



### New Beginnings!



March 4, 2025- Bluff Mountain Outfitters owner Wayne Crosby celebrates his first official sale to a thru-hiker.

They officially displayed their Open Flag on March 15.



### Springing Forward in Our Recovery

Several businesses in downtown Hot Springs have reopened since our last update! Visit these folks on your next trip to the mountains.

[Bluff Mountain Outfitters](#) is in a beautiful new space at 88 Bridge Street. It is a treat to walk in their doors!

[Big Pillow Brewing](#) has fresh brewed beer and taqueria cuisine to enjoy in the warm sun or inside their cozy taproom.

[Vinyl Pies Pizza](#) is getting very close to opening!

[Vaste Riviere Outpost](#) is serving food at their new location at 64 S. Spring St.

[Artisun Gallery](#) has moved their friendly vibe, espresso machine and homemade ice cream to a new location just up the hill at 311 Hwy 25/70.

Many more shops and eateries are also OPEN that were not affected by the flooding. Learn more about shopping and dining options and hours on our [Business Hours page!](#)

Business Hours for Hot Springs NC

Events Calendar



### Town & Trail Festival

May 2 & 3, 2025

On May 2nd and 3rd, we invite everyone-Appalachian Trail hikers, volunteers, families, people who love Hot Springs and have visited over the years, along with our hardworking neighbors- to come together and celebrate how far we've come!

100% of festival proceeds will be donated to [Rebuild Hot Springs Area](#) nonprofit to help with town recovery.

Town & Trail Fest Schedule of Events

## Dedication of Peace Pole

Hot Springs Welcome Center  
Friday, May 2nd at 5pm

This Peace Pole was generously donated by the **Madison County Rotary Club** as part of a global movement to spread the universal message of peace.



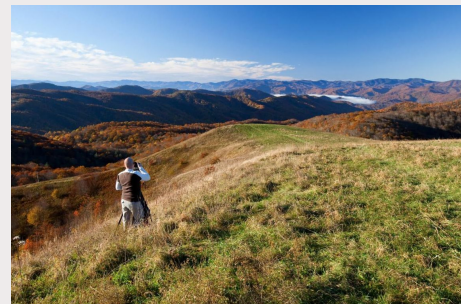
Join us for this special dedication and set an intention for love and peace for the weekend and beyond! Learn more about the project- [WorldPeace.org](http://WorldPeace.org)

Find Lodging for your visit to Hot Springs!

## Explore & Hike Max Patch! A Comprehensive Guide to the Scenic Beauty and Adventure

### New Guide on our Website

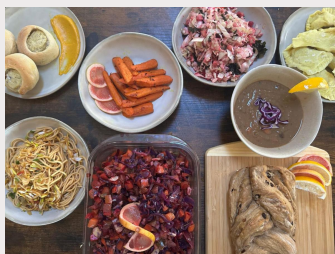
Whether you've visited Max Patch numerous times or still have it on your bucket list- this article is a useful guide. Find a bit of history, directions and all you need to know to explore this mountain safely and respectfully.



**Views from Max Patch are awe-inspiring.**

Photo by [Frank Kehren](#)

Read our Guide to Max Patch



When you plan your trip to Max Patch- treat yourself to a lovingly prepared meal at [The Downstay!](#)

Located five miles from the Max Patch trailhead, **the Downstay offers a private porch where you can sip coffee, chat, and takeaway a perfect meal before you start your adventure.**

## Things to Do with Kids in Hot Springs, NC



... a new article by Debbie Delisle of [Woodson Branch Nature School](#)

The kids will be out of school before you know it! **Plan some fun things to do together this spring and summer** in the mountains, on the AT, in the natural hot springs, and on the river in Hot Springs.

**Summer day camps at Woodson Branch Nature School** are also a great choice-

kids can play while the grownups relax!

[Read about Things to Do with Kids in Hot Springs](#)

## French Broad River officially OPEN for Boating!

The ribbon has been cut to ceremonially open the river for boating this season!

**All 4 rafting companies in Madison County joined US Forest Service employees in a ribbon-cutting ceremony March 17** down at the **Stackhouse landing**. It took 6 months of hard work to get this far.



**Book your adventure with one of our local Rafting Companies-**

- [Blue Heron Whitewater](#)
- [French Broad Adventures](#)
- [Hot Springs Rafting Co.](#)
- [Nantahala Outdoor Center-French Broad Outpost](#)

[Rafting, Canoeing & Kayaking on the French Broad River](#)

## Hot Springs Resort & Spa

...updates on their [Facebook Page](#)

The Spa continues to renovate and expand services. They now have 6 tubs available for soaks along Spring Creek.

**Hours for hot mineral water soaks** are now Thursday afternoons from 3 to 9pm, and Friday - Sunday 9am - 9pm.

**Call for reservations at 828-622-7676.**



[Hot Springs Resort & Spa Website](#)

# Historic Walnut Mountain Shelter to be new Exhibit at Welcome Center!



## A Historic Effort on the Appalachian Trail!

Carolina Mountain Club's trail crews teamed up with the **U.S. Forest Service - Cherokee National Forest** and the **Appalachian Trail Conservancy** for a special project years in the making- the careful deconstruction of the historic **Walnut Mountain Shelter on the AT** south of Hot Springs.

Built in 1938 from chestnut logs by the **Civilian Conservation Corps**, this iconic shelter has stood the test of time. With 35 dedicated volunteers on site, every log and beam was carefully marked, labeled, and transported to a holding location in Hot Springs. But this is just the beginning!

In early June- Phase 2- **Reconstruction**. Bringing the shelter back to life near the **Hot Springs Welcome Center as a historical display**. This project will further cement Hot Springs' reputation as an **official AT Trail Town** and honor the legacy of the trail's rich history. The goal is to complete the shelter rebuild just in time for National Trails Day on June 7th, when we may celebrate with a community-wide work day and dedication.



Just another lazy day at Big Pillow Brewing :)

## More Links and Information

[Events Calendar](#)

[Things To Do](#)

[Hot Springs Blog](#)

[Places to Eat](#)

[Places to Stay](#)

[Shops and Galleries](#)

[Appalachian Trails Hikers' Resource Guide](#)



**Hot Springs Welcome Center is open daily from 10-5pm**

**106 Bridge Street  
Hot Springs, NC 28743**

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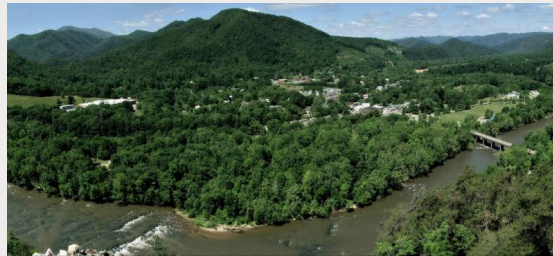
Hot Springs Tourism Association

HotSpringsNC.org

admin@hotspringsnc.org

This edition compiled by Stacey Geyer, HSTA Administrator.

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Hot Springs Tourism Association | PO Box 66 | Hot Springs, NC 28743 US

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