

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY extends 469 miles through the southern Appalachians, past vistas of quiet natural beauty and rural landscapes ightly shaped by the activities of man. Designed especially for motor recreation, the parkway provides quiet, leisurely travel, free from the commercial development and congestion of highspeed highways. No ordinary road would take the route it follows along mountain crests to link Shenandoah National Park in northern Virginia and Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee.

region of ancient, rugged mountains and deep, nar-

People of the hills. The physiography of the

Southern Highlands has directly influenced the his-

tory of its inhabitants, dictating where the Indian

should live and turning the tides of white immigra-

tion between its hills. The first pioneers settled in

the valleys and became prosperous. Those arriving

later took up progressively more isolated home-

steads. They cut the trees, allowing the rich topsoil

to wash away. Thus was set in motion a process

which gradually impoverished both land and settlers.

Blue Ridge Parkway "tells" the story of these

fiercely independent people, a story still being

row coves and valleys.

cabins hang on the hillsides. The mountain people You travel the Southern Highlands, a land of sang their ballads and passed them from parent to forested mountains, exquisite during the flowerchild by word of mouth. Their musical instruments ing spring, cool in the green summer, colorful in were the fiddle, banjo, and guitar, which are still used to accompany songs and folk dances. The the red autumn. Views are enlivened by highland crossroad country store is the hub of community life farms, whose split-rail fences, weathered cabins, during the week, while the rural church becomes the and gray barns compose the "hill culture." center on Sunday. Several one-room schools are still Rhododendron, azalea, white pine, and other

Improved roads, electricity, radios, and television native plants border the roadsides. Overlooks, have changed the way of life in the mountains, campgrounds, picnic areas, trails, and wayside but centers have been established where the old exhibits all contribute to make your visit a handicrafts are taught and practiced. Handicraft memorable motoring adventure. articles, in great demand, are available at outlets

The Appalachian Mountains, reaching from Maine to Wild animals abound along the parkway. When the Georgia, are a broad ribbon of many parallel ranges sun is high, chipmunks and squirrels chitter and connected by cross ranges and tumbled mountains chat. At night, striped skunks, bobcats, foxes, and hills. From Shenandoah National Park for 355 opossums, and raccoons forage along roadsides and miles, the parkway follows the Blue Ridge Mounin forests. Elk (at Peaks of Otter), white-tailed tains, eastern rampart of the Appalachians. Then, deer, and black bear are easily recognized but skirting the southern end of the massive Black Mounseldom seen. Watch for them in early morning or tains, it weaves through the Craggies, the Pisgahs, early evening. and the Balsams to the Great Smokies. This is a

The parkway lies along a major bird migration route. In early spring more than 100 species, including many warblers, grace forests and fields. Some migrants join the year-round residents and remain to rear young, while others continue northward.

Wild animals are a delight and a privilege to observe. Treat them with respect; after all, we are the guests.

When to visit. Because of its length and range in elevation, the whole parkway seldom experiences the same weather at the same time. Most visitors come in summer, but spring and autumn are

Campgrounds, picnic areas, and other visitor accommodations are open May 1 through October. Guided and self-guiding walks, evening nature



PURGATORY MOUNTAIN, MILE 92.2

written on the face of this land where crops and in use near the parkway.

along the parkway.

suddenly, spring is everywhere.

pleasant, too, and the parkway is less crowded then.



SUMMIT OF SHARP TOP, PEAKS OF OTTER

talks, museum and roadside exhibits, and other forms of interpreting the parkway comprise the naturalist program. The full program is in operation June through Labor Day.

A visit in winter can be delightful, but snow or ice may cause temporary closure of the parkway. The entire road may be closed for longer periods during January and February. High sections west of Asheville and between Miles 355 and 375 are closed at the first icing over and remain closed until April

The flowering season. Spring is slow to arrive along Blue Ridge Parkway. The forests are bare when dogwood blooms late in April. Gradually the trees leaf out and by mid-May they are green to 4,000 feet elevation. Fraser magnolia blooms a creamy white. Each day widens the band of green, until

Azalea, rhododendron, and mountain-laurel abound in the Southern Highlands. Because of the wide range in elevation (649 to 6.053 feet), peak blooming occurs at different times and places along the park-

If you visit in mid-May, or a little before, flame azalea will most likely be at its best south of Roanoke to Rocky Knob—the fine display in the high mountains west of Asheville occurs about the middle of June. In mid-May you might also see mountain-laurel in bloom along Otter Creek north of James River—elsewhere in the parkway it blooms during the first 2 weeks in June.

During the first week in June, dense thickets of catawba rhododendron overflow with purple north of Peaks of Otter to Onion Mountain and along the bluffs of Doughton Park. In Craggy Gardens and through the Balsams, however, the bloom comes soon after mid-June. White rhododendron is showy from the end of June to late July.

Wildflowers are colorful throughout spring, summer, and autumn.



LOOKING GLASS ROCK, MILE 417

Autumn brings color in late September when dogwood, sourwood and blackgum turn deep red. But most of the forest remains green until early October Then, bright patches grow each day as color advances to a mid-month peak.

Early in October, birch, buckeye, poplar, and beech become masses of yellow. Leaves of the tuliptree are blends of brown and yellow; sassafras turns a vivid orange. The bright red berries of mountain ash are conspicuous. No tree adds more brilliance than red maple, "Color King of the Southern Appalachians." On mountaintops and ridges, hickories have a leathery sheen. Late in October, when other trees begin to fade, oaks add the final tones of red.

Visitor-use Areas	Mile	Food	Gas	Lodging	Camping	Picnicking	Hiking	Fishing	Visitor Cent	Naturalist Walks & Ta
Humpback Rocks	5.8	1906				X	X		Х	
Whetstone Ridge	29	X	X							
Otter Creek	60.9	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Peaks of Otter	86	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Smart View	154.5					X	X			
Rocky Knob	169		X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Mabry Mill	176.1	X							X	
Cumberland Knob	217.5					X	X			
Doughton Park	241.1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Cherry Hill	257	X	X							
Moses H. Cone Mem. Park	294.1						X	X	X	
Julian Price Mem. Park	297.1				X	X	X	X		X
Linville Falls	316.4				X	X	X	X		
Crabtree Meadows	339.5	X	X		X	X	X			X
Craggy Gardens	364.6					X	X		X	
Mt. Pisgah	408.6	X		X			X			
Balsam Mountain	458.2				X	X				X



THE FENCES, GROUNDHOG MOUNTAIN, MILE 188.8



Facility

Visitor-use areas are marked by this emblem. In them may be located picnic areas and campgrounds, visitor centers, exhibits, trails, food, gas, lodging, and comfort stations. See map narrative for facilities in a particular place.

Restaurants, gas stations, and lodging are available along the parkway May 1 through October. Advance reservations for lodging are desirable.

Concessioner

Peaks of Otter Lodge	Virginia Peaks of Otter Co.	Box 121, Bed ford, Va.			
Rocky Knob Cabins (June through Labor Day)	National Park Concessions, Inc.	Meadows of Dan, Va.			
Bluffs Lodge (in Doughton Park)	National Park Concessions, Inc.	Laurel Spring N.C.			
Pisgah Inn	Pisgah Inn, Inc.	Route 2 Box 375 A Canton,			

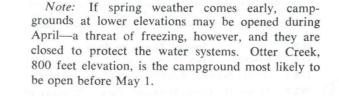
A wide range of accommodations is available in towns and cities near the parkway.

> Camping. The seven parkway campgrounds are open May through October. Sites in each campground are designated for trailer use. Drinking water and comfort stations are provided, but no utility connections, shower, or laundry facilities. Each campsite has a table and fireplace. Limited camping supplies are available at most parkway gas stations.

Campsites may not be reserved. Camping is limited to 14 days in summer. Please register upon arrival and sign out when you leave.



HIGHLAND MEADOWS, DOUGHTON PARK



Picnic grounds with parking spaces, tables, fireplace, drinking water, trash cans, and comfort stations are provided in most of the visitor-use areas.

Picnic tables are also placed in a number of parking areas north of Roanoke and west of Asheville. Watch for the overlook-ahead symbol; a "Picnic Table" sign under it indicates table locations.

Trails. The word "trail" under an overlook-ahead symbol is your invitation to leave the car for a walk through the woods. Some of the trails are short legstretchers and take only 10 to 20 minutes round trip; others will take the best part of an hour, or longer. The longer trails may be steep in places, but young and old walk them without difficulty. Self-guiding trails begin at some of the overlooks; you will know them by the squirrel-rifle-and-powderhorn symbol on the trail sign. They offer explanatory markers or a booklet with notes keved to numbered stakes. Trails are described in the milepost guide of this folder.

Many miles of excellent hiking are available at Peaks of Otter, Doughton Park, and Moses H. Cone Memorial Park, Gully Creek Trail at Cumberland Knob is a favorite during the autumn color season.

The Appalachian Trail roughly parallels the parkway from Mile 0 at Rockfish Gap to Mile 103, where the trail takes a more westerly route toward the Great Smoky Mountains and Georgia. Shelters, one-day's hike apart, are available on a first-come, first-served basis all along the Appalachian Trail. Information about the trail may be obtained from Appalachian Trail Conference, 1916 Sunderland Place, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.



MILE HIGH OVERLOOK, MILE 458.2

Fishing. Streams and lakes along the parkway are primarily trout waters. State fishing licenses are required, and State regulations apply except that live or dead bait fish may not be used.

Six visitor centers are focal points of the naturalist program. Each center features a different part of the region's natural or human history, and has detailed information about that section of parkway and general information about the entire parkway.

Visitor centers are open May through October daily during June, July and August, and part time during the rest of the season. Ranger-naturalists are on duty to help you.

Naturalist walks and talks. In summer, guided nature walks are conducted at Otter Creek. Peaks of Otter, Doughton Park, Price Park, and Crabtree Meadows. You may also enjoy a campfire program or illustrated evening talk. The schedule of these activities appears in the Naturalist Program, obtainable at any visitor center.

Craft demonstrations and sales. Mabry Mill (Mile 176.1) is an operating, water-powered gristmill with a blacksmith shop. Apple butter and sorghum molasses are made the oldtime way during autumn weekends. Brinegar Cabin (Mile 238.5), in an authentic setting, offers demonstrations of weaving on an old mountain loom. Textile handicraft articles are for sale.

Northwest Trading Post (Mile 258.6) is a country store, displaying and selling native handicrafts. and produce of the surrounding region.

Parkway Craft Center (Mile 294) from time to time presents demonstrations of weaving, rugmaking, gemcutting, and other crafts by members of the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild. In the Pioneer Museum are displayed weaving, basketry, furniture kitchen utensils, and tools of the cottage crafts. The guild also has handicraft articles for sale.

Facilities for swimming are available in nearby U.S. Forest Service recreation areas, State parks, and mountain resorts. The lakes and ponds along the parkway are for fishing and scenic beauty; they are not suitable for swimming.

Boats without motor or sail are permitted on Price Lake, but boats are not permitted on any other parkway waters.

Help protect the parkway. This is your parkway. Help us in protecting it. Leave shrubs and wildflowers for others to enjoy. Drive carefully. Speed limit is 45 miles per hour. Report any accident to a park ranger. Vehicles being used commercially are not allowed on the parkway.

Please do not throw trash from your car. Use the receptacles at parking and picnic areas. Please, no swimming in parkway lakes and ponds.

Fire is the archenemy of the parkway. Use the fireplaces in campgrounds and picnic areas. Dispose of burning matches and tobacco safely.

Protect wildlife. Watch for animals as you drive and—for your own safety as well as theirs—avoid hitting them. Hunting is prohibited in this wildlife

Keep dogs and cats on leash or otherwise under physical control at all times.

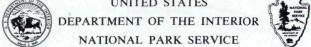
Administration. Blue Ridge Parkway, established on June 30, 1936, is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

A superintendent, whose address is Box 1710, Roanoke, Va. 24008, is in immediate charge of the parkway.

America's natural resources, Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior—America's Department of Natural Resources—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, park, and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved for the future, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.





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4 t the southern end of Blue Ridge Parkway lies Great Smoky Mountains National Park, renowned for its splendid forests and rich variety of plantlife. You will also enjoy visiting the Cherokee Indians on their reservation. The 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.

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 Heintooga 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 Plott Balsams. Range upon range, the mountains stretch to the horizon.

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

417 Looking Glass Rock, a large granite mountain.

422.4 Devils Courthouse. Self-guiding trail from park-

National Forest.

Special Places to Stop 382.6 Five miles west in the city of Asheville, a tourist

and handicraft center. 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

> 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. Camp-

Special Places to Stop

ing area to the "courthouse," a rock summit affording a 360° view across the mountains of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and



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 dving, victim of the woolly aphid. The trees give the Blacks their name.

320.7 Chestoa. Short walk to view from cliff of Hump-

back Mountain. Table Rock is conspicuous. 331 Museum of North Carolina Minerals. 295 Craft Center (Mile 294). Crabtree Meadows. Campgrounds, Crabtree

305.2 Beacon Heights. Woodland walk to view.

grounds, trails, picnic area, lookout tower.

363.4 Craggy Gardens. Outstanding purple rhododendron mid-June. Trail to Craggy Pinnacle (Mile 369.6 364.1). Visitor center, self-guiding trail (Mile 364.6). Road to picnic area, trails (Mile 367.6).

Falls, gas, restaurant (Mile 339.5). Picnic area



THE FOREST, LINVILLE FALLS, MILE 316.3

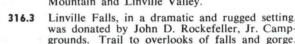
Special Places to Stop

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

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 to horse and carriage trails; two lakes. Parkway

295.1 Julian Price Memorial Park, 2-mile Green Knob to loop trail from Sims Pond. Lake and camp-298 grounds (Mile 297.1). Picnic area (Mile 296.6).

308.3 Flat Rock. Trail to superb view of Grandfather Mountain and Linville Valley.



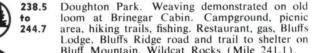
Picnic area (Mile 316.5).



Entering North Carolina, you will find the mountain coun try higher and more sparsely settled. Rolling bluegrass pastures terminate in precipitous bluffs. Rhododendron blooms through Doughton Park in early June.

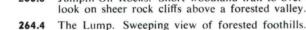
Special Places to Stop 217.5 Cumberland Knob. Picnic area, trails.

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.



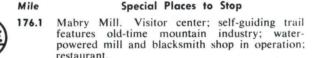
Lodge, Bluffs Ridge road and trail to shelter on Bluff Mountain, Wildcat Rocks (Mile 241.1). 257 Cherry Hill. Restaurant, gas.

258.6 Northwest Trading Post, a country store. 260.6 Jumpin-Off Rocks. Short woodland trail to over-





as evidences of the pioneer past.



MABRY MILL, MILE 176.1

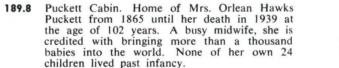
tolk history of the late 1700's, when the Blue Ridge marked

the edge of the western frontier. Log cabins, farm buildings

a church, and a gristmill are some the structures preserved

Blue Ridge Parkway passes through a region rich in the

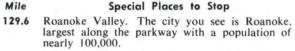
188.8 Groundhog Mountain. Picnic grounds. Examples of rail fences—snake, post and rail, and buck.





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.



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

167 Rocky Knob. Campgrounds (Mile 167). Nature trail from The Saddle (Mile 168). Picnic area, trails, gas (Mile 169). Housekeeping cabins

blooms mid-May throughout the plateau section.



PEAKS OF OTTER LODGE, MILE 85.6

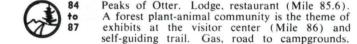
After crossing the James River, the parkway ascends 3,286 feet in 13 miles to its highest elevation in Virginia, 3.950 feet. on Apple Orchard Mountain. To the west are the Alleghenies, and between them and the Blue Ridge lies the Great Valley, route of the pioneer. Eastward are the Piedmont

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. Peaks of Otter. Lodge, restaurant (Mile 85.6).

picnic area, bus station, hiking trails.



Va. 814 to Sherando Lake (4.5 miles) in George Washington National Forest, Swimming, pic-

nicking, camping.

29 Whetstone Ridge. Restaurant and gas.

34.4 Yankee Horse. Reconstructed spur of logging

58 Otter Creek, Campground, restaurant, gas. (Mile 60.8). Otter Lake (Mile 63.1), fishing, trail. 63.6 Visitor center (Mile 63.6) tells of James River and Kanawha Canal; footbridge across James River to restored canal lock; self-guiding trail



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.

Special Places to Stop



railroad. Delightful short walk through woods alongside Wigwam Creek to Wigwam Falls.



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

Special Places to Stop Humpback Rocks. Self-guiding trail through

reconstructed mountain farm homestead leads 9.3 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.

TOWNS CITIES UNDER 1000 1000-5000 5000-10,000 OVER 10,000 Parkway (With milepost) A Campground VC Visitor Center -AT-- Appalachian Trail Area for Visitor Use