

Where to Eat, Stay, and Play in the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau of N.C.

How to make the most of this high-altitude charmer in western North Carolina.

If the pandemic taught us anything, it's that **a little fresh air can provide a big mood boost**. Add some soothing scenery and eye-popping views, and you're fully in the zone for a pure mountain high. Sound appealing? Then pack your bags and head for the Highlands-Cashiers plateau in western **North Carolina**, where the pristine mountain air and easy vacation charm is available in spades.

Just a few miles north of North Carolina's tiny border with Georgia, Highlands is a tiny hamlet sitting at 4,100 feet, making it one of the highest incorporated towns east of the Rockies. Cashiers, 10 miles to the east, is slightly lower in elevation but just as charming. Combined, the two towns offer boutique shopping, luxe accommodations, fine dining, and plenty of that storied Carolina 'cue, providing plenty of restorative diversions. But that's really all window dressing; the real attitude-adjusting ability awaits outside.

Where to Stay in Highlands-Cashiers

For something new in something old, check into the rustic-meets-refined **Highlander Mountain House** (*rooms from \$230 per night*), an 18-room hotel in an 1885 clapboard farmhouse. And in Cashiers, a landmark property just reopened after a full-scale freshen-up. The beloved historic resort, **High Hampton Inn** (*rooms from \$233 per night*), was recently renovated by the team behind Tennessee's revered **Blackberry Farm**.