

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Photos available upon request

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### Visitors Are “Cruising” to Haywood County for Vacation

**Waynesville, NC** - Because of its amazing scenery surrounding it, its centralized location to various towns and landmarks, as well as having three access points to the world-famous Blue Ridge Parkway, Haywood County is becoming one of Great Smoky Mountain’s top spots for vacationing.

In addition to the activities offered in Haywood County, such as fishing, rafting, horseback riding, shopping Downtown Waynesville, or attending one of their many special events and festivals throughout the year, there are lots of reasons why Western North Carolina vacationers are staying in Haywood County, home to Maggie Valley, Waynesville, Lake Junaluska, Canton and Clyde.

Located just 34 miles west of Asheville and Chimney Rock and less than 20 miles to Cherokee, there are lots of daytrip opportunities that include scenic views, rich history, beautiful waterfalls and diversified cultural activities. Other activities include visiting the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad, Grandfather Mountain, Asheville’s Biltmore House and world-class river rafting down the Nantahala River, all within a short driving distance to Haywood County.

With four entrance/exit points throughout the county, access to a majestically scenic drive and twisting mountain roads is always just minutes away, no matter where you’re staying.

#### ***Motorcycle Rides Map Now Available***

Because of the popularity of motorcycles riders traveling to Western North Carolina, as well as vehicle cruisers, a ride guide map has been developed for the ride enthusiasts. The rides range from 33 to 200 plus miles, from mild to difficult, and offer a variety of trips that begin and end in Haywood County. All of the rides include spectacular mountain views.

For a copy of the ride guide map, call 800-334-9036, or go online to [www.visitncsmokies.com](http://www.visitncsmokies.com) for a downloadable version.

Haywood County, which is the first county that tourists come through when traveling east on popular Interstate 40, is situated in a beautiful, mountain setting and home to more than 200 accommodations, from quaint bed and breakfasts in the heart of downtown to cozy cottages and cabins secluded from the hustle and bustle, from recognizable brand hotels to budget-friendly motels, from golf resorts to historic inns.

With 554 scenic square miles of spectacular country, more than a dozen of its mountain peaks soar to elevations of at least 6,000 feet (more than any east of the Mississippi River), the county is one of the highest, with a mean elevation of 3,600 feet, east of the Rockies. The county sits at the western edge of the state, with the Blue Ridge Parkway running along its southwestern border. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Pisgah National Forest are located in the northern section of the county.

A popular and unique tourist destination for ride enthusiasts visiting Haywood County is Maggie Valley's Wheels Through Time Motorcycle Museum. This collection of several hundred American motorcycles is not only comprehensive in its display of more than 28 makes from American motorcycle history, but it offers the visitor a cultural / educational experience that no other transportation museum in the United States matches. For more information, visit [www.wheelsthroughtime.com](http://www.wheelsthroughtime.com).

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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