

today, and Hendersonville received its original charter in 1847. Surrounded by rugged mountain peaks, the county's rich valleys and sloping hillsides have proven very hospitable to apple trees, giving the county distinction as the largest apple-growing region in the state and host to the North Carolina Apple Festival in the fall. The central plateau's fertile soil also produces corn, wheat, rye,

and others who sought refuge here from the sweltering heat and disease prevalent in the Low Country of South Carolina. While some of these grand estates remain, they have been joined by planned communities and developments both for tourists and for retirees.

camped down for the night, Mills crawled away in the darkness and made his way west, working his way to the mountains. The wounded soldier lived in a mountain cave until tempers in the lowlands cooled and peace became a reality. From his hideout, he was able to after the Revolution and became the first white settler, receiving a land grant in 1787 that was one of the first to be issued west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. When Buncombe County was created in 1792, its territory

embraced all the Cherokee lands, including those which

later became Henderson County. In 1838-39, the state

legislature made Henderson the separate county it is

358 square miles was occupied by members of the Cherokee Nation until after the Revolutionary War. Hendersonville was a hunting ground for the Cherokees well before William Mills came to the area in the late 1780s. Mills, a Tory, had been left for dead at the Battle of King's Mountain. But after the victorious patriots marvel at the rich land below. Mills returned to the area

Henderson County Located on the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains adjoining the South Carolina line, Henderson County's

Welcome to

HENDERSON COUNTY BICYCLING

North Carolina law to wear an approved bicycle helmet. n addition, cyclists under the age of 16 are required by from a distance of 200 feet

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visible from 300 feet and a rear reflector that is visible

· Equip your bicycle for night riding with a front lamp

Deey all traffic signs and signals

icyclists are required to:

Bicycle Laws

· Use hand signals to communicate intended movements

Kide on the right in the same direction as other traffic

operation of a motor vehicle. Under North Carolina law,

the roadway and are subject to the regulations governing the

n North Carolina, the bicycle has the legal status of a vehicle.

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Flat Rock's name comes from a tremendous granite out-

crop said to have been the site of Cherokee gatherings.

The main rock can be seen on the grounds of The Flat

Rock Playhouse, one of the best seasonal theaters in

the US and considered North Carolina's State Theater.

The Pisgah National Forest in the northwest corner of

the county was originally part of George Vanderbilt's vast Biltmore Estate. His interest in managing the forest

ands led him to hire Gifford Pinchot, renowned as

America's first forester. In the early twentieth century

Pisgah National Forest for watershed and wildlife

is crisscrossed with hiking and biking trails, and its

abundant streams lure those interested in fishing.

routes to create a wonderful cycling adventure.

protection and for recreation. Its rich green expanse

In friendly Henderson County, you'll find a wealth of

natural beauty, interesting attractions, and challenging

the US Congress designated the land that is now

· Ride defensively and in a predictable manner

• When riding in a group, ride single tile Avoid riding at night, if possible Mear a bicycle helmet every time you ride your bike

Wear bright-colored clothes to increase your visibility

 Keep traffic flowing by helping motorists pass safely Be courteous to other drivers

Resources

Raleigh, NC 27699-1552 Pedestrian Iransportatio ommerce Division of Bicycle & Hendersonville Chamber of

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201 S. Main Street Visitors Information Center

8079.563.828 no ++2+.828.008 :9nort 1dersonville, NC 28792 merson County Iravel & Iourism

301 Glover Street Recreation Department Aenderson County Parks &

9881,769,828 :x6⁷

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on recycled paper at \$?????? a copy and are distributed free of charge. Published January, 2004. Improvement Program. 10,000 copies of the map were printed project was provided through the NC DOT Transportation County Parks and Recreation Department. Funding for this An This map was produced in conjunction with the Henc

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events, and listings of North Can

and safety tips, a calendar of bicycle

outes, additional information on laws

of cross-state, regional, and local bicycl

www.ncdot.org/ transit/bicycle tor ma

Sist the Division's website

Email: bikeped_transportation@

+082.557.619 :enode

Points of Interest

Historic Hendersonville Hendersonville, chartered as the county seat in 1847, will charm you with its friendly atmosphere and interesting attractions. Downtown Hendersonville, on the National Register of Historic Places, remains a vital part of the community's cultural and economic growth. Planter boxes brimming with seasonal flowers border the serpentine Main Street, with its specialty and antique shops. Offering

visitors traditional Southern hometown charm, the historic

district hosts many activities including the NC Apple

Along Main Street you'll also find The Arts Center,

whose rotating exhibits have included Ansel Adams

photographs, Salvador Dali lithographs, Bob Timberlake

original paintings, and Saturday Evening Post covers by

Norman Rockwell. The Mineral & Lapidary Museum of

Apple Valley Model Railroad Club and their HO-scale

Asheville, Brevard and Saluda, including the Saluda

Grade. For more information about all these attractions:

Hendersonville also claims the first air museum in

Museum features award-winning restored and replica

at the Hendersonville Airport. For more information:

www.wncairmuseum.com

antique and vintage airplanes. The museum is located

North Carolina. The Western North Carolina Air

828.697.2022 or www.historichendersonville.com

model railroad, whose layout is typical of Hendersonville,

dances and parades throughout the year.

Festival during Labor Day weekend, art shows, street

spectacular scenery, a rich history, thriving industry, the Blue Ridge Mountains, Henderson County offers Surrounded by distinct mountain peaks on the crest of

and steep mountain climbs, ottering cyclists an inter-

presents a diverse combination of level or rolling valleys

mountain biking trails are available in Pisgah National to the road routes shown in this map, numerous opportunities for sightseeing along the way. In addition and Holmes State Educational Forest — provide as Carl Sandburg's home, the Western Air Museum, or off road. Diverse attractions in the county — such and remains a wonderful place for cycling, whether on home to a company that manufactured bicycle brakes Of interest to cyclists, Henderson County was once Edneyville, Dana, Laurel Park, Etowah and Mills River. towns of Fletcher, East Flat Rock, Flat Rock, Saluda, that crisscross the county and connect with the smaller situated in the center and serves as the hub for routes Hendersonville, the largest town and the county seat, is esting selection of challenging and scenic routes.

Forest, in Dupont State Forest, and on the many gravel

and options for creating unlimited route variations. of the county totaling 69 miles provide additional links Other unsigned connector routes in different sections Hendersonville with Fletcher, nine miles to the north. unsigned route, suitable for traffic-savy cyclists, links Route through the southern part of the county. An Route & tracks the Southern Highlands Cross-State the northwestern corner of the county for eight miles. Carolina Mountains to Sea Cross-State Route that skirts county from east to west. Route 2 is part of the North perimeter of the county, and Route 3, which bisects the covering 78 miles: Route 1, which loops around the Henderson County system includes two signed routes be combined into innumerable touring options. The This map shows a 184-mile system of routes that can

Happy cycling

roads in the county.

Historic Flat Rock families came to the North Carolina mountains to yellow fever and malaria



tions such as St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church,

Historic Woodfield Inn and the Singleton Centre art studios as well as, many unique specialty shops and enterprises. Also here is the Flat Rock Playhouse, considered one of the ten best seasonal theaters in the country. With a 50-year history, the playhouse presents quality entertainment, rarely found so far from Broadway, such as comedies, American classics, musicals, farces and whodunits. Open from late May through mid-October, the playhouse offers matinees and evening performances Wednesday through Sunday. For more information: 828.693.0731 or www.flatrockplayhouse.org

Connemara — Carl Sandburg's Home

age 67 with his family to this quiet 240-acre retreat in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Flat Rock. Here this poet, minstrel, lecturer, biographer and Pulitzer Prizewinning author spent the last 22 years of his long, productive life. While in residence at Connemara he

Henderson County, located at the corner of 4th Avenue and Main Street, houses exhibits from North Carolina and the Smithsonian, English minerals, Indian artifacts and a special exhibit of fossils, gems and fluorescent minerals. A few blocks east is Hendersonville's Historic Train Depot, which in 1897 had welcomed the first steam enaine to puff its way up the Saluda

Grade, the

steepest main-

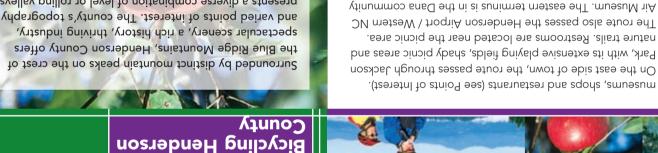
ine standard

railroad in the

US. The depot

houses the

Flat Rock was established in the mid-19th century by wealthy Charlestonians, Europeans and prominent plantation owners of South Carolina's Low Country, who built large summer estates in the English manner. These



Route 8: Southern Highlands Cross-State

dipping into South Carolina through a protected watershed looping through the small towns of Zirconia and Tuxedo,

route, offers a concession stand and restrooms. more climbs. Fletcher Community Park, near the end of the however, the curvier the roads become and you encounter to follow more rural, two-lane roads. The farther north you go, development. About halt-way to Fletcher, the route begins Highway (US 25), a very busy, five-lane road with commercial historic district, conditions quickly change once on Asheville wending past beautiful old homes through the Hendersonville Hendersonville with the Town of Fletcher to the north. Initially Intended for traffic-savvy cyclists only, this route connects Distance: 9 miles Hendersonville to Fletcher Connector

signed routes or can link routes for additional mileage. These unsigned routes can serve as shortcuts between routes in Transylvania, Buncombe, and Polk Counties. Henderson County as well as connections to existing miles, provide links between the signed routes within Thirteen other unsigned connector routes, totaling 69





Carl Sandburg was already famous when he retired at

escape the sweltering heat, which plagued the Low Country in summer. The entire district of Flat Rock is included in the National Register of Historic Places. Besides being the site of Carl Sandburg's home, Flat Rock features several attrac-





unsigned connector route offers an interesting alternative, east toward the historic town of Saluda in Polk County. An A few miles east of Flat Rock, the route heads south and to neighboring Transylvania County's signed bike routes. Henderson County, the route also provides a connection Koute. Running west to east across the southern part of where it intersects with the Piedmont Spur Cross-State Blue Ridge Parkway north of Brevard to Lincolnton The 180-mile Southern Highlands Route runs from the

Distance: 20 miles

(see Route 1 description).

area of pristine forests and streams.

Other Unsigned Connector Routes

Holmes State Educational Forest This 231-acre preserve, one of six in North Carolina, has been developed as a living environmental education center to help visitors better understand the value of forests in our lives. To this end, the center offers rangerconducted programs for groups, trails with "Talking Trees" and exhibits, a demonstration trail, scenic trails and overlooks. Other amenities include a walk-in primitive campground and showers, restrooms, picnic tables and a

information: 828.251.6509 or http://www.dupontforest.com/

side of the Southern Highlands Cross-State Route 8. The State of North Carolina purchased the land from Dupont after the company sold its industrial operation and surrounding land holdings in the late 1990's. Situated on a plateau of the Little River Valley, the 10,000-acre preserve encompasses waterfalls and rolling land bordered by moderately steep hills and mountains. The forest is presently open to the public for hiking, horseback riding, biking, and fishing (with a NC fishing license). For more

One of the newest state forests, Dupont State Forest

straddles Henderson and Transylvania Counties and can

be accessed via Old CCC Road off Crab Creek Road in

Henderson County or Dupont Road (SR 1259) off the south

Dupont State Forest

Declared a National Historic Site in 1968, Connemara, including the main house which dates from 1838, is open to the public daily except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Tours are available for a small fee, and a variety of programs (birth of baby goats in spring, poetry readings, musical events and dramatic performances) is offered year-round. Numerous hiking trails are also available; however, bicycles are not allowed on the trails and must be left in the parking area. 1928 Little River Road, Flat Rock. Admission charged. For more information: 828.693.4178 or www.nps.gov.carl

published a novel, his autobiography and several volumes of history and poetry, including the Complete Poems for which he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1951. Life at Connemara was busy, too, for Mrs. Sandburg and her daughters, who continued to breed and care for a large, prize-winning goat herd and run the farm business.

Located off Crab Creek Road on Old CCC Road in southwestern Henderson County, the center is open Tuesday

shelter, volleyball courts and horseshoe pits. Reservations are required for the picnic shelter, which has a large stone fireplace. The Forestry Center houses audiovisual exhibits describing the managed forest and serves as the starting point for the Forest's trails.

Friday from 9 to 5 and Saturday and Sunday from 11 to 8.

Closed Mondays. The Forest's season runs from mid-

March to the Friday before Thanksgiving. No charge.

esf/holmes esf.htm

For more information: 828.692.0100 or www.dfr.state.nc.us/

(portable toilet in winter) and a paved walking trail. until 9:30 pm and has a shelter, picnic tables, restrooms Recreation Park for a break. The park is open from 7:30 am or stock up at the small grocery store and head for Etowah's

the Buncombe County Bicycle Transportation System. access to the Mountains to Sea Cross-State Route and to In this vicinity, two unsigned connector routes provide National Forest (see Points of Interest) just to the north. in the North Mills River Recreational Area of the Pisgah campgrounds in this area, one on the route and another route, offers a restaurant and stores. There are also two Pisgah National Forest. The town of Mills River, just off the especially where the route follows the boundary of the The northwestern side of the county is much less populated,

restroom, picnic tables, playing fields and a walking trail. Community Park, where you will find a concession stand with the restaurants in the area or have a picnic at the Fletcher good place to stop for refreshments. Enjoy lunch at one of The Town of Fletcher at the top of the loop provides another

Distance: 8 miles Route 2: Mountains to Sea Cross-State

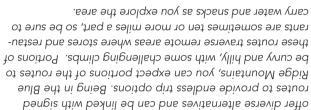
is situated within the national forest. the cross-state route at Bent Creek Gap. A campground provides access to the national forest and connects to connector route off the northwest corner of Route J northern edge of Pisgah National Forest. An unsigned following the boundary with Buncombe County and the corner of Henderson County on the Blue Ridge Parkway, mile route from Murphy to Manteo — skirts the northwest North Carolina's Mountains to Sea Bike Route — a 700-

Pistance: 14 miles Route 3: West-East Connector

mid-route stopover, with its charming historic district, surrounding mountain peaks. Hendersonville is a good to Jump Off Rock for a bird's eye view of the valley and on the rocky slopes. Take a side trip up Laurel Park Highway community, a residential area with distinctive homes perched climbs and then drops into Hendersonville via the Laurel Park narrow and curvy roads, punctuated by some challenging the rest of the system. Starting in the west, the route follows This route bisects the county connecting Hendersonville to

system of bicycle routes crisscrosses the county, showcaselim 481 A .noiteniteb teurist destination. A 184 mile orchards and mountain vistas clearly shows the reason for A ride through Henderson County past the numerous apple

- Unsigned connector routes throughout the county bered routes have signs like the one shown here. -mun əhī. mətsyz əht ot əllivnorabnaH səit that county and is bisected by a west to east route) ing the area's best. The principal route circles the



Distance: 64 miles Route 1: Perimeter Route

QLO

The Routes

of the county, the largest apple-growing region in North orchards of different varieties abound in the eastern part areas, lush fields and stands of rhododendron. Apple and valleys, these towns are separated by rocky, torested Etowah and Mills River. Tucked in among the mountains link the towns of Fletcher, Edneyville, Dana, Flat Rock, views of the surrounding mountains. Quiet country lanes This route circumnavigates the county and offers great

breakfast, lunch and dinner. A tamily restaurant nearby otters "country cooking" tor with the cross-state Southern Highlands Route (Route 8). with Route 1 here. Further south there is an intersection here where you might stop for a break. Route 3 intersects from the usual climbs. There is a store and community park in a valley surrounded by mountains, offering a brief respite Amid these orchards lies the community of Dana, situated

north to Etowah. Stop at the nearby barbecue restaurant county, the route follows the French Broad River, diverging Continuing clockwise through the southwest part of the Sandburg's home during his last years (see Points of Interest). of the Flat Rock Playhouse and Connemara, the poet Carl and shops tempt you to linger. The town is also the site end of the loop where historic sites, restaurants, art galleries Stop to explore the quaint town of Flat Rock at the southern



Pisgah National Forest

The Pisgah National Forest features some of the most beautiful and rugged mountain scenery and the best recreational opportunities in eastern North America. The forest's 501,691 acres offer campgrounds, trout streams, hiking trails, picnic areas, waterfalls and scenic vistas that support a variety of activities. Diverse wildlife habitats within the forest provide suitable environments for game animals and song birds, as well as many threatened and endangered species. The North Mills River Recreation Area, accessed from SR 1345 off of NC 191/280 near the community of Mills River, includes a campground and picnic area. Pisgah National Forest is located 18 miles west of Hendersonville just off Route 1. For more information: 828.877.4423 or http://ncnatural.com/NCUSFS/Pisgah/

Bicycling Henderson County

About the Map

Whether you take a leisurely bicycle ride, an all-day trip, or a longer overnight tour, this map provides all the information you need for planning your ride along the 184-mile system of highlighted bicycle routes. Four signed routes totaling 106 miles and an additional 78 miles of unsigned connectors provide an endless number of route options.

In addition to showing the bike routes, the map presents a wealth of other information. The locations of all services such as country stores, campgrounds, and restaurants are pinpointed with symbols, defined in the legend. Towns that provide overnight accommodations, restaurants, and other amenities are marked with a star. Points of interest are indicated with a large dot.

All roads that are part of the route system or which cross a route are named. Also clearly marked are busier sections of the routes where additional caution is recommended. On the road, these sections are posted with "Share the Road" signs like the one shown here.

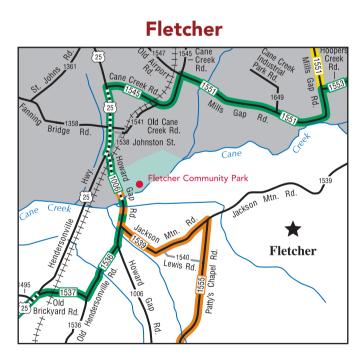


Enlarged inset maps of Hendersonville, Lake Osceola, Flat Rock, Zirconia, Saluda, and Fletcher are included to help you navigate these areas and locate points of interest.

Have a safe and enjoyable ride. Please remember to be courteous to other road users.

A Note of Caution

The highlighted routes shown on this map follow roads of the North Carolina highway system and local streets. These roads do not include any special accommodations for bicycles, such as paved shoulders or bike lanes. Care has been taken to select more lightly traveled roads. In a few places, however, segments of more heavily traveled roads are used to make connections where no other options exist. These areas are marked with "Share the Road" signs to alert motorists to the presence of cyclists. The Henderson County bike routes are not designed to be used by children as their ability to judge traffic conditions and driver actions is not well developed.



Hendersonville

