

Revenuers to Race Cars

Learn about the days when legal alcohol production was abolished and moonshine runners developed their racing skills outrunning “the law.” See mud turned into magnificent art in the frescoes of Ben Long. In our mountains, find a unique appreciation for handcrafted treasures – from frescoes by an Italian-trained artist to Appalachian crafts, and much more.

3-Day Itinerary

Day 1

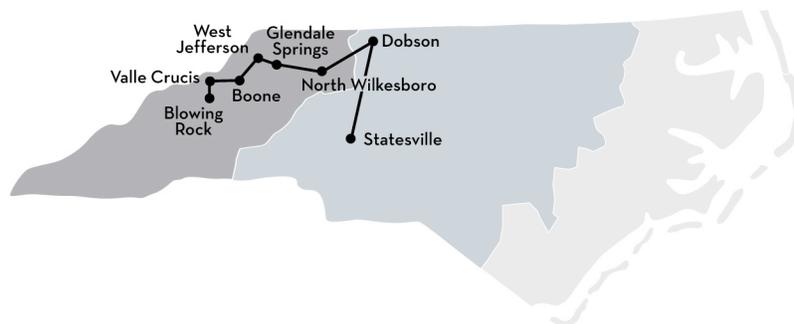
The history of racing and the art of fresco, wine and cheese, dinnertime drama

Day 2

Head to the mountains to take in country cooking and beautiful frescoes

Day 3

Appalachian culture and mountain views in the Boone/Blowing Rock area



Revenuers to Race Cars and Mud to Magnificent

With so much to see and do in the area, we recommend the following 3-day itinerary. Enjoy all the area has to offer by mixing and matching events to your particular interest. Be sure to check days and hours of operation for each venue.

Day 1

Get your first glimpse of North Carolina's interconnected moonshine and racing legacy on a visit to the headquarters of **Bill Elliott NASCAR team** (Evernham Motorsports, LLC) in Statesville, NC, at the Evernham Motorsports Museum and Gift Shop. The Museum offers a historical tour through the careers of Ray Evernham, Bill Elliott, Jeremy Mayfield and Kasey Kahne.

Next, visit **Images at the Crossroads**, a Ben Long Fresco at the Statesville Civic Center. Noted artist Ben Long began his study of fine arts in the Creative Writing program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps in Viet Nam – where he took the position of Head of the Combat Art Team – Long traveled to Florence, Italy, to learn the art of fresco from fresco master. Today, travelers to North Carolina can see Long's talent up close in the seven stunning true frescoes Long has completed in North Carolina.

Then head to beautiful **Shelton Vineyards**, one of 13 North Carolina vineyards. They don't offer white lightning, but you can sample some great wine and cheese.

In North Wilkesboro, head out for an evening of local history at **Benton Hall**, a renovated schoolhouse. Every summer, the Wilkes Players perform a re-enactment of the life of the legendary Tom Dula, hanged in the 1860s for the murder of his girlfriend. It was one of the first highly publicized crimes of passion in the nation.

Day 2

Start the day at the **Old Wilkes Jail**. Learn more about the moonshine business in old North Carolina and see the cell where Tom Dula was incarcerated.

Follow with a visit to the **Churches of the Frescoes** in Glendale Springs and West Jefferson and begin to see how mud truly was transformed into magnificent in the frescoes of artist Ben Long.

Go ahead and make an extra notch in your belt . . . you'll need it after you stop in at **Shatley Springs Inn**, where you will experience a real down-home country dinner.

Ten miles away, West Jefferson is a great place to walk off the Southern cooking. Visit galleries and view the large-scale outdoor mural paintings on the buildings in downtown West Jefferson. And don't miss the **Ashe County Cheese Factory**, where you can

purchase delicious locally made cheese, butter and fresh cheese curd. If you're there on a weekday, you can even watch them make their products.

From West Jefferson, 25 miles of beautiful mountain roads will carry you to Boone, where you can find anything from exquisite vegetarian food to hearty country fare for dinner.

Day 3

Start the day by browsing the wares of the **Southern Highland Craft Guild**. The works are on display and for sale at the Parkway Craft Center, housed at Moses Cone Manor on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Then it's on down the Parkway to visit an old craggy friend: Grandfather Mountain. See indigenous animals including black bear, cougar, deer and otters. Venture on knocking knees across the **Mile High Swinging Bridge**. Learn about gems, minerals, plants and endangered species at the **Nature Museum**.

Come down from the mountain and head to the valley – Valle Crucis, that is. At the **Mast General Store** you'll step into a turn-of-the-century general store, preserved and fully stocked with yesteryear and modern day necessities. Once known for carrying everything from cradles to caskets, the original store still has everything from a Post Office to a candy shop to an outfitter post and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

From Valle Crucis, travel about twenty minutes back to downtown Boone where you can shop in the Emporium and downtown shops or brave the climbing wall at Footsloggers for a great view of the town of Boone.

For more information:

North Carolina's High Country Host
<http://www.mountainsofnc.com>

Statesville CVB
<http://www.visitstatesville.org>

Wilkes Chamber of Commerce
<http://www.wilkesnc.org>

Ashe County Chamber of Commerce
<http://www.ashechamber.com>