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DISCOVER HALF DAY & FULL DAY ADVENTURES

Half Day Adventure

- **BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY**
- **WATERROCK KNOB VISITOR CENTER** (nature exhibit, bookstore, beautiful views east and west—perfect for sunrise or sunset)
- **WATERROCK KNOB TRAIL** (1.2 mile roundtrip trail, moderate/strenuous climb, beautiful views)

Exit the Lake Junaluska Bethea Welcome Center and turn right. Follow Highway **19** South through Maggie Valley. In 10.5 miles turn left onto the **Blue Ridge Parkway** and veer right toward Asheville and Mount Pisgah.



Follow the Parkway through Soco Gap to the **Waterrock Knob Visitor Center** on your left at mile marker **451.2** (Elevation 5820'). Views west overlook the Reservation land of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Nantahala National Park, named after the Cherokee word for noon. (The forest is so thick, it was said, that sunlight could only penetrate its depths when the sun shone directly overhead.) To the east you'll be able to see Cold Mountain, Rich Bald, and the tallest of them all: Richland Balsam (available in the Full Day Extension

on reverse side). Venture inside the visitor center to peruse the nature exhibits and bookstore. Picnic tables are available on site, and restrooms are adjacent to the parking lot.

Those interested in climbing the summit can follow the well-worn path of the **Waterrock Knob Trail**.

There's no chance of getting lost on this hike (1.2 miles roundtrip), but be prepared for a sometimes steep and rocky climb for both kids and adults. On a clear day, hikers will be amply rewarded with stunning panoramic views from the top of the knob.

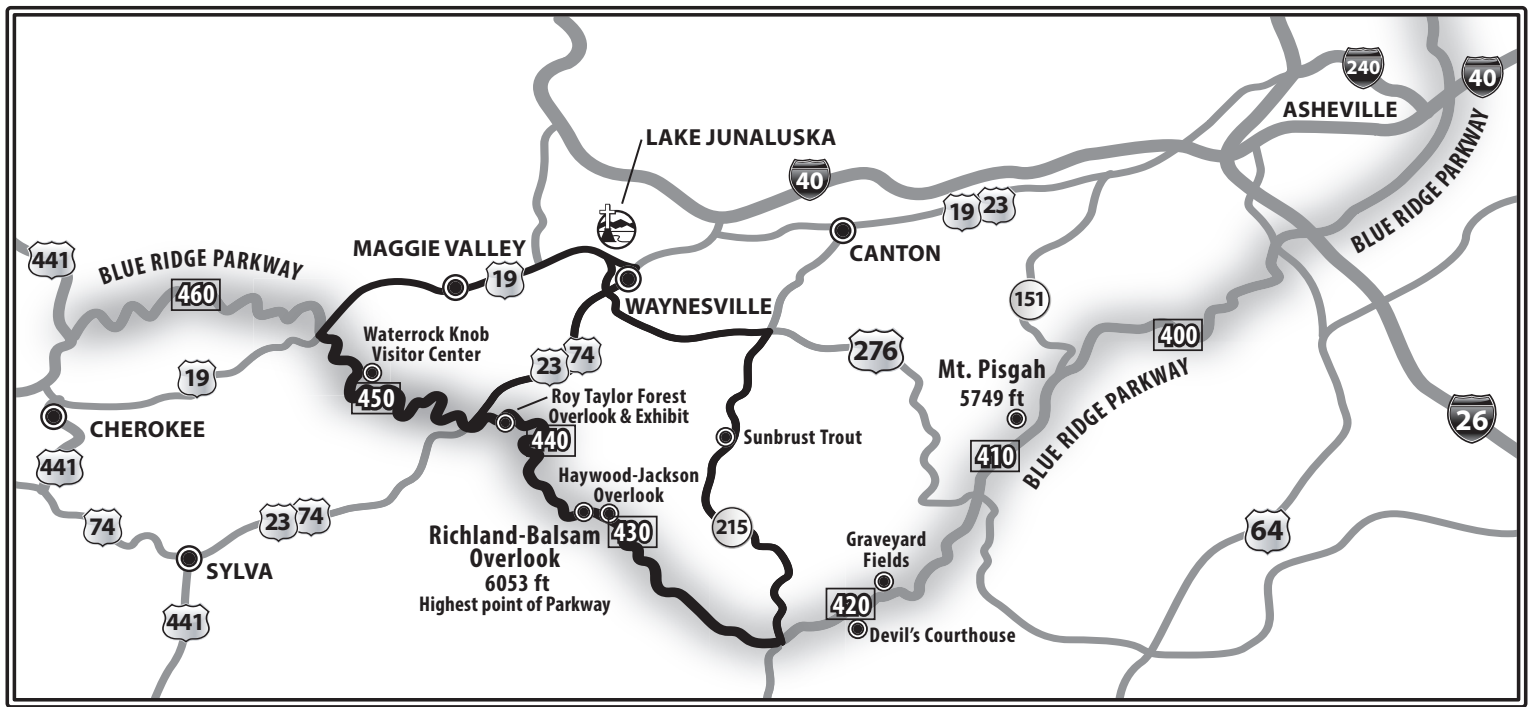


Continue along the Parkway to the intersection of Highway **23**. Head North toward Waynesville to return to the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center (approximately 7 miles), or continue on the Parkway toward Asheville. For the Full Day Extension, continue on reverse side.

Adventure Tips

- **Dress in layers for slightly cooler temperatures and wind.**
- **Numerous scenic stops provide picnic tables - take a snack and enjoy!**
- **Fill up your gas tank before you start as there are no gas stations on the Parkway.**

(see map on reverse side)



Full Day Extension

- **RICHLAND-BALSAM PEAK** (the highest elevation of the entire Blue Ridge Parkway)
- **HAYWOOD-JACKSON OVERLOOK AND TRAIL LOOP** (highest accessible hiking trail, moderate climb)
- **PIGEON RIVER & SUNBURST TROUT FARM**

Continuing from Waterrock Knob, drive upward and onward toward some of the most jaw-dropping, ear-popping views around. Many of the overlooks on this portion provide picnic tables, but because you're on top of a mountain range, expect some wind.

The **Roy Taylor Forest Overlook & Exhibit** (mile marker [443](#)) offers a very short walk from the parking lot to a wooden platform perched over the gorge below.



A large sign on your left will announce your arrival at **Richland-Balsam Overlook** (mile marker [431](#)), the highest elevation (6053') on the entire Parkway. The spacious parking



area offers views of long mountain ranges and the remains of old Hemlocks—along with the growth of new trees. Saving the Hemlocks is a top priority for State and National Forest Services. Just beyond this point, on the left side of the parkway, is the **Haywood-Jackson Overlook**. A circular trail from the parking lot will take hikers to the peak and, on the way back, offer stunning views overlooking the town of Cullowhee, home of Western North Carolina University. A box near the trail head offers literature about points of historic and ecological interest along the trail.

Back on the Parkway, travel north to Highway [215](#) and head north toward Canton, following the **Pigeon River**. You'll notice lots of cars pulled over to the side of the road during this portion of your trip—especially if it's a hot day. Locals know that the river offers ample wading and fishing opportunities. If your feet are tired from hiking, feel free to pull over into one of the designated parking areas and go wiggle your toes in some cold mountain water.

The mission of Lake Junaluska is to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body.