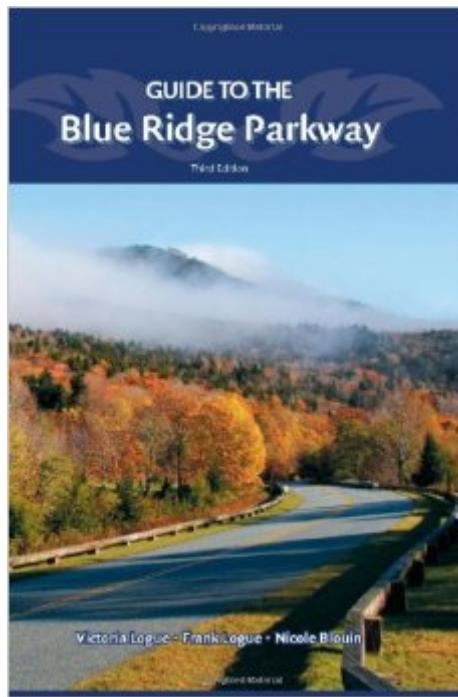


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# Guide To The Blue Ridge Parkway



## **Synopsis**

Flowing among the beautiful mountains and valleys of Virginia and North Carolina, the 469-mile-long Blue Ridge Parkway is a true American jewel. Built to expose motorists to nature as well as to preserve its beauty, the Parkway still delivers unrivaled beauty today. Guide to the Blue Ridge Parkway is filled with information useful to those traveling the Parkway and is detailed with color photographs throughout. It highlights the many significant points of interest located on and nearby the Parkway, including Mount Mitchell, the highest point east of the Mississippi, Moses H. Cone Memorial Park, and Mabry Mill, one of the most photographed sites on the Parkway. Also noted are locations of overlooks, waterfalls, and tunnels as well as key entry and exit points along the Parkway. The guide features a brief history of the Parkway itself, a look at the surrounding geology and human history of the area, and an extensive wildflower bloom calendar. The book is organized mile-post to mile-post, appropriate for travelers who are driving the entire Blue Ridge Parkway or only a small section.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is an excellent guide to help you plan a trip on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The book maps out everything you need to know about the road. Every overlook, campsite, and picnic area is included. There are even several sites mentioned that are not clearly marked by the National Parks Service. I used the book before I went on the trip and highlighted all the things that I thought would be interesting and used it as I went. The book is extremely helpful and much better then the

newspapers and magazine guides that you can get for free on the parkway. There were several problems with the book too. Even though it probably the most thorough guide of the Blue Ridge Parkway that I have seen it does not include a map of the road. Most of the pictures in book are very good, however they rarely match up with the information on the page. The last problem I had with the book was that the binding on the book became unglued and many of the pages are now falling out. Overall this is the best guide on the Blue Ridge Parkway that I have seen. It was extremely helpful to me, and I highly recommend it!

I was on the B.R. PKWY and needed something more than the simple park map to figure out where the interesting hikes and views were. This book does it and does it well. I have been on the pkwy many times, but some of the history had eluded me until I got to glance through this guide. My buddy liked it so much, he bought his own just because I was always reading it. If you are going to drive the pkwy, I would recommend this book to help you get the most out of your trip.

Having researched and planned trips for clients over the past few years, I have come to rely very heavily on this book and "Blue Ridge Parkway Guide" Volumes 1&2. This one offers lovely photos and interesting details of each overlook. You can get some of the same info online but it is not any easier to follow. Hikers may need more back country info but if you are riding the parkway on 1 or more wheels and you can only get one guide, get this one!

I purchased this book along with Best of the Blue Ridge Parkway before a recent trip down the Parkway. While there aren't many photos in this book, it gives very detailed info about all the various vista sites along the Parkway - helpful to know what one is looking at. Good to have had both guides - Best of the Blue Ridge has many nice photos, but not much info on things other than what the author has deemed "best." Based on both books' reviews, we stayed at the Peaks of Otter Lodge along the Parkway which was very nice.

This book was so much more than I expected. It is very detailed in any and all aspects. All sites along the drive are marked by mile markers right down to the tenth of a mile. There is a brief section that tells about the history of the area. Other sites, stops, overlooks and points of interest are well documented. There are also sidebars to the wildlife that are native to the region. There is a section dedicated to what plants and flowers are in bloom (Bloom Calendar) from Jan. through Dec. Campgrounds are marked by mile markers and they specifically tell how many tent and/or RV sites

are available as well as the elevation. Trailheads are marked by state. Tunnels are also marked by mile marker and length. However, the height clearance was not. A must have book for first time and repeat visitors. I also recommend "GUIDE TO THE NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY". It is by another author but has the same format.

Why is the origin of the name French Broad River? Who was Art Loeb of the Art Loeb trail? Why is the falls that you can see from Mile Post 361.2 called Glassmine Falls? It does not look like glass. This guide has an overlook-by-overlook explanation of the treasures on the Parkway prefaced by a good introduction on the history and geology of the road. I only wish the authors had added the altitude at each overlook. One appendix lists a blooming calendar and the overlooks most likely to have the flowers. Another one has contact information for all the enterprises on the Parkway from the Shenandoah National Park to the Biltmore Estate. It is a beautiful book with gorgeous color pictures. Text boxes detailing a particular subject such as rhododendrons or Daniel Boone are sprinkled throughout. But why did they have to use black text on a dark purple background for these boxes? They are so difficult to read. Except for that shortcoming, this book is meant to be used, not to be left on the bookshelf. I take my copy wherever I think I am going to be on the Parkway. As for the answers to the questions above? Check pages 120, 129 and 108, respectively.

Every year, we spend Thanksgiving weekend in Black Mountain, NC. I brought this book along with me last year. We spent a pleasant morning exploring the Blue Ridge Parkway near Asheville. This book told us where to find tunnels (which my 2-year-old loved), gorgeous views and interesting stops. It made me want to travel more of the Parkway when I have the time.

Saves all the tedious thinking and planning on where to stop to take photos and what one could "take a miss on" I wish they had a little on which towns to stay in to get sunrise shots easily but that is a very minor drawback. We usually spend a great deal of time on planning a trip. For example the Smokies. Had an entire trip planned then found one of the roads we really wanted to drive is a one way! Would have ruined our trip the way we originally planned. The other drawback is you have to use it backwards coming from the south but we found the north is actually warmer than the south end as far as spring or fall so I add that as valuable information.

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