

## Walking Main Street



63 North Main Street, Waynesville, NC 28786, United States

Waynesville has a fantastic and classic small town downtown- its Main Street offers a variety of stores including the Mast General Store (has a candy barrel downstairs- fun for kids- outdoor clothing, fun knick-knacks), a few breweries (ex. Boojums), a movie theatre (the Strand), and other activities. Check it out!

## The Blue Ridge Parkway



The Blue Ridge Parkway is 469 miles long and runs through 29 counties in North Carolina and Virginia. It is America's longest linear park and is named after the Blue Ridge Mountains, which are part of the Appalachian Mountain range. Haywood County boasts 46 scenic miles of some of the most beautiful parts of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Tourists and locals alike enjoy driving along the Blue Ridge Parkway, which offers breathtaking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains, valleys and countryside.

A nice loop drive including the Blue Ridge Parkway would be to get on at US23/74 at Balsam Gap, heading toward Asheville, and returning to Waynesville on US 276 at Wagon Gap Road.

If you take this route, you may want to consider getting lunch at the Pisgah Inn (<http://www.pisgahinn.com/>) just past 276 on the Blue Ridge Parkway- it has beautiful views.

Also, see hiking below.

[Visit Website](#)

### Hiking in the Blue Ridge Parkway- Black Balsam



There are many options for hikes in the Black Balsam area, and you only have to hike a half mile to reach the first balds. So you can hike as little or as much as your want. Take a picnic! The trail is rutted out in many locations and rocky in others. The section past Tennent Mountain descends quickly on a rocky trail that can be tough on the knees.

**5 Mile Loop:** Our favorite is a loop that climbs and descends several balds, ending with a mostly level walk back. To reach the trailhead, drive about 7/10 of a mile down the road from the Blue Ridge Parkway (more directions below) and look for paved parallel parking on the right. Park there and look for the "Mountains to Sea Trail" marker.

Please reference the link for more information on this hike.

[Visit Website](#)

**Panacea CoffeeHouse, Cafe and Roastery**



66 Commerce St, Waynesville, NC 28786, USA

828-452-6200

Panacea may be my favorite place. Located on Frog Level just a few minutes walk from downtown Waynesville, this coffee house serves delicious lunches (soups, salads, sandwiches, cheeses) and a wide variety of carefully curated coffees and teas. Come grab a coffee and sit on their outside porch, watching the stream run by. It shares this space, with a great brewery, Frog Level Brewing, so this is a great stop for a group with multiple interests!

[Visit Website](#)

### **Cradle of Forestry in America Heritage Site**



11250 Pisgah Highway, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768, USA

828-877-3130

Did you know the science of forestry is relatively new?

Nestled in Pink Beds Valley is the Cradle of Forestry in America, this heritage site is the birthplace of science-based forest management. George and Edith Vanderbilt of the nearby Biltmore Estate are accredited for this living legacy. Some 87,000 acres of the Vanderbilt's "Pisgah Forest" tract became the nucleus of the Pisgah National Forest, established in 1916.

See a train, traditional Appalachian cottages, and if you are lucky traditional craft demonstrations! There are also educational activities for kids (Woodsy Owl's Curiosity Club) and on July 1 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM there will also be live acoustic music (songcatchers music series-<https://cradleofforestry.com/e...>)

[Visit Website](#)

## Rafting on the Nantahala



13077 West Highway 19, Bryson City, NC, United States

828-785-4855

The Nantahala is about an hour from Waynesville depending on traffic and offers wWhite water rafting, a great family activity. There are ways to include family members of most ages. There are different companies that offer touring the Nantahala; in the past I've used the Nantahala Outdoor Center.

North Carolina's shimmering Nantahala River offers river rafting through family-friendly rapids that are mild but exciting. The Nantahala features eight miles of practice on easy Class II rapids before splashing through the exciting Class III whitewater of Nantahala Falls.

The Nantahala is also headquarters of the Nantahala Outdoor Center. Founded in 1972, NOC is located at the intersection of the Appalachian Trail and the Nantahala River in the Nantahala National Forest. Originally a roadside inn, the company has evolved into one of the largest outdoor recreation companies in the nation, hosting well over one million guests each year.

NOC's 500-acre adventure center offers whitewater rafting, four aerial and zipline activities, mountain biking on nine miles of private trails, and stand-up paddleboarding on Lake Fontana. In between activities, you can shop at one of NOC's four retail stores including

NOC's flagship Outfitter's Store, eat at NOC's two riverfront restaurants, and even stay in a cabin adjoining the Appalachian Trail.

[Visit Website](#)

## **Biltmore**



1 Lodge St, Asheville, NC 28803, USA

800-411-3812

Located in Asheville and completed in 1895, George Vanderbilt's 250-room chateau is as impressive today as it was more than a century ago. Biltmore House is truly a wonder of architecture and hospitality.

Activities at the Biltmore include tours of the home, gardens, vineyards, winery, horseback riding, shopping, bicycling, and tours of the grounds.

[Visit Website](#)

## **Over the River and Through the Woods, Hart Theatre Play**

250 Pigeon St, Waynesville, NC 28786

(828) 456-6322



This play, put on by Waynesville's Hart Theatre, is about Nick, a single, Italian-American guy from New Jersey. His parents retired and moved to Florida. That doesn't mean his family isn't still in Jersey. In fact, he sees both sets of his grandparents every Sunday for dinner. This is routine until he has to tell them that he's been offered a dream job. The job he's been waiting for—marketing executive—would take him away from his beloved, but annoying, grandparents.

[Visit website](#)