Our State GRECKLIST



BRIDAL VEIL FALLS

U.S. Highway 64 Highlands, NC 28741 (828) 526-2112

Before the highway was rerouted around this waterfall, you could drive behind it. Today, you can still drive up, park, and walk behind it.

CATAWBA FALLS

3074 Catawba River Road Old Fort, NC 28762 (828) 652-2144

The trail to this series of cascades runs about three miles round trip through lush, mossy forest shaded by 100-foot-tall trees.

CRABTREE FALLS

Blue Ridge Parkway, Milepost 339.5 Grassy Creek, NC 28777 (828) 668-4282

A 2.5-mile loop trail to this waterfall takes hikers through rhododendron thickets. A bridge over the creek in front of the falls offers the best view.

DRY FALLS

U.S. Highway 64 Highlands, NC 28741 (828) 524-6441

Take the kids on the easy, quarter-mile round-trip trail to Dry Falls for a chance to see the world from *behind* a waterfall.

HIDDEN FALLS

Hanging Rock State Park 1005 Visitor Center Drive Westfield, NC 27053 (336) 593-8480

At less than a mile round trip, Indian Creek Trail is one of Hanging Rock State Park's shortest hikes, with picnic tables and restrooms nearby.

HOOKER FALLS

Hooker Falls Access Area 210 Staton Road Hendersonville, NC 28739 (828) 877-6527

One of four falls on the Little River in DuPont State Recreational Forest, this one drops off a 12-foot ledge into a nice swimming hole.



LINVILLE FALLS

Blue Ridge Parkway, Milepost 316 Linville Falls, NC 28647 (828) 348-3400

The Plunge Basin Trail from the visitor center leads to an overlook and then down to the bottom of the falls for close-up views.

MINGO FALLS

Mingo Falls Campground 71 Big Cove Road Cherokee, NC 28719 (865) 436-1200

The quarter-mile hike to the 120-foot-high Mingo Falls is short, but it requires climbing 161 steps.

RAINBOW FALLS

976 Grassy Ridge Road Sapphire, NC 28774 (828) 966-9099

The three-mile round-trip hike from the Grassy Ridge trailhead, near the Gorges State Park parking area, leads to a 150-foot-tall waterfall that's even more spectacular after a rainfall.

SCHOOLHOUSE FALLS

Panthertown Trailhead Hogback Spur A Lake Toxaway, NC 28747 (828) 848-8711

A 2.5-mile round-trip hike in Nantahala National Forest takes you to small cascades that culminate in an 18-foot freefall. The hike consists of multiple trails, so a Panthertown Valley map is highly recommended.

SHUNKAWAUKEN FALLS

White Oak Mountain Road Columbus, NC 28722 (800) 440-7848

On the outskirts of Columbus is a 150-foot-tall waterfall that you can see from small pull-offs on both sides.

SKINNY DIP FALLS

Blue Ridge Parkway, Milepost 417 Canton, NC 28716 (828) 348-3400

Don't fret over the name — the swimming hole at this waterfall is 100 percent family-friendly. And the mile-long round-trip hike is easy.

SLIDING ROCK

7851 Pisgah Highway Pisgah Forest, NC 28768 (828) 885-7625

This natural water slide dumps into an eight-foot-deep pool. You can participate, or you can watch from an observation area.

SOCO FALLS

Blue Ridge Parkway, Milepost 455.7 Maggie Valley, NC 28751 (800) 334-9036

This double waterfall in the Qualla Boundary near Cherokee requires a very short walk from U.S. Highway 19.

WALKER FALLS

National Forest Service Road 74 Big Ivy Area Near Barnardsville, NC 28709 (828) 877-3265

"Car hikers" love this 45-foot-tall roadside waterfall just north of Asheville — one of 10 falls along an 8.8-mile forest service road.

■ WHITEWATER FALLS

NC Highway 281 Cashiers, NC 28717 (828) 257-4200

These falls are so huge that they straddle the Carolinas. The short hike to NC's Upper Whitewater Falls yields stunning views of the 411-foot plunge.