

GRAHAM COUNTY



Your Natural Destination



**Graham County, North Carolina:
Robbinsville, Lake Santeetlah, Fontana, Stecoah, Tapoco**

YourNaturalDestination.com

Welcome to Graham County



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Your Natural Destination



Come Unplug and Explore!

The Graham County Travel and Tourism office is located at
474 Rodney Orr Bypass,
Robbinsville NC 28771

828-479-3790
800-470-3790

YourNaturalDestination.com
info@grahamcountytravel.com

Graham County, North Carolina is Your Natural Destination for the beauty and adventure that awaits in our mountain towns of Robbinsville, Lake Santeetlah, Fontana Dam, and Stecoah.

Travel our winding roads or trek our trails as you explore beautiful lakes, roaring rivers, quiet streams, amazing waterfalls, and ancient forests.

Mountain bike the Tsali trails, explore Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, kayak the Cheoah, land native trout in Big Snowbird Creek, or hike the Great Smoky Mountains.

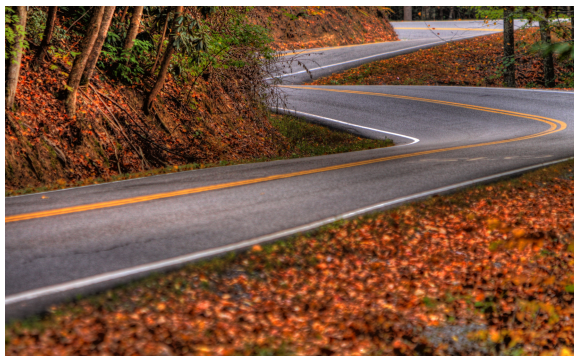
We are a frontier, one of the last unspoiled places in the Southeast. Come discover Graham County. Experience a place where land and water will nourish your soul and natural adventures will renew your spirit.

Scenic Drives



Tail of the Dragon

Our most famous road, the Tail of the Dragon, is an 11-mile trek of pure adventure. Complete with 318 curves, no two turns are alike. Considered to be one of the most highly sought after adventures for motorcycle enthusiasts and sports car drivers alike, this unique piece of blacktop is a thrill for all ready for a challenge.



Home to some of the highest rated driving roads in the country, Graham County is your natural destination for the auto touring of your dreams. Explore the curves, vistas, gravel adventures, and more. Whether you're riding with four wheels or two, embrace the journey - it's just the destination you have been searching for.



THE CHEROHALA SKYWAY

A National Scenic Byway passing from the Nantahala National Forest in NC to the Cherokee National Forest in TN, the Cherokee Skyway reaches an impressive 5,400 feet above sea level over nearly 40 miles of vistas and views.

Not only is the Skyway a great driving destination, it's a wonderful hiking spot as well. Make time for a hike to Huckleberry Knob or Hooper Bald to explore 360-degree views of the impressive mountain scape.

Did you know?

Hooper Bald is home to the Annual Graham County Native Azalea Festival.

NC 28 MOONSHINER HWY.

Head east on NC28 from US129 as you explore the pristine waters of Cheoah Lake, Fontana Dam, Fontana Lake, and several photo-worthy overlooks. Follow the road as it winds through the mountains before arriving at Graham County's premier arts and cultural hub, The Stecoah Valley Center.



INDIAN LAKES SCENIC BIWAY

Enjoy a 75-mile, driving loop of rich Native American heritage and scenery, the impacts of hydroelectric industry, unique mountain culture, and beauty beyond words.

THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

Just a short drive from Graham County is the start of the 469-mile, scenic highway traveling through NC and VA. Purpose-engineered for optimum driving conditions, the parkway boasts incredible views, an array of wildlife, and of course, plenty of winding roads.



Pristine Lakes



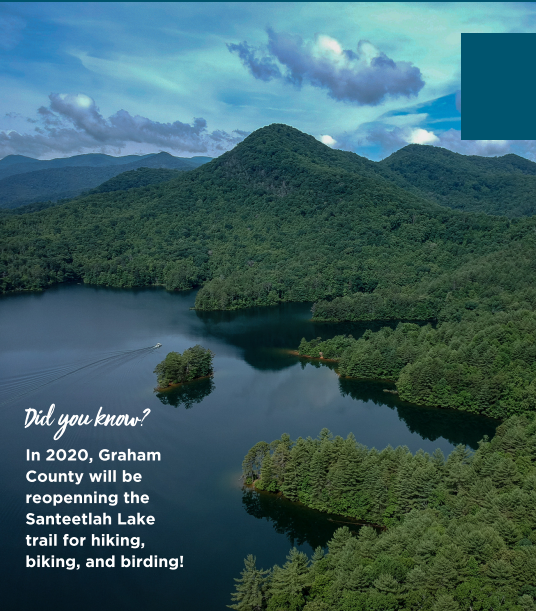
Pictured:
Santeetlah Marina

Fontana Lake

The serene waters of Fontana Lake have 12,000 acres of water surface and 240 miles of shoreline. With ample opportunities for recreation, outdoor enthusiasts consider Fontana a top mountain destination. From boat and kayak rentals to use of public access points, there are endless ways to engage with this mountain beauty.



Did you know Fontana Lake is home to a full-service marina? For lake tours, boat rentals, and more, contact Fontana Village Resort Marina at 828.498.2129



LAKE SANTEETLAH

With 80% of the 76-mile shoreline being National Forest land, Lake Santeetlah is a protected haven for outdoor enthusiasts. Located in the heart of Graham County, the lake's natural beauty prompted it to be named the #1 Most Beautiful Lake in the USA. Feel the sand beneath your feet on the shore of Cheoah Beach and kick back and enjoy the day with picnic tables, camping sites, and public access to the waterways. Best of all, take in the beauty of this mountain treasure around the campfire from one of the many lakeside campsites! Contact Santeetlah Marina at 828.479.8180 for boat rentals and more.

Did you know?

In 2020, Graham County will be reopening the Santeetlah Lake trail for hiking, biking, and birding!

CHEOAH LAKE

This hidden gem offers a quiet getaway for fishermen and boaters. Most notably, this lake is home to the "Fugitive Dam." Named so because it was the location of Harrison Ford's jump in the movie *The Fugitive*. This lake is home to an array of fish including rainbow and brook trout, bass, crappie, and bluegill.

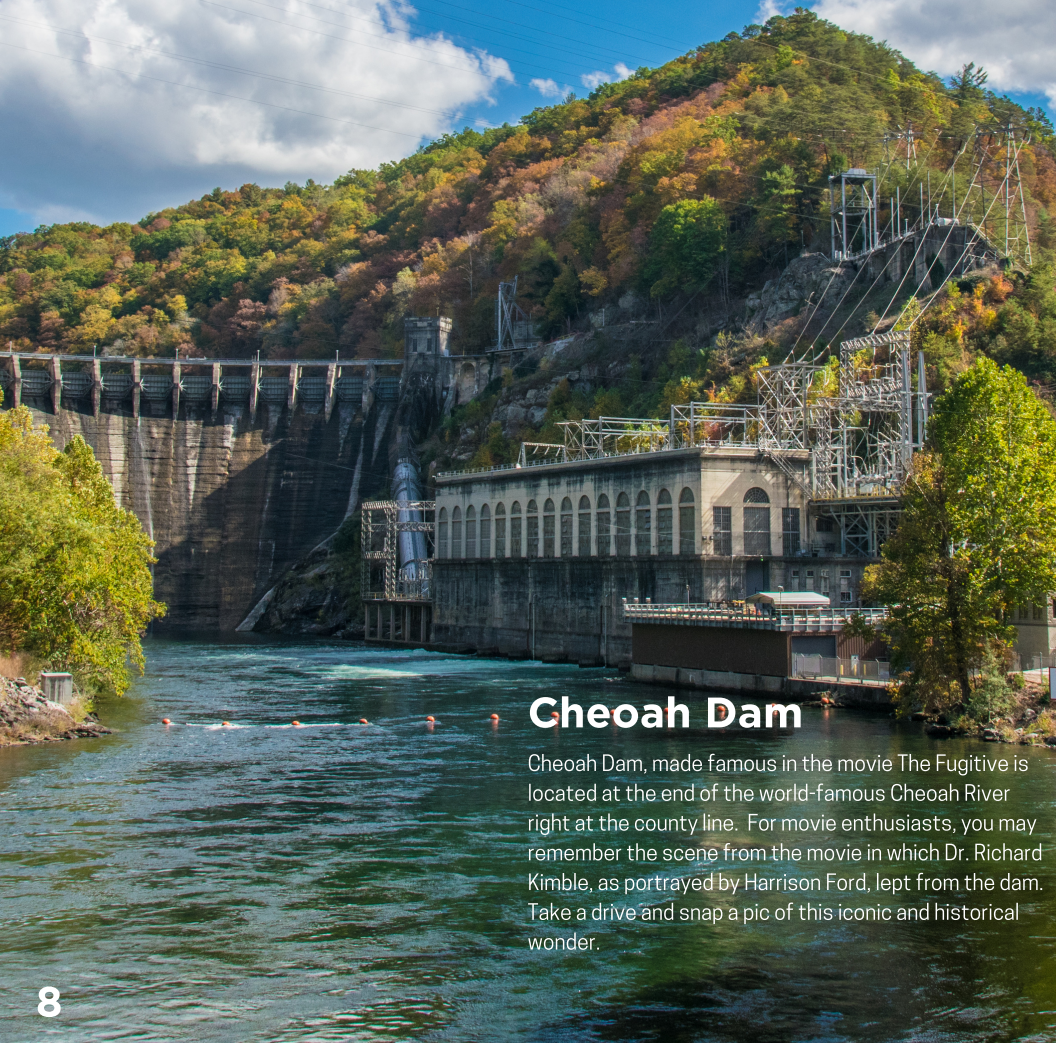


CALDERWOOD LAKE

Calderwood Lake, originally part of the Little Tennessee River, was formed in 1919 during the construction of Calderwood Dam. With a shoreline untouched by any man-made residences, the lake's 8-mile long water surface is as peaceful as it gets. Twice as many fish as Cheoah Lake and steelhead twice the size!

Dams

Explore the incredible history of the hydroelectric dam system in Graham County and how it has contributed to the growth of our region as well as its historic role in past war efforts. For more detailed information, stop in at our visitor's center!



Cheoah Dam

Cheoah Dam, made famous in the movie *The Fugitive* is located at the end of the world-famous Cheoah River right at the county line. For movie enthusiasts, you may remember the scene from the movie in which Dr. Richard Kimble, as portrayed by Harrison Ford, left from the dam. Take a drive and snap a pic of this iconic and historical wonder.



Fontana Dam



Santeetlah Dam

Hiking



Hike, Walk, Stroll

From short, paved paths to miles and miles of back country exploration, Graham County is [#YourNaturalDestination](#) for hiking adventures. Explore our full listing of Family Fun Hikes available at our visitors center or plan a multi-day backpacking trip along the Appalachian Trail, Benton MacKaye Trail, or Bartram Trail. Waterfalls, stunning vistas, flora and fauna await!



Stop in and see us at the Graham County Travel and Tourism Office Located at 474 Rodney Orr Bypass, Robbinsville, NC 28771 for a more extensive selection of hiking trails for families, novices, and extreme hiking options!



THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

As it meanders some 2,000 miles up and down the eastern United States, the Appalachian Trail passes through Graham County on its way from Georgia to Maine. The hiking trail from Stecoah Gap to Cheoah Bald features a 12.5 mile roundtrip along the Appalachian Trail. As through-hikers make their journey, many stop in at Fontana Village to restock before making their trek through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. In 2015, Fontana Village was designated an Official Appalachian Trail Community by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.



BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL

The Benton MackKaye Trail (BMT) drifts through the Appalachian mountains for 288 miles. The BMT follows along the border of Graham County with terrain designed for foot travel in the tradition of the Appalachian Trail. With multiple trailheads to access the BMT in Graham County, this route has been a destination for decades!



BARTRAM TRAIL

Section 7 of the North Carolina Bartram Trail allows hikers to climb out of the Nantahala Gorge on the way to the summit of Cheoah Bald. The 6.6 miles of trail can only be described as legendary as it features views of the 50' Batram Falls waterfall.

THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

The twenty-mile ranger station located near Fontana Dam is the #YourNaturalDestination entrance to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Twenty Mile is located at the southwestern corner of the National Park just west of Fontana Dam. It is one of the more secluded sections of the park making it a great place to avoid the crowds and explore nature peacefully.



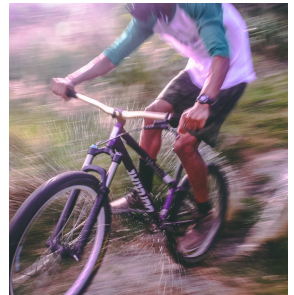


SANTEETLAH LAKE TRAIL

The Santeetlah Lake Trail consists of the Long Hungry Loop of 3.5 miles, and an extension of another 5.8 miles. Managed for pedestrian, equestrian and mountain bike use, this is an easy trail along the shores of Santeetlah Lake. For hikers, the Long Hungry Loop is a 90 minute hike, while the extension takes an additional 2.5 hours. Part of the Loop follows a Forest Service gravel road used to access dispersed campsites along the lake. The trailhead is accessed across from the Snowbird Road Intersection.

TSALI RECREATION AREA

Enjoy mountain biking, horseback riding, fishing, motorized boating, kayaking or camping at Tsali Recreation Area, all located within steps of Fontana Lake. The area's four-loop trail system has become a popular destination for mountain bikers and horseback riders but is best known as a challenging mountain bike course. The Right Loop, rated moderately difficult, offers 13.9 miles of single track, with shorter 4- and 8-mile loops possible. The Left Loop, rated moderately difficult, is 11.9 miles of single track with views toward the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Fontana Lake. The Mouse Branch Trail, rated moderately difficult, is 8.7 miles of single track and includes old logging roads. The Thompson Loop, rated moderately difficult, is 7.3 miles of single track. Hikers may travel the trails on any day, but mountain bikers and equestrians—the primary users—are kept separated by alternating days on the trails. Be sure to follow the trail schedule available at fs.usda.gov



Joyce Kilmer

MEMORIAL FOREST

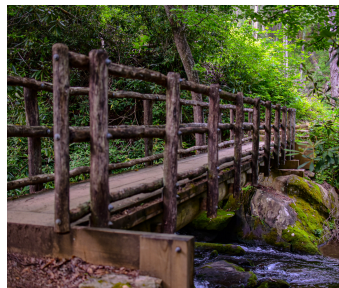
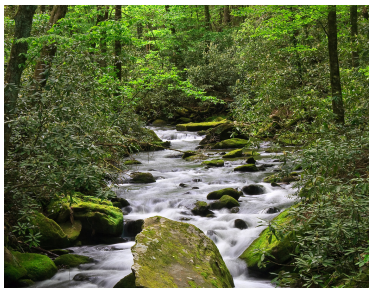
Did you know?

Camp nearby in the Horse Cove or Rattler Ford Campgrounds. Reservations available at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)

Double Loop Trail

Set foot in this virgin stand of old growth poplar once used by the Cherokee Indians as an uncharted hunting ground, and experience the beauty of time gone by. Discover ancient, towering trees and carpets of wildflowers in this remnant of the original Appalachian Forest.

Though there are an array of options, we recommend you begin your exploration of the forest on the Double Loop Trail. This trail wanders through the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, including the famous “big trees” in the upper loop. One of the most popular trails in the country, this Trail is in Designated Wilderness, to be protected “until time shall be no more.” Visit the informational kiosk and displays at the start of the trail for more information!



Yellow Creek



Falls

Just a short way from the Cheoah River, Yellow Creek Falls is just a swift .33 mile hike from the roadside. Framed by the greenery of mountain flora, Yellow Creek Falls offers a quick excursion just north of Robbinsville.

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Our Rivers



Fish, Paddle, Explore

Western North Carolina offers some of the best whitewater rafting and kayaking east of the Mississippi. From guided trips to braving the crisp, cool mountain waters alone, the river offers something for the whole family. The rivers in Graham County are the perfect mix of hatchery supported streams and wild waters, making them the perfect fishing destination.

Graham County features some of the most popular native trout streams on the east coast. The upper reaches of Big Snowbird Creek are top notch and not only provide the best fishing possible but the trek to reach the creek adds an incredible sense of time travel to the life of a frontiersman.

The Cheoah River, famous for its class IV and V rapids, releases multiple times throughout the year. Explore YourNaturalDestination.com for each year's unique schedule!



Plan Your Adventure

TO EXPLORE THE FULL LINEUP OF
LODGING OPTIONS IN
GRAHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA,
VISIT:
[YOURNATURALDESTINATION.COM](https://www.yournaturaldestination.com)



LEGEND

3 MILES

	INFO		PICNIC
	BATHROOM		BIKE
	FOOD		FISH
	PHOTO		SLEEP
	HIKE		SWIM



GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

FONTANA
LAKE

TSALI


STEOAH



STEOAH VALLEY
CENTER

BRYSON CITY
CHEROKEE
ASHEVILLE
→

NTEETLAH

APPALACHIAN
TRAIL

GRAHAM COUNTY
TRAVEL & TOURISM

ROBBINSVILLE



129

74



**GRAHAM
COUNTY**
NC

ANDREWS
MURPHY
ATLANTA
↙

129

APPROXIMATE TRAVEL TIME TO GRAHAM COUNTY

KNOXVILLE:	2 HOURS
ASHEVILLE:	2 HOURS
CHATTANOOGA:	2.5 HOURS
ATLANTA:	3 HOURS
CHARLOTTE:	4 HOURS
NASHVILLE:	4 HOURS
LEXINGTON:	4.5 HOURS
BIRMINGHAM:	4.5 HOURS

#YourNaturalDestination

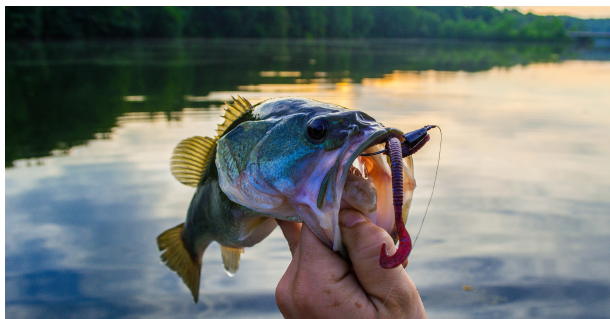
Fly Fishing



An Angler's Paradise

From our mountain creeks and streams to protected lakes, Graham County is an angler's paradise. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission offers various licenses and permits that authorize regulated activities such as hunting, fishing and trapping. By purchasing a license or permit, you help sustain North Carolina's wildlife heritage and safeguard the future of fish and wildlife in North Carolina for generations to come. Permits can be purchased at NCWildlife.org

Throughout the year, Graham County is home to a variety of fishing tournaments. Be sure to check our calendar regularly at YourNaturalDestination.com for all the details.



WITH MILES OF STREAMS TO EXPLORE, AND TROPHY WATERS TO FISH, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

STREAM NAME	CLASSIFICATION	CLASSIFICATION APPLIES TO . . .
(Big) Snowbird Creek	Delayed Harvest Trout Waters	USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Road 2579
(Big) Snowbird Creek	Hatchery Supported Trout Waters	USFS Road 2579 to S.R. 1127 bridge
Calderwood Reservoir	Hatchery Supported Trout Waters	Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line
Cheoah Reservoir	Hatchery Supported Trout Waters	entire impoundment
Panther Creek	Hatchery Supported Trout Waters	confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana
Santeetlah Creek	Hatchery Supported Trout Waters	Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah
Stecoah Creek	Hatchery Supported Trout Waters	upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana
Stecoah Creek	Hatchery Supported Trout Waters	upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana
Tulula Creek	Hatchery Supported Trout Waters	S.R. 1201 to lower bridge on S.R. 1275
West Buffalo Creek	Hatchery Supported Trout Waters	entire stream
Yellow Creek	Hatchery Supported Trout Waters	Lake Santeetlah Hydropower Pipeline to Cheoah River
Deep Creek	Wild Trout / Natural Bait Waters	entire portion of Deep Creek, including tributaries
Franks Creek	Wild Trout / Natural Bait Waters	entire portion of Franks Creek, including tributaries
Long Creek	Wild Trout / Natural Bait Waters	game land portion of Long Creek, including tributaries
Little Buffalo Creek	Wild Trout Waters	entire stream
South Fork Squally Creek	Wild Trout Waters	entire stream
Squally Creek	Wild Trout Waters	entire stream
Waters on Nantahala National Forest Game Land	Wild Trout Waters	waters on Nantahala National Forest Game Land, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain and Transylvania counties, are classified as Wild Trout Waters unless otherwise noted

MORE INFORMATION AT: NCWILDLIFE.ORG



Lodging



@SnowbirdLodge

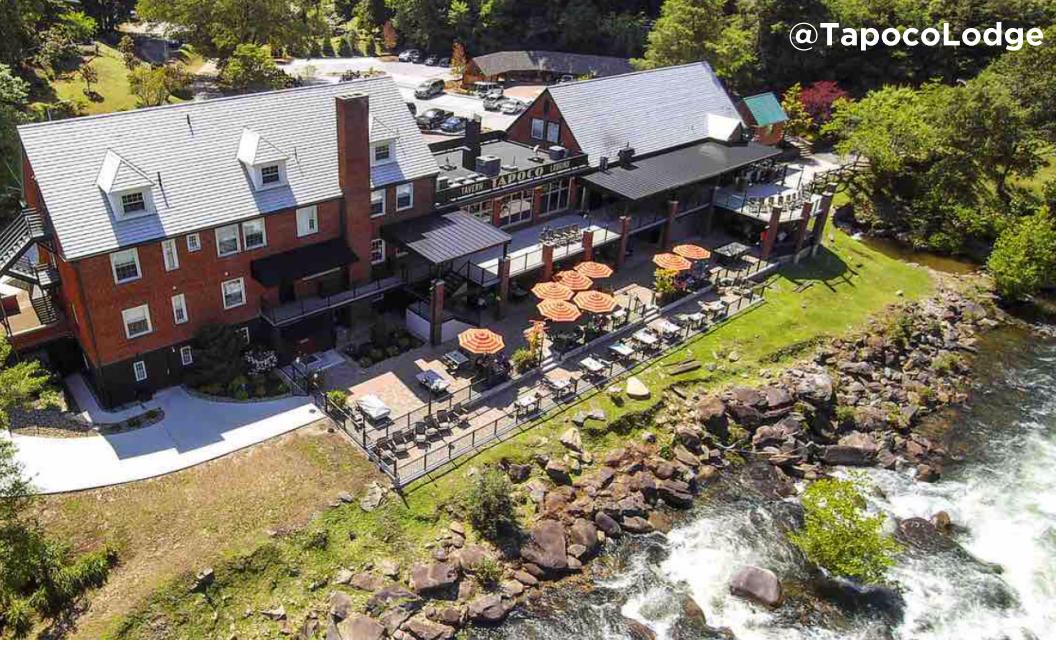
Stay in #YourNaturalDestination

With over 400 incredible accommodations spread throughout Graham County, we're certain you'll not only find the perfect spot but something to truly exceed your expectations. From Historic Lodges and Inns to traditional hotels, creekside cottages, mountain cabins and even a few Treehouses and Covered wagons, we invite you to experience the hospitality and unique characteristics of a getaway to #YourNaturalDestination.



@FontanaVillage

@TapocoLodge



@WhiteWolfCabin



Phillips Historic Motel & Cottages

@IronHorseLodge



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Creekside Paradise Bed & Breakfast



Mountain Manor



Appalachian Inn



San-Ran Motel



Quality Inn and Suites



Two Wheel Inn



The Gleanings
Resort



@RiversEdgeTreehouse

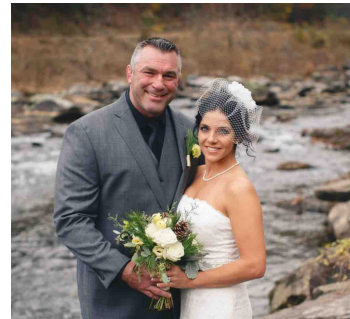
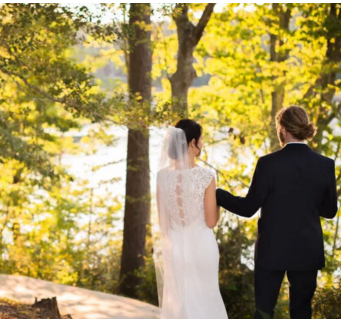


Weddings

by @EllisIllustrations

The Perfect, "I do"

The tranquil setting of the mountains of Graham County offers the perfect destination for a dreamy, "I do." With a diverse collection of historic lodges, quaint inns, luxury cabins, full-service resorts, and even a few treehouses, we're #YourNaturalDestination for weddings big and small. For a full lineup of offerings, venues, and vendors, visit YourNaturalDestination.com





by @EllisIllustrations

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Arts & Culture



Ste-coah Valley Cultural Arts Center

Come experience the arts and culture of the mountains year round at Stecoah Valley Cultural Arts Center. Housed in a restored 1926 native rock schoolhouse, the Center hosts many event and enrichment programs for visitors and locals of all ages. These events include the summer concert series, *An Appalachian Evening*, two annual festivals, classes in the textile studio, and two artisan drive abouts. In addition to their events, Stecoah Valley Center boasts a high-end retail artisans gift gallery featuring the fine crafts of over 150 artists and a full-service visitors center for guests exploring the region.

To learn more about the center, visit Ste-coahValleyCenter.com



YELLOW BRANCH POTTERY & CHEESE

Yellow Branch Pottery & Cheese is the collective of potter Karen and cheese maker Bruce. Together they bring visitors small-batch, artisan cheese right from the farm and handmade pottery perfect for any dining table. Plan ahead for a farm tour (by reservation only) or just pop in to explore their working pottery studio, gift shop, and cheese tasting room.

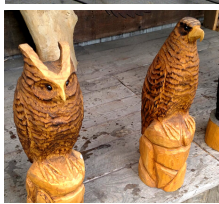
WEHRLOOM HONEY & MEADERY

Wehrloom Honey and Meadery is a family-owned shop just outside of Robbinsville. Featuring local honey harvested in and around Graham County, the Wehr family brings their love of bee keeping to those visiting the area all year long. Often named as one of the must-see spots in town, you're certain to enjoy their honey tasting station, mead taproom, wide array of small batch bath and body products, and other great souvenirs for your time in #YourNaturalDestination. Be sure to save a bit of time to explore their bee observatory!



HUNTING BOY WOOD CRAFTS

Come explore Hunting Boy Wood Crafts for the beautiful works of wood carver and chainsaw artist Billy Welch. Inspired by his Cherokee roots, the beautiful wood of Appalachia and nature, you'll enjoy browsing traditional carved masks and animals as well as classic cabin decor. This is a must-see spot for a trip to #YourNaturalDestination. A gift from Hunting Boy is a great way to remember your vacation for generations to come.



STONEY HOLLOW FARM



Stoney Hollow Farm is a family u-pick and farm store just minutes from downtown Robbinsville.

Come out to enjoy seasonal varieties of organically grown fruits and vegetables, local artisan foods, and carefully curated antiques!





Junaluska

Junaluska was born around 1779 near present day Dillard, Georgia. According to oral history, his parents had trouble choosing a name for the infant. While his parents were working in the fields, a strong wind caused the baby's cradleboard to fall from the tree it was leaning against. They decided to call him Gul ka la ski, one that falls down from a leaning position.

It was common at that time for a Cherokee boy to change his childhood name when he passed into manhood. According to one account, when gathering a party of warriors to assist Andrew Jackson in the fight against the Creeks, he promised that the Cherokees would destroy the Creek Nation. Upon returning home he changed his name to Tsu nu la hun ski "one who tried but failed". However, this anecdote must now be re-examined since the muster rolls of the Cherokee at Horseshoe Bend list Chunuloskee. Junuluski said that he had acted as a conspicuous part in the old Creek war especially in the battle of the Horseshoe... He said that Jackson told him if he would fight good he would give him a mile square of land...Lt. John Phelps July 6, 1838

In 1846 a bill was introduced in the North Carolina House of Representatives on behalf of Junaluska "...in the service of the United States at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend..." Passed in January 1847, this bill granted Junaluska 337 acres of land in present day Robbinsville, North Carolina, and \$100.

Junaluska passed away on November 20, 1858. He was buried on the land granted to him, along with his third wife Nicie. In 1910 the General Joseph Winston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution placed a monument at his gravesite.



Tag Us!



thegood.thebad.thedyna



explorinnngirl



tri_starky



armychefmike



graceyloo252



predzhead



solosoutheast

**USE #YOURNATURALDESTINATION
FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED!**



kaiandriley



heyashlyrenne



all_is_well_being



glenrrt



adventureio



annette_saunooke_clapsaddle



kaitlin_tee_



yatesbev





Plan Now!

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**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PHOTOGRAPHY
CONTRIBUTORS: ELLIS ILLUSTRATIONS, KILLBOY.COM, LITTLE RIVER
CREATIVE, SCOTCH AND WALLER, AND SMOKY MOUNTAIN VIBES**

GRAHAM COUNTY TRAVEL AND TOURISM

828.479.3790 | 800.470.3790
387 Rodney Orr Bypass | Robbinsville, NC 28771

CHEOAH RANGER DISTRICT US FOREST SERVICE

828.479.6431
1070 Massey Branch Road | Robbinsville, NC 28771

GRAHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

828.479.3352
300 Rodney Orr Bypass | Robbinsville, NC 28771

INGLES GROCERY STORE

828.479.6748
2 Sweetwater Road | Robbinsville, NC 28771

ROBBINSVILLE PHARMACY

828.479.2273
238 Rodney Orr Bypass | Robbinsville, NC 28771

WALGREENS PHARMACY

828.479.8791
219 Rodney Orr Bypass | Robbinsville, NC 28771

SMOKY MOUNTAIN URGENT CARE

828.479.7682
21 South Main Street | Robbinsville, NC 28771

TALLULAH COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

828.479.6434
409 Tallulah Road | Robbinsville, NC 28771

GRAHAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

828.479.7900
191 P&J Road | Robbinsville, NC 28771

GRAHAM COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

828.479.8796
80 Knight Street | Robbinsville, NC 28771

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