**Waterfalls**

*Where Whee Play*

7 Local Waterfalls
Descriptions and Directions

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**Parks & Recreation Management**

Students in the Parks & Recreation Management program have produced this guide. For more information about the PRM program contact us at 828.227.7310 or visit our website at *prm.wcu.edu*

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**Base Camp Cullowhee**

Not ready to explore on your own? Or would like to try a new outdoor adventure? Need to rent outdoor gear for your next adventure? WCU’s Base Camp Cullowhee (BCC) provides an array of outdoor program services, which include recreation trips, outdoor gear rental, and experiential education services. Contact BCC at 828.227.3633 or visit their website at *basecamp.wcu.edu*

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**Additional Resources:**

[Leave No Trace](http://int.org)
[North Carolina Waterfalls](http://ncwaterfalls.com)

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Cullowhee Adventure Guide Originally Produced by:
PRM 434: High Adventure Travel Spring 2011
(Emily Baker, Will Butler, Seth Pace)

Updated in 2015 by Thomas Graham, Peter Langenwalter and Daniel Csizmadia
This guide will help you find some of the most popular waterfalls in the WCU area. We have provided key aspects and directions for your viewing pleasure as well as a rating on how easy or difficult they are to access.

**WARNING!**

Waterfalls can be very dangerous and should be viewed with caution. People have died because care was not taken while viewing the falls. Do not climb or hike on slippery rocks or wade through rivers above cliffs. Some tips to remember:

- Be aware of swift water
- Don't get too close to the top
- Don't attempt to climb
- Be aware of slippery surfaces
- Go with a friend or at least tell someone where you are going

**Other Waterfalls in the Area**

**Panthertown Valley:** School House, Granny Burrell, Frolictown, Wilderness, Pothole, Mac's, Greenland, Halfway, Carlton's, Red Butt, Elbow, Riding Ford, Warden's, Jawbone, Flat Creek, Wolf Creek, Dismal, and Hidden Falls. Many of these require hiking several miles and possibly an overnight camp.

**Deep Creek Area:** Indian Creek, Juneywhank, and Toms Branch Falls can be accessed by hiking.

**Leave No Trace (L.N.T.)**

Help preserve the environment by practicing these conservation tips:

- Plan ahead & prepare
- Leave what you find
- Be considerate of other visitors
- Dispose of waste properly
- Respect wildlife
- Pack it in, pack it out

To learn more visit [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org)
Silver Run Falls
Access Rating 1 out of 5

A great 25’ waterfall with a nice swimming hole. Silver Run Falls are located a short distance from Cashiers and can be very popular on a warm day.

Directions: From campus, take Hwy 107S to Cashiers. Go through town and about 4 miles past the stop light, there will be a pull off on the left side of the road. The trail to the falls is about ¼ mile and you will cross the Whitewater River.

Paradise Falls
Access Rating 4 out of 5

Located in the Nantahala National Forest, Paradise Falls has a large deep pool at the base and the waterfall is actually set back in a small chasm. This is a popular swimming hole, but you have to be aware of heavy rains and the overflow from nearby Wolf Creek Lake. Both can raise the water level without warning.

Directions: From campus, take Highway 107 south. Take a left on 281 north and follow it up to the Jackson County line. This is the top of the hill at Owen Gap. From the county line, continue north on 281 for 4.7 miles to the semi-circle dirt/grass parking area on the left. You will have to go around Tanasee Creek Lake on the left, then Wolf Creek Lake on the right. The grassy parking area is just after the lakes.

Whitewater Falls
Access Rating 1 out of 5

Highest falls east of the Mississippi River at 412 feet! Whitewater Falls is located near the NC/SC border. The falls are gorgeous in the fall season.

Directions: Turn left out of WCU and follow 107 into Cashiers. At the stop light take a left and follow 64 east towards Lake Toxaway. At 281 turn right and follow it south for 10 miles to the entrance to the falls. A short ¼ mile paved path will lead you to the falls.
Rainbow Falls is located in Gorges State Park on the Horsepasture River. The falls are 125’ high and is a 3 mile round trip hike to the viewing area. From Rainbow Falls viewing area you can follow the trail to the top of the falls and on to Turtleback and Drift Falls.

Directions: From campus, take Highway 107S to Cashiers, turn left on to Hwy 64 east then right on 281 south. Go .9 miles to Gorges State Park parking area on the left. Note: You must park in the parking area.

Chattooga Sliding Rock

A small natural slide area with a sandy bottomed swimming hole on section 00 of the Chattooga River. Chattooga Sliding Rock is located close to Cashiers and can be very busy on warm days.

Directions: From campus, take Highway 107 south to Cashiers. Go through town, pass High Hampton CC, 1.7 miles from the first stoplight, turn right onto Whiteside Cove Road. Follow down to bridge, park on right in parking area.