

AMERICA'S FAVORITE  
WHITEWATER PLAYGROUND

# Nantahala Gorge



EXPLORE

**BRYSON CITY**

— North Carolina —

[ExploreBrysonCity.com](http://ExploreBrysonCity.com)



## *Nantahala River Rafting*

### The #1 Activity in Nantahala Gorge!

The Nantahala Gorge is where hugely popular whitewater rafting in the Smokies started, way back in 1972! Home to world class paddlers and friendly outdoor enthusiasts - the Nantahala Gorge welcomes thousands of happy adventurers on exciting and relaxing vacation getaways.

The Nantahala River is the perfect introduction to whitewater rafting fun. Eight miles of bouncy Class 1 and Class 2 whitewater rapids ending with the exciting Class 3 rapid, Nantahala Falls. Outfitters offer fully guided trips and rentals for rafts and inflatable kayaks (also called duckies). It's so much fun, many make it an annual river trip tradition! No experience is needed for fully guided trips; some experience is encouraged for rentals. Great for first timers, kids as young as 7 years old and 60 lbs, and multi-generational families. Scouts, camps, and church groups love this river, too!



## *Whitewater Kayaking*

The Nantahala Gorge is home to some of the best whitewater paddling and canoeing schools in the world. Try a new sport and meet awesome fellow adventurers. Clinics and camps are available for kids and adults. There is no age limit, only interest and general fitness required.





# *Welcome to Nantahala Gorge*

## Fun for all Ages and Activity Levels

There are wonderful activities for all ages and experience levels here in Nantahala Gorge. Active to easygoing adventures include: whitewater rafting, kayaking & canoeing, ziplining, hiking, biking, fly fishing, horseback riding, jeep tours, gem mining, picnicking, waterfalls, and riverside trail walks. Watching paddlers play on the river is a highlight for many visitors - from the freestyle wave at the Nantahala River takeout - site of the 2013 World Freestyle Championships - to the many picnic areas and pullouts along the scenic Nantahala Gorge. The Great Smoky Mountain Railroad travels up the Nantahala Gorge from Bryson City, and rafting and train trip combo packages are an outstanding way to both experience and see the wonders of the Nantahala Gorge.





## *Hiking Trails - All Pet Friendly!*

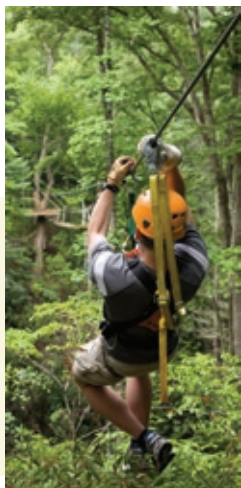
Hiking in the Nantahala Gorge and surrounding Nantahala National Forest offers terrific trails and varied challenge levels. The best part? All trails welcome dogs, unlike in Great Smoky Mountains National Park where pets are not allowed, so bring along your furry companion!

Favorite insider hiking trails include:

- Appalachian Trail
- Bartram Trail
- Findley Falls
- Flint Ridge Trail
- Nantahala Bikeway
- Wesser Creek Trail & Wesser Bald Fire Tower

## *Ziplining & Canopy Tours*

Fly through the trees on exhilarating ziplining courses and canopy tours in Nantahala Gorge. Fast, long zips, skybridges, and kids zips for as young as 4. Take in stupendous views of the Smoky Mountains, Nantahala River, and Fontana Lake from high in the treetops.



## *Fly Fishing in Nantahala Gorge*

The Nantahala River is rated one of the 18 Most Legendary Trout Streams in America. Anglers wet wade only on the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters of the Upper Nantahala, above the rafting put-in. The lower Nantahala (where rafting happens) is Hatchery Supported Trout Waters for wet wading and float trips.

**Fun fact:** The lower Nantahala is one of only two rivers in the state where trout fishing at night is allowed!

## *Jeep Tours, Horseback Riding, Waterfalls*

Jeep tours and horseback riding tours show you the backroads and forests of the Smokies. Great for all ages. The Cascades on the Upper Nantahala is a stunning roadside waterfall that is a lovely picnic spot. On special river release dates, you can watch expert kayakers paddle the falls!



## *Stores*

### **Endless River Adventures Outfitters Store**

828-488-6199

[endlessriveradventures.com](http://endlessriveradventures.com)

### **Nantahala General Store**

(828) 488-6345

### **NOC Outfitters Store**

(828) 488-7230 • [noc.com](http://noc.com)

### **Partons Trading Post**

(828) 488-3113

### **Wesser General Store**

(828) 488-7226

## *Restaurants & Cafes*

### **Big Wesser**

(888) 905-7238

[noc.com](http://noc.com)

### **Cardinal Coffee**

(828) 488-5394

[cardinalcoffeenc.com](http://cardinalcoffeenc.com)

### **Pizza by The River**

(828) 342-9101

[pizza-by-the-river.business.site](http://pizza-by-the-river.business.site)

### **River's End Restaurant**

(828) 488-7172

[noc.com](http://noc.com)

## *Lodging*

### **Carolina Outfitters**

(828) 488-6345

[carolinaoutfitters.com](http://carolinaoutfitters.com)

### **Gorgeous Stays**

(828) 421-2282

[gorgeousstays.com](http://gorgeousstays.com)

### **Nantahala Cabins**

(828) 488-1622

[nantahalacabins.com](http://nantahalacabins.com)

### **Nantahala Outdoors Center**

(828) 488-7230

[noc.com](http://noc.com)

### **Nantahala Tiny Homes & RV Park**

(828) 341-5044

[nthrv.com](http://nthrv.com)

### **Sky Ridge Yurts**

(704) 701-5696

[skyridgeyurts.com](http://skyridgeyurts.com)

### **The Lodge at Nantahala River**

(828) 788-4494

### **Wildwater Falling Waters Resort**

(828) 488-2384

[fallingwatersresort.com](http://fallingwatersresort.com)







## Outfitters

**Carolina Outfitters** - rafting, fishing,  
horseback riding, gem mining  
(828) 488-6345 • [carolinaoutfitters.com](http://carolinaoutfitters.com)

**Endless River Adventures** - rafting, fishing  
kayaking, outfitters store  
(828) 488-6199  
[endlessriveradventures.com](http://endlessriveradventures.com)

**Fly Fishing the Smokies** - fishing  
(828) 488-7665  
[flyfishingthesmokies.net](http://flyfishingthesmokies.net)

**Nantahala On The Fly** - fishing  
(828) 361-9386 • [nantahalaonthe-fly.com](http://nantahalaonthe-fly.com)

**Nantahala Outdoor Center** - rafting,  
ziplining, adventure park, biking,  
outfitters store, kayaking, canoeing  
(828) 785-4966 • [noc.com](http://noc.com)

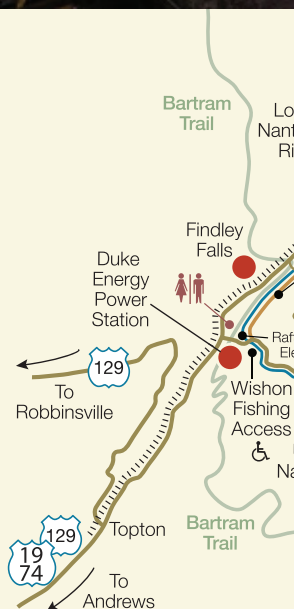
**Paddle Inn Rafting** - rafting  
(828) 488-9651 • [paddleinnrafting.com](http://paddleinnrafting.com)

**Raging Rivers Rafting** - rafting  
(828) 488-7872 • [ragingriversrafting.com](http://ragingriversrafting.com)

**Rolling Thunder River Company** - rafting  
(828) 488-2030 • [rollingthunderriverco.com](http://rollingthunderriverco.com)

**Tuckaseegee Fly Shop** - fishing  
(828) 488-3333 • [tuckflyshop.com](http://tuckflyshop.com)

**Wildwater** - rafting, ziplining, kid zip, jeep tours  
(828) 488-2384 • [wildwaterrafting.com](http://wildwaterrafting.com)





72°  
2PM

## Weather in the Smokies Do You Know?

The gorgeous Smoky Mountains are a temperate rainforest! It is one of the most biologically diverse regions in the world. Rainfall is the magic ingredient to this lush ecosystem. Summer showers are frequent, short, and welcome as the best heat busters. Outdoor adventures here are not cancelled because of life-giving rain, in fact, they can be even more magical. So, get your gear and get out there!

Last we checked, humans don't melt in the rain. Some have "meltdowns", but don't actually melt!

# Nantahala Gorge

Atlanta, GA - 3 hours  
Charlotte, NC - 3 hours 15 minutes  
Asheville, NC - 1 hour 20 min  
Knoxville, TN - 2 hour 20 min  
Chattanooga, TN - 2 hour 30 min  
Nashville, TN - 4 hours 30 min  
Greenville, SC - 2 hour 20 min  
Orlando, FL - 9 hours and 10 min

For more information about Nantahala Gorge, Bryson City, and Swain County including lodging, dining, shopping, activities, attractions, events, and more visit **ExploreBrysonCity.com**



Swain County Tourism Development Authority  
PO Box 85  
2 Everett Street  
Bryson City, NC 28713  
828-488-7857