

Waterfall Guide

THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS



HIGHLANDS
NORTH CAROLINA

— ELEV. 4118 —

visithighlandsnc.com

Surrender

To the Spell of Falling Water

High atop a mountain plateau and nestled by a unique rainforest, Highlands' waterfalls draw visitors from around the world. Some are quiet and diminutive, just more than a rivulet. Others call with raging waters that tumble over granite cliff faces with commanding force. All are beguiling.

No trip to Highlands is complete without a trip along U.S. 64 West, the Mountain Waters Scenic Byway, which offers four, sequential waterfalls just outside of town: Bridal Veil, Dry, Bust Your Butt and Cullasaja.

As much as their beauty beckons, all waterfalls should be approached with great caution. Keep in mind:

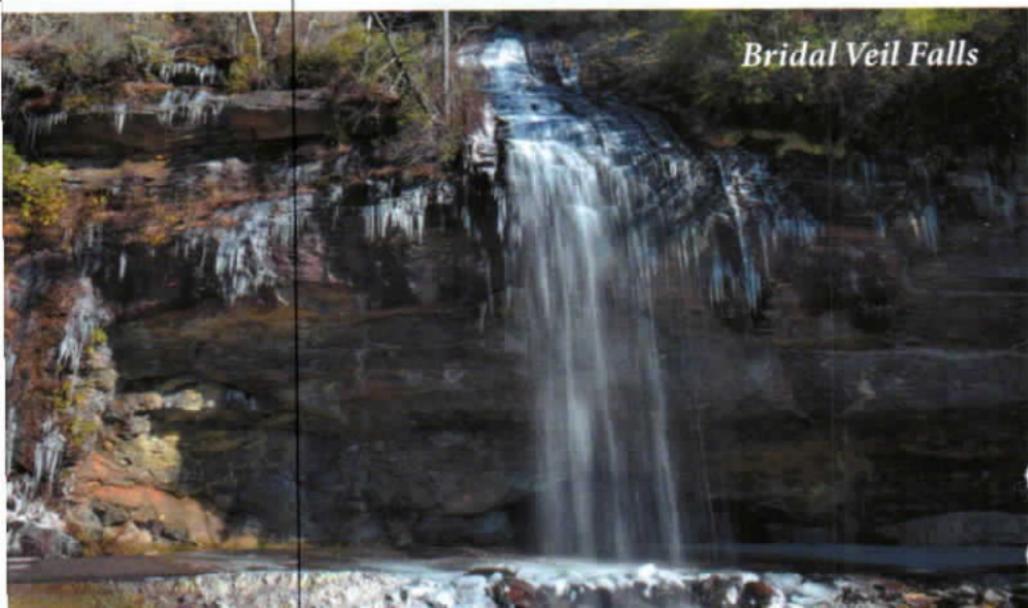
- The best way to enjoy a waterfall is from a safe distance.
- Heed posted warning signs and stay on established trails. Avoid "shortcuts."
- Never climb on or around waterfalls. Stay behind guard rails and fences.
- Never wade or play in water feeding a waterfall. Rocks can be slippery and currents swift; it is easy to lose your balance.
- Keep children and pets close.

For more information on these and other favorite waterfalls, stop by The Highlands Welcome Center at 108 Main Street, call 828-526-2112 or visit highlandschamber.org.

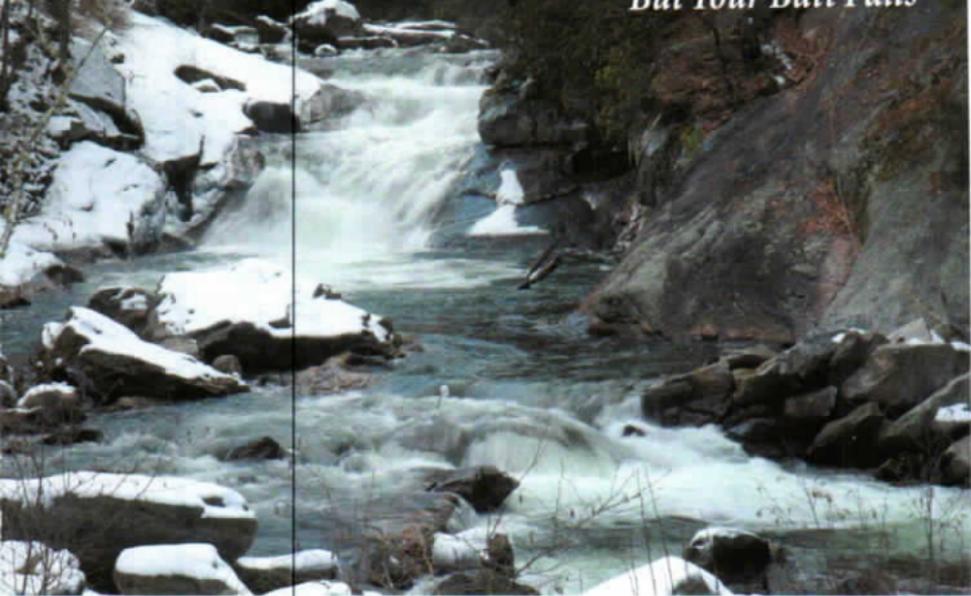
BRIDAL VEIL FALLS

This small, picturesque fall – one of three main waterfalls in the Cullasaja Gorge – is one of the most unusual and popular in the South. Its 120-foot cascade is seen from U.S. 64 West and visitors may walk behind its gentle "veil." According to Cherokee lore, a woman who walks behind the falls in the spring will be married by the first snow. Look for its rainbow in the afternoon sun.

To get there: From downtown Highlands, travel less than three miles on U.S. 64 and look for it on the right.



Bridal Veil Falls



BUST YOUR BUTT FALLS

A series of stair-step falls on the Cullasaja River, this is a highly popular spot. Park, stretch your legs, soak in the view, and dangle your toes in the water. (But be aware of swift currents and slippery or hidden rocks!)

To get there: From downtown Highlands, drive about six miles on U.S. 64 West and pull over on the right or left.

CULLASAJA FALLS

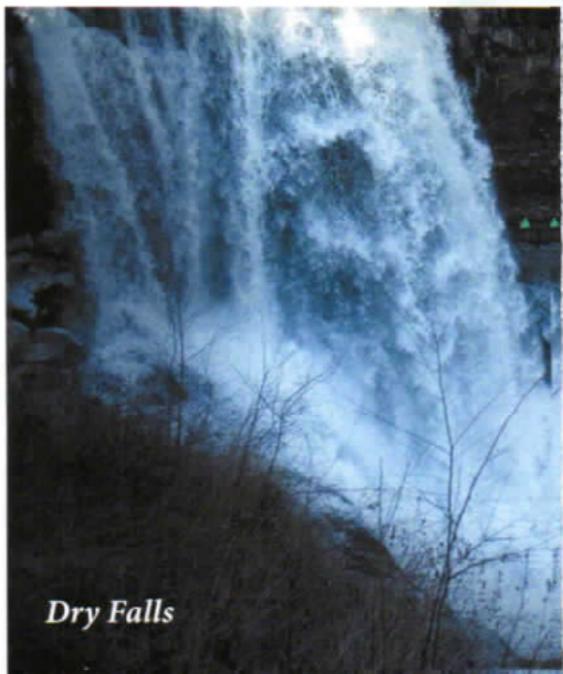
This is a powerful series of rushing waterfalls along the Cullasaja River – 250 feet high and framed with a dramatic cliff face. While the gorge is breathtaking in the spring and fall, winter is when its rock formations can be seen. The falls are easily viewed from the road; it is not safe to try and hike down to the base.

To get there: From Highlands, drive less than nine miles on U.S. 64 West and notice the pull over on the left side of the road. Drive further, turn around at a safe place and retrace your route to park in the pull over. Be sure to park your vehicle completely off the road, as passing trucks need two lanes to navigate the curve. Be safe!

DRY FALLS

Thundering over a cliff, this 75-foot fall allows visitors to walk underneath while staying relatively dry. From the parking area, a pleasant walk down stone steps leads to a path that goes behind the waterfall fed by the Cullasaja River.

To get there: From Highlands, drive just more than three miles on US 64 West to the parking area on the left. A nominal parking fee is required.



Dry Falls

GLEN FALLS

Comprised of three, 80-foot falls dropping 640 feet, the entire Glen Falls' trail descends some 700 feet in one mile. So, the hike down is easy, but back up is steep.

To get there: From Highlands, take N.C. 106 towards Dillard, Ga. In about two miles, look for the sign to the falls. Turn left, then immediately right onto a dirt road. Drive just more than one mile to the parking area.

KALAKALESKIES FALLS (LAKE SEQUOYAH DAM FALLS)

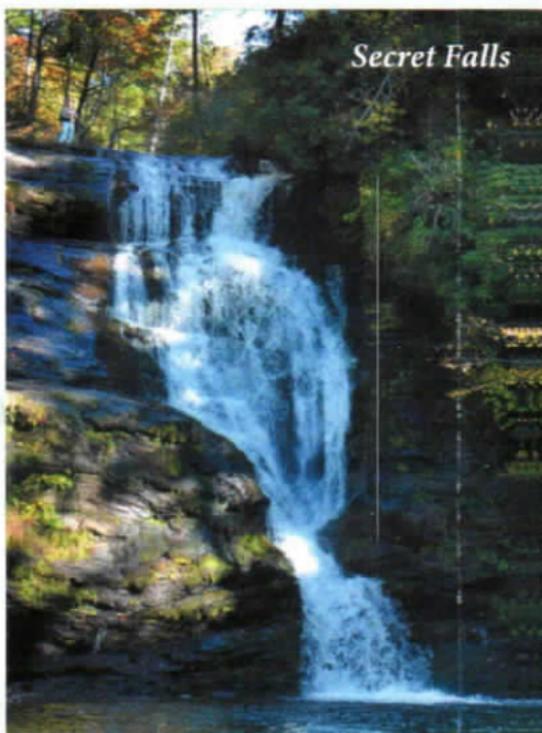
Though less popular than other falls along the Cullasaja Gorge, Kalakaleskies offers a series of smaller falls below the Lake Sequoyah Dam. Great caution should be taken when hiking the trail, as the riverbanks are steep. Taking young children and pets below the dam is not recommended.

To get there: Take U.S. 64 West from Highlands. About two miles after this highway intersects with N.C. 28, pull off into the parking area on the left.

SECRET FALLS

Once a long-held secret, this fall is now accessible via a trail constructed across public lands. Enjoy the seclusion and undeniable sense of mystery that shrouds this charmer.

To get there: Travel south (towards Walhalla) on N.C. 28 from Highlands' Main Street. Follow this road just more than four miles and turn left onto Rich Gap Road. After 0.6 mile, make a right on Forest Service Road FR45670, a gravel road that may be marked as Big Creek Road. Drive approximately 1.75 miles on this unpaved road to the Upper Trail Head parking area on the right. The old road turns into a footpath which leads to the falls.



Secret Falls





Whitewater Falls

SLIDING ROCK FALLS

Created by the Chattooga River, this natural waterslide glides over a 10-foot-high rock face with a few large potholes. The water is cool, making it a popular spot during the summer. Visitors can slide down the rock, or just wade in the pool below the rock. This quiet spot has delighted guests for generations. Stop along the way to see the World's Smallest Post Office.

To get there: From Highlands, take Horse Cove Road to the end of the pavement. Turn left onto Whiteside Cove Road and travel approximately five miles. Look for a small parking area off the road.

WHITEWATER FALLS

This is the highest waterfall east of the Rocky Mountains, with the upper portion falling 411 feet. Fed by the Whitewater River, it cascades over massive rock pillars.

To get there: Take U.S. 64 East from Highlands to Cashiers and turn right onto N.C. 107 South. Travel about nine miles, crossing into South Carolina, and turn left onto S.C. 130 South. Follow the signs to Whitewater Falls.



Dry Falls

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