



Saluda Inn Guest Hiking Guide (Spring 2026)

Exploring the Heart of the Blue Ridge

● Local Favorites (Open & Accessible)

Bell Park (The Bell Loop) * Distance: ~2 miles from the Inn | **Time:** 5 mins

- **The Hike:** A moderate 1.8-mile forest loop featuring a beautiful observation deck and a bench overlooking a waterfall. Great for a quick morning walk.
- **Directions:** Turn right out of the Inn onto Main St. Turn right onto **Hwy 176 East** (toward Tryon). Drive approx. 2 miles; the park entrance is on your right.

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site * Distance: ~11 miles from the Inn | **Time:** 20 mins

- **The Hike:** Walk the **Big Glassy Trail** (approx. 3 miles round trip) for a panoramic view of the mountains from a wide, flat rock summit. Visit the famous goats while you're there!
- **Directions:** Take **I-26 West** to Exit 53 (Upward Rd). Turn left onto Upward Rd. Continue straight onto Highland Lake Rd. Turn right onto **Hwy 225 South**. Turn right onto **Little River Rd**. Parking is on the left.

Jump Off Rock * Distance: ~15 miles from the Inn | **Time:** 30 mins

- **The Hike:** A stunning overlook with three short, well-marked trails (Blue, Yellow, and Red) ranging from easy to moderate. Perfect for sunset.
- **Directions:** Take **I-26 West** to Exit 49B (Hwy 64 West). Follow Hwy 64 into Hendersonville. Turn right onto **5th Ave West**, which becomes **Laurel Park Hwy**. Drive to the very top.

Chimney Rock State Park * Status: Fully Reopened. Reservations are currently recommended for weekend visits.

- **Distance:** ~22 miles from the Inn | **Time:** 40 mins
 - **The Hike:** Hike the **Outcroppings Trail** to the Chimney for iconic views of Lake Lure, or take the **Skyline Trail** to the park's highest peak.
 - **Directions:** Take **Hwy 176 East** into Tryon. Turn left on **Hwy 108 North** toward Columbus. Merge onto **I-26 West** for one exit to **US-74 East**. Take Exit 167 (Hwy 9). Follow **Hwy 9 North** into Chimney Rock Village.
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● Partial Access & Cautions

DuPont State Recreational Forest * Status: Partially Open. Gravel roads (High Falls, Triple Falls) are open. Many "single-track" (narrow) forest trails remain closed for bridge repairs.

- **Distance:** ~21 miles from the Inn | **Time:** 35 mins
- **Directions:** Take **I-26 West** to Exit 40 (Airport Rd). Turn left toward Brevard. Turn left onto **Hwy 64 East**, then right onto **Crab Creek Rd**. Follow signs for DuPont State Forest onto **Staton Rd**.

● Closures & Important Status Updates

Pearson's Falls & Glen * Status: TEMPORARILY CLOSED. * Update: Due to the total loss of the trail and significant road damage on Hwy 176, the site is undergoing a massive restoration. It is currently projected to reopen in **late 2026 or early 2027**.

Little Bradley Falls * Status: CLOSED / UNSAFE. * Update: The Green River Gorge area suffered severe landslides. The trail is currently obstructed by debris and the creek crossings are unstable. We recommend **Wildcat Wayside** (15 mins away in SC) as a safe waterfall alternative.

Innkeeper's Note: Trail conditions can change with winter weather. We recommend checking with us at the front desk or visiting the **NCParks.gov** website before you head out for the day!

Would you like me to adjust any of the mileage or add a specific "local's secret" lunch spot to the directions for any of these?