



WHERE AUTHENTICITY BEGINS

It's no secret. The fresh escape of the North Carolina Smoky Mountains has been attracting visitors from near and far for centuries, increasing popularity as a premier vacation destination over the years. The area's southern hospitality meshed with the laid-back nature of mountain locals offer a much-needed respite from the hustle and bustle of the daily routine. The crisp mountain air awakens the senses, and everywhere you turn the natural beauty inspires the soul.

Haywood County—situated in the heart of Western North Carolina, surrounded by the ridges of the ancient Blue Ridge and Great Smoky mountains—is comprised of 546 scenic square miles of spectacular country, with beautiful Appalachian mountains and valleys dotting the landscape. Thirteen of its mountain peaks soar to elevations of at least 6,000 feet, making it one of the highest counties—with a mean elevation of 3,600 feet—east of the Rockies.

Notable mountain peaks include the 6,030-foot Cold Mountain, which served as the basis and inspiration for Charles Frazier's award-winning, best-selling novel and the ensuing 2003 major motion picture. Mt. Guyot, at 6,621 feet, and Richland Balsam, at 6,410 feet, are the tallest peaks within Haywood County.

First established in 1808, Haywood County was named for John Haywood, the North Carolina treasurer from 1787 to 1827. The county sits at the western edge of the state, with a 46-mile stretch of the Blue Ridge Parkway (appropriately called "America's Favorite Drive") running along its southwestern border. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Pisgah National Forest are located in the northern section of the county.

Unlike the other 99 counties in North Carolina, all of the water in Haywood County originates in Haywood County, including the Pigeon River. With four distinctive seasons, Haywood County has much to offer visitors throughout the entire year. The annual average temperature is 54 degrees; the temperature averages 38 degrees in January and 71 degrees in June. Haywood County averages 47.5 inches of rainfall and 12.2 inches of snowfall each year.

Five towns—Maggie Valley, Waynesville, Canton, Clyde and Lake Junaluska—are located within the county, which has a population of about 57,000 people.

Maggie Valley

Established in 1904 when John Setzer founded the area's first post office and named the surrounding area after his 14-year-old daughter, Maggie. Today, Maggie Valley is a hotbed of tourism activity with a variety of lodging and various family-friendly attractions.

◆ **Ghost Town in the Sky**, a wild-west theme park atop Buck Mountain offers rides, staged gunfights, live entertainment, crafts, and food.

◆ **Cataloochee Ski Area**, the Southeast's longest operating ski area offers 17 slopes and trails which offer mountains of fun for everyone, from skiers to snowboarders and novices to veterans.

◆ Saddle up at **Cataloochee Ranch** and enjoy a horseback ride through wildflowers, mile-high vistas, lush forests, or the cool shade of rhododendron tunnels as you ride through the ranch and Great Smoky Mountains.

◆ **The Maggie Valley Stompin' Ground and Maggie Valley Opry House** showcase Appalachian music traditions, including bluegrass, mountain music, clogging, and square dancing.

◆ **Cataloochee Valley**, a section of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park where elk have been successfully re-introduced and can be viewed in open meadows. Once a thriving mountain community, the valley is rich in history. A preserved school, churches, barn, and several homes let visitors understand what life was like for early settlers of the area.

◆ **Endless Outdoor Adventures!** Whether it's a hiking **Purchase Knob** or exploring **Soco Falls**, Maggie Valley is the perfect launching point for a vast array of outdoor activities. Or hop on the **Blue Ridge Parkway** to open to the door to miles and miles of scenic beauty and opportunity.



Waynesville

The county seat and the oldest town in Haywood County, Waynesville was founded in 1810 by Colonel Robert Love, a Revolutionary War soldier. Waynesville is the largest town in Western North Carolina west of Asheville. A remarkable downtown revival during the course of the last decade has made it a premier town to visit and live in.

◆ **Downtown Waynesville** is full of historic buildings and quaint charm. Unique shops, art galleries, cafés and restaurants are all within walking distance. Many Waynesville restaurants firmly support the **Farm-to-Chef** dining concept and provide many items with locally grown and produced ingredients.

◆ **Folkmoot USA—North Carolina's official International Folk Festival**. Each year Waynesville is infused with international flavor when it hosts Folkmoot USA. Every July, the two-week long celebration of various cultures from around the world features performances, parades and workshops by more than 350 performers from countries from across the globe.

◆ Other **Events and Festivals** include the Church Street Arts & Crafts Show, the Apple Harvest Festival, Appalachian Lifestyle, the Whole Bloomin! Thing Festival, Mountain Street Dances, and A Night Before Christmas.

◆ Waynesville is also home to the **Haywood Arts Regional Theater**, where local, talented actors stage productions of classic and lesser-known works. The **Museum of North Carolina Handicrafts** is housed next door at the historic **Shelton House**.

◆ **The Frog Level District** was recently designated as a historic district and is located only a few blocks from Main Street. The recently revitalized area now features chic furniture studios, art galleries, and a unique coffee shop.

◆ You can find one of Haywood County's three **craft microbreweries**, **Frog Level Brewing** in this area. Two other craft breweries, **BearWaters Brewery** and **Tipping Point Brewery** can be found just a short distance away.

Canton

A town of about 4,200 people, Canton is set along the banks of the Pigeon River in the eastern section of the county.

Incorporated in 1837, the town was named for Canton, Ohio, the source of the steel used to build the town's bridge over the Pigeon River. Canton is home to a historic 100-year-old paper mill which was the inspiration for the 2013 IBMA Album of the Year, Papertown by Haywood County's native bluegrass band **Balsam Range**.

◆ **Festivals & Events** - The Annual Labor Day Celebration (which has run for over 100 years), Mountain Mater Festival, Pickin' in the Park, the holiday festival of lights, and a nighttime Christmas parade offer both visitors and locals alike with the opportunity to experience Canton's homegrown hospitality.

◆ The historic **Colonial Theatre** was built in 1932 & renovated in 1992 & again in 2006. It hosts concerts, movies, and special events throughout the year.

◆ Two of the world's largest sapphires have been unearthed at Canton's **Old Pressley Sapphire Mine**, now open to visitors.

◆ **Locust Fields Cemetery** is one of the oldest and most historic cemeteries in Haywood County. It's involvement during the Civil War has earned it a marker on the **North Carolina Civil Wars Trail**.

◆ **Sids on Main** is not only one of Canton's finest restaurants, but a piece of history. Located in **The Imperial**, a historic victorian-style building built in the late 1800's, Sids offers fine family dining and live music in one Canton's most historic landmarks.

◆ The **Pigeon River** flows directly through downtown Canton and offers numerous recreational opportunities such a fishing, kayaking, canoeing and tubing.



◆ **The Shook Museum** at the Shook-Smathers House, called the "oldest frame house west of the Blue Ridge" by Preservation North Carolina, is located here and offers tours of this historic structure, circa 1795. Bishop Francis Asbury, a traveling preacher who helped establish Methodism in the United States, spent time at the Shook House, which is considered one of the oldest homes still standing in Haywood.



◆ **The Haywood County Quilt Trail** travels directly through Clyde with multiple quilt blocks displayed on several structures in town. The HCQT connects the community by promoting quilting, storytelling and rural heritage using the colorful blocks to guide the journey. Blocks can be found in Waynesville, Maggie Valley, Canton, and Clyde.



◆ The Clyde Fire Department features a very special **9/11 Memorial** to honor the Fire Department of New York and in remembrance of all victims of the attack on September 11, 2001. The centerpiece of the Memorial consists of two steel beams recovered from the debris of the World Trade Center.

◆ **Ferguson's Trout Farm** is a fully stocked catch and release pond open to the public. Fishing gear is provided onsite and no license is a required. For just a minimal fee, both beginners and experts can test their trout fishing skills all day long.

Clyde

Clyde, a small town of 1,400 people just west of Canton, is home to Haywood Community College which maintains an 83-acre arboretum open free to the public and Midwest Medical Center— one of the top employers in the county.

Lake Junaluska

A majestic setting in the center of the county, Lake Junaluska is a popular destination for visitors and locals alike. The 200 acre lake, and the surrounding 1,200 acres of rolling hills and valleys, provides many activities from a stroll through the popular "Rose Walk" to a paddle boat trip on the lake.



◆Lake Junaluska is the headquarters of the **World Methodist Council**, a consultative body linking almost all churches in the Methodist tradition.

◆It also serves as a camp and conference center for the **Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church** in the United States and hosts religious conferences, retreats and events.

◆Lake Junaluska's Stuart Auditorium hosts the **Smoky Mountain Folk Festival**, a two-day event that has featured the finest traditional Southern Appalachian music and dance for more than 35 years.

◆Lake Junaluska is home to

the **Junaluska Singers**—a 16-member choral group that performs sacred music, folk tunes, gospel favorites, patriotic selections, and Broadway show-tunes. Along with tours of the Southeast, the Junaluska Singers perform several full-length concerts at Lake Junaluska each year.

Other

Communities

◆**Fines Creek**: Located in the northern end of the county, this rural community borders the **Pisgah National Forest** and the **Harmon Den Wilderness Area**. The Appalachian Trail, which crosses **Max Patch** (a popular bald that offers some amazing vistas), is only minutes away.



◆**Cruso**: Fifteen minutes south of Canton, this community—situated in the southern section of the county between the **Pisgah National Forest** and **Shining Rock Wilderness Area**—is full of natural splendor, from the Pigeon River to **Cold Mountain**. An entrance to the **Blue Ridge Parkway** is nearby, and a quintessential mountain golf course, Springdale Country Club, is a great way to enjoy the peaks and valleys of Cruso.



◆**Jonathan Valley**: A mix of residential, commercial and agricultural, this beautiful stretch of valley (exit 20 off Interstate 40) runs between Hemphill Bald and Utah Mountain, connecting the town of Maggie Valley and Cataloochee Valley.

◆**Lake Logan** : A privately owned, 300-acre sanctuary, **Lake Logan Episcopal Center** hosts spiritual retreats, business conference,s seminars, and family reunions. Also home to the **Lake Logan Triathlon**. Just upstream on the West Fork of the Pigeon River is the popular **Sunburst Trout Farm**.