

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Friday, June 5, 2009
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GHOST TOWN IS NOW OPEN DAILY

Ghost Town in the Sky opened daily today through September 8, and the full park will remain open Fridays through Sundays until November 1. Ghost Town will also offer scenic chairlift rides Mondays through Thursdays starting September 9th through October 29th.

Daily admission to Ghost Town is \$29.95 for adults and \$22.95 for children ages 3-10. Western North Carolina residents living in Haywood, Buncombe, Henderson, Transylvania, Cherokee, Graham, Clay, Swain, Macon, Jackson and Madison Counties can purchase a season pass for only \$30 now through June 14th. Details can be found on <http://www.ghosttowninthesky.com>.

Western North Carolina is an Affordable Vacation Solution

Because of the national economic condition, Ghost Town recognizes the difficulties that families must be facing when choosing an affordable vacation this summer. Ghost Town is offering online discounts on daily admissions and is encouraging its guests to visit some no-cost family-fun destinations in Western North Carolina while in the area:

Cataloochee Ranch: Hit the trails. Numerous trails wind deep into forests, along tumbling streams, and up to towering summit meadows more than a mile above sea level. There are miles of trails that start at the ranch and will keep you exploring for days. In late spring wildflowers abound, while in the fall, the change of leaves will cover you in a brilliance of golds and reds.
<http://www.cataloocheeranch.com/welcome.html>

Great Smoky Mountains National Park: One of the most scenic areas in all of North America. This half million acre park contains many of the largest mountain peaks in the eastern US. Activities are numerous. Most travelers pressed for time simply take auto tours of the park. Other activities include hiking, horseback riding, and fishing.
<http://www.nps.gov/grsm/>

The Blue Ridge Parkway: Outstanding scenery and recreational opportunities make the Blue Ridge Parkway one of the most popular units of the National Park System. "America's Favorite Drive" winds its way 469 miles through mountain meadows and past seemingly endless vistas. Split-rail fences, old farmsteads and historic structures complement spectacular views of distant mountains and neighboring valleys.
<http://www.blueridgeparkway.org/>

- **Linn Cove Viaduct:** This 1000+ foot viaduct is one of the most advanced masonry bridges in the world.
- **Jump Off Rock:** Provides scenic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. **Jump Off Rock** is a scenic overlook which provides a panoramic view of rolling pastures, the Blue Ridge and Pisgah mountain ranges. Jump Off Rock also holds an

Indian legend that has been passed down for many, many years. Over 300 years ago a young Cherokee Indian maiden received word that her young Indian Chief had been killed in battle, so she climbed to the edge of the rock and jumped off. Indian legend has it that on moonlit nights you can see the ghost of the maiden on Jump Off Rock. Jump Off is located about 5 miles from downtown at the end of Laurel Park Hwy. The park is open daily, sunrise to sunset. No admission charge.

- **Richland Balsam Mountain:** The highest point on the Blue Ridge Parkway includes a 1.5 mile walking trail to summit.

<http://www.brptrails.com/brp4310.htm>

Appalachian National Scenic Trail: This trail is a famous trail that runs from [Maine](#) down to Georgia, and about 300 miles of this trail run through North Carolina. It was voted the American Favorite National Park in 2003. For more information about this attraction, call: 828-254-3708.

<http://www.nps.gov/appa/>

Blue Ridge Parkway Folk Art Center: The 469-mile parkway intersects Asheville at US 25, 70 and 74, and NC 191. The Blue Ridge Parkway's Folk Art Center is located five miles east of downtown Asheville. For more information about this attraction, please call: 828-298-0398.

Mast General Store: This General Store has been restored back to its 1940's splendor and has great items for purchase. For more information please call: 828-232-1883. The Mast General Store has been an Appalachian Mountain institution since 1883.

<http://www.mastgeneralstore.com/>

The Smith-McDowell House Museum: This building was once home to a confederate Major, and friends of the Vanderbilt Family of the Biltmore Estate. The property is now undergoing restoration and is a national Tree Preserve. The grounds also hold the county Civil War Memorial. For more information, call 828-9231.

<http://www.wnchistory.org/>

Waterfall Country: This attraction is a little outside of Asheville, and labeled as being located in Western North Carolina. The French Broad and Davidson rivers fuel many of the beautiful waterfalls that can be seen in the area. Directions to the specific site can be found at: http://www.segetaway.com/NC/Asheville/Attractions_Thingstodo.html Scroll to the bottom of the page, as Waterfall Country is the last listing.

The Davidson and French Broad Rivers and their tributaries fuel more than 250 breathtaking waterfalls and 200 miles of cool, clear mountain streams in Transylvania County. To experience some of the many breathtaking views, follow the Blue Ridge Parkway south from Asheville to N.C. 215. Take 215 south to U.S. 64 and continue west through Lake Toxaway, Sapphire, Cashiers and Highlands. Follow 64 through the colorful Cullasaja Gorge where numerous waterfalls, including Bridal Veil Falls, Dry Falls and majestic Cullasaja Falls, cascade close to the highway. In Franklin, turn north on U.S. Highway 441 and head to Dillsboro. From there, hop on U.S. Highway 23 and drive straight back to Asheville.

Estes-Winn Auto Museum: This attraction is located in the Heart of Asheville behind the Grove Park Inn Resort and Spa. It proudly boasts a collection of 20 classic vehicles, and is sure to delight any car buff. The downside is that it is only open from April to December each year.

http://grovewood.com/car_museum.php

NC Arboretum: The North Carolina Arboretum is a 426-acre public garden located within the Bent Creek Research and Demonstration Forest of the Pisgah National Forest. Surrounded by the dense folds of the botanically diverse Southern Appalachian Mountains, the Arboretum is nestled in one of the most beautiful natural garden settings in America. (no admission, charge for parking)

Linville Falls: Linville Falls is a beautiful series of dramatic falls that drop to a deep gorge, accessed by a trail lined with rare virgin stands of white pine, and hemlock. The area around the Falls is one of the few places in these mountains where the rosebay, Catawba, and Carolina rhododendron grow side by side.

<http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/recreation/wncwaterfalls/linvillefalls.htm>

Upper Creek Falls: A steep, 0.8-mile trail leads to this cascading waterfall. The trail is open only to hikers. Upper Creek Falls is located in the Jonas Ridge Area of Burke County. Trails leading to the top and bottom of the falls are popular among sunbathers, swimmers, and fishermen, so plan on having company unless you arrive earlier.

<http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/recreation/wncwaterfalls/uppercreekfalls.htm>

Botanical Gardens of Asheville: Several acres of plants native to the southern Appalachian Mountains.

<http://www.ashevillebotanicalgardens.org/>

Museum of North Carolina Minerals: Cutting and polishing demonstrations of the local rocks and minerals are offered.
<http://www.blueridgeheritage.com/HistoricBlueRidge/Museums/museumofnorthcarolinaminerals.html>

Craggy Gardens: This scenic mountain garden is a perfect spot for a short hike or picnic.
<http://www.blueridgeheritage.com/NaturalHeritage/NaturalTreasures/Mountains/CraggyGardens.html>

Folk Art Center: Craft demonstrations and exhibits bring to life the traditions of the southern Appalachian region.

Mount Pisgah: Walking trails to the 5,721 foot summit and picnicking are the main attractions.

The Pisgah National Forest has 501,691 acres stretching across the eastern edge of Western North Carolina's mountains. The Forest offers hiking trails, fishing, camping, picnic sites, and spectacular waterfalls. Some of Pisgah National Forest's attractions include Looking Glass Falls, Sliding Rock, Pisgah Forest State Fish Hatchery, Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education, The Cradle of Forestry and the North Mills River Recreational Area. The North Mills River Recreational Area is located in Henderson County, just 13 miles from Downtown Hendersonville and offers picnic sites, campsites, river fishing & tubing. For additional information call 828-877-3265.

The Western North Carolina Air Museum is the first air museum in the state of North Carolina known as the "first in flight" state. The museum features award winning restored and replica antique and vintage airplanes. The hours are (weather permitting) April-October Wednesday and Sunday from 12Noon-6pm, Saturday 10am-5pm; November-March Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 12Noon-5pm . There is no admission charge. The museum is located at the Hendersonville Airport, 1340 Gilbert Street, Hendersonville. For additional information call (828) 698-2482. www.wncairmuseum.com

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