

CNPA Boone Blue Ridge Parkway Photography Weekend May 3 - 6,
2018 (Updated 02/28/18)

Boone, NC

Hosted by Foothills - North Region

May 3, 2018 - Thursday Evening

- 1] Registration 6:00 PM - 7:00PM La Quinta Inn, Boone, NC
- 2] Welcome - Orientation 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM La Quinta Inn Conference Room
- 3] Meet with Guides 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM La Quinta Inn Conference Room

May 4 & 5, 2018 - Friday & Saturday - Morning and Day Guided Tours

- 1] Beacon Heights & Boone Fork Overlook BRP 5:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- 2] Roan Mountain & Elk River Falls 4:45 AM - 2:00 PM
- 3] Linville Falls & Duggers Creek 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- 4] Elk Knob State Park 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM [?]
- 5] Little Lost Cove Trail [to Cliffs] 6:30 am - 12:00 pm
- 6] Boone Fork Trail and Hebron Rocks 6:30 am - 12:00 pm

May 4, 2018 - Friday - Afternoon Guided Tour

- 1) Laurel Falls, Boone, NC 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

May 5, 2018 - Saturday - Afternoon Guided Tour

- 2) Cascade Falls, BRP 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

May 4 & 5, 2018 - Friday & Saturday - Sunset Guided Tours

- 1) Field/Graveyard View, Moses Cone Mansion, BRP 7:00 PM
- 2) Julian Price Dam Overlook, BRP 7:00 PM
- 3) BRP Overlooks 6:45 PM

May 4 & 5, 2018 - Friday & Saturday - Self Guided Tours

- 1] Daniel Boone Gardens, Boone
- 2] Thunder Hill sunrise [BRP Overlook, north of Blowing Rock Mile Post 290.1]
- 3] Daniel Boone Scout Trail
- 4] Rough Ridge sunrise/sunset [BRP Overlook, south of Blowing Rock Mile Post 302.8]
- 5] Wiseman's View [view of Linville Gorge] [Linville Falls Community, NC]
- 6] Waterfalls along US 221 from Blowing Rock to BRP/Grandfather interchange
- 7] Valle Crucis/Mast General Store/Churches/Park and Watauga River
- 8] Quilt Barn Trail [driving] Ashe/Avery/Watauga Co.
- 9] Laurel Falls, US 321 N of Boone, NC
- 10] Moses Cone Mansion and Bass Lake, Blowing Rock, NC
- 11] Price Lake and Lake Trail and boat rental [seasonal] Blue Ridge Parkway

[2]

May 5, 2018 - Photo Competition - Turn in

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM - La Quinta Inn Conference Room

May 6, 2019 Photo Competition - Photo Critique & Winners Announced

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Li Quinta Inn Conference Room

11:00 AM - Photo Weekend Adjourned

Outing Descriptions

Morning Outing #1

May 4 & 5, 2018

Beacon Heights and Boone Fork Overlook Blue Ridge Parkway

Limit 10

Time: 5:00 am - 11:00 am

Description:

Sunrise view from the top of a large garnet escarpment overlooking the Johns River Valley and Line Cove Viaduct is spectacular. Valley fog may be present any morning or not at all. Views north east to south west for the valley offer vast panoramic to close intimates. Views West and North West offer Grandfather Mountain and the Lin Viaduct. Telephoto lens on a clear day will capture Charlotte, NC skyline to the east. Southeast you can see Table Rock, Hawks Bill, and Linville Gorge ridge.

From parking lot follow BRP North to Boone Fork overlook. Trail head [upper end of lot] is a short walk to a bridge across Boone Fork. Trail is root crossed and rocks in some places, but not difficult. Upstream view of Rhododendron and Beech trees tightly covering the stream cascade provide for wide angle to short telephoto shots. Shots from below the bridge are available [Difficult to get down the bank]. Photos of the trail and bridge are another idea. Trail can access northern end of Grandfather Mountain.

Facilities: No facilities on trails or at overlooks.

Equipment: Normal range of lenses, telephoto lens up to 500 mm (or more), polarizing filter, graduated neutral density filter and tripod, hiking boots. Layered warm clothes including gloves, rain gear, and sunscreen [all optional]. Snacks and water.

Info: <https://www.google.com/maps/@36.0850151,-81.8280813,15.62z>

Driving Time From Boone: Beacon Heights is about 22 miles (38 minutes) via NC 105 to Linville and then US 221 to the Parkway.

Directions: Turn left from La Quinta on NC 105/US 221 south to intersection, follow 105 to Linville, NC. Turn left on US 221 toward Grandfather Mt. and BRP. Pass Grandfather Mt. entrance, continue to BRP/US 221 intersection. Turn left to BRP, turn right on BRP, cross over the bridge, turn left into Beacon Heights Overlook parking area. Follow sidewalk to right then down slope to cross road below. Trail leads uphill to junction with Tanawha Trail [left] and Mountains to the Sea Trail [right]. Turn right on Mountain to the Sea Trail, then left at Beacon

Height Trail and follow it to the top. Trail cuts left & right. Take left up rock and boulder step structure to opening [east & south facing]. BE CAREFUL OF THE SLOPE - ROCKS ARE WELL WORN AND SLICK.

Morning Outing #2

May 4 & 5, 2018

Roan Mountain Balds & Elk River Falls

Limit: 10

Time: 4:45 am - 2:00 pm

Description:

The hike to the Round Bald will also go through an alpine spruce / fir forest. The panoramic vistas along this part of the Appalachian Trail are awesome. We could have beautiful blue skies with fluffy white clouds or we could be fogged in - perhaps both on the same day! No matter what the conditions are, you will be rewarded with memorable landscapes.

This will be a slow hike so you may catch your breath and capture any images you want along the way. First section is moderate to strenuous uphill, then mounded on the bald. Further hike down to Engine Gap, up to Jane Bald.

NOTE: Have all your gear ready to leave the parking area as soon as you park. Grab bag and tripod to hike up to Round Bald. Do not wait to pack when you arrive on Carvers Gap. You will be hiking on the Trail [you can say you hiked the TN, NC boarder of the AT for a mile or so.

You will be gone all day so pack your lunch!

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Roan+Mountain/@36.102584,-82.100392,15.21z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x88509bf12bdfac1:0xd636e63791c090f5!8m2!3d36.1037634!4d-82.1104431!5m1!1e4>

Trail and Topographical map.

Elevation: 5,512 to around 6,000 feet

The Elk River Falls drops 40 feet into a large pool. A steep trail goes down the side of the falls on the right [as you look at the falls]. It is best to wear hiking boots for this trail. You will be rewarded with a large rock area facing the pool to sit on as you photograph the falls. The river flowing at the top of the falls is good for afternoon reflections.

Facilities: Restrooms in the gardens/outhouse at Carver's Gap. No facilities on trail. Hiking Info: 2 miles round trip via Appalachian Trail to Round Bald; 3 miles round trip to Jane Bald, Moderate to strenuous in places. Lunch: Bring snacks, lunch and water to eat along the trail.

Equipment: Wide angle lens, telephoto lens up to 250mm (or more), macro lens, polarizing filter, graduated neutral density filter and tripod for sunrise photos, good hiking boots, layered warm clothes including gloves, rain gear, sunscreen.

Driving time from Boone: About 45 minutes from Boone to Newland to Banner Elk to Elk Park to Roan Mt., TN to Carver's Gap on NC/TN border

Directions: La Quinta Inn turn LEFT on to NC 105 down hill, cross US 321, continue on NC 105 to NC 184, turn RIGHT on NC 184 to Banner Elk, turn LEFT on NC 194 to US 19E, merge RIGHT on US 19E and follow through Elk Park, NC to Roan Mt., TN. In Roan Mt, TN turn LEFT on TN 143 and follow to the top [Carvers Gap].

Return to Elk Park, TN the reverse of above directions above. Follow sign in Elk Park to **Elk River Falls**.

Morning Outing #3

May 4 & 5, 2018

Linville Falls & Dugger's Creek Falls

Limit: 10

Time: 7:30 am - 12:00 pm

Description:

Linville Falls has two separate trails to four overlooks. This is a **moderate 1.6 mile round-trip** walk, offering hikers four overlooks, each revealing a different aspect of the Linville Falls area. One overlook on the left trail from the visitor center/parking area. Three overlooks on the right trail right, from the visitor center/parking area. Left route takes you to a cliff view of the side of the main falls. Three overlooks to the right are off one trail. First overlook leads to the upper section for the falls, while the next two overlooks view the falls face on from cliffs at higher elevations. Overlooks are accessed by side trail and steps to the viewing area.

Dugger's Creek Falls is at the parking area entrance. Short trail leads to a bridge crossing the creek and moss covered walls cover a small gorge. Very ethereal. **Easy .25 miles**.

Facilities: Visitor center/gift shop/maps. Restrooms and water fountain. No facilities on trails or at overlooks

Equipment: Wide angle lens, telephoto lens up to 250mm (or more), macro lens, polarizing filter, graduated neutral density filter and tripod, hiking boots. Layered warm clothes including gloves, rain gear, and sunscreen [all optional]. Dugger's Creek Falls has stream access so hip waders are optional.

Info and map. <https://www.nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/linville-falls-trails.htm>

Driving Time from Boone: About 49 min. 29 miles from Boone to BRP to Linville Falls visitor center off the BRP.

Directions: Turn left from La Quinta on NC 105/US221 south to intersection, follow 105 to Linville, NC, then right on US 221 to next stop light, then left on NC 181/US 221 South to NC 181 South intersection, left on NC 181 to BRP Access across from Christa's Country Corner, left to BRP, then right [South] on the BRP to Linville Falls Rd. [access road from BRP]

Morning Outing #4

May 4 & 5

Elk Knob State Park

Limit: 10

Time: 7:00 am - 12:00 pm

Description:

Backcountry Trail is 2.0 miles one way and follows the headwaters for the North Fork of the New River. Cascades are found along the way. Listed as moderate. Blaze is Orange Diamond.

If members want, they may also continue on their own to the Summit Trail which leads to the top of Elk Knob for **1.9 miles**. Two fantastic viewing areas at the top [North & South]. Trail is listed

as strenuous due to elevation change and switch backs. There is plenty of environmental change going to the top. Change in trees, understory plants offer much to photograph. Trail is graded gravel. Blaze is a Blue Diamond. Take your time hiking up, and have plenty of Water.

Beech Tree and Maple Tree Trails are listed as easy.

Facilities: Restrooms at Picnic Area

Equipment: Wide to moderate telephoto, CPL, GND & ND filters, water [plenty], tripod, snack [for trail], picnic for lunch [cover more trails with lunch break].

Info: <https://www.ncparks.gov/elk-knob-state-park> / <https://www.ncparks.gov/elk-knob-state-park/trails> / https://files.nc.gov/ncparks/maps-and-brochures/elk-knob-park-map_0.pdf

Driving Time from Boone: Elk Knob State Park is 10.8 miles [19 minutes] from Boone. The road is windy, but easy two lane.

Directions: Turn right out of La Quanta Inn on NC 105/ US 221 to stop light. Turn right on US 421 moving over to left lane, go 2 stoplights, turn left on Jefferson Rd. [NC 194] and travel to Meat Camp Rd. on left, turn left, follow Meat Camp Rd. to Elk Knob State Park, turn right into park, follow road to upper parking area.

Morning Outing #5

May 4 & 5, 2018

Little Lost Cove Cliffs Trail

Limit: 10

Time: 6:30 am - 12:00 pm

Description: It is 1.3 miles one way. A nice trail leads to the eponymous rock outcrop from which a spectacular view of the Blue Ridge Mountains with Grandfather Mountain at the top unfolds. Most of the trail follows old road or skid road beds; it is moderately rocky in places but generally in good shape.

Info: <https://www.hikewnc.info/trails/wilson-creek/little-lost-cove-cliffs>

Facilities: None

Equipment: Camera gear [normal range of lenses], tripod, water, snacks

Driving time from Boone: Little Lost Cove Cliffs Trail is approximately 28.8 miles [52 min.] from Boone.

Directions: Turn Left out of La Quinta Inn onto NC 105. Continue straight and follow NC105 to Linville, NC. At Linville stop light, turn [Right] on US 221, then follow to the next light. Turn [Left] on US 221 South and follow to intersection with US 181 South. Turn [Left] and follow US 181 [South] [2.5 mi] to Pittman's Gap Rd. Gardens of the Blue Ridge sign is on the Left at this turn. Turn [Left] on Pittman's Gap Rd., road becomes Pittman Gap, then Clarktown Rd. Follow to Mortimer Rd., turn [Left] on Mortimer Rd. [1518] for 0.5 mi, stay right to stay on Mortimer Rd. for 0.4 mi more, turn [Right] on meto Little Lost Cove Cliffs Trail.

Morning Outing #6

May 4 & 5, 2018

Boone Fork Trail and Hebron Rock Colony

Limit: 10

Time: 6:30 am - 12:00 pm

Description:

1.2 mi. one way. Boone Fork Trail is mostly easy to moderate, but at points you will need to climb over rocks. Down hill going in, up hill coming back. Boone Fork Creek is beside the trail most of the way. Flowering plants, mosses, ferns throughout. The trail splits to cross over Boone Fork Creek to the Hebron Rock Colony. The Hebron Rock colony is a massive area of boulders within the stream cut. Approx.

Facilities: Restroom at the parking lot.

Equipment: Camera gear [normal range of lenses], tripod, water.

Info: <https://www.google.com/maps/dir/La+Quinta+Inn+%26+Suites+Boone,+North+Carolina+105+Extension,+Boone,+NC/36.1388025,-81.7275223/@36.1475982,-81.7265554,15z/data=!4m9!4m8!1m5!1m1!1s0x8850fa3fda5e973d:0x4d7ba1a085332656!2m2!1d-81.6676652!2d36.2157888!1m0!3e0>

Driving time from Boone: Julian Price Picnic Area is approximately 11.2 mi (20 min) via NC 105, US 321, and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Directions: Turn Left out of La Quinta Inn onto US 221 / NC 105 to base of hill and US321 intersection, Left on US 321 and follow to Blowing Rock entrance of the BRP [about 6 mi.], turn Right onto the BRP access road, turn Left [South] on the BRP and follow to Julian Price Picnic area just before Julian Price Lake, turn Right into the picnic area and park near the restroom, cross the bridge beside the restroom, follow the trail to the right.

Afternoon Outing #1 Friday, May 4 2018
Laurel Falls and Watauga Falls, North of Boone

Limit 10

Time: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Description:

Laurel Falls is a huge rock formation surround a cascading stream, forming pools below the falls. EASY 0.15 mile trail leads to the falls. 0.2 Miles further down the road is Watauga Falls.

Facilities: No facilities on trails.

Equipment: Normal range of lenses, telephoto lens up mid size zoom lens for isolating parts of the waterfall, polarizing filter, graduated neutral density filter and tripod, hiking boots. Layered warm clothes including gloves, rain gear, and sunscreen [all optional].

Info: <http://appalachiantreks.blogspot.com/2007/06/laurel-creek-falls.html>

Driving Time From Boone: Laurel Falls is about 10 miles (25 minutes) from Boone.

Directions: Laurel is just a short ways from Boone, NC. Leaving north on US 421/321, follow US 321 at the split for 5 miles or so. Just after US 321 crosses the Watauga River, look for Laurel Creek Rd, a dirt road coming in diagonally from the left. Just past this, is a large gravel pullout capable of safely holding at least 10 cars. At the very tip of it, with the Watauga flowing on the right side of the highway, cross the highway into the woods. There, a small trail picks up. Be careful here, this is a busy highway. Another waterfall, Watauga Falls, is located 0.2 miles further west on Route 321.

Afternoon Outing #2 Saturday, May 5 2018

The Cascades Falls, BRP

Limit 10

Time: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Description:

The EASY 1-mile loop of the Cascades Trail explores the forest that perches on the edge of the Blue Ridge. The path wanders the crest above the Piedmont to Falls Creek just as a water shoots over the cliff. Along the trail, twenty interpretive plaques describe the trees of the Blue Ridge. The main species are all here.

The Cascades Trail starts on a paved trail beside a restroom (open May through October). The paved path becomes gravel; go right at the start of the loop with good winter views of the valley below. There are a few benches on the way and plaques about dogwood, tulip tree, pignut, black locust, serviceberry, mountain laurel, white oak, flame azalea, minnie bush, highbush blueberry, and chestnut oak.

Descend and cross a bridge over Falls Creek. At the junction, go right down the steeper steps to two great overlooks on the cascade. **People have died here**-do not climb on the falls or sit/stand atop the stone walls. Coming back, go right at the junction to follow the scenic stream. When you climb back up and reach the trail you started on, turn right back to your car.

The center island and other end of The Cascades parking area contain many picnic tables. A path leaves that end of the lot and goes to the next overlook south, Tompkins Knob, another great destination or starting point.

From Tompkins Knob Parking Area, take the dirt path into the woods to Jesse Brown's cabin-a late-nineteenth-century residence. Peer inside at the impressive fireplace. Downhill by the woods, a spring trickling out of the ground flows through a sagging springhouse. Head down the short distance to examine this interesting structure. See how the 40-some degree water is funneled through the springhouse to nicely chill food stored inside the once weatherized hut.

Facilities: Facilities at parking lot.

Equipment: Normal range of lenses, telephoto lens up mid size zoom lens for isolating parts of the waterfall, polarizing filter, graduated neutral density filter and tripod, hiking boots. Layered warm clothes including gloves, rain gear, and sunscreen [all optional]. Hiking Poles to help with balance on the steps.

Info: <http://www.exploreboone.com/listings/Cascade-Falls/690/>

Driving Time From Boone: 20 - 30 minutes

Directions: The Cascades Overlook at Milepost 271.9, nine miles north of US 421 at Deep Gap, five miles east of Boone.

Connect to the Blue Ridge Parkway via the ramp closest to The Cascades, from U.S. 421 in Deep Gap, at the Parkway overpass bridge. Note: this is also at the Eastern Continental Divide. At the

top of the Parkway ramp, turn left onto the Parkway and drive north 4.4 miles to E. B. Jeffress Park and The Cascade Falls overlook and parking lot.

More specific directions will be provided at orientation due to BRP road closures.

Sunset #1 Field/Graveyard View Moses Cone Mansion

Info: Views of the field area, graveyard area with sun setting over the mountains

Time: 7:00 PM - Sunset

Facilities: No facilities at Mansion.

Equipment: Normal range of lenses, polarizing filter, graduated neutral density filter and tripod. Layered warm clothes including gloves, rain gear, and sunscreen [all optional].

Directions:

Turn Right on Blowing Rock Road/US 221 S/US 321 S

Follow US 221 S/ US 321 S 5.6 miles

Take Parkway Ramp

Turn left on BRP 2 miles

Turn left on Service Road

Follow signs for Moses Cone Mansion

Sunset #2 Julian Price Lake Dam Overlook

Info: Views over Julian Price Lake from the roadside turnoff of campground area. Views of the sun setting across the lake over the trees.

Time: 7:00 pm - Sunset

Facilities: Facilities available at the campground.

Equipment: Normal range of lenses, polarizing filter, graduated neutral density filter and tripod. Layered warm clothes including gloves, rain gear, and sunscreen [all optional].

Directions:

Turn Right on Blowing Rock Road/US 221 S/US 321 S

Follow US 221 S/ US 321 S 5.6 miles

Take Parkway Ramp

Turn left on BRP 2 miles

Follow Signs for Julian Price Memorial Park

Sunset #3 BRP Overlooks Linn Cove Viaduct Area

Time: 6:45 pm - Sunset

Info: Views of the mountains and North Carolina from various pullouts on the BRP.

Facilities: No facilities on trails or at overlooks.

Equipment: Normal range of lenses, polarizing filter, graduated neutral density filter and tripod. Layered warm clothes including gloves, rain gear, and sunscreen [all optional].

Directions:

This will be a caravan leaving from the hotel. Due to areas of the BRP being closed for repairs, we will caravan to the parkway and look for a good pullout that will provide amazing sunset views. Members may split up to different overlooks or stay at the same overlooks depending on preference. Overlooks will be in the Linn Cove Viaduct Area

May 4 - 5, 2018

Self Guided Tours

- 1] Daniel Boone Gardens, Boone
- 2] Thunder Hill sunrise [BRP Overlook, north of Blowing Rock Mile Post 290.1]
- 3] Daniel Boone Scout Trail
- 4] Rough Ridge sunrise/sunset [BRP Overlook, south of Blowing Rock Mile Post 302.8]
- 5] Wiseman's View [view of Linville Gorge] [Linville Falls Community, NC]
- 6] Waterfalls along US 221 from Blowing Rock to BRP/Grandfather interchange
- 7] Valle Crusis/Mast General Store/Churches/Park and Watauga River
- 8] Quilt Barn Trail [driving] Ashe/Avery/Watauga Co.
- 9] Laurel Falls, US 321 N of Boone, NC
- 10] Moses Cone Mansion and Bass Lake, Blowing Rock, NC
- 11] Price Lake and Lake Trail and boat rental[seasonal] Blue Ridge Parkway