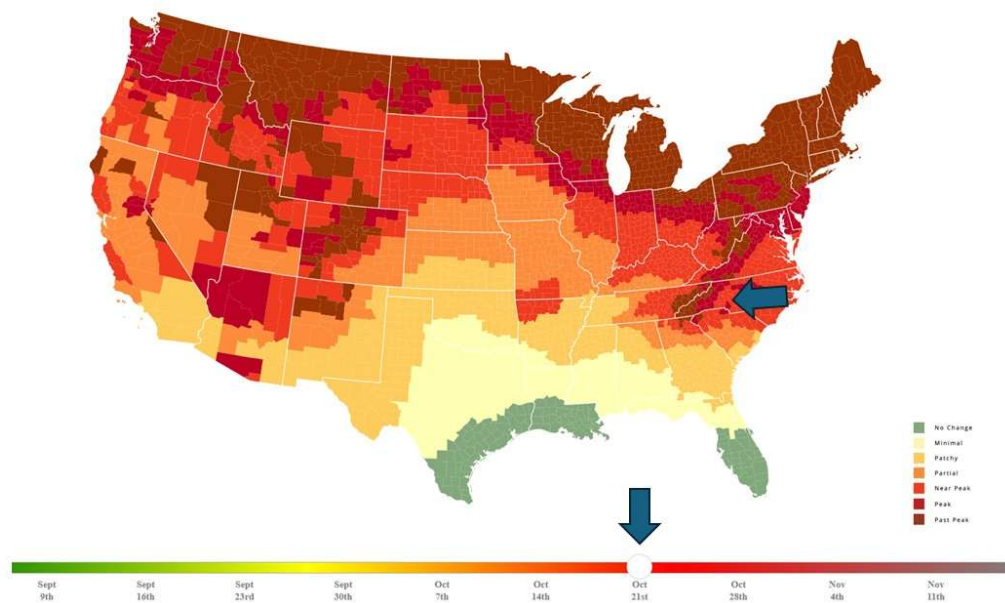


**North Carolina Fall Foliage Tour
(October 20-24, 2025)**

Welcome to the Super Bowl of Fall Foliage

Fall Foliage ^{THE 2025} Prediction Map



This forecast tool has proven to be very accurate year after year and last year was no exception.

Headquarters (HQ)

Log Cabin Motor Court

330 Weaverville Highway, Asheville NC 28804

<https://www.theashevillecabins.com>

(828) 645-6546

Proprietor: Susie

Breakfast – All Day Darling, 102 Montford Ave. Asheville, NC 28801 7:00am-8:00pm

(11m/5.6miles)

Reservations – The same as last year, call Susie at Log Cabin Motor Court

(828) 645-6546. Most likely you will leave a message, and she will get back to you. By doing it this way, you will receive a discount instead of booking through the website. You may wish to use her email logcabincourt@gmail.com. **Important – we need all reservations to be made no later than May 31st.**

PPC – Plano Photography Club

Cliff McKenzie 214.354.0795 LakeAthens@gmail.com

Jan De Meulder 214.957.2084 jandemeulder@tx.rr.com

Mary Ruehle 214.384.8491 mary@maryruehle.com

Special Notes in reading this booklet.

Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) is open...at least the areas in this writing. **Remember, you do not go up and down the BRP but intersect it for a desired location. Use your smartphone for the best routes.** Distances were determined via Google Maps in this publication.

Milepost (MP) "...on the Blue Ridge Parkway are concrete posts etched with numbers marking the distance from Waynesboro, Virginia, at Milepost 0. The last marker is Milepost 469 at the Oconaluftee Visitor Center in Cherokee, North Carolina. Yes, the BRP is 469 miles long, but our focus will be east, south, and west of Asheville. Asheville Visitor Center is located at MP384. Our focus will be the last 85 miles.

"Hike Distance" is one way unless noted otherwise.

"Hike Difficulty" is based on an adult in good physical condition, so you should factor in your age and fitness. The ratings do not consider trail length.

“Elevation” is provided for two reasons. First, the higher elevation, the colder it is, so be prepared to add layers. Second, while computer programs point to the best week for fall foliage, mother nature may have different plans. You can adjust your plans by knowing the correct elevation for maximum color impact.

“Photo Rating”: It is subjective and for the most part from the book, North Carolina Waterfalls, Kevin Adams. May I suggest going to Flickr and searching each location paying attention to the time of year and other photographic data when you scroll down the page.

Sun and Moon Rise and Set

Asheville NC											
2025	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylength		Astronomical Twilight		Nautical Twilight		Civil Twilight		
20	7:41 am ↑ (102°)	6:48 pm ↑ (257°)	11:06:39	-2:07	6:16 AM	8:13 PM	6:45 AM	7:43 PM	7:15 AM	7:13 PM	
21	7:42 am ↑ (103°)	6:46 pm ↑ (257°)	11:04:33	-2:06	6:17 AM	8:11 PM	6:46 AM	7:42 PM	7:16 AM	7:12 PM	
22	7:43 am ↑ (103°)	6:45 pm ↑ (257°)	11:02:27	-2:05	6:17 AM	8:10 PM	6:47 AM	7:41 PM	7:17 AM	7:11 PM	
23	7:44 am ↑ (104°)	6:44 pm ↑ (256°)	11:00:22	-2:05	6:18 AM	8:09 PM	6:48 AM	7:40 PM	7:18 AM	7:10 PM	
24	7:44 am ↑ (104°)	6:43 pm ↑ (256°)	10:58:17	-2:04	6:19 AM	8:08 PM	6:49 AM	7:39 PM	7:18 AM	7:09 PM	
25	7:45 am ↑ (105°)	6:42 pm ↑ (255°)	10:56:13	-2:03	6:20 AM	8:07 PM	6:49 AM	7:38 PM	7:19 AM	7:08 PM	

Solar Noon is 1:14 pm

2025	Moonrise		Moonset		
20	6:51 AM ↑ (100°)		6:13 PM ↑ (256°)		
21	7:50 AM ↑ (107°)		6:39 PM ↑ (250°)	New Moon	
22	8:49 AM ↑ (113°)		7:07 PM ↑ (244°)		
23	9:49 AM ↑ (119°)		7:40 PM ↑ (239°)		
24	10:48 AM ↑ (123°)		8:19 PM ↑ (236°)		
25	11:46 AM ↑ (125°)		9:04 PM ↑ (234°)		

Special Gatherings

We have two special gatherings during our event. First, is Monday night after everyone arrives at The Village Porch. Second, lunch is Wednesday hosted by Jan at Gordingo's. Other references for places to meet up or eat are provided for your convenience. Hanging around HQ at night with a beer or wine glass is expected.

All Roads Lead to Rome Asheville

(Route A) Using Plano as the starting point, it will take 14h19m using East bound Interstate 30 to Interstate 40 (963 miles). This road was reopened on March 18, 2025. Jan and I are not big fans of Interstate 40 due to heavy truck traffic and little to see.

(Route B) An alternative route is Interstate 20 through Atlanta then Interstate 85 (1,003 miles) to Asheville. A variation of this route is the small cities along the way.

(Route C) An alternate route is Interstate 20 to Birmingham and then Interstate 59 to Chattanooga. You can cross over the mountains via "The Dragon". In a past trip I did this route and was well rewarded. On the return, I may actually take Interstate 40 to Arkansas for additional fall images and then drop down to Beavers Bend in OK before returning to Texas.

(Route D) DFW to Charlotte NC (CLT) is currently showing \$377 round trip via American Airlines in October. You can also fly to Asheville (AVL). Concerned about transporting your camera equipment? Not a problem, just ask someone who is driving to bring it with them.

Monday Evening – October 20

7:00 – Dinner and drinks

The Village Porch 51 N Merrimon Ave, Woodfin, NC 28804 (828) 505-8049
[Sports bar Asheville NC | The Village Porch | Woodfin](#)

(4m\1.5miles)

Tuesday Morning – October 21

HQ to Pisgah Inn Overlook (50m\29.2 miles)

Mt. Pisgah (Inn) Overlook (MP408.6)



You may wish to consider hiking up Mt. Pisgah for a 360° view (MP407.6). It is “1.6 miles to the summit, begins at the far end of the Mount Pisgah Parking Area. With an ascent of 712 feet, the latter half of the moderate to strenuous hike is fairly steep and rocky. It’s roughly 1 hour up, 45 min down.”

Breakfast is available at the Pisgah Inn from 7.30 am, and grab-and-go coffee and muffins can be found next to the restaurant. Best seating with a view is outside below the restaurant deck where wooden chairs & tables are available

The 3 Overlooks South of the Pisgah Inn (MP409-MP411) also offer excellent sunrise viewpoints.

Fryingpan Mountain Lookout Tower (MP409.6)



Elevation: 5,340

Length of Hike: 1.5 miles (round trip)

Difficulty – Moderate

“South of Asheville, the Blue Ridge Parkway meanders through some exceptionally stunning landscapes. The oddly-named but easily-accessed Fryingpan Mountain is no exception: rising roughly 350 feet from a trailhead on the Parkway, the views from the mountain’s summit are sweeping and broad. And, thanks to the historic, 70-foot-tall steel fire lookout tower at the mountain’s summit, the views are even better: a short climb up the tower reveals incredible panoramas of the nearby peaks of Looking Glass Rock, Mt Pisgah and Cold Mountain.”

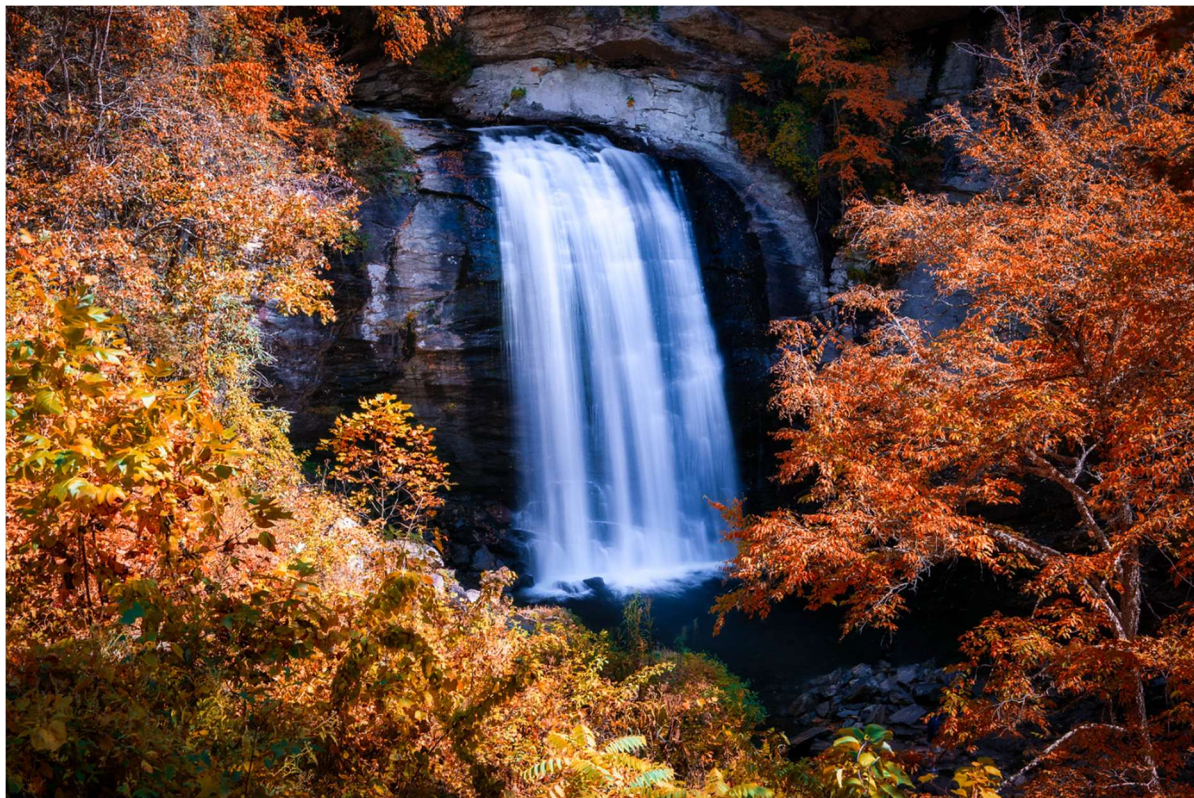
Cradle of Forestry Overlook (MP410)

Elevation: 4,710

“From this vantage point, you’ll enjoy a stunning east-facing panoramic view of layered mountains in the distance and the Pisgah National Forest below. Notably, you’ll see the iconic Looking Glass Rock, a sheer granite rock face formed around 390 million years ago.”

Cradle of Forestry in America Museum is located 5.1 miles back down mountain on 276 and has a café. Historic cabins photo tour. <https://gofindoutdoors.org/sites/cradle-of-forestry/>

Looking Glass Falls – (22m\12.8 miles from Pisgah Inn)



Beauty Rating: 8

Hike Distance: Roadside view from 276 (5.7 miles down from the Cradle of the Forestry)

Photo Rating: 9

Waterfall GPS: N35.29634 W-82.76929

Graveyard Fields Loop Trail (MP 418.8): parking lot along the Parkway, trail with lower and upper falls

Black Balsam Knob (MP420 then USFS 816)



Difficulty – Moderate

Length of Hike - 1.4 miles (round trip)

Elevation 6,214

Description – Jan’s favorite – “This section of the Art Loeb Trail heads through a scenic woodland area to the top of the open bald. There are stunning 360-degree views of the surrounding Shining Rock Wilderness, and on a clear day, you may see the Great Smoky Mountains.”

Wednesday Morning – October 22

HQ to DuPont State Recreational Forest (52m\41.1 miles)

DuPont State Recreational Forest - www.dupontforest.com – Opens 5am

Elevation: 2,200 – 2,600

Note: Triple & High Falls are a 1.8-mile round trip venture. Several movies and television shows including Hunger Games have been filmed here.

Hooker Falls – DuPont State Recreational Forest

Beauty Rating: 7

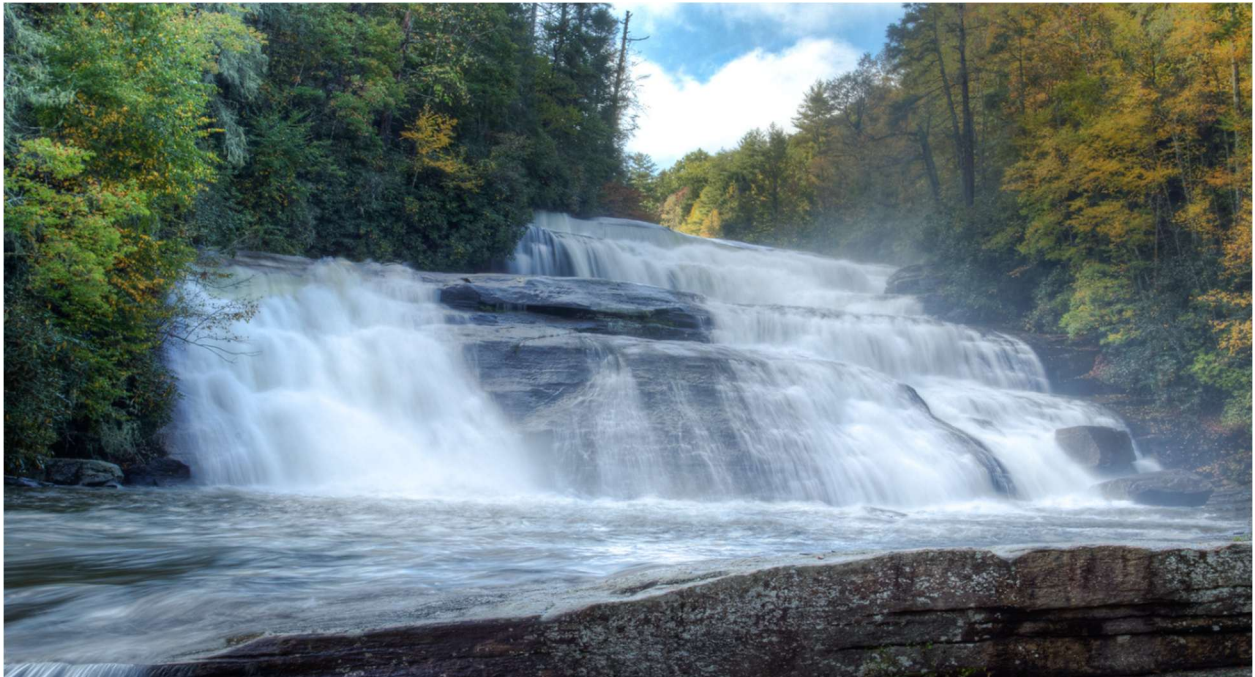
Hike Distance: 0.3 miles

Hike Difficulty: 1 to upper overlook; 4 to base

Photo Rating: 8

Waterfall GPS: N35.20211 W-82.62373

Triple Falls – DuPont State Recreational Forest



Beauty Rating: 9

Hike Distance: 0.35 miles to upper overlook

Hike Difficulty: 6 (plus lots of steps to the base)

Photo Rating: 8

Waterfall GPS: N35.20028 W-82.61756

High Falls – DuPont State Recreational Forest

Beauty Rating: 6/7

Hike Distance: 0.96 mile

Hike Difficulty: 6

Photo Rating: 4

Waterfall GPS: N35.19371 W-82.61505

Bridal Veil Falls - DuPont State Recreational Forest



Beauty Rating: 7

Hike Distance: About 2.4 miles

Hike Difficulty: 4

Photo Rating: 9

Waterfall GPS: N35.17743 W-82.61893

Other falls in the park include Grassy Creek Falls & Wintergreen Falls, but most likely it is not worth your time investment.

Lunch 1:00 – 2:30 – Gordingo's, 451 Ecusta Rd Suite B, Brevard, NC 28712
828.845.2165 19m\12.6 miles from DuPont State Recreational Forest

French Broad Falls (Mill Shoals) And Bird Rock Falls (13m\7.4miles from Gordingo's)

Elevation: 2,780

Length of Hike: 0

Bird Rock Falls (aka Cathedral Falls) is about ¼ of a mile away.

“French Broad Falls (a.k.a. Mill Shoals Falls) and Bird Rock Falls (Cathedral Falls) are three iconic NC waterfalls that you can reach in one short hike. ...The first two of these amazing waterfalls are literally attached to each other and are collectively known as Mill Shoals. If you have a little more time, a short hike will lead you to the third waterfall (Bird Rock Falls, also known as Cathedral Falls).”

Waterrock Knob (MP451.2) – Consider for your sunset shots.



Elevation: 6,292

Difficulty – Moderate to Difficult*

Length of Hike - 1.0 mile (round trip) *

* Pedestrian Overlook is less than .3 mile from the parking area. Most photographers shoot the sunset directly from the parking lot area

Waterrock Knob offers breathtaking views of several mountain ranges and is noted for its Milky Way shots. Note, there is no moon on this day.

In the area, other sunset overlooks facing West may be found MP 460-462.

Note: Other places of interest in this same area include:

Sunburst Falls and Lake Logan, Beech Gap MP423 exit to 215

Cowee Overlook (MP430)

Richard Balsam Overlook (MP431)

Thursday Morning – October 23

Elk Shoot



Elevation: 2,610

Leave HQ: 5:30am

HQ to Haywood 209 Café parking lot, 3360 Crabtree Rd, Waynesville NC 28785
(32m\31.5 miles)

6:10am caravan to Catalooche Elk Watching spot via I40 / 1395 / Catalooche Entrance Rd. We pullout at 6:10am sharp. No, the restaurant is not open at that time.

Elk Shoot GPS: N 35.62976 W -83.10787

Breakfast –back Haywood 209 Café (see address above. If you did not attend the Elk shoot, then you might wish to meet up with the team at this point.)

Great Smoky Mountain National Park

Enter via Cherokee, passing by the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

Oconaluftee River Overlook – (MP468.4) – (45m\29.1miles from restaurant)



Newfound Gap (26m\17.1miles from Oconaluftee River Overlook)



Image by Larry Petterborg

Morton Overlook (Less than 1 mile from Newfound Gap)



Oconaluftee Visitor Center **4:30PM** (26m\16.6miles)

Objective – Elk crossing the river at the Oconaluftee Visitor Center.

Note: Clingsman Dome is very popular tourist area; however, the access road results in a massive traffic jam and should be avoided. You could be stuck for several hours.

Friday Morning – October 24

Goodbye – Breakfast

All Day Darling, 102 Montford Ave. Asheville, NC 28801 9:00am

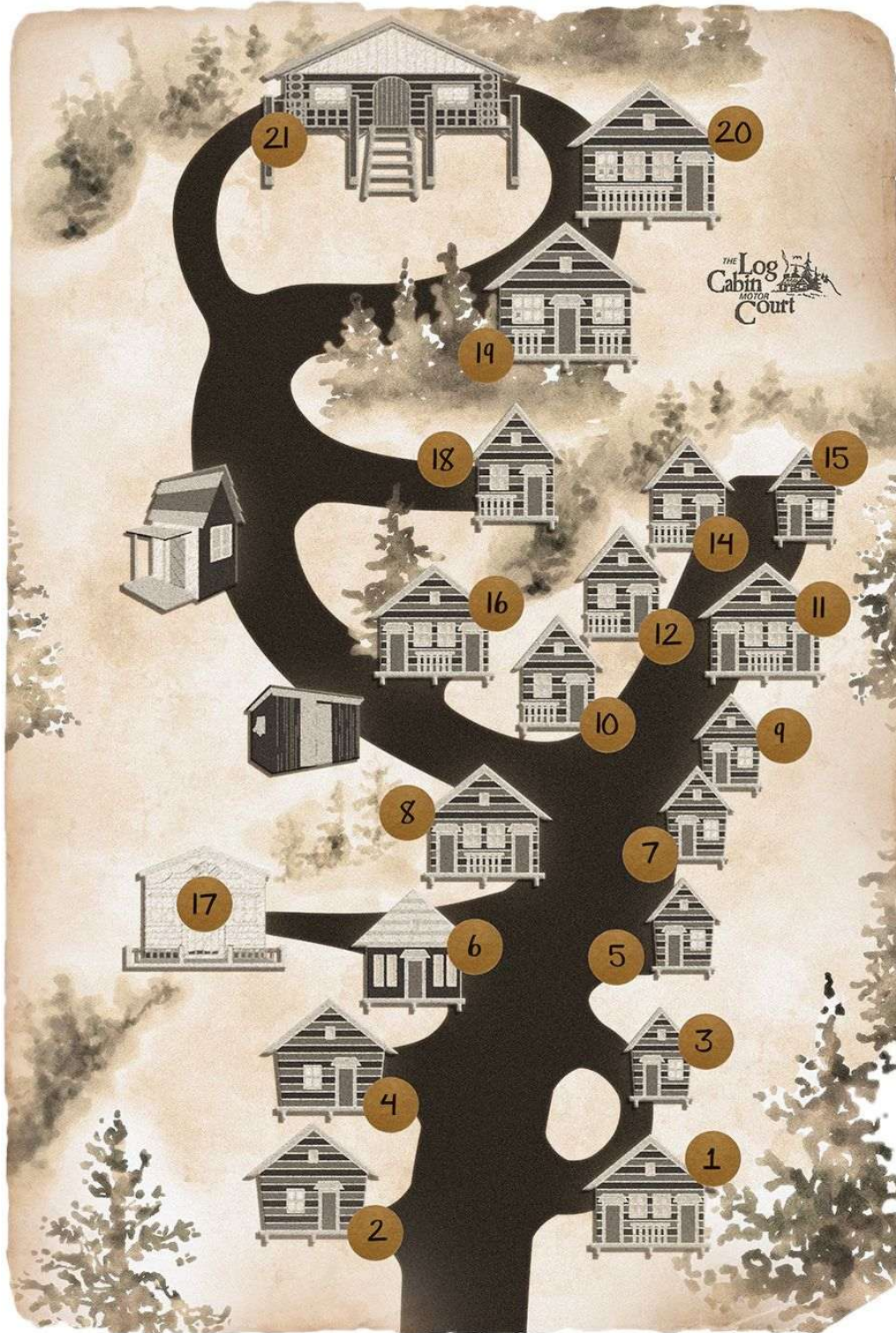
(11m/5.6miles)

Equipment:

- ✓ Early morning shoots or returning from sunsets, make sure to have portable lighting to get to and from safely.
- ✓ A great tool is a collapsible titanium tipped walking stick with holster.
[Amazon.com : Aventik Fold-able Auto Shrinkable Wading Staff Water Depth Safety Warning Sign Coated Adjustable Stainless Steel Core T7075 Aluminum Body Corrosion Resistance\(WS091\) : Sports & Outdoors](#) (AKA Wading Staff)
- ✓ Fold Up Portable Chair
- ✓ Camera Rain Jacket
- ✓ Binoculars
- ✓ Camera Backpack that can carry a tripod
- ✓ Snacks and especially breakfast food as most restaurant do not open before 7am.
- ✓ Above all, a printout of the final copy of this booklet. You cannot always rely on internet, cellular or GPS availability.

Contact List

(Will be provided on final addition of this publication)



HQ

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