Joal Henke's
CREATIVITY TEAM



**63**
PLACES ON THE DOWNTOWN MURPHY MAP

CABIN COUNTRY SERIES

# Things for Couples to Do in Murphy, NC

## The Cabin Guest Guide for Two: Downtown Murphy and Beyond

A day or an evening for two. History, the River Walk, local food and drink, and shops, all within a short drive of your cabin.

October 2026 Edition
Prepared by Joal Henke's Creativity Team | Chattanooga, Tennessee | creativityteam.org

An unofficial guide for general information only. Hours, prices and businesses change. Confirm before you go. Not affiliated with any business named inside.

# How to use this guide

**BOTTOM LINE** **Downtown Murphy is small and walkable. Two people can see most of it on foot in an afternoon.**

The county seat of Cherokee County sits where the Valley River meets the Hiwassee River. Most of what is below sits within a few blocks of the courthouse square, and the River Walk runs along the water.

## Pick a plan

**2 HOURS**
QUICK LOOK

### Courthouse square and the museum
Walk the square, tour the Cherokee County Historical Museum and stop for ice cream.

**HALF DAY**
WALK AND EAT

### River Walk, then lunch
Walk the river from the L&N Depot, then eat downtown and browse the shops.

**EVENING**
DINNER FOR TWO

### Dinner and a brewery
Pick a restaurant, then end at a local brewery or taproom. Or drive out to the casino.




**Find it on the map.** Page 7 has the full downtown map. Every place in this guide uses the number from that map. Numbers restart in each group, so read the group name first.

Counts come from the legend of the 2025 downtown Murphy map. The legend also lists 9 services such as banks and a pharmacy.

HISTORY &
# Culture

**Courthouse square and the museum**
Murphy's history sits on a few blocks. Most stops are free.

## Cherokee County Historical Museum 87 PEACHTREE STREET

**HOURS** Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. from May through October. Closed Sunday.

**COST** $5 for adults. $2 for children and students ages 7 to 17.

**INSIDE** More than 2,000 Cherokee artifacts. 40 panels on local Cherokee history. A log cabin replica. Over 700 dolls. It serves as an interpretive center for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Fort Butler in Murphy held Cherokees removed from North Carolina in the 1830s.

## Downtown History Tour 12 STOPS

**WHAT** The town launched a self-guided tour on July 2, 2024 with audio guides. Stops include the Cherokee County Courthouse, the museum, Murphy's First Bank, First United Methodist Church, Episcopal Church of the Messiah, Harshaw Chapel, Harshaw Cemetery, Baptist Cemetery, the L&N Depot, the Henn Theatre, the E.C. Moore Building and the Opera House.

## On the map ATTRACTIONS

**1 TO 10** L&N Depot. Murphy Farmers Market (seasonal Saturdays). The Henn Theatre. Murphy Visitor Center. First United Methodist Church. Cherokee County Courthouse. Cherokee County Historical Museum. Episcopal Church of the Messiah. Murphy Public Library. Harshaw Chapel & Cemetery.

## Arts and culture ON THE MAP

**1 TO 4** Murphy Art Center. Gallery 26. Cherokee County Arts Council. Olive's Porch.

**FIRST FRIDAY** Murphy Art Walk runs downtown the first Friday of each month, May through December.

Sources: Town of Murphy, county historical museum page, downtown history tour page and outdoor activities page. Downtown Murphy map, 2025.

IN AND AROUND

# Murphy

**The River Walk and the trails**

Walk, paddle or ride, right from town.

## Murphy River Walk — VALLEY RIVER AND HIWASSEE RIVER

**WHERE** A greenway that follows the Valley River and the Hiwassee River. It starts at Konehete Park and ends at the old L&N Depot by the Hiwassee River bridge.

**LENGTH** The town describes it as about 3 to 4 miles. Its own pages give both figures.

**ACCESS** Konehete Park by the pool and ball fields. Hilton Street. The L&N Depot.

**LOOPS** A rustic Cypress Loop and a protected wetland Fisherman's Loop. Stay on the trail in both.

**PADDLE** Canoe and kayak put-ins sit at Payne Street and Hiwassee Street. In summer TVA raises the water, and the Cypress Loop can sit under up to two feet of water.

## Piney Knob Trails — OFF PINEY KNOB HILL ROAD

**WHAT** About 15 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails on more than 700 acres of the Murphy watershed. The trails are dirt single-track, built to IMBA standards.

## Boat ramps — PAYNE STREET AND HIWASSEE STREET

**WHERE** The town lists boat ramps and docks at both streets.

Source: Town of Murphy, River Walk and outdoor activities pages.

FOOD &
# Drink

**Where to eat and drink downtown**
Numbers match the Food and Drink list on the downtown map.

## Breweries, taprooms and bars

**9.** Valley River Brewery
**13.** Buck Bald Brewing
**12.** Cherokee Cellars Taphouse & Grill
**4.** Poor Parson's Pub
**10.** The Mason Bar
**17.** Fairycross Bottle Shop

## Restaurants, cafes and sweets

**1.** Main Street USA
**2.** Chevelle's 66
**3.** Downtown Pizza Company
**5.** China Town Buffet
**6.** Legend's Steakhouse
**7.** Red Brick Deli 2
**8.** Crafted Dough
**11.** Mimo's Ice Cream & Twisted Treats
**14.** Murphy's Chophouse
**15.** Yogi's Neighborhood Grill
**16.** ShoeBooties Cafe
**18.** Kobe Grill
**19.** Mountain Vale Lodge

**Call ahead.** The map lists names only. It does not list hours, menus or prices. Check each place before you go, especially on Sundays and in the off season.

Source: Downtown Murphy map, 2025.

SHOPS &
# Services

**Browse downtown**
Local boutiques, books, antiques and a few things you may need on a stay.

## Shops

**1.** Mountain Pets & Water Gardens
**2.** Gem's Jems
**3.** Uniques
**4.** Glitz & Glamour Boutique
**5.** Serenity Mountain Gift Shop & Boutique
**6.** Peaceful Trails
**7.** Appalachian Electric Bikes/Appalachian Framing
**8.** Gray Matters Boutique
**9.** Narrative Books + Records
**10.** Blue Ridge Olive Oil Company
**11.** III C's
**12.** Journee77 Clothing Boutique
**13.** Linen & Pearl Boutique
**14.** Simply Sweet Baby Boutique
**15.** Black & White Market
**16.** Blue Moon Elise
**17.** Kephart Outdoors
**18.** Vintage Therapy Shop
**19.** Indigo Mountain Traders
**20.** Marketplace Antiques
**21.** All American Estate Clearing & Antiques

## Services

**1.** Nantahala Bank & Trust
**2.** First Citizens Bank
**3.** Urban Salon & Spa
**4.** Sunset Motel
**5.** King's Pharmacy
**6.** United Community Bank
**7.** Wagner Worx Co-Working Bar
**8.** Murphy Town Hall
**9.** PNC Bank

Source: Downtown Murphy map, 2025. Numbers restart in each group.

# Downtown Murphy map

**BOTTOM LINE** **Park once. Everything on the map sits within a few blocks, with the River Walk along the water.**




Map: Downtown Murphy, Cherokee County, North Carolina, 2025. Reproduced here for guests. Numbers on the map match the lists in this guide, and restart in each color group.

BEYOND

# Downtown

**A short drive from the cabin**

The hills, the water and the casino all sit close.

## Harrah's Cherokee Valley River Casino & Hotel — JUST OUTSIDE MURPHY

**WHAT** A Caesars Rewards destination with a casino, a hotel, onsite restaurants and entertainment.

**DRIVE** A short drive from the cabin. The cabin page calls it close by.

**BEFORE YOU GO** Check the casino's own site for hours, shows, dining and age rules.

## Nantahala National Forest — ABOUT A MILE FROM THE CABIN

**WHAT** Forest roads and trails for hiking and quiet drives. Fires Creek lies inside it.

## Hiwassee Lake, the Hiwassee River and the Ocoee River — WITHIN ABOUT 20 MINUTES

**WHAT** Fishing, boating and whitewater rafting.

## Fly fishing — TROUT WATER ALL AROUND

**GUIDE** Our free guest guide, Fly Fishing Near Murphy, NC, covers the rivers and creeks within about an hour, with rules, hatches and local shops. Find it on the Fabulous Frog rental page at creativityteam.org/vacation-rentals.

Distances come from the cabin's rental page and are approximate. Casino details come from Caesars Entertainment.

# Sources and credit

Verify the details you plan to rely on. Hours, prices and businesses change.

Downtown Murphy map, 2025
Town of Murphy, Downtown Murphy History Tour
Town of Murphy, County Historical Museum
Town of Murphy, Murphy Riverwalk
Town of Murphy, Outdoor activities
Fabulous Frog rental page, creativityteam.org
Caesars Entertainment, Harrah's Cherokee Valley River

# Want a mountain getaway of your own?

**BOTTOM LINE** **Try Murphy for a weekend. Then ask what owning would look like.**

Murphy is about 2 hours 15 minutes from Chattanooga by our estimate. Some buyers pick a place closer. Others take the drive for the right house.

## Questions to answer first

- How far will you drive on a Friday?
- Do you want a walkable town or a quiet road?
- Will you rent it out when you are away?
- Do you want water, a view or both?

## Where we can help

- **Blue Ridge, GA.** Toccoa River and Lake Blue Ridge.
- **Ellijay, GA.** Cartecay, Ellijay and Coosawattee rivers.
- **Rising Fawn, GA.** Near Cloudland Canyon, closer to Chattanooga.
- **Murphy, NC.** A vetted local agent, introduced by us.

**Stay first.**

- Fabulous Frog is Joal's cabin in Murphy. Book a stay and try the area before you buy.
- See it at creativityteam.org/vacation-rentals.

## Tell us the weekend you want.

We will find the house that fits it.

**(423) 664-1900 | creativityteam.org/contact**

Joal Henke's

# CREATIVITY TEAM

HELPING YOU MAKE CHATTANOOGA HOME

## Enjoy your stay.

SCAN TO VISIT THE CABIN PAGE


**JOAL HENKE'S CREATIVITY TEAM**

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