

**For Information:**

Jackson County Tourism Development Authority

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**Description:**

Packed with unblemished natural resources including the Blue Ridge Mountains, Great Smoky Mountains, crystal-clear lakes, tumbling rivers, and a trail of cascading waterfalls, the distinct western North Carolina mountain communities that comprise Jackson County – Cashiers, Cherokee, Dillsboro, Sylva, Balsam, Cullowhee, Glenville and Sapphire – are coming into their own as an outdoor lovers' destination. Hiking, rock climbing, rafting, fly fishing, waterfall excursions, golf and water sports are drawing families and outdoor enthusiasts who want to "play on," as well as an all-star list of residents, including many world-class athletes, with equally elevated profiles. Amidst the wealth of natural wonders, some man-made treasures are emerging as the area enjoys a new wave of culinary and cultural attractions and seasonal events that elevate the experience even further. Sweet spots include chef-driven and locally-sourced restaurants, nationally acclaimed culinary talent, craft breweries, and a chocolatier that bring out the flavor of the area. For visitors, riverside or mountain-top, a wide selection of resorts, inns and vacation rental homes offer rooms with a view.

**Location:**

Tucked in the scenic western corner of North Carolina in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Jackson County is a centrally located Southern mountain getaway that encompasses nearly 500 square miles from Cashiers on the southern end, just north of the NC/SC/GA borders, to Cherokee and the start of the Blue Ridge Parkway at the northern end. The communities that comprise Jackson County are within an easy 2.5 – 3.5 hour drive from most major Southeast cities including Atlanta, Charlotte, Greenville, Knoxville and Chattanooga.

**Getting there:****Flying:**

Asheville Regional Airport

(50 miles – 75 minutes)

Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport

(72 miles – 1 ¾ hours)

**Driving:**

Accessible by Highways US 441, US 23, US 74, NC 107 and US 64

- *Asheville, NC – 62 miles/90 minutes*
- *Greenville, SC – 60 miles/90 minutes*
- *Atlanta, GA – 140 miles/2.5 hours*
- *Knoxville, TN – 140 miles/2.5 hours*
- *Charlotte, NC – 153 miles/3 hours*
- *Chattanooga, TN – 166 miles/3.5 hours*



### **Elevation:**

Jackson County reaches a height of 3,487 feet above sea level in the mountain resort village of Cashiers on the Cashiers/Highlands Plateau, and then follows the wild Tuckasegee River down through the authentic mountain towns of Cullowhee, Sylva, Dillsboro, and Whittier at slightly lower elevations.

### **Mountain Communities**

From the resort village of Cashiers to the authentic mountain towns of Sapphire, Cherokee, Dillsboro, Sylva, Balsam, Cullowhee and Glenville as you head north along the Tuckasegee River, each corner of Jackson County has its own personality and charm.

**Cashiers:** Multimillion dollar homes and quintessential log cabins co-exist happily here alongside a plethora of antique and interiors shops and restaurants. A thriving arts community is responsible for a number of festivals throughout the year.

**Cherokee:** Serving as the gateway to both the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway, Cherokee offers a variety of activity options to visitors. History buffs will enjoy learning about the Cherokee culture while golfers can hit the links at Sequoyah National Golf Club and anyone can win it big at Harrah's Cherokee Casino.

**Dillsboro:** Dillsboro is located along The Great Smoky Mountains Railroad. The town is settled alongside the Tuckasegee River and is popular for its walkable main street and as a stopover on the way to the Great Smoky Mountains.

**Sylva:** The most photographed courthouse in the US, a quaint downtown, and a booming brew scene including Innovation Brewing and Heinzelmännchen Brewing, rated "One of the Top 10 American Brewery Tours" by Trip Advisor, give a distinct groove to this historic mountain town located just one mile away from its sister city Dillsboro.

**Balsam:** The town is located near Balsam Gap, a mountain pass between the Great Balsam Mountains and the Plott Balsams, two of the highest ranges in the Appalachian Mountains. It is home to the historic Balsam Mountain Inn, which opened in 1908 to serve the highest railroad station in the east.

**Cullowhee:** Originally settled as a Cherokee village, Cullowhee is best known as the home of Western Carolina University. Cullowhee is also the fifth-oldest and one of the fastest growing campuses of the University of North Carolina system.

**Glenville:** Once the largest town in Jackson County when it was incorporated in 1891, Glenville is now a popular lakeside community with many gorgeous homes dotting the shores of Lake Glenville, which was formed in 1941.

**Sapphire:** A family-oriented, four seasons resort area nestled in the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains offering visitors many exciting outdoor recreation options. An assortment of delicious dining options refuels visitors after a day of adventure. Year-round, frequent festivals and special events provide entertainment and leisure opportunities, including the annual Outhouse Races down the ski slopes held in February.



### **Activities/Attractions:**

#### **The Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail** <http://www.flyfishingtrail.com/>

The first and only fly fishing trail in the United States, The Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail, situated in Jackson County, features some of the best trout waters in the Great Smoky Mountains. The trail features 15 excellent spots for catching brook, brown and rainbow trout.

#### **Rivers Run Through It**

Part of the Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail, the Tuckasegee River, is the backbone of Jackson County. With its headwaters in Panthertown Valley, located in the Nantahala National Forest, the river runs the entire length of the county and is home to rainbow, brook and brown trout.

During summer months, tubing and rafting are popular on Jackson County rivers. There are four whitewater rivers, the Tuckasegee, Chattooga, Oconaluftee, and the nearby Nantahala, with difficulty ranging from Class I to Class IV.

#### **The Land of Lakes**

Formed by damming the west fork of the Tuckasegee River, Lake Glenville is the largest of the area's five lakes and has the highest elevation of any lake east of the Mississippi. Exquisite lakefront homes and several waterfalls dot the 26 miles of scenic shoreline and offer perfect family vacations full of boating, swimming, waterskiing, and fun in the sun.

#### **Waterfalls**

Directions to 19 different waterfalls are mapped out in Jackson County's NC Mountain Vacation Guide, including the unusually beautiful Silver Run Falls, Whitewater Falls, – with an elevation of 411 feet, it is one of the highest waterfalls east of the Rockies – and Cashiers Sliding Rock, a popular place for kids of all ages to take a plunge and cool off during the summer months.

#### **Golf**

Jackson County is known far and wide as a golfer's paradise. Golf enthusiasts from all over the world flock to Western North Carolina to challenge their skills on the area's many well-known courses. The mild climate offers nearly four seasons of ideal playing conditions. The area offers golfers a variety of courses with terrain ranging from wide river valleys and rolling hills to fairways that roll and pitch.

Golfers can enjoy a round on any of the following public or semi-public greens: Sequoyah National Golf Course (<http://www.sequoyahnational.com/index.php>), High Hampton Inn & Country Club (<http://www.highhamptoninn.com/>), Balsam Mountain Preserve (<http://balsammountainpreserve.com/>), Bear Lake Reserve (<http://www.bearlakereserve.com/>), Sapphire National Golf Course (<http://sapphirenational.com/>), and Red Bird Golf Links ([http://www.sapphirevalley.com/Red\\_Bird\\_Golf.php](http://www.sapphirevalley.com/Red_Bird_Golf.php)).

#### **Winter Sports**

**Skiing, Snowboarding & Tubing:** The closest skiing to many Southern metropolises, the slopes at Ski Sapphire Valley feature a 1,600-foot main run with a vertical drop of 200 feet, complete with state of the art quad chair lift, a Ski Sapphire Learning Center slope, and the Frozen Falls Tube Park 500-foot tube run. Snowmaking machines help maintain prime skiing conditions from mid-December through February.



### **Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort**

Harrah's Casino is the place to find world-class gaming and top-name entertainment in Cherokee, NC. Visitors can enjoy live table games like Blackjack, Roulette, Craps and more. A full calendar of A-list entertainment is available throughout the year.

### **An elevated culinary scene:**

Discover locally-sourced cuisine and the forefront of a craft culinary movement in Jackson County. Influences from James Beard-nominated and nationally-acclaimed chefs, secret supper clubs, top-rated breweries and chocolatiers create a palate-pleasing and thriving culinary scene. Culinary highlights include:

- Famous Southern BBQ
- Dillsboro Chocolate Factory
- Innovation Brewery
- Heintzelmann Brewery (*Trip Advisor Top 10*)
- Notable Chefs:
  - James Beard nominated chefs John Fleer and Rachel Jennings, Canyon Kitchen, Lonesome Valley
  - John Caddell brought the taste of Colorado's famed Pizzeria Locale to Cashier's Slab Town Pizza

### **Rooms with a View (Lodging & Accommodations):**

From mountain tops to river banks, full-service resorts, cozy bed and breakfasts, affordable hotels, and a wide selection of vacation rental homes to accommodate every taste and budget. Mountain vacation rental homes and cottages are perfect for family-friendly lodging, and there is a wide selection of pet-friendly accommodations. Several campsites are available for those who can't get enough of the great outdoors. In all cases, superior mountain, river or lake views come at no extra charge.