

CROSSVILLE/CUMBERLAND COUNTY

'Golf Capital' amid breathtaking views

Cumberland County, located west of the Great Smoky Mountains, encapsulates all the beauty and intrigue of the region – but without the heavy traffic and overcrowding often associated with tourist areas.

Situated at the heart of the Cumberland Plateau, the county boasts an abundance of natural beauty with 679 square miles of rolling valleys, towering forests, crystal clear waters and imposing mountains. Residents also enjoy moderate climate the year-round.

For those who want to take in nature's beauty, the county has several parks and natural areas, including Cumberland Mountain State Park, Ozone Falls State Natural Area, Mount Roosevelt State Forest, Meadow Park Lake, Crossville Centennial Park, Obed City-County Park and Cumberland Trail State Park.

There are numerous scenic areas offering breathtaking views. Black Mountain near Crab Orchard, with an elevation of 2,828 feet, sports a panoramic view of Grassy Cove and Rhea and Roane counties, while nearby Hinch Mountain, with the highest elevation in the county at 3,048 feet, overlooks Rhea County and parts of Sequatchie Valley.

Cumberland Cove's Overlook carries visitors back to the untouched beauty of Mother Nature's handiwork. The rough terrain of Scott's Gulf and Potter's Ford with its Devil's Breakfast Table are some of the county's most spectacular views of the undisturbed country.

The county is surrounded by several other parks and nature areas, including Fall Creek Falls State Park and Big South fork National River and Recreation Area.

Besides natural attractions, Cumberland County offers a variety of leisure activities. If you're a golfer, Crossville is the place to tee it up. Being named "Golf Capital of Tennessee" was not a case of local officials looking for a catchy moniker. The reason: 11 well designed and maintained courses catering to handicaps large and small. Several have been mentioned among the "Top 10 Places to Play in Tennessee" and Stonehenge Golf Club, located at Fairfield Glade, was selected as the state's No 1 resort course.

Five courses are located at resort areas. One course, the 18-hole, par-3 Four Seasons, is lighted. The courses offer challenging designs that keep golfers coming back time and again to test their game. Approximately one-half-million round of golf were played in Cumberland County last year.

Other popular outdoor activities include tennis, swimming, sailing and fishing on mirror-clear lakes, white-water rafting, camping and horse-back riding.

There are slower-paced pursuits as well, including nature trails for hiking, bird watching, and identifying wildlife, plants, and flowers.

Game hunting has been popular on the Cumberland Plateau since pre-settlement days in the early 1800s. Catoosa Wildlife Management Preserve, on 79,700 acres of state-owned woodlands 20 miles north of Crossville, seasonally allows access for limited hunting of deer, turkey, boar, and other wildlife.

Cumberland County Playhouse, a professional theater, features productions from Broadway as well as original scores by local producer Jim Crabtree. The Playhouse operates year-round with concerts, films and some 300 performances.

Other points of interest include the historic Crossville Depot, which was reopened in 1996. Built shortly after the turn of the century, the depot burned in 1925. Rebuilding was completed in 1926 and the depot operated until it was closed in the 1980s. The depot is now used for business meetings, family reunions, parties, weddings, arts and crafts shows and other events.

Crossville's newest attraction is Wilson's Wildlife Adventures, the Southeast's largest wildlife museum. Displays include more than 300 animals in lifelike poses with artist-painted backgrounds and settings with true-to-life dioramas.



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