Bryson City & Swain County North Carolina

Media Fact Sheet

- **Bryson City population:** 1,400. County population: 14,400.

- **Bryson City is located** 1 hour west of Asheville NC; 2 hours from Greenville/Spartanburg SC, Chattanooga and Knoxville TN; and 3 hours from Charlotte NC and Atlanta GA.

- Out of 100 counties in the state of North Carolina, **Swain County** ranks 95th in population density. 87% of Swain County is part of the non-taxable national park, TVA waters, national forest or the Qualla Boundary.

- **Swain County has four distinct seasons.** January has an average high of 51 and low of 28. July's average high is 84 and the low is 61. Winter usually brings some snow to the mountains with an average of 11.9 inches yearly. Annual precipitation averages approximately 47 inches. The average relative humidity is around 70 percent in the summer and 66 percent during winter.

- **The Great Smoky Mountains National Park** (GSMNP) is the nation's most-visited national park. Roughly forty percent of the Park is in Swain County.

- Less than two miles from downtown Bryson City, the **Deep Creek Recreational Area** of the GSMNP offers activities for the entire family, including camping, hiking, 3 waterfalls, trout fishing and the area's best whitewater tubing.

- At 6,642 feet, **Clingmans Dome** in the GSMNP is the highest peak in the Smokies and the second highest east of the Mississippi (North Carolina's Mount Mitchell is 42 feet higher).

- **Nantahala Gorge** is home to premier whitewater rafting, kayaking & ziplines.

- **The Tuckasegee River,** which flows through downtown Bryson City, has 2.2 miles of **Delayed Harvest Waters** with one of the highest trout counts per mile than any river in the Southeast.

- **The Appalachian Trail** travels through the Nantahala Gorge, crosses the top of Fontana Dam and the top of the Smokies in Swain County.

- **The Blue Ridge Parkway** begins its 469-mile journey in Swain County.

- **Fontana Lake** provides 238 miles of shoreline and 10,230 acres of water surface for recreation activities. Fontana Dam (completed in 1944) is 480 feet high and stretches 2,365 feet across the Little Tennessee River; and is the highest dam east of the Rockies.

- The 42-mile, multi-use (bike/hike/horse) trail system at **Tsali Recreation Area** is internationally-known among mountain bikers, and is consistently rated one of the top ten riding destinations in the United States.

- Home of **The Dragon,** named the #3 best road in America to ride by The American Motorcyclist Association. (2011). World-famous among motorcyclists and sports car drivers, for its 11-mile section with 318 continuous curves.

- Featured by **Smithsonian magazine** as one of "20 Best Small Towns to Visit" (2016); by **Southern Living** as a "Picture Perfect Mountain Town" (10/2015); by **Backpacker magazine** as one of 12 US "Top Hiker Towns." (9/2016); voted by **Trip Advisor** readers as #1 Beautiful Little Mountain Towns Across America." (9/2016).

BRYSON CITY
North Carolina

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