

# CARTER COUNTY × TENNESSEE ×

## *Visitor Guide*






# *Welcome to*

## **CARTER COUNTY**

### **× T E N N E S S E E ×**

From Elizabethton to Roan Mountain, Carter County offers travelers an experience full of natural beauty, outdoor adventure, history, music and family-friendly activities year-round. Welcoming people and small town charm make visitors feel at home here. We hope you'll enjoy visiting and make memories that last a lifetime.

## **VISITOR INFORMATION**

 **Carter County Visitor Center**  
615 E Elk Ave.  
Elizabethton, TN 37643

 **423.547.3850**

 **tourcartercounty.com**  
**elizabethtonchamber.com**



# EVENTS

## ENJOY THE COMMUNITY



### APRIL

Spring Naturalist Rally  
Carter Mansion Celebration

### MAY

Music & Miles Half Marathon

### JUNE

Carter County Omnium Bike Race  
Liberty! The Saga of Sycamore Shoals  
Roan Mountain Rhododendron Festival

### JULY

Fourth of July Boat Parade at Watauga Lake  
Elizabethton Independence Day Celebration

### SEPTEMBER

Elizabethton Covered Bridge Days  
Overmountain Victory Trail March

### OCTOBER

Roan Mountain Fall-O-Dendron Festival  
Downtown Elizabethton Trick-or-Treat

### NOVEMBER

Colonial Harvest Celebration  
Elizabethton Christmas Tree Lighting  
Downtown Business Christmas Open House

### DECEMBER

Roan Mountain Christmas Tree Lighting  
Downtown Elizabethton Christmas Parade  
Christmas at the Carter Mansion

## SEASONAL EVENTS

Stateline Drive-In Movie Theater - *April to September*  
Elizabethton First Friday - *May to August*  
Covered Bridge Jams - *June to September*  
Elizabethton Farmers Market - *June to August*  
Elizabethton River Riders Baseball - *June to August*  
Skate by The Doe Ice Rink - *November to December*



# EXPERIENCES

MAKE LASTING MEMORIES

Nestled in Northeast Tennessee's Blue Ridge Mountains, Carter County has everything you need to plan the perfect Tennessee vacation. It's a one-stop shop for experiencing natural beauty, history and outdoor recreation all in a family-friendly atmosphere.

## DOWNTOWN ELIZABETHTON

Featuring many dining, shopping and other entertainment options in a historic district with plenty of small town charm, downtown Elizabethton has something for everyone. You can enjoy a stroll through Covered Bridge Park or learn about many historic landmarks on the self-guided downtown walking tour.

During the summer a car show is held every Saturday night and you can often find live music or other entertainment in the park or at one of the downtown businesses.

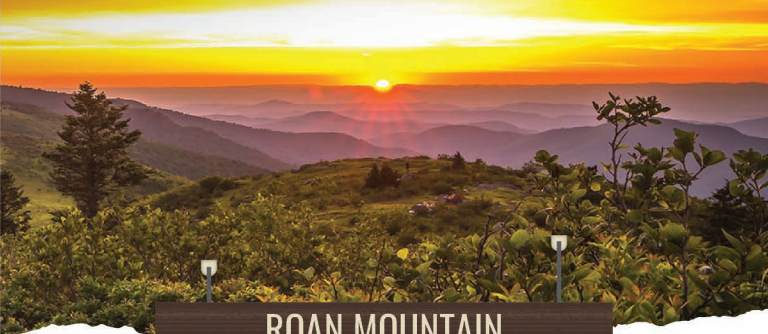


## ELIZABETHTON COVERED BRIDGE

Built in 1882 at a cost of \$3000, the 154' long Elizabethton Covered Bridge spans across the Doe River and serves as a focal point of downtown Elizabethton. Although cars can no longer drive through it, the bridge is still open to pedestrian traffic. The adjacent park hosts many events throughout the year, including an annual festival celebrating the "Queen of the Doe".







## ROAN MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Roan Mountain State Park offers visitors opportunities to fish, hike, camp and learn about the history of the mountain. Park rangers host exciting programs throughout the year for guests of all ages to take part in fun activities and learn about nature. The park is also home to 30 rental cabins, a campground with RV and tent sites, a swimming pool, conference center and pavilions.

Make the scenic drive up to Carver's Gap along TN-143 to access the Appalachian Trail and hike Roan Mountain's famous balds. You can also see the world's largest natural rhododendron garden which blooms around June. The Roan Mountain Citizens Club hosts an annual rhododendron festival every June to celebrate this display of natural beauty.



## SYCAMORE SHOALS STATE HISTORIC PARK

Sycamore Shoals played a significant role in 18th century history as the setting for some of the most dramatic events to occur in the expansion of America's western boundary. Guests can walk through history in the park's museum or stroll along the Overmountain Victory Trail to see where volunteer Revolutionary War heroes crossed the Watauga River to muster for battle. Tennessee's Official Outdoor Drama "Liberty! The Saga of Sycamore Shoals," is an annual tribute to the nation's earliest settlement, The Watauga Association.



# ADVENTURES

FIND YOUR NEW FAVORITE



Hiking



Biking



Birding



Water Sports



Fishing

## BLUE HOLE FALLS

Located at the base of Holston Mountain, this series of three waterfalls is a local favorite and just a short hike from the parking area. Access it easily from TN-91.

## HOLSTON MOUNTAIN

Some choose to explore this mountain ridge in the Cherokee National Forest on horseback, while others scout it out on foot. Side trails connect to the Appalachian Trail and pass by an abandoned fire tower.



## TWEETSIE TRAIL

This 10 mile crushed gravel rail-trail between Johnson City and Elizabethton is a favorite of walkers, runners and cyclists. It honors the history of the ET&WNC Railroad, also known as the Tweetsie Railroad, which once connected Johnson City to Cranberry, NC. Interpretive markers along the trail commemorate significant stops on the railroad line.

## LAUREL FORK FALLS

Laurel Fork Falls, simply called Laurel Falls locally, is a majestic waterfall within the Pond Mountain Wilderness. Comprised of 6,935 acres, this wilderness area is crossed by the Appalachian Trail and offers a rugged experience.



## WATAUGA LAKE

Watauga Dam, completed in 1948, created a reservoir which is used for fishing, boating, swimming, and other recreational activities in addition to flood control and hydroelectric power through the TVA. Surrounded by mountains and with the Cherokee National Forest protecting much of the shoreline from development, Watauga Lake is known for its clean waters and scenic beauty. The cold, deep water that drains from Watauga Lake fills smaller Wilbur Lake, one of Carter County's "hidden gems."



## APPALACHIAN TRAIL

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail, an approximately 2,190 mile footpath that follows the Appalachian range from Georgia to Maine, winds through some of the most breathtaking mountain scenery in East Tennessee. Multiple access points throughout Carter County allow for out-and-back hikes and provide paths to many attractions.

## DOE RIVER

The Doe River flows from Roan Mountain to Elizabethton, offering abundant fishing and kayaking opportunities along the way. Happy Trails Park and Green Bridge Landing provide put-in and take-out locations for kayakers and the Doe River Fishing Trail provides public access points to over 8 miles of the Doe River for anglers of all ages.

## WATAUGA RIVER

The Watauga River flows westward from Grandfather Mountain, NC into Tennessee, providing world-class trout fishing as well as rafting and kayaking opportunities before emptying into Boone Lake near Johnson City.





# HISTORY

## EXPERIENCE THE PAST



### FORT WATAUGA

The reconstruction of the 18th century Fort Watauga at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park often features living history and other educational programs. The fort also acts as a backdrop to the annual production of Tennessee's official outdoor drama, *Liberty! The Saga of Sycamore Shoals*.

### DOWNTOWN ELIZABETHTON WALKING TOUR

This self-guided walking tour will take you on a stroll to see landmarks that have played a significant role in Elizabethton's rich history and learn the stories behind them. Guide booklets are available at the Elizabethton/Carter County Visitor Center and online at [tourcartercounty.com/walkingtour](http://tourcartercounty.com/walkingtour)

### CARTER MANSION

The oldest frame house in Tennessee, the Carter Mansion, was the home of pioneers John and Landon Carter. Built between 1775 and 1780, this home is the site of several historic music, craft, and storytelling events throughout the year. For more information or to find out about tours and other special events, contact Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park at (423) 543-5808

### SABINE HILL

Sabine Hill, also known as the General Nathaniel Taylor House, is a historic house in Elizabethton, Tennessee. The two-story Federal style building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. For more information or to find out about tours and other special events, contact Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park at (423) 543-5808





# LODGING

## UNIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS



## CAMPGROUNDS, CABINS AND MOTELS

### Bayview Family Campground

(423) 768-0434

[bayviewfamilycampgroundandmarina.com](http://bayviewfamilycampgroundandmarina.com)

### Bee Cliff Cabins

(423) 542-6033

[beeciffcabins.com](http://beeciffcabins.com)

### Black Bear Resort

(423) 725-5988

[blackbearresorttn.com](http://blackbearresorttn.com)

### Cove Ridge Marina & Campground

(423) 218-9215

[coveridgemarina.com](http://coveridgemarina.com)

### Hidden Cottages

(423) 543-5261

[hiddencottagestn.com](http://hiddencottagestn.com)

### Lakeshore Resort & Marina

(423) 725-2201

[lakeshore-resort.com](http://lakeshore-resort.com)

### Cardens Bluff & Dennis Cove Campgrounds

(423) 735-1500

[recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov)

### Ridgeview RV Park and Cabins

423-292-3843

[ridgeviewcampground.com](http://ridgeviewcampground.com)

### East Tennessee RV Park

(423) 543-8363

[etrvpark.com](http://etrvpark.com)

### Meredith Valley Cabins

(423) 543-8603

[facebook.com/meredithvalleyfarm](https://facebook.com/meredithvalleyfarm)

### Roan Mountain State Park

(800) 250-8620

[tnstateparks.com/parks/roan-mountain](http://tnstateparks.com/parks/roan-mountain)

### Watauga Dam Campground

(423) 543-0233

[wataugadam.com](http://wataugadam.com)

### Watauga River Cabins

(863) 528-3841

[wataugarivercabins.com](http://wataugarivercabins.com)

### Watauga River Lodge

(828) 208-3428

[wataugariverlodge.com](http://wataugariverlodge.com)

### Roan Mountain Rentals

423-543-7424

[roanmountainrentals.com](http://roanmountainrentals.com)

### Southerly Stays

[southerlystays.com](http://southerlystays.com)

### The Chalet Retreat

[thechaletretreat.com](http://thechaletretreat.com)

### Americourt

(423) 542-4466

[americourthotels.com](http://americourthotels.com)

### Camp Stonefly

(704) 301-4080

## B&B AND HOSTELS

### Roan Mountain Bed & Breakfast

(423) 772-3207

[roanmtbb.com](http://roanmtbb.com)

### The Station at 19E

(423) 250-3700

[thestationat19e.com](http://thestationat19e.com)

### Boots Off Hostel & Campground

(239) 218-3904

[bootsoff.camp](http://bootsoff.camp)

### Mountain Harbour

(423) 772-9494

[mountainharbour.info](http://mountainharbour.info)





# **DINING**

DISCOVER LOCAL FARE

## **DOWNTOWN ELIZABETHTON**

### **CITY MARKET**

449 East E Street  
(423) 543-1751

### **THE COFFEE COMPANY**

444 E Elk Ave  
(423) 542-3438

### **BIG DAN'S BBQ**

633 E Elk Ave  
(423) 542-2272

### **DINO'S ITALIAN**

420 E Elk Ave  
(423) 218-1930

### **J'S CORNER**

102 S Lynn Ave  
(423) 547-3300

### **JIGGY RAY'S DOWNTOWN PIZZERIA**

610 E Elk Ave  
(423) 518-1500

### **RED CHILI**

115 S Sycamore St  
(423) 213-2104

### **THE SOUTHERN RESTAURANT**

408 E Elk Ave  
(423) 542-6736

### **SWEETSIE TREATZ**

438 E Elk Ave  
(423) 518-1190

### **SIMPLE BLESSINGS GENERAL STORE**

508 E Elk Avenue  
(423) 518-1005





## ELIZABETHTON

### **Black Olive**

173 Hudson Dr  
(423) 543-8400

### **Mayflower Seafood**

1733 US-19E  
(423) 542-3667

### **El Charolais**

508 Broad St  
(423) 543-2033

### **Greg's Pizza**

776 W. Elk Ave.  
(423) 543-3133

## ROAN MOUNTAIN

### **Americano Steak House**

8362 US-19E  
(423) 481-1201

### **Puerto Nuevo**

### **Fresh Mex & Seafood**

8162 Hwy 19 E  
(423) 481-1412

### **Bob's Dairyland**

8361 US-19E  
(423) 772-3641

### **Jack's Country Market**

1235 TN-143  
(423) 268-8929

### **Highlander BBQ**

8315 US-19E  
(423) 772-0016

### **Snack Wagon**

8171 US-19E  
(423) 772-0089

### **Smoky Mountain Bakers**

126 Orr St  
(423) 957-1202

## WATAUGA LAKE / HAMPTON

### **Southern Craft BBQ**

### **Watauga Lake**

2340 US-321  
(423) 725-5263

### **Shirley's Home Cooking**

3266 US-321  
(423) 768-2092



# RELOCATION

## ABOUT YOUR NEW HOME



Visitors to our area often fall in love with the community and decide to make it their home. The friendly people combined with a variety of activities and low cost living make Carter County a great location for all ages.

### QUICK FACTS

**County Area:** 341 sq mi

**Median Household Income:** \$40,820

**Average Climate:** July 85°/58° | January 42°/25°

### POPULATION

**Elizabethton:** 14,546

**Carter County:** 56,356

### LOCATION

- One of eight counties in Northeast Tennessee
- Mountain ranges within the Blue Ridge Mountain chain
- Elizabethton Drive Times
  - Johnson City - 20 Minutes
  - Bristol, TN/VA - 30 Minutes
  - Tri-Cities Airport - 30 Minutes
  - Boone, NC - 1 Hour
  - Asheville, NC - 1.25 Hours

### COST OF LIVING

**No State Income Tax**

**Property Tax** (On 25% of Appraised Property Value)

**City:** \$1.57 per \$100

**County:** \$2.03 per \$100

**Sales Tax:** (State) 7% (Local) 2.75%

### MORE INFORMATION

**City of Elizabethton**

[elizabethton.org](http://elizabethton.org)

**Carter County**

[cartercountyttn.gov](http://cartercountyttn.gov)

\*All information based on available 2022 data



## HEALTH CARE

Carter County boasts access to a complete system of health care options to support your well-being. From everyday health care to emergency services, the area is home to an ever-expanding network of physicians, dentists, and optometrists.

Sycamore Shoals Hospital is an award-winning 121-bed facility on a 27-acre medical campus, with several medical offices supporting their operations.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Carter County school system is comprised of 14 elementary, middle, and high school campuses, with Elizabethton city schools providing an additional 6 schools.



## HIGHER EDUCATION

Milligan University is renowned as a premier Christian liberal arts college. More than 100 majors, minors, professional degrees and concentrations, along with graduate and adult completion programs are offered. For more information, visit [milligan.edu](http://milligan.edu) or call (423) 461-8700.

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology is the premier workforce development training provider for Northeast Tennessee, serving's students and employers in Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington counties. For more information, visit [tcatelizabethton.edu](http://tcatelizabethton.edu) or call (423) 543-0070.

East Tennessee State University and Northeast State Community College also have campuses and facilities located in Elizabethton. For more information about higher education in the area, call us at (423) 547-3850.

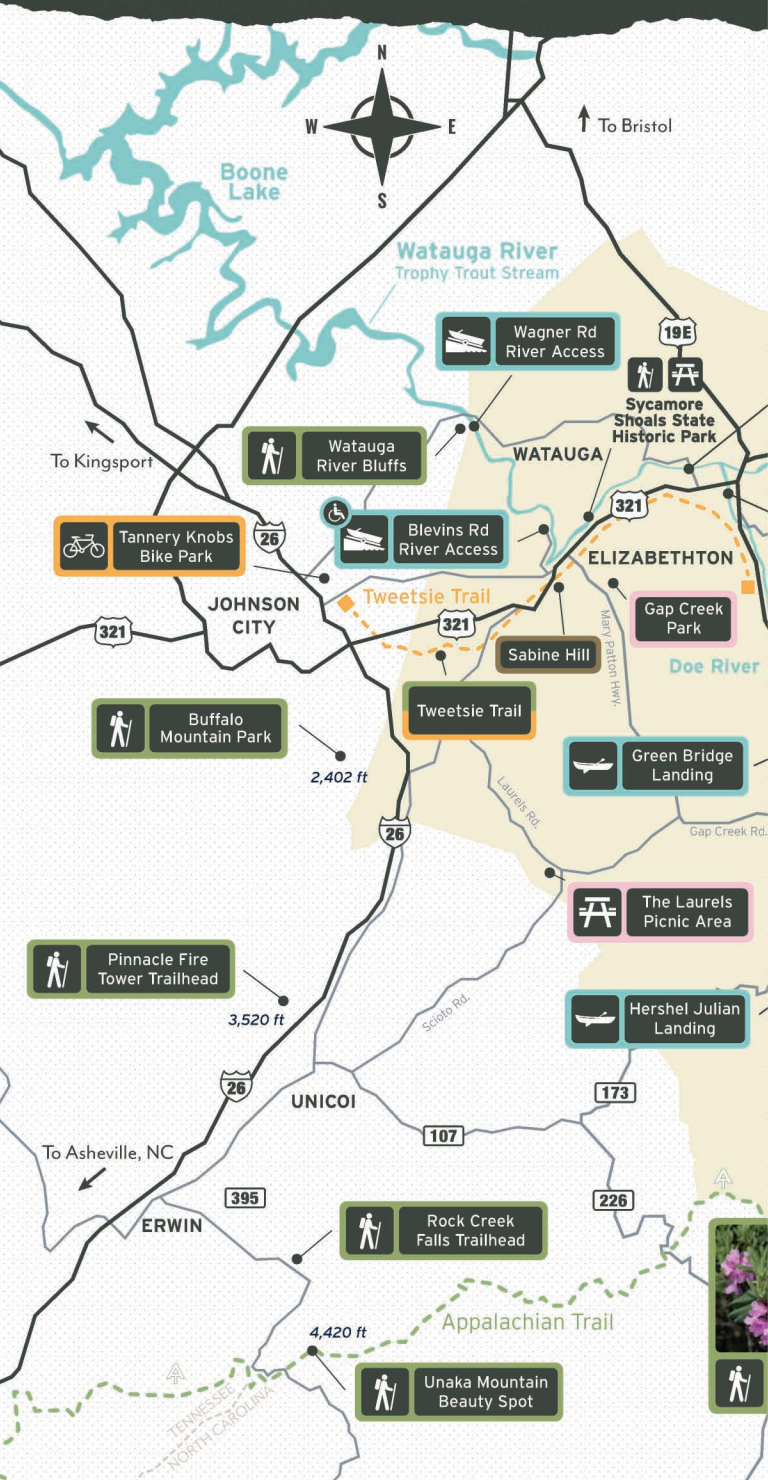


*An Official Retire Tennessee Community*



# AREA MAP

Explore Carter County and the surrounding communities to experience the beauty of Northeast Tennessee. Find additional information at [tourcartercounty.com](http://tourcartercounty.com)





# ACTIVITY LEGEND

- Hiking
- Biking
- History

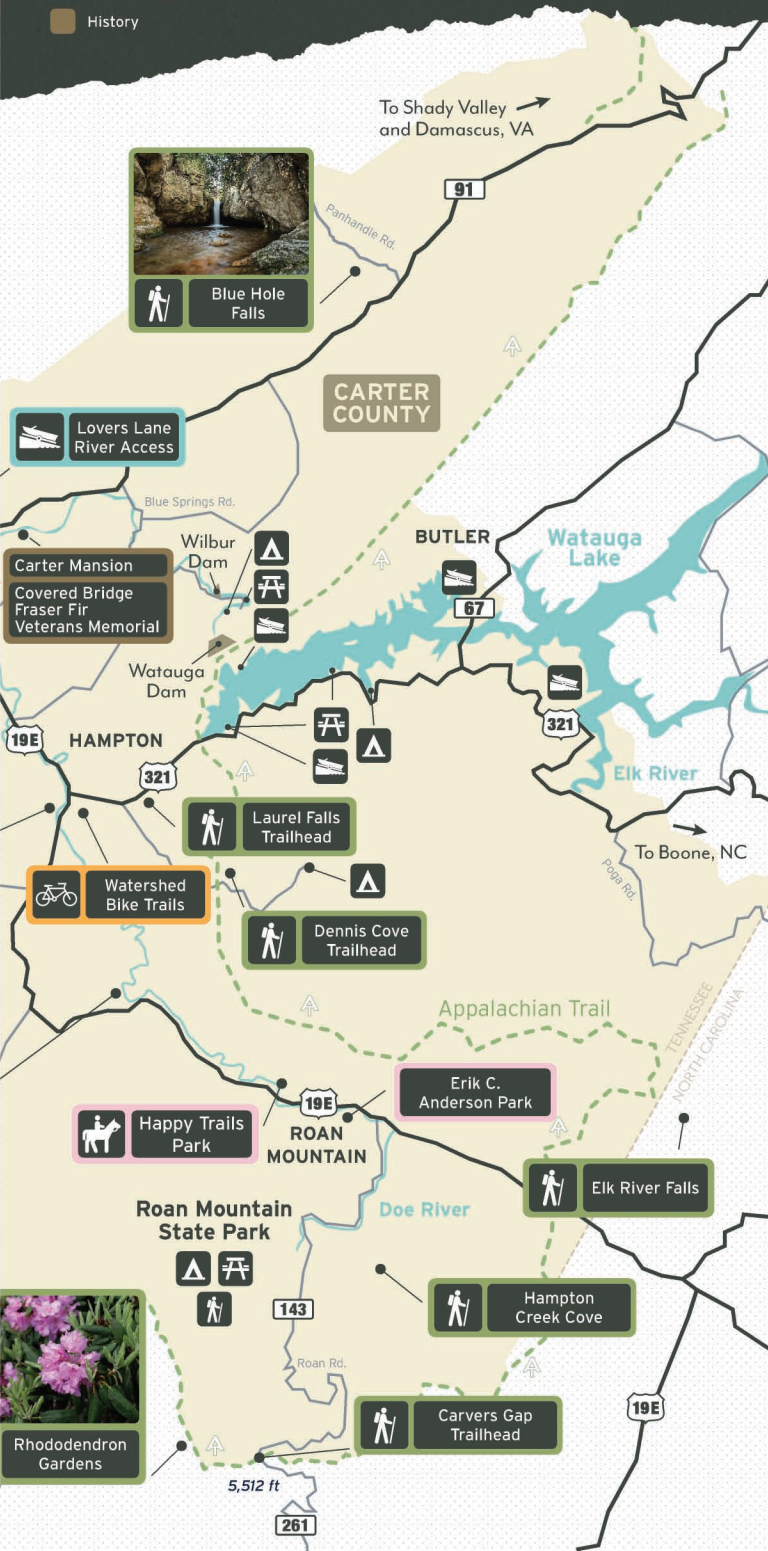
- River Access
- Recreation

- Hiking
- Biking

- Camping
- Paddling

- Picnic Area
- Horseback Riding

- Boat Launch
- Accessible





**CARTER COUNTY**  
× **TENNESSEE** ×  
— TOURISM —

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Elizabethton, TN 37644

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