

The New River

At 350 million years old isn't "new" at all, is credited with playing a large hand in the town's rapid early settlement and is enjoyed by mountain natives and visitors alike! The New River is one of the few major rivers in the world which flows south to north and boasts the title of one of the oldest rivers in the world, second only to the Nile River, which also flows south to north. The New River is great for boating, swimming, fishing, nature viewing and its uncommonly clear water is perfect for snorkeling.

Blue Ridge Parkway

A National Parkway and All-American Road in the United States, noted for its scenic beauty. It runs for 469 miles (755 km), mostly along the famous 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 major north/south artery through the Park. 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.

For overnight or extended visits, hiking, camping, health services and necessary amenities are available in the towns of Elkin-Jonesville & Sparta, North Carolina, Independence & Wytheville, Virginia. Visit our unique local dining, motels, bed & breakfast and vacation homes.

www.takeabreakfromtheinterstate.com

Travel Historic U.S. 21 to visit the most picturesque land in the Appalachian region.

- Long range views
- Christmas tree farms
- Historical Sites
- 8 State & National Parks
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Historical New River
- Jefferson National Forest
- Shopping & Antiques



Take a Break



from the Interstate

NC - VA
Lakes to Florida
Highway

For more information go to www.takeabreakfromtheinterstate.com

Sponsored by Miles J.O.B. Fund. Partially funded by occupancy tax paid through the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) along Historical U.S. 21 Corridor.

Being an 80-mile-per-hour bumper car with 18-wheelers on the Interstate raises anyone's blood pressure. Must your getaway begin with more rat race than relaxation?

Start relaxing now.

Take a Break from the Interstate and leisurely travel the 2-lane roads that Model-T drivers blazed a century ago as they found their way between the Great Lakes and Florida. Take Historic US 21, the heart of the Lakes to Florida Highway, that first guided travelers between these two great vacation destinations.

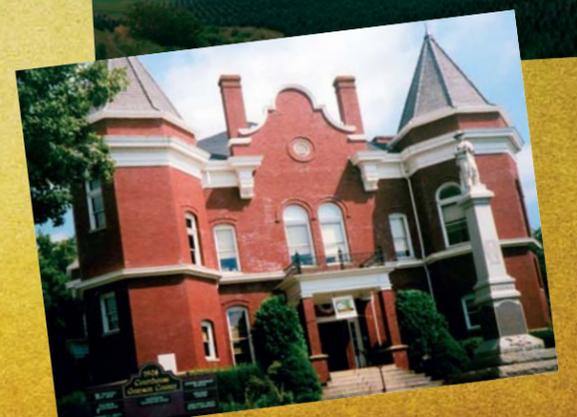
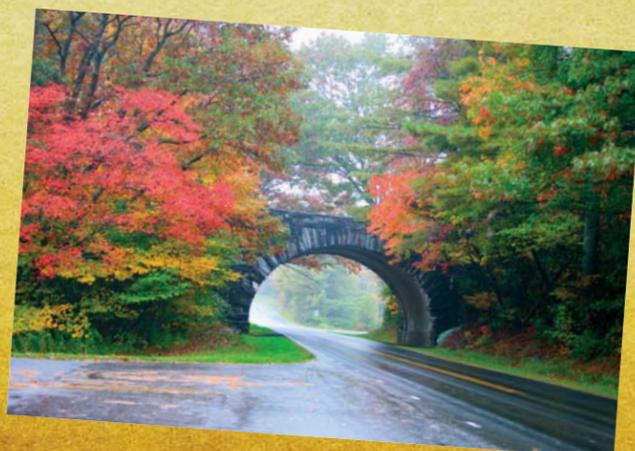
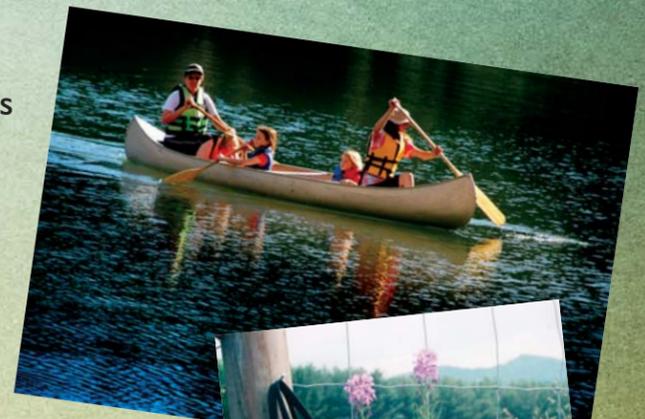
The travel distances are the same, but the travel delights are miles apart. Meander leisurely through the same countryside that awes Parkway travelers. Discover small towns that retain their mid-twentieth century charm. Enjoy home-cooked hospitality at local restaurants.

Leave the stress behind.

Return to a simpler time.

Take time for YOU.

Take a Break from the Interstate.



Features Along US 21 - "Lakes to Florida Highway"

Jonesville, NC

Whether you start or end your break for the interstate in Jonesville, NC you'll be delighted with what the Heart of the Yadkin Valley has to offer. Visit The Jonesville Welcome Center, 1503 NC Hwy and let the Tourism Specialists assist in finding all the wonderful treasures Jonesville has to offer. Open Monday-Saturday 8:30 am -8:00 pm and Sunday 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm it provides a wealth of information about the Yadkin Valley area and its wine region. Jonesville boasts 300 motel rooms, a state-of-the-art movie theater and many franchise and locally-owned restaurants serving fabulous food at affordable prices.

Jonesville Welcome Center
1503 NC Highway 67 (336) 835.2000 / 1-877-SAVOR YV
(728-6798) www.visittheyadkinvalley.com

Elkin, NC

Elkin is the geographic center of the gorgeous Yadkin Valley located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Listed on the national Register of Historic Places, Elkin is known for its charm and friendly faces. Unique shopping, restaurants and plenty of local wineries make up Elkin's bustling downtown.

The Elkin area offers some of the best places to bike, hike and drive to see the color display. The Blue Ridge Parkway, considered the nation's most scenic byway, draws thousands of visitors to our region each year. Drive the scenic Leaf to Vine byway that starts and finishes in Elkin - taking the route of Hwy 21 north to the Parkway.

There are two large festivals in Elkin every year - the Yadkin Valley Wine Festival in May and the Pumpkin festival in September. Each summer there are a series of downtown outdoor events to enjoy as well.

Yadkin Valley Chamber of Commerce
116 E Market St. (336) 526-1111
www.veryurly.com/elkin

Roaring Gap, NC

A picturesque resort community, established in 1890 as a summer resort is located on the continental divide. Roaring Gap derives its name from the noise the wind makes when rushing through mountains in the area. Find breathtaking views while golfing at one of the three golf courses, hiking, fishing, and bird watching or just relaxing at one of the country clubs.

Nearby explore Stone Mountain State Park with its stunning cascading waterfalls, quiet forests teeming with wildlife, and 14,000 acres of hiking trails and picnic areas. Designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1975, Stone Mountain is bounded on the north by the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway and on the west by the Thurmond Chatham Game Lands.

Alleghany Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center
58 South Main St. Sparta (336) 372-5473
www.Sparta-nc.com

Sparta, NC

Experience the slow paced lifestyle in Sparta, NC. The physical center of "Take A Break From The Interstate", between Jonesville and Wytheville, Sparta offers miles of breath taking views. Friendly faces greet you along Main Street as you browse the local shops in a community vibrant with local artists talents. Enjoy Southern Home Cooking at one of Sparta's assortment of restaurants.

A variety of motels, bed & breakfast inns and vacation rentals in and around Sparta and the Blue Ridge Parkway invites the traveler to relax, savor and restore in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains.

Cool off with a weekend by The New River. Fishing, canoeing and camping are part of relaxing Sparta.

Alleghany Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center
58 South Main St. Sparta (336) 372-5473
www.CoolSparta.com



Independence, VA

The town of Independence, Virginia is nestled at the base of Virginia's highest peaks and is the home of some of the best outdoor recreation opportunities and Bluegrass Music around.

If you are a history buff, The Historic 1908 Courthouse serves as the Art & Cultural Center of Grayson County, Virginia. Located at the junction of highways US21 and US58 the 1908 Courthouse has been restored and now houses the Crossroads Museum, the Baldwin Auditorium, and the Treasury Gift Shop.

Grayson County Tourism Department
PO Box 217, Independence, VA 24348
(276) 773-2471 www.graysoncountyva.com
www.historic1908courthouse.org

Wytheville, VA

If you are looking for a place steeped with history, rich with outdoor activities, loaded with family oriented fun, or extensive relocation opportunities, Wytheville is the place to visit! Conveniently located at the crossroads of Interstates 77 and 81 and US 21, this small town offers huge potential for visitors looking to relax and have a ton of fun! Due to its location in the Blue Ridge Mountains and its central locality to the surrounding multi-state cities, Wytheville is often referred to as "The Crossroads of the Blue Ridge". From primitive camping to mountain cabins and RV sites - many include recreational activities and seasonal events. Great Lakes to Florida Highway Museum <http://museums.wytheville.org/>

Wytheville Convention & Visitors Bureau
975 Tazewell St. Wytheville, VA 24382
(276) 223-3355 www.visitwytheville.org