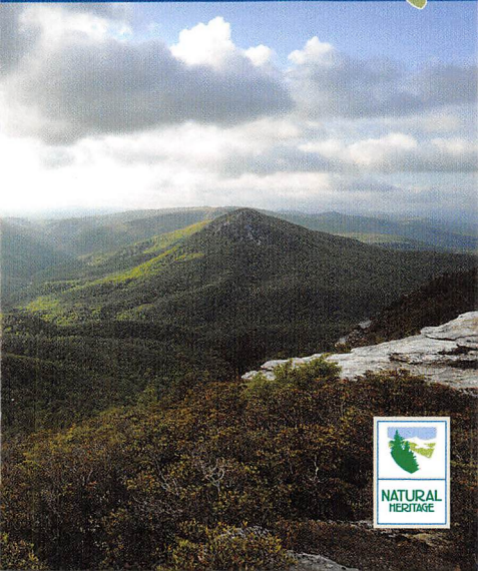


# *Blue Ridge National Heritage Area*





# BLUERIDGE

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

## *A Region of Superlatives*

### **Deepest Gorge East of the Mississippi**

Linville Gorge is the deepest and one of the most rugged and scenic gorges in the eastern United States. Nicknamed the Grand Canyon of the East, it is protected by the 12,000-acre Linville Gorge Wilderness Area, one of the first areas to be included in the National Wilderness System with the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964. The steep walls of Linville Gorge enclose the Linville River for 12 miles. The river, which begins at Grandfather Mountain, enters the gorge at the spectacular Linville Falls then descends over 2,000 feet before breaking into the Catawba Valley.

*Linville Gorge, J. Payne*

*To learn more, visit [BlueRidgeHeritage.com](http://BlueRidgeHeritage.com)*