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JACKSON COUNTY, N.C.****OVERVIEW:**

Made up of the distinctive towns of Cashiers, Cherokee, Dillsboro, Sylva, Balsam, Cullowhee, Glenville, and Sapphire, Jackson County is ideally situated in Western North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains and known for shopping, dining, culture, and charming locales. Jackson County is the North Carolina Trout Capital® and home to the nation's first and only fly-fishing trail as well as majestic mountains and miles of scenic hiking trails and waterfalls.

**HISTORY &  
HERITAGE:**

Carved from portions of two adjoining counties in 1851, Jackson County is defined by its lofty vistas, fast-flowing water and rich Appalachian traditions. Visitors can experience 11,000-year-old Cherokee culture -- including Judaculla Rock, a soapstone rock with mysterious petroglyphs said to be carved by Native American tribes thousands of years ago -- heritage festivals, Natural Heritage Sites and cultural attractions. Full-size replicas of the Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution and Bill of Rights are also on display in Freedom Park in downtown Sylva.

**LODGING:**

Jackson County has a range of options for accommodations, from luxury resorts to quaint inns and family-friendly vacation rentals. Visitors can discover bed and breakfasts in unique small towns, romantic cabins and vacation rentals nestled in the shadows of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and lakeside retreats along Lake Glenville.

**KEY CITIES:**

Located in the southern section of the county, **Cashiers** is situated on a high plateau and offers elevated shopping, dining and gorgeous scenery, including that of Whiteside Mountain, which many geologists deem to be the oldest mountain in the world. The Village Green, a 13.5-acre park in the heart of the crossroads, features vibrant botanical gardens, art displays, various walking paths as well as seasonal events. Also located at the crossroads, Brookings Anglers offers fly fishing goods as well as guided trips. Cashiers is also home to Panthertown Valley, considered to be the Yosemite of the East with its large waterfalls, scenic trails and unmatched panoramic views. Recently renovated properties in Cashiers include the iconic 20<sup>th</sup> century High Hampton, featuring a world-class golf course and incredible views, and Hotel Cashiers, a boutique mountain inn that relaunched after a complete transformation to the retro motor lodge property.

**Sylva** is a historic mountain town that boasts a collection of eclectic restaurants, shops and unique bookstores along its walkable downtown. Anglers won't want to miss the Tuckaseegee Fly Shop, widely known for quality fly fishing gear and

expert-guided trips. Additionally, this area is home to four local breweries on the Jackson County Ale Trail with more than 120 locally crafted ales on tap. Downtown Sylva also contains the Jackson County Courthouse which is perfectly perched atop 107 steps. With a beautiful mountain backdrop, it is the most photographed spot in North Carolina.

**Dillsboro** is a riverfront town revered for its local artisans, art galleries, antique stores, a charming town hall, and delectable restaurants. The town offers arts and craft festivals as well as unique museums and the one-of-a-kind County Green Energy Park which harnesses methane gas to power a kiln that is used by local artisans. Fans of the craft brew scene will enjoy Innovation Station, the town's premier brewery perfectly situated on Scotts Creek. Additionally, families can enjoy a variety of outdoor adventures, like whitewater rafting on the Tuckasegee River.

**Cherokee** is home to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Located in the Great Smoky Mountains in the Qualla Boundary, Cherokee offers rich history and culture. In addition to spectacular views, shopping and heritage, the town features Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort with 150,000 sq. ft. of gaming, an award-winning spa and a variety of entertainment events.

## **DINING & CRAFT BEVERAGES:**

Jackson County's rich culinary history is celebrated throughout the state. With locally sourced farm-to-table cuisine, top-rated chefs and breweries galore, the destination will tempt the tastebuds of every foodie. Highlights include:

**Jackson County Ale Trail** is comprised of seven breweries with more than 120 unique brews of tap. Visitors can download the Ale Trail map and visit each location for distinctive atmospheres and taps ranging from IPAs, Sours, Lagers, and more.

**Canyon Kitchen**, voted "Most Romantic Restaurant in NC," is the award-winning Cashiers restaurant with al fresco dining, widespread county views and an award-winning farm-to-table menu.

Located in Cashiers, **The Library's** menu is designed by Michelin-star trained Chef Johannes Klapdohr to reflect what is seasonally available and to provide inspiration to each guest.

Rated one of "America's Best Farm to Table Restaurants," **Guadalupe Café** in Sylva is a fusion restaurant that will have diners traveling through a world of flavors with Spanish, Middle Eastern, Caribbean, and even Southern influences.

**Haywood Smokehouse** in Dillsboro was recently named "Top 25 Places for BBQ in the USA."

**Lulu's on Main's** Chef Devin McCardle, who once cooked for Julia Child on her anniversary, attended the American Institute of Wine & Food. Now he takes his expertise and French culinary training to the kitchen to create a delectable menu for visitors of Sylva.

Located in Sylva, **ILDA** is the artisan passion project of husband-and-wife team, Michelin-trained Chef Santiago Guzzetti and Sommelier Crystal Pace. Santiago's heritage in Italian cuisine and Crystal's ties to her hometown of Appalachia create a cuisine that is unique, but also honors and respects history.

**Cornucopia** is known as ‘Cashier’s favorite front porch’ and is a staple of the community, having served the area for more than 40 years. The menu features bountiful and delicious dishes for lunch, dinner and a fantastic Sunday brunch.

## **OUTDOORS:**

Jackson County features 494-square miles of outdoor adventure for all activity levels. While in the destination, visitors can take advantage of fishing, climbing, hiking, exploring rivers, lakes and waterfalls, skiing, biking, golfing, rafting, and horseback riding. 185 named summits are crowning the county, the most in the state. Jackson County is also the gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and borders the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway, America’s most celebrated motor route and 2020’s most visited National Park. Additional recreational highlights include:

One of the highest-elevation lakes east of the Rocky Mountains, **Lake Glenville** offers 26 miles of shoreline, seven islands and three gorgeous waterfalls. It is the largest lake in Jackson County, making it ideal for fishing, boating and water skiing. The sandy beach is also a favorite for families.

**Whitewater Falls** stands at 411 ft. and is one of the highest waterfalls east of the Rockies. The overlook is a favorite for pictures, and the area also features shelters that are ideal for picnicking.

**Whiteside Mountain** is one of the oldest mountains in the world at 390-460 million years old. It offers sweeping views of the highest vertical cliffs in the eastern U.S., as well as a two-mile loop trail.

Dubbed the ‘Yosemite of the East,’ **Panther Valley** is one of the most spectacular areas in the Southeast. It features large waterfalls, scenic trails and panoramic views that are accessed by hiking and biking. The area is comprised of more than 6,300 acres in the Nantahala National Forest and is listed as a Natural Heritage Site.

Jackson County is also home to the nation’s first and only fly-fishing trail, the picturesque **Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail**® with three Mountain Heritage Trout Streams. More than 4,600 miles of water, Jackson County offers visitors of every skill level the best places to cast a line.

## **KEY EVENTS:**

**Greening up the Mountains Festival** (August 28, 2021) – now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year, this heritage arts festival celebrates the arrival of Spring through both traditional and contemporary forms of Appalachian art, music, food, and beverage which honor the community and its local artisans. The festival is sponsored by both the Town of Sylva and the Main Street Sylva Association and will be held in historic downtown Sylva, North Carolina. In addition to a variety of arts, crafts, and food vendors, attendees can enjoy a 5k run, youth talent contest, beverage arts featuring local craft breweries, and live music throughout the day on two stages.

**Hook, Line & Drinker Festival** (August 21, 2021) -- the annual Hook, Line & Drinker Festival is held at the Bridge Park in Sylva, N.C. This “Top 20 Event in the Southeast” is organized by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce and celebrates being the home of the N.C. Trout Capital® and the WNC Fly Fishing Trail®. The festival features fly fishing guides and vendors, craft breweries, music by two of the region’s most popular bands, food trucks, and children’s activities.

**Shadow of the Bear** (mid-October through early November and mid-

February through early March, annually) – During select months of the year near Cashiers, visitors can view one of the most unique leaf-looking experiences in the country. This naturally occurring phenomenon makes an appearance for 30 minutes when the shadows creep over the mountains and form the shape of a bear.

**Outhouse Races** (February 2022) – Unique to Jackson County, the Outhouse Races at Sapphire Valley Resort feature outhouses secured to a pair of skis. Two team members push the outhouse down the racecourse while a third team member “sits” inside. Every year, dozens of teams and their outhouses compete in this drag race filled with lots of creativity and humor which draws crowds of spectators.

**CLIMATE:**

Jackson County is situated in a temperate rainforest and offers crisp, clean and cool mountain air. Average temperatures range from:

**Spring:** High 70s, low 30s

**Summer:** High 80s, low 40s

**Fall:** High 70s, low 40s

**Winter:** High 50s, low 20s

**ACCESSIBILITY:**

Asheville Regional Airport is located one hour from Jackson County and offers non-stop flights from a variety of cities, including Chicago, IL, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Houston, TX, and Baltimore, MD. Additionally, Jackson County is conveniently located less than three hours from major drive markets, including Atlanta, GA, Charlotte, NC, Knoxville, NC and Greenville, SC. Once there, visitors can travel easily throughout Jackson County by car, bus or train.

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PHONE:**

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