

A Day In Historic Valdese

One of North Carolina's historical and cultural treasures is the town of Valdese just off I-40 in Burke County. Founded in May of 1893 by a group known as the Waldensians, Valdese offers the visitor a day filled with fabulous attractions that tell the Waldensian story.

1-Day Itinerary

Day 1

A unique museum and trail, some tasty fare and a glass of North Carolina wine in Valdese



With so much to see and do in the area, we recommend the following 1-day itinerary. Enjoy your visit by mixing and matching events to your particular interest. Be sure to check days and hours of operation for each venue.

Day One

Valdese:

Start your day learning about the Waldensians at the **Waldensian Museum**. Located on Rodoret Street, next to the Waldensian Presbyterian Church, the museum provides insight to the Waldensian way of life. A 2005 renovation doubled the size of the museum, which opened in 1974. See drawings and maps marking the sacred spots where they worshiped in secret. Experience their daily lives as settlers and see items they used in their crafts of bread baking and wine making.

Before your next stop, be sure to drop by **Myra's** and get yourself a delicious ice cream sundae.

Continue your Waldensian experience by visiting the **Trail of Faith**

located on Church Street. There you will capture the Waldenses as they really lived by walking through actual-size replicas of their homes. Feel the passion of their worship as you sit in the chapel and hear a Waldensian Hymn. Relax and play bocce, a game that is a part of their heritage and continues to be a favorite pastime today. The Trail of Faith provides a complete understanding of their struggles for religious freedom and a journey of faith to a new land.

If you have worked up an appetite, there are several places you can have a tasty meal. **Giovanni's**, located on Main Street offers a great lunch menu and just a little bit further up the street is **Dew Drop Inn**. While waiting for your lunch at the Dew Drop, you can examine the beautiful wall mural and try to find the 51 hidden objects that the artist incorporated into the artwork.

After lunch, stop by the **Old Rock School** located on Main Street, and visit the two beautiful art galleries and **Western & Piedmont Railroad Museum**. The Old Rock School built in 1923, is a wonderful example of Waldensian stone masonry.

To make the day complete, visit the **Waldensian Heritage Winery** and discover a variety of wines that represent more than 250 years of wine making. Sit among the local people, sip the wine and hear the stories of the early settlers.

For more information:

Valdese Tourism Department
www.visitvaldese.com

July 2007