

2023

FOR AMERICA'S LUXURY COACH ENTHUSIASTS

# Motorcoach Living<sup>®</sup>

## America's Secret Coasts

*Drive the blue highways of Mississippi and Michigan*

Q&A

**Andrew Steele,  
RV influencer**

PLACES

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Wine Country?**

DRIVE

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EDITOR'S PICKS

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## Meander the Blue Ridge Parkway

Landscape architect **Stanley Abbott** envisioned the Blue Ridge Parkway as a scenic highway lying gently on the land. Begun as a Depression-era work project, this two-lane ribbon of asphalt traces the backbone of the Appalachian Mountains dipping into river valleys and broad plateaus. There are no billboards, no semi-trucks and a maximum speed of 45 mph—all perfect for taking in the views of the hazy Blue Ridge Mountains draped in fall colors that roll to the horizon.

The parkway winds 469 miles from milepost 0 south of Shenandoah National Park in Virginia to the North Carolina border of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, but in a larger RV, avoid the stretch south of Asheville, North Carolina, where tunnels are fun to traverse but measure less than 12 feet tall at the edge.

That doesn't mean you'll miss out. This drive is known for its fall color flexibility. With a variation of 5,000 feet from peak to ground, you'll catch fall colors peaking at the high points around mid-October but continuing far longer.

Some highlights include Mabry Mill, milepost 176.2; here, your Instagram shot must be the reflection of the 1903 mill framed by red and gold leaves. U.S. National Park Service rangers at Matthew's Cabin chat up guests while working a loom and spinning wheel.

Continue on to the Blue Ridge Music Center, milepost 213, where concerts often are scheduled in the amphitheater on weekends and you'll learn how Blue Ridge region music evolved.

Autumn motorists find much at which to marvel at Linn Cove Viaduct, milepost 304. Forests blazing with fall hues tumble down Grandfather Mountain with the 1,243-foot viaduct wrapping its flanks. This feat of engineering opened in 1987, the last link in the chain of parkway Abbott set about creating 52 years before. —BY KATHERINE RODEGHIER

### TASTE THE SOUTH

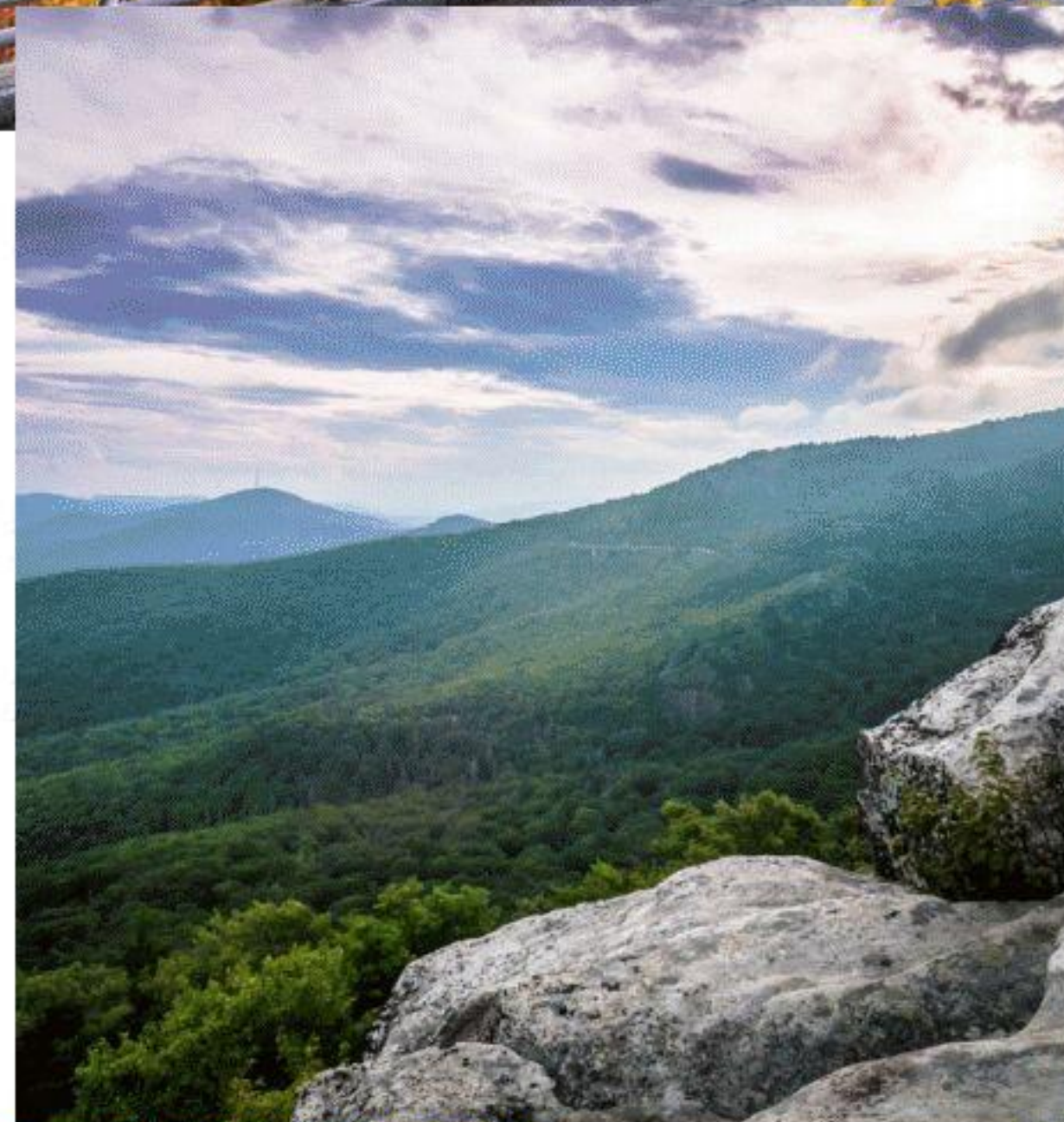
Asheville's Biscuit Head restaurant "puts the South in your mouth" with flaky biscuits and dozens of jams, fried green tomatoes, pimento cheese grits and more.

### PAY YOUR RESPECTS

The National D-Day Memorial, Bedford, Va., pays tribute to Allied troops who died in this World War II battle.

### AN ARCH WORTHY OF A KING

Don't miss Natural Bridge State Park in Natural Bridge, Va., a 215-foot limestone arch that Thomas Jefferson bought from King George III in 1774.



From top: Winding roads that trace the backbone of the Appalachian Mountains are the hallmark of the stunning Blue Ridge Parkway, as are the blue casts of the mountain panoramas as seen from scenic overlooks like this one at the Rough Ridge Overlook. The parkway also leads to manmade and natural attractions like Mabry Mill, where rangers showcase traditional American arts and a 215-foot limestone arch with royal beginnings.

