WHAT IS THE BLUE RIDGE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA?

We are a proud steward of Western North Carolina’s unique living traditions – music, crafts, outdoors, foodways, and Cherokee culture. Through grants, cultural trails such as Blue Ridge Craft Trails and partnerships, we invest in our region’s economic and cultural vitality.

EXPLORE THE BLUE RIDGE CRAFT TRAILS.

You’re embarking on a new trail in Western North Carolina! Wind through scenic towns brimming with talented artists ready to share their experience of making local craft inspired by the rich culture and beauty of the mountains and foothills. Along the way, you’ll also find natural and cultural treasures to explore. Enjoy!

WELCOME TO THE BLUE RIDGE CRAFT TRAILS.

For centuries, the mountains and foothills of North Carolina have been known as an epicenter for handmade craft, reaching back to the living arts of the Cherokee.

You are warmly invited to explore our craft trails as they wind through Hendersonville and Flat Rock and the creeks and hollows of surrounding forests and farms. Delight in this brochure’s three itineraries or visit BlueRidgeCraftTrails.com to create your own personalized adventure.

Take a breath, take your time. Come make an experience.
AN APPLE-SWEET SPOT ON THE MAP.

Known for its mountain orchards, Henderson County also carries a remarkable legacy of craft. Recently designated as an American Viticulture Area, the area offers many wine and cider tasting rooms, as well as craft beer.

The itineraries in this brochure help you sample the best this area has to offer, including handmade craft, distinctive attractions, shops, and farms.

To be sure a craft site is open, please check online or by phone before heading out. Some sites operate on a seasonal basis.

WE’RE EASY TO GET TO.

Hendersonville, Flat Rock and the surrounding areas are less than a 45-minute drive from both Asheville, North Carolina and Greenville, South Carolina. For details about lodging and more, check in at the Visitor Center, 201 South Main Street, Hendersonville. (VisitHendersonvilleNC.org or 800-828-4244).

For a detailed profile of sites and artists: BlueRidgeCraftTrails.com

Henderson County offers orchards full of succulent apples and much more!

EVENTS TO KNIT INTO YOUR CALENDAR.

April – October
Henderson County Tailgate Market, Saturday mornings, 8 am - 12 pm. Fresh everything, 100 King St, in downtown Hendersonville.

April
Cider, Wine & Dine Weekend, experience locally made cider and wine through tastings, tours, food pairings and music over a four-day weekend. (visithendersonvillenc.org/cider-wine-dine-weekend)

May
Garden Jubilee, a two-day gardening show in downtown Hendersonville with more than 275 vendors on Memorial Day weekend. (visithendersonvillenc.org/garden-jubilee)

September
The North Carolina Apple Festival, held annually over the fourth Labor Day weekend with family-friendly events spun around apples and good times. (ncapplefestival.org)

Open Studio Tour of Henderson County, usually the third weekend of September. One of the largest studio tours in the Carolinas with more than 60 artists and 40 studios. For maps and details visit hoost.org.

Art on Main, usually the last weekend of September. One hundred juried artists showing all manner of fine art and craft along historic Main Street, interspersed with demonstrations. For details visit acofhc.org.
ITINERARY #2: TOURING THE HEART OF HENDERSONVILLE

Downtown Hendersonville offers the graceful ambiance of sidewalk shops, restaurants, and galleries sitting side-by-side, doors flung open in good weather.

Art MoB Studios and Marketplace showcases the work of some 85 North Carolina artists, provides space for five working studios and offers a gallery of fetching artistry. (124 4th Ave. E. Hours: 10 am - 5 pm, Mon - Sat. 1 - 4:30 pm, Sun.)

Art MoB Studios (828-693-4545)

Nature-inspired Woodlands Gallery, 419 Main St. features home-like vignettes arranged to show highly original work - pottery, landscapes, furniture and other handcrafted pieces (open seven days a week, 11 am - 5 pm, 828-230-9080).

Down the street at 425 Main St. A Walk in the Woods honestly feels like a walk in the woods, and there are carved pieces, jewelry, woven goods, walking sticks and heirlooms to aid in your journey (open 10 am - 5 pm, daily; 828-577-2477).

Woodlands Gallery

ITINERARY #3: FINDING WONDERS IN THE OUTSKIRTS

Henderson County spreads out toward higher ground and, as it unfurls, artists of every stripe seem to nestle into its nooks and crannies.

Potter Meghan Bernard at 2004 Old South Carolina Ave, near Kannuga Rd. creates wheel-thrown coffee cups, bowls and teapots inspired by backyard plants and animals. Visit by appointment - call (828-537-7796) or email imgemahbernardpottery@gmail.com.

Street sign at Carolina Mountain Artists Guild

Santos at Apple Country Woodcrafters

SOME OF MEGHAN BERNARD’S POTTERY

Lorraine Cathey and her sister Dian Magie conjure fiber art and ceramics, respectively, at 108 Turner Lane, off Route 64 toward Brevard. Lorraine’s interest in felt grew out of a John C. Campbell Folk School workshop in Brasstown, NC, eventually leading to evocative landscapes in wool. By appointment, (828-273-8079) Dian’s use of Sgraffito to “scratch off” the outside of a piece of pottery yields lovely brise and wood-fired images of flowers and trees. (Call or email ahead, 828-606-6119; dian.magie@gmail.com.)

Lorraine Cathey working with felt

Also, by appointment only - Leftwich Pottery, 126 Bane Road, in Mills River, between Hendersonville and Brevard. In addition to high-fired face jugs, Rodney Leftwich captures wildlife, waterfalls and farms in his graceful fine pottery pieces, using coil-out (relief) techniques. (Call 828-890-5053 or email artleftwich@ yahoo.com.)

Rodney Leftwich at home in the studio

NOT TO MISS

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site. Open seven days a week (except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years) at 1800 Little River Road. Reservations for house tour at reservation.gov. (828-693-4178)

The State Theatre of North Carolina - Flat Rock Playhouse. Seasonal performances, (2661 Greenville Hwy. 828-693-0731)

St. John in the Wilderness (1805 Greenville Hwy. 828-693-9785, open for touring Tues - Sun, 9 am - 4 pm).

“Little Rainbow Row” - a colorful collection of shops and restaurants in the 2700 block of Greenville Hwy.

DuPont State Recreational Forest, 30 minutes from Flat Rock, (1300 Staton Rd., Cedar Mountain). Open year-round (828-877-6527).

NOT TO MISS

Peck & Seed. Live bluegrass and traditional music, 3715 Hendersonville Rd., Fletcher. Friday and Saturday nights. (828-216-3402)

Orchards galore: For a full listing of Henderson County apple orchards, go to visithendersonville.org.

Sierra Nevada Brewing, 100 Sierra Nevada Way, Mills River (828-681-5300).

Visit BlueRidgeCraftTrails.com to learn more.