

BYWAYS



Featuring North America's Leading Travel Destinations

Great American Roads
The Alaska Highway, U.S. 395 in California,
Colorado's Million Dollar Highway,
The Natchez Trace, Parkersburg-Staunton
Turnpike, Blue Ridge Parkway, Newport's
Famous Cliff Walk, and more!



Blue Ridge Parkway Overlook. Scenic beauty along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia. Photo courtesy Bruce Henderson and Roanoke Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The Blue Ridge Parkway





A spectacular view of the Blue Ridge Mountains from the famous Roanoke Star.

Meandering 469 miles from Shenandoah National Park in the northern Shenandoah Valley of Virginia to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina, the Blue Ridge Parkway follows the Appalachian Mountains and boasts some of the most spectacular scenery in the world.

It is regarded as one of the most beautiful roads in North America. The Blue Ridge Parkway experience is unlike any other, a slow paced and relaxing drive revealing stunning long range vistas and close-up views of the mountainsides and farm landscapes of the Appalachian highlands.

The Parkway is free to travel, and open year-round except in times of inclement weather.

A hundred species of trees, a variety of flowering shrubs and wildflowers as well 54 different mammals and 59 species of birds live along the Parkway - more than the entire European continent!

The parkway travels along the Blue Ridge, a major mountain chain that is part of the Appalachian Mountains. Its southern terminus is on the boundary between Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Cherokee Indian Reservation in North Carolina, from which it travels north to Shenandoah National

Park in Virginia and offers access to the Skyline Drive.

The two All-American Byways are separate and distinct. The Blue Ridge Parkway was built to connect Shenandoah National Park to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The Parkway, while not a “National Park,” is the most visited unit of the National Park System. Land on either side of the road is owned and maintained by the National Park Service and, in many places, parkway land is bordered by United States Forest Service property.



Mabry Mill on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia.

Begun during the administration of U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt, the project was originally called the Appalachian Scenic Highway.

Work began on September 11, 1935, near Cumberland Knob in North Carolina; construction in Virginia began the following February. On June 30, 1936, Congress formally authorized the project as the Blue Ridge Parkway and placed it under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. Some work was carried out by various New Deal public works agencies.

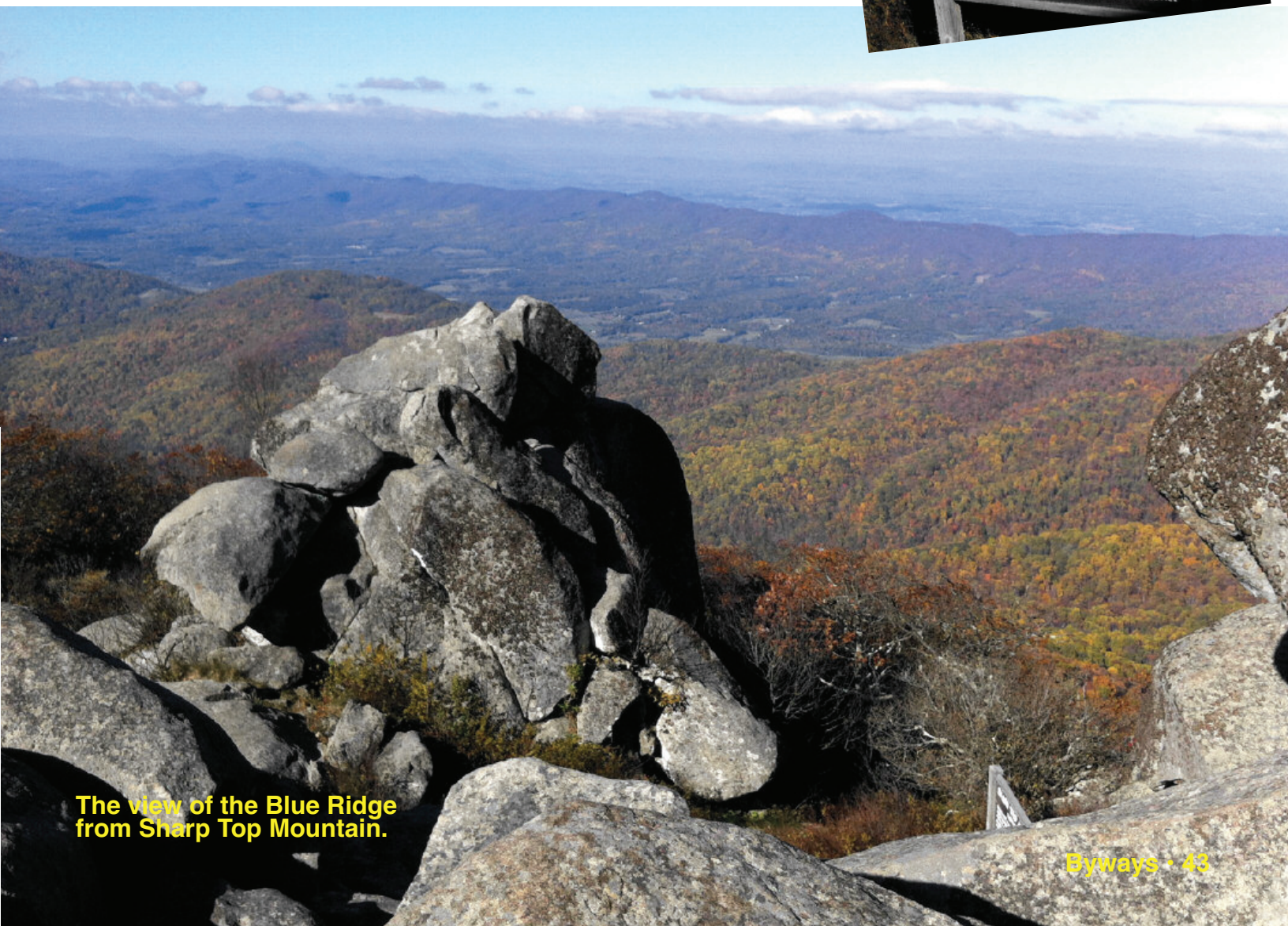
Construction of the parkway took over 52 years to complete, the last stretch (near the Linn Cove Viaduct) laid around Grandfather Mountain and opening in 1987. The Blue Ridge Parkway tunnels were constructed through the rock — one in Virginia and twenty-five in North Carolina. Sections of the parkway near the tunnels are often closed in winter. This is primarily because the North Carolina mountains are more rugged than those in Virginia.

The highest point on the parkway (south of Waynesville, near Mount Pisgah in North Carolina) is 6053 feet above sea level on Richland Balsam Mountain at milepost 431, and is often closed from November to April due to inclement weather such as snow, fog, and even freezing fog from low clouds.

Mileposts along the parkway start at zero at the north-east end in Virginia and count to 469 at the southern end in North Carolina. The mileposts can be found on the west side of the road.

Major towns and cities along the way include Waynesboro, Roanoke, and Galax in Virginia; and in North Carolina, Boone and Asheville, where it runs across the property of the Biltmore Estate. The Blue Ridge Music Center is located in Galax, and Mount Mitchell (at 6,684 feet the highest point in eastern North America) is only accessible via a state road from the parkway at milepost 355.4.

The Blue Ridge Music Center is part of the Blue Ridge Parkway system and is located at milepost 213 near Galax, Virginia. The center celebrates the history and performance of the old time



The view of the Blue Ridge from Sharp Top Mountain.



The D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia. Flags of all participating countries in the D-Day landing are displayed.

mountain music of Virginia and North Carolina, and most often showcases local artists, who celebrate this history.

The Roanoke Valley, Capital of the Blue Ridge, allows you to experience all four spectacular seasons in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of western Virginia located on Interstate 81 and the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Roanoke Valley is recognized for its railroad heritage, many festivals and historic farmers' market area with nearby shopping, including hand-made crafts and Virginia specialty items.

Railroad History and the Virginia Museum of Transportation – The Valley boasts its railroad heritage at the remodeled historic Norfolk & Western freight station housing the Virginia Museum of Transportation. The Museum is home to the largest collection of diesel and steam locomotives in the United States, including the Class J No. 611 and 1218 steam engines, with over 50 pieces of rolling stock in the Museum yard. Also on display are antique carriages, cars, trucks, buses and trolleys and more. www.vmt.org

O. Winston Link Museum - Through his stunningly artistic, often-surreal photography and audio recordings, the vision of internationally acclaimed photographer O.

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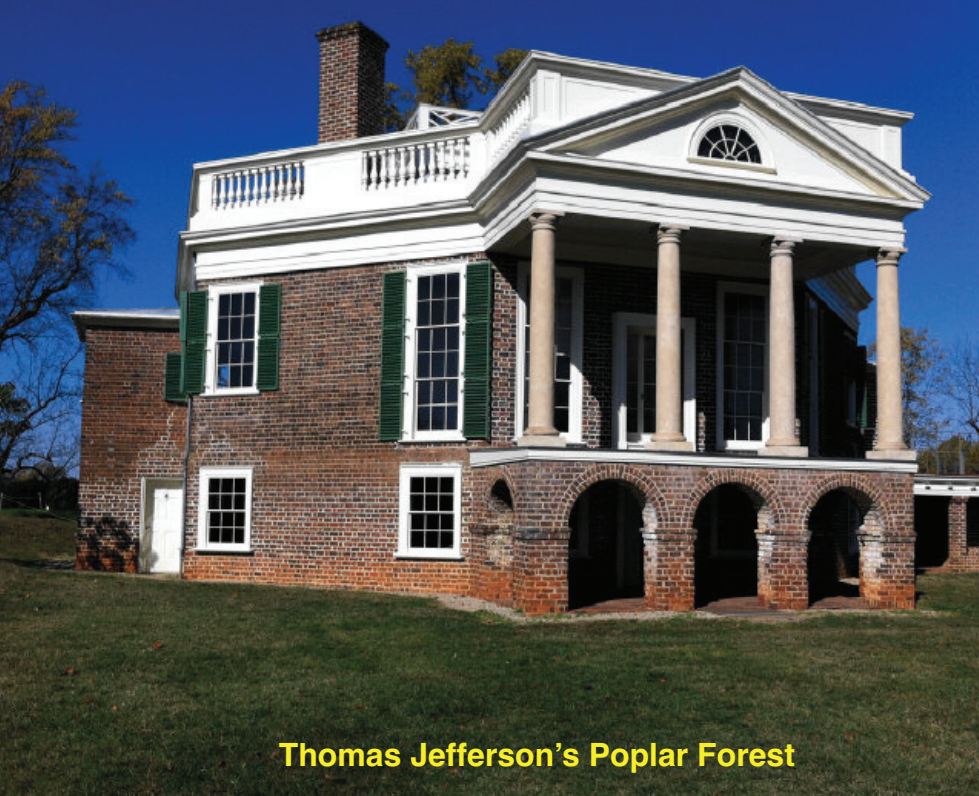
Winston Link comes to life! Discover the rich culture and heritage that surrounded America's last major steam railroad, the Norfolk & Western Railway. Enjoy galleries of Link's work, listening stations, and interactive displays. www.linkmuseum.org

Historic Farmers' Market and the Downtown Roanoke/Center in the Square – The Market is the oldest such market in continuous use in Virginia. In 1882 licenses were issued to 25 hucksters around the same time the city was chartered. Today, the Market includes unique shopping, produce, art galleries, country stores, and restaurants. www.downtownroanoke.org

Taubman Museum of Art – Opened in 2008, the museum features significant selections of American art, modern and contemporary art, design and decorative arts, folk and visionary art, works on paper, and features a changing array of both regional and national exhibitions. Tours, gallery talks, family days, special events, classes, and camps are part of the Art Museum's regular programming. The museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM).

www.taubmanmuseum.org

Attractions – Additional attractions include Mill Mountain Zoo, Dixie Caverns, while regional sightsee-



Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest

ing includes Natural Bridge and Smith Mountain Lake.

The Peaks of Otter - Sharp Top, Flat Top, and Harkening Hill - have dominated the view in this region of Virginia for centuries, first attracting the attention of Native Americans who saw the area as a rich hunting ground. Famous naturalists and such notable historic figures as Thomas Jefferson and Robert E. Lee wrote about or visited the Peaks of Otter during their lives.

The summits of Flat Top and Sharp Top offer a unique opportunity to enjoy spectacular scenic vistas and sun-

risers. Interpretative programs, wildlife exhibits, walking trails, self-guided wildflower walks, picnic areas, campground, restaurant and lodge are available in this developed area of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Shuttle bus service close to the summit of Sharp Top is available.

Located near Bedford, the Parkway is just a short ride to the World War II D-Day Memorial, a must see on your journey. Why was the D-Day Memorial built here? Because the town of Bedford, whose population was then just over 3,300, sustained the largest number of D-Day casualties per capital - 18 - than any other community in the United States.

Not far away is Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest estate, another must see in the area. Although not as well known as Monticello, this Jefferson designed home served as Jefferson's private residence following his two terms as President.

A stop at the Bedford Visitor Center, one of the most unique and helpful anywhere, will set the stage for your visit to Bedford.

The Blue Ridge Parkway is a catalyst for travel and tourism in the region through which it passes, fostering a shared regional identity, and providing a major contribution to the region's economic vitality.

To learn more about the Blue Ridge Parkway, visit <http://www.brpfoundation.org>

The Secret for a Successful Group Tour is Simple: The Right Activities. The Right Amenities. The Right Destination.



The Blue Ridge Parkway
& The "Peaks of Otter"



The National
D-Day Memorial



Smith Mountain Lake
With 500 Miles of Shoreline



Thomas Jefferson's
Poplar Forest



The Bedford Wine Trail
With Five Wineries



Festivals & Antiquing
Historic Centertown Bedford

Most of all—The Right Partner!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A CUSTOMIZED GROUP ITINERARY:
CALL TOLL FREE 1-877-447-3257 AND VISIT: www.VisitBedford.com

