



A great place to be!

Grayson County Visitor Center is located at the Historic 1908 Courthouse, Main Street, Independence, Virginia. Travel literature, free wi-fi, restrooms, and cultural museum. Free and open to the public. Monday- Friday 10 am to 4 pm. Occasionally open on Saturdays.

Grayson County Tourism Dept.
276-773-8002 or 276-773-2000
visit@graysoncountyva.gov

**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
LOVERS**



Grayson
COUNTY • VA

www.GraysonCountyVa.com

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYVA.COM

276-773-2000

- ⊗ Grayson Highlands State Park
- ⊗ Highest Peaks in Virginia
- ⊗ Jefferson National Forest
- ⊗ The New River Trail
- ⊗ Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area
- ⊗ Blue Ridge Parkway
- ⊗ The New River
- ⊗ Matthews State Forest
- ⊗ The Virginia Creeper Trail



Historic 1908 Courthouse & Visitor Center

107 E. Main Street
Independence, VA



Explore!

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Events & Festivals

January

Winter Concert Series at the Historic 1908 Courthouse in Independence. Visit artsculturalcouncil.org to learn more about the winter concert series.

March

Whitetop Mountain Maple Festival

Enjoy local maple syrup made in the highlands. For info: Mtrogersvfd-rs.com or e-mail ejcox@naxs.com or beckyplpn@aol.com

April

Land Stewardship Competition

Grayson LandCare. Historic 1908 Courthouse Independence, VA. Competition Event showcases youth & creative ways to address environmental, social and economic challenges. Free & open to the public. www.graysonlandcare.org.

May

Mt. Rogers Spring Naturalist Rally

Join naturalists at Konnarock Com. Ctr for guided explorations of the Mt. Rogers Area. Programs in birding, hiking, geology, fly fishing, wildflowers, salamanders, kids programs & more. Hosted by



Blue Ridge Discovery Center. Register online: blueridgediscoverycenter.org/mrnr

Fries Fire Dept. Rodeo

Providence School, 56 Bainbridge Rd. Bull riding, barrel racing, pole bending, team roping. www.friesfire.com.

Whitetop Mountain Ramp Festival

Mt. Rogers Fire Hall. Ramp eating contest, arts & crafts, Old Time & Bluegrass music, dancing & food! mtrogersvfd-rs.com

Henry Whitter Spring Festival

Traditional music festival honoring a musical legend. Appalachian Mountain Culture, Music, Food, Tradition, Arts & Crafts. Fries Town Park, Firehouse Dr, Fries, VA. friesfestivals.com

June

Horse Show

To benefit the Fries Volunteer Fire Dept., Providence School. 56 Bainbridge Rd. Game & Pleasure Classes. friesfire.com

Wayne C. Henderson Music Festival & Guitar Competition

World renowned musicians & entertainment

at Grayson Highlands State Park www.wayne-henderson.org

Grayson County Fiddlers' Convention

Old Time & Bluegrass Music Competition. Elk Creek Ball Park, Elk Creek, Va. A Crooked Road Event featuring traditional music competition in the beautiful Elk Creek Valley. www.ecvfd.net.

Farm Fresh Kids Day

Independence Farmers Market, 9am-1pm, Family event with roping, animals, games & more. Free & open to public. www.independencfarmers-market.org.

July

Town of Fries Fourth of July Celebration

Parade, games, music, old timers ball game at Fries Ball Park, Main St, Fries, VA. Fireworks at 10pm. Friesfestivals.com.

Independence Fourth of July Celebration

Main St. Independence. Festival begins at 9am. Parade at 10am. Vendors & Food. Fireworks & Band in the Evening. independenceva.com.



Berry Festival

Independence Farmers Market, 9am-1pm. Enter Berry Pie Contest & enjoy everything berry. Food, music & more. Free & open to the Public. www.independencefarmersmarket.org.

Smoke on the Mountain BBQ Championship

Main St, Galax, Va. Weekend festival celebrating BBQ in downtown Galax. Entertainment, food, vendors, beverage garden & barbeque competition. Morning-midnight. smokeonthemountainva.com.

"Kick Back the Rug" Old Time Community Social

Matthews Living History Farm Museum. Old-time fun with music, dancing, cake-walks & more. matthewsfarmmuseum.org.

Take A Break from the Interstate-US21 Road Market

Shop or set up along Hwy 21 through Grayson County, Independence & Elk Creek. Yard sales & flea market. www.takeabreakfromtheinterstate.com.

August

Tomato Festival

Independence Farmers Market, 9am-1pm. Enter Salsa Contest & the Great Tomato weigh-in. Free tomato tasting & cooking demos. Free & Open to Public. independencefarmersmarket.org.

Galax Old Fiddlers' Convention

Oldest & largest bluegrass and old-time convention in the world. At Felts Park, Galax, VA oldfiddlersconvention.com.

Fries Fiddlers' Convention

Fries Volunteer Fire Dept hosts a competition for the best in old-time & bluegrass music. Provi-

dence School, Bainbridge Rd. friesfire.com.

Mt. Rogers Summer Naturalist Rally

Join naturalists at the Konnarock Community Center for guided explorations of the Mt. Rogers Area. Fri night Annual BRDC Potluck Dinner, Sat & Sun programs in Butterflies, Mushrooms, Birds, Wildflowers, Geology, Hiking & More. Hosted by Blue Ridge Discovery Center. Register online. blueridgediscoverycenter.org/mrn.

Civil War Living History Days

Matthews Living History Farm Museum. Experience Civil War Encampment, period costumes, living quarters, weapons demonstrations, drills, skirmishes, music & cooking. matthewsfarmmuseum.org.

Grayson Wine Festival

Celebrate local vineyards on the courthouse lawn. Live rock & roll music, wine tasting from Virginia wineries, vendors. Historic 1908 Courthouse. Main St, Independence, VA. 4pm-dusk, Admission includes wine glass. graysonwinefest.org

September

Albert Hash Memorial Fest.

Celebrate Albert Hash. Traditional music, dance, arts & crafts. Grayson Highlands State Park, 10am-6pm. Henderson Stage. alberthashmemorialfestival.com

Stories of the Stitch

Quilt & fiber arts showcase at Matthews Living History Farm Museum. 10am-3pm. artscultural-council.org.

Horse Show to benefit the Fries Volunteer Fire Dept. Providence School, 56 Bainbridge Rd.

Game & Pleasure Classes. friesfire.com

Festival by the River



Fries Town Park, Fire House Dr., Fries, VA. Celebrate the New River. Canoes, Kayaks, Tubes, Music, Food, Local Arts & Crafts. Enter the 2-mile Kayak Race. Family fun in Fries. friesfestivals.com.

Heritage Day

Matthews Living History Farm Museum. Apple butter & cider making, traditional skill demos, food, music & more. matthewsfarmmuseum.org.

Grayson Highlands Fall Festival

Molasses & Apple butter making, Wild Pony Auction, Appalachian Crafts, BBQ chicken & other delicious food, Traditional Music. Grayson Highlands State Park www.ghfallfestival.50megs.com.

October

New River 50K

New River State Park Trailhead. Firehouse Drive, Fries, VA. Enjoy fall colors with a day of racing on the trail. Certified by Field & Track as a Boston Marathon Qualifier. www.friesfestivals.com.

Baywood Fall Pumpkin Festival

Sponsored by Baywood Rescue Squad Inc. at Baywood Ruritan Club Shelter near Baywood School. Pumpkins, food, music, crafts & more. Bring a chair & enjoy the fall scenery. 276-233-6877.

Mountain Foliage Festival & Grand Privy Race

Parade & Vendors. "Official Grand Privy Race" of VA. Independence Town Park. Independenceva.com.





Whitetop Mountain Molasses Fest

Molasses & apple butter making, Old Time & Bluegrass Music, arts/crafts, BBQ Chicken. Mt. Rogers Fire Hall. mtrogersvfd-rs.com

Apple Fest

Independence Farmers Market. Enter Apple Dessert Contest & enjoy everything apple. Free Community Cider Pressing Demo. Free & open to public. independencefarmersmarket.org.

Pumpkin Fest

Matthews Living History Farm Museum. Pumpkins carved by area residents, lighted & on display every evening. Festival ends Sat with judges selecting the best carved pumpkins. matthews-farmmuseum.org



Safe Halloween in Independence.

Independence Town Park. 4:00pm–7:00pm. All children welcome. Annual Event in Downtown Independence, VA. independenceva.com.

November

Winter Market & Christmas Tree Sale

Independence Farmers Market. Farm fresh products, local crafts & pesticide free Christmas Trees. Kids activities, music & food. Free & Open to public. independencefarmersmarket.org.

Find more festival info at:
graysoncountyva.com

Dates & details are subject to change.

December

Chili Cookoff & Christmas Tree Sale

Independence Farmers Market. Enter Chili Cookoff or judge the chili (\$5 fee to taste) Shop Farm Fresh Products, local crafts & pesticide free Christmas Trees. Kids activities, music & food. Free & Open to the public. independencefarmersmarket.org.

Christmas Festival & Parade

Independence Town Park. Annual Christmas Event in Independence, VA. Christmas Tree Sale, Market Vendors, and Parade. independenceva.com.

Christmas on the Mountain

Fries Community Center, Main Street, Fries, VA. Get in the holiday spirit with decorations, arts, crafts & more, Traditional Appalachian Breakfast & Soup & Sandwich Lunch. friesfestivals.com.



Arts & Culture

Woven Mountains & River Bends

Studios, Galleries & Farms

Woven Mountains & River Bends, Grayson County's Artisan Trail, highlights the studios & shops of local artisans, unique lodging, points of interest, farms, and country stores. Designed to give you a unique cultural experience in the heart of Appalachia. Meet craftsman producing pottery, fiddles, stained glass, portraits and other quality arts. myswva.org/rtm/trails-and-map/woven-mountains-and-river-bends.

Arts Council of the Twin Counties

Serving the City of Galax, Carroll County and Grayson County the Arts Council of the Twin Counties offers events throughout the year. A wide variety of activities for every member of the family. Visit their website to learn about events such as childrens theatre, winter concert series, arts in the schools, holiday extravaganzas and partnerships with others in the region. www.arts-culturalcouncil.org.

Chestnut Creek School of the Arts

The place to learn a new craft or perfect your art. Reasonable prices & small class sizes, perfect for beginning or advanced artists. Over 20 classes available. www.chestnut-creekarts.org.



Traditional Music Jams

The local music jams are free and visitors are encouraged. The jams are a great way to experience authentic traditional music and if you play you are welcome to join in.

The 1908 Courthouse Jam: Every Wed. evening, 6:30-9:00pm at the Historic 1908 Courthouse, Main St, Independence. In warm weather musicians gather outdoors at the gazebo, when it's cool outside the tunes are played indoors. Bring a folding chair or picnic blanket and your instrument if you play. historic1908courthouse.org, Call 276-773-3711.

Food and Fun in Flat Ridge: Join in the fun at the Flat Ridge Community Center for music and dinner every Saturday night when weather permits. Visit their Facebook page for details.

The Fries Jam Session: Fries Recreation Center Theatre, Downtown Fries, VA, Thursday evenings 6:30-9pm. www.friesva.com/ThursdayNightJammin.

Rugby Jam: Grayson Highlands General Store, 3rd Sunday of the month, May-Oct. Begins at 2pm and features top notch pickers in the Rugby area. Relax creekside and enjoy traditional and americana music, bring your lawn chair or instruments if you play. (276) 579-4602 or graysongeneralstore.com.



Music & Performing Arts

Rex Theater, Galax: Friday night concerts! Enjoy some of the hottest new traditional and country bands at this historic theater. For info: rextheater-galax.com

Historic 1908 Courthouse, Independence: The Arts & Cultural Center of Grayson County. Find everything from Marimba players to traditional music. For info: historic1908courthouse.org

Mathews Living History Farm Museum: Brings history to life with regular events celebrating the rich cultural past of the region. For info: mathewsfarmmuseum.org.

Wohlfahrthaus Dinner Theatre, Wytheville: Broadway style musical theatre, a local favorite for theatre in the region. For info: wohlfahrthaus.com

Barter Theatre, Abingdon: Historic theatre offering a wide range of performance options, from plays to musicals. For info: bartertheatre.com

Lincoln Theatre, Marion: One of three existing Art Deco Mayan Revival theaters in America. For info: thelincoln.org.

Heartwood, Abingdon, VA: Showcases southwest VA. Exceptional cuisine, traditional arts and special music events. For info: myswva.org/heartwood.

Blue Ridge Music Center: Spring, summer and fall concert series. Outdoor amphitheatre, Roots of American Music Exhibition and local jams at noon. For info: blueridgemusiccenter.org



Grayson County Fiddlers Conventions

A fiddlers' convention is not just for fiddlers. The competitions take on a festival like quality where friends and family can gather in the outdoors to listen to music, relax, shop from craft vendors or dance to the tunes.

Grayson County Fiddlers' Convention: Last full weekend in June! Rich in tradition, offers exceptional performances by traditional/old time and bluegrass musicians. For more info: ecvfd.net.

Fries Fiddlers' Convention: Held in August each year. Sponsored by the Fries Volunteer Fire Department and traditionally occurs in early/mid August. For more info: friesfire.com.



The Crooked Road



The Crooked Road is Virginia's Heritage Music Trail, a driving route through the Appalachian Mountains from the Blue Ridge to the Coalfields region, following U.S. Route 58.

The trail connects major heritage music venues in the region such as the Blue Ridge Music Center, Birthplace of Country Music Alliance, and the Carter Family Fold.

The traditional gospel, bluegrass, and mountain music heard today was passed down from the generations and lives on through a wealth of musicians and instrument makers along the trail.

Annual festivals, weekly concerts, live radio shows, and informal jam sessions abound throughout the region. A variety of handcrafted woodwork, weaving, and pottery can be found in country stores and small workshops.

Numerous opportunities for outdoor activities, from hiking, biking, fishing and boating are also available along The Crooked Road.

For more info visit: www.thecrookedroad.org



William Grayson

Grayson County History

Grayson County, named for William Grayson, one of Virginia's first two senators, was formed in 1793.

By 1802, over 100 families had settled in Grayson and Independence was the county seat. The first courthouse was built in Independence and served until 1904, when it was condemned. A new courthouse was completed by builder E.L. Robbins in 1908. Today, the Historic 1908 Courthouse functions as the art and cultural center of Grayson County.

Rich with history, Grayson County is proud to have a wealth of information, data, and photographs for genealogical and historic research.

Genealogy & History Related Links

Grayson County Historical Society: Committed to preserving the history of Grayson County and assisting all who are searching for their Grayson County "roots." Reference materials available to the public. visit: www.graysonvahistsoc.com.

Grayson Co. Virginia Heritage Foundation: 578 East Main St. Suite F, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-2126, www.graysonheritage.org. Open 10am-4pm, Thurs. & Friday (May-Sept). The rest of the year the office is normally open from Fridays 10am-4pm. Appointments available for research at other times.

Virginia Historical Marker Guide: Guide to historical markers located in the county. Visit: www.markerhistory.com/tag/grayson-county.

Other Historical & Genealogical Links

The Historic 1908 Courthouse:

www.historic1908courthouse.org.

New River Notes on 1800s Grayson County: www.newrivenotes.com/grayson_index.htm.

New River Notes Historical Resources for VA/NC: www.newrivenotes.com/index.htm.

Virginia Historical Link:

www.areavibes.com/library/virginia-historical-resources.

The Scenic New River

The New River is a great place to relax and unwind. This American Heritage River winds 30 miles through Grayson County. You can enjoy a leisurely Class I float with the family or an adrenaline packed Class III shoal. Discover why everyone loves a day on the New River! Visit: www.graysoncountyva.com/new-river

A day on the New River is the perfect way to relax and enjoy being on the water. The New River offers a variety of experiences: a tube float with the family, a canoe trip for the romantic picnic, or a kayak ride on a Class III rapid.

If you are unfamiliar with the area or need equipment a local outfitter can give you advice on the proper stretch of water, shuttle your boat and provide rental equipment.

Basic New River maps are available at the Historic 1908 Courthouse Visitor Center for \$1. Or National Geographic provides a detailed map of the New River.



Several vacation homes listed on our "Places to Stay" page are located on the New River. This is a great way to spend a weekend.

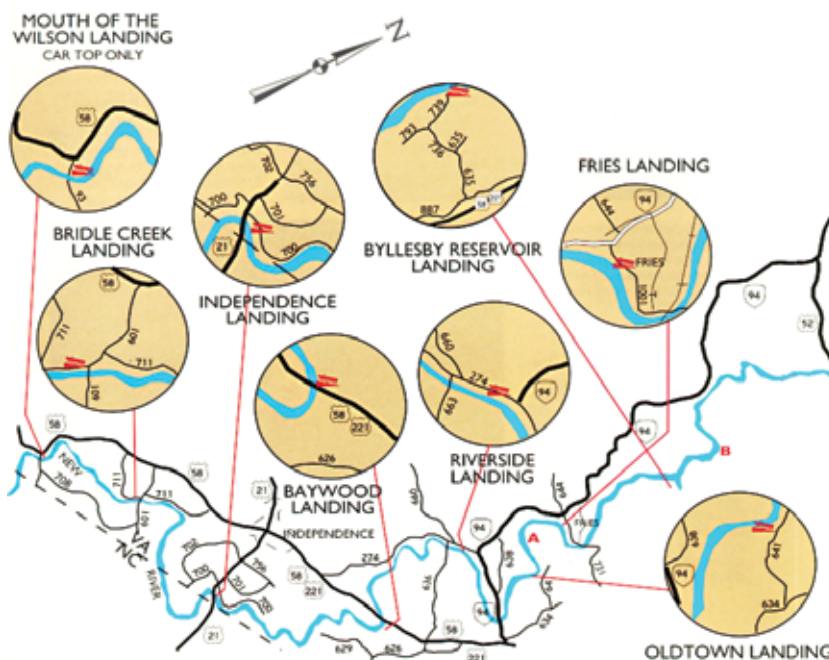
River Outfitters listed on page 9 are available to help you plan your trip.

New River Conservancy

The New River winds its way through three states and countless communities who enjoy its beauty and wildlife. If you would like info on the mission of the New River Conservancy please visit: www.newriverconservancy.org.

When planning your New River Vacation visit: www.graysoncountyva.com

Floating the New River



Map courtesy of Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. www.huntfishva.com

Outdoor Recreation

Connect with the natural areas of Grayson Highlands, the Blue Ridge Parkway & all the trails in between.

Hiking the Highlands

Day Hikes are available everywhere, from the western highlands of Grayson County to the eastern Blue Ridge Plateau.

Grayson Highlands State Park offers a variety of options in one location. Everything from a challenging hike to Mt. Rogers (highest point in Virginia) to a casual stroll in the highland meadows.

Trails of the Jefferson National Forest are available along the western edge of Grayson County. Common trailheads include Comers Rock Recreation Area (Hwy 21) and the access points to the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area at Highway 603 and Highway 600.

The Blue Ridge Music Center Trails take you to the top of Fisher Peak. The High Meadow Trail is 1.3 miles and the Fisher Peak Loop is 2.2 miles

Grayson County Recreation Park and the **Matthews State Forest** are hiking locations central to Grayson and near the county seat of Independence.

The New River Trail and the **Virginia Creeper Trail** are both rails to trails corridors. They provide wide surfaces and easy grades. Perfect for hiking or biking.

Trails for Children

For small children we recommend the Kids in Park program. With trails at Grayson Highlands State Park and the Blue Ridge Music Center, this program provides nature education & exploration. www.kidsin-park.com

Backpacking

The Appalachian Trail, a 2,181-mile long public footpath traversing the scenic, wooded, pastoral, wild, and culturally resonant lands of the Appalachian Mountains. Conceived in 1921, built by private citizens, and completed in 1937, the trail is managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, numerous state agencies and thousands of volunteers. Grayson County is proud to offer a delightful section of the Appalachian Trail. The Trail can be accessed at Grayson Highlands State Park, Elk Garden trail head, Whitetop Mountain, and Rt. 603.

Mountain Biking

Mountain Bikers. Enjoy the challenge of the Jefferson National Forest where countless single tracks are available. Single track trails can also be found at Matthews State Forest.



Outfitters & Adventures

Creeper Trail Bike Rental & Shuttle: Ride the Virginia Creeper Trail from Whitetop to Damascus/Abing-

don or the reverse direction. 16153 Highlands Pkwy, Whitetop, VA 24292, 276-388-3056 or 276-475-3611, www.creepertrailbikerental-shuttle.com.

Creeper Trail Zipline: Open Daily, May- October, weather permitting. No reservations are necessary. Kids ages 6 and up. 667 Old Park Rd., Whitetop, VA 24292, 276-388-2817, www.creeperzipline.com.

New River Campground Canoeing & Kayaking: Full service Canoe, Kayak, Tube rental and outfitting service located right on the New River. 3745 New River Parkway, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-3412, www.canoeingthenew.com.

New River Outdoor Adventures: Located near the Town of Fries and next to the New River. The outfitting shop is located directly on the New River Trail. 5785 Fries Rd. Fries, VA 24330, 276-237-TUBE or 276-237-8823, www.newriveroutdooradventures.com.

New River Trips, LLC: Fish for smallmouth bass, sunfish, musky and walleye from a raft on the New River. I also offer wade fishing trips for trout. All fish caught are released. 681 Pinecrest Drive, Galax, VA 24333, 276-236-5492, www.newrivertrips.com.



Grayson Highlands State Park

829 Grayson Highland Ln., Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363

276-579-7092 • GraysonHighlands@dcrc.virginia.gov

Near Mount Rogers and Whitetop Mountain, Virginia's two highest mountains, Grayson Highlands offers scenic views of alpine-like peaks more than 5,000 feet high.

Miles	Trail	Rating	Usage
1.00	Rhododendron Trail	Difficult	FX
1.90	Cabin Creek Trail	Difficult	F
.75	Big Pinnacle Trail	Difficult	F
1.75	Twin Pinnacles Trail	Moderate	F
2.0	Listening Rock Trail	Difficult	F
1.8	Wilson Creek Trail	Difficult	F
1.7	Stamper's Branch Trail	Moderate	F
1.4	Rock House Ridge Trail	Moderate	F
1.0	AT Spur Trail	Moderate	F
1.5	Wilburn Branch Trail	Difficult	FB
3.7	Upchurch Road	Moderate	HFBK
1.3	Seed Orchard Road	Moderate	HFBK
1.7	Horse Trail east	Moderate	HFBK
1.0	Horse Trail North	Difficult	HFX

Key:

F=Foot Traffic, H=Horseback Riding
B=Mountain Bikes, X=Cross Country Skiing

Legend:

- - - - - Hiking Trail
- - - - - Appalachian Trail - White Blaze
- - - - - Horse Trail - Orange Blaze
- - - - - Virginia Highlands Horse Trail - Orange Blaze
- Park Road
- Park Boundary
- - - - - Mountain Bike Trail

- Amphitheater
- Campground
- Dumping Station
- Gift Shop
- Group Campsite
- Historic Cabin
- Information and Registration Center
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Restroom
- Shower
- Stable Area
- Telephone
- Trail Shelter
- VC Visitor Center



A severe weather policy may be in effect during winter months. Information is posted on kiosks and in office. For more information, please contact a ranger.

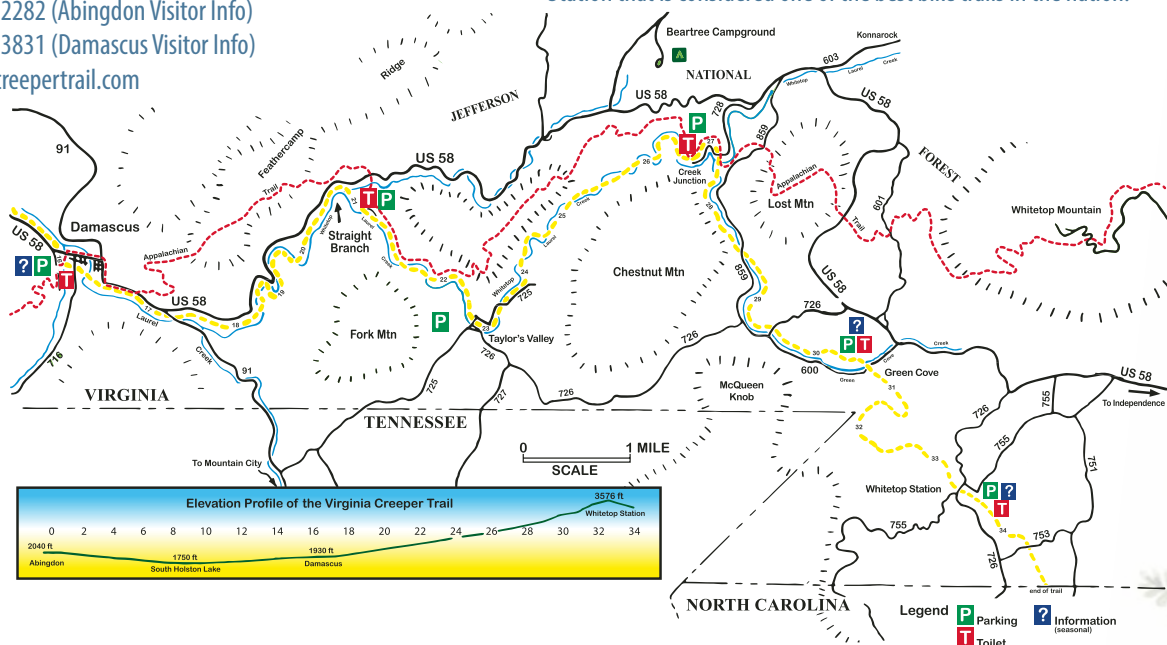
Virginia Creeper Trail

276-676-2282 (Abingdon Visitor Info)

276-475-3831 (Damascus Visitor Info)

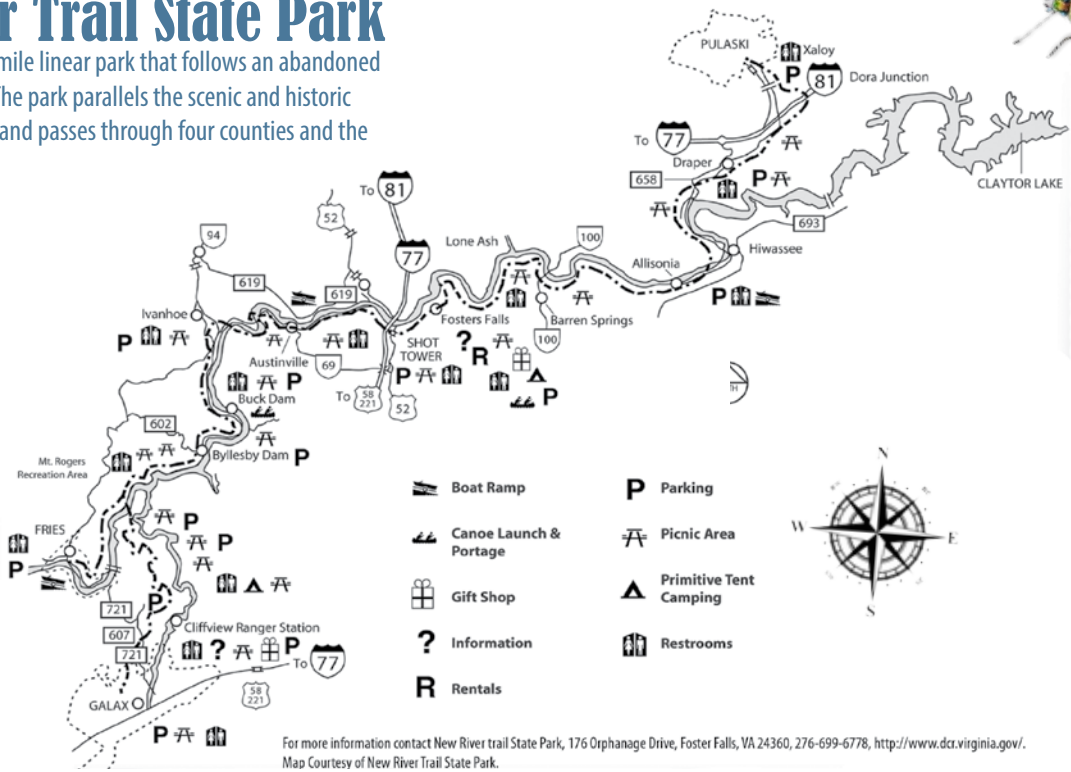
www.vacreepertrail.com

The Virginia Creeper Trail is a 34-mile rail-trail from Abingdon to Whitetop Station that is considered one of the best bike trails in the nation.



New River Trail State Park

New River Trail is a 57-mile linear park that follows an abandoned railroad right-of-way. The park parallels the scenic and historic New River for 39 miles and passes through four counties and the city of Galax.



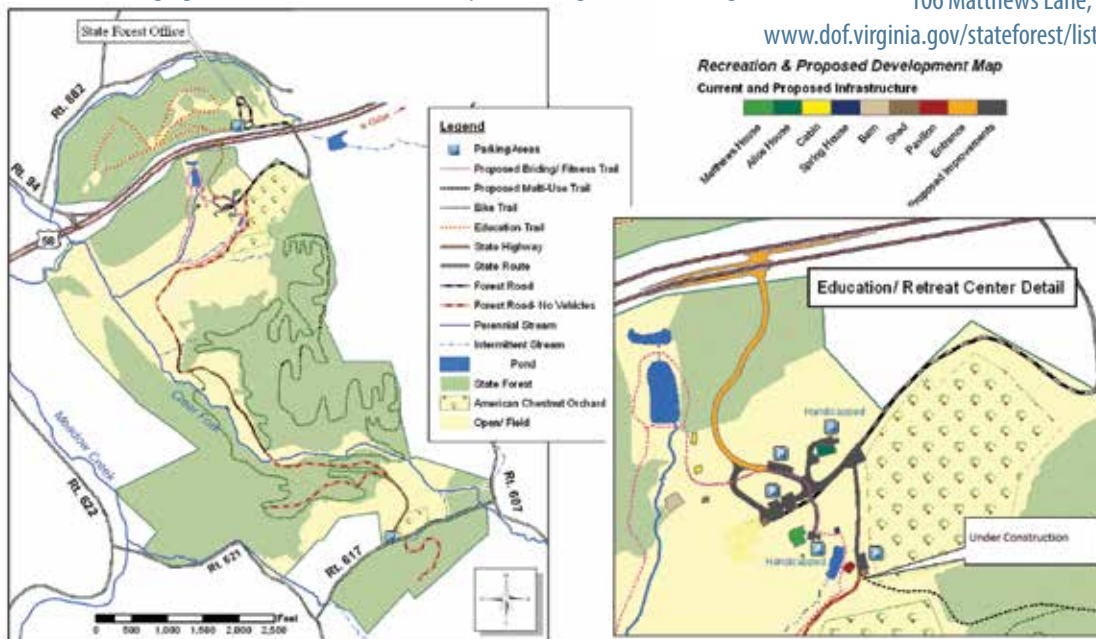
Open during daylight hours for hiking, biking, wildlife watching, horseback riding & hunting.
Nearly eight miles of challenging mountain bike trails that are open to hiking as well as biking.

Matthews State Forest

106 Matthews Lane, Galax, VA 24333

www.dof.virginia.gov/stateforest/list/matthews.htm

(276) 236-2322



Jefferson National Forest

In 1995, The **George Washington National Forest** and **Jefferson National Forest** were administratively combined. Together the two National Forests contain nearly 1.8 million acres of public land, representing one of the largest blocks of public land in the eastern United States. The Jefferson National Forest itself is comprised of lands located in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. 690,106 acres of the Jefferson National Forest are in Virginia, a large part of which is located in Grayson County, including the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area.

The Jefferson National Forest offers 950 miles of hiking and riding trails, including 300 miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the 68-mile

Virginia Highlands Horse Trail, designed for horse-back riders and wagon trains.

The forest is mainly Appalachian mixed hardwoods interspersed with conifers. Wildflowers and autumn leaves create a profusion of color in spring and fall. Camping and picnicking are permitted forest-wide unless otherwise indicated. It is best to check the website for the Jefferson National Forest for permitted uses and trail information.

Mount Rogers National Recreation

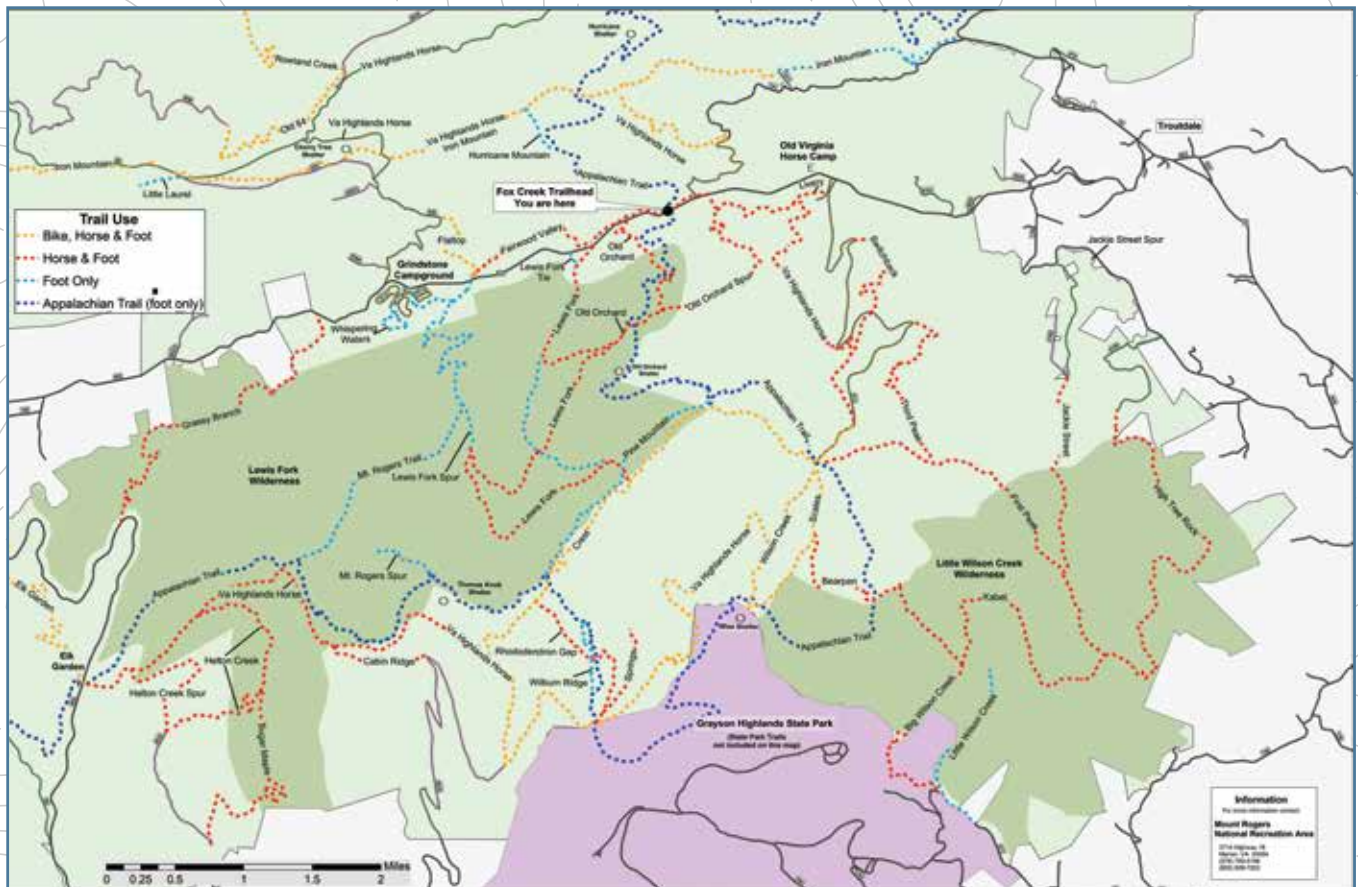
In the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area you will find: Mount Rogers, at 5,792 feet the highest mountain in Virginia; the Virginia Creeper Trail a former railroad now a popular biking, hiking, and

horse riding trail; miles of hiking, backpacking, and horse riding trails; the Appalachian Trail; numerous campgrounds; and three wilderness areas.

The Pat Jennings Visitor Center

Serves as the headquarters and gateway to the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. Six miles from I-81, the Visitors' Center provides maps of the Mt. Rogers National Recreational Area. Pick up maps, nature guides, memorabilia, etc.

If you need additional information about opportunities in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. Contact the District Supervisor for more information. Pat Jennings Visitors Ctr., 3714 Troutdale Hwy Marion, Virginia 24354, Local Phone: 276-783-5196.





Horseback Riding/Equestrian

Horseback riding trails exist on both the eastern and western end of the county. In some areas horse camping is located near miles of horse trails. Be sure to check out the Parks and Recreation link to learn about the public areas available for horse riding. If you need supplies for your horses, many of the country stores in the area will carry feed and tack for your convenience. Some locations offer horse camping, cabins and stables, horseback riding lessons, wagon rides or rental of horses for trail riding. Happy Trails!

Guided Horseback Riding/Lessons

Billingsway Farm located at 794 Cimmaron Lane, Independence, VA 24348 can assist you with private horse parties, camping trips, horseback riding lessons, horse training and more... contact them at 276-237-1300 or at billingsway_farm@yahoo.com.

Owls Nest Farms located in Central Grayson County offers horseback riding lessons, boarding of horses, horseback riding and special horse events. Contact them at 276-744-2677 or info@owlsnestfarms.com.

Appalachian Horseback Riding Adventures is located in western Grayson County and offers guided horseback riding trips in the Mt. Rogers and Pine Mountain areas. Guided Day or overnight camping trips are available. Contact Doug Cregger at 276-783-4136 or sugargrove_horseman@yahoo.com.

Iron Mountain Backcountry Horseman of Virginia is a network of riders who work together to maintain horse trails in the Virginia Highlands/Mount Rogers National Recreation Area of the Jefferson National Forest. Activities include workdays and riding events.

Public Areas and Trails

The Jefferson National Forest includes the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail, this trail offers 68 miles of wilderness which tranverses Grayson County from Elk Garden to Ivanhoe. More information about horse trails and horse camping in the Jefferson National Forest can be found at their website: www.fs.usda.gov/activity/gwj/recreation/horseriding-camping.

Grayson Highlands State Park. Rugged mountain beauty and extensive trail system make it ideal for horseback riding. This park is truly wonderful - everyone loves Grayson Highlands! www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/gra.shtml.

The New River Trail State Park is a wonderful place to ride horses. Most of the trail is flat and wide. The sounds and sights of the New River are sure to complement your ride. Some camping is available along the trail. Visit their website for more information: www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/new.shtml.

The Virginia Creeper Trail near Whitetop, Virginia offers woodland riding next to a scenic trout stream. Great horsback riding trail. Also very popular with bicyclists in the area. www.vacrepertrail.us/horses.html.

Horse Camping

Rocky Hollow Horse Camp located in Troutdale, Virginia on the western side of the county is a great location to bring your horses and escape with easy access to the trails of the highlands (JNF, Grayson Highlands) right from the campsite. They offer camping and cabins. www.ridemtrogers.com.

Iron Mountain Horse Camp located in Ivanhoe, Virginia offers horse trails, camping, cabins and other horse amenities. www.ironmountainhorsecamp.com

Hungry Horse East, also located in Ivanhoe, provides access to the Virginia Highlands Horse Trails and Jefferson National Forest. It is another great source for horseback riding, camping, cabins and other horse amenities. www.hungryhorseeast.com.

Virginia Highlands Horse Trail in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, is a 68-mile trail between Elk Garden and VA Rt. 94. It features mountainous terrain, valley views and valley crossings. The trail includes parking and primitive camping for those who trailer horses.

Fishing and Hunting

Grayson County is home to an a wide variety of fish and game species. The **Department of Game and Inland Fisheries** offers the best information on fishing opportunities, regulations, and trophy fish. Be sure to visit their website before you grab the rod and reel!

Another great resource for fishing in the region is the Blue Ridge Highlands Fishing Trail. The website Fish Virginia First includes information about fishing all across Virginia.

If you are traveling to Grayson County for a hunting or fishing trip be sure to check out the cabins in the lodging section of our website. Most of the cabins are located on significant tracts of acreage. Sometimes hunting or fishing rights could be arranged as part of a package for your stay, ask the proprietor if they offer these services. If

your stay includes hunting or fishing on public lands, please refer to the land use regulations for each agency.

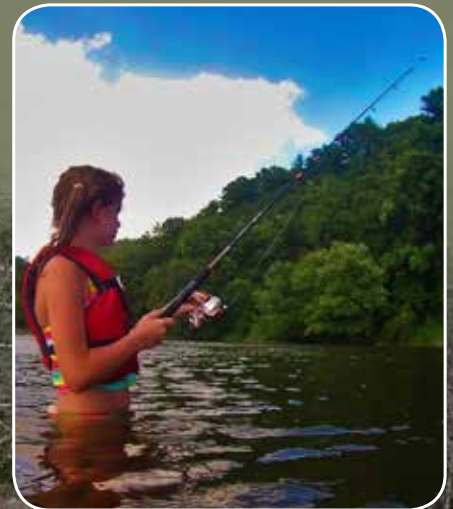
In much of the western portion of the county, trout streams are stocked. Year round the New River offers a variety of fish species from walleye, bass and muskies. River outfitters on page 7 are a good source for planning your fishing vacation in Grayson County. Hunting and Fishing supplies can be found at many of the country stores located across Grayson County. These locations also sell hunting and fishing licenses. Stop in for supplies and who knows... maybe someone will tell you where their favorite fishing hole is!

New River Trips offers guided smallmouth fishing on the New River. They can also serve as guides on nonfishing float trips. Call 276-236-

5492 or 276-235-2514 or e-mail newrivertrips@gmail.com, www.newrivertrips.com.

The **New River Wildlife Club** is another great source for events, activities and planned trips. Call (276) 237-0203, or find them on Facebook.

We hope that you enjoy hunting or fishing in Grayson County. Please take only mature species and show all creatures respect as you enjoy the beautiful scenery and non-game flora and fauna of the region.



Stay in the Grayson Highlands, the Town of Fries, or Independence, near the Blue Ridge Parkway, enjoyable spots on the river or mountaintop retreats. With over (50) vacation homes & cabins, bed and breakfasts or campgrounds, to choose from, you are sure to find your vacation getaway. Campgrounds exist on both sides of the county, including both recreational vehicle and primitive sites.

Contact information is included in each listing, please contact directly them to learn more about their location.

Location by colors: West Grayson • East Grayson • Central Grayson • Town of Fries

Vacation Homes & Cabins

A Mountain Air Cottage: 695 Stewart Hollow Ln, Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363. 305-546-4363, mountainaircottage@gmail.com, www.mountainaircottage.wordpress.com.

A Place By The Parkway: 221 Crown Ridge Rd, Galax, Va, 24333, 276-233-0799, www.aplacebytheparkway.com, info@aplacebytheparkway.com.

A Private Mountain Retreat: 1314 Rugby Rd, Mouth of Wilson, Va. 24363, 276-579-4215, www.rugbycreek.com, info@rugbycreek.com.

Angels Rest: 489 W. Main St, Fries, VA 24330, 276-233-6742, scrapin43@aol.com, www.scrapinblessings.com.

Apple Creek Cabins: 2395 Jefferson Highway, Mouth of Wilson, VA 24326, 336-384-1560, mtbumkin@hotmail.com.

Arthur's Wilderness Retreat: 2910 Rocky Hollow Rd, Troutdale, Va. 24378, 276-579-7692, ohnercabinrentals@gmail.com, www.authurscabins.com.

Atkins House: 6475 Carsonville Rd., Independence, VA 24348, 276-768-7540, 276-655-4413, pwsrfant@ls.net.

Aunt Peet's Cottage: 275 Mountain Music Lane, Elk Creek, VA 24326, 276-744-7696, teaberryhillhouse@net-scape.com, www.auntpeetscottage.com.

Country Living: 1298 Fox Creek Rd., Independence, VA 24348, 276-579-4093

Days to Remember at Granny's: 1360 Skyline Hwy, Galax, VA 24333, 540-330-6028, beckyandralph@verizon.net, homeaway.com/vacation-rental/p3716095

Farmhouse on Elk Creek: 6843 Carsonville Rd, Independence VA 24348, 276-655-4413 or 276-655-9922, pwsrfant@ls.net.

Forest Ridge Cabin: Rugby Creek Cabin: 387 Rugby Creek Lane, Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363, 276-579-4215, rugbycreek.com/cabins.

Granny's: 2671 Comers Rock Road, Elk Creek, VA 24326, 276-781-8421; wideopenskye@gmail, youtube.com/watch?v=AFyYEplBsU.

Greene Cabin-Rocky Hollow: 262 Camp Dr, Troutdale, VA 24378, 888-644-0014/276-677-3900, rockyhollow-horsecamp@gmail.com, ridemtrogers.com.

Guffy Creek Cabin: 3084 Flatridge Road, Troutdale, VA 24378, 276-579-6061, debt1@hughes.net, airbnb.com/rooms/1515698.

High Mountain Creekside Cabins: 771 Dolinger Road, Whitetop, VA 24292, 336-246-8636, gocreeksidecabins@skybest.com, highmountaincabins.com.

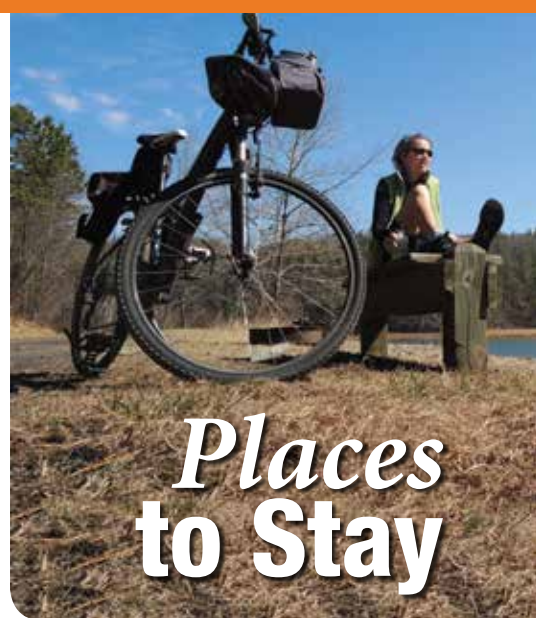
Lassiter's Mountain Refuge: 185 Sweetwater Road, Elk Creek, Va. 24326, 276-579-2254, lassie85@aol.com.

Lily Ridge Cabin: 548 School House Rd, Whitetop, VA 24292, 704-965-8783/704-965-8763, shelange@roadrunner.com, homeaway.com/vacation-rental/p351728.

Little River Paradise: 305 Windwood Lane, Galax, Va. 24333, 336-657-8587, little_river_paradise@hotmail.com, littleriverparadise@hotmail.com.

Little Wilson Retreat: 43 Little Wilson Road, Mouth of Wilson, Va. 24363, 276-579-7973, littlewilsonretreat@hotmail.com, littlewilsonretreat@msn.com.

Mallies Rest: 3115 Bear Branch Rd, Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363, 276-579-2256, deniseskeets@aol.com, smoakyhollow.com.



Places to Stay

Mt. Rogers Retreat: 294 Woodland Meadows Lane, Troutdale, VA 24378, 304-760-0081, bill.kathy@suddenlink.net.

Mt Vale Vineyard Guest House: 3222 Meadow Creek Rd, Galax, VA 24333, 276-238-9947 or 276-233-4483, mtvalewine@gmail.com, mtvalevineyard.com.

Nana's Place: P.O. Box 297, Fries, Va. 24330, 276-744-7805, fadove@comcast.net, www.vrbo.com/309361.

New River Lodge: 565 Riverview Dr, Galax, VA 24333, 276-237-8077, judy@newriverlodge.com, newriverlodge.com.

Owls Nest at Summerfield: 2412 Summerfield Rd, Independence, VA 24348, 276-655-4413, email: pwsrfant@ls.net.

River Mist Retreat: 3490 Scenic Rd, Fries, VA 24330, 508-842-1154, rivermistretreat@townisp.com, rivermistretreat.net





River View Cottage: 1544 Battlefield Dr., Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-2759, riverviewcottage@yahoo.com, theriverviewcottage.com.

Riverview Place: Riverview Ave, Fries, VA 24330, 276-744-7805, fadove@comcast.net, airbnb.com/rooms/14585509.

Saddleridge Cabin-Rocky Hollow Horse Camp: 122 Camp Dr., Troutdale, VA 24378, 888-644-0014/276-677-3900, rockyhollowhorsecamp@gmail.com, www.ridemtrogers.com.

Smoaky Hollow: 849 Volney Rd, Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363, 276-579-2256, denisekeets@aol.com, smoakyhollow.com.

Stafford Retreat: 114 Hines Branch Rd, Elk Creek, VA 24326, 910-692-5800, staffland1@earthlink.net, homeaway.com/vacation-rental/p3500109.



The Cabin at Mill Pond: 1056 Mill Pond Dr., Galax, VA 24333, 276-236-9353, sue.ann.dc13@gmail.com, cabinatmillpond.com.

The Shepherd's Retreat: 11030 Comers Rock Rd., Elk Creek VA 24326, 336-209-5444 or 276-655-4785, martyrosser50@aol.com, tsretreat.com.

Trotters Rest: 2892 Brush Creek Rd., Ivanhoe, VA 24350, 276-744-2402 or 276-266-5381, trottersrest2@gmail.com, Find us on Facebook.

Whitetop Station Rental: 1943 Old Park Rd, Whitetop, VA 24292, 276-608-0748, astampermg@yahoo.com, vrbo.com/345716.

Hotels and B&Bs

Duck Roost Inn: 777 Riverbend Road, Mouth of Wilson, Va. 24363, 276-773-9325, , information@duckroostinn.com, duckroostinn.com.

Fiddler's Roost B&B Cabins: 485 Fishers Peak Rd, Galax, VA 24333, 276-236-1212, theblueroot@gmail.com, fiddlersroostcabins.com

Fulton Road Bed & Breakfast: 1434 Fulton Rd, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-2627, fultonroadinn@embarqmail.com.

Grayson Highlands Inn: 4249 Highlands Pkwy, Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363, 276-579-4602, graysongeneralstore@gmail.com, graysongeneralstore.com/inn.

Grayson Inn and Suites: 155 Rainbow Circle Dr, Independence, VA 24348, 877-467-7144 or 276-773-3313, graysoninnandsuites@gmail.com, graysoninnandsuites.com.

Owls Nest Farm: 321 Old Colonial Rd, Fries, VA 24330, 276-744-2677, info@owlsnestfarms.com, owlsnestfarms.com.

Sleepy Fox: The Inn & Spa at Fox Ridge Farm: 1235 FoxRidge Rd, Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363, 276-579-6691, snlwebster@embarqmail.com, sleepyfoxinnandspa.com.

The Guffy Creek: 3084 Flatridge Rd., Troutdale, VA 24378, 276-579-6061, 3peaks@hughes.net, airbnb.com/rooms/1515698?preview.

The Orade Guest House: 213 Orade Summit Circle, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-3308, laura@theoradeinstitute.org, www.oradeguests.com.

Camping

Camp Dickenson: 801 Camp Dickenson Lane, Fries, Va. 24330, 276-744-7241, campdickenson@centurylink.net, www.campdickenson.com.



Cool Breeze Campground: 2330 Edmonds Rd., Galax, VA 24333, 276-236-0300 or 866-342-0300, Robert@coolbreezecampground.com, www.coolbreezecampground.com.

Creep Trail Campground: 2248 Whitetop Gap Rd, Whitetop, VA 24292, 276-388-3426, info@creeptrailcampground.com, www.creeptrailcampground.com.

Fries New River Trail RV Park: 26 Dalton Rd, Fries, VA 24330, 276-233-1178 or 276-744-7566, info@friesrvpark.com, www.friesrvpark.com.

Houndshell Campground: Flat Ridge Rd, Troutdale, VA, 276-655-4639 or 276-677-3299.

Location by colors: West Grayson • East C



Iron Mountain Horse Camp: 4449 Arrowhead Dr, Ivanhoe, VA 24378, 276-744-2056, info@ironmountain-horsecamp.com, www.ironmountainhorsecamp.com.

New River Campground Canoeing and Kayaking: 2745 New River Parkway, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-3412, inquiries@canoeingthenew.com, www.canoeingthenew.com.

Rocky Hollow Horse Camp: 3382 Rocky Hollow Rd, 40 Camp Dr, Troutdale, VA 24378, 276-677-3900 or 866-644-0014, rockyhollowhorsecamp@gmail.com, www.ridemtrogers.com.

The Oracle Campground: 88 Oracle Way, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-3008, laura@theoracleinstitute.org, www.oracleguests.com.

Camping - State Parks/National Forest

Camping at New River Trail State Park: 4 campgrounds in different locations with a variety of sites. 276-699-6778 or 800-933-PARK, www.dcr.virginia.gov.

Camping in Grayson Highlands State Park: 829 Grayson Highlands Lane, Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363, 276-579-7092, 800-933-PARK.

Camping in the Jefferson National Forest/Mount Rogers National Recreation Area: 3714 Hwy 16, Marion, VA 24354, 276-783-5196 or 800-628-7202.

Grayson • Central Grayson • Town of Fries



Country Stores & Places to Eat

Country Stores

21 Grocery: 9345 Elk Creek Parkway, Elk Creek, VA 24326, 276-655-4780

58 Grocery: 10009 Grayson Parkway, Galax, VA 24333, 276-236-2588

Baywood Market & Deli: 10405 Grayson Parkway, Galax, VA 24333, 276-236-0827

E and R Oil: 624 North Independence Ave, Independence VA 24348, 276-773-3633

Fox Creek General Store: 7116 Troutdale Highway, Troutdale, VA 24378 276-579-6033

Grayson Express: 2686 Grayson Parkway, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-9173

Grayson Highlands General Store & Inn: 4249 Highlands Pkwy, Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363, 276-579-4602, www.graysongeneralstore.com.

Independence Tire and Company/Dwights: 809 East Main St, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-3364

New River Side Store and Deli: 5785 Fries Rd., Fries, VA 276-744-3001 or 276-744-3002. Find us on Facebook.

Rixey's Market: 2449 Wilson Hwy, Independence, Va., 24348, 276-773-3991, www.rixeysmarket.com.

Star Market, Inc: 2406 Scenic Road, Fries, VA 24330, 276-744-2501. Visit us on Facebook.

Stateline Store: 3979 Jefferson Hwy, Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363, 276-579-4562. Visit us on Facebook.

The Log House Trading Post & Restaurant: 4013 Troutdale, Highway, Mouth of Wilson, Va. 24363, 276-579-4440.

The Quick Chek: 333 East Main St, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-3451.

Whitetop Food & Gas: 16164 Highlands Parkway, Whitetop, VA. 24292, 276-388-3465.

Wilson Market/Ted's Market: 6853 Wilson Hwy, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-2210. Find us on Facebook.

Restaurants

Aunt Bea's BBQ: 529 East Main Street, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-2100.

Ciro's Pizza & Subs: 430 East Main Street, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-9100.

Highlander Cafe: 4249 Highlands Parkway, Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363, 276-579-4602

Log House Restaurant: 4013 Troutdale Hwy, Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363, 276-579-4440

Paul's Restaurant: 333 East Main Street, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-3858

Pizza Plus: 106 Grayson Avenue, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-2377

Rio Grande: 314 East Main St, Independence VA 24348, 276-773-2828

Subway: 580 East Main Street, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-9303

The Café in Fries: 335 Firehouse Dr., Fries, VA 276-744-0137

Valley Diner: 9345 Elk Creek Parkway, Elk Creek, VA 24326, 276-655-9909



Unique Shops

Gift stores, antique shops and artists galleries. From handcrafted items to eclectic art... there is a treasure awaiting your discovery.

D & J Hobby Center: 106 Nuckolls Curve Rd, Galax, VA 24333, 276-233-6852, darrellwilliam443@yahoo.com, Find us on Facebook.

Fox Creek Leather: 2029 Elk Creek Pkwy, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-3131/800-766-4165, www.foxcreekleather.com

Independence Florist and Gift Shoppe: 126 E Main St, Independence VA 24348, 276-773-3689, joofva@yahoo.com, Find us on Facebook.

Ivory's Antiques: 124 E. Main St, Independence VA 24348, 276-768-9444 or 276-768-9941, ivory-santiques@gmail.com

Paddleyax Kayaks: 112 E. Main St, Independence, VA 24348, 276-237-7148, paddleyax@gmail.com, Find us on Facebook.

Patrick O'Neill Design Studio: 122 W Main St, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-2030, patrick-oneilljeweler@gmail.com.

PollyWorld Collectibles: Wilson Hwy, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-2099, pollychester1@gmail.com.

River Peek Cottage: 303 W Main St, Fries, VA 24330, 276-237-5430, riverpeek@gmail.com, www.riverpeekcottage.com.



Square One Custom Framing: 119 E Main St, Independence, VA 24348, stargazer70406@yahoo.com.

The Treasury at the 1908 Courthouse: Main St, Independence, VA 24348, 276-773-3711, 276-773-8002, historic1908courthouse.org/gift-shop

Todd Price Fine Art Gallery and Studio: 29 Wagon Wheel Road, Elk Creek, VA 24326, 276-655-4047, toddpriceart.com.



Great Places to Visit

Independence Farmers Market Join the fun with weekly kids activities, monthly festivals and growers workshops. Stop in at the market in Independence and shop for a variety of fruits/vegetables, locally raised, and pastured meats and eggs, flowers, crafts, and canned/baked goods. The farmers, chefs, and craftsman are committed to providing the customers with wholesome delicious food and quality crafts. Recipes, cooking classes, growing tips and more can also be found at the Farmers Market. Visit: independencefarmersmarket.org.



Mt Vale Vineyards was established in the spring of 2008. The vineyard encompasses 38 acres in the Mt Vale Community of Galax, Virginia, and is only 4 miles from the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway. Mt. Vale is nestled in the Virginia countryside of rolling hills. A place to relax and enjoy long range mountain views. Visit: mtvalevineyard.com.

Mathews Living History Farm Museum

Visit the Matthews Living History Farm Museum. This 21-acre farm offers a glimpse back in time, where visitors can experience gardening, antique tractors, sheep shearing, craft demonstrations, open hearth cooking and more. The farm offers regular activities and events throughout the year. Visit: matthewsfarmmuseum.org.



The 1908 Courthouse

The Historic 1908 Courthouse serves as the Visitor Information Center for Grayson County Tourism. Find travel brochures & information on local attractions and lodging here. The Treasury Gift Shop features unique local crafts and gifts. The building hosts the Crossroads Museum and serves as the cultural center of Grayson County. Experience theatre & music entertainment in the historic Baldwin Auditorium or on the lawn during the Wednesday night music jam. Visit the website for a complete list of events throughout the year: historic1908courthouse.org.

The Elk Creek Dragway The Elk Creek Dragway is regionally acclaimed for fast fun! Events are held throughout the spring, summer and fall season. Be sure to check out the latest information by visiting their website: www.elkcreekdagway.com.

Wythe/Grayson Regional Library

The Wythe/Grayson Regional Library System offers educational programs, books, magazines, wi-fi and a paperback program designed for travelers who need to swap out their paperbacks. Visit one of three Grayson County branches located throughout Grayson County. www.wythegrayson.lib.va.us.

The Grayson County Public Library located at 147 Independence Avenue, Independence.

The Fries Public Library is located at 105 West Main Street, Fries.

The Whitetop Public Library is located at 16309 Highlands Parkway, Whitetop.

Longview Golf Course

Play golf at Longview Golf Course. Enjoy the day in a beautiful setting with great views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Located at 589 Tee Time Drive, Galax, VA 24333, half way between Galax and Independence off Hwy 58. Eighteen holes available, at the competitive rate of \$10 with a cart on weekdays and \$15 with a cart on weekends. Open everyday, all day. Feel free to call 276-238-GOLF or e-mail pdavis460@gmail.com.

Scenic Drives of Grayson County

Take A Break From the Interstate

Take Historic U.S 21, the heart of the Lakes to Florida Highway, that first guided travelers between these two great vacation destinations. For more info: www.takeabreakfromtheinterstate.com.



The Blue Ridge Parkway

Grayson County is a gateway community to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Access can be found south of Galax on Hwy 89. This 469 mile park is a national treasure that travels through the highlands of Virginia & North Carolina. For more info: www.blueridgeparkway.org



The Crooked Road

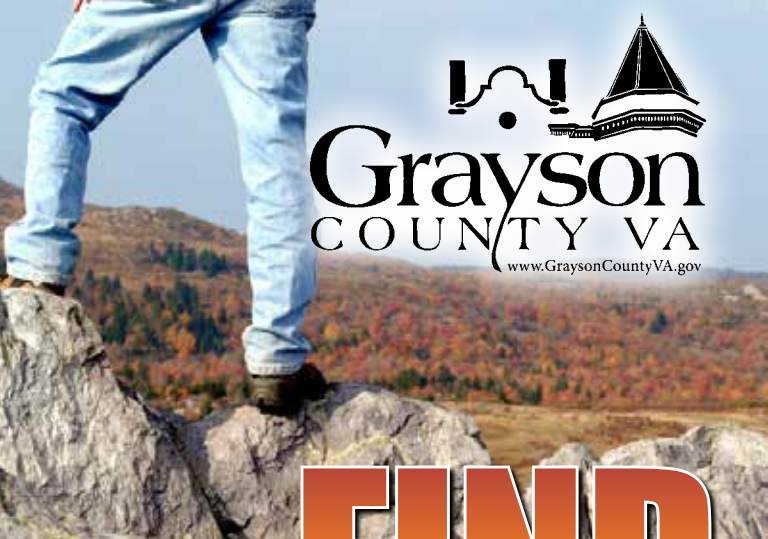
As you wind your way across Virginia on Highway 58 you can enjoy the traditional music of the area. Festivals, Fiddlers' Conventions, Music Jams, all showcasing the areas musical heritage. For more info: www.thecrookedroad.org.



Wildlife and Birding Trail

The Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries sponsors a series of Wildlife and Birding Trails or loops in areas where wildlife viewing is ideal. These local roads and trails will assist you with finding wildlife and birds. Grayson County is home to the Mountain Music Loop. For more info: www.dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/mountain-trail/mmm.





**FIND
YOUR
QUIET**



**FIND
YOUR
FUN**

