



Abingdon and Damascus, VA

Visiting Abingdon and Damascus allows visitors to experience many different beauties of the Virginia Mountains. Just a one-hour drive from Johnson City, the small towns of Abingdon and Damascus both sit Northeast of Johnson City near the Blue Ridge Mountains. These mountain communities are filled with many different attractions and within each town, visitors can experience the hiking, biking, fishing and camping in the mountains, while experiencing the rich history of each city.

Damascus:

The history of Damascus is traced back to 1759 when Daniel Boone opened the area to European settlement by blazing a trail through what is now Damascus, Virginia. The town flourished with the masses of lumber available because of the mountain, but 25 years later the lumber supply ended. The shortage of lumber created the United States Forest Service, which conserves and restores forest resources. Today, visitors in Damascus enjoy several activities in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

- **Outdoor Adventures:** Set in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the town is a haven for visitors who enjoy the wilderness. Known as “Trail Town, USA” and “the friendliest town on the Appalachian Trail,” Damascus is an outdoor destination for hiking enthusiasts with the Blue Ridge Mountains containing hundreds of miles of hiking, biking and horse riding trails. Damascus hikers will have the opportunity to experience the Appalachian Trail, the Virginia Creeper Trail, the Trans-America National Bicycle Trail, the Iron Mountain Trail, the Daniel Boone Trail, the Crooked Road Musical Heritage Trail, Virginia's Birding and Wildlife Trail and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Abingdon:

Located 25 minutes from Damascus, also nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains is Abingdon, Virginia. In the late 1740s, many settlers came into the lush area of Abingdon to make their homes, including historic travelers, such as Daniel Boone, who passed through Abingdon. The town of Abingdon played an important role in the turning points of the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. Although the town was located far enough to escape the major effects of the wars, many of the brave citizens gave up their lives to fight the cause. Abingdon developed a rich history because of their distinctive heritage.

Some of Abingdon's greatest treasures include the Martha Washington Inn and the famous Barter Theatre, along with historical sites such as Sinking Spring Cemetery. Abingdon also offers an abundance of outdoor activity.

- **Historic District:** The city of Abingdon has a rich and unique historical district. With a variety of architecture, the Abingdon Historic District is a collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings that have impacted the town in a positive way by attracting tourists from all over the country.

At the Abingdon Vineyard and Winery, visitors can tour and taste wine in the 50-acre wine vineyard, south of the Holston River. The Art Depot exhibits arts and fine pottery inside an 1890's freight station.

Visitors can also go back in time at the Martha Washington Inn. Before developing into an inn in 1937, the Martha Washington Inn operated through the civil war as the Martha Washington College. Today, it remains in a 19th century atmosphere where each room is decorated with antiques. Located only 3 blocks from the Martha Washington Inn is the Historical Sinking Springs Cemetery. This cemetery contains some of our country's earliest pioneers and Civil War soldiers. Established as Virginia's official state theatre, the Barter Theatre created exciting performances from the beginning by trading or "bartering" to get into the show. Today, the theatre contains a unique atmosphere with a history dating back to 1933.

- **Outdoor Activities:** Apart of the Appalachian Trail near Abingdon, the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area includes facilities for hiking, biking, camping, and fishing. The old rail bed trail called the "Virginia Creeper" runs along the Whitetop Laurel Creek from Abingdon, VA to West Jefferson, NC.

For more information, please contact www.abingdon.com or www.damascus.org