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This North Carolina Region Is Full of Stunning Fall Foliage, Waterfalls, and Charming Luxury Hotels

There's a reason travelers up and down the East Coast flock to the Highlands-Cashiers region; it's home to some of the most relaxing, luxurious hotels in the state of North Carolina. Here's where to stay this fall.

BY LYDIA MANSEL | SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

Asheville may lay claim to the most-visited spot in western [North Carolina](#) — especially in the autumn season when fall foliage is ripe for peeping — but the Highlands-Cashiers plateau is more than worthy of an extended trip. In fact, if you don't visit, you'll miss out on some of the state's most awe-inducing views and home-style comfort.

Think of both Highlands and Cashiers as the [Aspen](#) of the Carolinas; the area is filled with activities for the outdoor enthusiast as well as the art collector, wine aficionado, and traveler simply looking to unplug (note: your phone service may dip in and out depending on your exact location). The region is also known for its abundance of waterfalls. While there are around 250 waterfalls in western North Carolina alone, some of the most impressive — and easily accessible — are in the immediate vicinity of both Highlands and Cashiers. Both towns sit on the plateau, but they each offer their own unique features and experiences; luckily it's a quick trip between the two towns. A winding 10 miles will get you from one to the other.



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The reasons to visit this part of North Carolina are almost as plentiful as there are places to stay. Whether you want to bask in true luxury, with all amenities at your fingertips, or experience an overnight stay with a more rustic feel (flannel blankets are a must), there is a perfect place to lay your head after a long day of hiking, shopping, or simply experiencing the beauty of the southern Appalachian Mountains. Here's where to book — and hurry, this season will be busier than ever — in the Highlands-Cashiers plateau of North Carolina this fall.