

HIGHLANDS, NC

Restaurants & Dining

Celebrated dining in downtown Highlands, from refined seasonal menus to casual pub favorites.

Restaurants & Dining

Estimated drive times begin at 700 Happy Hill Road, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775. Select each website or directions link for current information and live routing.

Madison's Restaurant

FINE DINING

Refined mountain dining featuring seasonal menus and thoughtfully sourced ingredients in the heart of Old Edwards Inn.

Address: 445 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741

Telephone: (828) 787-2525

Approx. drive time: about 15 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: madisonshighlands.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

Four65 Woodfire Bistro + Bar

WOOD-FIRED

Neapolitan-style pizza and Mediterranean-inspired dishes prepared in a wood-fired oven, with a relaxed Main Street atmosphere.

Address: 465 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741

Telephone: (828) 787-2990

Approx. drive time: about 15 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: four65.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

Wild Thyme Gourmet

LOCAL FAVORITE

A longtime Highlands favorite serving lunch and dinner with American cuisine, globally inspired flavors and a welcoming patio.

Address: 343 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741

Telephone: (828) 526-4035

Approx. drive time: about 16 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: wildthymegourmet.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

The Ugly Dog Public House

CASUAL PUB

Family-owned pub offering burgers, sandwiches, craft beer, live music and a casual, dog-themed atmosphere. Walk-ins only.

Address: 294 South 4th Street, Highlands, NC 28741

Telephone: (828) 526-8364

Approx. drive time: about 16 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: theuglydogpub.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

HIGHLANDS, NC

More Restaurants & Dining

Lakeside dining, tavern fare, casual cocktails and Spanish-inspired tapas.

More Restaurants & Dining

Estimated drive times begin at 700 Happy Hill Road, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775. Select each website or directions link for current information and live routing.

Lakeside Restaurant

LAKESIDE DINING

Fine dining on Harris Lake featuring fresh seafood, craft cocktails, an extensive wine list and seasonal outdoor seating.

Address: 531 Smallwood Avenue, Highlands, NC 28741

Telephone: (828) 526-9419

Approx. drive time: about 18 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: lakesiderestaurant.info | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

Highlands Tavern

TAVERN

A cozy old-world-inspired tavern offering seasonal farm-to-table dishes, cocktails and a relaxed evening atmosphere.

Address: 205 South 4th Street, Highlands, NC 28741

Telephone: (828) 526-9002

Approx. drive time: about 16 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: highlandstavern.net | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

The High Dive

CASUAL BAR

Family-friendly bar with cocktails, rotating draft beer, comfort food, games, weekly events and a dog-friendly patio.

Address: 476 Carolina Way, Highlands, NC 28741

Telephone: (828) 526-2200

Approx. drive time: about 17 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: highlandsdive.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

The Stubborn Bull at Mill Creek

TAPAS & COCKTAILS

Spanish-inspired restaurant specializing in international tapas, craft cocktails and thoughtfully selected wines.

Address: 445 North 4th Street, Highlands, NC 28741

Telephone: (828) 200-0813

Approx. drive time: about 17 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: the-stubborn-bull.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

HIGHLANDS, NC

More Restaurants & Dining

Mexican favorites, lakeside cuisine, classic Italian dining and a contemporary mountain steakhouse.

More Restaurants & Dining

Estimated drive times begin at 700 Happy Hill Road, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775. Select each website or directions link for current information and live routing.

Los Vaqueros Mexican Restaurant

MEXICAN

Family-owned restaurant serving authentic Mexican and Tex-Mex favorites in a casual setting near downtown Highlands.

Address: 30 Dillard Road, Highlands, NC 28741

Telephone: (828) 482-7040

Approx. drive time: about 15 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: [Los Vaqueros on Facebook](#) | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

On the Verandah

LAKE SEQUOYAH

Long-established lakeside restaurant featuring fresh seafood, globally inspired cuisine and an extensive wine list.

Address: 1536 Franklin Road, Highlands, NC 28741

Telephone: (828) 526-2338

Approx. drive time: about 21 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: [ontheverandah.com](#) | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

Ristorante Paoletti

ITALIAN

Elegant family-run Italian dining centered on traditional recipes, fine ingredients, attentive service and an extensive wine program.

Address: 440 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741

Telephone: (828) 526-4906

Approx. drive time: about 15 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: [paolettis.com](#) | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

Oak Steakhouse Highlands

STEAKHOUSE

A contemporary Appalachian-inspired steakhouse at Skyline Lodge featuring premium beef, seasonal dishes and mountain views.

Address: 470 Skyline Lodge Road, Highlands, NC 28741

Telephone: (828) 482-4720

Approx. drive time: about 22 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: [oaksteakhouse.com/highlands](#) | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

HIGHLANDS, NC

Activities & Attractions

Arts, nature, live performances and one of the area's most accessible waterfalls.

Activities & Attractions

Schedules, admissions and outdoor access can be seasonal or weather-dependent. Calling ahead is recommended.

ART & CULTURE

The Bascom: Center for the Visual Arts

A six-acre visual arts campus with rotating exhibitions, workshops, special events and the Horst Winkler Sculpture Trail.

Address: 323 Franklin Road, Highlands, NC 28741

Telephone: (828) 526-4949

Approx. drive time: about 17 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: thebascom.org | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

NATURE

Highlands Nature Center

A family-friendly natural history center with live-animal exhibits, educational programs and access to botanical garden trails.

Address: 930 Horse Cove Road, Highlands, NC 28741

Telephone: (828) 526-2623

Approx. drive time: about 18 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: highlandsbiological.org/nature-center | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

LIVE SHOWS

Highlands Performing Arts Center

A multi-stage performing arts venue presenting concerts, theater, dance, film and community programs throughout the year.

Address: 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands, NC 28741

Telephone: (828) 526-9047

Approx. drive time: about 16 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: highlandsp Performing Arts Center | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

WATERFALL

Dry Falls

A dramatic roadside waterfall with a short paved and stair-stepped trail that allows visitors to walk behind the falling water.

Address: Dry Falls Parking Area, US 64 West, Highlands, NC 28741

Telephone: Nantahala Ranger District: (828) 524-6441

Approx. drive time: about 24 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: [Forest Service information](#) | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

DILLARD, GA

Restaurants & Dining

Southern Appalachian traditions, farm dining and long-standing local favorites.

Restaurants & Dining

Estimated drive times begin at 700 Happy Hill Road, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775. Select each website or directions link for current information and live routing.

The Dillard House Restaurant

SOUTHERN

Historic destination restaurant known for generous, family-style Southern Appalachian meals and sweeping valley views.

Address: 768 Franklin Street, Dillard, GA 30537

Telephone: (706) 746-5348

Approx. drive time: about 18 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: dillardhouse.com/food-drink | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

Julep Kitchen at Julep Farms

FARM DINING

Contemporary Southern and New American dining at a modern farm resort with a market, gardens, bar and seasonal events.

Address: 500 Georgia Highway 246, Dillard, GA 30537

Telephone: (706) 960-9600

Approx. drive time: about 12 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: julep.farm/kitchen | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

Cupboard Cafe

COMFORT FOOD

A friendly local cafe serving breakfast, Southern comfort food, seafood, barbecue and house-made desserts.

Address: 7388 Highway 441 North, Dillard, GA 30537

Telephone: (706) 746-5700

Approx. drive time: about 17 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: eatcupboardcafe.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

Valley Cafe & Catering

LOCAL FAVORITE

A long-standing local restaurant offering breakfast, lunch and dinner, including steaks, seafood, sandwiches and burgers.

Address: 7099 Highway 441 North, Dillard, GA 30537

Telephone: (706) 746-3321

Approx. drive time: about 18 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: valleycafedillard.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

DILLARD, GA

Activities & Attractions

Horseback riding, Appalachian heritage, local spirits and panoramic mountain scenery.

Activities & Attractions

Schedules, admissions and outdoor access can be seasonal or weather-dependent. Calling ahead is recommended.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Dillard House Stables

Guided horseback rides through mountain scenery, river crossings and farm landscapes. Advance reservations are strongly recommended.

Address: 768 Franklin Street, Dillard, GA 30537

Telephone: (706) 746-2038

Approx. drive time: about 18 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: dillardhousestables.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

HERITAGE

Foxfire Village Museum & Mercantile

An outdoor Appalachian heritage museum with historic cabins, traditional crafts, demonstrations, educational programs and a mercantile.

Address: 98 Foxfire Lane, Mountain City, GA 30562

Telephone: (706) 746-5828

Approx. drive time: about 23 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: foxfire.org | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

DISTILLERY

R.M. Rose & Company Distillers

A historic whiskey brand revived in Dillard, offering complimentary tastings and tours of its Rock House Distillery.

Address: 890 Franklin Street, Dillard, GA 30537

Telephone: (706) 982-8115

Approx. drive time: about 19 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: rmrosec.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

STATE PARK

Black Rock Mountain State Park

Georgia's highest state park, with scenic overlooks, hiking trails, a mountain lake, picnic areas, camping and cottages.

Address: 3085 Black Rock Mountain Parkway, Mountain City, GA 30562

Telephone: (706) 746-2141

Approx. drive time: about 28 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: gastateparks.org/BlackRockMountain | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

CLAYTON & LAKEMONT, GA

Restaurants & Dining

Downtown Clayton favorites plus destination dining near Lake Rabun.

Restaurants & Dining

Estimated drive times begin at 700 Happy Hill Road, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775. Select each website or directions link for current information and live routing.

Fortify Kitchen & Bar

FARM-TO-TABLE

Chef-driven New American and contemporary Southern cuisine with a strong focus on regional farms and locally sourced ingredients.

Address: 69 North Main Street, Clayton, GA 30525

Telephone: (706) 782-0050

Approx. drive time: about 30 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: fortifyclayton.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

Universal Joint Clayton

CASUAL PUB

A relaxed downtown neighborhood pub serving burgers, wings, sandwiches and craft beer, with a dog-friendly patio.

Address: 109 North Main Street, Clayton, GA 30525

Telephone: (706) 782-7116

Approx. drive time: about 30 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: ujointbar.com/clayton | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

The Hush Cuban Kitchen & Bar

CUBAN

Cuban and Latin-inspired dishes, cocktails and generous portions in a lively downtown Clayton setting.

Address: 173 North Main Street, Clayton, GA 30525

Telephone: (706) 782-3371

Approx. drive time: about 31 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: hushcubankitchen.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

Lake Rabun Hotel & Restaurant

LAKE DINING

Destination farm-to-table dining across from Lake Rabun, featuring seasonal menus, locally grown produce and an intimate historic setting.

Address: 35 Andrea Lane, Lakemont, GA 30552

Telephone: (706) 782-4946

Approx. drive time: about 43 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: lakerabunhotel.com/restaurant | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

The Rusty Bike Cafe

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Family-friendly all-American grill serving an all-day breakfast menu, burgers, sandwiches, salads and fresh-baked desserts.

Address: 677 Highway 441 South, Clayton, GA 30525

Telephone: (706) 212-2020

Approx. drive time: about 30 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: therustybikecafe.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

CLAYTON & LAKEMONT, GA

Activities & Attractions

Gorges, waterfalls, lake recreation and North Georgia wine country.

Activities & Attractions

Schedules, admissions and outdoor access can be seasonal or weather-dependent. Calling ahead is recommended.

STATE PARK

Tallulah Gorge State Park

A spectacular two-mile gorge with rim overlooks, waterfalls, hiking trails and a suspension bridge. Gorge-floor permits are limited.

Address: 338 Jane Hurt Yarn Drive, Tallulah Falls, GA 30573

Telephone: (706) 754-7981

Approx. drive time: about 49 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: gastateparks.org/TallulahGorge | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

LAKE RECREATION

Lake Rabun Beach Recreation Area

Seasonal lake recreation with swimming, fishing, boating access, hiking, picnicking and a forested campground.

Address: 4726 Lake Rabun Road, Lakemont, GA 30552

Telephone: (706) 782-6798

Approx. drive time: about 44 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: gofindoutdoors.org/lake-rabun-beach | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

WATERFALL HIKE

Minnehaha Falls Trail

A short woodland hike to a broad, multi-tiered waterfall near Lake Rabun. Bear Gap Road is narrow and partly unpaved.

Address: Trailhead off Bear Gap Road, Lakemont, GA 30552

Telephone: Chattooga River Ranger District: (706) 754-6221

Approx. drive time: about 46 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: [Explore Georgia information](#) | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

WINERY

Tiger Mountain Vineyards

Estate-grown North Georgia wines, tastings and vineyard experiences in a scenic setting just south of Clayton.

Address: 2592 Old Highway 441 South, Tiger, GA 30576

Telephone: (706) 782-4777

Approx. drive time: about 36 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: tigerwine.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

CLAYTON & LAKEMONT, GA

More Activities & Attractions

Whimsical shopping and boat rentals for Lake Burton and Lake Rabun.

More Activities & Attractions

Boat rentals are seasonal and often book in advance. Confirm availability, age requirements and Georgia boating-safety requirements directly with the operator.

Ladybug Landing

SHOPPING & FAIRY GARDEN

A whimsical nature-inspired gift and home decor boutique with clothing, unique finds and an enchanting fairy-garden atmosphere.

Address: 3026 Highway 441, Tiger, GA 30576

Telephone: (706) 982-2934

Approx. drive time: about 38 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: ladybug-landing.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

LaPrade's Marina - Lake Burton Boat Rentals

LAKE BURTON

Full-service Lake Burton marina offering pontoon boat rentals, fuel, storage and lakeside amenities. Advance reservations are recommended.

Address: 25 Shoreline Trail, Clarkesville, GA 30523

Telephone: (706) 947-0010

Approx. drive time: about 50 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: lapradesmarina.com/boat-rental | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

Bear Gap Outfitters - Lake Rabun Boat Rentals

LAKE RABUN

Boat-rental outfitter serving Lake Rabun, Lake Seed and Lake Burton with pontoons, kayaks, canoes and paddleboards, including dock delivery.

Address: 6 Bear Gap Road, Lakemont, GA 30552

Telephone: (706) 782-4438

Approx. drive time: about 44 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: beargapoutfitters.com/our-rentals | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

FRANKLIN, NC

Restaurants & Dining

Distinctive local restaurants ranging from French-inspired cuisine to classic diner fare.

Restaurants & Dining

Estimated drive times begin at 700 Happy Hill Road, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775. Select each website or directions link for current information and live routing.

Caffe REL

FRENCH BISTRO

French-inspired bistro cuisine in an unexpected roadside setting, known for an extensive menu and classically trained cooking.

Address: 459 East Main Street, Franklin, NC 28734

Telephone: (828) 369-9446

Approx. drive time: about 37 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: cafferel.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

Gracious Plates on Main

LOCAL SOURCING

Locally sourced American dining with lunch, dinner and weekend brunch, plus beer, wine and private-event options.

Address: 46 East Main Street, Franklin, NC 28734

Telephone: (828) 369-2690

Approx. drive time: about 40 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: graciousplatesonmain.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

Motor Company Grill

CLASSIC DINER

A lively 1950s-themed diner serving fresh burgers, sandwiches, fries, fountain drinks, milkshakes and classic desserts.

Address: 86 West Main Street, Franklin, NC 28734

Telephone: (828) 524-0099

Approx. drive time: about 40 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: motorcogrill.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

Lucio's Restaurant

ITALIAN

Family-operated Italian restaurant serving traditional pasta, seafood, chicken and veal dishes in Franklin since 1984.

Address: 313 Highlands Road, Franklin, NC 28734

Telephone: (828) 369-6670

Approx. drive time: about 36 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: luciosnc.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

Leo's Caffe Italia

ITALIAN CAFE

Artisan Italian eatery offering wood-fired pizza, pastries, gelato, espresso and primarily organic and natural Italian selections.

Address: 91 Georgia Road, Franklin, NC 28734

Telephone: (828) 349-0115

Approx. drive time: about 39 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: leoscaffeitalia.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

FRANKLIN, NC

Activities & Attractions

Gem-mining history, Scottish heritage, live entertainment and hands-on mining.

Activities & Attractions

Schedules, admissions and outdoor access can be seasonal or weather-dependent. Calling ahead is recommended.

MUSEUM

Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum

A free downtown museum in the historic Macon County jail, displaying regional gems, minerals, fossils and mining history.

Address: 25 Phillips Street, Franklin, NC 28734

Telephone: (828) 369-7831

Approx. drive time: about 40 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: fgmm.org | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

HERITAGE

Scottish Tartans Museum & Heritage Center

Exhibits exploring tartan design, Highland dress, clan history and the Scottish cultural legacy in the Appalachian region.

Address: 86 East Main Street, Franklin, NC 28734

Telephone: (828) 524-7472

Approx. drive time: about 40 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: scottishtartansmuseum.org | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

LIVE SHOWS

Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts

A 1,500-seat theater presenting concerts, touring performers, family entertainment and local theatrical productions.

Address: 1028 Georgia Road, Franklin, NC 28734

Telephone: (828) 524-1598

Approx. drive time: about 39 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: smokymountainarts.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)

GEM MINING

Mason Mountain Mine & Cowee Gift Shop

Hands-on native gem mining in the Cowee Valley, with mining supplies, local specimens and assistance identifying finds.

Address: 5315 Bryson City Road, Franklin, NC 28734

Telephone: (828) 421-1457

Approx. drive time: about 50 minutes from 700 Happy Hill Road

Online: masonmtnmine.com | [Directions from Happy Hill Road](#)