



Jackson County, NC

Cashiers, Cherokee, Dillsboro, Sylva, Balsam, Cullowhee, Glenville and Sapphire are the distinct locales that make up Western North Carolina's Jackson County, a place of lofty peaks, rushing water and spectacular scenery. Each of these Blue Ridge mountain towns provides rich natural beauty that invites visitors to experience idyllic North Carolina mountains. Explore miles of hiking trails surrounded by unspoiled forests or discover the area's shopping, dining, culture and hometown atmosphere. Experience the thrill of whitewater rafting and tubing or the more laid back adventures of fly fishing, boating, golf or a scenic drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway. www.mountainloversnc.com



Hooked On Jackson County

Jackson County, North Carolina is home to the nation's only fly fishing trail, which features some of the best trout waters anywhere. The Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail, created in 2009, maps out 15 prime spots to catch brown, rainbow and brook trout in the crystal-clear streams of the Great Smoky Mountains. During autumn, the delayed-harvest waters of Jackson County are stocked with almost 20,000 trout. With freshly-stocked waters, the winter months provide an optimal fishing season, and expert guides from Brookings, Hookers, The Mountain Outpost Outfitters, Fontana Guides, BlackRock/Orvis Outdoor and AB's Fly Fishing Guide Service read the river with years of experience to guide both novice and experienced anglers to the best spots to fish. Whether you're looking for wide-open rivers or secluded

mountain streams, the WNC Fly Fishing Trail has you covered. The heart of the trail, the Tuckasegee River, is the county's largest body of water, flowing some 40 miles. www.flyfishingtrail.com

Play On All Summer Long

Jackson County offers family-friendly activities surrounded by beautiful views and cooler mountain temperatures, which combine to make a pristine outdoor playground for all ages. Families can take advantage of well-maintained hiking trails with the county's new hiking map. The map includes directions to 19 waterfalls, hiking trails, multiple-use trails for riding or biking, semi-private or public golf courses, whitewater rafting and water sports outfitters, horseback riding locations and recreational rental service locations. Cyclists will find a wide array of challenges in and around Jackson County, including single-track trails, back roads, and trails in the Nantahala National Forest. Swimming, sailing, water skiing, boating, tubing, whitewater rafting, kayaking and canoeing are options at many lakes and rivers in the area. Horseback riding is a popular pastime for children as well as adults and can easily be done during a visit to Jackson County. The Great Smoky Mountains Railroad features more than



53 miles of track, two tunnels, and 25 bridges, which take visitors on a memorable journey through a remote and beautiful corner of North Carolina.



Autumn Adventures

Jackson County is a key location for those who love fall. With a stop here, visitors can take leaf peeping to new heights with scenic drives through Western North Carolina across the Southern Appalachian Mountains, Great Smoky Mountains and Blue Ridge Parkway. The area is famous for its 19 cascading waterfalls that are even more stunning surrounded by the reds, yellows and oranges of autumn. A spectacular, not-to-be missed natural phenomenon is the "Bear Shadow." During the last two weeks of October, when the sun sets behind Whiteside Mountain, its shadow creates a perfect image of a Black Bear that dances across the tops of the colorful trees. ColorFest, Taste of Sylva, Cashiers Valley Leaf Festival, and the WNC Pottery Festival are just a few of the exciting events taking place in autumn.

Winter Mountain Escape

The winter months are booming in Jackson County. From Thanksgiving to New Year's, visitors to The Village Green in Cashiers can enjoy twinkling lights, the village tree lighting, holiday music, s'mores and more with special guests Santa and Mrs. Claus during the Festival of Trees. The Hard Candy Christmas Show, held at Western Carolina University's Ramsey Center, is an art show filled with more than 100 vendors selling Christmas trees, crafts, holiday gifts and more. During the first two weekends of December, Dillsboro's streets are lined with 2,500 lights and luminaries and visitors are transported to a winter wonderland of lights while enjoying carolers, horse-and-buggy rides, and winter dessert treats. This year, experience an all-new winter wonderland at the Cherokee Lights and Legends Christmas. Stroll under the lights through fun, interactive displays that tell ancient Cherokee Christmas legends. Or come for the carnival rides, a 40-foot Christmas tree, a visit with Santa Claus or a synthetic ice rink. The hunt for the perfect Christmas tree begins and ends in Jackson County, where visitors can choose and cut their own Fraser firs for the holidays. Adventure awaits for skiers, snowboarders, and tubers as families can hit the slopes at Ski Sapphire Valley all winter long. For a quirky take on winter escapades, don't miss the Sapphire Valley Outhouse Race, where custom-made "outhouses" on skis are raced down the hills at the ski resort. All proceeds from the event benefit local charities.



Mini-Cation

All year long, girls and guys can take a mini-cation to the mountains of Jackson County. Jackson County's quaint, small towns, antique shops and flea markets and a number of relaxing spas are perfect for a getaway. Friends can spend a weekend hitting the links, enjoying local craft beer, hiking or biking on the miles of trails, or on the lake swimming, fishing and boating. Travelers seeking an escape can even win big at Harrah's Cherokee Hotel and Casino. Accommodation options in the area range from historic inns and bed and breakfasts to cozy mountain cabins and campgrounds or RV parks. The possibilities are endless with a Jackson County mini-cation! www.mountainloversnc.com/see

Say "I Do" With a View

No matter the time of year, Jackson County is perfect for a destination wedding. Whether brides want to have a rustic country or a chic mountain theme, Jackson County has the answer. Bear Lake Reserve, Lonesome Valley, Sapphire Valley Resort, Balsam Mountain Preserve, High Hampton Inn and the Sawyer Family Farmstead are a few of the full-service venues with stunning mountain views and exceptional wedding services that Jackson County offers. The county boasts wedding accommodations that include bed and breakfasts, cabins, cottages, hotels, and motels, which are perfect for all budgets. There are plenty of spas and salons ideal for helping the bride get ready on her big day. www.mountainloversnc.com/wedding-destinations



Jackson County Ale Trail

April is North Carolina Beer Month, and Jackson County is celebrating all things beer. Three great breweries are nestled in downtown Sylva. Heintzelmann Brewery, which crafts top-fermenting German altbier, has long been the toast of the town, and Innovation Brewing is dedicated to evolving and crafting new and unique styles of beer with its twists on traditional styles. New to the beer scene in Sylva is Sneak E Squirrel, a unique brewery and pub with a full kitchen, music, mystery dinners and beers, like *Get The Frack Out Stout*, *A Clockwork Sneaky* and *Prison Shank* that are just as cleverly crafted as their names. All breweries here are within walking distance of cool restaurants and live music. Up the mountain in Cashiers, Whiteside Brewing Co., situated on 3 acres of land with indoor and outdoor seating, is set to open June 2016. This year, travelers won't want to miss out on a special beer run, the Banana Split. During this event,

contestants dress up in banana suits and dash from the Jackson County Courthouse down Main Street, where they are greeted by local craft beer selections, live music, and more. Whether you're enjoying your beer by the Tuckaseigee River in Sylva or mountainside in Cashiers, visitors are sure to get a unique brewery experience in Jackson County.