



## **Elizabethton and Roan Mountain, TN**

Located in Carter County, Elizabethton grows from 1,500 feet in elevation to a height of 6,285 feet with spectacular views of Roan Mountain. When visiting Elizabethton and Roan Mountain, visitors may enjoy the rich history of the towns, while also experiencing an overabundance of outdoor adventures and landscapes that the distinctive mountain area provides.

### **Elizabethton:**

Situated in the Appalachian Mountains, this 200-year-old town is filled with rich history. It was the location of the first settlement outside of the original thirteen colonies, and home to many of the most prominent officials, legislators and members of the Constitutional Convention. As it played a significant role in the 18-century history, Elizabethton has been established as “the Birthplace of American Democracy.”

- **Historic District:** A stroll through the downtown district of Elizabethton will reveal the rich heritage of this town. Sites of interest include the Doe River Bridge, built in 1882, and now the oldest bridge in the state of Tennessee. Carter Mansion, built by the legendary John Carter in 1780, is also now the oldest house in the State of Tennessee. Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area is on the site of Fort Watauga, and was the first area where settlers stayed outside of the 13 colonies. Visitors can also honor the local military men by visiting the Soldiers Monument, built in 1913 for soldiers of the Revolutionary War. In 1989, the monument was refurbished and dedicated to all soldiers of Carter County.
  
- **Outdoor Activities:** Because of the Appalachian Mountains, Elizabethton is home to a wide range of outdoor activities. Outdoor recreational opportunities include golfing, picnicking, hiking, water sports, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing and camping.

For avid hikers, Elizabethton offers a variety of opportunities to experience the forest. Including, Carver’s Gap, Garden Trail, Cloudland Trail, Dennis Cove and Jones Branch Falls, ranging from challenging hikes through rugged areas to short walks along lakeshores. Hikers can also explore a portion of the Appalachian Trail, the world’s longest scenic footpath.

### **Roan Mountain:**

Only 16 miles south of Elizabethton, located between Asheville, N.C. and Johnson City, Roan Mountain, standing 6,285 feet on the Tennessee-North Carolina border, has been a popular destination since the creation of the state park in the 1950’s. Roan Mountain State Park is home to

Rhododendron Gardens and Festival, one of the largest natural gardens in the world and Watauga Lake.

- **Roan Mountain State Park:** Many visitors come to enjoy the State Park that was created in the 1950's and developed in the 1970's, containing various outdoor adventures. During the warm months, Roan Mountain has an abundance of hiking and mountain biking. The Appalachian Trail, stretching across the highlands of Roan, allows hikers to experience the largest span of open lands in the Southern Appalachians. Fishing, swimming and picnicking are also popular events on the mountain in the summer months, while cross-country skiing is a popular winter sport with an average snowfall for the state at 12 inches.
- **Rhododendron Gardens:** Each year, thousands of people flock to the mountain at the peak bloom period during late June to see more than 600 acres of beauty, featuring a single bush of the plant producing more than 100 clusters of flowers or hundreds of bushes spread out over the mountain.
- **Rhododendron Festival:** In June of 1947, the citizens of Roan Mountain created the Rhododendron Festival to celebrate the natural beauty of Roan Mountain. Now more than 50 years later, the festival is held in the state park, and features handmade crafts, food vendors and a variety of traditional music and much more.
- **Watauga Lake:** This beautiful, manicured lake is only eight miles from Elizabethton, and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> cleanest lake in the country with recreation areas, campgrounds and boat ramps available for visitors. Since 1942, Watauga Lake has the distinction of being the highest reservoir in the Tennessee River system at 1,900 feet above sea level. The lake offers a variety of fishing from trout to bass, as well as boating, water skiing, swimming, picnicking and camping. Surrounded by the Cherokee National Forest and the Appalachian Mountains, Watauga Lake offers access to many hiking trails throughout the Appalachian Mountains.

**For more information, please visit [www.elizabethton.org](http://www.elizabethton.org) or [www.roanmountain.com](http://www.roanmountain.com).**