

NEWS RELEASE

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Top Reasons to Vacation in Western NC this Winter

State-of-the-Art Skiing, Cozy Accommodations and Exciting Festivities

Make Waynesville and Surrounding Areas an Ideal Holiday Destination

Waynesville, NC – There's no doubt that this mountain destination is a top choice for many travelers this season. Home to some of the most invigorating winter activities, Western NC is the perfect spot for this year's winter vacation. The leaves have already begun to transition into a beautiful cornucopia of fall colors, and the towns around Haywood are joining in the unique holiday festivities.

- **Skiing, Snowboarding and Tubing:** Play in the snow at the oldest ski resort in North Carolina, Cataloochee Ski Area. It was founded in 1961, and remains one of the most popular in the Southeast. It is scheduled to open in November, and extends the ski season each year with its state-of-the-art snow making capabilities. With 17 slopes and trails, Cataloochee Ski Area offers a great place to ski, snowboard, or tube. Beginners can get a feel for things on a couple of smooth, gentle slopes (classes and private lessons are also available), while the more adventurous can head to the ramps, rails and boxes at the Cat Cage Terrain Park. For those with a need for speed, there's plenty of steepness on this mountain. Nestled in the Great Smoky Mountains, the views are spectacular, and the slopes are nothing short of amazing. Click here to find out more, <http://cataloochee.com/index-home.php>
- **Food and Holiday Activities:** Haywood County is home to some of the most delicious locally-grown food, and a number of wonderful restaurants. You can still have that perfect holiday dinner – even away from home. Every year they have events that showcase a variety of arts and crafts from local artists, and excellent food. The Annual Appalachian Christmas Celebration will be Friday, December 7th – Sunday, December 9th, which features the Junaluska Singers performing classic carols for the holidays, as well as a pre-show by our award-winning, regional children's choir. Two and three night packages available. Packages start at just \$155.00 per person and include: lodging, meals and concert tickets. With Christmas drawing near, it the perfect time to pick your

tree cutting, which is unique to the western NC culture. At the Boyd Mountain Christmas Tree Farm in Waynesville, you can buy wreaths and choose your own Fraser Fir between 4 - 20 feet tall. Whether it's a cup of coffee to start your day, a bite for lunch between adventures, or a gourmet dinner at a mountaintop resort-- there are plenty of great places to eat. Click here to browse our full listing of restaurants, <http://www.visitncsmokies.com/eat>

- **Shopping:** With one of the busiest shopping season's right around the corner, there's no need to spend another year getting overwhelmed by the hustle-and-bustle of shopping malls and chain stores. Stroll the brick sidewalks of quaint downtown Waynesville (adorned with holiday decorations), where you'll discover everything from art galleries, bookstores and home furnishings to clothing, antiques and toys. Several cafés provide a place to set down the bags and enjoy a cup of coffee. Only a few minutes away in the equally enticing Maggie Valley, unique gifts—from locally thrown pottery to homemade jams and jellies—abound in this picturesque setting. If you're looking for more unique items, there are a few different arts and crafts shows going on around the area. Click here to find out more, <http://www.visitncsmokies.com/what-to-do>
- **Cozy Accommodations:** With over 200 accommodations to choose from, there's sure to be a place to stay that fits your needs. You can choose from an economical motel, a luxurious cabin, a quaint downtown inn, a romantic bed and breakfast, or a lakeside cottage, to name a few. Haywood County, N.C., welcomes those looking for a great winter getaway without busting the budget. Click here to find out more, <http://www.visitncsmokies.com/stay>

Along with its picturesque natural beauty, Haywood County offers year-round cultural, music, family-fun activities and special events throughout the year. For more information, click <http://www.visitncsmokies.com/do>.

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