Reach the Top of Fire Mountain

Now that you have made your reservation to stay at Fire Mountain planning your trip becomes the next item of importance. We hope that this guide will help make your arrival at Fire Mountain as smooth as possible. Please take a few minutes and carefully read the enclosed information in order to make your arrival to the Highlands and Fire Mountain as pleasant and easy as possible.

ARRIVAL & RECEPTION

Seclusion, peace, quiet and privacy are desired for your getaway. To obtain these amenities you booked a reservation at Fire Mountain which is known the world over for its spectacular seclusion, setting and views and as a wonderful place to remove yourself from the outside world.

Our guests’ privacy is our highest priority at Fire Mountain. Our hundreds of acres are for the exclusive use of our guests and there are no signs marking the location of Fire Mountain. We border one of the three scenic highways coming in and out of the village of Highlands, North Carolina and our property is very secluded. To maintain your privacy and safety we do not give out directions to Fire Mountain by phone or allow visiting or touring from persons that do not have reservations unless a prior appointment has been made. As a guest at Fire Mountain you may have friends of yours visit if you desire but we do ask that you respect the peace and quiet of other guests on the property when doing so.

Because of our small size of only fifteen accommodations, “two hour reserved arrival periods” are established in order that we may schedule a staff member to be present to welcome and assist your party upon your arrival, since it is not possible to have staff available for check-in 24/7. Your check-in time is “by reservation only within a two hour window”. Your “reserved arrival period” is confirmed in your confirmation letter. It is very important that you honor the time period that you requested because if you have not arrived by the end of your two hour reserved check-in period your reservation will be considered a cancellation and your funds will be forfeited regardless of the reason. Therefore it is very important that you know and agreed with your “two hour reserved arrival window”. To change your “reserved two hour arrival period” you must give a minimum of 24 hours notice in order that we may have time to reschedule staff to be available for you.

We are able to schedule “two hour reserved arrival windows” between Noon and 7:30 p.m. each day. Please know and understand that the Reception Office will close promptly at the end of your “two hour reserved arrival window” unless that staff member has also been scheduled for a later check-in. Please plan your trip accordingly so that you will not find yourself in a situation where there is not a staff member available to check you in because you are running late. We do not leave keys in your accommodation or maps on how to get to your accommodation in order that the privacy and safety of our registered guests will not be compromised. A staff member must be available to greet you and check you in. You must treat your arrival time just as you would the departure time for an airline flight, a train trip or a cruise. If you don’t arrive at the gate on time they do not hold for you. Plan for that bad traffic in the urban area you live in or will be traveling through. Make sure you can leave at the time that you need to leave by. Plan to arrive at the beginning of your “two hour reserved arrival window” or even before so that you will have two hours or more of lead time in case you encounter something totally unexpected.

We wish there were more flexibility in our arrival policy but with a small staff and our seclusion it is impossible to have such and we always desire to make sure the privacy and safety of our guests are not compromised. If the policy regarding arrival is a problem for you in any way, now is the time to deal with that, not the date of your arrival. The conclusion to this section is please plan ahead so that your arrival is a pleasure not a problem. We desire that you have a pressure free and pleasant arrival.

When you do arrive at Fire Mountain a staff member will be waiting at the Guest Services & Reception Office to greet you, check you in and to guide you, map you and connect you into what ever you may desire to participate in during your stay. Then that staff person will guide you in a golf cart to your accommodation. They will then acclimate you to things you need to know about your accommodation and make sure that everything is ok for you. Fire Mountain has also created a leather bound book that is in every accommodation called The Land of the Red Thunders that is like an insiders
guide to Fire Mountain and the Highlands so that you have a wealth of information available to you for things to do during you stay. *The Land of the Red Thunders* is available for your reference during your stay at Fire Mountain. The Guest Services & Reception Office is open each day from 9 a.m. until Noon if you should need additional assistance and support.

The entire arrival process takes from 20 to 30 minutes so please plan accordingly and arrive as early as possible during your reserved two hour arrival window to be able to take full advantage of this service. **Arriving early will always ensure a more pleasant stay!**

If you should arrive in the area prior to the beginning of your two hour reserved arrival window give a call to our 800.775.4446 and there is always a possibility that a staff member may be scheduled in the Guest Services and Reception Office at that time for another guest arrival which means you could possibly come in early. Please know that cell phones work on top of Fire Mountain and in most of the towns and villages in the Southern Highlands. Cell phones do not work in the areas in between because of the mountains. Also along the way, there are pay phones available for you to use and businesses that would allow you to place a call to our 800.775.4446 number.

**MODE OF TRANSPORTATION**

Most of you already know the type of transportation that you will be using. Following are transportation options that you may desire to consider or options that may assist you for arrival, during your stay or at departure.

**Private Vehicle** - Following this section are the estimated driving times to Fire Mountain from certain destinations in the Unites States. If you decide to drive please know that any regular vehicle will do just fine here in the mountains of Western North Carolina and at Fire Mountain. Four-wheel drive vehicles are not necessary but are fun to bring and use on back roads or off road conditions if you love nature and like to explore.

Fire Mountain is not equipped or able to park recreational vehicles (RV’s or motor homes) or very large or long commercial trucks. We can take motorcycles as long as the owners understand that our road system at Fire Mountain is gravel and has steep grades in certain areas; as long as they are ridden in and not brought in on a trailer which we do not have parking for; and as long as motorcycle owners understand that guests come to Fire Mountain for peace, quiet and serenity. We do not provide air conditioning as it is not needed. Therefore an early departure or late arrival to the top of the mountain on motorcycle can completely destroy the peace, quiet and serenity that our guests desire. If you desire to ride your motorcycle please respect the desires of other guests regarding peace and quiet. We do not want you or our other guests unhappy.

Road conditions during the winter months do not change any of the above. We are used to winter road conditions here in the mountains. In the winter months our private roads are well maintained here at Fire Mountain as are the county and state roads. Life does not stop in the mountains when it snows. Since our inception at Fire Mountain in 1996 there has, to date, never been a day when guests could not come and go.

**Commercial Airline** – You may fly into:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Airport</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Arrival Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia - Atlanta International</td>
<td>2 hour 30 minute</td>
<td>2 hour 30 minute driving time to Fire Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chattanooga, Tennessee - Lovell Field</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>3 hours driving time to Fire Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knoxville, Tennessee - Island Home Airport</td>
<td>2 hour 30 minute</td>
<td>2 hour 30 minute driving time to Fire Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asheville, North Carolina - Asheville Reg.</td>
<td>1 hour 40 minute</td>
<td>1 hour 40 minute driving time to Fire Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raleigh, North Carolina - Douglas Int.</td>
<td>3 hours 30 minute</td>
<td>3 hours 30 minute driving time to Fire Mountain</td>
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We recommend that you fly into Atlanta International Airport as you will probably have more departure times and airlines to choose from resulting in more convenience and cost effectiveness. The driving time from Atlanta International Airport to Fire Mountain is 2 hours 30 minutes.

If you are able to fly directly into Asheville Regional Airport in Asheville, North Carolina you may affect a shorter time as the driving time from this airport to Fire Mountain is 1 hour 40 minutes. If you have to change planes to get to Asheville then your total travel time will be longer and more than likely your costs will also be higher than if you arrived through Atlanta International Airport.

At all of the airports listed you are able to obtain a car rental and you have a choice of vendors.

**Private Plane** – We have a number of guests who arrive by private plane each year. The closest private airport to Fire Mountain is the Macon County - Franklin Airport in Franklin, North Carolina (I45). CTAF 123.05 AWOS 118.225 LAT.N35-13.36 LONG. W083-24.14. The airport may be reached at 828.524.5529 or by email at franklinair@verizon.net. The drive from the airport to Fire Mountain is approximately 25 miles and should take approximately 30 – 35 minutes. The terminal at Franklin Airport was completed in 2003 and is very nice. You may obtain a rental car from Enterprise Rent-A-Car at 828.349.0078. They will have your car waiting for you at the airport. The runway is presently 4,400’ with an extension under construction that will take it to 5,100’. Elevation is 2020’. They have received
Citations, Lear Jets, Challengers, King Airs and Global Express. They have an instrument approach. Best time to fly in is after 11 am and up until 2 pm for best changes of no fog. Your alternative if Macon County – Franklin has bad weather is Toccoa, GA which is 45 – 50 minutes away from Fire Mountain.

Transportation Service – If a member or members of your party need transportation services to and from an airport or while you are in the Highlands you may choose from the following services. All offer roundtrip rates for pick-up and delivery to the airports in Asheville, NC – Atlanta, GA – and Greenville, SC and local transportation and shuttle services. Make sure to call as far ahead as possible to ensure that they will be able to accommodate your needs. In High Season these services are very busy.

- Highlands Taxi 828.526.8645 Charlie Dasher 828.482.2319 cell
- Highlands Transportation Co. 828.526.4113
- Highlands Shuttle Service 770.402.0423 Bob Dunn
- Road Runner 828.524.3265 Darlene Swafford
- Cashiers Carolina Connection LLC 828.506.0956 Bo & Rhonda Alexander

Train – Amtrak’s, The Crescent, takes you from the Big Apple to the Big Easy. This train leaves daily from New York, NY by way of Atlanta, GA and ends in New Orleans, LA. The station stops along the way that are the nearest to Fire Mountain are Charlotte and Gastonia, North Carolina; Spartanburg, Greenville and Clemson, South Carolina; and Toccoa, Gainesville and Atlanta, Georgia. For assistance or reservations call 800.872.7245.

APPROXIMATE DRIVING TIMES TO FIRE MOUNTAIN

Assuming that traffic is moving normally, the following estimates of driving times will assist your travel planning if you are driving to Fire Mountain.

- Asheville, NC 1 hour 30 minutes
- Greenville, SC 1 hour 45 minutes
- Atlanta, GA 2 hours
- Chattanooga, TN 3 hours
- Knoxville, TN 2 hours 30 minutes
- Charlotte, NC 3 hours 30 minutes
- Columbia, SC 3 hours 30 minutes
- Birmingham, AL 4 hours
- Winston Salem, NC 4 hours
- Nashville, TN 5 hours
- Charleston, SC 5 hours
- Raleigh, NC 6 hours
- Cincinnati, OH 6 hours
- Jacksonville, FL 7 hours 30 minutes
- Orlando, FL 8 hours
- New Orleans, LA 8 hours
- Tampa, FL 9 hours
- Washington, DC 10 hours
- Miami, FL 13 hours
- New York, NY 13 hours

DRIVING DIRECTIONS to FIRE MOUNTAIN

We highly encourage you to obtain a good road map which you can usually purchase from your local gas station, office supply, or book store. Unfortunately the staff at Fire Mountain is not always able to map you to our area from your area. Please make sure that you have these driving directions to Fire Mountain with you. We do not give driving directions to Fire Mountain over the phone in order to protect the privacy and security of our guests!

We have also found, through the experience of our guests, that using computer mapping services on the internet, in most cases, is more harmful than helpful. A computer just cannot figure out which is the quickest way time wise through the mountains and which way will keep you out of the two lane curvy mountain roads the longest in order to make your trip shorter.

Following are written directions for the best ways to reach the top of Fire Mountain from selected cities. These written directions will take you to Dillard, GA or Highlands, NC. Fire Mountain borders the scenic highway that runs between these two villages. Once you reach Dillard, GA or Highlands, NC follow our written directions that are printed at the end of this section to reach the top of Fire Mountain.

GEO: LATITUDE 34.999254  LONGITUDE -83.325346
PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 700 HAPPY HILL ROAD  HIGHLANDS, NC 28775
PHONE: 800.775.4446
From Atlanta, GA to Dillard, GA
   Interstate 85 North to Interstate 985 North which becomes Highway 23 North to Dillard, GA. Then follow the directions below from Dillard, GA to Fire Mountain.

From Chattanooga, TN to Dillard, GA
   Interstate 75 North to Highway 64/74 By-Pass (Exit 20 at Cleveland, TN). Then exit 64/74/40 East to Ducktown, TN / Murphy, NC. In Murphy, NC 64/74 splits. Take 64 East to Highway 23 South (at Franklin, NC) to Dillard, GA. Then follow the directions below from Dillard, GA to Fire Mountain.

From Knoxville, TN to Dillard, GA
   Interstate 40 East to Highway 23 South to Dillard, GA. (At Franklin, NC do not exit onto Highway 64 East to Highlands, NC as that way will add 30 minutes to your drive). Then follow the directions below from Dillard, GA to Fire Mountain.

From Asheville, NC to Dillard, GA
   Interstate 40 West to (Exit 27 / Franklin, Murphy, Atlanta) Highway 23 South to Dillard, GA. (At Franklin, NC do not exit onto Highway 64 East to Highlands, NC as that way will add 30 minutes to your drive). Then follow the directions below from Dillard, GA to Fire Mountain.

From Charlotte, NC to Dillard, GA
   Interstate 85 South to Highway 153 North (Exit 40 at Greenville, SC) to Highway 123 South to Highway 76 West to Highway 23 North (at Clayton, GA) to Dillard, GA. Then follow the directions below from Dillard, GA to Fire Mountain.

From Columbia, SC to Dillard, GA
   Interstate 26 West to Interstate 385 North to Interstate 85 South to Highway 153 North (Exit 40 at Greenville, SC) to Highway 123 South to Highway 76 West to Highway 23 North (at Clayton, GA) to Dillard, GA. Then follow the directions below from Dillard, GA to Fire Mountain.

From Greenville, SC to Dillard, GA
   Highway 123 South to Highway 76 West to Highway 23 North (at Clayton, GA) to Dillard, GA. Then follow the directions from Dillard, GA to Fire Mountain. Then follow the directions below from Dillard, GA to Fire Mountain.

From Dillard, GA to Fire Mountain
   At the only stop light in Dillard, GA, turn onto GA 246 (Highlands Road) from Highway 23/441.

   Drive approximately 3 and 7/10 miles and you will come to the GA/NC state line. At the state line the highway changes from GA 246 to NC 106. Go into NC exactly 1 and 3/10 miles and you will come to a small bridge in the road. Just before the bridge turn right onto our private road (Happy Hill Road). Then 1 mile up to our secluded mountaintop hideaway. Follow the signs directing you to Reception.

From Highlands, NC to Fire Mountain
   Take scenic 106 South (Dillard Road) from Main Street exactly 9 miles. Cross over the bridge and immediately turn left onto our private road (Happy Hill Road). Then 1 mile up to our secluded mountaintop hideaway. Follow the signs directing you to Reception.

MAPS
   Go to the location section of our website for a series of area maps that may assist you in traveling to Fire Mountain.