

Bryson City & Swain County North Carolina

Fact Sheet

- **Bryson City population:** 1,440.
County population: 15,000.

- **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.

- **Swain County is very scenic** – 87% of the county is protected from development as part of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP), TVA waters, Nantahala National forest or the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

- **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.

- **The Great Smoky Mountains National Park** is the nation's most-visited national park. Roughly 40% of the Park is in Swain County.

- Prime outdoor recreation areas include **Deep Creek Recreational Area** of the GSMNP known for waterfalls, trout fishing and whitewater tubing; **Nantahala Gorge** home to premier whitewater rafting, kayaking & zip lines; and the 42-mile, multi-use trail system at **Tsali Recreation Area**, consistently rated one of the top ten riding destinations in the United States.

- At 6,642 feet, **Clingmans Dome** in the GSMNP is the highest peak in the Smokies, the second highest east of the Mississippi, and the highest on the Appalachian Trail.

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

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

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- **Fontana Lake** provides 238 miles of shoreline and 10,230 acres of water surface for recreation activities. Fontana Dam is the highest dam east of the Rockies.

- Home of **The Dragon**, 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)”; one of “20 Best Mountain Towns in America” (2017) by **Mens Journal**; by **Backpacker magazine** as one of 12 US “Top Hiker Towns” (2016); voted by **Trip Advisor** readers as one of “8 Beautiful Little Lake Towns Across America.” (2017).



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