

Appalachian Region – PCA: 6 June 2015 Waterfall Tour

Road Ratings

Road ratings are not given since this drive will be more relaxed with sight-seeing and stops.

Tour Roads Overview (82 miles, ~2:00 driving, ~2:00 for stops)

- 64 - Franklin to Highlands: 45/50/55 mph valley road transitioning to 35/25 mph twisty, mountainous road. Residential/commercial road in Highlands.
- 64 – Highlands to Cashiers: 25/35/40/55/35 mph twisty mountainous road with broken pavement, subsidence
- 107 - 35/45 mph mild curvy road, some broken pavement
- Wigington Rd (SC) – unposted curvy road
- 130/281 – 45 mph short bit of nothing (1.2 miles)
- 281 – to Sapphire: 55/35 mph curvy road with a few tighter turns
- 64 – Sapphire traveling east: 35/45/55 mph curvy, mountainous road transitioning to valley with fairly tight turns then to fairly straight 4-lane road
- Island Ford Rd – 30/45/30 mph curvy residential road.
- 276 40 mph short bit of nothing to Conestee/Batson Creek Falls (1.8 miles)
- 276 – continuing south 40/55 ordinary
- Cascade Lakes Rd - 45 mph ordinary
- Staton Rd – 45 mph ordinary

Picnic at Whitewater Falls (~Mile 41)

- \$2 use fee – honor system
- Picnic tables (7), large grassy area: suggest ground cover, folding chairs
- Participants will supply own food/beverage

Waterfall Visits/Safety

- Wear comfortable walking shoes, bring rain jacket if planning walk behind Dry Falls
- **Waterfalls are dangerous:**
 - Be wary of wet rocks: they can be very slick. Stay off if possible.
 - Obey all posted signs; stay within designated pedestrian boundaries.
 - Do not go near the top of waterfalls unless by designated pedestrian area.
 - Do not climb on waterfalls.
 - Stay out of swift currents.
- Be aware of wildlife: make noise to ward off bears; normal talk voice works well. Watch step for snakes, poison ivy, stinging insects, and ‘twisted ankle’ hazards.

Additional Info

- Zero odometer at tour start to locate views, route turns. Tour mileage is given progressively.
- Please fill gasoline tank up before drive.

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Tour Route/Stops

Meet at 1509 Highlands Rd, Franklin, NC 28734 at 9:40am to sign PCA Waiver and attend driver’s meeting. Drive time from Asheville (I-26/I-40 interchange) is approximately 1 hr 10 min. Cars will be grouped by tens to facilitate stops: first come, first grouped, first to leave rally point. First/only group leave rally point no later than 10:00am.

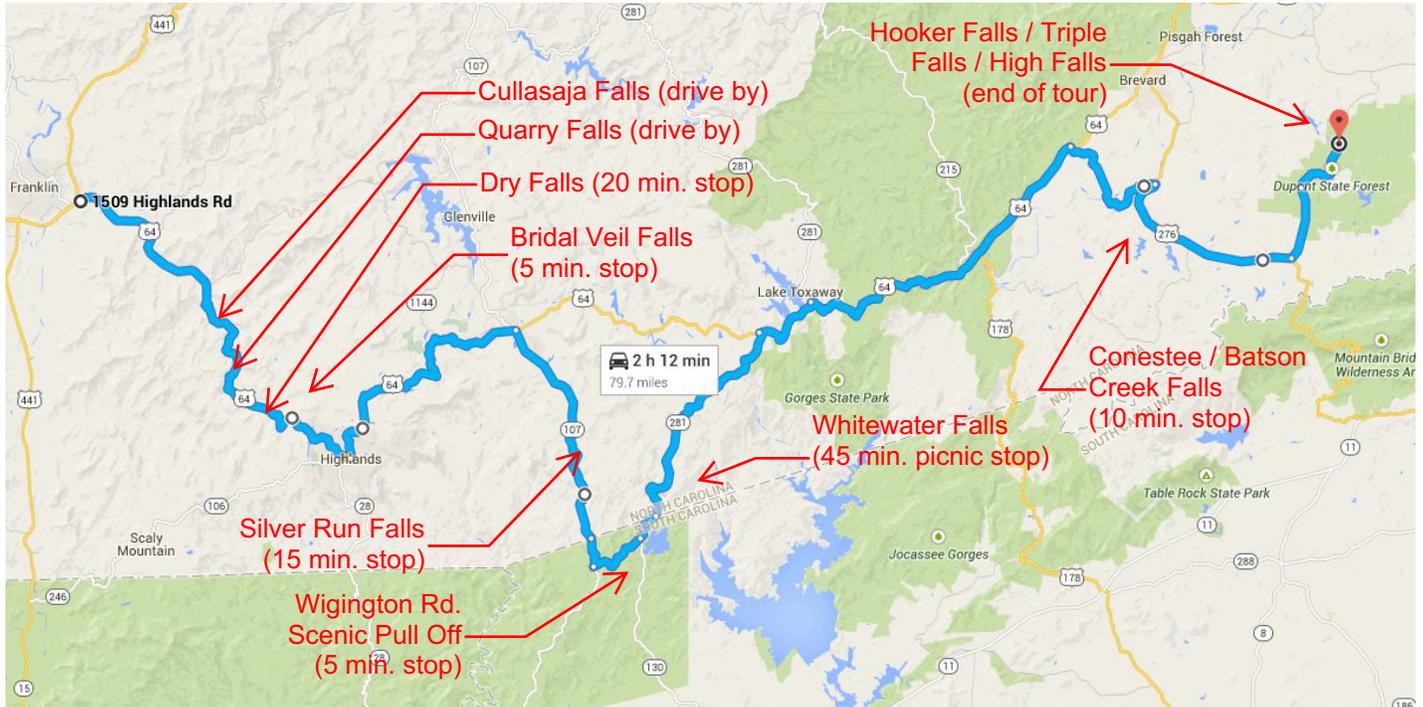
<u>Route/Street</u>	<u>Mile</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Hike (miles)</u>	<u>Hike Difficulty</u>	<u>Stop Type</u>	<u>Amenities</u>
64	0.0	1509 Highlands Rd, Franklin				Rally Point	Paved Lot - None
64	7.9	Cullasaja Falls - right	9	-	-	Slow Down	
64	8.1	Falls view - right				Slow Down	
64	8.2	Cascades view - right				Slow Down	
64	10.2	Quarry Falls - right	5	-	-	Slow Down	
64	13.6	Dry Falls	8	0.1	4	20 min stop	Paved lot, Bathrooms
64	14.4	Bridal Veil Falls	3	-	-	5 min stop	Paved pull-off, left
64	27.6	Cashiers – 107 intersection				<i>Right turn</i>	
107	31.8	Silver Run Falls	7	0.1	3	15 min stop	Gravel pull-off, left
107	36.0	SC State line				Way point	
107	37.1	Wigington Rd intersection				<i>Left turn</i>	
Wigington Rd	37.9	Scenic Overlook				5 min stop	Paved pull-off
Wigington Rd	39.4	130 intersection				<i>Left turn</i>	
130/281	40.4	NC State line				Way point	
281	40.6	Whitewater Falls	10	0.2	2	45 min picnic stop	Paved lot, bathrooms, picnic tables, \$2 use fee
281	49.8	Sapphire - 64 intersection				<i>Right turn</i>	
64	52.0	Toxaway Falls	7	-	-	No stop, no view	
64	65.1	Island Ford Rd intersection				<i>Right turn</i>	
Island Ford Rd	70.0	276 intersection				<i>Right turn</i>	
276	71.8	Conestee/Batson Creek Falls	8	0.1	1	10 min stop	Paved lot, Port-o-potty
276	77.0	Cascade Lakes Rd intersection				<i>Left turn</i>	
Cascade Lakes Rd	79.7	Staton Rd intersection				<i>Right turn</i>	
Staton Rd	82.1	Triple, Hooker & High Falls	6-8	0.3-0.6	2-6	Stop – end tour	Gravel lot, Port-o-potties

Rating/Hike Difficulty rated 1-10 with 10 as best waterfall/most difficult hike.

Appalachian Region Waterfall Tour

June 6, 2015

Franklin, NC to DuPont State Forest



Cindy Rodgers State Farm Insurance Parking Lot

○ 1509 Highlnds Rd. (Rt. 64)

Franklin, NC 28734

Rally Point
Drive Begins Here

Follow US-64 E to NC-107 S in Cashiers

27.1 mi / 44 min

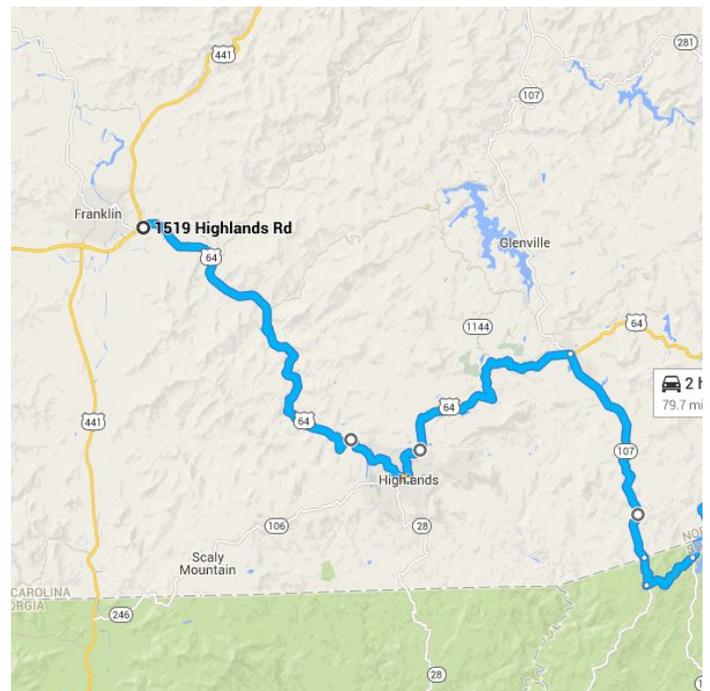
- ↑ 1. Head northeast on NC-28 S/US-64 E toward Rogers Rd

16.9 mi

- ↶ 2. Turn left onto US-64 E/N 4th St

Continue to follow US-64 E

10.2 mi



Continue on NC-107 S to Hogback

21.2 mi / 33 min

- ↷ 3. Turn right onto NC-107 S
i Entering South Carolina

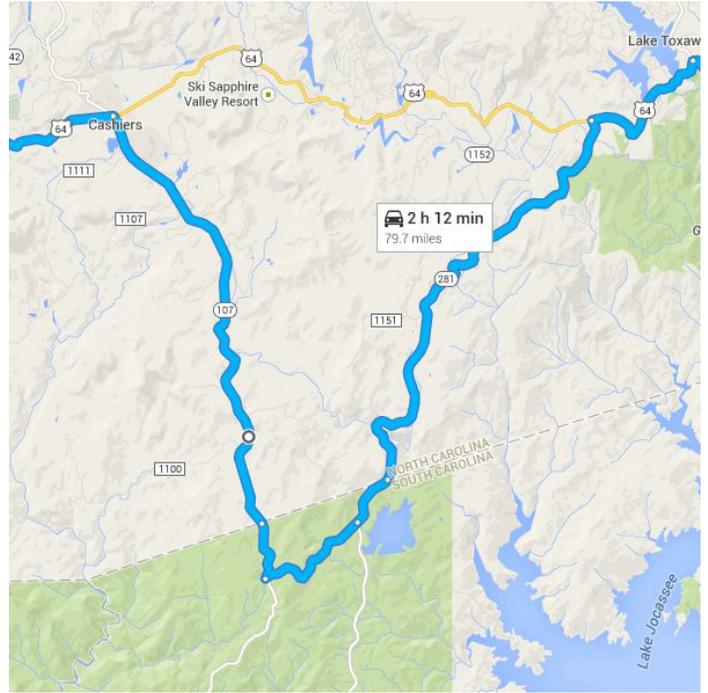
 8.2 mi
- ↑ 4. Continue onto SC-107 S

 1.0 mi
- ↶ 5. Turn left onto State Rd S-37-413
(aka Wigington Rd.)

 2.2 mi
- ↷ 6. Slight left onto SC-130 N
i Entering North Carolina

 1.0 mi
- ↑ 7. Continue onto NC-281

 8.7 mi



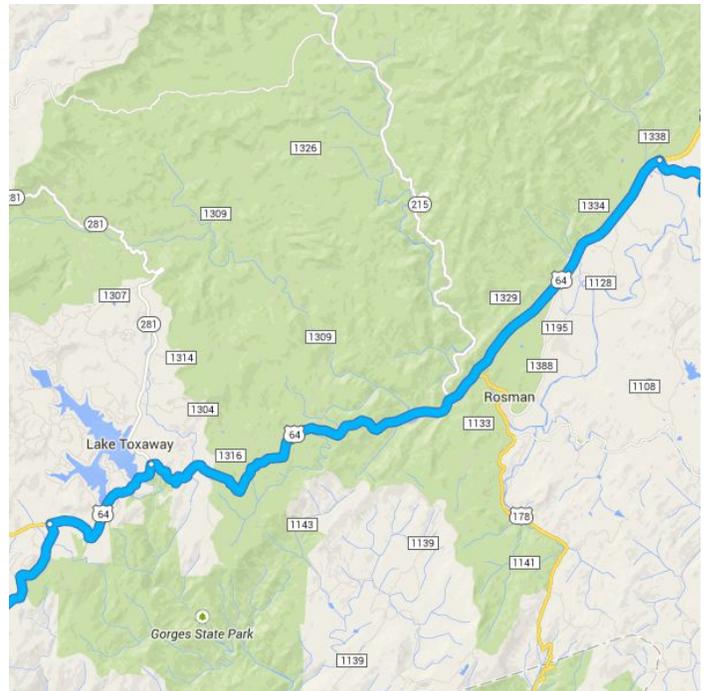
Follow US-64 E to Island Ford Rd in
 Catheys Creek

 14.9 mi / 21 min

- ↷ 8. Turn right onto NC-281 N/US-64 E

 2.7 mi
- ↷ 9. Turn right onto US-64 E

 12.2 mi



- ↷ Turn right onto Island Ford Rd

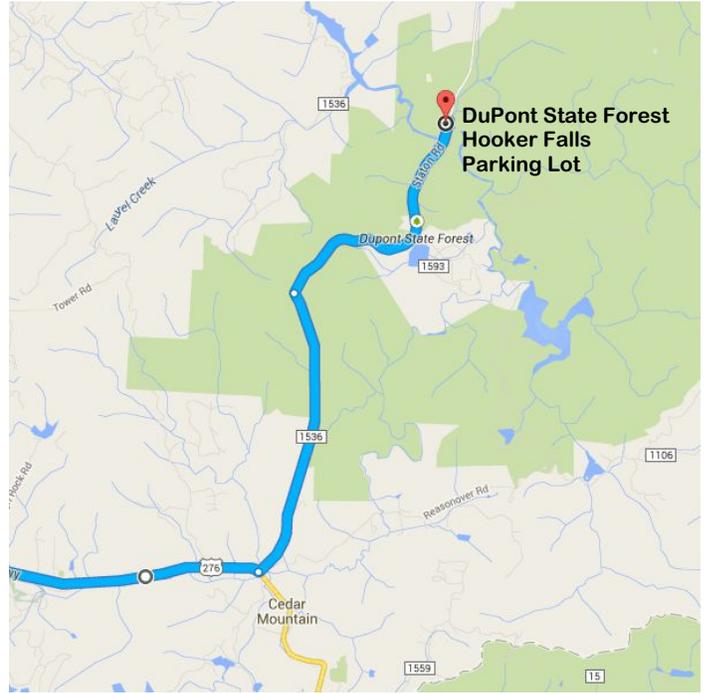
 4.8 mi / 11 min
- ↷ Turn right onto US-276 S

 6.8 mi / 10 min

Follow Cascade Lake Rd and Staton Rd to
 your destination

 4.9 mi / 9 min

- 12. Turn left onto Cascade Lake Rd
2.5 mi
- 13. Turn right onto Staton Rd
2.4 mi
- 14. Turn left
262 ft



📍 DuPont State Forest Hooker Falls Parking Lot

These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects, traffic, weather, or other events may cause conditions to differ from the map results, and you should plan your route accordingly. You must obey all signs or notices regarding your route.

Map data ©2015 Google

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Waterfall Tour Companion

Cullasaja Falls

The falls is the last major waterfall on the Cullasaja River and is a long cascade over the course of 0.2 miles (.3 km), dropping approximately 137 feet (42 m - based on the elevation of the water at the top of the falls and the elevation of the plunge pool at the bottom of the falls). This impressive, multi-streamed cascade has a roadside view. It tumbles over a series of churning cascades, before dropping over a rock face that splits the flow into a characteristic series of parallel columns. The river is then shunted to the left and cascades further down into the gorge. Impressive rock faces surround the falls. It's very scenic but accessing it can be dangerous. US 64 has cliffs on both sides and is narrow and curvy. There is one small pull off just downstream of the falls on the northern side of US 64, most accessible to west-bound traffic.

Quarry Falls

The falls is on the Cullasaja River and is a small waterfall (or perhaps large rapid in high water). It is best known for the large, deep pool at the bottom and is a popular place for swimming during warm weather. Quarry Falls is known to the locals as "Bust-Your-Butt-Falls" or "Sliding Rock".

Dry Falls

The falls flows on the Cullasaja River and is 65-foot (13.7 m) high. It is part of a series of waterfalls on an 8.7-mile (14 km) stretch of the river that eventually ends with Cullasaja Falls. Dry Falls flows over an overhanging bluff that allows visitors to walk behind the falls and remain relatively dry when the water flow is low, hence its name. Visitors will get wet if the water flow is high. During 2008-2009, the Forest Service made improvements to the parking area, which included renovation and expansion and the addition of bathroom facilities. A new walkway and overlook were also constructed adjacent to the parking area.

Bridal Veil Falls

Bridal Veil Falls is not that spectacular by itself: it is 45-foot (20.1 m) high and has a short curve of roadway located behind the falls, it has the distinction of being the only waterfall in the state under which one can drive a vehicle. The creek is small, and has its best flow after some good rain. It's a cascade that ends in a free-fall into a ditch filled with boulders and riprap between two roads, so getting a good photo here may be a challenge. The free-fall part may actually be man-made by the construction of US Hwy. 64. The main line of US Hwy. 64 used to pass behind the falls until it was re-routed in

front of the falls for safety. Dripping water would freeze solid on the road in winter and rock falls were common. This was effectively illustrated in December 2003 when an enormous chunk of rock fell onto the old road from above, blocking it. The rock has since been removed. There's room to park and have a look.

Silver Run Falls

Silver Run Falls is a 25-foot (7.6 m) waterfall: the falls are located after a flat, 200 yard trail. Additionally, there is a second secret falls located above Silver Run. On the left side of the cliff face of the falls, just inside the woods, there is a slope of granite with many roots for handholds leading to the top of the falls. Follow the trail up top until you hear the second falls on your right. There is a sign on the road and there is a pull over to park.

Scenic Overlook – Wigington Rd, South Carolina

The overlook features a scenic view of the Bad Creek Reservoir which is the upper of two lakes used by Duke Power to generate electricity at the Bad Creek Hydroelectric Station, a 1,065-megawatt pumped-storage facility located in Oconee County, eight miles north of Salem, S.C. The four-unit station began generating electricity in 1991, and is the largest hydroelectric station on the Duke Energy system.

Whitewater Falls

If only one waterfall in Western NC could be visited, this may be the one. The upper drop consists of a short cascade followed by a huge free-fall, with most of the flow on the right but a few ribbons of water also spilling down on the left. After a short run of rapids and cascades, the lower free-fall section begins and it is split as well with most of the water on the right when the water is low (it evens out more during higher flow). It ends in some cascades into a couple of rocky pools. The overall scene is wide and dramatic from the overlook. Some consider this the highest waterfall east of the Mississippi River. Whether or not that is true is debatable - it's even debatable as to whether what is seen is even one waterfall, considering the short run of rapids between the main drops. The height has been listed in various places for many years at 411 ft (125.2 m). It is a very scenic and impressive waterfall with a high water flow - the stream is more like a river than a creek even at normal flow. It's on the Whitewater River in the Jocassee Gorge area of North Carolina. The Lower Falls can be accessed from a different location in South Carolina. There is a \$2 honor system fee for vehicles with seven passengers or less; \$1 per person for more than seven people traveling together in a vehicle. Annual passes are available for \$15; One-day or season permits are also valid at Whiteside Mountain and at Dry Falls. The parking area for Upper Whitewater Falls is large and includes picnic tables and restrooms.

Toxaway Falls

As cars speed along US 64 between Highlands and Brevard, Toxaway Falls may not even be noticed. It is a 150-foot (45.7 m) waterslide below the US 64 bridge. There is no good public vantage point from which to view the entire falls, only a glimpse from the top at the bridge. The falls are just downstream of the present-day Lake Toxaway Dam and the Lake Toxaway Resort. In 1916, an earlier dam above the falls broke. The massive flood washed away the soil atop the falls and left what is seen today: nothing but bare rock.

Connestee Falls and Batson Creek Falls

Batson Creek flows less than 1 mile from its source, feeding two manmade lakes along the way. It meets Carson Creek at a point where both Batson Creek and Carson Creek fall over bedrock. The falls meet in an area called "The Silver Slip" before continuing on down Carson Creek. The falls were recently closed to the public until April 16, 2011 when a new, handicapped accessible county park was unveiled. The viewing platform is atop Connestee Falls at 110 ft (33.5 m); the view in front is Batson Falls at 20 ft (6.0 m). Batson Falls is located on private property within the Connestee Falls Community.

Dupont State Park – Triple, Hooker and High Falls

Triple Falls is a 125-foot (38 m) waterfall and flows on the Little River: it is made up of 3 shorter, distinct, different types of waterfalls. Triple Falls was used during the filming of Hunger Games and Last of the Mohicans. Triple Falls is a 0.6 mile hike from the Hooker Falls Parking lot. **Hooker Falls** is wide, but not tall: 15 ft (4.5 m). It is a short hike from the parking area, making it popular. It is a beautiful falls in a beautiful setting and well worth the small amount of effort required to reach it. **High Falls** is considered the highest falls on the Little River at 125 ft (38 m). The water spills over a huge, steeply sloping rock face. It's a wide falls with lots of character; everything from gentle slides to roaring rooster-tails and a few short free-fall sections can be found within it. A covered bridge - once to be part of a private housing development but now part of the State Recreational Forest - spans the river just above the falls. High Falls was also used in the filming of Hunger Games. It is an easy-to-moderate 2.0 mile hike from the Hooker Falls parking area.