

OUR FAVORITE HIKES

BOONE TRAILS

1. Greenway trail: along Winkler Creek, easily accessed at several points in town. Great for running, walking and easy cycling. A favorite access is right next to the Lowes Hardware store on Hwy 321. Several miles of creek side trail, some of it in the town. Easy to google detailed descriptions.
2. Elk Knob State Park: about 15 min north of Boone on Meat Camp Rd. Best to allow about 3 hours of total time. The trail to the top is about 2 miles long with switchbacks so never very steep. Beautiful 360 degrees views at the top.
3. Rocky Knob cycling park: biking trailpark just east of Boone off of Hwy 421. Lots of trails are challenging and technical but good maps are there to show easier routes.

PARKWAY TRAILS

1. Beacon Heights (near Linville and Grandfather Mountain): very short hike- less than 1/2 mile to a beautiful overlook. Great picnic spot and easy grade. Milepost 305 near 221 crossing.
2. Rough Ridge: another short trail - just 1/3 mile from parking lot gaining about 500 feet elevation with great views and picnic spots. Near milepost 303.
3. Grandfather Mountain: A great place to hike - about a mile south of mile post 305 on the parkway on highway 221. \$20 entrance fee for adults but a drive up to the swinging bridge is a popular tourist attraction. There is a museum and animal park about halfway up. At the parking lot at the top, across from the swinging bridge is a great trail, well maintained, to the top of McCrae Peak. It is steep in places and very steep after a mile, using ladders and cables to access the summit. It is safe but exposed.

BLOWING ROCK TRAILS

1. Glen Burnie Trail: Short trail, steep at times but trailhead is in the town of Blowing Rock at the Annie Cannon Park with pretty waterfall . About a mile round trip.
2. Bass Lake: Great for walks and runs (no bikes) just 1/2 mile south of Blowing Rock on 221. Flat 1 mile loop around the lake with lots of extensive side trails through Moses Cone park. It is possible to run 15 miles in the park on fairly easy trails. Map is posted at the Bass Lake parking area of all the trails.
3. Trout Lake: On the other side of the parkway off Shull's Mill Rd. Another mile long trail around a pretty lake.

