

## LOCAL RECREATION

LAKETOXAWAY.COM | 828-966-4260

---



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

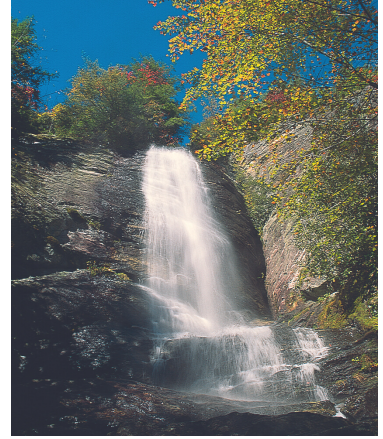
---

03	Waterfall Safety
04	Toxaway River Trail
07	Meadow ridge
08	Panthertown Valley
13	Gorges State Park
10	Little Green Mountain
15	Whitewater Falls
17	Pisgah National Forest



# WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE

---



Few things in the natural world are as awe-inspiring as the sight of water pouring off the side of a high stone ledge and clamoring into a rocky pool beneath.

Though the first inclination may be to stand and marvel, you might not want to spend too much time at any one waterfall. Not when there are 249 others you might want to visit. When it comes to North Carolina waterfalls, Transylvania County is Mecca.

The county's unique geography allows for 250 magnificent cascades within a few miles of each other. Many of Transylvania County's most beautiful falls are easily accessible.

## Waterfall safety

- 1) Stay on developed trails and don't stray from observation decks and platforms.
- 2) Follow instructions posted at all waterfalls and trails
- 3) Watch your footing. Dry rocks can be just as slippery as wet ones, especially those covered with algae.
- 4) The top of any waterfall is the most dangerous. Do not lean over a ledge at the top of a falls.
- 5) Watch children carefully. Children should always be under the immediate supervision of adults when visiting any falls. Pets should also be supervised. They can easily underestimate the slickness of rocks and the flow of water.
- 6) Be especially careful when you are taking photographs. Many times photographers become more focused on taking the photo rather than securing their footing. Make sure you are in a safe, solid location before taking photographs.
- 7) To insure your safety on the rocks and trails, never visit waterfalls or hike alone.
- 8) Bring your cell phone in case you need to make a call for assistance

# TRAIL ESSENTIALS

Trail Length: 2 or 3 mile options

Difficulty (1-5): 2 to Fisher Falls/ 4 to Raven Rock Falls

Trail Time: 1 -2.25 hours

Private to residents of Lake Toxaway Estates, guests of property owners, renters, and the guests of the Greystone Inn.

The Toxaway River Trail is an adventurous hiking path along the beautiful headwaters of Lake Cardinal and Lake Toxaway. The river hike can be accomplished at a moderate pace in approximately an hour and fifteen minutes allowing a few minutes for stopping here and there to observe some spectacular natural sites. The trail follows low land along the river and is therefore often cool. Put an extra layer in your pack and wear high boots to keep your feet dry during the crossings.

## TOXAWAY RIVER TRAIL



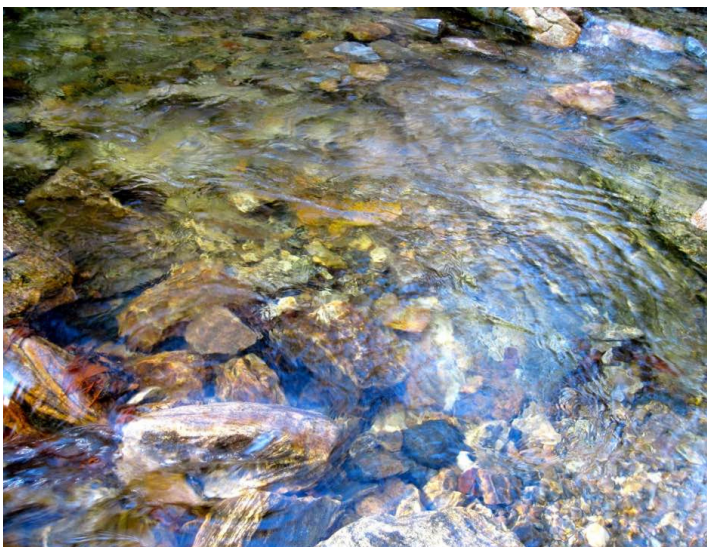
# TOXAWAY RIVER TRAIL TO FISHER FALLS

---

From the Lake Toxaway Country Club make a right at the stop sign onto West Club Boulevard. Take this road for about 0.3 miles where you will take a left (or straight) fork where the road turns into Fairway Drive. About 0.1 miles down Fairway Drive you will come to another fork, stay to your right (Do not go up Toxaway Mountain). The road remains Fairway Drive. Travel about 1 mile and take the road to the left, Cardinal Drive, for 0.5 miles. The turn is marked with a sign pointing the way to the Toxaway River Trail.

Just after a bridge, look for signs on the left and wide spaces on the road to park. The loop to Fisher Falls is marked with blue triangles.

It follows the river upstream before turning inward and looping back around. Pause for awhile and enjoy Fisher Falls, then continue the trail up a short, steep ascent. At the signpost turn right and follow the return trail through the woods back to Cardinal Drive. Turning left at the signpost will take you to the upper waterfall, Raven Rock Falls.



# TOXAWAY RIVER TRAIL TO RAVEN ROCK FALLS

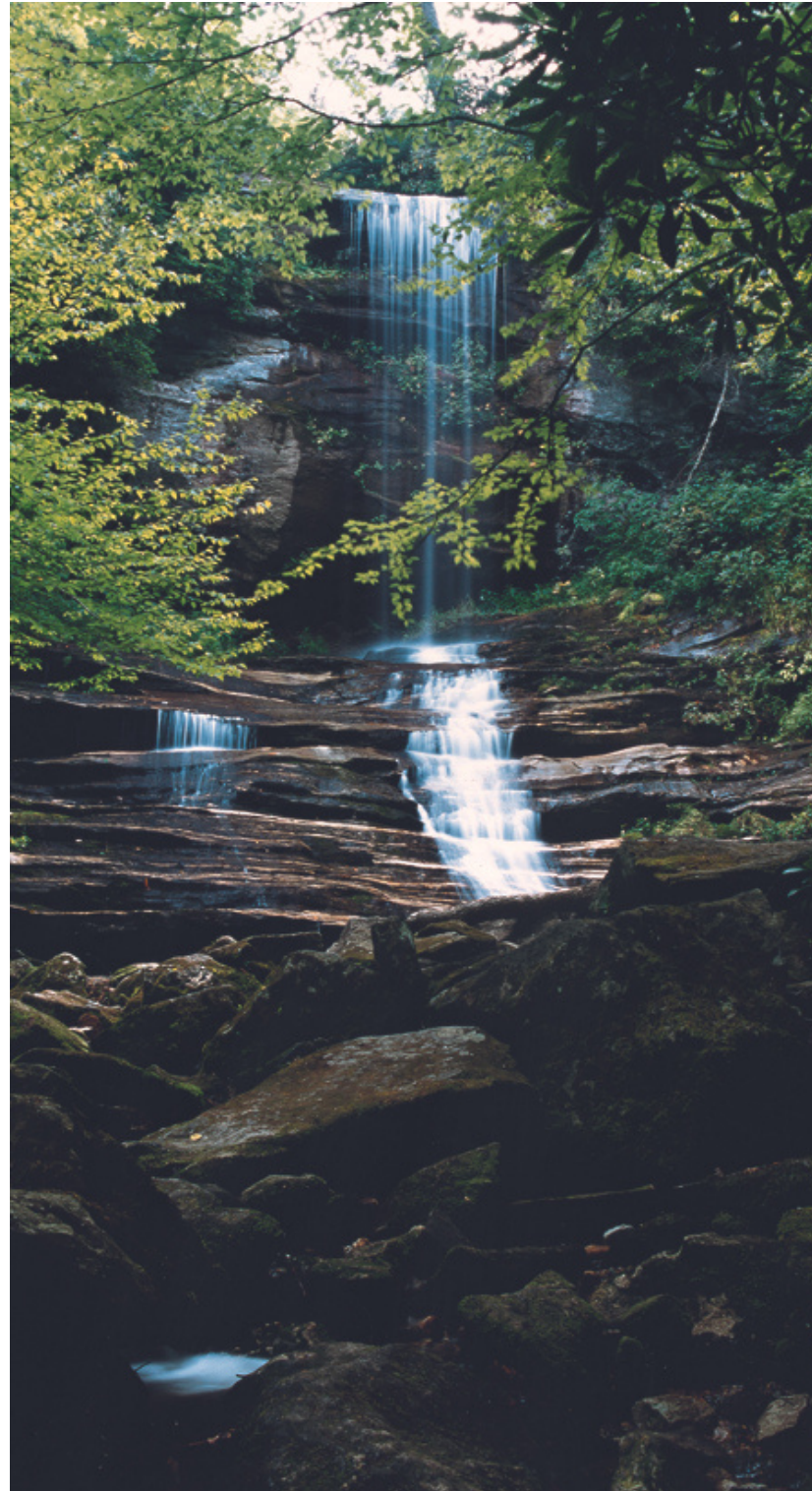
---

After you have hiked the Toxaway River Trail to the lower waterfall, Fisher Falls, you may want to continue on to Raven Rock Falls. This is a great hike and an adventure. There are many more river crossings and many boulders to scramble over. There are many slippery rocks. It's treacherous at times. Only take this hike if you are sure footed and steady. Be careful. This hike is an adventure.

At the first signpost above Fisher Falls, turn left. Turn left at another sign, then descend to the river. Cross over the river. This is one of the most dangerous parts of the hike. The rocks are slippery and you are at the top of a waterfall, be very careful. Follow Toxaway River upstream for about a mile. Follow the yellow blazes and blue arrows.

As you approach the waterfall from below, look for a trail on the right. Rest and enjoy yourself at the base of the falls.

To return, follow the path behind the half-buried tire. Follow this over a bridge and under a waterfall, then through the woods. Eventually you'll return to the junction above Fisher Falls. Follow the sign for the return trail through the woods. You'll end up on Cardinal Drive above where you parked.



# TRAIL ESSENTIALS

Trail Length: up to 2 mile loops

Difficulty (1-5): 1

Trail Time: 1/2 - 1 hour

Private to residents of Lake Toxaway Estates, guests of property owners, renters, and the guests of the Greystone Inn.

## MEADOW RIDGE LAKE TOXAWAY ESTATES

From the country club take a right at the stop sign onto West Club Boulevard to the fork in the road. Take the left (or straight) fork. The road now turns into Fairway Drive. 0.1 miles down Fairway you will come to another fork and large green sign reading "Toxaway Mountain". Turn left up Toxaway Mountain and follow the signs to Meadow Ridge (all the way to the top of the mountain!) There is a parking area available at Meadow Ridge. Trails are marked and arranged so that you can walk loops of varying lengths up to a 2-mile trail. All trails are flat and appropriate for any age.

Meadow Ridge also offers a pavilion, playground, and open fields that are great for kite flying, playing soccer, etc. We kindly request: Tread lightly on vegetation. Our forests are here to provide protection for rare and endangered plants that are indigenous to the area. These plants are very fragile, they grow slowly (some of the lichens take 30 years to grow a foot), and they will grow nowhere else.



# PANTHERTOWN VALLEY

---

Located on the northwest boarder of Lake Toxaway Estates, you'll find Panthertown Valley, a 6,000 acre nature preserve offering non-motorized, semi-primitive recreation. To experience some of the best hiking and mountain biking trails, waterfall viewings, and camping, take Cold Mountain Road north until you see a sign for Canaan Land on your right and a white house on your left. Turn left here and then take your first right (unmarked gravel road).

The gravel road will dead-end into a parking area after about 1/4 of a mile. This is the entrance into Panthertown Valley. Alternate route would be to travel from Meadow Ridge turning right before the pavilion and drive 1.1 miles to the left-hand turnoff into the Panthertown parking area.

When hiking into Panthertown, please heed the following Forest Service requests. First, if a trail takes you to a waterfall or cliff, stay back from the edge. Hikers are injured or killed every year in Western North Carolina by falls from such places.

Second, tread lightly on Panthertown's vegetation. One reason the Forest Service acquired Panthertown was to provide protection for rare and endangered plants which grow there, especially in what biologists refer to as the "spray cliff" (behind the waterfalls) and the "granitic dome" (on the cliffs) ecological areas. These plants are very fragile, they grow slowly (some of the lichens take 30 years to grow a foot), and they will grow nowhere else.

Third, if you are a mountain biker, stay on the trails designated as suitable for this activity. There is no official trail system in the valley, limited blazing of trails, and except at the trail-heads, no signposts.



# TRAIL ESSENTIALS

Trail Length: 2.5 Miles Round Trip

Difficulty (1-5): 2

Trail Time: 1.5 hours

## SCHOOL HOUSE FALLS PANTHERTOWN VALLEY

Follow the trail-head at the far right corner of the parking area. Within 5 minutes you will cross a footbridge to arrive at an old logging road. Turn left on the road, and pass a signboard with information about the forest. The road, which follows the route of railroad tracks used by lumbermen in the early part of the century, will be visible on your left as it switchbacks down the steep hillside. Instead of remaining on the road as it makes these curves, pick up the footpath before the first bend. Look for a rain collection station with a solar panel. Bear right immediately and soon enough you will rejoin the logging road farther down the slope of the mountain. Turn right, and as soon as you cross a rickety wood-plank bridge over Greenland Creek, turn left onto a trail leading thorough he woods to the falls.

When the falls are within view, take note of the trail on your right leading to the summit of Little Green Mountain. You will return the way you came. Follow the footpath out to the logging road and turn right. When the road bends to the right, pay attention and find the path leading up the weather station. The final trail to your car will branch off to the right just before the logging road enters a piece of private property called Canaan Land.



# TRAIL ESSENTIALS

Trail Length: 5 Miles Round Trip

Difficulty (1-5): 4

Trail Time: 3.25 hours

## LITTLE GREEN MOUNTAIN PANTHERTOWN VALLEY

Take the trail leading to the right of the parking area. Within five minutes, you will cross a footbridge to arrive at an old logging road. Turn left on the road, and pass a signboard with information about the forest. The road, which follows the route of railroad tracks used by lumbermen in the early part of the century, will be visible on your left as it switchbacks down the steep hillside. Instead of remaining on the road as it makes these curves, pick up the footpath before the first bend. You'll notice it near a rain-collection station with a solar panel. Bear right immediately and soon enough you will rejoin the logging road farther down the mountain.

Turn right, and as soon as you cross a wood-plank bridge over Greenland Creek, turn left onto a trail leading through the woods to Schoolhouse falls. When the falls are within view, take note of the trail on your right leading to the summit of Little Green Mountain. Stop at the falls for a snack or a swim. Then retrace your steps to the steep trail up the mountain, which will take about 30 minutes. At the top, the trail splits in several directions, offering a number of different options to sit and enjoy the view over Panthertown.

You will return the way you came. Take the same trail down the mountain to the falls and turn left to return to the logging road. Take care when it goes around a rightward bend to find the footpath leading back up the hill to the weather station. Just before the road enters private property called Canaan Land, catch the trail at the right to reach your car.



# TRAIL ESSENTIALS

Trail Length: 5 Miles Round Trip

Difficulty (1-5): 4

Trail Time: 3.5 hours

## GRANNY BURRELL FALLS PANTHERTOWN VALLEY

Follow previous directions to arrive at the top of Little Green Mountain. After enjoying the views at the top of Little Green Mountain, locate the white arrows spray painted onto the rock (the arrows begin at the rock face to the left as you approach the summit on the trail up from the waterfall). The trail down the east slope of the mountain is easy to lose whenever it surfaces from between rhododendrons into the wide-open rock, so take time to locate the white arrows each time.

About 20 minutes after you leave the top, you will connect to a logging road. Turn right. The white-pine forest you enter is what remains of a Christmas-tree plantation from the 1960s. The Forest Service has rerouted parts of the trail through here, so note the short detours the new trails take. When you emerge from the pine forest, listen for the sound of the falls and turn toward them when a trail branches left at a wide, sandy spot in the double-track road. If you reach a wood-plank bridge, you've gone too far.

The trail to Granny Burrell Falls is only a few hundred yards long. Back at the logging road, continue in the direction you were heading. Within 10 minutes you'll arrive at the Three Trails Intersection, where the route you've been following meets the main thoroughfare through the center of the valley. If you head left, you'll arrive at Salt Rock and the Cashiers entrance to Panthertown. To return to your car, turn right. The trail, running parallel to Panthertown Creek, splits shortly after a sandbar. Just ahead of you, Greenland and Panthertown Creek join to become the Tuckasegee River. When you recognize the trail to your right leading to Schoolhouse Falls, you've completed your loop.

Now return the way you came. Continue over the bridge on the wide trail. When it goes around a bend to the right, find the footpath leading back up the hill to the weather station. Just before the road enters private property called Canaan Land, catch the trail at the right to reach your car.



# TRAIL ESSENTIALS

Trail Length: 2.2 Miles Round Trip

Difficulty (1-5): 3

Trail Time: 2.5 hours

## WARDEN FALLS PANTHERTOWN VALLEY

From the Panthertown Valley parking area, take the trail at the back right corner, to the right of the map kiosk. Follow this path until it crosses a creek and intersects with an old access road. Turn left. Follow this for about 5 minutes, past an information sign, until you come to a cylindrical rain-collection station with a solar panel. Leave the access road and enter the woods, then bear right immediately on a downhill path. Soon enough you will rejoin the logging road father down the slope of the mountain. Turn right, and soon you'll cross a wood-plank bridge over Greenland Creek, this will be about 20 minutes from the parking lot.

At the far edge of the bridge is a trail to the left which leads to Schoolhouse Falls. We're going to Warden Falls, though, so continue along the roadbed (fairly straight and flat...a rail line once ran along here when the valley was logged last century). In 10 minutes you'll come to Panthertown Creek and a second wooden bridge. Just across the bridge is an intersection; turn right.

The woods will open up when you pass under the powerline access. Once you're back in the woods, continue for only a few minutes until you come to a small clearing. There is a log lying across the small side trail on the left that intersects the Devil's Elbow Trail. Cross the log and follow the trail down the hill. The trail ends at the top of Warden's Falls. Take a small trail to the right to the base of the falls. Return the way you came.

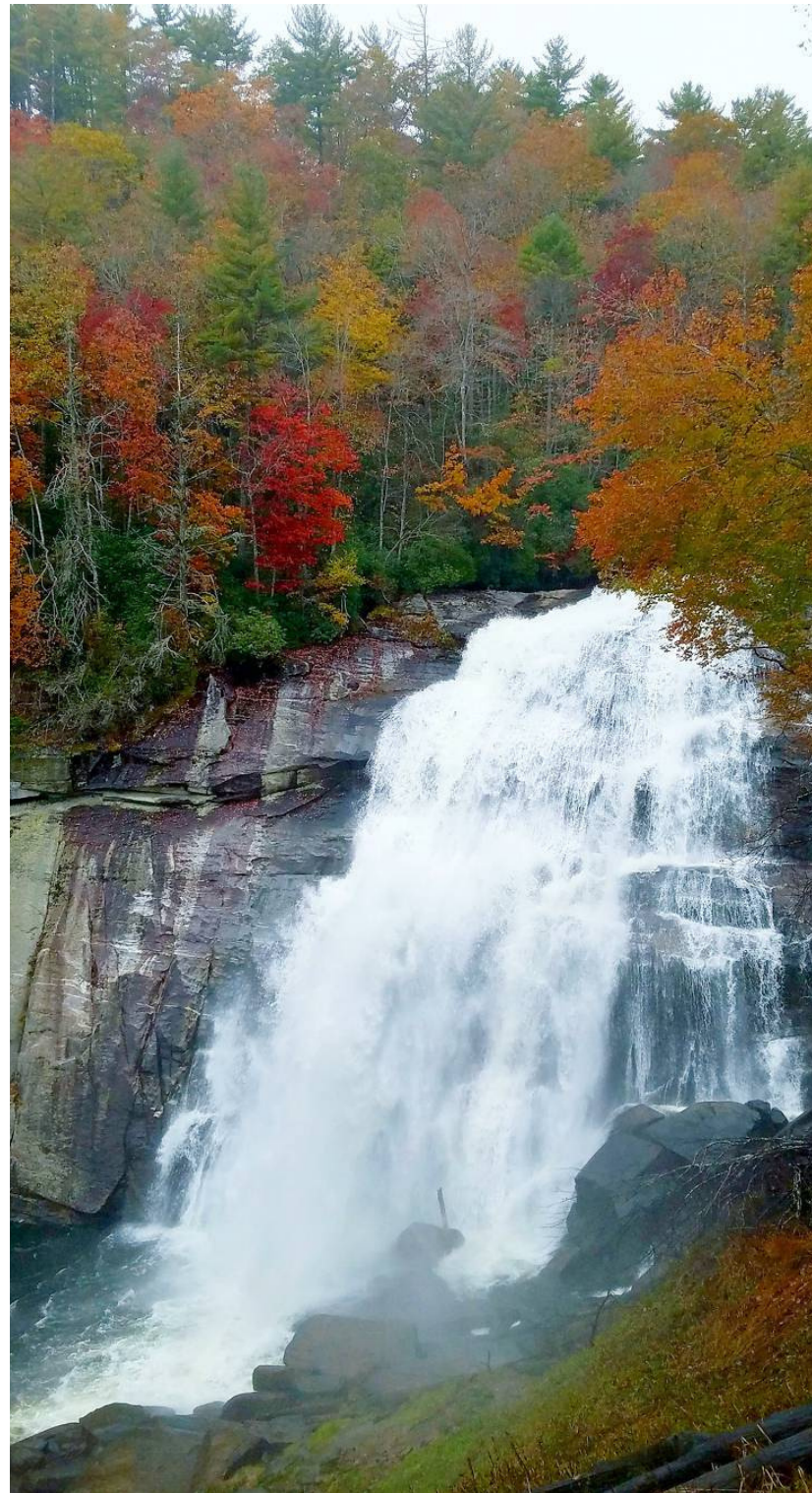


# GORGES STATE PARK

---

Gorges State Park is set in the midst of plunging waterfalls, rugged river gorges, sheer rock walls and a high concentration of rare species.

Exploration of this unique environment often begins at the expansive visitor center with its museum-quality exhibits, augmented by picnic grounds and shelters. Back-country-style recreation is a hallmark of Gorges with distance hiking, backpack camping, trout fishing, mountain biking and horseback riding welcome in various parts of the rugged interior. The 7,500 acre park incorporates a portion on the long distance Foothills Trail and touches Lake Jocasee at the South Carolina border. Trails and campsites continue to be developed at this relatively new state park.



# TRAIL ESSENTIALS

Trail Length: 4.1 Miles Round Trip

Difficulty (1-5): 3

Trail Time: 2 hours

## RAINBOW AND TURTLEBACK FALLS GORGES STATE PARK PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST

Rainbow Falls is one of the most spectacular waterfall settings in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. This 150-ft. tall waterfall is impressive, especially after rainy weather that swells the Horsepasture River.

Directions to trail-head: From the main entrance of Lake Toxaway Estates, go east towards Cashiers, for about a mile to the junction with SR 281 South. Turn left and go one mile to the entrance to Gorges State Park. Turn and go a couple of miles to the parking area for Rainbow Falls, Grassy Ridge Parking Area.

The trail accesses the Horsepasture River and follows it upstream. The marked trail ends at Rainbow Falls, however hikers can continue upstream about 1/4 mile to Turtleback Falls. Once the trail leaves Gorges State Park and enters the Pisgah National Forest, camping is allowed anywhere along the trail. There are signs to indicate when you are entering and leaving state park property. Hikers should be aware of all State and Federal rules in these areas. Be aware that waterfalls can be extremely dangerous. Serious injuries and deaths have occurred along this trail. It is not recommended that anyone swim in the Horsepasture River. Water levels can rise unexpectedly and even the best swimmers may be swept downstream by strong currents.



# TRAIL ESSENTIALS

Trail Length: 4.5 Miles Round Trip

Difficulty (1-5): 3

Trail Time: 2.25 hours

From Lake Toxaway Estates' main entrance, drive west on US 64 towards Cashiers. After about one mile, turn left at the Sapphire Country Store, heading south on Highway 281. Drive 9.5 miles to the entrance to Duke Power's Bad Creek property. The gate opens automatically for vehicles, but only from 6 AM to 6 PM, so plan to be off the property by that time. Inside the Bad Creek generating station, Duke drains water from a series of reservoirs to run underground turbines and generate electricity during periods of peak demand. At nights and on weekends, it pumps the water back up to drain it again.

Drive two miles into the property and turn left at a sign pointing the way to the Foothills Trail. After .3 miles, turn into the Bad Creek Parking Area on the right. Start by leaving the parking area on a half-mile trail to the Whitewater River (just before the river, note the Coon Branch Trail leading to the left into a rare patch of virgin forest). You'll stay on blue-blazed trails for the entire hike.

When the trail splits, take the spur to the lower falls. When you emerge onto a road, follow it left for about 250 yards before picking up the trail again on the far side. You'll soon arrive at a platform that offers a commanding view of the falls.

If you view the falls during winter, when the leaves are down from the trees, the wreckage of a plane will be visible on the mountainside to the left of the falls. In the early 1970's two couples died while trying to get a good view of the falls from the air. Retrace your footsteps to get back to the car.

## LOWER WHITEWATER FALLS FOOTHILLS TRAIL



# TRAIL ESSENTIALS

Trail Length: 4.6 Miles Round Trip

Difficulty (1-5): 3

Trail Time: 2.5 hours

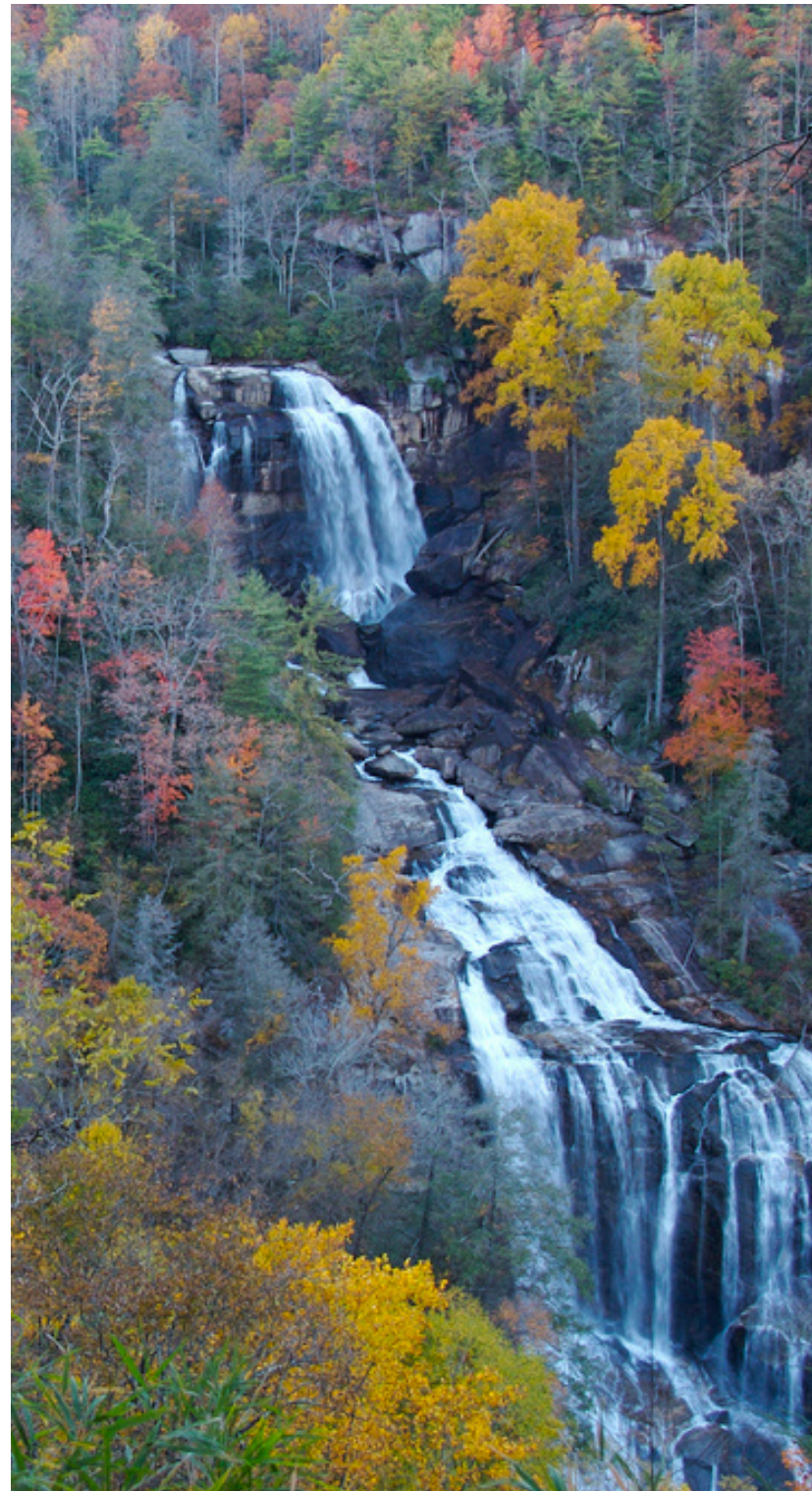
## WHITEWATER FALLS FOOTHILLS TRAIL

From Lake Toxaway Estates' main entrance, drive west on US 64 towards Cashiers. After about one mile, turn left at the Sapphire Country Store, heading south on Highway 281. You will reach the entrance to Whitewater Falls after 8.5 miles. Park here and pay a \$2 fee for an easy 1/2 mile walk to the falls. If you're ready for a hike, skip the first entrance and continue another mile on Highway 281. Turn left through the gate into Duke Power's Bad Creek property. The gate opens automatically for vehicles, but only from 6 AM to 6 PM, so plan to be off the property by that time.

Inside the Bad Creek generating station, Duke drains water from a series of reservoirs to run underground turbines and generate electricity during periods of peak demand. At nights and on weekends, it pumps the water back up to drain it again. Drive two miles into the property and turn left at a sign pointing the way to the Foothills Trail. After .3 miles, turn into the Bad Creek Parking Area on the right.

Start by leaving the parking area on a half-mile trail to the Whitewater River (just before the river, note the Coon Branch Trail leading to the left into a rare patch of virgin forest).

On the far side of the river, turn left and follow the white blazes upstream on the Foothills Trail. Most of the next 1.7 miles to the falls is generally flat. Only the last half-mile or so - beginning after the second river crossing - involves steep switchbacks. Note the thick-skinned beech trees and the trunk of a dead chestnut as you hike. You've reached the end when you climb to a viewing platform over-looking the 411 foot falls. Return the way you came. (Alternatively, for a 2.3 mile hike, leave a car here)



# PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST

---

The Pisgah National Forest is a land of mile-high peaks, cascading waterfalls, and heavily forested slopes. Comprised of over 500,000 acres, the Pisgah is primarily a hardwood forest with whitewater rivers, waterfalls and hundreds of miles of trails. This national forest is home of the first tract of land purchased under the Weeks Act of 1911 which led to the creation of the national forests in the eastern United States. It is also home of the first school of forestry in the United States, now preserved at the Cradle of Forestry in America historic site, and boasts two of the first designated wilderness areas in the east. The Pisgah, Grandfather and Appalachian Ranger Districts are scattered along the eastern edge of the mountains of western North Carolina and offer visitors a variety of opportunities for outdoor recreation and enjoying the natural beauty of the mountains.



# TRAIL ESSENTIALS

Trail Length: 5 Miles Round Trip

Difficulty (1-5): 4

Trail Time: 3 hours

## JOHN ROCK PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST

From the intersection of US 276/64 and US 280, drive north on US 276, entering Pisgah Forest. Take US 276 north to FS 475 (Fish Hatchery Road). Go approximately 3 miles to the Fish Hatchery on the left. Park in the parking lot at the Fish Hatchery. The Cat Gap Loop trail starts at the west side of the Fish Hatchery parking lot near the buildings and finishes at the east end of the parking lot near the picnic area.

For the loop hike, start at the west trailhead for the Cat Gap Loop trail (the trailhead nearest the buildings). Follow that trail for 0.8 miles and look for a spur trail on the left that leads to a small waterfall. After viewing the waterfall, continue on the Cat Gap Loop trail. After about 1.2 miles from the waterfall, you will come to a fork. The left fork is a by pass trail and shortens the loop somewhat and avoids one of the more steeper climbs. The right fork is the full loop.

The John Rock trail will branch off the Cat Gap Loop trail on the left. That trail proceeds to the summit of John Rock (3209 feet) and then descends to the John Rock view spot. Continue on the John Rock trail to reconnect with the Cat Gap Loop trail and return to the Fish Hatchery.

For the out and back hike, start at the east trailhead for the Cat Gap Loop trail and take a right onto the John Rock trail to the view spot.



# TRAIL ESSENTIALS

Trail Length: 1-4 Miles Round Trip Options

Difficulty (1-5): 2

Trail Time: .5-1.5 hours

From the intersection of US 276/64 and US 280, drive north on US 276, entering Pisgah Forest. Go 5.2 miles. Turn left onto FS 475. Drive past the Pisgah Center For Wildlife Education and at 3.9 miles, you'll find a large parking lot on the right. You can either hike quick one-mile direct round-trip or the entire four-mile loop that includes the top of the waterfall.

From the small parking area, walk around the gate and follow the red-blazed (and signed) Daniel Ridge Loop Trail. Cross an impressive bridge over the Davidson River and follow the trail straight ahead (a riverside trail to the left takes you to some nice camping sites). At the fork of the loop trail, go to the right to reach the waterfall. If you hike the entire loop, this is where the loop ends. It's an easy uphill walk along an old road to the falls. You can enjoy a view in front of the waterfall or take a short side trail up to the side of the falls.

If you want to continue the loop hike and go to the top of the waterfall, head back toward the car and you will immediately see the trailhead up the mountain on the right. The total elevation gain for the loop hike is 800 feet. The loop hike includes several other cascades along the river. Be sure to follow the red blazes to stay on the main trail.

## DANIEL RIDGE FALLS PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST



# OUR TEAM



Cindy Bishop  
Broker



Susan Chambers  
Broker



Chip Freeman  
Broker



Dave Guest  
Broker



John Heinitsh  
Broker



Reg Heinitsh  
President/Broker



Reg Heinitsh, III  
VP/Broker



Will Heinitsh  
VP/Broker



Ross Hyett  
Broker



Scott McCall  
Broker



Mo Mitchell  
Broker



Mish Nichols  
Broker



Jerry Starr  
Broker



Allison Wren  
Buyer Broker



Andrea Hamilton  
MLS Coordinator  
Broker



Bianca Mitchell  
DIR of RE  
Operations/Broker



Rachel Schneider  
Receptionist/Rentals