

Touring the Western North Carolina Backroads

Third Edition

By Carolyn Sakowski

"This guidebook is so encyclopedic in scope that I give it as a gift to newcomers to the area. Even though I am a native of the area, I learned nearly everything I know about western North Carolina from this book alone, and it remains my primary reference."
—Reader review

"If you want to know more about western North Carolina and spend your days enjoying a well-written dialog that accurately directs you to places the other guides don't even mention, buy this book."
—Reader review

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978-0-89587-559-4 | \$19.95 paperback
6 x 9 | 320 pages | 21 maps; 200 b&w photos
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Touring the Western North Carolina Backroads, by Carolyn Sakowski, is an excellent way to begin your adventures in the mountains of the Tar Heel State. The book's 21 tours escape the busy interstates and highways for more peaceful drives down country roads.

The two-lane highways that wind through western North Carolina's mountains are filled with nearly forgotten landmarks and historic sites as well as undisturbed scenery. Now, mountain motorists who wish to leave the interstate and sample a little of the folklore and history of the area as well as escape the urban sprawl have an update of ***Touring the Western North Carolina Backroads*** to assist them.

The tours in the book take adventurers from the southwest corner of North Carolina, where Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina converge, to the northwest section of the mountains, where North Carolina meets Virginia. Along the way, Cherokee mythology, local folklore, anecdotes about early settlers, stories of eccentric characters, descriptions of historic buildings, and hikes to scenic waterfalls and overlooks combine to give travelers a fresh perspective on the beauty of the western North Carolina mountains.

Each tour acts as a journey through unspoiled landscapes and the history behind them. Backroads travelers will discover:

- The grave of Junaluska, the Cherokee chief who saved the life of Andrew Jackson at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, only to regret it later when President Jackson ordered the Cherokees removed from the area on the Trail of Tears

- The Fields of the Wood, a Bible theme park that includes one of the world's largest crosses (150 feet tall and 115 feet wide) and the world's largest representation of the Ten Commandments, a 300-square-foot grass "tablet" laid out on a mountainside
- The former site of the Esmeralda Inn, where stars like Mary Pickford, Gloria Swanson, Douglas Fairbanks, and Clark Gable stayed while filming in the Hickory Nut Gorge.

This third edition features updated directions, additional sites, new photographs, and nearby recreational opportunities. Although the tours are designed to be driven, they don't overlook enjoyable hikes and other activities that might otherwise go unnoticed. ***Touring the Western North Carolina Backroads*** helps readers plan their next day trip, weekend getaway, or cycling adventure.

The **Touring the Backroads™** series includes travel books that take readers off the beaten path to historic sites and landmarks. Each book departs the highways and thoroughfares in favor of the backroads, giving directions, suggested routes, and historical details along the way. These books can be read at home or make excellent travel companions for those looking for something beyond the norm.

Carolyn Sakowski is a native of Morganton, North Carolina. She holds a BA in history from Queens University of Charlotte and an MA in history from Appalachian State University. She lives in Winston-Salem, N.C., where she is president of John F. Blair, Publisher. Her previous books include *Touring the East Tennessee Backroads* and *Travel North Carolina*.

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John F. Blair, Publisher, has been publishing books on the southeastern United States since 1954. Based in Winston-Salem, N.C., this independent, family-owned company specializes in history, travel, folklore, biography, and fiction. Learn more at www.blairpub.com.

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Contact: Brooke Csuka, Publicist
 John F. Blair, Publisher
 1-800-222-9796 | csuka@blairpub.com