Mountain Lovers Love Jackson County, N.C.

Waterfalls
Recommended Day Excursions

Popular waterfall routes have been grouped in geographic clusters for your convenience.

1. LOWER CULLASAJA FALLS ◆ F4
2. UPPER CULLASAJA FALLS ◆ F4
3. DRY FALLS ◆ F4
4. BRIDAL VEIL FALLS ◆ F4

FROM NORTHERN JACKSON COUNTY Drive S on US 23/441. Exit at US 64/NC 28. Turn left at bottom of exit ramp and continue SE (toward Highlands) for 8.3 mi. After passing Nantahala National Forest, Cullasaja River Gorge sign, pull off to R onto blacktop for view of Lower Cullasaja Falls. Continue on US 64/NC 28 for 2.4 mi. Pull off to R onto gravel for a view of Upper Cullasaja Falls. Continue on US 64/NC 28 for 3.3 mi. After passing Dry Falls sign, turn R into parking lot. Go down stone staircase to Dry Falls, which roars overhead. Exit parking lot to R, still following US 64/NC 28. Continue 0.9 mi. Bridal Veil Falls is on L.
FROM SOUTHERN JACKSON COUNTY Drive W to Highlands on US 64. Turn R at traffic light at junction of US 64 & NC 28 (toward Franklin). Continue for 2.8 mi. Bridal Veil Falls is on R. Continue for 0.9 mi. After passing Dry Falls sign, turn L into parking lot. Go down stone staircase to Dry Falls, which roars overhead. Exit parking lot to L. Continue 3.3 mi. and pull off to L onto gravel for a view of Upper Cullasaja Falls. Continue for 2.4 mi. Pull off to L onto blacktop for view of Lower Cullasaja Falls.

5. GLEN FALLS ◆ G4
Take U.S. 64 to Highlands, then turn SW on NC 106 for 1.8 mi. to the Glen Falls sign. Turn L. Take gravel rd. 1 mi. Park. Take trail straight ahead. When you reach narrower trail, go L. View the valley, then cascades. Hiking down the mountain, you pass 3 strikingly different 80 ft. falls and travel 1.4 mi. The return hike is uphill and strenuous.

6. CASHIERS SLIDING ROCK ◆ G5, **7. SILVER RUN FALLS** ◆ G6, **8. WHITEWATER FALLS** ◆ G6
FROM CASHIERS From intersection of US 64 & NC 107, drive S on NC 107 for 1.9 mi. Turn R going W on Whiteside Cove Road. Continue for 2.8 mi. After crossing bridge, pull off onto dirt on R. Follow trail to R for 100 yds to Little Sliding Rock. Swimming holes are above and below waterfall. Please supervise children! Return to NC 107. Turn R going S and continue for 2.4 mi. Pull off onto gravel on L (with a three-trunked holly tree at the S end). If you pass an Entering Nantahala National Forest sign, you have gone too far. Follow trail for 50 yds. Cross stream on fallen log and continue another 100 yds. to Silver Run Falls. Continue S on NC 107 for 5.3 mi. into SC, passing a roadside picnic area. Turn L going E on SC 413. Continue for 2.3 mi. until it dead-ends at SC 130. Turn L going N on SC 130. Continue for 1.2 mi. After passing Nantahala National Forest, Whitewater Falls sign, turn R into parking lot. Short walk to lookout. There are trails to top and bottom of Whitewater Falls, the highest waterfall in the Eastern U.S.

8. WHITEWATER FALLS ONLY ◆ G6
FROM CASHIERS From intersection of US 64 & NC 107, drive E on US 64 for 10.4 mi. Turn R going S on NC 281. Continue for 9.9 mi. Turn L into parking lot. Short walk to lookout. There are trails to top and bottom of Whitewater falls, the highest waterfall in the Eastern U.S.

9. TURTLEBACK FALLS ◆ G7, **10. RAINBOW FALLS** ◆ F
FROM WHITEWATER FALLS Exit parking lot to R going N. Continue on NC 281 for 7.5 mi. Turn right into Gorges State Park (Skip to * in next paragraph).
FROM CASHIERS (intersection of US 64/NC 107) Drive E on US 64 for 10.4 mi. Turn R going S on NC 281. Continue for 0.9 mi. Turn L into Gorges State Park.* From the entrance gate, travel 1.7 mi. to the Grassy Ridge trailhead, following the park directional signs to the trailhead parking lot. At the trailhead, follow the Rainbow Falls trail marked with orange circles to the Gorges State Park/Pisgah National Forest property boundary. Orange circles end at the boundary, but the trail continues, passing over a small creek and an area used for camping (Adams Cove) before paralleling the Horsepasture River. The trail heads up river to Rainbow Falls, which is 1.5 mi. from the trailhead. Continue on up river approximately 0.2 mi. to Turtleback Falls.

Note: The trail that leads down is no longer open for public access. It is to be used for official use only. Please use the trailhead parking lot for Horsepasture River access. (Not for young children or the less-than-physically-fit.)

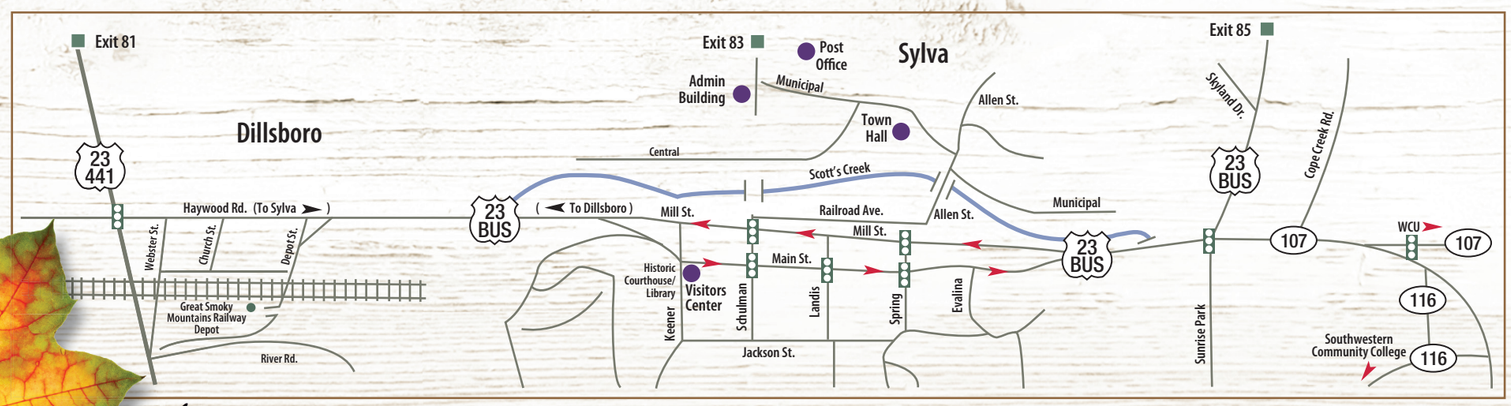
11. SLIDING ROCK ◆ D8, **12. MOORE COVE** ◆ D8, **13. LOOKING GLASS** ◆ D8, **14. COURTHOUSE FALLS** ◆ D7
FROM SYLVA (EXIT 85) Drive E on US 23/74 for 8.9 mi.; turn L onto the Blue Ridge Parkway, and proceed in the direction of Asheville. Exit at US 276 and cont. S on US 276 for 7.5 mi.; turn R into the Sliding Rock parking lot (admission fee, lifeguards often on duty). Exit parking lot to the R going S. Cont. on US 276 for another 1.1 mi. Immediately after crossing a concrete bridge, park on L. Cross the wood foot bridge next to the concrete bridge; it is an easy and beautiful 0.7 mi. to Moore Cove's twin falls. Cont. S on US 276 for another 1 mi. and park on L. View Looking Glass Falls from roadside, or descend a stone staircase to the 50 ft. falls. Cont. S on US 276 for 5.9 mi. Turn R going W on US 64. Cont. W on US 64 for 12.7 mi. and turn R going N on NC 215. Cont. on NC 215 for 10.7 mi. Turn R on Forest Service Rd. 140 (gravel) just before bridge. Go 3.1 mi. over mountain and park on R near bridge that crosses Courthouse Ck. The trailhead for the Summey Cove trail is on the L next to the bridge; hike 0.2 mi. and turn L on Courthouse Falls trail, which descends 0.1 mi. to the 60 ft. falls. Return to NC 215, turn R; cont. 6.9 mi. to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Enter Parkway, turn S in the direction of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and exit at US 23/74 to return to Sylva.
FROM CASHIERS From junction of US 64 and NC 107 in Cashiers, drive E on NC 64 for 32.7 mi. and turn L going N onto US 276; cont. N on US 276 for 5.9 mi. Park on R. View Looking Glass Falls from roadside, or descend a stone staircase to the 50 ft. falls. Cont. N on US 276 for 1 mi. and park on R just before the concrete bridge with wood foot bridge on the R. Cross the wood foot bridge next to the concrete bridge; it is an easy and beautiful 0.7 mi. to Moore Cove's twin falls. Cont. N on US 276 for another 1.1 mi. and turn L into the Sliding Rock parking lot (admission fee, lifeguards often on duty). Exit parking lot to the L going N and cont. on US 276 for 7.5 mi. to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Enter Parkway, turn L going S in the direction of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Exit at NC 215 and cont. S for 6.9 mi. Turn L on Forest Service Rd. 140 (gravel) just after bridge. Go 3.1 mi. over mountain and park on R near bridge that crosses Courthouse Ck. The trailhead for the Summey Cove trail is on L next to bridge; hike 0.2 mi. and turn L on Courthouse Falls trail, which descends 0.1 mi. to the 60 ft. falls. Return to NC 215, turn L going S. Cont. for 10.7 mi. and turn R going W on US 64 to return to Cashiers.

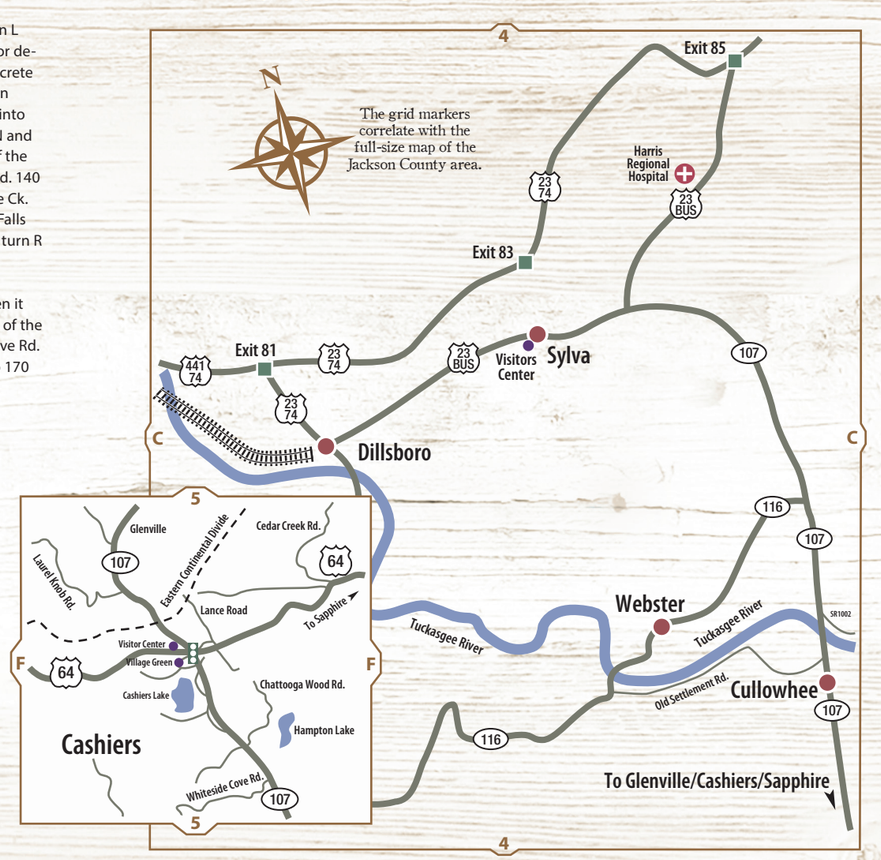
15. MINGO FALLS ◆ A4
FROM SYLVA (EXIT 81) Drive W on US 74 for 9.7 mi. Take exit 74, continue on US 441 N for 5.2 mi. When it dead-ends at US 19 at a traffic light, turn R. Continue 0.4 mi. Turn L at next traffic light in the direction of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (staying on US 441 N). Continue for 2.3 mi. Turn right on Big Cove Rd. Continue for 5.2 mi. Turn R, crossing bridge over a river; straight ahead is a parking lot and trail. Climb 170 steps to Mingo Falls.

16. TOM'S BRANCH FALLS ◆ B2, **17. INDIAN CREEK FALLS** ◆ B2, **18. JUNEYWHANK FALLS** ◆ B2
FROM SYLVA (EXIT 81) Drive W on US 74 for 16.5 mi. to Exit 67. At bottom of ramp, turn R onto Spring St. Continue through first traffic light and follow signs for Deep Creek Campground. Enter Deep Creek Entrance of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and continue for 0.6 mi., pass the picnic area, and turn L into parking area. The trail, an easy hike to Tom's Branch Falls and Indian Creek Falls, starts at the far end of the unloading area and parallels Deep Creek. Tom's Branch Falls is visible across Deep Creek, 0.2 mi. from parking lot. Continue for 0.5 mi. along Deep Creek. Tom's Branch Falls is visible across Deep Creek, 0.2 mi. from parking lot. Continue for 0.5 mi. along Deep Creek, crossing a bridge. Just before the next bridge, take the trail to R, 200 ft. on your L is Indian Creek Falls. Back at parking lot, on the R, is a sign and trail leading to Juneywhank Falls, 0.3 mi. up the mountain.

19. RUFUS MORGAN FALLS AND WAYAH BALD (VISTA) ◆ E2
FROM NORTHERN JACKSON COUNTY Drive S on US 23/441, which joins US 64. (Skip to * in next paragraph.)
FROM SOUTHERN JACKSON COUNTY Drive W (in the direction of Highlands and Franklin) on US 64.At junction of US 64 & US 23/441; turn left on "on" ramp. *Continue on US 64 for 3.8 mi. after the US 23/441 Exit S. Turn right at the Wayah Bald sign onto a two-lane road. Continue 0.3 mi. Turn L on Wayah Rd. (NC 1310). Continue on Wayah Rd. for 6.4 mi. Turn L onto Forest Service #388 (gravel road). Continue 2 mi. to the Rufus Morgan trail parking lot. Hike 0.5 mi. up a moderate grade to Rufus Morgan Falls. For a breathtaking 360° view from the old stone firetower, return to Wayah Rd. Turn L for 2.6 mi. to the Wayah Bald sign. Turn R onto gravel road. Continue until parking lot is reached at the end of the rd. (approx. 2 mi.). To return the way you came, turn L. [OR, turning R takes you past Nantahala Lake into the Nantahala Gorge (US 19/740).]

WARNING: Waterfalls are lovely, but can be dangerous! People have died! Watch for slick rocks and stay away from the tops of falls. Take no chances, only photographs for memories.





Visitor Map Courtesy of the Jackson County Tourism Development Authority

773 West Main Street. Sylva, NC 28779 | **Telephone:** 828-586-2155 | **Toll Free:** 800-962-1911 | **E-Mail:** info@DestinationCashiers.com and info@MountainLovers.com | **Website:** www.mountainloversNC.com | **Facebook:** facebook.com/mountainlovers
202 Highway 64 West. Cashiers, NC 28717 | **Telephone:** 828-743-5191

Public or Semi-Private Golf Courses

1. **BEAR LAKE GOLF CLUB** ◆ E5
   Semi-private 9 holes, par 29. Phone: 828-293-5005
2. **HIGH HAMPTON INN AND COUNTRY CLUB** ◆ G6
   Semi-private 18 holes, par 71.
   Phone: 828-743-0263 or 800-334-2551
3. **SAPPHIRE NATIONAL GOLF CLUB** ◆ F6
   Public 18 holes, par 70. Phone: 828-743-1174
4. **SEQUOYAH NATIONAL GOLF CLUB** ◆ B3
   Public 18 holes, par 72. Phone: 828-497-4653
5. **SMOKY MOUNTAIN GOLF CLUB** ◆ C3
   Public 18 holes, Par 71. Phone: 828-497-7622

Whitewater Rafting/Water Sports

1. **TUCKASEEGEE OUTFITTERS** ◆ C4
   Phone: 828-586-5050 or 800-539-5683
2. **SMOKY MOUNTAIN RIVER ADVENTURES** ◆ C4
   Phone: 828-586-5285 or 888-785-2662
3. **CAROLINA OUTFITTERS WHITEWATER RAFTING** ◆ C1
   Phone: 828-488-6345 or 800-468-7238

Horseback Riding

1. **SMOKEMONT RIDING STABLES** ◆ A4
   Phone: 828-497-2373
2. **ARROWMONT RIDING STABLES** ◆ E5
   Phone: 828-743-3753 or 800-682-1092
3. **WHITEWATER EQUESTRIAN CENTER** ◆ F7
   (Sapphire) Phone: 828-966-9646 Website: funhorsebackriding.com

Guide and Recreational Equipment Rental Services

1. **AB'S FLY FISHING GUIDE SERVICE & PLAY ON ADVENTURES** ◆ C4
   (Sylva) Fly fishing and outdoor adventure guide services.
   Phone: 828-226-3833
2. **BLACKROCK OUTDOOR COMPANY** ◆ C4
   (Sylva) Outdoor gear. Phone: 828-631-4453
3. **BROOKINGS/ORVIS** ◆ F6
   (Cashiers) Equipment and guided fishing trips.
   Phone: 828-743-3768
4. **HIGHLAND HIKER** ◆ F6
   (Sylva) Equipment and guided trips. Phone: 828-526-5298
5. **HOOKER'S FLY SHOP** ◆ C4
   (Sylva) Equipment and guided fishing trips.
   Phone: 828-587-4665
6. **MOTION MAKERS BICYCLE SHOP** ◆ C4
   (Sylva) Bicycle sales, rentals and repairs. Phone: 828-586-6925
7. **SHED'S HUNTING SUPPLY** ◆ C4
   (Sylva) Fishing, hunting, outdoor equipment, gear and licenses. Phone: 828-399-3300
8. **SIGNAL RIDGE MARINA** ◆ F5
   (Glenville) Boat Rental. Phone: 828-743-2143
   Website: signalridgemarina.com

JACKSON COUNTY PLAY ON NC

PLAN, GET AWAY AND PLAY ON.

Hiking Trails and Breathtaking Vistas

1. **PINNACLE PARK.** ◆ C4 3-4 hrs, 6-7 mi. strenuous unmarked trail, uphill on the way out and downhill on return, with a spectacular 270° view of Cullowhee, Webster and Sylva from the Pinnacle (beware of sharp drop-off). **From Sylva (Exit 85):** Drive E on US 23/74 for 0.5 mi., turn L on Steeple Rd for 0.2 mi. until dead-end at Old Asheville Hwy. Turn L, continue for 0.6 mi.; turn R on Fisher Ck. Rd. Continue 2.1 mi. until dead-end at park entrance. Hike straight up the trail behind the iron gate. Stay on main trail, and cross creek twice early on. After an hr. or so, cross numerous feeder streams and pass cascading waterfall on L. 5-10 min. after waterfall, take trail to L. Trail bears L again at a small clearing on Pinnacle Ridge leading out to overlook.
2. **WATERROCK KNOB.** ◆ B5 2.4 mi. round-trip. Fairly steep hike to 6,292 ft. peak. Extraordinary views of Great Smokies along trail and at summit. **From Sylva (Exit 85):** Drive E on US 23/74 for 8.9 mi.; turn L, enter the Blue Ridge Parkway, proceed in direction of Great Smoky Mtn. Nat'l Park; go 0.8 mi. past Milepost 450, turn R into Waterrock Knob parking area. Trail begins at R corner of back parking lot and is paved at start.
3. **RICHLAND BALSAM, 4. DEVIL'S COURTHOUSE, 5. BLACK BALSAM BALD, 6. GRAVEYARD FIELDS**
   From Sylva (Exit 85): Drive E on US 23/74 for 8.9 mi., turn L, enter the Blue Ridge Parkway, proceed in direction of Asheville.
3. **RICHLAND BALSAM.** ◆ C7 1.5 mi. loop to 6,410 ft. summit – highest in Balsam Mountains and among loftiest in Eastern US. Cool, refreshing hike through a remnant spruce-fir forest. At Milepost 431, turn L into Haywood- Jackson parking overlook. Trail begins at L corner of parking lot and is paved at start.
4. **DEVIL'S COURTHOUSE.** ◆ D7
   0.8 mi. round-trip, paved but steep trail to top of rock promontory with spectacular panoramic view. Drive 0.6 mi. past Milepost 423, turn R into Devil's Courthouse parking overlook. Take sidewalk along Parkway in direction you were driving and turn into woods just before tunnel.
5. **BLACK BALSAM BALD.** ◆ D7
   1.5 mi. round trip to two Balds. Easy 10 minute hike to superb 360° view. At Milepost 420 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, just past the sign for Black Balsam, turn left on Forest Service Road #816. Travel 0.7 mi. to a widening in the road and park on the R. The trailhead sign reads: 'Mountains to the Sea.' Hike along the trail for 60 ft. and cont. straight on Art Loebe Trail (the Mountains to the Sea trail will turn R).

Hiking Trails and Breathtaking Vistas (cont.)

6. **GRAVEYARD FIELDS.** ◆ C8 0.3 mi. easy trail to waterfall or 2.3 mi. round-trip (easy to moderate) along stream to 2 waterfalls. Drive 0.2 mi. past Milepost 419, turn L into Graveyard Fields parking lot. Go past first stairway to map board at far end of parking lot in direction you were driving and descend second stairway. Trail is paved at start.
7. **YELLOW MOUNTAIN.** ◆ F5 4.8 mi., steep ascents and descents, 3-5 hrs. to old stone and wood fire tower at 5,127 ft. elev. Beautiful views and a diversity of plant life. From the intersection of NC 107 and US 64 in Cashiers, drive 7.3 mi. west on US 64; turn R on Buck Creek, go 2.2 mi. passing Chestnut Hill on R. Look for steep path on R with small wooden sign and steps leading to trail. Park on L in gravel. If you pass Cole Mountain Circle, you have gone too far.
8. **WHITESIDE MOUNTAIN.** ◆ G5 Easy 2 mi. loop along Eastern Continental Divide to 4,930 ft. and highest vertical drop (750 ft.) in Eastern US. From the intersection of NC 107 and US 64 in Cashiers, drive 4.7 mi. W on US 64; turn L on Whiteside Mt. Rd. (SR 1690) at brown Whiteside Mountain Trail sign. Cont. 1.1 mi. passing Wildcat Cliffs Country Club on R; turn L into gravel parking.
9. **BAD CREEK.** ◆ G5 7 mi. strenuous round-trip in Ellicott Wilderness Area to a tranquil spot on the Chattooga River. From the intersection of NC 107 and US 64 in Cashiers, drive 7 mi. S on NC 107, turn R on Bull Pen Rd., a gravel road opposite an unmarked storage bldg. (If you pass the NC/SC State line, you have gone too far.) Continue on Bull Pen Rd. for 2.7 mi. Park on R in gravel area (brown gate) just after Fowler Creek Bridge. Walk back over and slightly past bridge, trailhead is on opposite side of road from parking area.

Multiple-Use Trails

1. **TSALI BIKING/RIDING TRAILS.** ◆ C1 Four trails varying from 6.5 to 11 mi. Hikers can use trails any day. Mountain biking and horseback riding alternate trails daily; check posting at trailheads. **From Sylva (Exit 81):** Drive W on US 74 for 23 mi.; turn R on US 28 N, continue for 3.5 mi.; turn R onto gravel road at Nantahala Nat'l Forest sign – Tsali Campground & Fishing Access Area. Continue for 1.6 mi. to Bikers Parking area.
2. **ROY TAYLOR ATV AREA.** ◆ D5 Closed to ATVs, motorcycles & four wheelers – Dec. 15 to Mar. 15. Hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking permitted year-round. Thirteen trails varying from 0.5 to 4 mi., with most difficult having grades up to 50%. **From Sylva:** From intersection of US 23 Business & NC 107 in Sylva, drive S on NC 107; turn L on Old Cullowhee Rd. (SR 1002); continue for 2.7 mi. and just before bridge, turn L on River Rd. (SR 1732). Continue for 0.8 mi.; turn L on Wayehutta Rd. (SR 1731). Pavement ends after 3.3 mi., continue on unpaved road 0.5 mi. to gate. Park here if gate closed or continue straight to parking area.
3. **PANTHERTOWN VALLEY.** ◆ F6 Hiking and mountain biking permitted year-round. 6,700 acres of high mountain valley, sheer rock, waterfalls, quiet streams and diverse vegetation. Trails – from old logging roads to footpaths – crisscross the area. It takes at least ½ day to appreciate the valley's beauty. If biking, please stay on main trails. Travel lightly on vegetation – some rare plants are found only here and are slow growers. **From Cashiers (intersection of US 64 & NC 107):** Drive E on US 64 for 2 mi.; turn L on Cedar Creek Rd., continue for 2.3 mi.; turn R on Breedlove Rd. (gravel, blacktop, gravel) for 4 mi. (last 0.2 mi. are rough) to entrance to Panthertown Valley.

Visitor Map Courtesy of the Jackson County Tourism Development Authority

773 West Main Street. Sylva, NC 28779 | **Telephone:** 828-586-2155 | **Toll Free:** 800-962-1911 | **E-Mail:** info@DestinationCashiers.com and info@MountainLovers.com | **Website:** www.mountainloversNC.com | **Facebook:** facebook.com/mountainlovers
202 Highway 64 West. Cashiers, NC 28717 | **Telephone:** 828-743-5191