

Hendersonville

NORTH CAROLINA

The Apple of North Carolina's Eye:

Spend three days exploring Hendersonville, NC

A fun getaway awaits travelers in the Blue Ridge mountain town of Hendersonville. Once a sleepy locale in the shadows of nearby Asheville, the town has emerged with a vibrant mix of arts, culture and locally-brewed spirits.

Hendersonville's Main Street is among the most welcoming destinations in Western North Carolina with a variety of shops, boutiques and restaurants. The streetscape has been transformed with wide, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks framed by benches, with flowers and trees in attractive brick planters.



DAY 1

Downtown and Jump Off Rock

Start your day on Hendersonville's unique, curvilinear Main Street. It's easy to spend the better part of day with all the shops, restaurants, museums and attractions.

Check out the Team ECCO Aquarium, Mineral & Lapidary Museum, and the Henderson County History Museum in the beautifully renovated historic courthouse.



► **Lunch** – dine outside on the wide sidewalks or pop inside one of the many cafés. For dessert, McFarland's Bakery features apple turnovers made fresh from Henderson County apples, or pop by HVL Donuts, a walk-out service window serving delectable pastries on the north end of Main Street.

► **Afternoon** – depart Main Street via 5th Avenue West and head up to Jump Off Rock. In less than 15 minutes, you wind your way up a mountain to one of the best views in North Carolina. A short walk out to the rock reveals a panoramic vista that includes four states (NC, SC, TN and GA) as well as two mountain ranges – the Blue Ridge and the Great Smokies. Sunset is particularly popular as Jump Off Rock faces west.

► **Dinner** – back downtown, there are 24 independent restaurants in the Main Street area. Choose from upscale Italian, upscale American, wood-fired pizza, North Carolina smoked barbecue, Mexican, Thai and more!





DAY 2

Sipping and Tasting along the Cheers! Trail

Henderson County boasts an assortment of wineries, breweries and hard cideries. The Henderson County Cheers! Trail gives you a choice of five breweries, three cideries and two wineries.

A good starting point around lunchtime is Bold Rock Hard Cider in Mills River. Bold Rock is one of the largest hard cideries in the United States and makes a variety of award-winning ciders from all local apples. In fact, Bold Rock located here because Henderson County is among the top 10 apple-producing counties in the nation.

► **Lunch** – Pair your hard cider at Bold Rock with lunch from the cidery's food truck. The food truck serves freshly-prepared barbecue and other Southern fixings.

► **Afternoon** – From Mills River, it is an easy drive to downtown Hendersonville, where Southern Appalachian Brewery, Sanctuary Brewing Company and Flat Rock Ciderworks all have tasting rooms within a few blocks of each other. Or, head east of town to sample wines at Burntshirt Vineyards and Saint Paul Mountain Vineyards. Both produce award-winning varietals and Burntshirt was named the 2015 NC Winery of the Year.



► **Dinner** – For dinner and craft beer on a grand scale, head back to Mills River. Sierra Nevada's East Coast headquarters is located in Mills River and the company spared little expense in creating a palace for tastings and tours, with a restaurant and more.

DAY 3

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Poet and a Famed Playhouse

No visit to Hendersonville would be complete without spending time south of town in the Village of Flat Rock. This quaint village, originally developed by Charlestonians as a summer escape from the heat, is home to the Flat Rock Playhouse, the Carl Sandburg Home and many other options.

Start Your Day with a visit to Connemara, the Flat Rock estate of Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Carl Sandburg. Sandburg lived the second half of his life here, where he penned more than half his works while drawing inspiration from the surrounding mountains. Upon his death, his wife donated the estate and its belongings to the National Park Service. A visit includes a tour of the house, plus the farm where his wife Lilian raised champion dairy goats.



► **Lunch** – If you're in the mood for barbecue again, Hubba Hubba Smokehouse is a popular spot with great smoked meats served in an open-air courtyard. Or, you can go next door to Flat Rock Village Bakery and choose from an array of organic brick-oven breads, fresh organic salads, sandwiches and soups, and handcrafted pastries.

► **Afternoon** – Check out the Wrinkled Egg boutique and other stores and gift shops in the village, or head back to the Carl Sandburg estate to get some exercise on one of the hiking trails on property, including a hike to the top of nearby Glassy Mountain.

► **Dinner** – Season's restaurant at Highland Lake Inn is a classic dining experience. Four-star cuisine in an upscale rustic setting nestled amidst Carolina pines draped with ivy. Season's makes every meal feel like a special occasion with award-winning continental cuisine sourced mostly from local farms. The restaurant has been bestowed the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence every year since 2007.

► **After Dinner** – Close your wonderful day with a Broadway show at the famed Flat Rock Playhouse. The playhouse is the official state theater of North Carolina and has entertained audiences with quality performances since the 1940s.

For complete Hendersonville tourism info, go to: www.VisitHendersonvilleNC.org or call 800-828-4244