

NEWS RELEASE

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Plan Your Authentic Autumn Adventure in Haywood County, NC

Looking for more than just a great scenic view this Fall? Look no further than the Great Smoky Mountains of Haywood County, NC.

With the arrival of Labor Day signaling summer is quickly fading to fall, it's time to start planning your autumn escape to Haywood County, NC. If crisp, cool temperatures and a scenic "leaf-peeping" spot are what you crave, then there is no better place to be than the towns of Waynesville, Maggie Valley, Canton, Clyde and Lake Junaluska. But the fun doesn't stop there. If you're looking to enhance your trip with a unique experience you can't find anywhere else, you're on the right track with a visit to Haywood County. The area boasts an abundance of fall time adventure that is sure to satisfy the entire family. Read on to learn more about the best fall activities in the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina.

Have You Ever Witnessed the Bugling of the Elk?

If not, we suggest making a trip to Haywood County to visit **Cataloochee Valley**, the birthplace of the reintroduced elk population in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. During fall breeding season, also known as "rut", male bull elks perform their legendary "bugle" calls to attract female cows and other bulls. At this time, bull elks can be seen sparring with one another in an overall attempt to impress female elk. This annual ritual typically begins in early to mid September and can last into the early weeks of October. The elk of Cataloochee Valley are most visible at dawn and dusk, so plan accordingly. Pack a picnic breakfast or dinner and explore the historic valley while you wait. Travel back in time with visits to turn-of-the-century homes, school-house and church that tell the story of one of the original pioneer settlements in Haywood County. To get the most out of your visit, plan a guided eco-tour of the area through **Cataloochee Valley Tours** - <http://www.cataloocheevalleytours.com/>.

Autumn is for Agri-Adventurers!

The height of harvest season is always an exciting time in Haywood County. Local farmers markets and produce stands are chocked full of fresh seasonal bounty to enjoy from area growers and producers. As we move from September into October, you will experience a transition from summer produce to everyone's favorite fall-time staples, including pumpkins

and apples. Speaking of apples, no trip to Haywood County in the fall is complete without a visit to **Barber's Orchard** in Waynesville. Take home a bag of your favorite apples, a jug of spiced cider and don't forget a dozen apple cinnamon doughnuts. After you get your fill of apples, go visit an authentic corn maze and get lost in nostalgic fun! **Cold Mountain Corn Maze** in Canton is one the few corn mazes in the region and offers multiple activities for all ages. After you conquer the maze, enjoy other on-site family fun like the pumpkin patch and old-fashioned hayrides. For more information on these autumn agri-adventures and others, visit www.buyhaywood.com to view **Buy Haywood's "Find Your Adventure" Agritourism Guide**.

You're in Luck, Leaf Lookers!

Early reports of fall color projections in Western North Carolina are in the favor of all the leave-peeping enthusiasts. A wet spring combined anticipated above-average temperatures this fall mean we could be looking at an extended leaf season. This means more time to enjoy Haywood County! So where are the best viewing spots? The 46 miles of the **Blue Ridge Parkway** running through Haywood County is a good place to start. Within those 46 miles, you will find 74 pristine vistas and overlooks. Popular leaf-viewing spots in this area include **Graveyard Fields, Devil's Courthouse, Water Rock Knob, and Richland Balsam**, but almost any overlook will provide you with spectacular views. If you're traveling before the colors peak on the parkway, we suggest a scenic drive at a lower elevation. **The Haywood County Quilt Trail Guide** offers a scenic heritage drive through the county's towns and rural communities. With 44 unique quilt blocks to explore, you will take in beautiful sights and learn about the history of Haywood County all at the same time. For motor-touring enthusiasts who prefer the challenge of a twisting mountain road, the **NC Smokies Motor Touring Guide** will lead the way with numerous rides throughout the county and region. Both guides can be found at www.visitncsmokies.com or can be requested by calling **1-800-334-9036**.

Upcoming Fall Events

September

September 13 – Shining Rock Riverfest – Canton
September 5 – 6 – Regional Shelby/Mustang & Ford Event – Maggie Valley
September 12 – 14 – Thunder in the Smokies Fall Rally – Maggie Valley
September 19 – 21 – VW's in the Valley – Maggie Valley
September 26 – October 12 – "Urintetown" at HART Theater – Waynesville
September 26 – 28 – Maggie Valley Swap Meet & Car Show – Maggie Valley
September 27 – 28 – Southeastern Gas & Petroleum Expo – Maggie Valley
September 30 – Balsam Range in Concert – Canton

October

October 3 – 4 – October Fest – Maggie Valley
October 11 – 29 Annual Church St. Arts & Craft Show – Waynesville
October 11 – 12 – October Leaves Craft Show – Maggie Valley
October 18 – Apple Harvest Festival – Waynesville
October 18 – 19 – Maggie Valley Annual Fall Arts & Craft Show – Maggie Valley
October 24 – November 2 – "Macbeth" at HART Theater – Waynesville
October 31 – Treats on the Street – Waynesville

Now all you need is a place to stay! You will find a little something for everyone, including a wide range of accommodations from moderate convenience to luxurious refinement. Take your pick - from hotels and motels in the middle of the action to cozy inns and quiet B&Bs to luxury vacation rentals and cabins with panoramic views. To learn more about lodging options and other local adventures visit www.visitncsmokies.com. See you this fall in Haywood County!

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Along with it's picturesque beauty, Haywood County offers year round activities and events centered around our five homegrown initiatives: Food, Heritage, Music, Art and the Outdoors. No matter what experience you choose, we guarantee it will always be Fresh From the North Carolina Smokies! For more information visit www.visitncsmokies.com or contact the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority at 800-334-9036.