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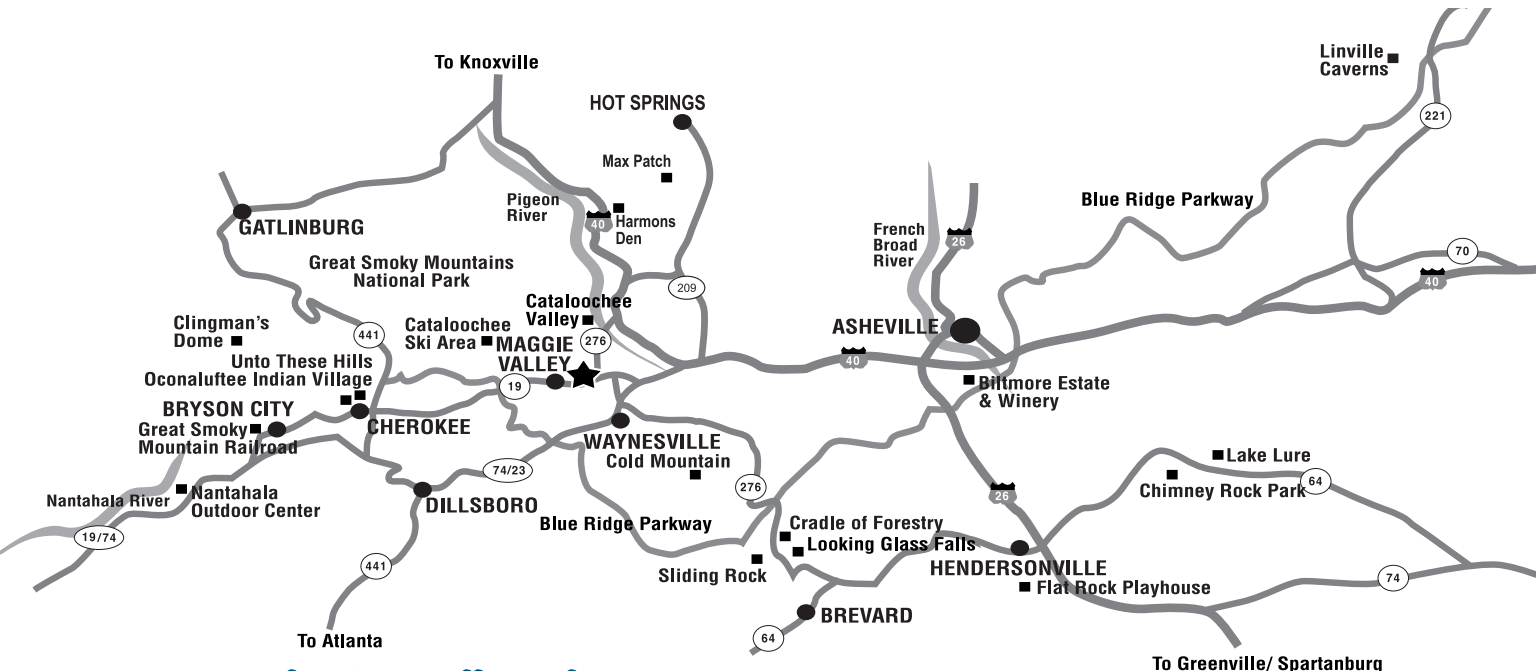
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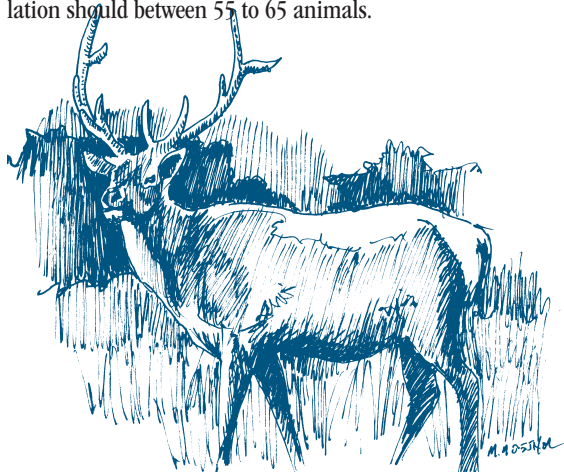
Day Trips from Maggie Valley North Carolina





Cataloochee Valley Elk

After a 150 year absence, Elk once again roam The Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation embarked on a very high profile project to reintroduce elk to the Cataloochee Valley area of The Great Smoky Mountains National Park over 10 years ago. After years of studies, the first elk were transported to the park in February of 2000. In April of 2000 they were released into the wild. The elk have flourished and after this years calves are born the population should between 55 to 65 animals.



From Maggie Valley go east to second red light and make a left at the Quality Inn and travel down Hwy. 276. Go approx. eight miles and turn left on Cove Creek Road just before Interstate 40. Drive approx 20 miles into the park. There you can hike, fish or visit the homestead and church. Be sure to take a picnic to enjoy while waiting on the Elk to come out to feed at sunset.

Mingo Falls & Cherokee

Arrive in the Great Smoky Mountains and you'll be enchanted as you walk among the wildflowers and waterfalls. The inviting homeland of the Cherokee Indians is nestled at the edge of the National Park and presents you with some of the most fantastic trout fishing, hiking and sightseeing in America

Take highway 19 west 15 miles to Cherokee, NC. On your right you will see Santa's Land. After Santa's Land, visit Harrah's Casino on your right. After Harrah's continue one half mile to downtown Cherokee. Here there are many shops and restaurants to enjoy. You leave downtown Cherokee and cross over the river and turn right on 441 north. Here you will see the Indian Village, Cherokee Museum, and the ticket office for Unto These Hills which is a nightly summer show. To go to Mingo Falls continue on to 441 to Saunook Village and turn right into the Village area and take a sharp left on Big Cove road. Drive to the end and turn left into Big Cove. Follow this road for about 4.5 miles, passing the KOA Campground on the right. Start looking for a small sign saying 'Mingo Falls Next Right' and take that road - Mingo Falls Bridge Rd - over the bridge to the parking area at the trail head. The trail to the falls is only 1/4 mile, but heads up about 150 stairs, levels off and ends at a small wooden bridge that crosses Mingo Creek in front of the falls. I've seen estimates from 120' to 200' for the height of this beauty - take your pick

Santa's Land is a Christmas theme park with amusement rides, a petting zoo, exotic animals, and Santa with his elves and reindeer.

Santa's land is located on Hwy 19 approximately 2 miles from Harrahs Casino on your way back to Maggie Valley.

Asheville Area



Biltmore Estate: (3 to 5 hours touring the house, gardens & winery, plus 45 minutes driving time to the Estate.) Phone: 877-245-8667, Open Daily except Thanksgiving & Christmas Day. 9:00AM- 5:00PM This 8000 acre estate features America's largest residence, a 250 room French Renaissance chateau built in 1895 by George Vanderbilt. A visit includes gardens, winery, restaurants and several gift shops.

Turn right out of parking lot. Continue on Hwy 19N approximately 6.5 miles, merge right on 23/74N- continue to merge with I-40 East. Continue on I-40 for approx. 23 miles to exit 50. Stay to left at forks in exit ramp. Turn left onto Hwy. US 25. Continue (stay in an inside lane) approx. 3 blocks to fork in the road stay to the left. The entrance to Biltmore Estates will be on your left.

Retrace directions back to I-40 W; Continue with I-40 W to Exit 47. Turn left at the end of the ramp on to US 191. The WNC Farmers Market will be on your left.

WNC Farmers Market: Here you will find fresh produce, plants, flowers, herbs and crafts. Market is open year around- 7 days a week. Retail buildings open: April through October 8am-6pm, November- March 8:00am – 5:00pm

Turn left out of the parking lot and continue on US 191. For those of you who can't resist a good shopping mall even while on vacation- at 1.5 miles on your left you will pass: Biltmore Square Mall: Anchor stores: Belk's and Dillard's Turn left out of the parking lot and continue on Hwy. 191 approximately 2.5 miles, road will merge from 4 lanes to 2 lanes. Look for brown signs for NC Arboretum. Take right Turn at light, the entrance to the Arboretum is ahead on the right.

North Carolina Arboretum: The Arboretum cultivates con-

nections between people and plants through acres of unique gardens, miles of hiking & biking trails, a state of the art greenhouse and hundreds of educational opportunities. Visiting the Arboretum is a perfect way to experience the natural beauty of Western North Carolina. Of special interest are the quilt garden, and the many beautiful dry-stack rock walls.

To return to I-40, retrace direction. If you are still looking for Something and have the energy left! You can take I-40 East to Exit 51, take exit 51 off I-40 & turn left at the bottom of the exit ramp onto Sweeten Creek Road. Turn left onto Roberts Road. You will see Asheville's Fun Depot on your left.

Asheville's Fun Depot: Is the place you could fill a whole day with family fun and entertainment. State of the art arcade gallery, outdoor go-kart track, 18 hole indoor mini golf, laser tag, climbing wall just to name a few. When you get hungry they have the Depot Diner. Closed Sunday, 9am- 10pm on Saturday, 10am to 10pm – Monday – Friday (866-303-4fun)

After a fun filled day retrace direction & take I-40 West to Exit 20 onto US 276, travel approximately 6 miles, take a Right onto US 19 and straight back into Maggie Valley!

Chimney Rock Park & Lake Lure Area

Chimney Rock Park (2-3 hours)

1-800-277-9611; 828-625-9611

The Park is open daily all year, weather permitting, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Winter rates apply mid-November to mid-April when all trails to the waterfalls are closed. Ticket Plaza Hours: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM (EST), 8:30 AM-5:30 PM (DST). The Park remains open 1 _ hours after Ticket Plaza closes.

- Woodlawn Park Walk- 30 minutes- moderate walk through woods (Trail – Open all year)
- Forest Stroll- 1 hour- moderate walk to bottom of Hickory Nut Falls
- Skyline-Cliff Trail- 2 hours- moderate to strenuous- they suggest you take water with you and that you wear comfortable walking shoes. Trail goes to the top of Hickory Nut Falls.
- Four Season Trail- 30 to 45 minutes to the Forest Stroll- moderate- Strenuous. Wear comfortable walking shoes.
- Lunch at the Park's Old Rock Café in downtown Chimney Rock or in the Park's Sky Lounge Snack Bar on top of the mountain.

Directions to Chimney Rock park- Take right out of the parking lot onto US 19. US 19 merges with Hwy.74, stay on 19/74 till it splits, stay to the left and then take I- 40 East toward Asheville (35 miles). In Asheville you will take I- 240 West to 74-A. Take 74-A to the Village of Chimney Rock. Chimney Rock is located 25 miles southeast of Asheville, on Hwy. 64/ 74A.

Shopping - Chimney Rock Village, Bat Cave & surrounding area. And/or Lake Lure Boat Tours: With Lake Lure Tours. One mile from Chimney Rock Park at town marina. Make a right turn out of the Park's entrance gate the marina will be on your left. One hour guided boat ride, departing every hour on the hour.

- Regular Tours- 10 AM- 5 PM
- Twilight Tours- 6 PM- 8 PM
- Dinner Cruises- 6 PM- 7 PM
- Spring/Summer hours- 10 AM- 8 PM
- Open daily- March – November
- 828-625-0077 or Toll free 866-558-7433

Bottomless Pools and Waterfalls- 1.5 miles from Chimney Rock Park. Make a turn right out of the Park's entrance gate. The pools are located just 300 yards south of US 74, across from the Lake Lure Beach, behind the Arcade building. The entrance will be on your right and we hope you enjoy going over the covered bridge.

Highway 209 & a day trip to Hot Springs

This Day trip includes a drive along one of the newest North Carolina State Scenic Byways, “The Appalachian Medley”, an optional side trip to Max Patch (a bald with a panoramic view, elevation just under 5,000 feet) and the destination of Hot Springs, a quaint Appalachian Trail town.

Directions: Take a right out of the parking lot onto US 19, traveling on US19 through the third red light at Lake Junaluska, US 19 will merge with Hwy. 74, move onto the right lane because you need to take exit 104, turn left onto 209. Follow 209 North approximately 36 miles.

Along the way you will pass through beautiful farm lands, passing quaint country stores maybe even a few antique shops. Stop at one or more of the scenic overlooks between Bluff Community and Hot Springs. Trip is about 45 miles (1 hour an half without stops) Along the way you may want to stop at the Trust General Store at the intersection of 209 and Hwy. 63. The

Barutios, the proprietors live in a restored pre-Civil War house on Hwy. 63 behind the store. They call their house the “Plum - Nilly”-“Plum out of Asheville and Nilly to Tennessee.” You may wish to stop at the tiny St. Jude's Chapel of Hope built by Mrs. Barutio to thank the saint whom she credits for her miraculous recovery from cancer. The Chapel is always open for visitors. Van Cliff is one of the afore mentioned overlooks- a view of Spring Creek at the bottom of a deep gorge.

Hot Springs (pop. 478) is a town with many beautiful old houses that reflects its history for wealthy Southerners attracted by the hot mineral springs and the cooler air of the mountains. As early as the 1830's Hot Springs functioned as a health resort with hotel. Stop by the railroad caboose parked on Main Street and pick a brochure. While you are there you could visit the Hot Springs Spas. Soak in a Jacuzzi of hot mineral water along the banks of the French Broad River or Spring Creek. North Carolina's only hot natural mineral baths.

Whitewater rafting on the French Broad River

Rent mountain bikes and take a nice easy bike ride up to seven miles along the French Broad River on Paint Rock Road. Hike the Appalachian Trail- Nice 2-3 hour loop trail, easiest to take the Silvermine Trail uphill, then return on the Appalachian trail which overlooks the French Broad River at Lover's Leap. The Silvermine Trail is accessed by following the road past Nantahala Outdoor Center's Riverside outpost to the end of the road. The trail continues along the creek. Follow this trail until it crosses the Appalachian Trail (white markings). An optional drive on the return is to Max Patch (allow an extra 2-3 hours, but well worth the time if you don't mind windy but well maintained, dirt roads.) Max Patch is a bald mountain top crossed by the Appalachian Trail, an enchanting 360° view of the surrounding mountains and it is located in one of the most remote and beautiful corners of Haywood County.

Return on Highway 209 South from Hot Springs. 7.6 miles from Hot Springs turn right at a BP Gas Station (signs to Max Patch and Meadow Fork), proceed on this paved road to road #1181. Turn right here and hang right at the first fork, turn right onto a dirt road. Follow this road up the mountain and turn right (signs to Max Patch here) to the parking lot. Informational signs in parking area.

Return the same way from Max Patch to the first intersection (the left turn is the road you came up on) and stay straight. At the next intersection go right and follow this road to Harmons Den where it will intersect with I-40. Take 40 East to exit 20 and take 276 to the light, turn right and welcome back to Maggie Valley!