Mountains is Hwy 209 "The Rattler", some of the most attention demanding but beautiful riding you will ever experience. Once you've successfully ridden "The Rattler", you will understand why all the others were merely preparation rides. There are over 234 twists, turns and curves from Lake Junaluska to Hot Springs and another 30 from Hot Springs down to the Bobarosa Saloon.

We think the "Rattler" is better than the Dragon's Tail, Hellbender, The Snake or The Devil's Triangle for scenic beauty and for testing your riding skills. There are old farms, rock bed rivers, scenic mountain overlooks, old churches. Road is in good shape and provides riders with a bit of everything; twisties, high-speed sweepers, switchbacks, S-turns, elevation changes and a couple of scenic straightaways through farm land.

Shiner's Run (aka "The Rattler") starts at I-40 and ends in Hot Springs. About half way to Hot Springs is the Trust General Store and Cafe which is very biker friendly and serves a mean cheese steak. Hot Springs, at the end of the ride, is a great ending spot with a handful of restaurants and stores. Don't miss the Iron Horse restaurant/hotel!

Lunch at **Trust General Store & Cafe** in Hot Springs, NC

*A "must" stop on your next visit to the North Carolina Mountains is the Trust General Store & Cafe. Surrounded by unspoiled, rugged mountain ranges and pristine streams, our charming setting and gracious southern hospitality will make you feel like you've stepped back in time — but — you're just a 25-mile scenic drive from Asheville. Join us for a glass of iced tea, relax in a rocking chair on our broad front porch, or sit by Spring Creek which runs right through our back yard. We serve up hearty portions of home style, country favorites — food that makes you feel good! Sample menu items: Onion Petals, Chef Salad, Collard Greens, Catfish Nuggets, Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich, "Legendary" Shiner's Run Burger with Heat (8oz fresh Angus blend with brisket, chuck and short rib topped with lettuce, tomato, onion, jalapeno and your choice of cheese or add bacon). Fri & Sat 11am-8pm, Sun 12-4pm. 1 h 27 min from Rose Creek Campground & Cabins along the first section of **Shiner's Run ("The Rattler")**.*

Coffee at **The Bean Trees** in Hartford, TN

We offer our own blend of fair trade, organic coffee roasted by the Brown Bean in Brevard, NC. We now also offer coffee roasted by Snowbird Mountain Farm which is just up the hill. We make the food in house and fresh to order. From gluten free or vegetarian, to indulgent and decadent we have a wide variety of Southern comfort food with a flair. We have an outdoor patio that sits right on top of the Pigeon River, which means you can enjoy your coffee or meal accompanied by the sounds of the rustling trees and rushing water. Closed Mon & Wed. Open every other day from 10am-5pm. 1 h 19 min from Trust General Store & Cafe along the last section of [Shiner's Run \("The Rattler"\)](#).

Ride 3 h 14 min to Rose Creek Campground & Cabins along Trail Hollow Rd, Barnes Hollow Rd, 32, 321, 441, 74, 23.

[If this is a Rain Day spent in Asheville] 4:00pm - Vietnamese Street Food Cooking Class at **Asheville Mountain Kitchen** in Asheville, NC

Learn how to make two of the most popular Vietnamese dishes. I guarantee you that once you make these dishes, you will repeat over and over again. It's not as complicated as you may think. It is ultimately-delicious. In a relaxed home setting, overlooking the expansive views of the Smoky Mountains, we nibble and taste throughout the class. At the end of the class we have a meal together. My cooking style is simple, I do not over complicate recipes. Single \$70, Double \$115. 1 h 22 min, 73.9 miles from Rose Creek Campground & Cabins.

Day 10: Monday, June 10, 2019 - Great Smoky Mountains National Park / Gatlinburg / Cades Cove Loop / Foothills Parkway / Dragon & Hellbender Revisited (6h 44 min / 227 miles of riding)

Bring a picnic lunch to eat in Cades Cove.

Visit the **Salt & Pepper Shaker Museum** in Gatlinburg, TN

At the world's only salt and pepper shaker museum, you will see over 20,000 sets of salt and peppers shakers from around the world and a huge pepper mill collection. The \$3.00 Admission per Adult, goes towards any Salt and Pepper Shaker purchase in the gift shop. Open daily from 10am - 2pm. 1 h 42 min from Rose Creek Campground & Cabins the way the GPS goes.

Coffee at **The Artistic Bean** in Townsend, TN

Our passion is coffee and you'll know it the moment you step in our doors. Our journey of quality service begins with small batch roasting of our Specialty grade coffee beans. That journey continues into the coffee house and passes into the hands of skilled Baristas for you to experience coffee and espresso at its highest quality. We don't take any short cuts to serve you the best coffee you've ever had. We start literally from the ground up by roasting our coffee in

small batches to ensure consistency and unparalleled flavor. Our Coffee House is located in the same facility as our roaster, which ensures the freshest coffee for you to enjoy. The Baristas are passionate about their job and with our all natural ingredients you can be assured you're in good hands. Closed on Sunday. Open every other day from 8am-5pm. 49 min from the Salt & Pepper Shaker Museum along Fighting Creek Gap Rd / Little River Gorge Rd.

Cades Cove Loop:

The entrance to Cades Cove is just 27 miles from Gatlinburg and a mere 9 miles from Townsend; it is an easy day ride. The route is a one-way, single lane, eleven mile, paved road, looping around a small mountain valley alongside an old logging railroad track described by many as “majestic”.

Weather permitting, the loop is open from sunrise to sunset for most vehicles, except on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from May to September. On those two days of the week, only foot traffic and bicyclists are allowed to use the loop until 10:00 am. After 10:00 am, cars and motorcycles are allowed to enjoy the route. The scenic driving tour through the Cades Cove Loop takes approximately two to four hours depending on traffic.

Cades Cove is by far the most visited destination in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Each year, more than two million people escape the rigors of daily life for the pastoral calm of Cades Cove.

Cades Cove is a former settlement with a population of 271 at its height in the early 1800's. As you wind through the cove, you can see churches, log cabins, barns, and other buildings original to the settlers, including a smokehouse and a blacksmith shop. The National Park Service maintains the buildings and allows visitors free access. The Cable Mill along the loop is the only working grist mill in the Smoky Mountains. The Cable Mill Visitors' Center is 41 min from The Artistic Bean.

Another highlight is the abundance of wildlife wandering around. Expect to see deer, rabbits, turkeys, coyotes, and even black bears roaming freely.

The Cades Cove Nature Trail is known for its blooming dogwoods in the spring. The trail is short and ideal for Cades Cove drivers who want to stretch their legs.

Foothills Parkway:

Highlights: Panoramic mountain vistas, foliage, easy ride, slight curves, straightaways, water

The Foothills Parkway travels along the western ridge of the Chilhowee Mountain with amazing views on both sides. As you drive along the Parkway, stop at any of the overlooks to enjoy the scenery. To the north is the Tennessee Valley and to the south, the Smokies. Don't worry about large trucks or other commercial vehicles getting in your way, they are banned from driving on the Parkway. In addition, you will not see billboards, homes or commercial buildings. The Foothills Parkway is as pristine as it gets. The only man-made thing you will see from the seat of your bike, is the road.

The highest point on Chilhowee Mountain is a knob called Look Rock. We suggest stopping and taking in the view it provides. To get to the Look Rock Observation Tower, follow the signage to the parking area just off the Parkway, then walk the half mile trail. The view from Look Rock provides the best vantage point on the Parkway to see Mount LeConte, Clingman's Dome, and other points of interest.

Ride 2 h 55 min, 106 miles back to Rose Creek Campground & Cabins along [Foothills Parkway](#), [Deal's Gap \("The Tail of the Dragon"\)](#), [Hellbender 28](#) and [Mountain Meander](#).

Day 11: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 - Waterfall Byway / Copperhead Loop (6 h 13 min / 257 miles of riding)

[Waterfall Byway:](#)

This road is a winding path through the Great Smokey Mountains. Along this road you will see a beautiful river gorge that has carved its way through some of the Smokey Mountains. The road passes by and through over ten beautiful waterfalls and is the reason it is known as the "Waterfall Byway". You'll be able to see the Cullasaja Falls that dive over 300 feet in elevation along about a half of a mile of river. It gives you a great view of the Cullasaja River and its gorge, Lake Sequoyah and as the huge Smokey Mountains.

It starts out pretty tame as it passes through some gentle rolling farm country but after a while it starts climbing into Higdon Mountain. The road parallels the path of the Cullasaja Gorge. As the road slithers around the mountains, it becomes more narrow and curving. However, keep in mind that, for those who like to have the road all to yourself, unfortunately crowds can be a problem in this popular North Carolina resort area.

The town of Franklin calls itself the "Gem Capital of the World" because of the local ruby, garnet and sapphire mines. The highlight of this road is Dry Falls. Here you can take a trail UNDER THE 75 FOOT WATERFALL. At Bridal Veil Falls dive 120 feet. Recently US 64 has been developed and rerouted to go around the falls. Yet a portion of the older US 64 remains and still travels under the falls themselves. The road ends in the town of Highlands North Carolina. This is the highest town in North Carolina sitting at 4,118 ft. It is has extremely lush and green surroundings due to the fact that it is also North Carolina's wettest town. In Highlands you will find tons of B&Bs, shops, and art galleries as well as restaurants. This town is a popular tourism center.

Coffee at **The Daily Grind & Wine** in Murphy, NC

Located in a historic building in quaint downtown Murphy, the Daily Grind & Wine is a full service coffee shop serving espresso, cappuccinos and lattes. We are the only retail wine shop in the area and include a Celtic themed wine and beer bar specializing in regionally crafted brews. Live music every Wednesday and Friday (5pm-7pm) and dart tournaments and an open jam session every Thursday starting at 5pm. Mon-Tues 8am-6pm or later; Wed-Fri 8am-8pm or later; Saturday 8am-4pm; Sunday closed. 1 h 5 min, 52.7 miles along [Waterfall Byway](#).

Lunch at **Mountain Fresh Grocery & Wine Market** in Highlands, NC

Upscale grocery offering a butcher, bakery and award-winning wine market, plus a deli, grill & wood-fired pizza. Lunch 11am - 6pm on Sunday / until 9pm the rest of the week. 1 h 32 min, 74.9 miles back from The Daily Grind & Wine along [Waterfall Byway](#).

[Copperhead Loop:](#)

Western North Carolina offers many excellent roads for the motorcycle or sports car enthusiast, but there is one loop that offers everything you could ever want for an enjoyable ride. This beautiful route has long been a secret among local riders, who appreciate its beauty and its easy access. This route, called the "Copperhead Loop", is a perfect combination of the characteristics that make a great road.

This isn't just a curvy road with tight twists and turns that requires expert technical skill to extract the maximum enjoyment of the ride and you won't have to drive hours out of your way to experience its magic. Instead, the Copperhead Loop offers a challenging ride, wonderful scenery, easy access from major roads as well as access from the Blue Ridge Parkway.

As with its namesake, the Copperhead demands respect. While you may not be facing a dragon, a rattler or a diamondback, the Copperhead can inflict a nasty bite if not given due caution. Compared to other popular roads in the area, The Copperhead offers many of the same thrills yet so much more. This loop offers technical curves to test even the most experienced rider, as well as relaxing sweeping turns and rapid elevation changes. As an added plus, the road has posted speed limits that allow you to enjoy a spirited ride without fear of breaking the law.

There truly isn't a better combination of roads for a motorcyclist or sports car enthusiast to enjoy. We recommend that you start the Copperhead Loop in Pisgah Forest traveling north on US 276. Doing so allows you to be facing Looking Glass Falls and Sliding Rock as you ride north and when you turn onto NC 215 you will also be facing the creek and waterfalls as you climb toward the Blue Ridge Parkway there.

The route has switchbacks, sweepers, and elevation grade changes both up and down. There are gas stations and restaurants in Pisgah Forest and in the Cruso section of the loop.

Ride 3 h 41 min / 137 miles back to Rose Creek Campground & Cabins along [Waterfall Byway](#) and [Copperhead Loop](#).

This route could be 4 h 27 min / 161 miles if we skip going out to Murphy.

Day 12: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 - [Rain Day] Gem Mining / Cherokee / Asheville (4 h 15 min / 188 miles of driving)

Gem Mining at **Rose Creek Mine** in Franklin, NC

Operating since 1952, Rose Creek Mine is one of 3 state licensed gem mines in Macon County, NC. In our Gem Mine you can find Ruby, Sapphire, Garnet, Amethyst, Citrine, Moonstone, Topaz, Smoky Quartz, Rose Quartz, Quartz Crystals and more! All equipment is provided and we help beginners. You dig your own dirt in our mining tunnel and wash the dirt away in our covered flume. Mine rain or shine. Gem Dirt to Go is also available. 2 for \$10, all refills \$5. Open 9am-5pm Monday - Saturday.

Visit the **Museum of the Cherokee Indian** in Cherokee, NC

Experience the 11,000-year-old Cherokee story vividly. If your idea of a museum includes dusty displays tended by a boring curator, get ready to rediscover what a museum can be. Inspired by the beauty and ingenuity of the Cherokee people, this is a cultural and historical tour without equal, one fused with interactive video, intriguing displays, and a full sensory experience. Step through our doors and discover up close the Cherokee people's spirit of inventiveness, resilience, and will to survive. Let yourself be guided through a moving journey that illustrates who the people of Cherokee really are, where they came from, and why they're still here. Keep a hankie close; Cherokee history is serious stuff. Adults \$12; Show your AAA card and receive 10% off admission at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian. Open daily 9am – 7pm, except Sundays 9am – 5pm. 42 min from Rose Creek Campground & Cabins.

Visit the **Oconaluftee Indian Village** in Cherokee, NC

As you enter the soft trails of the village, it's no longer the 21st century: you're immediately transported to the 1760s. You won't need your robotic-voiced GPS here. The faint tang of wood smoke wafts by as you are led by a Cherokee cultural expert on an interactive journey through Cherokee lifestyle and history. Your guide will show you the way through the winding paths, flanked with traditional Cherokee dwellings, work areas, and sacred ritual sites. Delight in cultural dances amid the swaying oaks and sycamores. As you wander, interact with villagers as they hull canoes, sculpt pottery and masks, weave baskets, and fashion beadwork. Watch as a village prepares for war. Be amazed by a blowgun demonstration. Oconaluftee Indian Village is much more than just a place; it's living history. Adults Age 13+: \$20; Monday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. with tours every 15 minutes except from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. 4 min from the Museum of the Cherokee Indian.

For more ideas, check out **Things to Do in Asheville, Knoxville or Gatlinburg** below.

Day 13: Thursday, June 13, 2019 - [Rain Day] Great Smoky Mountain Railroad / Smoky Mountains Trains Museum / The Lost Sea / Knoxville (5 h 22 min / 256 miles of driving)

10:30am - Ride on the **Great Smoky Mountain Railroad** departing from Bryson City, NC

"Shine and Dine" on the railway! We cordially invite you to hop on board The Carolina Shine, GSMR's All-Adult First Class Moonshine Car! We will be proudly serving hand crafted, triple-

distilled, craft moonshine. Some of the smoothest tasting moonshine in the Carolinas! Offered on the Nantahala Gorge excursion, this shine and dine experience begins in a renovated First Class train fleet car, The Carolina Shine. The interior features copper lined walls filled with the history of moonshining in North Carolina. Learn about the proud tradition that the Appalachians established when bootlegging was an acceptable way of life and local home brews were the best in town. Once your appetite for knowledge is satisfied, enjoy sample tastings of flavors like Apple Pie, Blackberry, Blueberry, Cherry, Peach, and Strawberry moonshine. If the samples are not enough, there will be plenty of Moonshine infused cocktails like Copper Cola or Moonshiner's Mimosa available for purchase. GSMR is excited to feature multiple craft NC based distilleries to serve our guests only the best! Each jar is handcrafted and authentically infused with real fruit, the way moonshine was meant to be made. Passengers will also enjoy a full service All-Adult First Class ride with an attendant serving GSMR's freshly cooked pulled pork barbeque rubbed with Cajun spices then slow-roasted to perfection served with southern sweet cornbread muffin with honey butter, coleslaw, and cinnamon apples then finish with a delicious piece of Sea Salt Caramel Cheesecake. Riders will also receive their very own Carolina Shine mason drinking jar, refillable with soda beverages and tea throughout the day, and a souvenir GSMR tote bag (1 per couple/party). \$105/adults. Parking is \$5 per vehicle. Plan on arriving at least 1 hour prior to your departure. Trip is 4 h 30 min.

Visit the **Smoky Mountain Trains Museum** in Bryson City, NC

Smoky Mountain Trains is more than an ordinary museum. With its collection of 7,000 Lionel™ engines, cars and accessories, impressive operating layout, children's activity center, and gift/toy shop, Smoky Mountain Trains has something for everyone. With every purchased train ticket your admission to the Smoky Mountain Trains Museum is FREE! Don't have a ticket? Admission is just \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. Open from 9am-4:15pm.

Visit **The Lost Sea Adventure** in Sweetwater, TN

Listed in the Guinness Book of Records! Your Lost Sea adventure begins with a guided tour of the caverns. This involves a ¼ mile round-trip walk on wide sloping pathways. While touring the caverns and underground lake our guides will tell of the cavern's exciting and colorful history. They will also explain the fascinating geological development of the immense cavern rooms and rare formations. At the bottom of the cave you will take a boat ride on The Lost Sea, America's Largest Underground Lake. We are open every day of the year for tours (except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day). The tour takes approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. \$21.95/adult. Open daily from 9am - 7pm. 2 h 25 min from Rose Creek Campground & Cabins.

For more ideas, check out **Things to Do in Asheville, Knoxville or Gatlinburg** below.

Day 14: Friday, June 14, 2019 - Charlotte / Raleigh / Richmond (8 h 22 min / 530 miles of driving)

5:15am - Pack up and Depart Camp

8:30am - Coffee at **CupLux Coffee** in Charlotte, NC

When you're on the move and not looking for a sit-down experience, check out Charlotte's first drive-thru-only craft coffee shop in FreeMoreWest. The menu is curated around convenience to cater to commuters and includes drip coffees, espressos, cappuccinos, lattes, nitro cold-brew on draft, Lenny Boy Brewing Co. kombucha and pastries. The name "CupLux" hints at the luxury that goes into craft coffee making — and drinking. It's short for "cupping luxury." Bonus: If you pull up with your dog in the car, there should be a pup treat waiting. A DRIVE-THRU-ONLY COFFEE SHOP MONDAY-FRIDAY 6AM-5PM SAT & SUN 7AM-4PM. 2 h 57 min / 178 miles from Rose Creek Campground & Cabins.

11:30am - Lunch at **Brewery Bhavana** in Raleigh, NC

Brewery, dim sum, book and flower shop: Brewery Bhavana is a modern-day urban bazaar in the heart of Raleigh. Dim sum—and then some. Brewery Bhavana excels at dim sum—the seafood dumplings, peking duck and Xiao Long Bao soup dumplings are absolutely can't-miss—but where this unique and highly lauded Raleigh newcomer shines is in its multi-faceted concept. With a bookstore, flower shop, restaurant and brewery all under one beautiful, airy roof, the project is as ambitious as it is exceptional. Marvel at the white granite tap wall, featuring an impressive 40 house and local brews, and relax under the skylight in the garden area with a good book from the in-house library. (Bida Manda, the next door sister Laotian restaurant, is also worth a visit.)

Growing up in Luang Prabang, some of our earliest memories are of morning steam rising from bao baskets and the busyness of dim sum restaurants. Once the capitol of the kingdom, Luang Prabang sits at the heart of Laos, along the Mekong River. As the river stretches from the Tibetan Plateau, through China's Yunnan Province, and travels south, it carries travelers, cultures, ideas, and cuisines. This is how Chinese cooking and dim sum came to Laos and arrived in our lives. Literally translated as "touch the heart," dim sum began as welcoming bites served at teahouses along the Silk Road in China. For us, at Bhavana, dim sum means more than humbly touching the heart; it also means discipline and finesse: a mastery of our hands and their gentle but firm relationship with flour and water. Dim sum represents a moment at the crossroads: an encounter between people and their stories. We hope the connections made at our tables are as nourishing and bright as they might have been for those ancient travelers. Open for lunch Weds - Sun 11:30am - 2pm. Park in McLaurin Parking Garage for \$3/hr. 2 h 30 min, 167 miles from Charlotte.

Maybe stroll through the **State Farmers Market** in Raleigh, NC

More than fresh vegetables, it's an adventure. Considered one of the nation's best and most modern markets, visitors enjoy 75 acres of indoor/outdoor specialty shops, restaurants and garden center, with fruits, vegetables, meats, and gift products from across the state. Free admission. Plenty of parking. Some with pull-through spots. Hours: Mon.-Sat., 5am-6pm; Sun., 8am-6pm. 8 min drive / 49 min walk / 2.4 miles to Brewery Bhavana.

Dinner at **Lehja Restaurant** in Richmond, VA

You'll find dishes from India's north, south, east and west, in what amounts to a dazzling armchair tour of the richness of the subcontinent's various regions. Owner Sunny Baweja, arguably the most gracious, engaging host in all of Richmond. Don't be surprised if, even on the busiest night, he swings by your table. Richmond is rife with brunches, but none quite like this one: \$20 brings three courses, including a witty, rewarding take on chicken and waffles. This is where to take that friend who professes not to like Indian food. Because, as Baweja's restaurant exuberantly demonstrates, there's so much more to Indian food than just curries. Sample menu items: coconut curry scallops; Lahori lamb shank; duck Pondicherry; tamatar coconut soup, malvani rassa goat, surf & turf curry (grassfed domestic lamb, wild salmon, prawns, tamarind-garam masala). Monday - Thursday 04:30 PM till 10:00 PM; Friday 04:30 PM till 10:30 PM; Saturday 03:00 PM till 10:30 PM; Sunday 03:30 PM till 09:00 PM. 2 h 46 min from Brewery Bhavana.

And/Or Dinner at **Shagbark** in Richmond, VA

The pristine bounty of the waterways, farms and fields of the region, served up by Chef Walter Bundy (ex-Lemaire), who sings most sweetly with careful and loving preparations of fish and shellfish. Take a ski lodge out west and cross it with a warm, cozily appointed bistro, and you have this splashy arrival in a nutshell. You'll love being connected to the terroir of this abundantly rich region and the many artisans who make up the larger culinary culture. Sample menu items: hand-cut rosemary pappardelle & Seven Hills short rib; Chincoteague clam chowder; lemon & mint grilled Atlantic swordfish; Eastern Shore seafood bouillabaisse; hot-smoked salmon "Indian Candy" & cellared apple salad; slow-braised & crispy fried Autumn Olive Farms pork belly; spiced Virginia-grown carrot cake, Early Mountain Vineyards rosé crème brûlée. Mon - Thurs 5-9pm; Fri 5-10pm; Sat 5-10pm; Sun 5-9pm. 16 min from Lejha.

And/Or Dinner at **L'Opossum** in Richmond, VA

James Beard-nominated food that is as joyous as it is elevated. From the caviar-bedazzled "Fabergé" egg to "Darth Grouper," this is serious whimsy on a plate. The decor is a bordello-like riot of velvet and gold leaf, with all manner of nerdy "Star Wars" kitsch as well as a few naughty bits. Warning if you suffer from coulrophobia — a fear of clowns. Sample drink: The Laura Palmer — gin, muddled cherries with dry vermouth and Luxardo. Yes, the glass is wrapped in plastic. Sample menu items: Tangier Island oysters rock in a green fairy fog of absinthe mist; Fabergé egg with caviar and dill-cured salmon; seared Hudson Valley foie gras; and filet mignon of beef "Swellington" — a filet stuffed with truffled duxelles and duck butter. T-Sa - 5p-12a Dinner 5p-10p. [Probably need to walk or take the bikes here.] 12 min from Shagbark.

And/Or Oysters at **Rappahannock** in Richmond, VA

New American farm — or more accurately, sea — to table, with an enormous raw bar focusing on their very own oyster farms. Grab the corner spot at the spacious bar, where you can watch

the oyster shucker and bartenders at work. Mon-Thurs 11:30am-10pm; Fri 11:30am-11pm; Sat 3pm-11pm; Sun 3pm-9pm. [Probably need to walk or take the bikes here.] 6 min ride or 21 min walk from L'Opossum.

Stay overnight in Richmond, VA unless you want to drive alllll the way home!!

Day 15: Saturday, June 15, 2019 - Return Home (7 h 40 min / 453 miles of driving)

Drive 7 h 40 min / 453 miles home.

Things to Do in Asheville, NC

Stroll through **Downtown Asheville**

You feel it the moment you begin strolling through Asheville's vibrant city center – it's an unmistakable mountain vibe that has beckoned visitors to this region time and again. Lining the streets of this walkable neighborhood you'll find a wide array of independent shops, craft breweries, lively street performances, and some of the best dining options in the southeast.

Check out **Asheville's Beer Scene**

Asheville, North Carolina's beer scene is an amazing array of micro breweries, full scale breweries, cideries, and fine dining. Being voted Beer City USA 4 years in a row, Asheville takes extreme pride in being home to over 20 local craft brewers. As a result, Asheville, per capita has one of the highest rates of craft brew consumption in the South. Many of the breweries are located within walking distance of one another, with new businesses opening on a yearly basis. Asheville's South Slope is an up and coming area in the heart of downtown, boasting Green Man, Catawba Brewing, Twin Leaf, Burial Beer, Wicked Weed Funkatorium, and more.

Visit **The Biltmore**

Billed as America's largest home, George Vanderbilt's 250-room chateau is as impressive today as it was more than a century ago. Biltmore House was a collaborative effort between George Vanderbilt, architect Richard Morris Hunt, and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. Completed in 1895, the home contains over four acres of floor space, including 35 bedrooms, 45 bathrooms, and 65 fireplaces. Your self-guided house visit spans three floors and the basement. You'll see displays of vintage clothing, accessories, art, furniture, and more that tell stories and illustrate the lives of the Vanderbilt family, their guests, and employees. The Biltmore's stunning gardens have been included in the Top Ten Botanical Gardens of the World by Travel + Leisure. Your self-guided visit is included in estate admission. Stroll through America's Largest Home® on a marked route, assisted by knowledgeable guides along the way. This tour takes 1.5 to 2 hours, depending on your pace. You'll drink in all the amazing sights of architecture, artwork, and much more from the Gilded Age. Also includes your free visit to Antler Hill Village and Winery, with free winery tastings. Admission: prices vary based upon the day of the week and the season of the year: \$60 - \$85/adult.

Visit the **Asheville Pinball Museum**

\$15/adult. Admission includes being able to play over 80 pinball and classic video games without any quarters or tokens. If you are saving us for a rainy day activity, well, so is everybody else. Please keep this in mind. We only allow in 80 players at a time, since that is the number of games we have available, and once we reach our maximum occupancy we start a waiting list and call you when there is room for your party. Open Monday 1:00 - 6:00; W - F 2:00 - 9:00; Saturday Noon - 9:00; Sunday 1:00 - 6:00.

Tuesday Bluegrass Sessions hosted by The Darren Nicholson Band at **Isis Restaurant and Music Hall**

Free admission. 5pm - 9:30pm. Darren Nicholson is a Grammy Award Nominee and a recipient of 5 International Bluegrass Music Association's Awards. Including Entertainer of the Year (2014), Song of the Year (2011), and Album of the Year (2006). Our Tuesday Bluegrass Sessions. The sessions are hosted each week by a local bluegrass musician with friends or a band. Following the host band, Bluegrass musicians from the Asheville area gather on stage to jam in an open session. Occasionally, we feature a touring band that will perform prior to the open session and help co-host the jam. It's always a great evening of music and community. Isis is a concert venue with an accompanying bar and restaurant. Many of the artists and performers we feature are recognized national or regional acts. We also present new artists that have not yet received full national attention as well as the talented artists and bands in and around Asheville. You can expect bookings for a wide range of music genres. On our Main Stage we have two different styles of shows, from seated dinner cabaret style shows with a capacity of 150 people to standing room shows with the capacity of 450 people. The hall features a balcony and upstairs lounge, bar, and bathrooms. Our upstairs Lounge has a capacity of 50 and is always an entirely seated show. These shows are typically earlier in the evening and feature more acoustically driven acts of all genres. The Lounge was the projection room of the original theatre and now has a full bar, intimate stage setting and a baby grand piano. Our intimate Lounge hosts early shows nearly every evening of the week. Our lounge shows happen earlier in the evening and only have 50 tickets available. All lounge shows are COMPLETELY SEATED, which means every ticket will have a seat. Some of those seats are at tables that can be reserved with a dinner reservation. All other seating is first come first serve with the option of the full dinner menu available but not necessary. Tables are limited and usually go fast, so if you know you are interested in dinner, it is best to give the venue a call to make those reservations.

ArborEvenings at **The North Carolina Arboretum**

Relax and unwind at the Arboretum's new "ArborEvenings" after hours series. Held every Thursday*, April – October, from 6 to 9 p.m., visitors will see the Arboretum's gardens come to light after dark while enjoying delicious snacks and tasty beverages, including beer and wine, in one of Asheville's most beautiful natural settings. On the last Thursday of each month, live music be played in the Heritage Garden. Entry into ArborEvenings is free and included in non-members' standard parking fees. Personal Vehicles: \$14.

Bright Star: Bluegrass Musical at the **Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre**

BRIGHT STAR was nominated for five Tony Awards and called "a shining achievement" by The New York Times. It received a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Music and Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Broadway Musical and Outstanding Score. Music, book and story by Steve Martin. Music, lyrics and story by Edie Brickell. Inspired by real events, BRIGHT STAR tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption set against the rich backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the 1920s and '40s. The story follows young writer Billy Cane, recently returned from World War II, and Alice Murphy, the editor who takes a chance on him. As Billy mines his childhood home for engaging stories, Alice sets out to explore the pain and mystery of her own small-town past. The overlapping secrets they uncover lead

them into a startling and heart-warming connection. BRIGHT STAR is set in Asheville and the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains. This production is the Western North Carolina premiere and North Carolina professional theatre premiere. SART is thrilled to bring this musical home to the Western North Carolina region. SART has hired local professional actors and musicians for BRIGHT STAR. Credits among the cast and band include Broadway, Broadway National tours, European tours, and countless regional theatre credits. Performances will run May 30-June 16, Thursday- Saturday at 7:30, and matinees on both Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30. Tickets are \$34 (premium seating), \$29 (standard seating), and \$18(students and children).

Visit **Mountain Gateway Museum (MGM) Farmers' Market**

A new farmers' market will open for the summer at Mountain Gateway Museum (MGM) in Old Fort, beginning Thursday, May 2. "MGM Farmers' Market" will be held every Thursday from 2:30 to 6:00 p.m. through October 3rd. Only fresh, locally grown or produced fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers, plants, meats, eggs, honey, and other edibles will be allowed. No craft items will be allowed during the market's first year. 44 min from Bear Den Campground. 1 h 28 min, 84.6 miles from Rose Creek Campground & Cabins.

Bier Noir at the **Conundrum**

Enjoy local beers paired with delectable snacks and madcap comedy, all in complete darkness! Dr. Wunderbrugghen is at it again, but this time the recipe for his Brouhaha Lager has gone missing, and only you can help him rebuild his famous concoction. Join us in the most memorable beer tasting and unique food pairing in the great world of beer. You will laugh, learn, and explore local Asheville brews in Wunderbrugghen's very own laboratory tasting room. Must be over 21. 2-10 people. 60 minutes. \$35 per person + tax. Thurs - Sun. Book tickets online in advance.

Hands on a Hardbody at the **Asheville Community Theatre**

For 10 hard-luck Texans, a new lease on life is so close they can touch it. Under a scorching sun for days on end, armed with nothing but hope, humor and ambition, they'll fight to keep at least one hand on a brand new "hardbody" Nissan truck in order to win it. In the hilarious, hard-fought contest, only one winner can drive away with the American dream. Based on a true story. Directed by Jerry Crouch with musical direction by Lynda Shuler. *Hands on a Hardbody* runs June 7-30, 2019 and is performed on the ACT Mainstage Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 2:30 pm. Additional Thursday performances 6/20 and 6/28 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$15.00 - \$26.00 and are available online at www.ashevilletheatre.org, by phone at 828-254-1320 or in person at the ACT box office.

Indian Street Food at **Chai Pani**

The best little chaat house this side of the Mississippi. At Chai Pani, we serve a range of traditional Indian Street food, drinks, and thalis, but we also celebrate the innovation and evolution of food. Before the Portuguese brought the chili pepper to Goa in the early 1600s, India had never tasted the fiery possibilities. Before the Beatles traveled to India, most Americans had never heard a sitar! Chef

Meherwan never let his love of traditional Indian food stop him from asking the tough questions. Like, "What happens if I reinvent the traditional Kheema Pav and call it a 'Sloppy Jai'?" or "So Kale grows in the south... what happens if I dip it in an amazing Pakora batter and fry it up?" What happens?? You get yourself a Sloppy Jai and the best (and possibly the first) Kale Pakoras in, dare we say it, THE WORLD. Tough questions like these need to be asked, and by jove, Meherwan is not afraid to ask them. We purchase fresh produce daily from local purveyors and source from local farms when possible. We cook only in pure trans-fat free canola oil or ghee. Open daily from 11:30/12pm - 3:30pm and 5/5:30pm - 9:30pm/10pm

Fusion Tacos at **White Duck Taco**

The name White Duck Taco Shop originates from a nickname the Chef earned when she frequently got excited and talked too much to the kitchen staff. They called her "La Pata Blanca" which means White Duck. Menu changes frequently, but Chilled Tomato Gazpacho is a staple in the summer. Sample Tacos: Banh Mi Tofu, Black Bean, Jerk Chicken, Spicy Buffalo Chicken, Bangkok Shrimp, Lump Crab, Korean Beef Bulgogi, Steak & Cheese, Duck with Mole, Lamb Gyro. We are committed to buying 99% American Made products. Open daily from 11:30am - 9pm.

Coxe Avenue Food Truck Court serving lunch weekdays from 11-3pm. Up to 4 food trucks every day!

Thai Food at **Little Bee Thai**

From Bangkok to Asheville, Took Charernwong hasn't stopped cooking since she grew up doing it on the streets of Thailand. Starting at age six with what would become a lifelong endeavor, Took's parents taught her their belief that painstaking preparation is the key to great food - she learned that there are no shortcuts. Now the chef/owner of Little Bee Thai (with her husband, Rick Corcoran), Took still continues her family tradition - every dish is made from scratch, right down to the sauce. The current downtown location of Little Bee Thai is a far cry from its humble beginnings as a food truck. After gaining popularity for being known as "the best Thai food in Asheville", Rick and Took decided to expand and opened the big restaurant in May 2016. Now residing at 45 South French Broad, Little Bee maintains a minimal, ever-changing menu and a small kitchen - but the food is always bursting with flavor. No two dishes are alike - from fresh-caught North Carolina seafood specials on Fridays and Tom Kha soup on Wednesdays, to comforting curries and the classic Pad Thai - there is something for everyone at Little Bee. Hours 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Closed on Sunday and Monday. Only open 5-9 on Saturdays.

Grass-fed, Grass-Finished Burgers at **Farm Burger**

Farm Burger believes in preparing meals the right way. We use ingredients that come from organic, local farms and our chefs have a passion for creating delicious meals from these better-sourced ingredients. Our burgers are made from Hickory Nut Gap grassfed beef without GMOs, antibiotics or hormones. Not looking for a burger? Try one of our farm-fresh salads or a basket of our hand-cut fries with a creamy milkshake made with ice cream from The Hop. We also have many brews on tap from local breweries like Oskar Blues, Hi Wire and Catawba. Sun - Thurs: 11:30am - 10pm, Fri - Sat: 11:30am - 11pm.

Vietnamese Food at **Wild Ginger**

Wild Ginger Noodle serves up cultural favorites such as our award winning Pho, or try out our tasty Banh Mi Sandwiches! (South of Asheville) Mon – Sat 11-9pm; Sun 11-8pm; Tues Closed.

BBQ at **Okie Dokie Smokehouse**

We proudly cook the old fashioned way- low and slow in wood-fired smokers for up to 18 hours. The result is barbeque that stands on its own. Our fans tell us all the time that our barbeque is so good it needs no sauce, but for those who enjoy the added flavor we do have a variety of sauces available. Monday through Saturday 11-8. (East of Asheville)

Visit a Brewery with Food Truck at **The Wedge**

Brewed at the Wedge and sold at the Wedge. This is not a distribution brewery. Malt, hops & adjunct ingredients are of the highest quality and each beer is given the time it needs. Two small Specific Mechanical brewhouses, 10bbl and 7bbl, afford the Wedge the ability to consistently brew small batch beers for customers to enjoy. Food Truck Schedule: **Blue Collar Diner - Breakfast All Damn Day Mondays(Dinner) / El Querubin - Authentic Mexican Food Tuesdays(Dinner) / Root Down - New Orleans Comfort Food Wednesdays (Dinner) / Tin Can Pizzeria - Luscious Pizza Pies Thursdays & alternating Sundays / Melt Your Heart - Gourmet Grilled Cheese made with love Fridays & Sundays / El Kimchi - Korean/Mexican Street Food Saturdays(Lunch/Dinner). 12 - 10pm Daily.**

Brett Pizza al Taglio & Sour Beer at **Wicked Weed Funkatorium**

Located in the South Slope Brewery District of Asheville, the Funkatorium is the East Coast's first sour and funky beer dedicated taproom. Featuring over a dozen varieties of these burgeoning styles on draught, visitors can expect a full immersion into the old world way of experiencing and appreciating beer against the backdrop of Wicked Weed's entire sour and funky barrel-aging program. The Funkatorium is also a full service restaurant offering brett risen pizzas, salads, sandwiches and more seven days a week. Unique brunch offerings on Saturdays and Sundays are designed to challenge and compliment the unique draft and bottle selection. Several flight options are available to those who seek a complex array of sour beer. MON - THUR 12pm - 10pm; FRI 12pm - 12am; SAT 10am - 12am; SUN 10am - 10pm.

International Curries & Local Beer at **Blue Dream Curry House**

Blue dream curry house is an international journey of flavor serving curries from around the world and local beers at an affordable price using high quality, fresh and locally sourced ingredients. *Monday through Thursday* 11:30am to 3pm, 5pm to 9pm; *Friday* 11:30am to 3pm, 5pm to 10pm; *Saturday* 12pm to 10pm; *Sunday* Closed.

New American Food at **Jargon**

Located in a small historic building in the heart of West Asheville, we've lovingly restored a small, nationally registered historical building at 715 Haywood Road to house this little dream. Jargon Restaurant's food menu can be described as New American, but we like to call it Continental Social Cuisine. We are inspired by an eclectic array of culinary styles and life experiences and use the best local ingredients to create each dish. Our diverse menu is meant to be shared and savored by your whole table, creating a delightfully memorable dining experience in West Asheville, North Carolina. Sample menu items: Elk Meatballs, Beef Tartare & Bone Marrow, Scallops & Pork Belly, Lamb Bolognese, Bison Strip Loin. Sunday – Thursday, 5pm – 9pm; Friday and Saturday, 5pm – 10pm; Sunday *Blunch*, 10am – 2pm.

New American Food at **The Admiral**

The elegance of a clipper ship in full sail, with the practicality and economy of a cinder block. With the procurement of a modest cinder block building on the wage earning side of town we succeeded in our goal - to serve delicious food without having to hold on to convention, all in an atmosphere that lacks the restraints of standard technique. We hope you find our décor timeless, our service gentle, and our cuisine inventive and delicious. Sample menu items: Swordfish Toast, Pink Snapper Crudo, Stewed Duck Leg, Smoked Quail, Roasted Pork Collar, Grass Fed Ribeye. *Monday — Sunday* seating from 5pm-10:00pm.

Spanish Tapas at **Curate Tapas Bar**

Cúrate is a celebration of authentic Spanish cuisine. For those who have visited Spain, the Cúrate menu will bring back memories of the country's best jamón Ibérico, vermuterías, and lively tapas culture. In recognition of the restaurant's all-Spanish wine list, Cúrate was listed as one of America's 100 Best Wine Restaurants by Wine Enthusiast Magazine in 2018. *monday – closed / tuesday 11:30am – 10:30pm wednesday 11:30am – 10:30pm / thursday 11:30am – 10:30pm / friday 11:30am – 11pm / saturday 10am – 11pm / sunday 10am – 10:30pm*

Mediterranean Tapas at **Zambra**

Zambra is a charming nod to the tastes and traditions of the Western Mediterranean, offering downtown Asheville a contemporary twist on fine wine and tapas. In between the romantic amber-lit ceiling and smooth stone floor is a festive atmosphere that holds true to our name which means “gypsy dance of celebration.” We've carefully selected only the best of local ingredients and exotic Spanish wines to give our guests an unforgettable feast of the senses and a warm celebration of life. We have been awarded the Wine Spectator's Award of Excellence and our wine list has been voted the best in Asheville. **Monday through Thursday** Lounge opens @ 5:00 PM Dining Room opens @ 5:30 PM; **Friday and Saturday** Lounge opens @ 4:30 PM Dining Room opens @ 5:00 PM **Sunday** Lounge & Dining Room open @ 5:30 PM.

Three-Course Communal Meal by Award-Winning Chef at **Rhubarb**

Rhubarb's menus are dynamic and always respond to the bounty of our area. A native of Winston-Salem, NC, Chef John Fler was named one of the "Rising Stars of the 21st Century" by the James Beard Foundation and is a five-time finalist, most recently in 2017, for the James Beard "Best Chef in the Southeast" award. The unique "foothills cuisine" he helped establish at Tennessee's Blackberry Farm wandered the line between refined and rugged, fancy and familiar. His cooking focused on interpreting the regional larder through classical and traditional techniques, eventually catapulting the resort to the honor of Relais Gourmand. Under Fler's leadership, the Tennessee destination was honored by Zagat Survey in 2003 and 2004 as #1 Small Hotel in America and #2 Hotel Dining in America. In May of 2009, John took his first step back across the Blue Ridge from Tennessee, to open Canyon Kitchen at Lonesome Valley in Cashiers, NC where his food was enhanced by one of the most beautiful restaurant settings in the country. Fler left Canyon Kitchen in the summer of 2015 to devote his time to Rhubarb. Rhubarb is the next step in Fler's journey; he brings the relaxed atmosphere of his previous pastoral posts to bustling Pack Square, broadening his approach with a freestyle American cuisine well suited for its location at Asheville's vibrant crossroad. Each Sunday at 6:30 we serve a three-course meal at our communal tables. The Sunday Supper menu is different from the regular restaurant menu and reflects the bounty of the weekend markets. The meal is \$34 for adults and \$13 for children. We encourage seating at the communal tables, but the menu is offered in the dining room. Reservations recommended. Street parking is available. Don't feed that meter after 6pm...it's free until 7am the next day! Monday 5:00pm - 9:30pm / Closed Tuesday / Wednesday & Thursday 5pm - 9:30pm / Friday 11:30am - 10:30pm / Saturday 10:30am - 10:30pm / Sunday 10:30am - 9:30pm.

Locally-sourced Dimsum at **Red Ginger Dimsum**

Located in Downtown Asheville, Red Ginger is an authentic Chinese dimsum and tapas bar from the esteemed Chef Ben Chen and Kevin Jiang. Red Ginger's constant goal is to deliver traditional, healthful, and elegant Chinese-style tapas and dim sum to our vibrant mountain community, providing customers with the most authentic and fulfilling dining experience possible. In contrast to the more traditional dim sum experience, wherein guests choose dishes from a rolling cart, Red Ginger embraces a dynamic and interactive dining experience: our open kitchen allows you to truly become a part of the experience that is dim sum, giving you an inside look into the artistry of our seasoned chefs. All dishes consist solely of freshly prepared ingredients, transported directly from local farms straight to your table! And we take it one step further - our extensive and delicious assortment of wines are carefully and lovingly cultivated from our own local vineyard, delivering the highest quality in taste and experience to our valued customers. **M-Th** 11:30am-3pm / 5pm - 10pm / **F** 11:30am-3pm / 5pm - 11pm / **S** 11:30am-11pm / **Su** 11:30am-9:30pm.

Coffee Shops:

PennyCup Coffee Co

PennyCup Coffee Co. is a small-batch roaster located in Asheville, NC. We source the finest, sustainable, green coffee and roast it to our exacting standards in a constant effort to create an amazing cup of

coffee. Best coffee shop for *serious* coffee drinkers. Monday-Friday 7 a.m. till 6 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday 8 a.m. till 4 p.m.

High Five Coffee Bar

High Five Coffee is committed to bringing Asheville the tastiest coffee imaginable. Our coffee partners at Counter Culture Coffee take care of the sourcing, roasting and education. Our job is to brew it attentively just for you. When it comes to our ideals, ensuring that you enjoy your experience is the most important part of what we do. From the flavor of our coffee to the warmth our baristas bring, you will want to give total strangers a high five after your time with us. Our flagship, downtown and Woodfin locations offer classically prepared espresso drinks as well as house-made syrups for our own creative concoctions. We serve a variety of brewing methods for the cup, as well as whole bean for you to brew at home if that suits your fancy. We serve both savory and sweet fare which is all prepared locally and feature several local beers on tap. This three-location coffee destination has adopted a seed-to-cup philosophy and has upheld its mission to become a community-centered business. High Five Coffee is perfect for coffee nerds and pour-over fans. MON-FRI: 7AM - 6PM / SAT-SUN: 8AM - 6PM

Trade and Lore Specialty Coffee

Trade and Lore offers experimental coffee while working to fuel and empower our community as well as our industry. This coffee shop looks like it could vie for a chance to be a set for a television show or movie location. The high ceiling, professional lighting, brick walls and artistic touches make the venue homey, yet sophisticated. Trade and Lore's owners aimed to make the space feel like a "coffee shop apothecary" with a commitment to sourcing locally. It is quite the experience, so be sure to save a few minutes for a drink and a bite. Another bonus is that their house-made syrups come in flavors you won't be able to find anywhere else. My fave is the vanilla, cardamom, and hibiscus latte—it's fresh, floral, and perfect for a sunny day. Mon: 8am - 10pm, Tue: 8am - 7pm, Wed: 8am - 7pm, Thurs: 8am - 7pm, Fri: 8am - 10pm, Sat 8am - 10pm, Sun 8am - 10pm.

Izzy's Coffee Den

If you want to feel like a local, definitely check out Izzy's. They have amazing variety, and let you choose from a selection of beans that change daily. If you're picky about what flavor you like in your coffee, then this is ideal. The last blend I had was sharp and fruity, with a bit of a grape flavor—something different that maintained the integrity of the coffee. Their specialty drinks are a must-try as well. The spiced Mexican Mocha is pretty famous among locals. M-F OPEN 7:30AM - 8PM / SAT & SUN OPEN 8AM - 8PM

Things to Do in/near Knoxville, TN

Visit Smoky Mountain Knife Works

The world's largest knife store! If it cuts, we carry it. RETAIL STORE HOURS: 10AM - 9PM. North of Gatlinburg. 2 h 6 min from Rose Creek Campground & Cabins.

Visit the **Market Square Farmer's Market**

The Market Square Farmers' Market is an open-air farmers' market located on Market Square in the heart of downtown Knoxville. Everything at the MSFM is grown or made by the vendor in the East Tennessee region. Products vary by the seasons and include produce, eggs, honey, herbs, pasture-raised meat, bread, baked goods, salsas, coffee, artisan crafts, and more. May 1 – November 23, 2019 / Wednesdays from 11 am – 2 pm / Saturdays from 9 am – 2 pm.

Visit the **Sunsphere**

You can't miss it. It's the big orange sphere sticking out above the skyline and visiting is one of the free things to do in Knoxville TN. The Sunsphere was constructed for the 1982 World's Fair and served as the symbol to the Fair. And it was also home to a full-service restaurant and the Observation Deck, which used to cost \$2.00 for the elevator ride up to visit. After the Fair finished, the Sunsphere closed to the public and remained vacant for most of its life. The Observation Deck on the 4th level re-opened in 2014 and offers a 360-degree view of World's Fair Park, downtown, the Tennessee River, the University of Tennessee, and the Smoky Mountains. Visiting the Observation Deck is FREE. 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Coffee at **Remedy Coffee**

A downtown North Knoxville coffee shop serving the finest intelligentsia coffee and teas with locally roasted beans, lots of seating, and house made syrups. Mon - Thurs 7-7; Fri 7-12am; Sat & Sun 8-7.

Tacos and Tapas at **Babalu Tapas & Tacos**

Babalu Tacos & Tapas is a lively restaurant that uses fresh and local ingredients to create bold flavors. You will find a variety of authentic gourmet tacos and Spanish-style tapas with a Southern twist. Every item on the menu, down to the blue corn tortilla, is made from scratch daily - our famous guacamole is prepared tableside. Our bar carries the finest tequilas, and all drinks are handcrafted daily using fresh squeezed lemons and limes. MONDAY – THURSDAY 11am – 10pm / FRIDAY – SATURDAY 11am – 11pm / SUNDAY 11am – 9pm

Tacos and Tequila at **Chivo Taqueria**

"Tacos and tequila" concept brought to you by the folks who put "burgers and bourbon" on Market Square. Chivo is a purveyor of fine cuisine providing quality food without pretense. We do not compromise this quality, respecting our community, never trying to fool them with sub-par ingredients or preparation. Long standing relationships with farmers have allowed us to procure these hyper-local, fresh ingredients. We work directly with farmers, leveraging networks known to one of our partners whose family has farmed in East Tennessee for over 100 years. Chivo relies on the concept of "nose to tail", whole animal usage to provide excellent food to our customers. We use hogs that are fed local grain procured from a grower in New Market, Tennessee and then processed by a USDA inspected facility in Greenville. This meat is then brought directly to our store. Our whole animal concept, much like our local sourcing, is not just a buzzword we use for marketing purposes. We are utilizing nearly the entire animal. This results in significant waste reduction and more creative, authentic dishes. Other

locally sourced items at Chivo include beef, lamb, and goats from local farms, and vegetables from local farmers, weather permitting. At Chivo, we grind our own flour from local, non-GMO white dent corn combined with other heirloom variety corn sourced directly from a Mexican cooperative, Masienda. We do so in the traditional spirit of the nixtamel process with no shortcuts or compromise. Sun - Thurs 11a-10p / Fri & Sat 11a-11p.

Grass-fed Burgers at **Not Watson's Kitchen + Bar**

Good reviews. Grass-fed burgers. Mon - Thurs 11:00 am – 10:00 pm / Fri & Sat 11:00 am – 11:00 pm / Sun 11:00 am – 9:00 pm

Craft Burgers and Bourbon at **Stock & Barrel**

We offer a relaxing and upbeat atmosphere for you to experience our version of "locally grown" gourmet, craft burgers. For the whiskey connoisseur, we have chosen a wide range of bourbon options to choose from. We offer them neat, on the rocks, or mixed with fresh ingredients to create our interpretation of traditional cocktails. For the beer drinker, we offer a wide selection of draft, craft beers to choose from along with multiple domestic beer options. Mon-Sun: 11am-Close.

Beer Flight at **Balter Beerworks**

Balter Beerworks is a craft microbrewery, restaurant, and beer garden in downtown Knoxville. M-TH 11a-11p / Fri 11a-12a / Sat 10a-12a / Sun 10a-10p.

Whiskey Tasting at **Knox Whiskey Works**

Knox Whiskey Works is a small batch, craft distillery based in Knoxville, TN. Our mission is to harness the collective skill, passion and expertise of East Tennessee to create authentic, distinct and delicious hand-crafted spirits. Led by our head distiller, we craft our spirits in small batches from locally sourced products. We work with local farmers and artisans to create unique spirits representative of East Tennessee. Knox Whiskey Works is Knoxville's first (legal) distillery. Established in 2015, we craft award-winning Old City Heirloom Corn Whiskey from local corn. Once distilled, it is placed in new charred oak barrels to rest until it becomes bourbon. Along with our corn whiskey, we produce Jackson Ave Gin, Marble City Pink Gin, Cold City Old Brew Coffee Liqueur, Deals Gap Dragon Tail Whiskey, Dry Gap Gin, Fleur de Vie Liqueur, Tennessee Valley Vodka, Tennessee Tailgate Orange Flavored Vodka, Three Rivers Rum, and new products are always "in the Works." For \$5 you can sample all of our Knoxville-made spirits: we'll explain the process and work that goes into making all of our spirits while you sample our products. For those seeking to taste our spirits in use, we offer our \$6 Cocktail Tasting Flight of 4 house-made cocktails. Knox Whiskey Works offers tours on Thursdays & Fridays at 4:00pm, 6:00pm, and 8:00pm and Saturdays at 2:00pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm, and 8:00pm. The tours start at the top of the hour and typically last 45-60 minutes. The tour groups are led by one of our experienced managers or our head distiller. You'll learn the basics of all spirit production and how our hard work translates into the flavor profiles you'll experience during your tasting. All tours are \$10 and include a tasting flight of all our spirits. Tours are limited to 10 people so, make certain you reserve your spot online. We always try to honor walk-ins, but reservations are strongly encouraged.

Things to Do in Gatlinburg, TN

Visit the **Salt & Pepper Shaker Museum**

At the world's only salt and pepper shaker museum, you will see over 20,000 sets of salt and pepper shakers from around the world and a huge pepper mill collection. The \$3.00 Admission per Adult, goes towards any Salt and Pepper Shaker purchase in the gift shop. Open daily from 10am - 2pm. 1 h 42 min from Rose Creek Campground & Cabins the way the GPS goes.

Moonshine Tasting at **Ole Smoky Moonshine**

The Ole Smoky Moonshine Distillery, "Ole SmokySM Moonshine HollerSM" also known as "Ole Smoky HollerSM" or simply "The HollerSM" is America's most visited distillery and produces all of our signature flavors. A visit to Ole Smoky Distillery is the true moonshine experience. As you approach the entrance, the distinct smell of cooking and fermenting grains takes over your senses. Here, you'll see authentic-working moonshine stills and take in the entire process - from beginning to end. Our distillers like to visit with folks. They'll be glad to answer your questions about the history and lore of moonshining in East Tennessee. After you see, smell and hear about the process, treat yourself to \$5 samplings of our homegrown shine! Monday - Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. 1 h 34 min from Rose Creek Campground & Cabins the way the GPS goes.

Dine at **Smoky Mountain Brewery**

Described as a cross between a ski lodge and a Bavarian beer hall, the Smoky Mountain Brewery features an enclosed deck overlooking Calhoun's Village with the Smoky Mountains in the background. Popular with hikers, skiers and snowboarders, the Brewery is a great place to take a break from any activity in the Smokies. Great food, micro brewed beer, TV's and nightly entertainment make this one of Gatlinburg's favorite places to eat and entertain. We handcraft our beers in small batches to provide you with the freshest, most flavorful all-natural beers possible. Daily 11:30am – 1am, Kitchen Closed@ 12am.

Visit **The Cheese Cupboard & The Hofbrauhaus Restaurant**

In 1969 The Cheese Cupboard opened its doors as Gatlinburg's premier cheese shop. Since that time, thousands have enjoyed our large array of imported and domestic cheese, unusual crackers and wonderful chocolates straight from Switzerland and Germany. We have snacks, cold drinks, gourmet mustards, hot sauces and even old-fashioned Kosher dill pickles. The second floor is occupied by The Hofbrauhaus Restaurant. As you enter, you get the feeling of being transported to Europe. Styled after a German pub, the visitor can enjoy a small respite in the middle of busy Gatlinburg. Through the years our Famous Super Reuben has become the favorite, with people saying they come out of their way to enjoy one. Enjoy any of our hot specialty sandwiches such as the Hoagie, Turkey, Pastrami or Bratwurst along with a cold beverage or beer. Open at 10:00 am Daily!