

## Haywood County as a Fall Destination

[Haywood County, North Carolina](#) could serve as the backdrop of a Hallmark movie, and the chill of November makes it an idyllic and cozy vacation spot for families looking to reconnect with nature. As the kaleidoscope of reds, golds and oranges blanket the trees in the Great Smoky Mountains, the communities of Maggie Valley, Waynesville, Lake Junaluska, Canton and Clyde switch on the autumnal charm. Families can enjoy the stunning scenery, spot wildlife including the legendary elk of the Cataloochee Valley and dive into outdoor activities like apple picking and hiking.

See below for a few reasons November is a great time to visit the towns of Haywood County.

Imagery [here](#). Please credit Visit NC Smokies.

**Brilliant Fall Colors:** Haywood County is home to 46 miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway, named one of the most beautiful drives in the United States and even more splendid in fall with its vibrant colors. Here, 18 mountain peaks soar to elevations over 6,000 feet, offering long-range views of the changing leaves. To get that perfect family photo, visitors will find scenic overlooks throughout the area. Visitors can also immerse themselves in the fall colors with hiking, mountain biking and fishing.

**Enviably Fall Backdrop:** Visitors will find picture perfect main streets, pumpkin patches, apple orchards and farm-grown products galore. Duckett's Produce offers fresh produce, mums and pumpkin bread made from locally grown pumpkins. The Barber Orchards Fruit Stand is chock full of apple turnovers, doughnuts, fritters, pies, cider, jam and more! Did you say pumpkin spice latte? The Coffee Cup Cafe will do you one better with pumpkin pie milkshakes and caramel glaze pumpkin lattes, and the pumpkin gorgonzola soup at Panacea Coffeehouse is a seasonal staple.

**Wildlife Wonders:** Fall is among the best times to see the wild elk of the Cataloochee Valley. Visitors are encouraged to be elk smart and keep a distance of at least 100 yards. [Cataloochee Valley Tours](#) makes it safe and easy for families to book eco-tours to spot everything from the giant elk to black bears and white-tailed deer.

**Fall Hikes:** On Nov. 14, parents can lace up their hiking boots and bring the kids on a guided hike of the Smokies. Classic Hikes of the Smokies in Great Smoky Mountains National Park features interpretation of the trail, history, and park projects supported by Friends of the Smokies. These hikes support restoration and rehabilitation of some of the Smokies most impacted trails through the Trails Forever program and are held the second Tuesday of the month.

### **Holiday Festivities:**

November 3 - Art After Dark

- Art after Dark is an art event held on first Fridays May through December in downtown Waynesville. The galleries stay open until 9pm and offer a variety of demonstrations, music and refreshments for the public to enjoy.

November 18 - Jingle Bell Market

- Located at the Haywood County Fairgrounds each year is the ultimate one stop Christmas shopping event - the Jingle Bell Market! Over 125 vendors, food trucks, and lots of yummy sweets to discover.