

NEWS RELEASE

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Plan the Perfect Summer Getaway in the Smoky Mountains

Breathtaking Hikes, Invigorating Water Activities, and Unique Attractions

Make Haywood County an Ideal Spot for Family Fun

Haywood County, NC – Taking a trip to Western North Carolina is the perfect way to relax and rejuvenate during the summer months. There are a number of wonderful ways to explore and indulge in the beauty of the area and its fascinating culture.

Haywood County is located at the foot of the Great Smoky Mountains National Forest, and is home to the towns of Maggie Valley, Canton, Waynesville, Lake Junaluska, and Clyde.

“Spending some time in the mountains during the summer is a great way to unwind and have some quality time with your family,” explains Lynn Collins, Director of the [Haywood County Tourism Development Authority](#) (HCTDA). “There are a lot of different outdoor activities to choose from, as well as many wonderful events going on throughout the year that are unique to the area.”

[Haywood County](#) offers a wide range of exciting [activities](#) throughout the summer months like mountain biking, golfing, zip lining, fishing, kayaking, horseback riding, and tours on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The area is also known for its unique [events](#) going on during the year.

Below is a list of some activities offered during the summer. You may also use our [sample itinerary](#) to help you plan your trip.

Trout Fishing: Fishing is an affordable option and Waynesville and Maggie Valley are two of only eight Western North Carolina cities that are designated as a “Mountain Heritage Tour Water City.” A 3-day license can be purchased for only \$5 for fishing in designated “[Mountain Heritage Trout Waters](#).”

Golfing: Haywood County is home to [five outstanding golf courses](#), each offering challenges to golfers of all skill levels. The setting for a round of golf is nothing short of spectacular no matter what course you decide to play on.

Trail Hikes/Walks: Take a leisurely walk around Lake Junaluska, test your stamina with a strenuous climb to the top of Cold Mountain, or try something a little more moderate but equally rewarding. The wide range of [trails](#) in Haywood County and Western North Carolina render these mountains a hiker's paradise.

Mountain Biking: [Mountain biking](#) in Haywood County can be an ultimate thrill –seeking adventure for anyone looking for a unique biking experience. You can bike through the picturesque mountain woods or to the top of the Balsam Gap Overlook, which is the highest point on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Rafting and Tubing: There's no better way to spend a warm day in the Smokies. Whether it's rafting, kayaking or lounging on the inner tube, the thrill, excitement and fun are the same. With several [outfitters](#) providing all you'll need for a fierce adventure or for a more family-friendly journey. Traveling by river is always a great way to soak up the scenery of the mountains.

Horseback Riding: Round up the family and saddle up. [Horseback riding](#) is an ideal method of traversing the mountains and is one of the most popular activities in Haywood County. Hourly rides and all-day trips are offered by a host of stables. This is a great way to spend some quality time with family and friends, while enjoying some spectacular scenery.

Blue Ridge Parkway Tours: The twisting mountain roads of Haywood County are some of the most popular motorcycling destinations in the world. It's called "Americas Favorite Drive" for a reason. The breathtaking scenery is just as spectacular for those in cars and trucks as well. There are 12 tours to choose from, each one differing in length and scenery. Be sure to check our [Motor Touring Brochure](#) for more information.

Wheels Through Time Museum: ["Wheels Through Time: The Museum That Runs"](#) is home to the world's premier collection of rare American Vintage Motorcycles. Located 5 miles from the Blue Ridge Parkway in beautiful Maggie Valley, this All-American motorcycle museum which houses over 300 of America's rarest and most historic classic motorcycles.

Ghost Town in the Sky Theme Park: Maggie Valley boasts one of America's most loved and cherished theme parks, [Ghost Town in The Sky](#), entertaining multiple generations of families. Ghost Town is newly renovated and reopened in 2012. The park is opening in phases. "Phase One, Level Fun," opened last July, and features a chairlift to the top of Buck Mountain, and a zip line through the forest that children as young as 4-years-old can experience.

Waynesville Farmers Market: [Haywood's Historic Waynesville Farmers Market](#) starts Saturday, April 20th and will run through the end of October. It will take place every Wednesday and Saturday from 8:00 am – Noon at 250 Pigeon Street in Waynesville, NC. This market has over 60 vendors that sell everything from fresh produce to beautifully handcrafted furniture.

The [HCTDA](#) represents more than [900 accommodations](#) in the community, from bed and breakfasts, cabins, campgrounds, cottages, country clubs, inns, hotels, lodges, motels, resorts, vacation rentals, and villas, and provides annual funding to Haywood County for promotions, events and festivals.

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