

# Pisgah Inn Information Guide

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*Since 1919*

*Celebrating more than 100 years on the mountain*

This document is available online at [pisgahinn.com/guide](http://pisgahinn.com/guide)





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## ***Chapter 1. Welcome***

### **Pisgah Inn's Vision**

***“every guest and employee leaves with  
a positive memory or experience.”***

# Forewords

## **A Message from the Owner**

Greetings from Pisgah Inn.

I am so happy you are here. This is a special place. Please have a great time and try to soak in all that is Mt. Pisgah.

Here at Pisgah Inn, we have a vision... to ensure that every guest and employee has a positive memory or experience. To that end, all of our staff will do whatever they can to achieve that vision. I bet you will notice that the entire staff tries a little harder...

As for me, I want to do my part. I want to know what you think and what we can do to make your experience better. Please know you can email me ([info@pisgahinn.com](mailto:info@pisgahinn.com) attn: Bruce), call me (828 235 8228), or ask to speak with me. I am all ears. We believe in "continual improvement." Help us to be the best.



Enjoy your visit and come back often.

Bruce

Bruce O'Connell, Concessionaire/Owner

## **A Message from the General Manager**

Thank you for joining us at the Pisgah Inn.

To those of you who have been here before, welcome back. If this is your first stay, welcome to the Pisgah family – many of our guests return year after year, and generation after generation.

We strive to make every stay a wonderful and memorable experience. Our employees are a close-knit team, and everyone has been encouraged and empowered to make your day. I love to hear about employees who deserve special recognition.

We are lucky to be in the most beautiful place in the world, and we work hard to have an Inn that is worthy of our location. If there is anything I can do to assist, or if there is anything you would like to share, please contact me at [sjohnston@pisgahinn.com](mailto:sjohnston@pisgahinn.com), or stop by the office to see me.



Again, thanks for including us in your plans.

Susan Johnston

Pisgah Inn General Manager





# Emergencies

## **911**

In the event of a fire or life-threatening emergency, Dial 911. We strongly encourage you, if possible, to inform a Pisgah Inn employee that emergency services are on their way.

## **1-800-PARKWATCH**



The Pisgah Inn and the Blue Ridge Parkway are located on federal lands under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. Hazardous conditions such as fallen trees or rocks along the parkway, fender-benders, thefts, or any emergency along the parkway and overlooks should be reported to local law-enforcement rangers by calling 1-800-PARKWATCH. We strongly encourage you, if possible, to inform a Pisgah Inn employee that emergency services are on their way.

## **Night Security: 828-337-9853**

Most emergencies can be handled by Pisgah Inn employees. Our security officers are professionally trained. Between the hours of 10:00 pm and 7:00 am, you can find security either at the hotel front desk or making rounds of the property. They can be reached by calling or texting 828-337-9853.

During Daytime hours, you can reach the front desk by dialing 2001 (from your room) or 828-235-8228 from any telephone.

## **Parkway closures**

Up-to-date information about Blue Ridge Parkway closures can be found online at [nps.gov/BLRI](https://nps.gov/BLRI). Click on "Plan your visit," then select "Road and Facility Closures."



## **Power-failures**

Power failures can and do occur on the mountain. We are subject to a variety of events that can interrupt our electrical service.

Usually, power outages do not last long. We are a priority for our electric company and they make an extra effort to get our power back on as soon as possible -- still, it is best to be prepared. In the event of a power failure, all lights (except emergency lighting), hot water, and electrical power will be off. You will have cold water in your rooms. Our restaurant building does have a generator and will continue to operate on a limited basis.

Utility outages are beyond our control. We hope you understand. We will do whatever we can to reduce any inconvenience to you. Don't panic -- usually, outages are brief.

## **First Aid Kits**

For minor cuts and scrapes, the front desk keeps a basic first-aid kit stocked with a variety of Band-Aids™ and/or similar products. A first aid kit is also available at the Country Store during business hours.

## **Medical Facilities**

### ***Hospitals***



- Transylvania Regional Hospital
  - 20.3 Miles
  - 260 Hospital Dr, Brevard, NC 28712
  - (828) 884-9111
- Mission Hospital
  - 24.6 Miles
  - 509 Biltmore Ave, Asheville, NC 28801
  - (828) 213-1111
- Asheville VA Medical Center
  - 26.6 Miles
  - 1100 Tunnel Rd, Asheville, NC 28805
  - (828) 298-7911
- Haywood Regional Medical Center
  - 27.2 Miles
  - 262 Leroy George Dr, Clyde, NC 28721
  - (828) 456-7311

### ***Urgent Care***



- FastMed Urgent Care Candler
  - 17.3 Miles
  - 511 Smokey Park Highway, Candler, NC 28715
  - (828) 365-1088
- Mercy Urgent Care Brevard
  - 21.6 Miles
  - 22 Trust Ln, Brevard, NC 28712
  - (828) 883-2600
- Pardee Urgent Care Mills River
  - 22.8 Miles
  - 3334 Boylston Hwy, Mills River, NC 28759
  - (828) 694-8100
- MinuteClinic Waynesville
  - 25.9 Miles
  - 733 Russ Ave, Waynesville, NC 28786
  - (828) 452-2230

## **Chapter 2. Facilities, Amenities, and Features**

### **Hotel**

#### **Phone**

While your mobile phone may not have a signal, every room in the hotel is equipped with a land-line telephone.

- To reach the front desk, pick up the receiver and press the "front desk" button, or dial 2001.
- To call a room, dial a 6 followed by the room number – for example, 6123 to reach room 123.
- To make a call to an outside number, pick up the receiver and press the "Outside Line" button, or dial 8. Listen for a dial tone, then dial the area code and number.

Your cellphone may be capable of "Wi-Fi calling."



- on an iPhone, go to Settings > Phone > Wi-Fi Calling.



- on an Android phone, go to Settings > Wi-Fi Preferences > Advanced > Wi-Fi Calling

#### **Wi-Fi**

We have Wi-Fi in every building!

You can connect to our wireless network named "Pisgah Guest." There's no password -- simply tap or click on the network, and you should be automatically connected to the internet.

# Television Channel Guide

**265** A&E  
**13** ABC  
**254** AMC  
**282** Animal Planet  
**401** Aqui  
**239** AUDIENCE®  
**340** AXS TV  
**293** BabyFirst TV  
**264** BBC America  
**329** BET  
**353** Bloomberg TV  
**237** Bravo  
**374** BYUtv  
**447** CANAL ONCE2  
**296** Cartoon Network (1)  
**297** Cartoon Network (2)  
**7** CBS  
**327** CMT  
**355** CNBC  
**202** CNN  
**249** Comedy Central  
**95** CSN - Shopping (1)  
**223** CSN - Shopping (2)  
**350** C-SPAN  
**351** C-SPAN2  
**376** CTN  
**62** CW  
**369** Daystar  
**100** DIRECTV CINEMA SR  
**205** DIRECTV SPORTSMIX 1  
**600** DIRECTV SPORTSMIX 2  
**278** Discovery  
**290** Disney Channel (East)  
**291** Disney Channel (West)  
**289** Disney Junior  
**292** Disney XD  
**236** E!  
**448** Enlace  
**206** ESPN  
**209** ESPN2  
**207** ESPNEWS

**208** ESPNU  
**27** ETV  
**316** EVINE  
**370** EWTN  
**323** FETV  
**231** Food Network  
**21** FOX  
**359** FOX Business Network  
**360** FOX News Channel  
**219** FOX Sports 1  
**348** Free Speech TV1  
**311** Freeform  
**248** FX  
**259** FXX  
**404** Galavisión  
**363** GEB America  
**228** GEM Shopping Network  
**365** GOD TV1  
**312** Hallmark Channel  
**565** Hallmark Movies  
**229** HGTV  
**371** Hillsong Channel  
**269** HISTORY  
**461** HITN TV2  
**204** HLN  
**368** Hope Channel  
**240** HSN  
**380** IMPACT1  
**16** IND  
**364** INSP  
**285** Investigation Discovery  
**388** JBS1  
**313** Jewelry Television  
**366** Jewish Life Television1  
**252** Lifetime  
**375** Link TV  
**214** MAVTV  
**40** MNT  
**356** MSNBC  
**331** MTV  
**332** MTV2

**276** National Geographic  
**4** NBC  
**220** NBC Sports Network  
**349** Newsmax  
**301** Nick Jr.  
**299** Nickelodeon (East)  
**300** Nickelodeon (West)  
**378** NRB  
**347** OAN  
**274** Ovation  
**241** Paramount Network  
**29** PBS (1)  
**33** PBS (2)  
**604** Pursuit Channel  
**317** QVC  
**315** QVC2  
**238** ReelzChannel  
**345** RFD-TV  
**321** Russia Today  
**226** Shop LC  
**344** SonLife Broadcasting  
**244** Syfy  
**247** TBS  
**256** TCM  
**377** TCT Network  
**303** TeenNick  
**373** The Word Network  
**280** TLC  
**245** TNT  
**372** TBN  
**246** truTV  
**304** TV Land  
**402** Univision (East)  
**379** UpLift1  
**242** USA Network  
**281** Velocity  
**335** VH1  
**271** Viceland  
**260** WE tv  
**361** WeatherNation  
**367** World Harvest TV

## **Housekeeping**

### ***Laundry and Laundromats***

You are welcome to use the laundry bag in your closet. Take it with you on your trip to sliding rock, so you have a bag for your wet clothes! We do not have public laundry facilities, but there are several laundromats in nearby towns.



- J & D Coin Laundry
  - (828) 776-6947
  - 1899 Brevard Rd, Arden, NC 28704
  - 17.7 miles
- Pisgah Clothing Care Center
  - (828) 648-8012
  - 129 Pisgah Dr, Canton, NC 28716
  - 22.7 miles
- Classic Laundry
  - (828) 884-5923
  - 129 N Caldwell St, Brevard, NC 28712
  - 21.7 miles

### ***Trash and Recycling***

There is a blue recycling bin in your room, and also several bear-proof cans throughout the property.

Please recycle

- Plastic bottles, tubs, jugs, and jars
- Metal cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Sheets of paper, paper cartons and cardboard

Please do NOT attempt to recycle

- aluminum foil or scrap metal
- dishes or cookware
- Styrofoam or polystyrene foam
- plastic wrap or plastic bags
- paper towels or tissues
- window or mirror glass
- light bulbs, batteries, or electronics

## **Services and Special Requests**

### ***Sleep well***

It can get pretty chilly on this mountain at night – especially in the Spring and Fall. You'll find an extra blanket on the shelf in your closet. Let the front desk know if you need more. Of course, you can always turn up the heat, too -- there's a thermostat on the wall. In the summertime, the cool mountain breezes should keep your room comfortable without noisy air-conditioning. If you are too warm, we recommend opening up the windows at the front and back of your room for a cross breeze.

## ***Church Services***

During the summer months, "A Christian Ministry in the National Parks" provides an inter-denominational worship service at the Pisgah Campground (located across the street from the inn) at the Fire Circle at the end of Loop B. Services are on Sundays at 9:30 am. If you need help finding other services, please ask the front desk.

## ***Interpretive Programs***

The National Park Service frequently presents family programs and guided group hikes. A schedule for these programs is posted at the Country Store and at the Front Desk, as well as on the parkway website at [nps.gov/blri](https://nps.gov/blri). Click on "Plan Your Visit" and then "Calendar." Many of these programs meet across the road at the campground amphitheater at the back of Loop B.



## ***Pillows, Towels and Sundries***

We know that not everyone likes the same pillow. Some people like a firmer one, while others prefer a softer one. With this in mind, you can request a variety of pillows at the front desk. We also have extra towels and washcloths for you.

Many convenience items are available, such as soaps, shampoos, razors, and toothbrushes. Additional items can be found at the country store during business hours.



## ***Book Stores***

Looking for a good book to read? We have a selection of books for sale in our gift shop and country store. Here are some other local bookstores, as well

- Mr K's Used Books
  - (828) 299-1145
  - 800 Fairview Rd, Asheville, NC 28803
  - 24.8 Miles
- Highland Books
  - (828) 884-2424
  - 36 W Main St, Brevard, NC 28712
  - 21.8 Miles
- Wall Street Books
  - (828) 456-5000
  - 181 Wall St, Waynesville, NC 28786
  - 24.2 Miles
- Malaprops Bookstore & café
  - (828) 254-6734
  - 55 Haywood St, Asheville, NC 28801
  - 24.3 Miles



# Restaurant

## ***Allergen Information***

For most food allergies, please inform your server in the restaurant. If you are severely allergic to a certain food, you may wish to discuss your needs with our Dining Room Manager before you arrive. We are happy to work with you to make sure your meal is enjoyable and safe. Please be aware though, that our kitchen regularly cooks food containing gluten, nuts, and seafood. A microwave is available at the country store during normal business hours.

## ***Hours***

From April through October, the Pisgah Inn Restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We close each day between meals. We accept reservations up to 30 days in advance. You can also pick up some “grab and go” items from the cafe and bring them to the picnic area nearby. If you’re in the area without reservations, feel free to check with the dining room host for same day availability – we’re glad to have you if there’s room!

Breakfast      7:30 am– 9:30 am by reservation  
Lunch            11:30 am – 3:00 pm by reservation  
Dinner           5:00 pm – 9:00 pm by reservation  
(exact hours may vary seasonally)

## **The Grazing Deer café**

The Grazing Deer café is the best spot on the mountain to grab your favorite drink with a hearty snack or picnic meal. We have a large selection of the best local brews, as well as coffee, cappuccino, sodas and more. Whether you’re looking for pastries & pies or salads & sandwiches, the café has everything you need for a picnic on the trails or an evening on your balcony. Remember: bottled water is a must if you plan to hit the trails!

The Deer also serves as the Mt. Pisgah Museum, with photos and memorabilia from over 100 years of Pisgah Inn history.

The Grazing Deer is open every day from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm

## **Menu**

Our Dining Room menus are available on our website at [pisgahinn.com](http://pisgahinn.com). Click on “Dining.”



# Retail

## **Gift Shop**

Just off the restaurant lobby you'll find our beautifully renovated gift shop. We feature handmade crafts and gifts from local and American artisans as well as high-quality clothing and curios. Bring home some mountain jams and jellies, candles, a hand-carved wood-spirit, and a framed print from a local photographer.

The gift shop is open daily from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm.

## **Country Store**

The Pisgah Inn Country Store sits on the side of the parkway at the northeast corner of the parking lot. Stop in for a cup of hot coffee or cold soda and a snack to enjoy in the rocking chairs or picnic tables just outside. There's a microwave available for public use. While you're there, grab some gifts and apparel to commemorate your trip.

The Country Store, public microwave and restrooms are open daily from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. (Hours may vary seasonally or due to weather – check with the front desk)

## **The Grazing Deer Café**

Stop by the café to grab a snack for your next hike. We have a large selection of local brews, as well as coffee, sodas, desserts, pastries, salads, sandwiches, and more. The cafe carries sustainable reusable water bottles, collectable wine glasses, hiking sticks, and an ever-changing selection of the best curated gifts. Look for local favorites from "Dillsboro Chocolates," "Poppy Popcorn," "Roots and Branches," and many more from across Western North Carolina.

## **Chapter 3. Activities, Attractions, & Destinations**

Many visitors to the Pisgah Inn like to simply sit on their balcony and watch the clouds roll over the valley. We have a gift shop, country store, café and a terrific restaurant right here on property -- grab a glass of wine at the café and enjoy it in the rocking chairs by our deck. You're a short walk from the Mount Pisgah Campground, the Mt Pisgah Picnic Area, and the site of George Vanderbilt's old hunting lodge. There are also many options for hiking trails ranging from easy to difficult. A short drive will bring you to several waterfalls, some of which you can see from your car, while others include a hike. Stop by the café, and we can provide you with a lunch to take with you if you're heading out.

Of course, simply driving through the mountains is beautiful. We are two hours from Cherokee and the Great Smokey Mountains heading south on the parkway (check out Cherokee's "Unto These Hills" performance). Heading north, you'll find several places to stop. Asheville has unique shops, street performers, craft breweries, museums, and a rich cultural history -- we recommend "The Urban Trail" (a self-guided walking tour of Asheville) and the WNC Nature Center (but don't forget about the Botanical Gardens and the Arboretum). Biltmore Estate could easily fill more than a day of activities. Along the parkway near Asheville is the Folk-Art Center, and the Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center. Continuing north is the Craggy Gardens Visitor Center and Mt Mitchell (the highest point east of the Rockies). Heading south towards Brevard is the "Cradle of Forestry in America" visitor center, the "Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education" fish hatchery, and the "Sliding Rock" natural waterslide. Heading west, the road to Waynesville takes you through rolling farmland. Once you're downtown, Waynesville's Main Street is beautiful, and has several little shops and cafés. Continue past Waynesville, and you can see the Elk at Cataloochee or Oconaluftee in the Great Smokey Mountains!

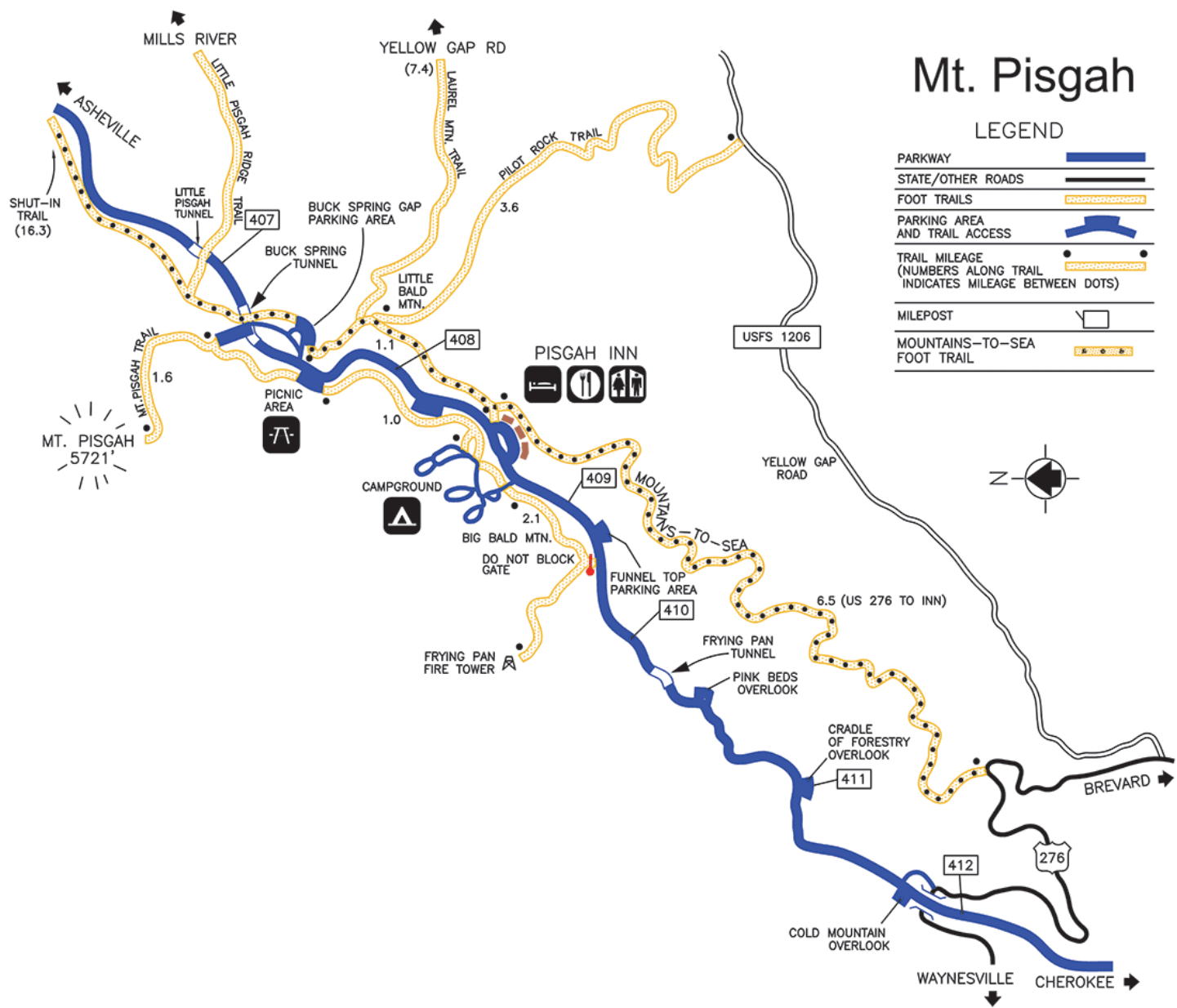
Beyond that, you might enjoy rafting, tubing, canoeing, kayaking, zip-lining, horseback-riding, rock-climbing, ballooning, and more.

Nature

Hiking

Maps

Local Trail map



## ***Hiking Trail Descriptions***

Maps and trail descriptions are available on the park service website at [NPS.gov/blri](https://www.nps.gov/blri). click on "Plan Your Visit" > "Things To Do" > "Hiking" > "North Carolina Trails" > "Mount Pisgah Trail"

We also sell trail maps in our gift shop and country store! Remember, you don't have to hike the entire trail – check out some of the longer trails and turn back when you're ready to!



### ***Mt Pisgah Trail***

At 1.6 miles to the summit, the Mt. Pisgah trail begins at the far end of the Mount Pisgah Trail Parking Area, also known as the Buck Spring Gap overlook at milepost 407.6. With an ascent of 712 feet, the latter half of the moderate to strenuous hike is fairly steep and rocky. The trail passes through a Northern Red Oak forest to a deciduous heath bald at the summit, which offers a spectacular view including the French Broad River Valley and Shining Rock Wilderness.

### ***Buck Spring Trail***

This 1.1-mile-long section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail runs between the Pisgah Inn and the Buck Spring Gap Parking Area. The trail passes the site where George Vanderbilt's mountain cabin, The Buck Spring Lodge, once stood. As you're hiking back to the inn, make sure you keep right when the Laurel Mountain and Pilot Rock trails split off.

### ***Laurel Mountain Trail***

This 7.4-mile moderate trail is a spur off the Buck Spring Trail (Mountains-to-Sea Trail). It descends to U.S. Forest Service Road 1206, Yellow Gap Road, about 1,700 feet below.

### ***Pilot Rock Trail***

This moderate trail crosses over part of Pilot Rock, a huge rock outcropping used by old-timers in the valley as a landmark to get their bearings.

### ***Shut-In Trail***

This is a moderate to strenuous hike of 16.3 miles which begins at the Mount Pisgah Parking Area and descends 3,681 feet to Bent Creek near NC 191. It's part of the North Carolina "Mountains to Sea" trail.

### ***Frying Pan Trail***

Begins at the entrance to Mt. Pisgah Campground, and crosses through Northern Red Oak "orchards" where the trees are stunted by harsh weather. Groves of shrubby hazelnut, hawthorn, azalea, and tall shady red spruce make this trail a favorite among birdwatchers, especially for spring and fall warblers. A moderate to strenuous hike of 2.1 miles, the trail continues into Frying Pan Gap, named for a communal frying pan hung in a tree by mountain herders who camped there. From the Gap, a gravel road leads to a U.S. Forest Service fire tower at the summit, which at 5,450 feet is the trail's end.

### ***Bike Trail Descriptions***

#### ***Greens Lick***

The ride starts with a fun, speedy downhill jump line on Deer Lake Lodge as a nice warm-up for the 1000+ foot, rocky, four-mile ascent up Wolf Branch and Ingles Field Gap. After another mile climb up Northern Boundary you'll reach the top (3300ft) at the start of Green's Lick. Two-mile descent down Green's Lick leads to a short climb up Sidehill and Little Hickory Top. A five-mile descent down Ingles Field Gap, Wolf Branch, and Hard Times Connector leads you back to the parking lot to end the ride.

#### ***Fletcher Creek***

A fairly mellow ride, for Pisgah at least. A good place for visitors or those averse to steep climbs to taste Pisgah. Starts with a long gravel climb with mellow grades, followed by a fun single-track downhill that starts flowy and adds some rock farther down. There are a couple stream crossings, so expect wet feet.

#### ***Bear Branch***

From the Long Ridge trail, the single-track takes riders through a fast and flowy descent with a little bit of the chunky stuff mixed in here and there. This trail is traditionally the first stage in the Green River Games Enduro.



*--Bike trail descriptions from [mtbproject.com](http://mtbproject.com). Find maps and more bike trails at the [mtbproject](http://mtbproject.com) website.*

## **Waterfalls**

### ***Graveyard Fields***

From the Pisgah inn, turn left onto the Blue Ridge Parkway and head south for ten miles to milepost 419. Park at the Graveyard Fields overlook on the right and follow the trail signs. The Lower Falls are approximately ½ mile hike in; take the 2.3 mile Graveyard Fields Loop trail for a spectacular view of the Upper Falls as well.

### ***Sliding Rock***

From the Pisgah Inn, turn left onto the Blue Ridge Parkway and head south for 3.2 miles. Turn left onto the offramp, then left onto US-276 SOUTH. In 7.2 miles, turn right and park; the falls are a short walk from the parking area. Wear rugged shorts/swimsuits; Sliding Rock is a 60-foot natural water slide with an eight foot pool at the bottom! Don't forget to bring \$2.00 per person for admission.

### ***Looking Glass Falls***

This waterfall is a 15-minute drive (9 miles) off of the Parkway, down US 276 S, in the Pisgah National Forest. Looking Glass Falls is one of the most symmetrical waterfalls in western North Carolina. The name comes from Looking Glass Rock which resembles a wintertime mirror, or "looking glass", of sunlight as water freezes on its side and reflects the sun. This waterfall is very popular, as there is no hiking necessary to see it, making it quite accessible.

### ***Skinny-Dip Falls***

From the Pisgah Inn, turn left onto the Blue Ridge Parkway and head south for nine miles to Milepost 417. Park at the Looking Glass Rock overlook on the left side of the parkway, then cross the street for an easy half-mile hike to the falls. Bring a swimsuit; Skinny Dip also has a swimming hole for cooling off on hot summer days!

### ***Moore Cove Falls***

From the Pisgah Inn, turn left onto the Blue Ridge Parkway and head south for 3.2 miles. Turn left towards US 276 and then left onto US-276 SOUTH. In 8.3 miles, the parking area for the falls will be on the left. The trail to the falls is well-marked, making an easy 1.5-mile round trip hike. This is one of the few waterfalls you can walk behind.

### ***Slick Rock Falls***

Take Route 276 to USFS Route 475 and the Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education Fish Hatchery. Continue straight onto Headwaters Road. In one mile, the destination will be on the right. The falls can be viewed from the parking area, but a short hike can give a closer look.



### ***Mt. Pisgah Campground***

#### ***Facilities***

Both RV and tent sites are available at this roomy campground. Modern amenities like flush toilets, drinking water and a country store create a comfortable camping experience. Sites come with picnic tables and fire rings, perfect for barbecues and marshmallow roasting. In addition to the 53 sites available for advanced reservation, 72 campsites are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Mt. Pisgah campground is often full each weekend. Mt. Pisgah Campground reservations require a 2-night minimum stay. One-night stays are allowed on first-come, first-served sites.



#### ***Natural Features***

Mount Pisgah is part of the Appalachian Mountain Range, an area of the country with scenery that never disappoints, whether blanketed in wildflowers in the spring or bursting with red, orange, and yellow hues in the fall. The Blue Ridge Parkway is a scenic byway that follows the high crests of the central and southern Appalachians for 469 miles from Shenandoah National Park in Virginia to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina. At an elevation of 4,980 feet (1,518 m), Mount Pisgah Campground offers moderate to cool temperatures during camping seasons.

#### ***Recreation***

Several popular hiking trails, ranging from moderate to difficult, are easily accessible from the campground. The Frying Pan Trail leads adventurers 1.6 miles (2.6 km) south to the Fire Tower at Frying Pan Mountain. Hiking north on the trail you'll arrive at the Pisgah Inn and from there, the Buck Spring Trail leads visitors through the thick hardwood forest and along rocky terrain to the Mt. Pisgah Parking Area. From the parking area it is a 1.6 mile (2.6 km) uphill trek to the top of Mt. Pisgah. The Shut-In Trail is the original route from the Biltmore Estate to the Buck Spring Lodge, and heads north along the Blue Ridge Parkway toward Asheville. The Buck Spring Lodge was a mountain getaway for George Vanderbilt, owner of the famous Biltmore Estate. The North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail follows both the Buck Spring and Shut-In Trails and connects to trails in Pisgah National Forest in both directions.

## ***Davidson River Campground***

Davidson River Recreation Area offers camping and outdoor activities for the whole family. The campground boasts several loops of shaded campsites, as well as access to hiking trails, fishing spots, waterfalls and several nearby attractions within Pisgah National Forest. It lies just four miles west of the town of Brevard and less than an hour from the city of Asheville. The facility is open year-round.



### ***Facilities***

Campsites are organized into eight loops and some are adjacent to the water. Sites are mostly shaded and equipped with picnic tables, tent pads, lantern posts and campfire rings with grills. The facility also provides hot showers and restrooms with flush toilets in each loop. Campers can purchase ice and firewood on-site and rent bikes nearby.

### ***Natural Features***

The Davidson River Campground is in Pisgah National Forest at an elevation of 2,150 feet. The surrounding land boasts mile-high peaks, cascading waterfalls and slopes thickly forested with hardwoods and conifers. The group camping area is adjacent to the beautiful Davidson River.

### ***Recreation***

The forest is known for its hiking trails, several of which are near the campground. Hikers can challenge themselves with the 12.3-mile Art Loeb Trail, the 3.7-mile North Slope Trail or a 1.5-mile walking trail. The Davidson River offers excellent trout fishing, plus tubing and swimming, which are kid-friendly favorite activities. Visitors wishing to learn more about the area can attend educational programs in summer and fall.

## ***Lake Powhatan Campground***

Located just minutes from the popular city of Asheville, North Carolina, Lake Powhatan has something for everyone. The campground is convenient to a variety of cultural and natural attractions, including art and music venues, shopping and dining in Asheville, scenic driving on the Blue Ridge Parkway, numerous hiking trails and lakeside recreation.



### ***Facilities***

The shaded, private campsites are organized into four loops, all within walking distance of the lake. The facility provides picnic tables, tent pads, lantern posts and campfire rings with grills, in addition to restrooms with hot showers and flush toilets. A few sites have full hookups. Campers can purchase ice, firewood, and other small sundry items from the on-site campground store.

### ***Natural Features***

The campground is situated in a heavily wooded area on the banks of Lake Powhatan in the Appalachian Mountains of western North Carolina. The elevation is 2,200 feet. The surrounding land boasts mile-high peaks, cascading waterfalls and slopes thickly forested with hardwoods and conifers.

### ***Recreation***

Visitors have several different activities to choose from. Kids love the lake's sandy swimming beach and anglers enjoy the calm waters for trout fishing. The French Broad River, popular for fishing, is also nearby. Lake Powhatan also offers visitors boat rentals during the summer season (Memorial Day to Labor Day) to paddle around the lake. Note that use of personal watercraft is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** due to potential introduction of foreign material to the Lake Powhatan riparian ecosystem. The forest is known for its hiking and mountain biking trails, several of which are located near the campground. Visitors wishing to learn more about the area can attend interpretive programs during the summer.

## **Picnic Areas**

### ***Mt Pisgah Picnic area***

[nps.gov/blri](https://www.nps.gov/blri) > click on "Plan your visit" > "Things to do" > "Picnicking" > "Mt. Pisgah"

### ***Facilities***

Open seasonally, the Mt. Pisgah Picnic area features several picnic tables and grills, along with flush-toilet facilities.



### ***Natural Features***

Nestled into the gently sloping hillside, the picnic area is surrounded with mountain Ash trees whose berry-clusters turn bright red in the early fall. Springtime visitors can enjoy rhododendron and azalea blooms.

### ***Recreation***

A short trail from the picnic area leads to the campground and the Pisgah Inn. Across the street from the campground is the trailhead to the Buck Spring Trail, the Shut-In Trail, and the Mt. Pisgah Summit trail.

## ***Pink Beds Picnic area***

*fs.usda.gov/recarea/nfsnc/recarea/?recid=48152*

### ***Facilities***

The area has a flush toilet restroom, 21 picnic tables, grills, an old Civilian Conservation Corps gazebo, and two large shelters.



### ***Natural Features***

Named for the rhododendron, mountain laurel and azalea that bloom in spring and summer, the Pink Beds Picnic area is renowned for its scenic forest setting and small stream nearby. At an elevation of 3,280 feet, it is appealing to visitors for its relatively flat valley which sustains some very large pine trees and rare mountain bogs.

### ***Recreation***

As part of the Pisgah National Forest, the Pink Beds area offers excellent hiking trails. An easy, five-mile loop trail begins on the left side of the parking area. The surrounding area is ideal for other types of recreation including fishing, horseback riding, and swimming.

# Nature ID Guide

## ***Bloom, Berry and Butterfly Schedule***

### ***Late April or Early May***



Bluets (*Houstonia caerulea*) Tiny blue flowers with yellow or white centers

Wild Violets (*Viola* spp.) Small purple flowers



### ***Early to Mid May***

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) small white blossoms on a tree or shrub. A relative of the cherry in the rose family.



Pink Azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*) Light pink to white flowers growing in clusters of 2 to 3. Flowers cover the plant evenly. Leaves are somewhat large for an azalea, but smaller than those of the *Rhododendron*. In the heath/laurel family.



Carolina Rhododendron (*Rhododendron carolinianum*) Large light pink to pure white flowers in clusters of 5 to 9. Flowers grow in clusters, unlike those of the azalea. Leaves are slightly smaller than those of the Catawba or Rosebay Rhododendron. In the heath/laurel family.



### ***Mid May***

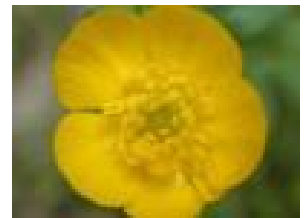
Elderberry (*Sambucus* spp.) Domed cluster of tiny yellow or white flowers on a large sprawling shrub. In the Honeysuckle family.



### ***Mid to Late May***

Buttercups (various) Little yellow 5-petal flowers. This name refers to several different plants in the buttercup or the rose family.

Staggerbush (*Lyonia ferruginea*) Small white flowers with 5 tiny petals. Flowers are bowl/bell-shaped when they first bloom, and open wide after a few days. In the heath/laurel family. Sometimes called "fetterbush" (not related to the *Leucothoe* fetterbush sometimes known as dog hobble)



### ***Late May***

Catawba Rhododendron (*Rhododendron catawbiense*) Large rich magenta blooms that the parkway is famous for. In the heath/laurel family.



## ***Late May to Early June***

Flame Azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*) Brilliant fiery orange blooms. Buds are yellow-orange before they bloom. In the heath/laurel family.



## ***Early June***

Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) small, pink or white five-sided 'bowl-shaped' blooms In the heath/laurel family.

## ***Late June to Early July***

Rosebay Rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*) Large whitish-pink blooms, less plentiful than the catawba rhododendron. The leaves of the rosebay are larger than those of the other rhododendron species. In the heath/laurel family.



## ***Early to Mid July***

Wild Blackberries (*Rubus* spp) Tasty black berry clusters (date listed is for berries, not blooms) In the rose family.

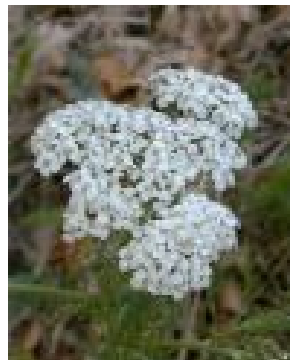


## ***Mid July***

Blueberries (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) Tasty blue berries (date listed is for berries, not blooms) In the heath/laurel family.

## ***Late July***

Tiger Lily (*Lilium lancifolium*) Showy trumpet shaped orange flowers with brown or black speckles on the petals. The stalk of the tiger lily is tall, with green leaves growing directly from the length of the stalk. In the lily family.



Common Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) Crown-like cluster of tiny white flowers. The aromatic leaves of the yarrow are soft and fern-like.. In the Asteraceae family with chrysanthemums and sagebrush.



## ***Late July to Early August***

Mountain Ash (*Sorbus Americana*) Bright red Berries growing in clusters. Not a true Ash tree, the Mountain Ash is more closely related to the cherry tree, in the rose family.



## ***Early August***

Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*) Also known as Gravel Root. Tall stalks with a large domed crown of purple flowers. In the Asteraceae family with chrysanthemums and sagebrush. The name Eupatorium comes from Mithridates Eupator, King of Pontus, who is credited with discovering some of the medicinal properties of this plant.



## ***Early September***

Monarch Butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) The orange and black butterflies fly through the mountain pass at route 276 every year on their annual migration route. In the Danaidae family, or the milkweed butterflies.

### ***A Note on Flowers in the National Park:***

Picking flowers in a National Park is not permitted. The beautiful land along the Parkway, including the plants and animals which depend upon it, are protected by the National Park Service. Anything that you found in a National Park, needs to stay in the National Park, be it an old Cherokee artifact, a semi precious stone, or your favorite flower growing along a trail. Please follow the old adage of "take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints."

### ***A Note on Edible Berries in the National Park:***

Edible berries are the exception to the rule. While everything else you find in the park needs to be left where it was found, feel free to eat any blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, or any other edible wild berries that you may find. However, a word of caution against putting unidentified plants into your mouth: The berries of the Arrowwood *Viburnum*, while blue in color, are not the same as blueberries. For your health, please be certain of what you eat.

## **Weather / Almanac**

### ***Avg Temperatures***

Even though we're located in a southern state, our ~5000' elevation keeps us much cooler than the valley.

#### **In the valley,**

- Asheville April and October temperatures range from 45° -- 65°F;
- Asheville temperatures in July range from 65° -- 80°.

However: **Here on the mountain,** temperatures can be 10° -- 20° cooler than in the valley. Twenty to thirty mph winds are not uncommon. Snow and ice are likely in the early spring and late fall. The hottest days of the summer rarely exceed 75°.

### ***Sunrise/sunset times (and best locations)***

The following are approximate sunrise and sunset times. The exact time will vary by date, location, and obstructions to the view.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Sunrise</b>	<b>Sunset</b>
April	7:00 am	8:00 pm
May	6:25 am	8:30 pm
June	6:15 am	8:45 pm
July	6:25 am	8:45 pm
August	6:50 am	8:20 pm
September	7:15 am	7:30 pm
October	7:40 am	6:50 pm

#### ***Sunrise:***

- The best sunrise is from your hotel room balcony!
  - The rooms face roughly South to South-East. This means that the sun will rise to your left as you face the valley view.
- Mills River Valley Overlook
  - Four miles north on the Parkway at Milepost 404.5.
- Funnel Top Overlook
  - One mile south on the Parkway at Milepost 409.3.



## ***Sunset:***

- Cold Mountain Overlook
  - Three Miles south on the Parkway at Milepost 411.9 Lately the trees are a bit overgrown – make sure to schedule enough time to check out the view first.
- Flat Laurel Parking Area
  - Walk north on the parkway until you see the first overlook parking area across the street. Across the parkway from the overlook, you'll find a rock outcropping with a short path where you can scramble the top. If that's not your style, the grassy field at the overlook is a beautiful spot. (Milepost 408.4)
- Mount Pisgah Trailhead Parking
  - At milepost 407.6. The best view facing west is at the far end of the parking lot near the trailhead.

## ***Both!***

- Frying Pan Fire Tower
  - Feeling ambitious? Drive south and park at milepost 409.7 (don't block the gate). Hike up the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile gravel road to the fire tower. You can climb the steps of the tower for a full 360° view. Bring a flashlight -- if you're staying to watch the sunset, then you'll have to walk back in the dark!

# Civilization

## Nearby Shops

### *Closest Gas Stations*



- Cyndi Ray's at Harley Creek
  - 13.4 Miles
  - 10703 Cruso Rd, Canton, NC 28716
  - (828) 235-8169
- Jordan Hot Spot
  - 16.9 Miles
  - 1118 Brevard Rd, Asheville, NC 28806
  - (828) 665-1491
- Energy Stop Brevard
  - 18.4 Miles
  - 20 Hendersonville Hwy, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768
  - (828) 966-5200
- Pisgah Valley Market
  - 11.2 Miles (steep switchbacks – not for larger vehicles)
  - 1406 Pisgah Hwy, Candler, NC 28715
  - (828) 667-9794

### *Shopping*



- Pisgah Inn Gift Shop and Country Store
  - 0 Miles
  - Convenience items, gifts, and local crafts are right here on the mountain
  - Open daily from 8:00 to 8:00.
- Brevard Walmart
  - 18.5 Miles
  - 177 Forest Gate Dr, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768
  - (828) 885-7900
- Asheville Outlets at Biltmore Square
  - 17.5 Miles
  - 800 Brevard Rd, Asheville, NC 28806
  - (828) 667-2308
- Folk Art Center
  - 26 Miles
  - Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 382
  - 828-358-3192

## ***Airports, Busses, and Trains***



- Asheville Regional Airport (AVL)
  - 21.9 Miles
  - 61 Terminal Dr, Fletcher, NC 28732
  - (828) 684-2226
- Asheville Regional Transit Park & Ride at Asheville Outlets
  - 17.5 Miles
  - Bus W2 stops in front of "Field and Stream"
  - 800 Brevard Rd Ste 901, Asheville, NC 28806
  - (828) 253-5691
- Asheville Regional Transit Downtown Station
  - 24.1 Miles
  - 49 Coxe Ave, Asheville, NC 28801
  - (828) 253-5691
- Greyhound Bus Station
  - 25.3 Miles
  - 2 Tunnel Rd, Asheville, NC 28805
  - (828) 253-8451
- Amtrak Train Station
  - 74.3 Miles
  - 290 Magnolia St, Spartanburg, SC 29303
  - (800) 872-7245

### ***A note on taxis and ridesharing on the Blue Ridge Parkway***

Please be aware that commercial vehicles are not allowed on the Blue Ridge Parkway unless they are delivering to or picking up from a location on the Parkway (such as the Pisgah Inn). Taxis, buses, shuttles, tow-trucks and ride-sharing vehicles are considered commercial vehicles. They should call the Parkway's dispatch center at 828-298-2491 to notify law enforcement before the trip.

- Asheville Taxi
  - 828-333-1976
- AVL Premier Transportation
  - 828-407-0221
-

## ***City Stats***

### ***Asheville***

- Population: 89,098 (2016)
- Median Age: 39.8 years
- Median Household income: \$45,814
- Median Home Value: \$251,300
- Elevation: 2134 feet

### ***Waynesville***

- Population: 9,761 (2014)
- Median Age: 48.8
- Median Household income: \$39,427
- Median Home Value: \$168,348
- Elevation: 3600 feet

### ***Brevard***

- Population: 7,692 (2014)
- Median Age: 45.5
- Median Household income: \$40,221
- Median Home Value: \$208,882
- Elevation: 2230 feet

### ***Cherokee***

- Population: 2,138 (2010)
- Median Age: 46.8
- Median Household income: \$35,219
- Median Home Value: \$128,340
- Elevation: 1990 feet

### ***Gatlinburg***

- Population: 4,158 (2014)
- Median Age: 45.5
- Median Household income: \$39,032
- Median Home Value: \$172,821
- Elevation: 1289 feet

### ***Hendersonville***

- Population: 13,650 (2014)
- Median Age: 47.5
- Median Household income: \$39,528
- Median Home Value: \$181,291
- Elevation: 2146 feet

### ***Maggie Valley***

- Population: 1,247 (2014)
- Median Age: 43.2
- Median Household income: \$42,692
- Median Home Value: \$187,720
- Elevation: 3020 feet

## **NPS and Forest Service Facilities**

### ***Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center***

Milepost 384

"The visitor center near Asheville is a one-stop shop for all things Blue Ridge Parkway. Get a map, talk to a ranger, pick up some merchandise, learn about other area offerings, watch the park film, and explore Parkway-themed exhibits. Hiking includes a short loop with access to the Mountains-to-Sea trail. For anyone looking to start their Parkway trip from Asheville, the visitor center is a must-see."



--From [nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/blue-ridge-parkway-visitor-center.htm](https://nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/blue-ridge-parkway-visitor-center.htm)

### ***Craggy Gardens VC***

Milepost 364

"Step into a different world at Craggy Gardens. Gnarled, twisted trees, fog, and wind make this part of the Parkway like no other. Visitors flock to the area for the overabundance of rhododendron and the 360-degree views."



"Talk to a ranger for information and to grab a map. Open seasonally. Check the opening schedule for specific dates."

From [nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/craggy-gardens.htm](https://nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/craggy-gardens.htm)

### ***Cradle of Forestry***

"Nestled in Pink Beds Valley is the Cradle of Forestry in America. This heritage site is the birthplace of science-based forest management. George and Edith Vanderbilt of the nearby Biltmore Estate are accredited for this living legacy. Some 87,000 acres of the Vanderbilt's 'Pisgah Forest' tract became the nucleus of the Pisgah National Forest, established in 1916."



"This 6500 acre heritage site in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains near Asheville, NC was created by Congress in 1968 to 'preserve, develop, and make available to this and future generations the birthplace of forestry and forestry education in America.'"

"Today this North Carolina destination is jointly managed by the US Forest Service and the Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association. The site is open to visitors everyday from mid-April to early November. As you enter the main gate (4 miles off the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 412) you are rewarded with the opportunity to explore the past, present, and future of environmental sustainability and stewardship. These are brought to visitors through paved interpretive trails, interactive exhibits, film, music, drama, guided tours, nature programs, craft demonstrations, and special events. A sustainably designed Forest Discovery Center with its gift shop and café welcomes visitors to the historical structures and a relaxing walk through the woods."

--From [CradleOfForestry.com](https://CradleOfForestry.com)

### ***Pisgah Ctr. for Wildlife Education (Fish Hatchery)***

"Located in the Pisgah National Forest near Brevard, the Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education offers unique indoor and outdoor exhibits on the state's wildlife and mountain habitats.

"The Center's gift shop, the N.C. Wild Store, retails items that are wildlife-oriented including books, apparel, posters, toys, gifts, art, and educational materials."

--From [BlueRidgeHeritage.com/destinations/pisgah-center-wildlife](http://BlueRidgeHeritage.com/destinations/pisgah-center-wildlife)



## **Museums and Nature Centers**

### ***NC Arboretum***

"For more than 30 years...Cultivating Connections between People, Plants and Places...amid a 434-acre public garden, The North Carolina Arboretum is located within the Bent Creek Experimental Forest just south of Asheville and adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 393. Surrounded and crisscrossed by forested coves and meandering creeks in the botanically diverse Southern Appalachian Mountains, The North Carolina Arboretum is set in one of the most beautiful natural settings in America.



"The Arboretum was established as an affiliate of the University of North Carolina System by the State General Assembly in 1986, nearly a century after Frederick law Olmsted, the Father of American Landscape Architecture, first envisioned a research arboretum as part of his legacy and plan for George Vanderbilt at Biltmore Estate.

"Located on land within the Pisgah National Forest, the Arboretum is operated under a special use permit issued by the National Forests in North Carolina."

--From [ncarboretum.org](http://ncarboretum.org)

## **Chapter 4. Local History**

### **History of the Pisgah region – “Welcome to Warwasseeta”**



Before the European Settlers entered this part of North Carolina, these mountains and valleys were the exclusive domain of Cherokee Indians. The Cherokees had their own names for Mount Pisgah and the Pisgah Ridge. The mountain was Elseetoss and the ridge was Warwasseeta, and around them the land was rich in game and lush with trees and other plant life.



The name Pisgah comes from the Bible, Deuteronomy 3:27. The Lord ordered Moses to the top of this mountain and told him to look in all directions, thus revealing the Promised Land to the tribes of Israel. There are at least two stories as to how this Biblical mountain's name came to be applied to this sylvan eminence in Western North Carolina:

In 1776, General Griffith Rutherford led an expedition against the Cherokees. Accompanying this expedition as a chaplain was one James Hall. The men of the expedition saw the mountain from the French Broad River valley and saw a rich land

around it – a land of milk and honey, a promised land. James Hall, preacher and soldier, is credited with drawing the parallel with the land that Moses saw from Pisgah and applying the Biblical appellation to this mountain.

Newton was a Presbyterian minister who lived and taught in the late 18th and early 19th centuries at what became Newton Academy in Asheville. Reverend Newton is credited with naming Mt. Pisgah. Because of the extensive view in all directions over a rich land, Reverend Newton felt there was similarity between this mountain and the one on which Moses stood.

The first recorded appearance of the name Mt. Pisgah in North Carolina was in 1808. In this year, part of Buncombe County was split off when Haywood County was created, and part of the new county line was along the “ridge dividing the waters of Pigeon and the French Broad River, to the top of Mount Pisgah.”

Thomas Lanier Clingman was state legislator, United States Congressman, United States Senator, Confederate General, and somewhat given to controversy. Clingman's Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is

named for him. He left his mark in the history of North Carolina through his famous argument with Dr. Elisha Mitchell (for whom Mt. Mitchell was named). He has been described as “an intrepid man of most arrogant and aggressive character, greatest self-confidence, unlimited assurance, prodigious conceit, stupendous aspiration, immense claims, more than common ability, no considerable attainment or culture, great boastfulness, and much curiosity.” Mr. Clingman owned 300 acres (1.2 km<sup>2</sup>) on and around the top of Mt. Pisgah. He owned this land from the 1830s until shortly before his death in 1897, when he sold this land to George W. Vanderbilt. George Washington Vanderbilt was the grandson of the “commodore” Cornelius Vanderbilt. Mr. Vanderbilt began buying land South of Asheville in 1888, and by the time he finished, he owned about 125,000 acres (506 km<sup>2</sup>), including Mt. Pisgah. Near Asheville, he built his famous Biltmore House, the grounds of which Frederick Law Olmsted landscaped.

## History of the Inn

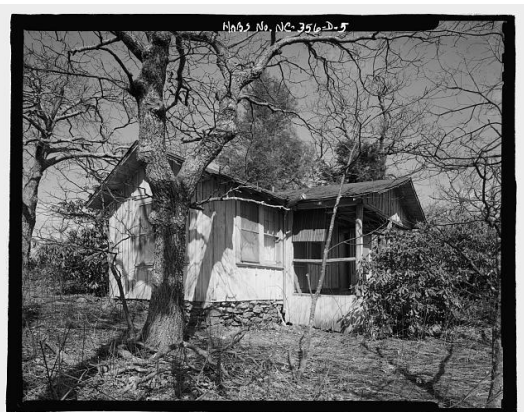
The original Pisgah National Forest Inn, built during 1918 and '19, featured 12 rooms, and four cabins. Each of the cabins was unique and was named after the nature and wildlife that surrounded it. At the highest point on the property was a two-story cabin, with a balcony where you could look out over the tops of the trees to take in the spectacular view. This cabin was named “Treetops.” Nestled among the rhododendron and mountain laurel was another cabin – “Kalmia,” named for the laurel, “Kalmia latifolia,” with it’s beautiful

bowl-shaped white flowers. Another common shrub gives us the name for the “Chinquapin” cabin. Related to the chestnut tree, the chinquapin has long, skinny serrated leaves, and spiny spiky fruit.

Lastly, the “Chewink” cabin comes from a local name for the eastern towhee, a small songbird whose call is a two-part rising “che-wink,” “tow-hee,” or “joree” sound. The classic chewink *song* is better known than its call, and is said to sound like “drink-your-tea,” with the last note as an extended musical trill.

The original cabins are gone, but their names live on in the current buildings. The restaurant and café building is known as “Kalmia.” The next building, which contains the old hotel office, the Pisgah Suite, and other hotel rooms, is known as “Chinquapin.” Continuing

## Building Name origins





northeast, the middle of the three hotel buildings is "Chewink," followed by "Treetops" at the far end.

## Altitude and Geodetic Marker

The Pisgah Inn is located on the boundary between Haywood County to the north, and Brevard County to the south. The county line runs right through the grassy island in the middle of our main parking lot. You can find a geodetic survey marker in the south west corner of the island. The marker is located at N 35° 24.181 W 082° 45.262 (NAD 83) with an elevation of 4928 feet above sea-level.



The following is the original description for "Benchmark AI6971:"

"Station is located about 11.7 mi (18.8 km) north of Brevard, 14.5 mi (23.3 km) east-southeast of Waynesville and 3.4 mi (5.5 km) east-southeast of Cruso near the 408 mile (656.6 km) marker on the Blue Ridge Parkway at the Pisgah Inn at Flat Laurel Gap in southwest end of parking lot island near restaurant.

Mark is about level with the Blue Ridge Parkway and is flush with ground. Located 158.0 ft (48.2 m) south-southeast of the centerline of Parkway, 27.0 ft (8.2 m) north-northeast of the centerline of the western most drive to inn, 13.2 ft (4.0 m) southwest of the edge of asphalt walk, 77.1 ft (23.5 m) southeast of the northwest corner of parking lot, and 84.8 ft (25.8 m) northwest of a 24-inch white oak."

Keep a sharp eye out, and you'll find similar markers on the property and along the parkway.

# Pisgah Inn Timeline



- 1797: Mt. Pisgah is privately owned.
- 1830s: Thomas Clingman purchases the summit of Mt. Pisgah.
- 1888: George Washington Vanderbilt acquires the land near Mt. Pisgah.
- 1896: Buck Spring Lodge built by George W. Vanderbilt.
- 1898: The Biltmore Forest School is established by Carl Alwin Schenk.
- 1911: The passing of the Weeks Act; This legislation permitted the U.S. Forest Service for the first time to purchase forest lands.
- 1914: the Forest Service purchases nearly 80,000 acres, including Mt. Pisgah, from Edith Vanderbilt as a part of what is now the 479,000-acre Pisgah National Forest.
- 1919: George Farrington and Mary Wheeler Weston found the Pisgah National Forest Inn
- 1920s-30s: Frying Pan Gap Campground opens
- 1937: The Pisgah National Forest Inn sold to H. H. Nash and Harold Moon.
- 1941: The Frying Pan Lookout Tower is built
- 1946: Edith Vanderbilt reopens the Buck Spring Lodge
- 1948: The Pisgah National Forest Inn is sold to Leslie G. and Leda D. Kirschner
- 1952: A preliminary development plan is crafted to design a recreational area in Mt. Pisgah.
- 1953: A television transmitter is added to the top of Mt. Pisgah.
- 1958: Edith Vanderbilt dies and the National Park Service acquires the Buck Spring Lodge and property from the Vanderbilt family.
- 1959-61: Another plan for Mt. Pisgah development is written. The land concession from the National Forest Service to the National Park Service begins.
- 1962: A concession is made between the Kirschners and the Blue Ridge Parkway to preserve the contemporary inn building while creating a new one.
- 1963: Parkway officials remove the Buck Spring Lodge
- 1964: J. Aaron Prevost and partners invest to construct the "new" restaurant and inn, with 31 rooms (Kalmia, Chinquapin and Chewink buildings).
- 1964: First full 20 year Concession contract was issued to Pisgah Inn, Inc (Prevost and partners).
- 1965: Roads linked and opened in May. A service station and camp store opened in July. (Currently the Pisgah Country Store)
- 1966: Treetops building was constructed, adding an additional 20 rooms.
- 1978: O'Connell family joins Prevost family as managing partners
- 1984: New 20 year contract won through bidding process. Concessioner starts operating campground
- 1985: Tom O'Connell passes away.

- 1990: The original Pisgah National Forest Inn building is demolished
- 2004: Bruce O'Connell and Phyllis Prevost win a new 10-year contract.
- 2014: Bruce O'Connell and Phyllis Prevost win the current 10-year contract for 2014-2024.
- 2015: Pisgah Inn voted "Best National Park Lodge" by USA Today.
- 2019: Pisgah Inn celebrates the centennial anniversary. Thank you to all our guests over the years. Here's to the next 100.

--From [BlueRidgeParks.web.unc.edu/Mount-Pisgah](http://BlueRidgeParks.web.unc.edu/Mount-Pisgah) and other sources

## **History of the Blue Ridge Parkway**

The idea for the Blue Ridge Parkway was born when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt visited the newly constructed Skyline Drive in Virginia in 1933. Then U.S. Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia suggested to the president the road should be extended to connect with the recently established Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Roosevelt convened the governors of Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee and asked that a planning team be created. On November 24, 1933, Interior Secretary Harold Ickes approved this “park-to-park” highway as a public works project.



With a budget of \$16 million, Ickes hired Stanley Abbott, a New York landscape architect, to oversee the project, and Abbott’s vision of a chain of parks and recreational areas with preserved viewsheds began to take shape. A study was conducted to determine the best route for the Parkway with the recommendation being a leg of the highway from the Blowing Rock, NC, area extending over the Unaka Mountains into Tennessee, connecting with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The decision was met with great controversy, particularly by the city of Asheville, NC, which found itself in dire economic straits at the height of the Great Depression. The Asheville Chamber of Commerce and other city leaders joined forces to lobby against the proposed route in favor of a road that passed through their city. An intense campaign began in Washington with the states of Tennessee and North Carolina each vying for a different path for the Parkway.

The Asheville contingency employed the influential U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, Josephus Daniels, to lobby on their behalf. Roosevelt had served under Daniels as Secretary of the Navy when Daniels was Defense Secretary under Woodrow Wilson, and the two men were friends. Daniels managed to sway the administration to favor the Asheville route and construction began September 11, 1935, near Cumberland Knob, North Carolina.

Most of the construction was done by private contractors, but a variety of New Deal public works programs were also employed, including the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Emergency Relief Administration (ERA), and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). When World War II began, approximately 170 miles were open to travel and another 160 miles were under construction. By the early 1950s, only half of the Blue Ridge Parkway was completed.

In the mid-1950s, the National Park Service launched a ten-year development program, called Mission 66, to mark the 50th anniversary of the agency's creation. The plan included an accelerated effort to complete construction of the Parkway by 1966. This initiative was very successful, finishing all of the Parkway’s construction with the exception of 7.7 miles at Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina. Grandfather owner, Hugh Morton, objected to the proposed construction at Grandfather, citing the fragility of the mountain’s ecology.

After years of negotiating, the revolutionary Linn Cove Viaduct – which had been constructed from the top down to protect the mountain’s terrain – opened in 1987, completing the Blue Ridge Parkway’s continuous 469-mile route.

--from [nps.gov/blri/learn/historyculture](https://www.nps.gov/blri/learn/historyculture)

## **Chapter 5. Employment Opportunities**

Pisgah Inn offers seasonal employment (April through October) for a variety of hotel, restaurant, utility and retail jobs. To apply, simply fill out and submit a completed application. Visit [pisgahinn.com/employment-opportunities](http://pisgahinn.com/employment-opportunities)



Limited employee housing is available to employees age 21 and over.

