



# Banner Elk, North Carolina

Photo: Margaret.W/Shutterstock.com



Craig Zerbe/Shutterstock.com

A dreamscape located in the heart of Blue Ridge Mountains in Western-North Carolina, Banner Elk is a favorite destination for countless individuals and families seeking fun in the outdoors. The “ski capital of the South” offers a plenty of open air activities such as fishing, rafting, horseback riding, hiking, golfing and—of course—skiing. Banner Elk also presents a climate that accommodates every itinerary, spanning the Blue Ridge and Grandfather Mountains, picturesque communities, fine restaurants, and speciality shopping.



HPUPhotogStudent/cc by 2.0/Flickr



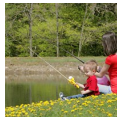
Mark Clifton/cc by-sa 2.0/Flickr

## Featured



### Sugar Mountain Resort

The Sugar Mountain Resort is famed for its hills. It features a 1,200-foot v...



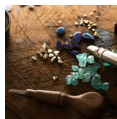
### Grandfather Trout Farm

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### Grandfather Mountain Nurse...

The Grandfather Mountain Nursery Garden Center has been nurturing Banner Elk...



### Sugar Creek Gem Mine

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### Banner House Museum

Banner House Museum, as a special section of Banner Elk Heritage Foundation,...

## Top 5



### Grandfather Mountain

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### Grandfather Vineyard & Winery

Steve Tatum and his wife founded the winery as a simple indulgence of their ...



### High Mountain Expeditions

High Mountain Expeditions has years of experience as one of Banner Elk's fav...



### Edge of the World

Edge of the World comes with over 30 years of recreational experience. They ...



### Banner Elk Stables

Banner Elk Stables welcomes families and friends to one of the area's most a...



## THE CITY



*WashuOtaku/cc by-sa 2.0/Flickr (image cropped)*

Banner Elk takes its name from the explorer Martin L. Banner, who first established a western settlement near river Elk in 1848. However, this area, also known as "High Country" was first inhabited by Cherokee Indians, who possessed a strong foothold along the crest of Blue Ridge Mountain and used this rich land for hunting and agriculture. In 1825, white settlers began to inhabit the area, emigrating from other regions of the United States, as well as from Europe.

The town was officially incorporated in 1911 by the North Carolina General Assembly, and the area became primarily comprised of agriculture. Known as the "Christmas tree capital of the world," Banner Elk's economy is partly based on this small business, due to the strong presence of fir-forests in the hills surrounding the town. After World War II, tourism slowly began to change the face of this tiny mountain area, when vacationers discovered the wealth natural attractions such as Watauga Lake or spectacular slopes like Beech Mountain and Sugar Mountain.

## DO & SEE



*Creative Travel Projects/Shutterstock.com*

Banner Elk contributes to High Country's boundless attractions with natural wonders like Grandfather Mountain and the Blue Ridge Parkway. International and local visitors come by the millions each year to experience North Carolina through Banner Elk's eyes. There are also activities in the surrounding Blue Ridge areas. The slopes of Blue Ridge, with their unique biodiversity of flora and fauna, are unmissable destinations for hikers and bird watchers, while the high number of ski resort makes the area ideal for winter sports lovers.

### Grandfather Mountain



Across the famed Mile High Swinging Bridge lies the wondrous Grandfather Mountain State Park—home to wildlife in its natural

habitats and grand alpine trails. Enjoy walking and hiking the mountain while encountering a wealth of photograph opportunities. After exploring the natural splendor, head to The Nature Museum and learn about the region's history. Grab a tasty treat at The Fudge Shop or Mildred's Grill afterwards, and call it a perfect day.

*Photo: Cvandyke/Shutterstock.com*

Address: US 221 & Blue Ridge Parkway, Linville  
Internet: [www.grandfather.com](http://www.grandfather.com)  
Email: [nature@grandfather.com](mailto:nature@grandfather.com)

### Grandfather Vineyard & Winery



Steve Tatum and his wife founded the winery as a simple indulgence of their wine-making hobbies. Grandfather Vineyard & Winery offers wide selections of dry white and red wines, with prices varying depending on the availability of wines in flight. Following your wine tasting experience, you'll receive a Grandfather Vineyard wine glass as a memento!

Photo: [Bryan Pollard/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/author/BryanPollard)  
Address: 225 Vineyard Lane, Banner Elk, North Carolina  
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 12h-18h, Sun 13-17h  
Phone: +1 828 963 2400  
Internet: [www.grandfathervineyard.com](http://www.grandfathervineyard.com)  
Email: [Info@grandfathervineyards.com](mailto:Info@grandfathervineyards.com)  
More Info: Opening hours can change on Columbus Day

### High Mountain Expeditions



High Mountain Expeditions has years of experience as one of Banner Elk's favorite attractions. They are experts in Nolichucky River Rafting, Watauga River Rafting, Wilson Creek Rafting, New River Tubing, Hiking and Caving. See the North Carolina mountains from a whole new perspective from the waters and trails.

Photo: [Helioscribe/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/author/Helioscribe)  
Address: 3149 Tynecastle Highway, Banner Elk  
Phone: (828) 202-1682  
Internet: [www.highmountainexpeditions.com](http://www.highmountainexpeditions.com)

### Edge of the World



Edge of the World comes with over 30 years of recreational experience. They are specialized in guided outdoor activities, offering climbing, rappelling, rafting, and canoe trips. There is also an onsite snowboard shop that sells quality outdoor equipment and performance apparel.

Photo: [aaronj9/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/author/aaronj9)  
Address: 394 Shawneehaw Ave S, Banner Elk  
Opening hours: Mon-Tue 8h-20h, Sun 11h-18h  
Phone: +1 828-214-7256  
Internet: [www.edgeoworld.com](http://www.edgeoworld.com)

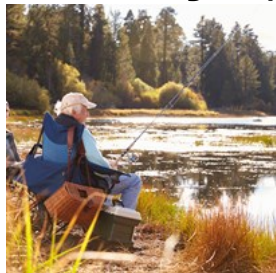
### Banner Elk Stables



Banner Elk Stables welcomes families and friends to one of the area's most adored attractions. The guided one-hour tours will lead you over beautiful trails across the high mountains of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the flanks of Beech Mountain. Impressively, some of their horses have worked on popular films such as "For Richer or Poorer," "Shallow Hal," "Cinderella," "National Treasure," and more!

Photo: [alphaspirit/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/author/alphaspirit)  
Address: 796 Shomaker Road, Banner Elk  
Opening hours: Daily 10h-16h  
Phone: +1 828-898-5424  
Internet: [www.bannerelkstables.com](http://www.bannerelkstables.com)  
More Info: Reservations are required.

### Foscoe Fishing Company & Outfitters

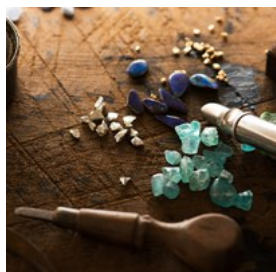


As High Country's only Orvis Endorsed Flyfishing Outfitter and Guide Service, Foscoe operates a full service fly shop and high quality fly fishing on

the Watauga, Linville, Toe, Elk, New River, and many other mountain streams. They also offer float and walk guides on the tailrace waters of Tennessee on the famous Watauga and South Holston Rivers. These waters offer great opportunities for catching Brown, Brook, and Rainbow trout, and there is great smallmouth fishing in the area as well.

Photo: Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 8857 North Carolina Highway 105, Boone  
Opening hours: Daily 9h-18h  
Phone: +1 828 963 6556  
Internet: [www.foscoefishing.com](http://www.foscoefishing.com)

### Sugar Creek Gem Mine



Sugar Creek Gem Mine is the perfect place for children or adults who want to have an unusual and exciting experience. Mimic the prospectors of

centuries ago with a bucket of your own. Find an impressive variety of gems: amethysts, sapphires, quartz, emeralds, rubies, red jasper, garnets, aquamarines and more! Mining a 5-gallon bucket lasts around 1 hour.

Photo: [optimarc.com](http://optimarc.com)/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 3045 Tynecastle Highway, Banner Elk  
Opening hours: Fri-Sun 10h-18h  
Phone: +1 828 898 4367  
Internet: [www.sugarcreekgemmine.com](http://www.sugarcreekgemmine.com)

### Grandfather Trout Farm

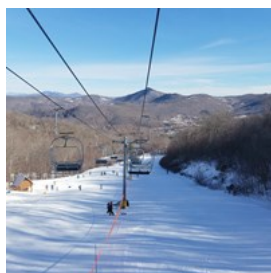


It might not appear to be at first glance, but the Grandfather Trout Farm is perfect for children and the whole family for a relaxing fishing day. They

give everyone the chance to land the "big one!" Bait and tackle are furnished at no charge, and they supply the buckets, towels, nets and other gear for your fishing needs. After fishing for the day, you may clean your fish or have them clean them for 50 cents each.

Photo: Matt Antonino/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 10767 N Carolina 105, Banner Elk  
Opening hours: daily 10h30-17h  
Phone: +1 828 963 5098  
Internet: [www.grandfathertroutfarm.com](http://www.grandfathertroutfarm.com)

### Sugar Mountain Resort

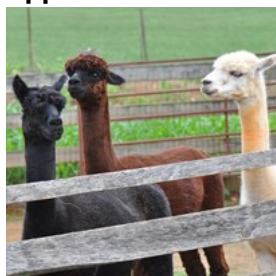


The Sugar Mountain Resort is famed for its hills. It features a 1,200-foot vertical drop, as well as ski runs of 1.5 miles. There are 115

acres, 20 runs and seven lifts that include one triple, four double, and two surface lifts. Snowshoeing, tubing, and ice skating are also available.

Photo: Jennifer Stanford/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 1009 Sugar Mountain Drive, Sugar Mountain  
Phone: +1 828 898 4521  
Internet: [www.skisugar.com](http://www.skisugar.com)

### Apple Hill Farm



It is impossible to look upon the face of an alpaca and not smile! At Apple Hill Farm, the smiles abound. Their mission is to share its beauty and animals with Banner Elk, which means you can meet all of their alpacas, cats, chickens, dogs, donkeys, goats, horses, ponies, llamas. and even mini donkeys! The farm itself is located on the site of a 45-year-old apple orchard atop Valle Mountain.

Photo: Eric Krouse/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 400 Apple Hill Road, Banner Elk  
Opening hours: Daily 10h-16h  
Phone: +1 828 963 1662  
Internet: [www.applehillfarmnc.com](http://www.applehillfarmnc.com)  
Email: [info@applehillfarmnc.com](mailto:info@applehillfarmnc.com)

### Grandfather Mountain Nursery Garden Center



The Grandfather Mountain Nursery Garden Center has been nurturing Banner Elk's wonderful outdoors since 1976. Located at the base of Grandfather Mountain, they offer extensive knowledge regarding landscaping, gardening, and more.

Photo: Olena Yakobchuk/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 11466 North Carolina 105, Banner Elk  
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10-16, Sat 10-15, Sun closed  
Phone: +1 828 963 5025  
Internet: [www.grandfatherlandscaping.com](http://www.grandfatherlandscaping.com)  
Email: [theresa@grandfatherlandscaping.com](mailto:theresa@grandfatherlandscaping.com)

### Williams YMCA of Avery County



The newly constructed YMCA of Avery County is located in Linville. Enjoy access to over 30,000 square feet of the wellness center, aquatics center, XRKade interactive fitness, group exercise, water aerobics, KidZone child watch, massage therapy, and much more.

Photo: Nomad\_Soul/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 436 Hospital Drive, Linville  
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 5h-21h, Sat 7h-19h, Sun 13h-19h  
Phone: +1 828 737 5500  
Internet: [www.ymcaavery.org](http://www.ymcaavery.org)  
Email: [membership@ymcaavery.org](mailto:membership@ymcaavery.org)

### Lees-McRae College



Lees-McRae College is a multifaceted association which also provides summer entertainment activities. Enjoy eight programs spanning symphony, vocalists, big band groups, pianists and dancers from June through August.

Photo: aceshot1/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 191 Main Street, Banner Elk  
Phone: +1 828.448.6197  
Internet: [www.lmc.edu](http://www.lmc.edu)  
Email: [hall@lmc.edu](mailto:hall@lmc.edu)

### Banner House Museum



Banner House Museum, as a special section of Banner Elk Heritage Foundation, allows guests to visit life in 19th century Banner Elk. As the original home of one of Banner Elk's original settlers, Samuel Henry Banner, the Museum has

recreated the history, culture, and development of the community and surrounding areas.

Photo: Olga Steckel/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 7990 Hickory Nut Gap Road, Banner Elk  
Opening hours: Wed-Sat 11h-15h  
Phone: +1 828 898 3634  
Internet: [www.bannerhousemuseum.org](http://www.bannerhousemuseum.org)  
Email: [bannerhousemuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:bannerhousemuseum@yahoo.com)  
More Info: Final daily tour begins at 14h30

### Dutch Creek Trails



Dutch Creek Trails offers tours of beautiful wooded trails, old farm fields, and views of the valley surrounded by the blue mountains. Their skilled

staff and wonderful horses make for a memorable time.

Photo: gabati/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 793 Rubin Walker Road, Vilas  
Phone: +1 828 297 7117  
Internet: [www.dutchcreektrails.com](http://www.dutchcreektrails.com)  
Email: [info@dutchcreektrails.com](mailto:info@dutchcreektrails.com)

## DINING



*avlxz/cc by-sa 2.0/Flickr (image cropped)*

Some of High Country's best venues are found right in Banner Elk, thanks to the high quality local products offered by this almost uncontaminated mountain area. Dining in Banner Elk comfortably ranges from fine,

upscale dining to cozy Southern cooking. Dishes are prepared utilizing fresh fish from the streams and fresh meat produced from local farms. Banner Elk's traditional cuisine is also based on venison, abundantly provided by Appalachian woods, and grilled pork or beef slices, often served with typical Western north Carolina BBQ sauces.

### Artisanal



Food mirrors art at Artisanal. Experience fine, American dining at its best with Executive Chef Bill Greene's craft courses. Choose from a selection of delectable dishes such as Chanterelle Mushroom Risotto, Grilled South Carolina Quail, North Carolina Redfish, Ribeye Cap Steak, and Apple Braised Pork Chops. Artisanal's interior is dressed in rustic woods in true Western North Carolina fashion.

Photo: Martha Graham/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 1200 Dobbins Road, Banner Elk  
Opening hours: Open May 3rd - Oct. 27, Tue-Sat 17h30-21h30  
Phone: +1 828 898 5395  
Internet: [www.artisanalnc.com](http://www.artisanalnc.com)

### Dunn's Deli



Located in front of The Historic Perry House Bed & Breakfast, Dunn's Deli is a Banner Elk mainstay. Find an impressively scrumptious menu of made-to-order Overstuffed Sandwiches (which are served on fresh, homemade croissants, subs, blunts, and Kaiser rolls), as well as wraps, salads, soups and their award-winning High Country Chili. For drinks, enjoy the unique

Build-Your-Own Beer Tasting, wine, or freshly brewed tea.

Photo: zi3000/Shutterstock.com

Address: 134 Main Street East, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 7h-19h, Sat 9h-18h, Sun 9h-17h

Phone: +1 828 898 6731

Internet: [www.dunns-deli.com](http://www.dunns-deli.com)

### Bayou Smokehouse and Grill



Styled after the famed streets and venues of New Orleans, Bayou boasts of a bar that offers an array of cocktails, beer and wine. The beer menu encompasses American Craft beers. You'll never miss the big sporting events and can play pool and National Trivia while dining on Cajun and Texan cuisine.

Photo: DarZel/Shutterstock.com

Address: 130 Main Street East, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 11h30-22h, Fri-Sat 11h30-23h, Sun 12h-22h

Phone: +1 828 898 8952

Internet: [www.bayouSmokehouse.com](http://www.bayouSmokehouse.com)

Email: [David@BayouSmokehouse.com](mailto:David@BayouSmokehouse.com)

### Stonewalls Restaurant



Stonewalls arrives alongside Banner Elk's more formidable restaurants. The cuisine is Traditional and Contemporary American, with steaks, prime rib, seafood, chicken, burgers, and lighter fare from the specialty bar. The atmosphere is casual and entirely family friendly.

Photo: cobraphotography/Shutterstock.com

Address: 344 Shawneehaw Avenue South, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 17h-21h, Sun 10h-14h and 17h-21h

Phone: +1 828 898 5550

Internet: [www.stonewallsrestaurant.com](http://www.stonewallsrestaurant.com)

### Bella's



Known for their fabulous pizzas, Bella's is also a favorite for their fine Italian cuisine and friendly atmosphere. Enjoy a selection of fresh

pasta, seafood and quality, local meats. To complement your meal, they also possess a wide selection of fine wines and microbrews right from North Carolina.

Photo: puhhha/Shutterstock.com

Address: 3585 Tynecastle Highway, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 11h-14h30 and 16h-21h, Sun 12h-21h

Phone: +1 828 898 9022

Internet: [www.bellasofbannerelk.com](http://www.bellasofbannerelk.com)

### Sorrento's Bistro



Sorrento's Bistro is an eclectic fine Italian Bistro, serving gourmet Southern Italian cuisine. They boast an impressive list of cocktails and

wines, and groups are welcome. They can accommodate hundreds between their dining room and patio garden.

Photo: Elena Leya/Shutterstock.com

Address: 140 Azalea Circle, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Mon-Tue 16h-22h, Wed-Thu 12h-22h, Fri-Sat 11h-2h, Sun 11h-22h

Phone: +1 828 898 5214

Internet: [www.sorrentosbistro.com](http://www.sorrentosbistro.com)

Email: [dafanon@gmail.com](mailto:dafanon@gmail.com)

### Puerto Nuevo Restaurant



Puerto Nuevo Restaurant is a delicious Mexican restaurant complete with ABC permits and ample seating. Enjoy traditional favorites like the beef tacos, chicken enchiladas, rice, and brown salsa. Oh, and the margaritas are worth a taste.

Photo: etorres/Shutterstock.com

Address: 2120 Tynecastle Highway, Suite 1, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 11h-22h, Fri-Sat 11h-10h, Sun 11h-22h

Phone: +1 828 898 3332

Internet: [www.puertonuevobe.com](http://www.puertonuevobe.com)

Email: [puertonuevo2009@gmail.com](mailto:puertonuevo2009@gmail.com)

### Wild Craft Eatery



All of the food served from Wild Craft Eatery's breakfast, lunch, and dinner menus are 100% hormone and antibiotic-free. The meats, fishes, beans, rices, flours, and juices are all organic and eco-friendly without artificial flavoring or coloring.

Photo: Sergey Fatin/Shutterstock.com

Address: 506 West King Street, Boone

Opening hours: Daily 11h-22h. Tue closed

Phone: +1 828 262 5000

Internet: [www.wildcrafteatery.com](http://www.wildcrafteatery.com)

Email: [wildcrafteatery@gmail.com](mailto:wildcrafteatery@gmail.com)

More Info: This place is located in Boone, just 18 miles (circa 28 min. by car) from Banner Elk

### Cam Ranh Bay



Cam Ranh Bay, formerly Tokyo Express, is Banner Elk's premier Japanese and Vietnamese restaurant, serving the best of herbs, spices, and meats. Choose from a menu of quality soups, spring rolls, lettuce wraps, hibachi, and teriyaki dishes.

Photo: Mateone/Shutterstock.com

Address: 110 High Country Square, Banner Elk

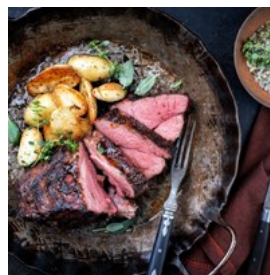
Opening hours: Mon, Wed, Thu & Sun 11h-21h Friday & Saturday 11h-22h, Tue closed

Phone: +1 828 898 4121

Internet: [www.camranhbaync.com](http://www.camranhbaync.com)

More Info: Karaoke Monday & Saturday

### Gamekeeper Restaurant



The Gamekeeper is prime for "Mountain Cuisine" and Southern prowess, and is highly appreciated for the variety of venison and local food to choose from. Their meals are prepared by wood fire and plated with finesse. Menu selections include Brunswick Stew, Mixed Game Grill, Grilled Escarole, Elk, Buffalo, Pheasant, and desserts such as Bread Pudding, Coffee Cake, and Macaroons.

Photo: hphoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: 3005 Shulls Mill Road, Boone

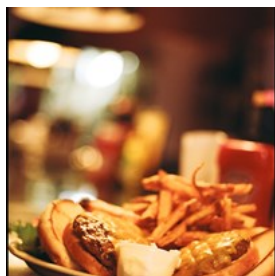
Opening hours: Wed-Sun 17h-21h

Phone: +1 828 963 7400

Internet: [www.gamekeeper-nc.com](http://www.gamekeeper-nc.com)

More Info: Bar Opens at 17h. Seating for Dinner at 18h.

### The Local



Char features an outdoor covered deck, a sleek contemporary bar, three roomy dining areas, and late night entertainment. They serve lunch, dinner, Vegan/Vegetarian, gluten-free, wine, and beer menus: They actually guarantee you a complete service for different moment of the day.

Photo: John Henderson/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: 179 Howard Street, Boone

Opening hours: Daily 11h-2h

Phone: +1 828 266 2179

Internet: [www.char179.com](http://www.char179.com)

Email: [char179@live.com](mailto:char179@live.com)

### Casa Rustica Restaurant



Casa Rustica Restaurant draws its origins from the Cannobio, the Lake Region of Italy. Using genuine family recipes, they craft gourmet dishes

with free range beef and fresh, local ingredients. Featured entrees include Duck Leg Confit, Linguine with Clam Sauce, and Chicken or Veal Saltimbocca Piemontese.

Photo: Alpha/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: 1348 Hwy 105 S. Boone

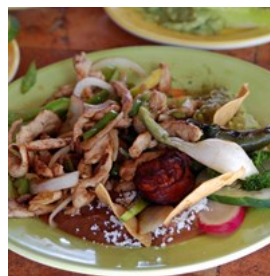
Opening hours: Mon-Thu 17h-21h30, Fri-Sat 17h-22h, Sun 17h-22h.

Phone: +1 828 262 5128

Internet: [www.casarustica1981.com](http://www.casarustica1981.com)

More Info: This place is located in Boone, just 18 miles (28 min by car) from Banner Elk.

### Valle de Bravo Mexican Grill



With two North Carolina locations, Valle de Bravo Mexican Grill allows for savory Mexican cuisine. They feature homemade sauces and excellent

house specials.

Photo: James Willamor/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: 4501 Tynecastle Highway Unit 1, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Mon-Thu & Sat 11h-22h, Fri 11h-22h30, Sun 10h30-21h

Phone: +1 828-387-4344

Internet: [www.valledebravomexicangrill.net](http://www.valledebravomexicangrill.net)

### Louisiana Purchase



Enjoy fine Creole and Cajun dining at the Louisiana Purchase. They've enjoyed nominal success in Banner Elk with excellent dishes.

Look to BBQ North Carolina Shrimp, Cajun Seafood Etouffee, and Creole Jambalaya for guaranteed perfection. There is also a full bar that serves 14 wines by the glass.

Photo: Laura Gilchrist/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: 397 Shawneehaw Avenue South, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 17h30-21h

Phone: +1 828-898-5656

Internet: [www.louisianapurchasefoodandspirits.com](http://www.louisianapurchasefoodandspirits.com)

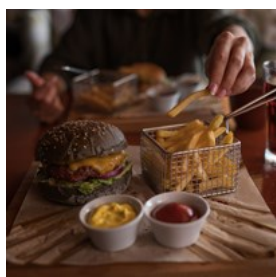
## CAFES



Ruth Georgiev/unsplash

Enjoy freshly brewed coffees and specialty roasts in the fresh, open air of Banner Elk. Happiness comes in a cup of mountain vistas and the welcoming ambiance of High Country. In Banner Elk, you will find hearty country cooking amid lighter fare in cozy, casual eateries.

### Banner Elk Cafe and Lodge



Serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily, Banner Elk Café has it all. For your morning fare, look to eggs, biscuits, French toast, pancakes, fresh coffee, and more. Lunch reels in favorites like burgers, chicken sandwiches, pizza and salads. Healthy entrees complete dinner, with dishes like the grilled mahi and wraps. Be sure to check out the drinks menu for the acclaimed Bloody Mary and Cadillac Margaritas.

Photo: ESstock/Shutterstock.com

Address: 324 Shawneehaw Ave S, Banner Elk

Opening hours: daily 10h-00h except Fri-Sat 10h-1h

Phone: +1 828 898 4040

Internet: [www.townofbannerelk.org/dining](http://www.townofbannerelk.org/dining)

Email: [info@bannerelkcafe.com](mailto:info@bannerelkcafe.com)

### Fred and Larry's Coffee



With open mic every Friday and Saturday, it's easy to see why Fred and Larry's Coffee is a favorite of Banner Elk. Opening Monday through

Saturday at 7am allows you to stop in early for great coffee, which includes an iced caramel latte that's all the rave. The atmosphere is cozy and inviting, with a friendly staff and welcoming owners.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com

Address: 3591 Tynecastle Highway, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Mon-Thu and Sat 8h-19h, Friday 8h-10h, Sun 8h-18h

Phone: +1 828 898 2110

Internet: [www.fredandlarrys.com](http://www.fredandlarrys.com)

Email: [Fredandlarryscoffee@gmail.com](mailto:Fredandlarryscoffee@gmail.com)

### Mountain Grounds Coffee and Tea Co.



Mountain Grounds is one of High Country's finest for coffee and teas. Its prime location places guests in the midst of Grandfather Mountain,

Banner Elk, Sugar Mountain, and Beech Mountain. The coffee shop has a lodge feel, which invites you in and surrounds you with aromas of their delicious beverage.

Photo: Matteo Piotto/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: 3990 North Carolina 105 #10, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 7h-17h, Fri-Sun 7h-18h

Phone: +1 828 898 5878

Internet: [www.mountaingroundsnr.com](http://www.mountaingroundsnr.com)

Email: [mountaingroundsnr@gmail.com](mailto:mountaingroundsnr@gmail.com)

### Café Portofino



Café Portofino is a certified delight in Boone. At its location in a 100-year-old building, Portofino has an open kitchen and a great dining room. They serve craft sandwiches, pasta, steaks, and fresh seafood, with daily culinary specials. The wine list begs a glance.

Photo: Anita Warren-Hampson/Shutterstock.com

Address: 970 Rivers Street, Boone

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 11h30-21h. Fri-Sat 11h30-22h.

Phone: +1 828 264 7772

Internet: [www.cafeportofino.net](http://www.cafeportofino.net)

More Info: The restaurant is located in Boone, about 18 miles (28 min by car) from Banner Elk.

### Boone Bagelry



Boone Bagelry has been locally-owned and operated by Tony and Donna Nicastro since 1988. Along with delicious fare like the Smoked Whitefish and Lox & Cream Cheese, they also serve free Wi-Fi.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: 516 West King Street, Boone

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 6h-17h, Sun 7h-15h

Phone: +1 828-262-5585

Internet: [www.boonebagelry.com](http://www.boonebagelry.com)

More Info: 5% cash discount

### Fairway Cafe



The Boone Golf Club features the wonderful Fairway Cafe, serving breakfast and lunch. Since 1975, Boone locals have made Fairway their favorite, a nice place to relax after a day spent

playing golf or walking in the club's green hills.

Photo: bit mechanic/Shutterstock.com

Address: 433 Fairway Drive, Boone

Opening hours: Mon-Sun: 11h- 15h during golf course operating season

Phone: +1 828 264 0233

Internet: [www.boonegolfclub.com/bar-and-grill](http://www.boonegolfclub.com/bar-and-grill)

Email: [info@boonegolfclub.com](mailto:info@boonegolfclub.com)

More Info: Located in Boone (19 miles from Banner Elk)

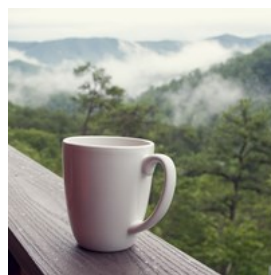
### BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com

Look to Banner Elk for an escape from the traditional bar scene, for its nightlife venues span everything from New Orleans style eateries to tapas bars. The younger crowd may want to head over to the nearby college town of Boone, where they can rub elbows with Appalachian State students taking a break from their studies. Most late night hot spots are laid back watering holes, where you can sip a drink, grab some food, and enjoy some music or conversation.

### The Painted Fish Café & Beer Bar



The Painted Fish Café and Beer Bar prides itself on "recognizable food with a twist." Their dishes are made from scratch and are supplemented by a beverage menu of local and national microbrews and fine wines. Relax in a friendly

ambiance with heated, outdoor seating available. Vistas of Sugar Mountain are complimentary.

Photo: emilie767/Pixabay

Address: 2941 Tynecastle Highway, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 5h-21h, Sun 11h-14h

Phone: +1 828 898 6800

Internet: [www.paintedfishcafe.com](http://www.paintedfishcafe.com)

### The Barra



Completely unexpected and always raving, this complex of two restaurants (namely Chef's Tabl and Sorrento's) offers not only some of High Country's best dishes, but unending nighttime entertainment. In fact one part of the building comprehends the restaurants, one part lounge. The latter bounces with South Beach lighting, plush white leather seating, and live music. DJ sets and Jazz set the tones, with theme nights and events taking place monthly. The Barra is a veritable favorite of Banner Elk. With karaoke every Saturday night, live football games on multiple televisions, open mic nights, food and drink specials, and more, it's easy to see why.

Photo: John Jones/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: 140 Azalea Circle #108, Banner Elk

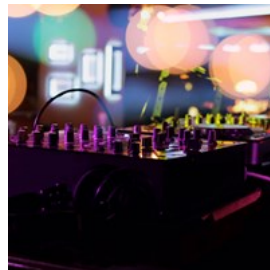
Opening hours: Thu 17h-00h Fri-Sat 17h-2h, Sun closed

Phone: +1 828 898 1940

Internet: [www.bannerelksushiclub.com](http://www.bannerelksushiclub.com)

More Info: Open Wednesdays for Jazz Night from May to September at 17h-00h. There are 3 restaurants in this complex. One is Sorrento's Italian, the other is Barra Sushi and the third is the Chef's table which is upstairs from the other two.

### Boone Saloon



Boone Saloon has a menu of weekly specials, sandwiches, fish and chips, a la carte menu items, and appetizers. Additionally, they serve a wide variety of draft and bottled beer, wine by the glass, and even champagne. Live events and shows are 21 and up, stretching from local country music to New Age dj sets.

Photo: Marco Verch/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: 489 West King Street, Boone

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 11h30-2h, Sun 12h-2h

Phone: +1 828 264 1811

Internet: [www.boonesaloon.com](http://www.boonesaloon.com)

Email: [theboonesaloon@gmail.com](mailto:theboonesaloon@gmail.com)

More Info: This club is located in Boone, just 18 miles from Banner Elk.

### Six Pence Pub



Located in Blowing Rock, the Six Pence Pub prides itself on "Fine Ale and Fine Food." Enjoy a fanciful combination of traditional British pub fare and Southern American cuisine. A patio allows for relaxation, while the rooftop terrace offers great vistas.

Photo: lynch/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: 1121 Main Street, Blowing Rock

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 11h30-12h, Fri-Sat 11h30-2h, Sun 11h30-11h

Phone: +1 828 295 3155

Internet: [www.sixpencepub.com](http://www.sixpencepub.com)

More Info: Located in Blowing Rock, just 17.5 miles (39 min. by car) from Banner Elk

### Galileo's



Galileo's is a unique bar that holds private events, live shows, and even fundraisers. As a partner with Heifer International, the proceeds from every beer you buy will help provide food for a family in need.

Photo: Whit Scott/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: 1087 West King Street, Boone

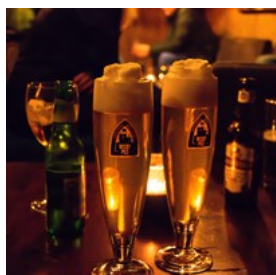
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 17-10h, Sun closed

Phone: +1 828 865 9591

Internet: [www.galileosboone.com](http://www.galileosboone.com)

More Info: Located in Boone, 19 miles from Banner Elk

### Foggy Rock Eatery & Pub



Foggy Rock Eatery and Pub is chef Burt Myers' original restaurant in the High Country. Enjoy the casual dining experience for both lunch and

dinner, with nightlife options streaming aplenty. The pub has the most televisions in town, with NFL Sunday Ticket, ESPN Gameplan, and more.

Photo: Susanne Nilsson/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: 8180 Valley Boulevard, Blowing Rock

Opening hours: Daily 11h30-21h

Phone: +1 828 295 7262

Internet: [www.foggy-rock.com](http://www.foggy-rock.com)

Email: [andrew@bobcatalley.com](mailto:andrew@bobcatalley.com)

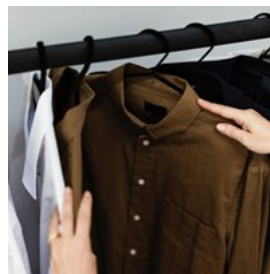
## SHOPPING



Virginia State Parks/cc by 2.0/Flickr (image cropped)

Shopping in Banner Elk is as unique as the town itself. Cute boutiques, home furnishing consignments, and pet bakeries are some of the stops you can add to your shopping trip. If you prefer shopping centers to smaller, freestanding shops, you can find some deals at the outlet mall, or you can take a short drive to peruse the offerings of the Boone Mall.

### BJ's Resort Wear



BJ's Resort Wear has served Banner Elk and the High Country region for nearly 30 years. They offer lady's apparel and fashion, with names

featuring Bogner, Basler & Belford, John Hardy, Stephen Dweck, and Michael Dawkins.

Photo: rawpixel/Unsplash

Address: 145 Main Street, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10h-17h

Phone: +1 828 898 4229

### My Best Friend's Barkery



This pet shop has everything you could possibly want for your pets. From a huge selection of adorable small outfits for your furry friends to high quality food, My Best Friend's Barkery has it all.

Photo: DocChewbacca/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: 176 Shawneehaw Ave S, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10h -18h, Sun 13h -17h

Phone: +1 828 898 5625

Internet: [www.mybestfriendsbarkery.com](http://www.mybestfriendsbarkery.com)

### Banner Elk Olive Oil and Balsamics



Find high quality healthy olive oil and balsamics for cooking fantastic dishes. Sample from the wide range of different oils and vinegars and take your favourite back home. The choice varies from extra-virgin olive oils to delicious balsamics such as Wild Blueberry, Vermont Maple, Honey Ginger, Black Cherry, and even more!

Photo: Haydn Blackey/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: 155 Banner Road

Phone: 828-898-4441

Internet: [www.beoliveoil.com](http://www.beoliveoil.com)

### Souvenir Shirts



If you are looking for souvenirs, Souvenir Shirts is definitely the place to go. They offer t-shirts in a sheer number of colours and designs to mix and match according to your wishes and print out immediately. The beautiful merchandise is nicely displayed.

Photo: Virginia State Parks/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: 3175 Tynecastle Hwy, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9h-19h

Phone: +1 828 898 6441

### Banner Elk Consignment Cottage



Banner Elk Consignment Cottage specializes in classic furniture, art, and home goods. Find a wealth of great décor and accessories for your home or office. Customers praise their helpful staff and great selections.

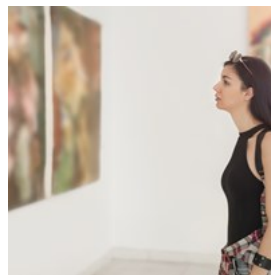
Photo: Banner Elk Consignment Cottage/Shutterstock.com

Address: 414 Shawneehaw Avenue, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Tue-Fri 11h-17h, Sat 10h20-17h, Mon & Sun closed

Phone: +1 828 898 5733

### Art Cellar Gallery



The Art Cellar Gallery provides artwork from the area's local artists, with an influence extending throughout the Southeast. There are three floors of exhibition space that offer regional pottery, woodworking, and glass. Find everything, from primitive to realistic and impressionistic to abstract art.

Photo: guruXOX/Flickr

Address: 920 Shawneehaw Lane, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Monday-Saturday 10h-17h, Sun closed

Phone: +1 828 898 5175

Internet: [www.artcellaronline.com](http://www.artcellaronline.com)

### Maggie Black Pottery



Maggie Black Pottery is actually one of Banner Elk's best attractions. Drawing inspiration from the natural world, Gingko and Maples leaves are combined with Stoneware Vases, bumblebees or the profile of Craggy Grandfather Mountain are carved into Vessels, Candle Holders are made of leaves, dragonflies slip-trail Orchid bowls and melted glass is used on Raku Pots.

Photo: Bukhta Yurii/Flickr

Address: 12 Clubhouse Dr # 1

Opening hours: Wed-Sat 10h-17h, Sunday 13h-17h, Mon & Tue closed

Phone: +1 828 963 2565

Internet: [www.maggielblackpottery.com](http://www.maggielblackpottery.com)

### Bayou Store



Find a wide selection of beer and wine in Bayou Smokehouse Grill's adjoining General Store. They also sell T-shirts and food items. If you're thinking about bringing some souvenir or food speciality back with you, don't miss to visit the store before leaving Banner Elk!

Photo: Flas100/Shutterstock.com

Address: 130 Main Street East, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 11h30-20h, Fri & Sat 11h30- 21h, Sun 12h-19h

Phone: +1 828 898 8952

Internet: [www.bayouSmokehouse.com](http://www.bayouSmokehouse.com)

Email: [David@BayouSmokehouse.com](mailto:David@BayouSmokehouse.com)

### Erick's Cheese & Wine Shop



For over 30 years, Erick's Cheese & Wine Shop has been a local favorite and booming attraction. They sell rare, collectible wines from the

temperature-controlled wine room. Gourmet cheeses and gluten-free foods are sold as well.

Photo: 5 second Studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: 4004 Highway 105, Sugar Mountain

Opening hours: 10h-18h, Sunday 13h-16h30 closed in Winter, hours vary depending on season

Phone: +1 828 898 9424

Internet: [www.erickscheeseandwine.com](http://www.erickscheeseandwine.com)

More Info: closed in Winter, hours vary depending on season.

### DeWolfson Down



DeWolfson offers its expertly manufactured, European-inspired down pillows, comforters, and featherbeds to High Country. They carefully

fill and finish each item when your order is placed, and they will customize any item for you.

Photo: Sukpaiboonwat/Shutterstock.com

Address: 9452 NC Highway 105 S, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9h-17h. Sat 10h-17h, Sun closed

Phone: +1 800-554-3696

Internet: [www.dewolfsondown.com](http://www.dewolfsondown.com)

Email: [info@dewolfsonlinens.com](mailto:info@dewolfsonlinens.com)

## TOURIST INFORMATION



*Nagel Photography/Shutterstock.com*

### Asheville Regional Airport (AVL)



Banner Elk is accessed by way of the Asheville Regional Airport, which is 80 miles south of Banner Elk itself. AVL services American, Delta,

Continental, United and US Airways. Vision and AirTran both offer seasonal flights to Destin and Orlando. Ground transportation services are provided by taxis, buses, limousines, car service and rental cars. Another way of reaching Avery County is also Blue Ridge Parkway, running the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains from Virginia to Western North Carolina.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: 61 Terminal Drive #1, Fletcher, NC

Phone: +1 828 684 2226

Internet: flyavl.com

### Passport/Visa



Citizens of the Schengen countries, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Japan, South Korea,

Taiwan and the Kingdom of Brunei can visit the

United States for up to 90 days without applying for a visa (as well as citizens of Andorra, Lichtenstein, Monaco and San Marino). Citizens of these countries must obtain an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) before traveling. All other travelers must obtain a visa before visiting the United States. International travelers need a passport that is valid for at least 3 months after the end of their intended trip in order to enter the country.

Photo: TukTuk Design

### Best Time to Visit



As with most of western North Carolina, Avery County presents a continental climate characterized by high percentage of humidity,

which makes the perceived temperature quite cold during the winter and specially hot from June to August.

The weeks spanning January to March are definitely the perfect period for winter sport lovers, while the period from May to September would be perfect for open air activities like hiking, trekking or fishing. Summer is also the part of the year when the majority of folk festivals takes place, like the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. Don't underestimate the beauty of autumn in High Country, and the spectacular landscapes and colors you can admire on the slopes of Blue Ridge Mountains.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

## Taxi



The following taxi services are available for the Banner Elk area: High Country Taxi +1 828 414 1492 Sugar Mountain taxi +1 828-278-7880 Beech

Mountain Taxi +1 828-260-2585

Tipsy Taxi +1 828 719 8477

Abby Cab +1 828-475-2988

Photo: Taxi

## Post



Their main post office is located in center of Banner Elk and belongs to 155 Central Way Southwest, Banner Elk

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: 155 Central Way Southwest, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8h30-16h15, Saturday 9h30-11h30,

Sun Closed

Phone: +1 800-275-8777

## Pharmacy



Banner Elk Pharmacy is located in the town center.

Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: 110 Park Avenue, Banner Elk

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-6pm, Sat 9am-2pm, Sun closed

Phone: +1 828 898 4271

Internet: [www.bannerelkpharmacy.com](http://www.bannerelkpharmacy.com)

## Telephone



Country Code: +1 Area Code in Banner Elk: 828

Photo: Jardson Almeida

## Electricity



110V AC, 60Hz

Photo: Stirling Tschan

## Population

1,028

## Currency

U.S. Dollars \$1 = 100 cents

## Opening hours

Most stores are open seven days a week from 10 am to 7pm, or later. Bars and clubs tend to close around 2 am.

## Newspapers

High Country Press — [www.hcpress.com](http://www.hcpress.com)  
WNC Magazine — [wncmagazine.com](http://wncmagazine.com)

## Emergency numbers

911

## Tourist information

Town of Banner Elk  
200 Park Avenue  
+1 828 898 5398