

BEST ROAD TRIPS

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ExploreBooneArea.com
STAY PLAY EAT SHOP &



Boone, NC

Just 90 miles northeast of Asheville is the mountain town of Boone, NC, population 14,000. This college mountain town sits at 3,300 feet and is ideal for multi-sport fanatics. The area includes multiple ski resorts, the Linville Gorge Wilderness, Grandfather Mountain, the Blue Ridge Parkway and bartenders named Sissy.

Check Out Grandfather Mountain—One of the best known natural landmarks in the High Country is Grandfather Mountain. In 2009, part of the mountain officially became Grandfather Mountain State Park which encompasses 2500 acres and includes the more challenging “backcountry” hikes. Also a trip to Grandfather Mountain would not be complete without checking out the Mile High Swinging Bridge.

Bike the Famous Lance Ride—Experience (on a bike of course) the epic 4-mile, 2300 foot “Lance Ride” up Hwy 184/Beech Mtn. Pkwy. This famous climb that was part of the Tour DuPont in the 1980’s is worth visiting just for the inspirational factor. Read Lance Armstrong’s book, check out this climb, get goose bumps.

Get Lost in the Wilson Creek Recreation Area—The rugged Wilson Creek area encompasses over 75 miles of trails and is part of the Grandfather District of the Pisgah National Forest. This often confusing area has miles and miles of trails for running, biking, hiking, and horseback riding with solid fishing and kayaking options. We highly recommend grabbing a map before tackling this wilderness area.

Explore the Cone—Just outside of Boone in Blowing Rock and off the Blue Ridge Parkway is the Moses Cone Memorial Park or Cone Park as the locals call it. The 25 miles of wide trails and two lakes make this an ideal spot for light adventure. The park is friendly to hikers, horseback riders, and fisherman so leave the bike at home.

Bust Some Powder—If winter sports are your thing, then the Boone area is your best bet if you don’t want to make the haul up to West Virginia. Take your pick between Ski Beech, Sugar Mountain and Appalachian Ski Mountain resorts.

Charleston, SC

About four hours south of Asheville is the colonial city of Charleston, SC. For outdoor enthusiasts, Charleston provides endless paddling opportunities, miles of trails in Francis Marion NF, and a burgeoning stand up paddleboarding scene.

Climb the Ravenel Bridge—A trip to Charleston just would not be complete without a run, walk, or bike over the Ravenel Bridge (2.5 miles long/575 feet high) which includes expansive views of downtown, the Charleston Harbor and Mt. Pleasant. The 12 foot wide bike/pedestrian lane makes it that more appealing.

Paddleboarding on the Barrier Islands—Stand up paddleboarding has become all the rage in Charleston and is a great way to experience the water. The concept is simple: take a large board, stand up on it, and use a paddle to maneuver waves, creeks, and any other water you can think of. The Isle of Palms and Sullivan’s Island are your best bets to give this a try.

Paddle Around Folly—Just like the Ravenel Bridge is a must see while in town, paddling the waters of Charleston is a must do activity. We recommend a morning paddle near Folly Island. We suggest heading toward Stono River from the Folly landing to check out Bird Key, one of the largest rookeries in the state.

Explore the Palmetto Trail—To get a taste of the local trails (yes, Charleston has miles and miles of good trails), we recommend checking out the Palmetto Trail—the state’s largest bicycle and pedestrian trail — which starts in Francis Marion National Forest. We like the Lake Moultrie section which runs along the banks of the lake. The trail is optimal for hiking and biking and has several primitive campsites.

Related Resources

Two great resources that cover Boone and Watauga County -

Boone Convention & Visitors Bureau: 800-852-9506 / www.visitbooneenc.com

Watauga County TDA: 828-266-1345 / www.exploreboonearea.com

The Adventure Collective — information, directions, and related resources to 40+ adventures in the Charleston area. 828-230-4510 / www.advguides.com

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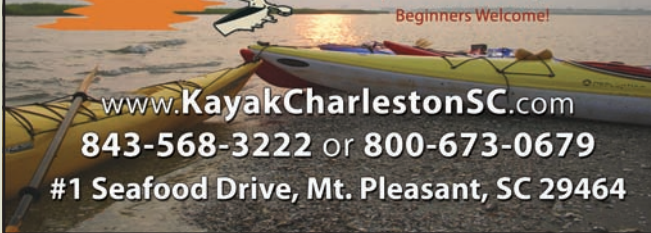
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