
SAMPLE ITINERARIES



Whatever you're in to, Marion and the surrounding areas has something for you! Please enjoy these sample itineraries as inspiration to kick off your perfect getaway. If you find something you particularly enjoy, that's not listed here, please share it with us, we love being able to provide fresh suggestions to our guests!



#GOLDRIVERCAMP

for the: **HIKING ENTHUSIAST**

Visit: www.RomanticAsheville.com for more hiking recommendations and more details on many of these hikes.

***Catawba Falls** - A 3-mile round trip hike to beautiful falls. One of the most popular hikes in the area. Located in Old Fort, just 24 minutes away.

Chimney Rock State Park - Just over 50-minutes, this renowned NC State Park sits in the center of Chimney Rock and the Lake Lure area. Admission is \$17/adult \$8/youth.

Crabtree Falls - 45 minutes away, but you'll drive through Little Switzerland and on the Blue Ridge Parkway for a minute, so it's a beautiful drive on the way! It's a strenuous 2.5 mile hike.

***Lake James State Park** - With a variety of trails ranging in length and difficulty, Lake James State Park is a great options for waterfront walks. Less of a "mountain vibe" here, but if you need to cool off after your hike, there are two swimming beaches within the park, making it a great option for a full day.

Short Off Mountain - 45 minutes from campground. Part of the Linville Gorge Wilderness Area. "The 4.5-mile round-trip hike gains 1,321 ft. in elevation. The first mile of the hike is strenuous as you climb the mountain on the rocky trail with switchbacks, but it's safe and easy to follow. The last 1.25 miles is a mostly level trail across the broad summit, with plenty of spots for panoramic views. It's a great option for a winter hike since it's a very sunny hike." - Romantic Asheville

***Tom's Creek Falls** - perfect for families with little ones. Just a one mile hikes leads you to a rewarding waterfall. Around 1.5 miles round-trip.

***Wolf Pit Trailhead** - There are actually a few trailheads in this area. This particular hike overlooks Lake James and is about a 5 minute drive from the campground.

*closest locations



a little farther out:

Linville Falls - One of NC's most popular waterfall hikes, you'll just have to drive a little farther to get there, about an hour away.

Mount Mitchell - The highest peak east of the Mississippi. For various trail suggestions:
<https://www.romanticasheville.com/mtmitchell.htm>

for the: **LARGE GROUP**

DAY 1

entertainment: **Hatchet Haus** - A family owned and operated Axe throwing venue and bar. Open evenings Thurs-Sun

Mica Town Brewing - Wind down from all the adrenaline and grab a beer at Marion's local Brewery before heading back to camp.

dinner: **Todd's Golden Fried Chicken** - Serving family bundles of all sizes, bring a big ole' bucket o' chicken (or fried fish) back to camp, take over a picnic table and enjoy!

DAY 2

breakfast: In a hurry? Swing the **Bantam Chef**, a local eatery with delicious breakfast options and a drive-thru!

OR

Ask us about helping you **cater** a breakfast on site!

entertainment: **Go Tubing - Catawba River Outdoors** - Take a two hour relaxing tubing ride down the Catawba River. Reservations not required for groups of 9 or less.

OR

Offer Variety at Lake James State Park - There's something for everyone here. Stay together and split up and do your thing. The state park offers excellent: public beaches, hiking and biking trails, picnic shelters, paddle board and kayak rentals.

DAY 3

entertainment: **Historic Orchard at Altapass. Little Switzerland** - Take home unforgettable memories of bluegrass music, hay rides, clogging, mountain cooking, area artists and craftsmen, original plays, storytelling and much more. May Open Sat/Sun. June 1st through October 31st - Hours are Wednesday through Sunday!



for the: FAMILY

DAY 1

dinner & entertainment:

Buck Creek Trout Farm - The catch-out pond is a wonderful place for family fun; catch your fish and eat it too. They provide fishing poles, and bait. This is fun fishing for any age or skill level. No fishing license is required.

DAY 2

breakfast:

Lucky Strike Breakfast & Gold Panning - Just 2 miles down the road you can grab a tasty diner breakfast and try your hand at striking it big!

entertainment:

Cedar Creek Stables - One hour and one and a half hour trail rides through the creek and on wide mountain trails. One Hour-\$50. 1.5 Hour-\$70

OR

Carolina Hemlocks Recreation Area, Burnsville - this expansive swimming hole will keep you entertained for the whole day!

OR

Simply grab a chair, relax with a cold one and let the kiddos play in the river! We love having our guests hang around and enjoy the grounds!

dinner:

Marion Wing Company - wings, craft beer & mac 'n' cheese...what more can a family ask for!

DAY 3

entertainment:

Want to catch a quick hike before jetting out of town? Try **Tom's Creek Falls** - a simple 1.5 mile (very easy) round-trip hike to a beautiful 80-foot waterfall. Great for a family hike!



for the: ADVENTURE SEEKERS

DAY 1

entertainment: **Canoe or Kayak the Catawba River** - Make your own DIY route, starting at Greenlee Park in Marion. You may choose to "take out" at Marion's Joseph McDowell Greenway, public parking area is available from dusk to dawn, or float further to River Breeze Campground or continue until the Catawba River meets Lake James. At this point, paddle left towards Burnette Landing. You may park a car here for \$3.00.

dinner: **McDowell Local** - craft sandwiches & pizzas are their specialty, but you also have to try their pickled treats platter!

DAY 2

entertainment: **UTV Tour at Canopy Ridge Farm** - Head to Chimney Rock and make unforgettable memories! Follow your adventure up with an early dinner in this charming mountain town - we suggest the x or x.

OR

Crabtree Falls, Marion - Categorized as a "strenuous" hike - make your way to a waterfall cascading down a 60-ft. rock, with a 2.5-mi. looped trail featuring ferns & wildflowers.

dinner: **Make yourself something over the fire!** On-site we have a community fire pit with attached grill top. Try your hand at a wood-fired dinner. Guests have made pasta, pizza, hot dogs and steak over the coals.

DAY 3

entertainment: Try your hand at Fly Fishing - **The Catawba Angler** - a fly fishing and light tackle guide service based out of Old Fort, North Carolina. (828) 460-2390
www.thecatawbaangler.com



for the: DATE WEEKEND

DAY 1

entertainment: **Take your time getting into camp and take the scenic route:**

If you're coming from the East: Follow the Lake James Loop, it's a quiet two-hour ride on scenic backroads joining the Parkway and circling Lake James. Along the way stop by Bear Creek Marina, the Orchard at Altapass, Little Switzerland, and Linville Caverns.

If you're coming from the South:

Lake Lure Washburn Marina - If you're passing through Lake Lure on your way in take advantage of the scenery with a Lunch Cruise.

Reasonable prices and online bookings available.

dinner: Ask us about our luxury riverside picnics for a romantic evening treat!

DAY 2

entertainment: A moderate Hike to Stunning Falls - **Catawba Falls** - Mossy & shady forest trail just over 3 miles round trip, leading to a series of waterfalls on the Catawba River.

OR

Try your hand at Fly Fishing with **The Catawba Angler** - a fly fishing and light tackle guide service based out of Old Fort, North Carolina

dinner: **McDowell Local** - craft sandwiches & pizzas are their specialty, but you also have to try their pickled treats platter!

DAY 3

entertainment: **Swing by one of these on your way out of town:**

Silver Fork Winery - An adorable winery overlooking picturesque foothills farmland.

OR

Botanical Gardens of Asheville - a 10-acre independent, non-profit botanical garden dedicated to the study and promotion of the native plants and habitats of the Southern Appalachians.



for the: **ONES WHO WANT TO WINE & DINE**

DAY 1

downtown: Since you're likely getting into town a little later, check out Downtown Marion. There's **Mica Town Brewery, Keeper's Cut Meadery, and Taylor's Brewery** all within walking distance.

DAY 2

breakfast: **Mr. Bob's Donuts** - Swing through Mr. Bob's Donuts and grab a sweet treat to kick off your wining and dining day. Maybe grab a few extra, in case you get a sweet tooth on the ride!

lunch: **Black Mountain Kitchen & Ale House** - you've got to try their Nashville Hot Chicken Sandwich!

afternoon libations: Afternoon Brew at Black Mountain Brewing Company.

Headed for Wine?

Check out **Silver Fork Winery** in Nebo - a classic winery overlooking a picturesque foothills hardscape.

More on the Snacks and Beers?

Fonta Flora Brewery - *Fonta Flora Brewery integrates the soul of agriculture with the artisanship of zymurgy to create a menagerie of rustic and savory libations. With 14+ draught beer lines including two nitro offerings, house-made kombucha, draught wine, an extensive beer and wine bottle menu and a select offering of local snacks, this location encapsulates our vision of a great pub experience.*

Bear Creek Marina - Enjoy a Casual dinner overlooking Lake James.

dinner: **Late Night** - Of all places, swing through the Ingles Grocery Store in Marion, their beverage selection is top-notch, and bring a few cold ones back and enjoy exchanging stories in the pavilion with fellow travelers!

DAY 3

Headed toward Morganton?

Brunch at **Root & Vine** - Silver Fork

Headed back West?

Blue Ridge Biscuit Company, Black Mountain - The biscuits are Gianormous and their options unparalleled.



SAMPLE ITINERARIES

ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS:

Marion

Buck Creek Trout Farm - The catch-out pond is a wonderful place for family fun and group outings. They provide fishing poles, and bait. This is fun fishing for any age or skill level. No fishing license is required.

Catawba Falls - Mossy & shady forest trail leading to a series of waterfalls on the Catawba River.

Catawba River Outdoors - Take a two hour relaxing tubing ride down the Catawba River. Reservations not required for groups of 9 or less. New Location: Dolphin Fish Camp, 2334 US 221 business N, Marion, NC 28752

Greenlee Park (DIY Tubing, Canoe, Kayak on the Catawba River) - You may choose to "take out" at Marion's Joseph McDowell Greenway, public parking area is available from dusk to dawn, or float further to River Breeze Campground or continue until the Catawba River meets Lake James. At this point, paddle left towards Burnette Landing. You may park a car here for \$3.00, subject to change. Call 828-652-3531 to reach Burnette's Landing to confirm parking privileges.

Hatchet Haus - A family owned and operated Axe throwing venue and bar. Open evenings Thurs-Sun. - 417 N Main St, Marion, NC hatchethausmarion.com

Joseph McDowell Greenway - Beautifully paved 3.5 mile greenway along the Catawba River. (Note: Google Maps is incorrect, parking lot is behind the Sonic in Marion)

Lightning Lanes Bowling - A great rainy day alternative to all the outdoor suggestions!

Little Switzerland - Just north of Marion...This tiny summer retreat along the Blue Ridge Parkway is known for its charming architecture, historic inns, gem mining, winding motorcycle drives and amazing book store.

Looking for a scenic drive? Follow the Lake James Loop, it's a quiet two-hour ride on scenic backroads joining the Parkway and circling Lake James. Along the way stop by Bear Creek Marina, the Orchard at Altapass, Little Switzerland, and Linville Caverns.

Marion Hot Wheelz - a roller skating business providing a high level of clean, fun, friendly, and safe participatory entertainment

The Lucky Strike Gold & Gem Mine - Beware; when you see that first glint of gold in your pan you will be hooked! Gold & Gem Mining + Diner food just 2 miles away

Tom's Creek Falls - This beautiful, 80-ft. multi-cascade waterfall in the Pisgah National Forest is an easy one-mile round-trip hike.

Thermal City Gold Mine - The Gem Mine at Thermal City Gold Mine offers the best in Gem Mining North Carolina at one of the best NC Gem Mines.

Woods Mountain Trail - Hike or bike this one. It's not for the faint at heart! Elevation peaks at 3,600 feet opening to views of Black Mountains, Little Switzerland, Armstrong Creek Watershed and Table Rock from a section of the Mountains to the Sea Trail. This loop is over 26 miles.

Nebo/Morganton/Old Fort

Beanstalk Ziplines - More than just a zipline experience, this is a full aerial experience. Enter the "Giants" chair, ascend the cargo net, test your nerves as you traverse the swaying suspension bridges 35 feet above the ground.

Heartbreak Ridge - As the name implies, this down hill, four mile bike trail descends approximately 2,000 feet and is a true heart breaker.

Lake James State Park - Public Beach with canoe rentals, hiking/mountain biking trails, and picnic shelters along Lake James.

Lake James Neighborhood Store - Full day boat rentals launching from Lake James Marina.

The Catawba Angler - a fly fishing and light tackle guide service based out of Old Fort, North Carolina.

ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS:

Chimney Rock / Lake Lure

Canopy Ridge Farm - Zipling Adventures and UTV Tours.

Cedar Creek Stables - One hour and one and a half hour trail rides through the creek and on wide mountain trails. One Hour-\$50. 1.5 Hour-\$70

Chimney Rock Adventure Golf - Miniature Golf along the creek

Chimney Rock State Park - Iconic hiking, rock climbing and an elevator to the top! Admission: Adult – \$17, Youth (ages 5-15) – \$8, Ages 4 and under – Free

Lake Lure Beach - Public beach surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Admission: Adults \$10, Kids 4-12 \$8. Kids under 4 - free

Lake Lure Washburn Marina - Guided Boat Tours, Lunch Cruises, Pontoon Rentals, Kayak/Canoe/Stand-up Paddle board Rentals and Hydro Bikes for rent.

Riverside Riding Stables - Guided horse tours along the river.

Black Mountain

Just check out the town! A charming mountain town with breweries and fantastic eateries.

A Little Farther...

Asheville - Breweries, Eateries & Art. You just have to see it for yourself.

Botanical Gardens of Asheville - a 10-acre independent, non-profit botanical garden dedicated to the study and promotion of the native plants and habitats of the Southern Appalachians.

Carolina Hemlocks Recreation Area, Burnsville - swimming hole

Crabtree Falls, Marion - Waterfall cascading down a 60-ft. rock, with a 2.5-mi. looped trail featuring ferns & wildflowers.

Grassy Creek Falls, Little Switzerland area - A steep downward hike offers visitors views of this multi-tiered waterfall in a woodland setting.

Historic Orchard at Altapass, Little Switzerland - Take home unforgettable memories of bluegrass music, hay rides, clogging, mountain cooking, area artists and craftsmen, original plays, storytelling and much more. May Open Sat/Sun. June 1st through October 31st - Hours are Wednesday through Sunday!

Linville Falls & Linville Caverns, Linville Falls - moderate hike to the most popular waterfall in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Mount Mitchell, Burnsville - The highest peak east of the Mississippi

WNC Nature Center, Asheville - daily animal programs, interactive Nature Play areas, and hands-on learning activities.

FOR SPECIAL EVENTS & MORE IDEAS:

www.RomanticAsheville.com

www.BlueRidgeTraveler.com

RESTAURANTS/LIBATIONS

Marion:

For all of these restaurants, head right out of the campground. When you reach the black & red gas station, you should have service and can GPS locations:

Eddie's Pizza & Pasta - They have a drive thru, making pick up very simple!

Marion Wing Company - Craft wings, beer and mac 'n' cheese

Mica Town Brewing - Local brewery, Downtown Marion

Mr. Bob's Donuts - Celebrating an occasion? You can even order a 16" donut cake! ...a must try

Taylor's Brewing - Local brewery, Downtown Marion

Todd's Golden Fried Chicken - Fried Chicken & Fish, served individually or in family bundles.

Toonez Chophouse - Upscale casual chophouse eatery in downtown Marion, NC. Try their **SUNDAY BRUNCH** (and just trust me when I say, order the chicken & waffles!)

DoorDash - Delivery, out here? Barely, but yes... There are limited options for food to be delivered directly to your campsite or cabin via the doordash app.

Old Fort

Hillman Beer - Food & craft beer with tables overlooking the river

Black Mountain

Black Mountain Brewing - smack in the middle of downtown

Black Mountain Kitchen & Ale House - You've got to try their Nashville hot chicken sandwich!

Blue Ridge Biscuit Company - Giant biscuits and something for everyone!

Lookout Brewery - Outdoor seating & dog friendly.

Pisgah Brewing Company - just on the outskirts of downtown

Rutherfordton

Copper Penny Grill - Eclectic and modern American cuisine options.

Yellow Sun Brewery - Wood fired pizza and craft beer!

Chimney Rock / Lake Lure

Burntshirt Vineyards Tasting Room and Bistro - In the heart of downtown this two-story tasting room features outdoor seating and great views of the main drag.

Hickory Nut Gorge Brewery at Chimney Rock - overlooks the river with outdoor seating

Riverwatch Bar & Grill - Just as the same says, watch the river and grab some bar food.

Catering...

Countryside BBQ - Extremely reasonable catering rates with a wide array of options. For catering inquiries: www.countrysidebbq.net

Copper Penny Grill - American cuisine with some eclectic selections - www.copperpennygrill.com/

Todd's Golden Fried Chicken - Fried Chicken & Fish with all the fixins - <https://toddsgoldenfriedchicken.com/>