

WILKESBORO

N O R T H C A R O L I N A



Mind Blowing Musical Talent and Heritage

Music is at the very heart and soul of Wilkesboro, as generations of traditional music continue to be passed down. Marvel at the talent showcased in the Blue Ridge Music Hall of Fame. Celebrate the Carolina in the Fall music and food festival hosted by the Kruger Brothers, or get inspired at FaithFest. Hobnob with music legends at world-famous MerleFest, the four-day Americana music festival held each April to honor Doc Watson and his son, Merle.

Our New Historic Downtown

Heritage Square, set against the backdrop of the majestic Wilkes Heritage Museum, includes a splash pad with an heirloom quilt pattern base. Kick back in an Adirondack chair and enjoy the fire pits while you listen to our world-famous musical talent in the adjacent Community Commons. Wander through the Wilkes Heritage Museum, full of fascinating exhibits ranging from a moonshine still to one of Junior Johnson's race cars. Shop your way through our downtown boutiques and antique stores. Don't miss the incredible Blue Ride Artisan Center, an architectural showpiece filled with juried works of art (available to take home).



White Lightning to Lightning Fast

Explore the Wilkesboro connection between moonshine and NASCAR. Wilkes County native Junior Johnson perfected his driving skills while hauling "white lightning" through the Brushy Mountains, inventing the "Bootleg Turn" in the process. Today, you can visit Call Family Distillers, whose founders' family tree includes the Reverend Dan Call (who taught Jack Daniel how to make whiskey), and the "Uncatchable" Willie Clay Call, legendary moonshiner. Experience Copper Barrel Distillery, Wilkes County's first legal moonshine distillery.



4075'

Wilkes County's Highest Peak, Tomkins Knob

757

Square Miles to Explore

56

Miles of Shoreline at W. Kerr Scott Lake

8

Wineries, Four Distilleries, Two Breweries, and One Meadery all await you in Wilkes

Is history your thing?

Learn about the local connections to Tom Dula, subject of the song "Hang Down Your Head, Tom Dooley," and to Daniel Boone, who had a home in Wilkes County. Illuminate the rich history and folklore of Wilkesboro with a candlelight ghost tour of our historic downtown. Trace the Overmountain Victory Trail, which follows the route of assembly of the American Patriot army during the Revolutionary War, culminating at the site of the Battle of King's Mountain. Don't miss Whippoorwill Academy & Village, a collection of restored log cabins featuring historical museums, including the one-room schoolhouse that NC Poet Laureate James Larkin Pearson attended, as well as the breathtaking log cabin, "Chapel of Peace."



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Extreme sports more your speed?

Discover more than 50 miles of mountain biking trails, including Warrior Creek Trail, rated one of the best trails in the U.S. Scale great heights rock-climbing the 600-foot granite cliff face at Stone Mountain State Park. Soak in stunning scenery as you float above the Blue Ridge Mountains on a paragliding adventure. Go tubing, that's right, tubing (not tubing) down the Yadkin River in a giant washtub that holds four or more people. Fly fish in the heart of historic downtown Wilkesboro at Cub Creek Park.



Love locally produced libations?

There are more than 50 wineries within an hour's drive of Wilkesboro! Step into the sunny, Tuscan-style Villa at romantic and stunningly picturesque Raffaldini Vineyards for a taste of "Chianti in the Carolinas." Enjoy Southern hospitality while sipping award-winning wines at Jones von Drehle, Piccione Vineyards, Roaring River Vineyards, and Menarick Vineyards & Winery.

Locally sourced fruits & grains yield lush libations. McRitchie Winery & Ciderworks handcrafts hard ciders from hand-selected heirloom cider apples picked from an orchard in Wilkes County's Brushy Mountains. Call Family Distillers produces moonshine using white corn meal from Linney's Mill, one of the last mills in NC that grind with water power from an adjacent stream. Holman Distillery produces Applejack, the only spirit invented in America.

Find your back road at **DiscoverWilkesboro.com** @WilkesNCTourism