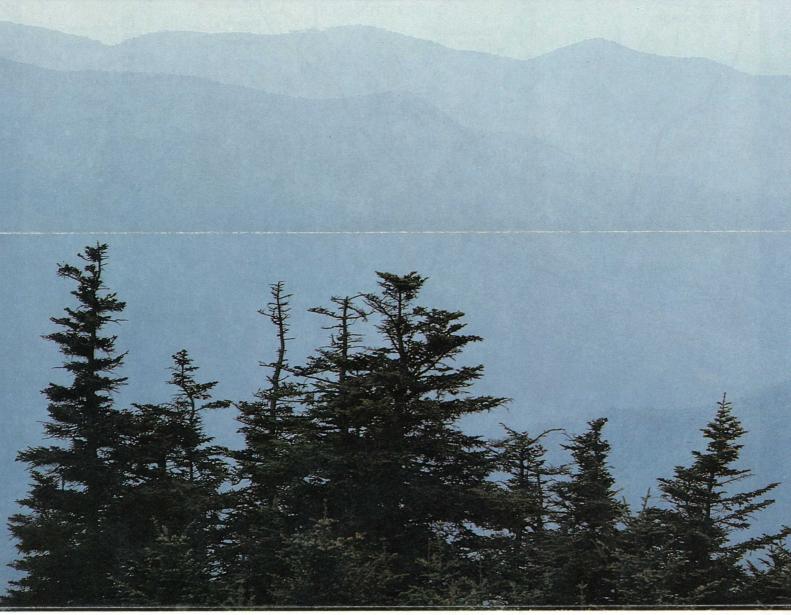
## **Blue Ridge Parkway**

Virginia and North Carolina National Park Service/U.S. Department of the Interior



The Blue Ridge Parkway extends 469 miles along the crests of the Southern Appalachians and links two eastern national parks—Shenandoah and Great Smoky Mountains.

## Parkway Information

How to Use this Folder The major points of interest along the parkway are listed at the right by milepost from the northern end in Virginia to the southern end in North Carolina. In this column, for the length of the folder, are informational notes pertaining to the whole parkway. A chart showing visitor services is located in the central part of the folder.

Trees, trees, trees are nearly everywhere. And come fall, many of them burst into color. Dogvood, sourwood, and blackgum turn deep red in late September. Tulip-trees and hickories turn bright yellow, sassafras a vivid orange, and red maples add their multi-colored brilliance. Finally various oaks put on a dash of russet and maroon. Evergreen trees include Virginia pine, white pine, hemlock, spruce, and fir.

## Parkway Highlights in Virginia

Mile 0 Rockfish Gap near Waynesboro, Virginia, is the northern end of the Blue Ridge Parkway. To the north the parkway connects directly to Skyline Drive, which winds 105 miles through Shenandoah National Park. U.S. 250 and I-64 take you to Charlottesville to the east and Staunton to the west.

5 to 9.3 Humpback Rocks has a selfguiding trail through a reconstructed mountain farmstead. A hiking trail from the parking area (at mile 6.1) leads 0.75 mile to The Rocks, whose humped appearance gives the area its name. Greenstone self-guiding trail (8.8)

white pine



10.7 Ravens Roost offers vistas of Torry Mountain and the Shenandoah to the west.

Sherando Lake is a recreation area in

hawthorn



58 to 63.6 Otter Creek runs 10 miles down the Blue Ridge to the James River. Otters don't play here anymore, but people do. Otter Lake (63.1), fishing, trail

George Washington National Forest 4.5 miles from the parkway via Va. 814. Swimming, picnicking, camping.

29 Whetstone Ridge provided many a mountain man with a fine-grained sharpening stone.

34.4 Yankee Horse supposedly is where a hard-riding Union man's horse fell and had to be shot. See a reconstructed spur of an old logging railroad by walking to Wigwam Falls.

mountain laurel

day lily



83.4 Fallingwater Cascades can be seen along a 1.6-mile loop trail.

84 to 87 Peaks of Otter has been a popular location to see spectacular views and sunrises since the days of Thomas Jefferson. A shuttle bus provides passenger service to Sharp Top.

114.9 Roanoke River Gorge opens before you from the overlook at the end of a 10minute walk.

120.3 Roanoke Mountain is a 3.7-mile side trip. The one-way loop road takes you over the mountain for impressive views. Steep grades; towed vehicles prohibited.

63.8 At the James River and Kanawha Canal a footbridge leads across the river to the restored canal locks and exhibits. A selfguiding trail goes along the river bluff.

71 Petites Gap is named for a local family. The road to the west goes to Cave Mountain Lake, 7 miles away, in Jefferson National Forest. Swimming, picnicking, camping.

79.7 Onion Mountain's short loop trail takes you through rhododendron and mountain laurel, which bloom in early June.

black-eved susar

turkeybeard







129.6 Roanoke Overlook provides a panoramic view of the largest community along the parkway. The city can be reached via U.S. 220 (at 121), Va. 24 (at 112), and U.S. 460 (at 105).

154.5 Smart View is just that; go to the Trail Cabin built in the 1890s and you'll see "a right smart view," especially in early May when the dogwoods bloom.

165 Flame Azaleas set the plateau ablaze in tones from yellow to deep red in mid-May.

167 to 174 Rocky Knob rises like the cresting of a wave to overlook Rock Castle Gorge.



Mabry Mill

176.1 Mabry Mill was operated by E.B. Mabry from 1910 to 1935. A trail takes you to his gristmill, sawmill, blacksmith shop, and to other outdoor exhibits. Old-time skills are demonstrated in summer and fall.



ox yoke

188.8 Groundhog Mountain is a good place to see different kinds of country fences snake, post and rail, picket, and buck. Picnic grounds and observation tower.

## **Visiting the Park**

The Blue Ridge Parkway, designed for motor rec-reation, is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, with head-quarters at 200 BB&T Building, Asheville, NC 28801. The table, right, lists facilities and services for 22 primary sites. Most services are available from May 1 through October; limited campground facilities in winter. Sections of the parkway may be

## Virginia 5.8 Humpback Rocks 29.0 Whetstone Ridge 60.9 Otter Creek

daisy and rose

Flowering shrubs put on a springtime show that rivals the display of trees in fall. Because of the range in elevation from 649 to 6,053 feet, peak blooming occurs at different times and placessomewhat earlier in Virginia than North Carolina. Flame azalea is at its best south of Roanoke to Rocky Knob about mid-May and in the high mountains west of Asheville about mid-June. Mountain laurel blooms along Otter Creek in mid-May and elsewhere on the parkway in the first two weeks of June. Dense thickets of catawba rhododendron turn purple north of Peaks of Otter to Onion Mountain and along the bluffs of Doughton Park the first week of June and in Craggy Gardens and through the Balsams after mid-June. Various wildflowers begin to bloom in April and continue into fall.

The stories of the independent mountain people are told at many overlooks and facilities along the parkway, including Humpback Rocks, Peaks of Otter, Mabry Mill, Brinegar Cabin, Northwest Trading Post, and the Parkway Craft Center at Moses Cone Memorial Park. In the Asheville area, be sure to stop at the Folk Art Center for craft demonstrations and for general parkway information and trip planning.

closed by snow or ice.

Lodging. This service is provided along the parkway from May through October (except year round at Peaks of Otter Lodge). Reservations for lodging are advisable: Peaks of Otter Lodge—Virginia Peak of Otter Co., Box 489, Bedford, VA 24523; Rocky Knob Cabins (June through Labor Day)—National -Virginia Peaks Park Concessions, Inc., Meadows of Dan, VA 24120; Bluffs Lodge, Doughton Park – National Park Concessions, Inc., Laurel Springs, NC 28644-9716; and Pisgah Inn-Drawer 749, Waynesville, NC 28786. A wide range of accommodations also is available in nearby communities.

Walks and Talks. You are invited to attend camp-fire programs and conducted walks at points of interest. These activities are listed on the Visitor Activities bulletin boards and in the parkway newspaper, "The Milepost," available free at any visitor center

Camping. The nine campgrounds are open from about May 1 through October or into early Novem-ber, depending on weather conditions. Facilities are limited in winter. Fees are charged and length of stay may be limited. Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds. Drinking water and comfort stations are provided; shower and laundry facilities are not. Sites in each campground are designated for trailers, but none is equipped for utility connections. Campgrounds have sanitary dumping stations. Each campsite has a table and fireplace. Limited supplies may be purchased at most parkway gasoline stations and camp stores

Trails. The hiker symbol under an overlook-ahead sign is your invitation to leave your vehicle for a walk through the woods. Some trails are short legstretchers and take only 10 minutes roundtrip; others take 30 minutes or an hour. Many miles of excellent trails are at Peaks of Otter, Rocky Knob, Doughton Park, and Cone and Price Memorial Parks. The Appalachian Trail roughly parallels the parkway from mile 0 at Rockfish Gap to mile 103.

Picnic grounds. Along the parkway are several picnic grounds with tables, fireplaces, drinking water, trash cans, and comfort stations. Several parking overlooks also have picnic tables.

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	63.8	James River	•	•					٠	•					•	
	86.0	Peaks of Otter	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
	120.4	Roanoke Mountain									•	•		٠		
	154.5	Smart View							•					•		
	169.0	Rocky Knob	•	•				۲	•		•	•		•	•	
	176.1	Mabry Mill		•	•		•			•						
North Carolina																
1	217.5	Cumberland Knob	•	٠					٠					٠		
	238.5	Brinegar Cabin			•									•		
	241.1	Doughton Park		•		•	•	•	•		٠	٠	٠	•	•	
	258.6	Northwest Trading Post		•	•											
	272.0	E. B. Jeffress Park							•	•				•		
	294.1	Moses H. Cone Mem. Park	•	•	•					•				•	•	
	297.1	Julian Price Mem. Park							•		٠	٠		٠	•	•
	304.4	Linn Cove Viaduct	•	•										•		
	316.4	Linville Falls	•	•					•		•	•		•	•	
	331.0	Museum of N.C. Minerals	•	•												
	339.5	Crabtree Meadows		•		•	•		٠		•	•	•	٠		
	364.6	Craggy Gardens	•	•					•	•				•		
	382.0	Folk Art Center	•	•	•											
	408.6	Mount Pisgah		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
			Visitor Center	Book or Craft Sales	Demonstrations	Gasoline	Food	Lodging	Picnicking	Self-guiding Trails	Ranger Talks	Camping	Camp Store	Hiking	Fishing	Canoe/Boat Rentals

The Blue Ridge Parkway crosses the North Carolina and Virginia state line at mile 216.9. The 1749 party that surveyed the boundary included Peter Jefferson, father of Thomas.

## **Parkway Information**

Regulations and Safety Tips •Drive carefully. The maximum speed limit is 45 miles per hour. Mountainous terrain and sightseeing, however, often require slower speeds. Allow 30 miles per hour when figuring actual travel time. Report all accidents to a park ranger. Commercial vehi-cles are not permitted. Remember to fasten seat belts. 
• Parking on the shoulder is permitted where safe and where such parking will not damage the turf or plants. 
 Prevent forest fires Fires, including charcoal, are permitted only in campgrounds and picnic areas. •All plants and animals on the parkway are protected. Please watch for animals as you drive. You may gather edible fruits, nuts, and berries for your personal consumption only. Hunting is prohibited. Pets must be kept on a leash or otherwise under physical control. • Do not litter; use trash containers at parking and picnic areas. • Do not swim in parkway lakes and ponds. Swimming areas are available in the nearby U.S. Forest Service recreation areas, state parks, and resorts. •Only boats without motors or sails are permitted on Price Lake

#### Parkway Highlights in North Carolina

Mile 217.5 Cumberland Knob, at 2,885 feet, is a delightful spot to walk through fields and woodlands.

218.6 Fox Hunters Paradise, a 10-minute walk, is where hunters could listen to their hounds baying in the valley below.

238.5 Brinegar Cabin was built by Martin Brinegar about 1880 and lived in until the 1930s when the homestead was purchased for the parkway from his widow. The original cabin stands here today.

238.5 to 244.7 Doughton Park was named for Congressman Robert L. Doughton, a staunch supporter and neighbor of the parkway. One of the best locations to see deer. Campground

258.6 Northwest Trading Post is sponsored by the Northwest Development Association to keep alive the old crafts within North Carolina's 11 northwestern counties.

260.6 Jumpinoff Rocks, at the end of a short woodland trail, offers a beautiful vista.

264.4 The Lump provides sweeping views of the forested foothills.

272 E. B. Jeffress Park has a self-guiding trail to the Cascades and another trail goes to the old cabin and church.

285.1 Boone's Trace, which Daniel Boone blazed to the west, crosses near here.



The parkway follows the Appalachian Mountain chain and provides seemingly endless views of many parallel ranges connected by cross ranges and scattered hills. From Shenandoah National Park the parkway follows the Blue Ridge, eastern rampart of the Appalachians, for 355 miles. Then, for the remaining 114 miles, it skirts the southern end of the massive Black Mountains, named for the dark green spruce and fir that cover them, weaves through the Craggies, the Pisgahs, the Balsams, and ends in the Great Smokies.

Wildlife is a delight to see along the parkway. When the sun is high, groundhogs sit erect and chipmunks and squirrels chitter and chatter. At night, skunks, bobcats, foxes, opossums, and raccoons may be seen along the roadsides. Whitetail deer and black bears are present but seldom seen. Look for them in the early morning or evening. More than 100 bird species can be seen during the spring migration season.



whitetail deel



The Park Watch Program allows you to help protect the Blue Ridge Parkway, yourself, and other visitors. To report criminal activity, fires, accidents. or other emergencies, call 1-800-PARKWATCH. For Parkway information call 704-259-0701 or TDD 704-259-0702

292 to 295 Moses H. Cone Memorial Park has 25 miles of carriage roads, ideal for hiking and horseback riding. Flat Top Manor houses the Parkway Craft Center. Fishing.

295.1 to 298 Julian Price Memorial Park, the former retreat of an insurance executive, offers a variety of short trails and a lake.

304.4 Linn Cove Viaduct, a design and engineering marvel, skirts the side of Grandfather Mountain. Visitor center and trails.

308.3 Flat Rock is worth the walk for the superb view of Grandfather Mountain and Linville Valley.

316.3 Linville Falls roars through a dramatic, rugged gorge. Trails to overlooks.

320.7 Chestoas View trail provides spectacular scenery.

331 **Museum of North Carolina Minerals** interprets the state's mineral wealth.

339 Crabtree Meadows turn pink in May. Walk to Crabtree Falls. Campground.

355.4 Mount Mitchell State Park, reached via N.C. 128, has a picnic area, lookout tower, and the highest point east of the Mississippi River.

363.4 to 369.6 Craggy Gardens seem covered with purple rhododendron in mid-June. Craggy Pinnacle Trail and other trails (364.1 and 364.6); road to picnic area and trails (367.6).

382 The Folk Art Center offers a look at traditional and contemporary crafts of the Appalachian Region through interpretive programs, a museum, and library.



raccoon

408.6 Mount Pisgah was part of the George Vanderbilt estate. The estate became home of the first U.S. forestry school and the nucleus of the Pisgah National Forest.

422.4 Devil's Courthouse is a rugged exposed mountaintop rich in Cherokee legends. A walk to the bare rock summit yields a spectacular view of Pisgah National Forest.

Richland Balsam's self-guiding trail takes you through a remnant spruce-fir forest. Highest point on the parkway, 6,053 feet

opossum

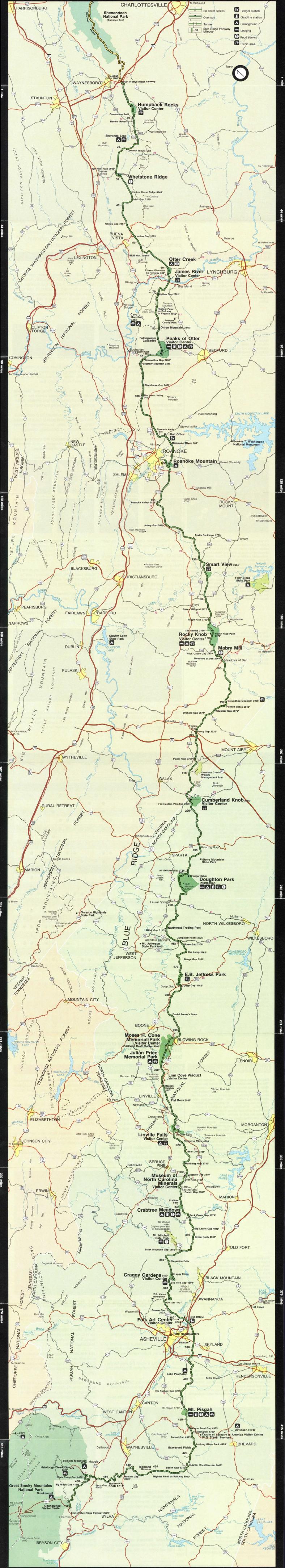
451.2 Waterrock Knob provides a panorama of the Great Smokies. Trail, exhibits, comfort station.

458.2 Heintooga Ridge spur road goes to a mile-high overlook 1.3 miles from the parkway.

Mile 469 Southern End of the Blue Ridge Parkway intersects with U.S. 441 in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Cherokee Reservation.

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376 miles

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