

Driving Tour Through the Countryside

Henderson County Tourism Development Authority • 201 South Main Street • Hendersonville, NC 28792 • 828.693.9708

This Tour begins at the Hendersonville Visitor Center, located at 201 S Main Street. This self-guided tour takes you down windy mountain roads, through farm and pasture lands as well as the woods, and takes about 40 minutes to complete. This drive is great any time of year, but if you're looking for fall foliage, the optimum time of year to view fall color is mid-October through early-November.

From the Visitor Center parking lot, turn right, going south on Main Street. In 2 blocks, turn right onto Caswell St. This road quickly bends to the left and becomes Kanuga Rd.

In about 4 miles, you'll be nearing some of the many summer camps in Henderson County. On this drive, you will pass by or near Camp Pinnacle, Camp Tekoa, Camp Ton-A-Wandah and Camp Kanuga. These are just 4 of the 17 summer camps in Henderson County. Henderson County and its neighboring counties have been popular for summer camps for more than 100 years because of the temperate climate, ample outdoor space, and proximity to national forests, lakes and rivers. Today, the 3-county-region has one of the highest concentrations of summer camps anywhere in the USA.

In another 2.2 miles (6.3 miles after initially turning onto Caswell Street in Downtown Hendersonville), turn right onto Evans Rd.

You will stay on this road for about 12 miles, as it loops you back toward Hendersonville. The name of the road will change multiple times, and at any given point, you will be on Evans Road, Big Willow Road, Hebron Road, Finley Cove Road or Willow Road.

About a mile after turning onto Evans Road, you'll pass the organic farm of Kanuga on your right. Kanuga serves as a conference center, retreat center, outdoor school and a summer camp.

As you drive through the winding back roads, be on the lookout for horses at pasture or wild turkeys along the side of the road.

About 4.25 miles after passing Kanuga's organic garden, just after passing River Road (on the left), look to the left as you head up the hill, and you might catch a glimpse of the French Broad River through the trees.

Again, in 3 miles, you'll climb the back side of Jump Off Mountain, meaning you will be near Jump Off Rock, should you choose to veer off this tour**, but if not, continue straight onto Finley Cove Road, and wind down the mountainside, towards Hendersonville.

In about 3.75 miles, you'll come to a stop sign at Kanuga Road. Turn left and follow as the road curves to the right.

Turn left onto Main Street, and in 2 blocks, you will be back at the Visitor Center.

**Directions to Jump Off Rock from the Hebron Road/Finley Cove Road intersection:

To get to Jump Off Rock instead of heading straight into Hendersonville, it will take about 10 minutes to get to the Jump Off Rock overlook from this point, and about 20 minutes to get from Jump Off Rock back to the Visitor Center, adding about 20 minutes to the entire tour.

Turn left at the intersection of Hebron Road and Finley Cove Road to stay on Hebron Road. At this intersection, there are 2 churches, one on either side, and it is hard to see oncoming traffic, so please be very careful.

In about 1 mile, make a sharp left turn onto Essowah Drive.

In about 0.25 miles, turn left onto Roberts Drive.

After about 0.5 miles, you'll come to a stop sign. Turn left onto Laurel Park Highway and follow this road until it ends at Jump Off Rock.

To leave Jump Off Rock and head back into Hendersonville, you can drive straight down the mountain on Laurel Park Highway, taking it until you hit Main Street in Hendersonville, about 5 miles.

To get back to the Visitor Center, turn right on Main Street, and drive south 5.5 blocks, where the Visitor Center will be on your right.