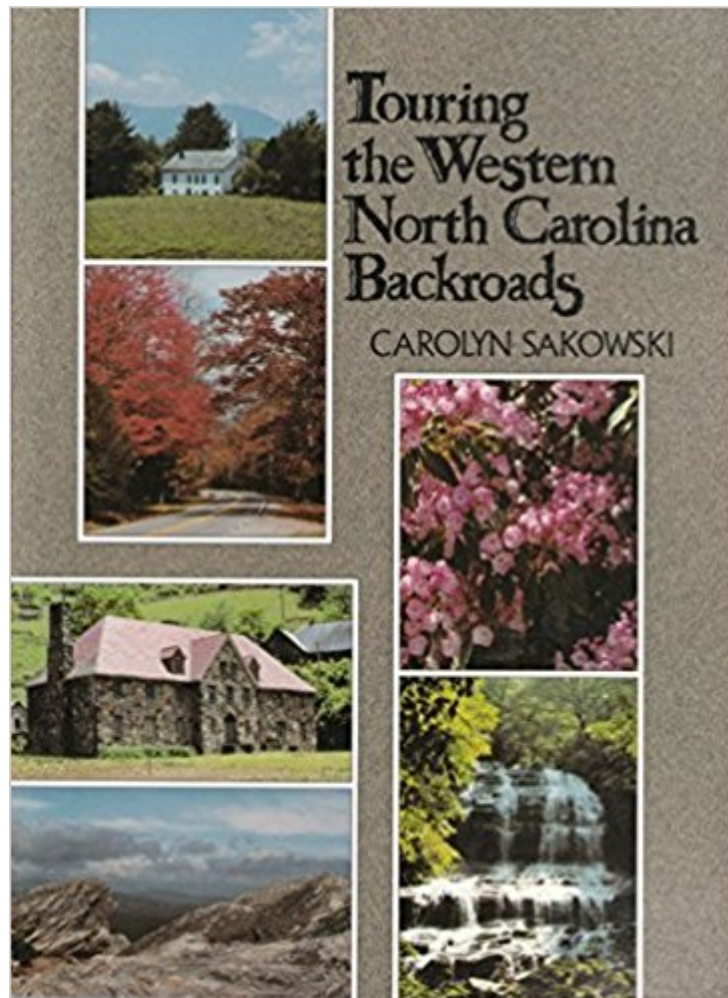




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Touring The Western North Carolina Backroads (Touring The Backroads)



Synopsis

Have you ever been to the mountains of western North Carolina and wanted to see the scenery but escape the crowds? Maybe you were tempted to take off down a side road but hesitated, fearful of getting lost. Now, Touring the Western North Carolina Backroads can help you make that escape. The book's 21 tours cover the entire mountain region of western North Carolina and provide numerous opportunities for seeing unspoiled landscapes and pastoral scenes. But scenery is not the only focus. Once you're on the backroads, you might speculate about the history behind the old white clapboard farmhouse that dominates the valley ahead, or you might wonder about the rest of the story behind the two sentences on the historical marker at the side of the road. Touring the Western North Carolina Backroads fills in those details. Drawing from local histories and early travel writings, each tour is designed to be a journey through the history of the ages, and stories about early settlers combine to present a perspective that makes the scenery come alive. This third edition features updated directions, additional sites, new photographs, suggested spur trips, and nearby recreational opportunities. Use this guidebook to plan your next day trip, weekend getaway, or cycling adventure! John F. Blair's Touring the Backroads series includes travel books that literally take readers off the beaten path to historic sites and landmarks. Each book departs the highways and thoroughfares in favor of the backroads, giving directions, suggested routes, and historical details along the way. These books can be read at home, or they make excellent travel companions for those looking for something beyond the norm. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This guidebook is so encyclopedic in scope that I give it as a gift to newcomers to the area. Even though I am a native of the area, I learned nearly everything I know about western North Carolina from this book alone, and it remains my primary reference." --Reader review --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Carolyn Sakowski is a native of Morganton, North Carolina. She holds a B.A. in history from Queens University of Charlotte and a M.A. in history from Appalachian State University. She lives in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where she is the president of John F. Blair, Publisher. Her previous books include Touring the East Tennessee Backroads and Travel North Carolina. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

I hate to be negative but I was looking for a guide that would discuss various areas in Western NC. Am I better going to Highlands or Blowing Rock? Why? What is to be found in each area? Well if you're looking for that kind of information don't look here. Wish I could have read my own review before I bought this book. Fortunately no trees were killed as I bought the Kindle version so fret not. Anyway there is some interesting and specific information and the process to develop it required some real work and research. Unfortunately, at least for me, without more global information about the places it discusses in great detail, this book was not of use to me.

Nice book. I deleted one star because nothing was mentioned about roads in and around Brevard and Transylvania County which are every bit as scenic and historic as roads mentioned in the book. This bias by omission gave me the impression the author has some kind of beef with that Chamber of Commerce or other city or county official.

I had purchased quite a few of Blair's publications before I notice they had something in common. First, not only are these guidebooks of high quality, covering regions of Appalachia that are of particular interest to me, but they are all published by the same press - John F. Blair of Winston-Salem. Virginia's Shenandoah Valley and Southwest, Northeastern Tennessee, and the Western North Carolina mountains and, DING, the light bulb came on! These are good books, across the board! This one is now in its third edition, and is a real gem of a guide. Like the other

books in the Blair series, this guide is organized into driving tours which emphasize architectural and natural landmarks along each route. They are NOT pragmatic guidebooks in terms of listings of restaurants, hotels, and tourist attractions. They are more cultural and historical guides, to give you a feeling for the meaning of the land you're traveling. They provide the contexts to pique your interest and leave the lodging and eating, generally, to other sources. My one criticism of this book is slight: The guide focusses entirely on the rural areas and tiny villages along your routes. You don't get much feedback about the lovely towns in this region, including such places as Boone, Brevard, Asheville, Morganton, Hendersonville, Waynesboro, and Wilkesboro. Sakowski, the dedicated and skilled author, really wants to keep this book focused on country, and it shows. Blowing Rock and Highlands, as important resort centers, get a bit more page space. I know this region, literally, like the back of my hand, and I can assure any reader that what they will find here is a well-written, accurate, comprehensive, and enjoyable book.

This book is absolutely fantastic. We've driven half or so of the tours so far, and would highly recommend it to anyone who lives or frequently visits western NC. The best part of the book is the historical information. You could drive past a historically important site and never notice it or understand the significance of it, but this book helps keep you aware of even the smallest details. Watch out for the mileage numbers- it may seem like a 90 mile tour will only take a little while, but count on no more than 2 tours per day. And don't expect Carolyn to tell you when the pavement ends- that's part of the adventure I suppose!

A lot of interesting history and background on many of the places mentioned, but it was weighted too much with those aspects to be helpful in backroad trekking. I look for information that will describe places and roads that will help me with photography subjects.

I was introduced to this book by a friend and ended up buying the whole series! If you want to know more about western NC and spend your days enjoying a well written dialog that accurately directs you to place the other guides don't even mention, Buy this book. If you want a restaurant guide look elsewhere. I can wholeheartedly recommend the entire series from this publisher. Similar to the "off the beaten path" series only better, written by life long residents that obviously love their home state!

I gave this book to my husband for Christmas with the caveat that I can ride along on his adventures! We live 4 miles from the NC border near Hayesville, NC, so these routes are day trips

for us. We already have our first two explorations planned! Now we are just waiting for spring to arrive. Thank you Ms. Sakowski for an awesome guide that is comprehensive and informative!

Good guidebook for the area. I have used it and found it accurate and worthwhile. Good information on little known areas of Western NC.

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