

The Mountains of Western North Carolina

The lush mountains of southwestern North Carolina await you on this mountain itinerary. Visit beautiful Lake Lure and see the majestic Hickory Nut Gorge from the heights of Chimney Rock. In Cherokee, learn about the fascinating history of an ancient culture in Cherokee. Travel to Asheville and Dillsboro and shop for traditional crafts inspired by the beauty and ruggedness of these mountains.

4-Day Itinerary

Day 1

Enjoy the great outdoors at Lake Lure and Chimney Rock

Day 2

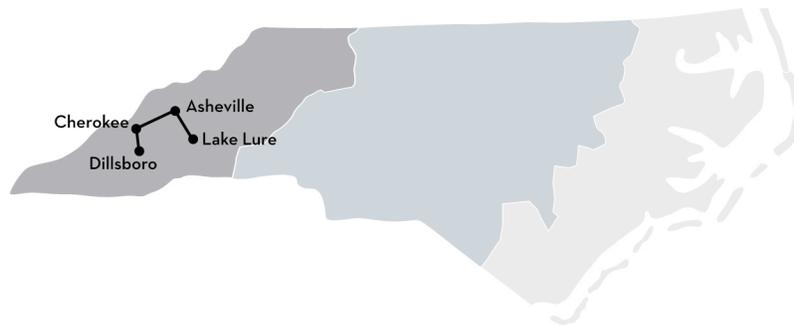
Find history, arts and fine crafts in Asheville

Day 3

Immerse yourself in Cherokee heritage in the North Carolina Mountains

Day 4

Take a train ride through the mountains; enjoy shopping and family-style dining in Dillsboro



With so much to see and do in the area, we recommend the following 4-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

What better way to start your visit than by taking a relaxing narrated cruise on Lake Lure? A ride with **Lake Lure Tours** will show you why National Geographic has named this lake one of the "Ten most

spectacular man-made lakes in the world.” During the hour-long cruise, see the film location for the blockbuster hit *Dirty Dancing*, hear the story of Snake Island and listen to the legend of the church said to be 70 feet below in the center of the lake.

Visit **Chimney Rock Park**, film site of *Last of the Mohicans*. You will have the chance to ride a 26-story elevator through sheer granite that takes you to breathtaking 75-mile views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Following a visit to the top of the “Chimney,” enjoy an evening at **Chimney Rock Village**, with stores and restaurants perched on the banks of the Rocky Broad River, tucked into the Hickory Nut Gorge.

Day 2 “Hands on Asheville”

Visit the **Groewood Gallery** for an introduction to the history of art in Asheville. The Gallery’s roots reach back to the late 1800s with Biltmore Industries. In the 1990s, the Groewood Gallery and its tradition in fine craft were revitalized, and the Gallery now houses a collection of contemporary and traditional furniture, garden art and fine crafts from our nation’s top craftspeople.

The 1.7 miles of the **Asheville Urban Trail** takes visitors on a journey through the art and history of Asheville. Stop by Pack Place to rent a headset and take a self-guided tour. Or, to take a tour led by a guide for a small fee, visit on a Saturday morning. Meet at the front desk of Pack Place before 10:30 a.m. to join a guided tour. The fascinating story of Asheville will be interpreted through historic buildings and 30 stations marked by sculpture and pink granite plaques.

Enjoy lunch at **Grove Arcade Public Market**, a lavishly ornamented, block-long Gothic structure built in the 1900s. The Arcade recently re-opened as a public market and showcases shops and services featuring the distinctive heritage of the area.

Drive out to the Blue Ridge Parkway to visit the **Folk Art Center**. The Center is a showplace of fine regional crafts from the mountains of nine Southern states. Operated by the Southern Highland Craft Guild, this organization is comprised of 750 juried craftspeople.

For dinner, choose from many fantastic restaurants in downtown Asheville.

Day 3

Relive the Victorian era at the **Smith-McDowell House Museum** in Asheville's oldest house (circa 1840). Explore opulent period rooms, history exhibits and grounds designed by the renowned Olmsted Brothers. Get a glimpse of life in the latter half of the 1800s while viewing the furnishings, dress and household tools of the period.

At the **Cherokee Indian Reservation**, "Welcome. I want to tell you a story, a very old story..." begins your trip through the **Museum of The Cherokee Indian**. Totally renovated in 1998, the Museum is a new experience. By combining high-tech wizardry and an extensive artifact collection, the **Museum of The Cherokee Indian** is both fun and educational.

Harrah's Cherokee Casino brings you all your favorite games in video format along with a variety of dining facilities and the opportunity to see big name entertainment. You'll find over 60,000 square feet of casino excitement and round-the-clock gaming action.

Day 4

Just twenty minutes southwest of Cherokee, it's "all aboard!" in Bryson City. Depart from Bryson City Depot for a ride on the **Great Smoky Mountains Railroad**. The 4½ hour Nantahala Gorge Train Excursion travels across fertile valleys and through river gorges and mountain tunnels. What a way to spend the morning! Picnic lunches are available.

Shop the boutiques, potteries and galleries of **Dillsboro**, just 16 miles from Bryson City. Thirsty? visit the soda fountain at the general store. Dillsboro welcomes you as it has been welcoming visitors since the 1880s, when railroads began bringing tourists in to see the pretty mountain town.

Have dinner at the **Jarrett House**, where favorites like hot biscuits, Vinegar Pie and ham with red eye gravy have been served for over 120 years – since 1884. One of the oldest inns in Western North Carolina, the inn is on the National Register of Historic Places. Amid its Victorian furnishings, in the Jarrett House, you are transported back to the days of the horse and buggy and the wood-burning passenger train.

For additional information, please contact:

Asheville CVB
www.exploreasheville.com

Handmade in America
www.handmadeinamerica.org