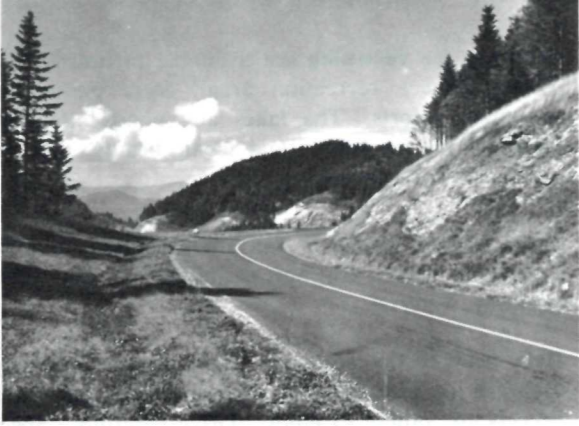


At the southern end of Blue Ridge Parkway lies Great Smoky Mountains National Park, renowned for its splendid forests and rich variety of plant-life. You will also enjoy visiting the Cherokee Indians on their reservation. They have preserved many of the ceremonies, sports, and crafts of their ancestors.

In these brief descriptions of special features, mileposts are used as reference marks beginning with Mile 0 on the north end, where the parkway joins Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park.

Mile Special Places to Stop

- 451.2 Waterrock Knob. Loop trail to Knob and dramatic 360° view of the Southern Highlands. Superb panorama of Great Smoky Mountains.
- 458.2 Heintoga Ridge spur road to Balsam Mountain; campground and picnic area 7.3 miles. Mile High overlook, 1.3 miles.
- 461.9 Exhibit tells of Big Witch, Cherokee eagle killer.
- 469 Terminus of Blue Ridge Parkway.



PARKWAY ON RICHLAND BALSAM, MILE 431.4

The parkway skirts pyramidal Mount Pisgah (el. 5,721) and soars a mile high across the Balsams and Pilot Balsams. Range upon range, the mountains stretch to the horizon.

Mile Special Places to Stop

- 382.6 Five miles west in the city of Asheville, a tourist and handicraft center.
- 408.6 Pisgah Inn and dining room. Trails. Mount Pisgah was part of the 100,000-acre country estate bought in the late 1800's by George W. Vanderbilt. The first forestry school in America was established on the estate. A large part of the woodland, the first large tract of managed forest in this country, became the nucleus of Pisgah National Forest.
- 417 Looking Glass Rock, a large granite mountain.
- 422.4 Devils Courthouse. Self-guiding trail from parking area to the "courthouse," a rock summit affording a 360° view across the mountains of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee.



TWIN TUNNELS, MILE 344.5

The mountains reach their greatest height at Mount Mitchell in the Black Mountains. The once magnificent dark green forest of Fraser fir is dying, victim of the woolly aphid. The trees give the Blacks their name.

Mile Special Places to Stop

- 331 Museum of North Carolina Minerals.
- 339 Crabtree Meadows. Campgrounds, Crabtree Falls, gas, restaurant (Mile 339.5). Picnic area (Mile 340.3).
- 342.2 The Black Mountains dominate the horizon. Mount Mitchell (el. 6,684) is highest in the East.
- 355.4 N.C. 128 to Mount Mitchell State Park. Campgrounds, trails, picnic area, lookout tower.
- 363.4 Craggy Gardens. Outstanding purple rhododendron mid-June. Trail to Craggy Pinnacle (Mile 364.1). Visitor center, self-guiding trail (Mile 364.6). Road to picnic area, trails (Mile 367.6).



THE FOREST, LINVILLE FALLS, MILE 316.3

The parkway skirts the mountain resort area of North Carolina and skips in and out of Pisgah National Forest from Grandfather Mountain (el. 5,939) to Great Smoky Mountains.

Mile Special Places to Stop

- 272 Cascades. Trail to waterfall. Comfort station.
- 285.1 Daniel Boone's Wilderness Road crosses here.
- 292.7 Moses H. Cone Memorial Park. 25 miles of horse and carriage trails; two lakes. Parkway Craft Center (Mile 294).
- 295.1 Julian Price Memorial Park, 2-mile Green Knob loop trail from Sims Pond. Lake and campgrounds (Mile 297.1). Picnic area (Mile 296.6).
- 305.2 Beacon Heights. Woodland walk to view.
- 308.3 Flat Rock. Trail to superb view of Grandfather Mountain and Linville Valley.
- 316.3 Linville Falls, in a dramatic and rugged setting, was donated by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Campgrounds. Trail to overlooks of falls and gorge. Picnic area (Mile 316.5).



RHODODENDRON AT ALLIGATOR BACK, MILE 242.6

Entering North Carolina, you will find the mountain country folk history of the late 1700's, when the Blue Ridge marked the edge of the western frontier. Log cabins, farm buildings, a church, and a gristmill are some of the structures preserved as evidences of the pioneer past.

Mile Special Places to Stop

- 217.5 Cumberland Knob. Picnic area, trails.
- 218.6 Fox Hunters Paradise. 10-minute trail to Paradise, where old-time hunters listened to the baying of their hounds in the valley below.
- 238.5 Doughton Park. Weaving demonstrated on old loom at Brinegar Cabin. Campground, picnic area, hiking trails, fishing. Restaurant, gas, Bluff's Lodge. Bluffs Ridge road and trail to shelter on Bluff Mountain, Wildcat Rocks (Mile 241.1).
- 257 Cherry Hill. Restaurant, gas.
- 258.6 Northwest Trading Post, a country store.
- 260.6 Jumpin-Off Rocks. Short woodland trail to overlook on sheer rock cliffs above a forested valley.
- 264.4 The Lump. Sweeping view of forested foothills.



MABRY MILL, MILE 176.1

Blue Ridge Parkway passes through a region rich in the folk history of the late 1700's, when the Blue Ridge marked the edge of the western frontier. Log cabins, farm buildings, a church, and a gristmill are some of the structures preserved as evidences of the pioneer past.

Mile Special Places to Stop

- 176.1 Mabry Mill. Visitor center; self-guiding trail features old-time mountain industry; water-powered mill and blacksmith shop in operation; restaurant.
- 188.8 Groundhog Mountain. Picnic grounds. Examples of rail fences—snake, post and rail, and buck.
- 189.8 Puckett Cabin. Home of Mrs. Orlean Hawks Puckett from 1865 until her death in 1939 at the age of 102 years. A busy midwife, she is credited with bringing more than a thousand babies into the world. None of her own 24 children lived past infancy.



PARKWAY NEAR ROCKY KNOB, MILE 167

For 150 miles south of Roanoke, Va., the Blue Ridge is a high rolling plateau which breaks sharply on the east. Mountain farms and pastures vie for scenic interest with views from the escarpment. Dead chestnut trees, still standing like ghosts, give mute testimony to the blight that struck a once magnificent and valuable forest.

Mile Special Places to Stop

- 129.6 Roanoke Valley. The city you see is Roanoke, largest along the parkway with a population of nearly 100,000.
- 154.5 Smart View. Picnic area, trails. The one-room Trail Cabin built in the 1890's faces a "right smart view." Fine dogwood bloom early May.
- 165 Shading from yellow to deep red, flame azalea blooms mid-May throughout the plateau section.
- 167 Rocky Knob. Campgrounds (Mile 167). Nature trail from The Saddle (Mile 168). Picnic area, trails, gas (Mile 169). Housekeeping cabins (Mile 174).



PEAKS OF OTTER LODGE, MILE 85.6

After crossing the James River, the parkway ascends 3,286 feet in 13 miles to its highest elevation in Virginia, 3,950 feet, on Apple Orchard Mountain. To the west are the Alleghenies, and between them and the Blue Ridge lies the Great Valley, route of the pioneer. Eastward are the Piedmont foothills.

Mile Special Places to Stop

- 71 Petit Gap. Road to Cave Mountain Lake (7 miles) in Jefferson National Forest. Swimming, picnicking, camping.
- 74.7 Thunder Ridge. 8-minute trail to superb view of Arnold Valley. The slopes are purple with rhododendron in early June.
- 79.7 Onion Mountain. Short loop trail through rhododendron and mountain-laurel. Fine bloom in early June.
- 84 Peaks of Otter. Lodge, restaurant (Mile 85.6). A forest plant-animal community is the theme of exhibits at the visitor center (Mile 86) and self-guiding trail. Gas, road to campgrounds, picnic area, bus station, hiking trails.



WHETSTONE RIDGE FROM PARKWAY, MILE 28

The parkway winds in and out of George Washington National Forest from Mile 0 to James River. South of the river to Roanoke, it is in Jefferson National Forest. It crosses Otter Creek nine times between Mile 56.6 and James River, and at Mile 63.2 drops to its lowest elevation, 649.4 feet.

Mile Special Places to Stop

- 16 Va. 814 to Sherando Lake (4.5 miles) in George Washington National Forest. Swimming, picnicking, camping.
- 29 Whetstone Ridge. Restaurant and gas.
- 34.4 Yankee Horse. Reconstructed spur of logging railroad. Delightful short walk through woods alongside Wigwam Creek to Wigwam Falls.
- 58 Otter Creek. Campground, restaurant, gas, (Mile 60.8). Otter Lake (Mile 63.1), fishing, trail. Visitor center (Mile 63.6) tells of James River and Kanawha Canal; footbridge across James River to restored canal lock; self-guiding trail from visitor center along banks of the James.



THE MOUNTAIN FARM CABIN, MILE 5.8

At the northern end of Blue Ridge Parkway is Shenandoah National Park, 75 miles long and from 2 to 13 miles wide. Its most celebrated features are mountain slopes of lush beauty and a succession of panoramas from Skyline Drive, which is 105 miles long and connects with the parkway at Rockfish Gap.

Mile Special Places to Stop

- 5 Humpback Rocks. Self-guiding trail through reconstructed mountain farm homestead leads from visitor center (Mile 5.8). Hiking trail from parking area at Mile 6.1 leads three-quarters of a mile to The Rocks, whose humped appearance gives the area its name. Picnic area (Mile 8.4). Greenstone self-guiding trail (Mile 8.8) offers an interesting walk through an oak-hickory forest. Stone fences are remnants of hog-walls built in early 1800's to control wanderings of half-wild hogs.
- 10.7 Ravens Roost. Torry Mountain and Shenandoah Valley to the west.

