

Bucket List

- Attend, volunteer, or bring a friend to a local festival...
- NC Gravity Games, ASU/GOOGLE event Spring - Lenoir
- NC Butterfly Festival, First Sat in May – Hudson
- Art in the Park, Spring – Granite Falls
- NC Blackberry Festival, Second Sat. in July – Lenoir
- Lenoir Rotary Christmas Festival - November
- Don't Worry Be Hoppy Blues Festival - August
- Festival in the Park – Multicultural – May
- Hudson Art Festival - September
- Granite Falls Festival on Main - September
- Harambee Festival, August - Lenoir
- Sawmills Fall Festival – October
- Molasses Festival – Dudley Shoals
- Tattoo Festival, Labor Day Weekend- Lenoir
- Historic Happy Valley Fiddler's Convention – Labor Day Weekend
- Smoking in the Foothills BBQ Festival, October - Lenoir
- Dr. Seuss Birthday Parade on Mulberry St. "Oh the places you'll go!"
- Soar at the Annual Kite Flying Festival – Fort Defiance
- Embrace the Wilson Creek Festival of Colors – Oct.
- Cycle to Serve Lenoir Rotary Cycling Event – May
- Visit the "Light up Lenoir" Christmas light motion show on the Square
- Experience sights and sounds of the Christmas Parades in Granite Falls, Hudson, Lenoir and Sawmills.
- Buy season tickets to the J E Broyhill Civic Center – Attend all events!
- Cheer on the Hickory Crawdad's our Minor League Baseball Team
- Support local school/community sports programs – attend a game.
- Catch a fly ball! From Little League to American Legion to "future Major League hometown heroes"
- Support Lenoir Oilers Baseball 2016 Champions Walker Stadium
- Throw a "MAD BUM" Party - 3-time World Series Baseball Pitcher
- Don't miss the "Friday's After Five" Concerts on the Square in Lenoir
- Watch Fabulous Family Films – Sat. nights June- Dec. in Lenoir
- Peruse Downtown Cruise – Ins and special events in our 8 Municipalities
- Explore a detailed street map of the county. FYI – There are some areas in the county without cell phone reception. Be prepared!
- Feed your inner artist at the 35th Annual Sculpture Celebration – Sept.
- Search out local studios with Art Around Caldwell Gallery & Studio Tours.
- Attend Memorial Day events and pay respects at the Soldiers Monument on the Square in Lenoir, Granite Falls, Hudson and Sawmills.
- Enjoy local talent at the Caldwell Traditional Musicians Showcase.
- See a bird's eye view of Caldwell County at Foothills Regional Airport.
- Soar like an eagle w/Thermal Valley's Tandem Hang Gliding Flights!
- Savor the tastes & enjoy "An Evening of Everything Blackberry" - July
- Attend the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony Nation Guard Armory.
- Wet a hook or take out the boat on Lake Hickory, Lake Rhodhiss, Gunpowder Cove, Castle Bridge and many other aquatic adventures.
- Learn about local history at Hudson's Railroad Depot Museum.
- Hear the "talking trees," hike or picnic at Tuttle State Educational Forest.
- Join the Chamber sponsored Leadership Caldwell Class, visit the 747 Business Connection networking events - 3rd Friday of each month
- Get involved with FUEL - Young Professionals Focus, Unite, Engage, Lead
- Enjoy a Caldwell Men's Chorus or CCC&TI Student Chorus Concert.
- Attend a dance recital at JE Broyhill Civic Center.
- Take a step back in time at the Wilson Creek Civil War Encampment.
- Swing to the styling sounds of The Starlighters Jazz Orchestra.
- Trace Stoneman's Raid and the Over Mountain Victory Trails.
- Get your very own Caldwell Co. Library Card and visit all three branches – Granite Falls, Hudson and Lenoir. Join a book club or see Movies w/Mike.
- Visit the History Room at the Lenoir branch of the library.
- Visit a shut-in neighbor or local nursing facility – bring your smile!
- Attend a Foothills Performing Arts or CAST theater production.
- Donate to "Locks for Love" at the Caldwell County Wig Bank.
- Sleep in the dorms at Patterson School Foundation. Take a workshop, visit the Western NC Sculpture Center on campus.
- Attend the 3rd Annual Farmers' Table Pot Luck Supper – Nov.
- Investigate the Tom Dooley/ Laura Foster Yadkin River saga.
- Reminisce at the Caldwell Heritage Museum. Volunteer!
- Have "Coffee with the Curator" & meet the history museum director.
- Train for and enter a 5-K to support a local cause, i.e. CIS Hibriten Hill Run, Women's Shelter Glow Run, Soldier's Run and more.
- Explore our area for National Register of Historic Places sites. i.e. Fort Defiance, Chapel of Rest, Mariah's Chapel, etc.
- Attend the 25th Annual Bolick & Traditions Thanksgiving Kiln Opening.
- See the new documentary on potter and storyteller "Glenn Bolick – Sawmill Man" by ASU grad & NC native Rebecca Jones.
- Buy a special piece of pottery, a unique painting or hand-crafted items from the many local artisans in Caldwell County.
- Shop Local First! Boost local economy at unique shops & big box stores.
- Embrace our musical heritage. Research & enjoy greats from Caldwell Co. i.e. Jim Avett, Eric Church, George Younce, Etta Baker, Mike Cross, Carl Story....
- Support local musicians like Strictly Clean & Decent, The Harris Brothers, Tim Hall and Buffalo Country, Carolina Ray, Chad Triplett & many more...
- Take in a show or event at Hudson Uptown Building.
- Step outside and explore the walking/hiking trails. caldwellpathways.com, hikewnc.info/trailheads/pisgah-national-forest/grandfather-ranger-district/, explorecaldwell.com
- Challenge yourself to hike our section of the "Mountains to the Sea Trail" and experience our part of the Pisgah National Forest.
- Venture off road to the Brown Mtn. Off-Hwy Trail System permit area.
- Enjoy a unique Star and Cross lit atop Hibriten Mountain at the Christmas and Easter seasons from dusk to dawn.
- Drive from Hwy 321N. cross country to Hwy 90 through Nelson Chapel, Mulberry and Globe Mtn. communities. Hint - gas up before you leave town. There are many beautiful drives in Caldwell County. Explore!
- Have you tasted locally distilled Apple Brandy, Strawberry Infusion, Apple Pie Shine or locally crafted beers?
- Taste local wines at Shadow Line, Six Waterpots, Twisted Vine wineries.
- Seek out the landscapes, flora and fauna that abound in our county. Start with the arboretum style landscape at the Visitor Center.
- VOTE! It's a privilege. It's a responsibility.
- Get involved with a civic and/or service organization.
- Plant in the community garden boxes available near your home.
- Sign up for a dance class, learn to zumba, clog, study yoga or even consider belly dancing lessons right here in Caldwell County.
- Visit www.blueridgeheritage.com/heritage/music/blue-ridge-music-trails and enjoy local hot spots featured – Sim's Country Cloggers, Front Porch Pickin', Bluegrass and Biscuits Gang & more.
- Support local musicians at the Tucker's Barn Singer Songwriters series.
- Make an appointment go visit The Thankful Goat Farm and purchase goat soaps and lotions to sooth away the rough places.
- Attend a Chapel of Rest Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve Service.
- Picnic and ride along the Caldwell Co. section of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Our northern boundary begins atop Calloway Peak on Grandfather Mtn.
- Watch a sunrise or sunset at your favorite spot in the county.
- Explore the Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor and see where it leads. This major NC River Basin has it's headwaters in Caldwell County.

Bucket List

- Spend the afternoon at a local playground – Buffalo Cove, Baton, Mulberry, Oak Hill, Redwood, Sawmills, Granite Falls, Cahah’s Mtn. & more
- Did you know the actual rock of the famous “Blowing Rock” is actually in Caldwell County? So is part of Grandfather Mountain and Brown Mtn.
- Search for and investigate the “unexplained” Brown Mountain Lights.
- Bike the back roads or cruise the city streets of our townships, communities and 8 municipalities.
- Tee-Off at one of 4 golf courses in Caldwell County.
- Fish the wild trout waters of Harper’s Creek & Yadkin River.
- Catfish the deep waters of the Catawba and John’s Rivers.
- Decompress in the hatchery supported waters of Wilson Creek.
- Paddle area waterways or try river snorkeling in pristine mtn. streams.
- Make a splash at the local pools – Granite, Hudson and Lenoir.
- Tube down the Yadkin, John’s and Wilson Creek.
- Invite someone to cruise the NC Scenic By-Way of Hwy 268 through beautiful Happy Valley into our neighboring Wilkes County.
- Enjoy locally grown veggies at one of 3 area Farmer’s Markets.
- Search for treasures at several local antique stores across the region.
- Dine at the over 100 eating establishments in Caldwell Co. from local foods to multicultural and ethnic cuisines.
- Imagine yourself winning the NC Blackberry Recipe Contest or Eating Contest. Enter the contests and see what happens!
- Check out the new happenings in the Buffalo Cove community. Pizza & Sandwiches with outdoor dining by the fire pit or investigate the Outdoor Education Center. Some say it’s the “Best Pizza in NC!”
- Support CIS at A Taste of Caldwell or The Wig Bank Red Dress event.
- Watch your disc soar at the beautiful Disc Golf Course at the Sawmills Veteran’s Park. Play the entire world class course.
- See Living History Days or attend the Oyster Roast at Fort Defiance.
- Investigate the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum.
- Check out the 65’ high and 1,500’ wide Rhodhiss Dam built in 1925, bringing hydro-electricity to the upper Catawba River 100 years ago.
- Make it a point to see the Vintage Vending Machine Co. in Granite Falls.
- Visit the cemetery of General William Lenoir’s residence and the historic Chapel of Rest on NC Scenic By-Way Hwy 268.
- Bike, hike or walk the more than 25 greenways, paths & trails.
- Mountain Bike the Zack’s Fork trail behind the Lenoir Aquatic Center
- Hike Hibriten Mtn. and see the county from above.
- Visit <https://hibritenmountain.com/web-cams/> and see the 24/7 north, south, east and west view from the mountain summit.
- Challenge yourself at our premier Xscape Room in Hudson.
- Listen to local sports events or music on www.gofoothills.com stations
- Try your hand at horseback riding at area barns or 4H camps.
- The BEST “Carolina Burger” starts the NC Burger Trial begins in Lenoir.
- Hunt, fish, paddle and explore our section of the Pisgah National Forest.
- Join a River Clean-up w/ the Wilson Creek Keepers or WC Faithful in Oct.
- Shoot a game of pool with the locals at the Senior Center.
- Attend a County Commissioner meeting or a City/Town Council meeting.
- Travel the gravel part of Hwy 90 which begins in Edgemont and travels east out of the county. It is the last NC highway that has a gravel portion.
- Participate in the Lenoir Citizen’s Police Academy.
- Go camping at the Mortimer Recreation Area or back pack and primitive camp on the banks of Harper Creek.
- Take your picture with at least half of the over 80 permanent sculptures on public display. Visit www.caldwellarts.com for more info.
- Absorb the beautiful music of the Western NC Symphony concerts.
- Play miniature golf, laser tag, bowl, visit the arcade, batting cage, grill or join a bowling league at local sports entertainment center – Bo’s!
- Visit all 7 Town Hall’s & show appreciation to the folks that work there.
- Slip down the two-story slide or swim laps in an Olympic size swimming pool at the Lenoir Aquatic Center. Swim Year Round!
- Enjoy the fall & spring fairs – at the Caldwell County Fairgrounds.
- Did you know, the Lenoir Greenway is designated as a NC Birding Site?
- Tally various birds in the Great American Backyard Bird Count.
- Record the September Raptor Migration Hawk Count at the Wilkesboro Blvd. branch of Skyline Bank – there is a special viewing shelter.
- Walk/bike the miles of Caldwell County Pathways including a Hwy 321 underpass to safely connect east to west foot/bike travel.
- Hike to Granite Falls, Harper Creek, Phillip’s Branch, Yellow Buck, Grag Prong, Chestnut Mtn., Adam’s Knob, and the list goes on and on and on...
- Introduce yourself and discuss issues with local political leaders. Listen!
- Get your picture taken with “Cooter the Prize Cow” at GoFoothills.com
- Participate in Relay for Life at Hibriten High School.
- HGTV highlighted “The MUG House” – a scenic roadside stop on the Old John’s River Road. Don’t forget to sign the guest register on the porch.
- Travel to Betsey’s Ole Country Store & catch a trout or sleep in a teepee.
- Investigate Coffey’s General Store a spot captured in time in Edgemont.
- Strap on your roller-skates and circle round one of our two skating rinks.
- Club Cola is one of several great places to book your next party.
- Be informed. Read the local News Topic and/or pick up a free weekly edition of The Caldwell Journal.
- Donate items to Yokefellow and or South Caldwell Christian Ministries.
- See the ever-changing Tucker’s Gallery & the Declaration of Independence in downtown Lenoir.
- See a play or show at the JE Broyhill Civic Center or The HUB.
- Take your bike off-road at the new Zack’s Fork Mountain Bike Trail.
- Enjoy all four seasons of weather in Caldwell County.
- Tap into the social media scene and enjoy the downtown “Cloud Cover” with free Wi-Fi provided by GOOGLE in Lenoir and Hudson.
- Take a class at CCC&TI. Visit the campus Food Truck events!
- Pursue the shelves of book stores and art stores in the downtown areas.
- Fireworks & 4th of July Celebrations in Lenoir and Collettsville.
- Christmas is a great time to see a church play or listen to a local cantata.
- You’ll be downright dirty if you crawl in the mud-pit and obstacle course during the Dudley Shoals Endure Soldier 5K. Go for it!
- Racing fans call Antioch Speedway the fastest half mile dirt track around.
- Tri-County Motor Speedway in Hudson hosts Carolina Vintage Racers.
- Stand safely on the solid rocks of Wilson Creek and watch kayaks maneuver Triple-drop Falls, Boat-buster or Razor-back rapids.
- Kick up your heels with the Sim’s Country Cloggers and enjoy delicious barbeque all at the same establishment in Dudley Shoals.
- Go without TV, cell phone, radio or dare I say any electronic device for one week. Okay, at least try it for 24 hours. You can do it!
- Stroll the heart shaped gardens of the Charles & Lucille Suddreth Memorial Park connected to the Yadkin River Greenway.
- Take music lessons at James C. Harper School of Music. Attend a recital.
- Savor coffee or tea at one of the local coffee shops. Note the local art work displayed and some might just be for sale.
- Investigate the historical life of Laura Leah Caroline Lenoir Norwood at the Caldwell Heritage Museum.
- Create, build, develop ideas at the Foothills Community Workshop – makers space in Granite Falls.
- Get involved, lend a hand, share, visit, call, reconcile... Go, Be, Do ...

Please help us expand this list. Email your ideas and opportunities to visitors@caldwellchambernc.com. After exploring and perhaps even venturing beyond your comfort zone, you may be astonished at what you will find. We are sure you’ll agree...

....THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!