



**ELEVATED BY NATURE**

[graysoncountyva.com](http://graysoncountyva.com)

# ELEVATED BY NATURE

- ◆ Appalachian Trail
- ◆ Blue Ridge Music Center
- ◆ Grayson Gravel Traverse
- ◆ Grayson Highlands State Park
- ◆ Highest Peaks in Virginia
- ◆ Jefferson National Forest
- ◆ The New River Trail
- ◆ Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area
- ◆ Blue Ridge Parkway
- ◆ The New River
- ◆ Matthews State Forest
- ◆ The Virginia Creeper Trail
- ◆ Whitewater Grayson



**Grayson County Tourism Dept.**  
**276-773-8002 or 276-773-2000**  
**[visit@graysoncountyva.gov](mailto:visit@graysoncountyva.gov)**

Grayson County Visitor Center is located in the Historic 1908 Courthouse, Main St, Independence, Virginia. Travel literature, free wi-fi, restrooms, and cultural museum. Open to the public. Monday- Friday 10 am to 4 pm. Occasionally open on Saturdays.

**[graysoncountyva.com](http://graysoncountyva.com) • 276.773.8002**

# EXPLORE

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# ARTS COUNCIL OF THE TWIN COUNTIES

Serving the City of Galax, Carroll County and Grayson County the Arts Council of the Twin Counties offers events throughout the year. A wide variety of activities for every member of the family. Visit their website to learn about events such as childrens theatre, winter concert series, arts in the schools, holiday extravaganzas and partnerships with others in the region. [www.artsculturalcouncil.org](http://www.artsculturalcouncil.org).



# TAKE A RIDE TRANS AM

Take a ride on the Trans Am from Oregon to Virginia across America. This bike trail cuts right through Troutdale, Virginia, and provides beautiful views throughout.

## EVENTS

EVENT	MONTH	EVENT	WEBSITE
Whitetop Mountain Maple Festival	March	Local maple syrup made in the highlands.	FaceBook: Whitetop Mtn. Maple Festival
Legends of Grayson	April	Always the first weekend in April to honor an old time music legend.	<a href="http://www.graysoncountyva.com">www.graysoncountyva.com</a>
Grayson LandCare Land Stewardship Competition	April	Historic 1908 Courthouse, Independence, Competition showcases youth & creative ways to address environmental, social and economic challenges. Free & open to the public.	<a href="http://www.graysonlandcare.org">www.graysonlandcare.org</a> .
Whitetop Mountain Ramp Festival	May	Mt. Rogers Fire Hall. Ramp eating contest, arts & crafts, Music, dancing & food!	<a href="http://www.mtrogersvfd-rs.com">www.mtrogersvfd-rs.com</a>
Fries Heritage Music Festival	May	Celebrate the Old Time Musical Heritage of Fries, Va.	<a href="http://www.graysoncountyva.com">www.graysoncountyva.com</a>
Horse Show	June	Benefit for the Fries Volunteer Fire Dept., Providence School. 56 Bainbridge Rd. Game & Pleasure Classes.	<a href="http://www.friesfire.com">www.friesfire.com</a>
Wayne C. Henderson Music Festival & Guitar Competition	June	World renowned musicians & entertainment at Grayson Highlands State Park.	<a href="http://www.waynehenderson.org">www.waynehenderson.org</a>
Go with the Flow Brewfest	June	On the New River in Fries. Craft breweries, music, brick oven food truck, games, 5K, giveaways.	<a href="http://www.gowiththeflowbrewfest.com">www.gowiththeflowbrewfest.com</a>
Grayson County Fiddlers' Convention	June	Old Time & Bluegrass Music Competition. Elk Creek Ball Park. A Crooked Road Event.	<a href="http://www.ecvfd.net">www.ecvfd.net</a>
Farm Fresh Kids Day	June	Independence Farmers Market, 9am-1pm, Family event:roping, animals, games & more. Free.	<a href="http://www.independencefarmersmarket.org">www.independencefarmersmarket.org</a> .

# E ON THE MERICA

ns America bike trail  
going coast to coast  
beautiful scenic bike



## CHESTNUT CREEK SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

The place to learn a new craft or perfect your art. Reasonable prices & small class sizes, perfect for beginning or advanced artists. Over 20 classes available. [www.chestnutcreekarts.org](http://www.chestnutcreekarts.org).



## EVENTS

EVENT	MONTH	EVENT	WEBSITE
Reading on the Front Porch	June	For all ages who love stories. Reading starts at 10am. Games and other learning opportunities.	<a href="http://www.matthewsfarmmuseum.org">www.matthewsfarmmuseum.org</a>
Down on The Farm	June	Matthews Living History Farm Museum concert & festival.	<a href="http://www.matthewsfarmmuseum.org">www.matthewsfarmmuseum.org</a> .
Town of Fries Fourth of July Celebration	July	Parade, games, music, old timers ball game at Fries Ball Park, Main St, Fireworks at 10pm.	<a href="http://www.friesfestivals.com">www.friesfestivals.com</a>
Independence Fourth of July Celebration	July	Main St. Independence. 9am. Parade at 10am. Vendors & Food. Evening Fireworks & Band.	<a href="http://www.independenceva.com">www.independenceva.com</a>
Berry Festival	July	Independence Farmers Market, 9am-1pm. Berry Pie Contest & everything berry. Food, music & more.	<a href="http://www.independencefarmersmarket.org">www.independencefarmersmarket.org</a>
Smoke on the Mountain BBQ Championship	July	Main St, Galax, Va. Festival celebrating BBQ, downtown Galax. Entertainment, food, vendors, beverage garden & barbeque competition. Morning-midnight.	<a href="http://www.smokeonthemountainva.com">www.smokeonthemountainva.com</a> .
Take A Break from the Interstate—US21 Road Market	July	Along Hwy 21 through Grayson County, Independence & Elk Creek. Yard sales & flea market.	<a href="http://www.takeabreakfromtheinterstate.com">www.takeabreakfromtheinterstate.com</a> .
New River Clean-Up	August	We love the New River and invite you to join us in our river clean-up month - its fun!	<a href="http://www.graysoncountyva.com">www.graysoncountyva.com</a>
Independence Farmers Market Tomato Festival	August	Enter Salsa Contest & the Great Tomato weigh-in. Free tomato tasting & cooking demos.	<a href="http://www.independencefarmersmarket.org">www.independencefarmersmarket.org</a> .
Galax Old Fiddlers' Convention	August	Oldest & largest bluegrass and old-time convention in the world. At Felts Park, Galax, VA.	<a href="http://www.oldfiddlersconvention.com">www.oldfiddlersconvention.com</a> .

## Take A Break From the Interstate

Take Historic U.S 21, the heart of the Lakes to Florida Highway, that first guided travelers between these two great vacation destinations. For more info: [www.takeabreak-fromtheinterstate.com](http://www.takeabreak-fromtheinterstate.com).



## The Blue Ridge Parkway

Grayson County is a gateway community to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Access can be found south of Galax on Hwy 89. This 469 mile park is a national treasure that travels through the highlands of Va & NC. For more info: [www.blueridgeparkway.org](http://www.blueridgeparkway.org)



## The Crooked Road

As you wind your way across Virginia on Highway 58 you can enjoy the traditional music of the area. Festivals, Fiddlers' Conventions, Music Jams, all showcasing the areas musical heritage. For more info: [www.thecrookedroad.org](http://www.thecrookedroad.org).



## Wildlife and B

The VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries sponsors a series of Wildlife Trails or loops where you can enjoy the ideal. These local roads are perfect for finding wildlife and are home to the Mountain Music Loop. For info: [dgif.virginia.gov](http://dgif.virginia.gov).

# EVENTS

EVENT	MONTH	EVENT	WEBSITE
Fries Fiddlers' Convention	August	Fries Volunteer Fire Dept hosts a competition for the best in old-time & bluegrass music. Providence School, Bainbridge Rd.	<a href="http://www.friesfire.com">www.friesfire.com</a> .
Matthews Living History Farm Museum	August	Civil War Encampment, period costumes, living quarters, weapons demos, drills, skirmishes, vendors, music & cooking.	<a href="http://www.matthewsfarmmuseum.org">www.matthewsfarmmuseum.org</a> .
Albert Hash Memorial Fest.	August	Traditional music, dance, arts & crafts. Grayson Highlands State Park, 10am–6pm. Henderson Stage.	<a href="http://www.alberthashmemorialfestival.com">www.alberthashmemorialfestival.com</a>
Grayson County Ag & Art Adventure	Sept.	A great way to explore Grayson County visiting farms and artist studios/shops.	<a href="http://www.graysoncountyva.com">www.graysoncountyva.com</a>
Stories of the Stitch	Sept.	Quilt & fiber arts showcase at Matthews Living History Farm Museum. 10am-3pm.	<a href="http://www.artsculturalcouncil.org">www.artsculturalcouncil.org</a> .
New River Challenge Triathlon	Sept.	New River Trail State Park	<a href="http://www.dcr.virginia.gov">www.dcr.virginia.gov</a>
Horse Show	Sept.	Benefit for Fries Volunteer Fire Dept. Providence School, 56 Bainbridge Rd. Game & Pleasure Classes.	<a href="http://www.friesfire.com">www.friesfire.com</a>
Heritage Day	Sept.	Matthews Living Farm Museum. Demos, music, garden tours and refreshments.	<a href="http://www.matthewsfarmmuseum.org">www.matthewsfarmmuseum.org</a>
Grayson Highlands Fall Festival	Sept.	Molasses & Apple butter making, Wild Pony Auction, Crafts, BBQ chicken & other delicious food, Traditional Music. Grayson Highlands State Park.	<a href="http://www.ghfallfestival.50megs.com">www.ghfallfestival.50megs.com</a> .
New River 50K New River State Park Trailhead.	Oct.	Firehouse Dr., Fries, VA. Enjoy fall colors with a day of racing on the trail. Certified by Field & Track as a Boston Marathon Qualifier.	<a href="http://www.friesfestivals.com">www.friesfestivals.com</a> .

# ND ATTRACTIONS

## Birding Trail

and Inland Fisheries  
Wildlife and Birding  
Wildlife viewing is  
and trails assist you  
birds. Grayson County  
in



## Elk Creek Dragway

Elk Creek Dragway, a 1/8th mile IHRA sanctioned dragstrip, opened in 1968. Family friendly, alcohol free facility. Enjoy dragracing in the beautiful Mountains of Southwest Virginia. Member of IHRA and SBRA. [www.elkcreekgdragway.com](http://www.elkcreekgdragway.com)



## Fish Virginia First

Find some of the finest freshwater fishing in the country. As a casual angler or serious expert, you'll find beautiful rivers, lakes and streams, as well as hospitality that welcomes outdoor enthusiasts. [www.fishvirginiafirst.com](http://www.fishvirginiafirst.com)



## Southwest Virginia Cultural Center & Marketplace

The Southwest Virginia Cultural Center and Marketplace houses one of the area's largest eclectic collections of art from some of Southwest Virginia's most talented artisans. Visit: [swvaculturalcenter.com](http://swvaculturalcenter.com)



# EVENTS

EVENT	MONTH	EVENT	WEBSITE
Mountain Foliage Festival & Grand Privy Race	Oct.	Parade & Vendors. "Official Grand Privy Race" of VA. Independence Town Park.	<a href="http://www.Independenceva.com">www.Independenceva.com</a> .
Whitetop Mountain Molasses Fest Mt. Rogers Fire Hall.	Oct.	Molasses & apple butter making, Old Time & Blue-grass music, arts/crafts, BBQ Chicken.	<a href="http://www.independencefarmersmarket.org">www.independencefarmersmarket.org</a>
Apple Fest Independence Farmers Market	Oct.	Apple Dessert Contest & enjoy everything apple. Free Community Cider Pressing Demo.	
Matthews Living History Farm	Oct.	Autumn Folk Festival & Light the Porch Event.	<a href="http://www.matthewsfarmmuseum.org">www.matthewsfarmmuseum.org</a>
Pumpkin Fest Matthews Living History Farm Museum.	Oct.	Pumpkins carved by area residents, Lighted & on displayed evenings. Ends Sat with judges selecting the best carved pumpkins.	<a href="http://www.matthewsfarmmuseum.org">www.matthewsfarmmuseum.org</a>
Safe Halloween in Independence & Fries	Oct	Independence Town Park. 4 - 7pm. All children welcome. Annual Event, Downtown Independence and Fries Fire Dept.	<a href="http://www.independenceva.com">www.independenceva.com</a> . <a href="http://www.friesfestivals.com">www.friesfestivals.com</a> .
Winter Market & Christmas Tree Sale	Nov.	Independence Farmers Market. Farm fresh products, local crafts & pesticide free Christmas Trees. Kids activities, music & food. Free & Open to public.	<a href="http://independencefarmersmarket.org">independencefarmersmarket.org</a>
Chili Cookoff & Christmas Tree Sale	Dec.	Independence Farmers Market. Enter or judge Chili Cook-off (\$5 tast fee) Farm fresh products, crafts & pesticide free Christmas trees. Activities, music & food. Free.	<a href="http://www.independencefarmersmarket.org">www.independencefarmersmarket.org</a> .
Christmas Festival & Parade	Dec.	Independence Town Park. Annual Christmas Event. Christmas Tree sale, market vendors & parade.	<a href="http://www.independenceva.com">www.independenceva.com</a> .
Hometown Holiday	Dec.	Historic 1908 Courthouse, Independence, 2 pm-7 pm, Carols, Santa, Refreshments, Open House.	



### **Independence Farmers Market**

Join the fun with weekly kids activities, monthly festivals and growers workshops. Stop in at the market in Independence and shop for a variety of fruits/vegetables, locally raised, and pastured meats and eggs, flowers, crafts, and canned/baked goods. The farmers, chefs, and craftsman are committed to providing the customers with wholesome delicious food and quality crafts. Recipes, cooking classes, growing tips and more can also be found at the Farmers Market. Visit: [independencefarmersmarket.org](http://independencefarmersmarket.org).

### **Goodwill Grange**

If you're visiting the highlands, check out The Grange. Friday night potluck and bingo. The old rock school has a computer center, lending library, and wifi hotspot you can access from the parking lot. Seasonal events throughout the year. Check out [graysoncountyva.com](http://graysoncountyva.com), Find us on FaceBook.

### **Fries Farmers Market**

Saturdays 'til 1:00pm, May-Oct.. Fries Town Park. Local grower/producer market: natural meats, farm fresh eggs, local & heirloom vegetables, baked goods, herbs, arts & crafts.

## **HIDDEN GEMS**

### **Matthews Living History Farm Museum**

Visit the Matthews Living History Farm Museum. This 21-acre farm offers a glimpse back in time, where visitors can experience gardening, antique tractors, sheep shearing, craft demonstrations, open hearth cooking and more. The farm offers regular activities and events throughout the year. Visit: [matthews-farmmuseum.org](http://matthews-farmmuseum.org).

### **The 1908 Courthouse**

The Historic 1908 Courthouse serves as the Visitor Information Center for Grayson County Tourism. Find travel brochures & information on local attractions and lodging here. The Treasury Gift Shop features unique local crafts and gifts. The building hosts the Crossroads Museum and serves as the cultural center of Grayson County. Experience theatre & music entertainment in the historic Baldwin Auditorium or on the lawn during the Wednesday night music jam. For info visit the [historic1908courthouse.org](http://historic1908courthouse.org).

Whether you're traveling with an itinerary or rambling through the twists and turns of our country roads, there are hidden gems throughout Grayson County for every age to enjoy.

### **The Elk Creek Dragway**

The Elk Creek Dragway is regionally acclaimed for fast fun! Events are held throughout the spring, summer and fall season. Be sure to check out the latest information: [elkcreekdagway.com](http://elkcreekdagway.com).

### **Wythe/Grayson Regional Library**

The Wythe/Grayson Regional Library System offers educational programs, books, magazines, wi-fi & paperback program designed for travelers who need to swap out their paperbacks. Visit one of three Grayson County branches located throughout Grayson County. [www.wythegrayson.lib.va.us](http://www.wythegrayson.lib.va.us).

### **The Grayson County Public Library**

147 Independence Ave, Independence.

### **The Fries Public Library**

105 West Main Street, Fries.

### **The Whitetop Public Library**

16309 Highlands Parkway, Whitetop.





## VACATION RENTALS-HOTELS-B&B'S-CAMPING & RV PARKS



**West Grayson • Central Grayson • East Grayson • Town of Fries**

## COUNTRY STORES & PLACES TO EAT

Dine or Take-out or Have it Catered! Many country stores throughout Grayson County have food "to go", or food "to stay". Pull up a chair and enjoy!



[www.graysoncountyva.com](http://www.graysoncountyva.com)

Stay in the Grayson Highlands, the Town of Fries, or Independence, Near the Blue Ridge Parkway, enjoyable spots along the river or mountaintop retreats. With over fifty (50) vacation homes & cabins, bed and breakfasts, or campgrounds to choose from, you are sure to find your vacation getaway. Campgrounds exist on both sides of the county, for both recreational vehicle and primitive sites.

FIND IT ON OUR  
**WEBSITE**



Open your smartphone camera app • Focus the camera on the QR code by gently tapping the code. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the action.

**SAVE IT TO  
YOUR PHONE**



[www.graysoncountyva.com](http://www.graysoncountyva.com)



# OUTDOOR RECREATION & OUTFITTERS

*Connect with the natural areas of Grayson Highlands,  
the Blue Ridge Parkway & all the trails in between.*

## **Hiking the Highlands**

Day Hikes are available everywhere, from the western highlands of Grayson County to the eastern Blue Ridge Plateau.

**Grayson Highlands State Park** Everything from a challenging hike to Mt. Rogers (highest point in Virginia) to a casual stroll in the highland meadows.

**Trails of the Jefferson National Forest** are available along the western edge of Grayson County. Common trailheads include Comers Rock Recreation Area (Hwy 21) and the access points to the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area at Highway 603 and Highway 600.

**The Blue Ridge Music Center** Trails take you to the top of Fisher Peak. The High Meadow Trail is 1.3 miles and the Fisher Peak Loop is 2.2 miles

**Grayson County Recreation Park** and the **Matthews State Forest** are hiking locations central to Grayson and near the county seat of Independence.

**The New River Trail** and the **Virginia Creeper Trail** are both rails to trails corridors. They provide wide surfaces and easy grades. Perfect for hiking or biking.

**The Appalachian Trail**, a 2,181-mile public footpath traversing the scenic, wooded, pastoral, wild, and culturally resonant lands of the Appalachian Mountains. Conceived in 1921, built by private citizens, completed in 1937, the trail is managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, numerous



state agencies and thousands of volunteers. Grayson County is proud to offer a delightful section of the Appalachian Trail. Trail access: Grayson Highlands State Park, Elk Garden trail head, Whitetop Mountain, and Rt. 603.

## **Trails for Children**

For small children we recommend the Kids in Park program. With trails at Grayson Highlands State Park and the Blue Ridge Music Center, this program provides nature education & exploration. [www.kidsinpark.com](http://www.kidsinpark.com)

## **Biking**

**Mountain Bikers.** Enjoy the challenge of the Jefferson National Forest where countless single tracks are available. Single track trails can also be found at Matthews State Forest.

**Grayson Gravel Traverse.** A 72-mile gravel cycling route connecting the Virginia Creeper Trail to the New River Trail across Grayson County.



VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE  
FOR MORE



# HORSEBACK RIDING/EQUESTRIAN

Horseback riding trails exist on both the eastern and western end of the county. In some areas horse camping is located near miles of horse trails. Check out the Parks and Recreation link to learn about the public areas available for horse riding. If you need supplies for your horses, many of the country stores in the area carry feed and tack for your convenience. Some offer horse camping, cabins and stables, horseback riding lessons, wagon rides or rental of horses for trail riding.

## Public Areas and Trails

**The Jefferson National Forest** includes the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail, this trail offers 68 miles of wilderness which tranverses Grayson County from Elk Garden to Ivanhoe. For info: [www.fs.usda.gov/activity/gwj/recreation/horseriding-camping](http://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/gwj/recreation/horseriding-camping).

**Grayson Highlands State Park.** Rugged mountain beauty and extensive trail system make it ideal for horseback riding. Everyone loves Grayson Highlands! [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/gra.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/gra.shtml).

**The New River Trail State Park** is a wonderful place to ride horses. Most of the trail is flat and wide. The sounds and sights of the New River are sure to complement your ride. Some camping is available along the trail. For info: [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/new.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/new.shtml).

**The Virginia Creeper Trail** near Whitetop, Virginia offers woodland riding next to a scenic trout stream. Great horseback riding trail and popular with bicyclists. Info: [www.vacrepertrail.us/horses.html](http://www.vacrepertrail.us/horses.html).



## Horse Camping

**Appalachian Horseback Riding Adventures**, in western Grayson County offers guided horseback riding trips in Mt. Rogers and Pine Mountain areas. Guided day or over-night trips available. Call 276-783-4136 or [sugargrove\\_horseman@yahoo.com](mailto:sugargrove_horseman@yahoo.com).

**Rocky Hollow Horse Camp** located in Troutdale, Virginia on the western side of the county is a great location to bring your horses and escape with easy access to the trails of the highlands (JNF, Grayson Highlands) right from the campsite. They offer camping and cabins. [www.ridemtrogers.com](http://www.ridemtrogers.com).

**Hungry Horse East**, also located in Ivanhoe, provides access to the Virginia Highlands Horse Trails and Jefferson National Forest. It is another great source for horseback riding, camping, cabins and other horse amenities. [www.hungryhorseeast.com](http://www.hungryhorseeast.com).

**Virginia Highlands Horse Trail** in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, is a 68-mile trail between Elk Garden and VA Rt. 94. It features mountainous terrain, valley views and valley crossings. The trail includes parking and primitive camping for those who trailer horses.



# FISHING AND HUNTING

Grayson County is home to an a wide variety of fish and game species. The **Department of Game and Inland Fisheries** offers the best information on fishing opportunities, regulations, and trophy fish.

**Fish Virginia First** is a great resource for fishing in the Blue Ridge Highlands. It includes information about fishing all across Virginia: [fishvirginiafirst.com](http://fishvirginiafirst.com)

Traveling to Grayson County for a hunting or fishing trip? Sometimes hunting or fishing rights can be arranged as part of a package for your stay, ask the proprietor if they offer

these services. If your stay includes hunting or fishing on public lands, please refer to the land use regulations for each agency.

In much of the western portion of the county, trout streams are stocked. Year round the New River offers a variety of fish species from wall-eye, bass and muskies. Our River outfitters are a good source for planning your fishing vacation. Hunting and Fishing supplies and licenses can be found at many of the country stores located across Grayson County. Stop in for supplies and who knows...maybe someone will tell you where their favorite fishing hole is!



## THE CROOKED ROAD



The Crooked Road is Virginia's Heritage Music Trail, a driving route through the Appalachian Mountains from the Blue Ridge to the Coalfields region, following U.S. Route 58.

The trail connects major heritage music venues in the region such as the Blue Ridge Music Center, Birthplace of Country Music Alliance, and the Carter Family Fold.

The traditional gospel, bluegrass, and mountain music heard today was passed down from the generations and lives on through a wealth of musicians and instrument makers along the trail.

Annual festivals, weekly concerts, live radio shows, and informal jam sessions abound throughout the region. A variety of handcrafted woodwork, weaving, and pottery can be found in country stores and small workshops.

Numerous opportunities for outdoor activities, from hiking, biking, fishing and boating are also available along The Crooked Road.

For more info visit: [www.thecrookedroad.org](http://www.thecrookedroad.org)

## TRADITIONAL MUSIC JAMS

*The local music jams are free and visitors are encouraged. The jams are a great way to experience authentic traditional music and if you play you are welcome to join in.*

**The 1908 Courthouse Jam:** Every Wed. evening, 6:30-9 pm at the Historic 1908 Courthouse, Main St, Independence. In warm weather musicians gather outdoors at the gazebo, when temps are cool, tunes are played indoors. Bring a chair or picnic blanket and your instrument if you play. [historic1908courthouse.org](http://historic1908courthouse.org), Call 276-773-3711.

**Flat Ridge Opry:** Buffet Meal at 6:00 followed by a FREE Variety Show. April-December. Visit their Facebook Page for details.

**The Fries Jam Session:** Fries Recreation Center Theatre, Downtown Fries, VA, Thursday evenings 6:30-9 pm. [www.friesva.com/ThursdayNight-Jammin](http://www.friesva.com/ThursdayNight-Jammin).

**Matthews Living History Farm Community Jam:** Select Tuesdays, May-September.

## MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

**Rex Theater, Galax:** Friday night concerts! Enjoy some of the hottest new traditional and country bands at this historic theater. Info: [rextheatergalax.com](http://rextheatergalax.com)

**Historic 1908 Courthouse, Independence:** The Arts & Cultural Center of Grayson County. Find everything from Marimba players to traditional music. Info: [historic1908courthouse.org](http://historic1908courthouse.org).

**Matthews Living History Farm Museum:** Brings history to life with regular events celebrating the rich cultural past of the region. Info: [matthewsfarmmuseum.org](http://matthewsfarmmuseum.org).

**Wohlfahrthaus Dinner Theatre, Wytheville:** Broadway style musical theatre, a local favorite for theatre in the region. Info: [wohlfahrthaus.com](http://wohlfahrthaus.com)

**Barter Theatre, Abingdon:** Historic theatre offering a wide range of performance options, from plays to musicals. For info: [bartertheatre.com](http://bartertheatre.com)

**Lincoln Theatre, Marion:** One of three existing Art Deco Mayan Revival theaters in America. Info: [thelincoln.org](http://thelincoln.org).

**Heartwood, Abingdon, VA:** Showcases southwest VA. Exceptional cuisine, traditional arts and special music events. Info: [myswva.org/heartwood](http://myswva.org/heartwood).

**Blue Ridge Music Center:** Spring, summer and fall concert series. Outdoor amphitheatre, Roots of American Music Exhibition and local jams at noon. Info: [blueridgemusiccenter.org](http://blueridgemusiccenter.org)

**Legends of Grayson:** Music, history, storytelling, dance, workshops and fun in heart of the Blue Ridge. Info: [graysoncountyva.com/events/legends-of-grayson-old-time-weekend/](http://graysoncountyva.com/events/legends-of-grayson-old-time-weekend/)

## GRAYSON COUNTY FIDDLERS CONVENTIONS

*A fiddlers' convention is not just for fiddlers. The competitions take on a festival like quality where friends and family can gather in the outdoors to listen to music, relax, shop from craft vendors or dance to the tunes.*

**Grayson County Fiddlers' Convention:** Last full weekend in June! Rich in tradition, offers exceptional performances by traditional/old time and bluegrass musicians. For more info: [ecvfd.net](http://ecvfd.net).

**Fries Fiddlers' Convention:** Held in August each year. Sponsored by the Fries Volunteer Fire Department and traditionally occurs in early/mid August. For more info: [friesfire.com](http://friesfire.com).

**Galax Old Fiddlers' Convention:** Virginia's Oldest & Largest Old Fiddler's Convention, hosted during the first week of nearly every August in Felts Park – by Galax Moose Lodge #733. [thecrookedroad.org/all-events](http://thecrookedroad.org/all-events)

## THE SCENIC NEW RIVER

*The New River is a great place to relax and unwind. This American Heritage River winds 30 miles through Grayson County. Enjoy a leisurely Class I float with the family or an adrenaline packed Class III shoal. Discover why everyone loves a day on the New River!*

A day on the New River is the perfect way to relax and enjoy being on the water. The New River offers a variety of experiences: a tube float with the family, a canoe trip for the romantic picnic, or a kayak ride on a Class III rapid.

If you are unfamiliar with the area or need equipment a local outfitter can give you advice on the proper stretch of water, shuttle your boat and provide rental equipment.

Basic New River maps are available at the Historic 1908 Courthouse Visitor Center for

\$1. Or National Geographic provides a detailed map of the New River.

Several vacation homes listed on our "Places to Stay" page are located on the New River. This is a great way to spend a weekend.

### New River Conservancy

The New River winds its way through three states and countless communities who enjoy its beauty and wildlife. If you would like info on the mission of the New River Conservancy please visit: [www.newriver-conservancy.org](http://www.newriver-conservancy.org).

## GRAYSON NEW RIVER APP

COMING  
SOON

A web-based app that will calculate float times from point A to point B including various factors such as water levels, flow rates, weather conditions, vessel type and more.

Connect to hotspot via US Cellular and the app, navigate to website for info. Signage with time estimates will be in place in case of connectivity issues with additional, pertinent, info about the section of the river that you'll be floating.



## JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST

In 1995, The **George Washington National Forest** and **Jefferson National Forest** were administratively combined. Together the two National Forests contain nearly 1.8 million acres of public land, representing one of the largest blocks of public land in the eastern United States. The Jefferson National Forest itself is comprised of lands located in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. 690,106 acres of the Jefferson National Forest are in Virginia, a large part of which is located in Grayson County, including the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area.

The Jefferson National Forest has 950 miles of hiking and riding trails, including 300 miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail

and the 68-mile Virginia Highlands Horse Trail, designed for horseback riders and wagon trains.

The forest is mainly Appalachian mixed hardwoods interspersed with conifers. Wildflowers and autumn leaves create a profusion of color in spring and fall. Camping and picnicking are permitted forest-wide unless otherwise indicated. Check the website for the Jefferson National Forest for permitted uses and trail information.

### Mount Rogers National Recreation

In the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area you will find: Mount Rogers, at 5,792 feet the highest mountain in Virginia; the Virginia Creeper Trail a former railroad now a popular biking, hiking, and

horse riding trail; miles of hiking, backpacking, and horse riding trails; the Appalachian Trail; numerous campgrounds; and three wilderness areas.

### The Pat Jennings Visitor Center

Serves as the headquarters and gateway to the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. Six miles from I-81, the Visitors' Center

provides maps of the Area. Pick up maps, nature guides, memorabilia, etc.

If you need additional information about opportunities in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. Contact the District Supervisor for more information. Pat Jennings Visitors Ctr., 3714 Troutdale Hwy Marion, Virginia 24354, Local Phone: 276-783-5196.



# Grayson Highlands State Park

829 Grayson Highland Ln., Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363  
276-579-7092 • GraysonHighlands@dcr.virginia.gov

Near Mount Rogers and Whitetop Mountain, Virginia's two highest mountains, Grayson Highlands offers scenic views of alpine-like peaks more than 5,000 feet high.

Miles	Trail	Rating	Usage
1.00	Rhododendron Trail	Difficult	FX
1.90	Cabin Creek Trail	Difficult	F
.75	Big Pinnacle Trail	Difficult	F
1.75	Twin Pinnacles Trail	Moderate	F
2.0	Listening Rock Trail	Difficult	F
1.8	Wilson Creek Trail	Difficult	F
1.7	Scampers Branch Trail	Moderate	F
1.4	Rock House Ridge Trail	Moderate	F
1.0	AT Spur Trail	Moderate	F
1.5	Wilburn Branch Trail	Difficult	FB
3.7	Upchurch Road	Moderate	HFBX
1.3	Seed Orchard Road	Moderate	HFBX
1.7	Horse Trail east	Moderate	HFBX
1.0	Horse Trail North	Difficult	HFX

### Key:

F=Foot Traffic, H=Horseback Riding  
B=Mountain Bikes, X=Cross Country Skiing

### Legend:

- - - - - Hiking Trail
- - - - - Appalachian Trail - White Blaze
- - - - - Horse Trail - Orange Blaze
- - - - - Virginia Highlands Horse Trail - Orange Blaze
- Park Road
- Park Boundary
- - - - - Mountain Bike Trail

- Amphitheater
- Campground
- Dumping Station
- Gift Shop
- Group Campsite
- Historic Cabin
- Information and Registration Center
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Restroom
- Shower
- Stable Area
- Telephone
- Trail Shelter
- VC Visitor Center



A severe weather policy may be in effect during winter months. Information is posted on kiosks and in office. For more information, please contact a ranger.

## Virginia Creeper Trail

276-676-2282 (Abingdon Visitor Info)  
276-475-3831 (Damascus Visitor Info)  
www.vacrepertrail.com

The Virginia Creeper Trail is a 34-mile rail-trail from Abingdon to Whitetop Station that is considered one of the best bike trails in the nation.

## Matthews State Forest

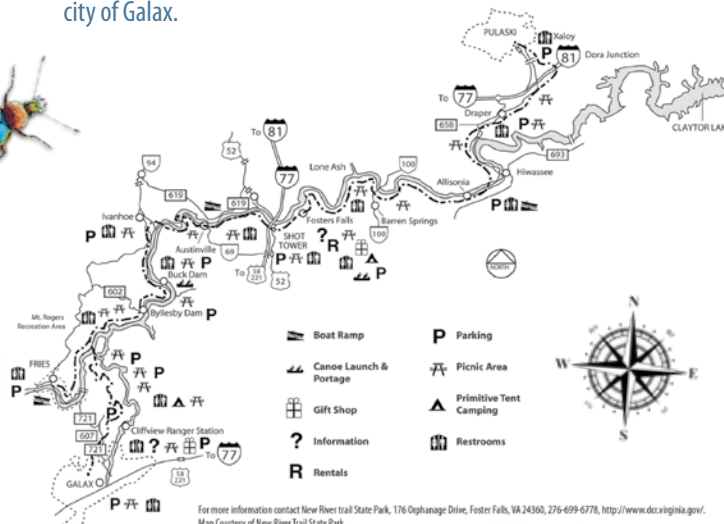
106 Matthews Lane, Galax, VA 24333  
www.dof.virginia.gov/stateforest/list/matthews.htm  
(276) 236-2322

Open during daylight hours for hiking, biking, wildlife watching, horseback riding & hunting. Nearly eight miles of challenging mountain bike trails that are open to hiking as well as biking.



## New River Trail State Park

New River Trail is a 57-mile linear park that follows an abandoned railroad right-of-way. The park parallels the scenic and historic New River for 39 miles and passes through four counties and the city of Galax.



For more information contact New River Trail State Park, 176 Ophanage Drive, Foster Falls, VA 24360, 276-699-6778, <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/>. Map Courtesy of New River Trail State Park.

# Whitewater Grayson

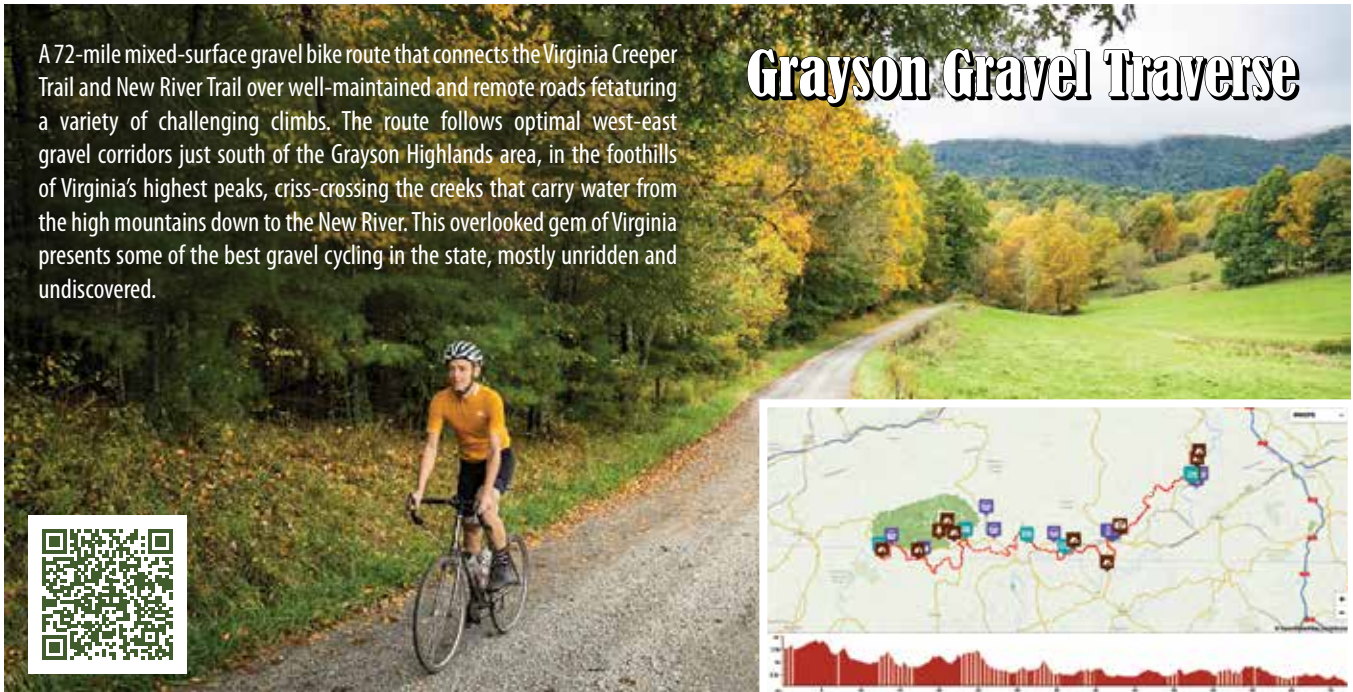
Since 2001, Whitewater has been promoting access to the active, outdoor lifestyle by lowering barriers and inspiring people to engage with the outdoors. Whitewater focuses on the promotion, preservation, and management of resources offering access to world-class outdoor activities.

Whitewater Grayson represents some of the most important and diverse natural resources offering access to extraordinary outdoor pursuits in southwest Virginia and the New River Basin. This area of the southeast United States is populated with innumerable recreation opportunities within the activities of hiking, backpacking, fishing, cycling, climbing, running, paddlesports, and more. Whitewater has conserved and currently manages more than 200 acres in the New River Basin with access to Jefferson National Forest, Grayson Highlands State Park, the Appalachian Trail, and the Virginia Creeper Trail, in addition to a variety of other assets.



A 72-mile mixed-surface gravel bike route that connects the Virginia Creeper Trail and New River Trail over well-maintained and remote roads featuring a variety of challenging climbs. The route follows optimal west-east gravel corridors just south of the Grayson Highlands area, in the foothills of Virginia's highest peaks, criss-crossing the creeks that carry water from the high mountains down to the New River. This overlooked gem of Virginia presents some of the best gravel cycling in the state, mostly unriden and undiscovered.

# Grayson Gravel Traverse





# ELEVATED BY NATURE



[graysoncountyva.com](http://graysoncountyva.com)



[graysoncountyva.com](http://graysoncountyva.com)

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