

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 and Knoxville TN; and 3 hours from Charlotte NC, Chattanooga TN, 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 a 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, **Kuwohi (formerly 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 of 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, and 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”; one of “20 Best Mountain Towns in America” by **Men’s Journal**; by **Backpacker magazine** as one of 12 US “Top Hiker Towns”; voted by **Trip Advisor** readers as one of “8 Beautiful Little Lake Towns Across America.”



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