

National Parks and Seashores



Blue Ridge Parkway

Contents

A1- Index

A- Blue Ridge Parkway

2- Camping

3- Hiking

B- Great Smokey Mountains National Park

C- Hatteras National Sea Shore

Blue Ridge Parkway

www.blueridgeparkway.org

www.nps.gov/blri

The Blue Ridge Parkway, America's most popular scenic parkway, is a unique mountain top drive designed solely for vacation travel. It is built on an average elevation of over 3,000 feet, no commercial vehicles are allowed. The parkway is 469 miles in length spanning the mountains between the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Approximately 250 miles of the parkway are in North Carolina. Numerous mountain resorts and attractions are located within easy access of the parkway. More than 100 scenic overlooks are offered. Cross-country skiing is very popular during the winter months in designated areas of the parkway.

Near Spruce Pine is the Museum of North Carolina Minerals, which contains most of 300 kinds of minerals and gemstones found in North Carolina.

Spectacular views are Devil's Courthouse, an unusual rock formation near Beech Gap; Waterrock Knob Overlook near Cherokee and Heintooga Overlook near Maggie Valley. The Richland overlook at 6,053 feet is the highest point on the parkway. For information contact the Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway, 700 Northwestern Bank Building, Asheville, NC 28801; Phone: (828) 259-0079.

Parkway Camping

Camping is permitted along the North Carolina portion of the parkway at 5 designated areas. All campgrounds and picnic areas have facilities and sites for the handicapped. All of the parkway campgrounds have flush toilets, interpretative programs, and dump stations. Some parkway campgrounds are open all year, weather permitting.

Crabtree Meadows

Located at milepost 339.5, at an elevation of 3,600ft. 250 acres. Hiking, picnic area, camping, comfort station, drinking water. 40 minute walk to Crabtree Falls

Doughton Park

Located at milepost 238.5. 1,000 acres, picnic area, comfort stations, drinking water, visitor information, public phone. 15-minute loop trail to Cumberland Knob. (Altitude 2,855). Loop trail into Gully Creek Gorge. 2 hours. Altitude 2,740.

Julian Price Memorial Park

Located at milepost 295. 4,344 acres. Campground, picnic area, lake, boating, fishing, trails. Alt. 3,400

Linville Falls

Is located at milepost 316.3, with an elevation of 3,250 ft; the 3,000 acre has 20 trailer sites, 55 tent sites, and a 100 picnic sites. There are trails to spectacular views of the Linville Waterfalls and Linville Gorge, a wilderness of the Pisgah National Forest.

Mount Pisgah

Is located at milepost 408.6, with an elevation of 5,000 if; the 690 acre park has 70 trailer sites 70 tent sites, and a 50 picnic sites. A restaurant, camp store, gas station, and lodge are within a reasonable distance of the campground.

Blue Ridge Parkway Hiking

There are many trails that can be accessed from the Blue Ridge Parkway, including the Mountains-to-Sea trail which parallels the parkway for quite a distance (see separate section on the Mountains-to-Sea trail). Here are several of the trails (but not all!) and a brief description:

Mile Post	Description	Length (miles)	Rating
217.5	Bully Creek Trail - Rewarding loop that meanders by stream.	2	Strenuous
Doughton Park area trails			
238.5	Cedar Ridge Trail Great for day hike; vistas and forests.	4.2	Moderate
238.5	Bluff Mountain Trail Parallels Parkway to Milepost 244.7	7.5	Moderate
241.0	Fodder Stack Trail Great variety of plants.	1	Moderate
241.0	Bluff Ridge Trail Primitive trail with steep slopes.	2.8	Strenuous
243.7	Grassy Gap Fire Road Wide enough for side-by-side hiking.	6.5	Moderate
243.7	Basin Creek Trail Access from back-country campground.	3.3	Moderate
244.7	Flat Rock Ridge Trail Forest path with vistas.	5	Moderate
260.3	Jumpingoff Rocks Trail Forest path to vista.	1	Easy
271.9	Cascades Trail Self-guiding 30 minute loop. Heavy forest and a plummeting waterfall. Labeled trail aids.	0.5	Moderate
272.5	Tompkins Knob Trail To Jesse Brown Cabin.	0.6	Easy
Moses H. Cone Memorial Park area trails 25 miles of multi-use trails wind through the former Cone estate, past fields and through woods.			
294.0	Rich Mountain Carriage, Horse, & Hiking Trail.	4.3	Moderate

294.0	Flat Top Mountain Carriage, Horse, & Hiking Trail to lookout tower which offers a panorama of the distant mountains. The trail also passes the Cone family cemetery.	3	Moderate
294.0	Watkins Carriage, Horse, & Hiking Trail.	3.3	Easy/Moderate
294.0	Bass Lake Carriage, Horse, & Hiking Trail.	1.7	Easy
294.0	The Maze Carriage, Horse, & Hiking Trail.	2.3	Moderate
294.0	Ducan Carriage, Horse, & Hiking Trail.	2.5	Moderate
Julian Price Park and Grandfather Mountain area trails			
295.9	Green Knob Trail Loop trail to Green Knob. Follows Sims Creek part way and goes through an old-growth Hemlock grove.	2.3	Moderate/Strenuous
296.5	Boone Fork Trail Stream, forest, and meadows.	4.9	Moderate/Strenuous
297.0	Price Lake Loop Trail Loop around Price Lake. A spring and summer pause for migrating ducks and loons and also home to a resident beaver population.	2.7	Moderate
297.0 - 305.5	Tanawha Trail Diverse features; parallels Parkway to Price Park.	13.5	Moderate/Strenuous
300	Daniel Boone Scout Trail Trail on privately owned Grandfather Mtn. Requires a permit and fee. http://www.grandfather.com		
Linville Gorge area trails			
316.4	Linville Falls Trail A trail through rare virgin forest. No specific time length. Balcony views of the Falls and the incredibly carved gorge. Labeled trail aids.	0.8	Moderate
339.5	Crabtree Falls Loop Trail Loop to view of Falls.	2.6	Strenuous

344.1	Woods Mountain Trail USFS trail.	10.6	Moderate/Strenuous
350.4	Lost Cove Ridge Trail USFS trail. Also called Green Knob Trail. A lookout tower with 360 degree views is about .3 miles.	3.3	Moderate/Strenuous
355.0	Bald Knob Ridge Trail USFS Trail. Virgin red spruce and Fraser fir.	2.8	Easy
359.8	Big Butt Trail Trail continues on USFS lands. Nice wildflower displays just a short distance off the Parkway.	6.2	Strenuous
Craggy Gardens area trails			
364.2	Craggy Pinnacle Trail To panoramic view.	0.7	Moderate
364.6	Craggy Gardens Trail First portion is self-guiding nature trail. Beautiful displays of Catawba Rhododendron bloom in June.	0.8	Moderate
382.0	Mountains to Sea Trail MTS Trail (from Folk Art Center to Milepost 365 spring wildflowers and views; parallels parkway; many accesses). The Mountains to the Sea Trail is a work in progress that will eventually cross North Carolina from west to east. Many sections, including most of the mountain portions, are finished.	7.5	Moderate
393.7	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Bent Creek-Walnut Cove	3.1	Strenuous
396.4	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Walnut Cove-Sleepy Gap.	1.7	Moderate
397.3	Grassy Knob Trail Steep trail to USFS area.	0.9	Strenuous
397.3	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Sleepy Gap-Chestnut Cove.	0.7	Moderate
398.3	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Chestnut Cove-Bent Creek Gap.	2.8	Strenuous
400.3	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Bent Creek Gap-Beaver Dam Gap.	1.9	Moderate

401.7	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Beaver Dam Gap-Stoney Bald.	0.9	Moderate
402.6	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Stoney Bald-Big Ridge.	1.2	Strenuous
403.6	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Big Ridge-Mills River Valley.	1.1	Moderate/Strenuous
404.5	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Mills River Valley-Elk Pasture Gap.	1.2	Strenuous
405.5	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Elk Pasture Gap-Mt. Pisgah.	1.7	Strenuous
407.6	Mt. Pisgah Trail 360 degree summit view from 5721 ft. mountain.	1.3	Moderate/Strenuous
407.6	Buck Springs Trail Pisgah Lodge to view.	1.06	Easy/Moderate
408.5	Frying Pan Mountain Trail. To Big Bald. Good wildflower area. Continue on FR 450 to the fire tower for views.	2	Moderate/Strenuous
417.0	East Fork Trail USFS trail access to Shining Rock Wilderness Trail System.	0.1	Easy/Moderate
418.8	Graveyard Fields Loop Trail Loop by a stream with several waterfalls.	2.3	Moderate
422.4	Devil's Courthouse Trail Panoramic summit view.	0.4	Moderate/Strenuous
427.6	Bear Pen Gap Trail Access to Mountains-to-Sea Trail.	0.2	Easy
431.0	Richland Balsam Trail Self-guiding loop through spruce-fir forest near the highest point on the Parkway.	1.5	Moderate
451.2	Waterrock Knob Trail Summit view.	1.2	Moderate/Strenuous