BLUE RIDGE HIGHLANDS

Home of the Birthplace of Country Music, the BLUE RIDGE HIGHLANDS region echoes with the passion of history’s most dominant country music pioneers. Annual festivals, historic venues and nightly jam sessions celebrate Virginia’s global influence, creating a rich musical soundtrack for all travelers – whether meandering along winding roads, or venturing out onto scenic rivers and trails.

JAM

Join the award-winning Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion in celebrating its 20th anniversary this year! This three-day event provides an electrifying music experience for festival-lovers, digging deep into the roots of Appalachian music with incredible performances from widely acclaimed artists. Also mark your calendar to visit Floyd in July for the five-day FloydFest, one of the most unique music festivals in the state. With nine stages featuring worldwide artists, as well as camping, activities, a children’s universe and more, this experience will be one for your festival scrapbook!

IMMERSE

Known as the “Gateway to Southwest Virginia,” the Southwest Virginia Cultural Center and Marketplace showcases our state’s traditional music and regional craft. Home to ‘Round the Mountain, Southwest Virginia’s artisan network, discover eclectic and extensive collections from some of the region’s most talented artisans, whose creations include all types of media that you’ll want to take home. Plus, from bluegrass to gospel and old-time to modern-day fusions, musical heritage comes to life at the headquarters of The Crooked Road.

SAVOR

Visit Thee Draper Village, located in the center of town and a favorite local hangout for over 125 years. Reimagined for today’s visitors while offering a nostalgic small town feel, the Village boasts a knock-your-socks-off brunch at the Merc restaurant, a coffee roastery and a unique marketplace showcasing local artisans, gifts, gourmet products and more. Keep your taste buds happy with a trip to the Harvest Table, a family-friendly, farm-to-table restaurant with live music, outdoor dining and a regional menu inspired by Appalachian heritage.

DANCE

Tap your toes along The Crooked Road’s Heritage Music Trail, with more than 300 miles of scenic terrain and an endless array of musical experiences. From living legends to new artists, and hidden gems to jam sessions, no visit is complete without pausing to take in the sounds that echo in our valleys. Visit Galax in the summer for the Galax Old Fiddlers’ Convention, the world’s largest and oldest of its kind. Or join the flat-footing, fast-fiddling fun any time at the Floyd Country Store, where authentic Appalachian traditions come to life on the dance floor!

RIDE

Head to Abingdon at Mile 0 to enter the beloved 34.3-mile Virginia Creeper Trail, named after the steam engine that once crept up the rails into the Iron Mountains. Traverse from Damascus to Whitetop, exploring fields and pastures full of wildlife while learning about the railroad’s significant role in Southwest Virginia’s history and economy. You can also intersect with the Appalachian Trail at several points on your journey, and there are plenty of opportunities to take a break for a hard-earned meal or sweet treat as well.
Virginia Tech
154 Burruss Hall, 540-231-3548; state.vt.edu/arts
Virginia Tech Museum of Geology Sciences
2012 Glowing Hall, ST Campus, 540-231-3501; mgs@vt.edu/museum

Virginia Tech Museum of Geology Sciences provides printed materials in Braille and provides descriptions by a trained audio describer. It provides assistive listening systems and provides a service used for communication with and between hearing-impaired patrons.

Virginia Tech Museum of Geology Sciences is ADA compliant.

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Welcome to the open spaces of Virginia!

Pet-Friendly Facility

Admission Required

ADA-Compliant

BLUE RIDGE HIGHLANDS

Christiansburg Aquatic Center.

LOVEwork is located at the

540-394-2120; virginia.

LOVEworks Sculpture in

Christiansburg.

Maintained rail to trail winds

755 Roanoke St., 540-382-6975;

The Huckleberry Trail

1800’s mercantile with

in the country! $

Drag racing every Saturday

night May-September.

Dragway at 180 mph...in four

motormilespeedway.com.

The Blue Ridge Music Center

at 6:30pm A Crooked Road

Jam every Thursday night

Concerts announced

through classes in traditional

music and trails await!

New River Valley where adventure,

Visit Fries on the banks of the

New River where adventure,

Crafter’s Stick! At the bluegrass

concerts every Saturday night

at 6:30pm. A Crooked Road

venue.

The Floyd Center for the Arts

June Tour featuring local

artists/crafts and music.

Panel of local and regional artists/

Crafts and music.

Chestnut Creek School of the

Arts, craft and agricultural

shops, outdoor recreation.

Cave, forest, open meadow,

Unique history in SW Virginia.

Preserves cultural heritage

through classes in traditional

crafts and music.

Jeff Matthews Museum

of Natural History.

Displays Indian artifacts, Civil
nWar memorabilia and more.

Judge Matthews State Forest

296 Matthews Ln.

offers birding, hiking, biking,

natural resource education

programs, wildlife watching.

Matthews Living History Farm

123 Matthews Ln.

Experience early agriculture,

settlers, early surveying.

in the country!

Sunset Quiller

331 Quiller Dr, 195 RT. 58

visitthebland.com

Historic State Area Home

5935 Fancy Gap Hwy,

-200 speedway.com.

The Sand Music Hall

202 South Logan St, 540-252-7400

mountainsoutlook.com.

Diversity and national and

local dances and workshops.

The Rex Theater

113 East Grayson St, 276-252-3100

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