



TRAIL & TOWN EXCURSIONS

This is a comprehensive schedule of Trail & Town Excursions for the Gathering of Friends weekend, Friday, March 24th through Sunday, March 26th. Elkin Valley Trails Association will be hosting a concierge table at the Liberty, 222 E. Main Street, Elkin, on Friday from 10:30 a.m. through 10 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, to help you with any arrangements while you are in town. A detailed list of self-guided options for hiking, paddling, cycling, antiquing and more is attached at the end of this schedule.

Many of these excursions require registration, noted in the description. Registration for these events will open in January, and will be handled separately from the Gala and Annual Meeting registration. An email will go out when the excursion registration opens. However, the wine tour registration is open, and runs through the tour provider directly.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH

**10:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. – CONCIERGE SERVICE
OPEN AT THE LIBERTY**

11:30 a.m. – HIKE: Guided 6 Mile Hike from Devil's Garden Overlook to Widow's Fall

Meet at Widow's Creek parking area/Backpack Parking Lot at Stone Mountain to catch shuttle to Devil's Garden Overlook. This strenuous hike is all on the MST and marks the transition from the mountains to the foothills with a drop of over 2000 feet in elevation in six miles. A shuttle will take hikers from the Widow's Creek parking lot to Devil's

Garden Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway. (Stone Mountain map - <http://www.ncparks.gov/sites/default/files/ncparks/maps-and-brochures/stone-mountain-park-map.pdf>). Please bring a \$5 donation for shuttle.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

12:30 p.m. – HIKE: Guided 5 Mile "Moonshine and Still Search" at Stone Mountain

Meet at the lower trailhead parking lot at Stone Mountain State Park. See what a real still looked like back in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. (Not what you see on TV or the movies). Much of this hike is "off trail" so be prepared for uneven and ungroomed terrain. Guide will recount stories told by local moonshiners and revenuers. There have been over 150 still sites GPS'd and photographed within the park. This five-mile hike has good views of Stone Mountain and features two of the largest stills in the park, one with eight 1,000 gallon tanks. Also visit a barrel still and remnants of one of the earliest stills in the park.

(Stone Mountain map - <http://www.ncparks.gov/sites/default/files/ncparks/maps-and-brochures/stone-mountain-park-map.pdf>)

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

1:00, 2:30 & 4:00 p.m. – MOUNTAIN BIKING: REI hosted mountain bike clinics on Elkin's new mountain bike course

Meet at the outdoor covered shelter beside the Elkin Rec Center, 399 US Highway 268 W. Check out Elkin's new mountain bike course with Andrew Farris, REI's certified bike tech and IMBA certified mountain bike instructor. Andrew will lead three rides (1, 2:30 and 4) and offer handling tips to riders. REI is bringing a fleet of full suspension bikes - men's



GHOST Kato and women's GHOST Lanao models - and helmets. Participants must sign a waiver to ride one of REI's bikes. Everyone is welcome to bring a personal bike (and helmet of course) to ride the course throughout the weekend, but the bike demos and ride with REI instructor are limited to 12

participants per session. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

1:30 p.m. – WINE TOUR: Grassy Creek & Elkin Creek Vineyards

Shuttle will leave the Liberty parking lot at 1:30 to visit Grassy Creek and Elkin Creek Vineyards. First stop will be Grassy Creek with a tasting and tips about wine tasting etiquette. Second stop will be Elkin Creek with a tasting and vineyard tour. Return back to Liberty by 5:30 pm. Tour cost \$70, which includes tasting fees, transportation and tour guide - \$10 discount available for the first 100 people to sign up. Register online at:

<http://www.yadkinwinetours.com/catalog.php?category=Purchase%20Custom%20Tour%20Ticket>

1:30 p.m. – WINE TOUR: Slightly Askew and Adagio Wineries

Shuttle will leave the Liberty parking lot at 1:30 to visit Slightly Askew and Adagio wineries. First stop will be Slightly Askew with a tasting and tips on tasting etiquette followed by a second stop at Adagio with a tasting and winery tour. Return back to Liberty by 5:30 pm. Tour cost \$70 includes tasting fees and transportation and tour guide - \$10 discount available for first 100 people to sign up. Register online at

<http://www.yadkinwinetours.com/catalog.php?category=Purchase%20Custom%20Tour%20Ticket>

1:30 – 5:00 – WORKSHOP: Tips on Creating a Unique Trail with Dr. William Blackley and Joe Hicks. Meet at The Liberty, Roth Room. This drop-in workshop is designed to engage participants in a discussion about how the Elkin Valley Trails Association came to build its unique trail system from scratch - based on existing opportunities. We'll discuss how our all-volunteer organization created a vision, established a mission and then goals, partnered with friends, clubs, governmental agencies, etc. and over the last five years built or caused to be built – 16+ miles of trail; bridges and boardwalks of 12, 15, 20, 23, 25 x 2, 40 x 2, 58, 110, 140 and 178-feet; a mountain bike course; history, flora, and birding trails; and much more . . . and raised over \$750,000 through grants, donations, 5 & 10K runs, Duck & Turtle Regattas, Trail Boogies, Music Picnics, Farmer's Market participation, Yadkin Valley Tour de Vino bicycle rides of 31, 50, 71 and

100 miles, Vineyard Stomps, and more. Our goal for the workshop is to review successful EVTA initiatives that could be rolled over into your community. We will listen to your concerns and questions and share our thoughts. Come for a little while, or stay the entire time.

2:00 p.m. – HIKE: Guided 3 Mile “Moonshine and Still Search” Hike on Garden Creek

Meet at Garden Creek Baptist Church parking lot inside Stone Mountain Park. See what a real still looked like back in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. (Not what you see on TV or the movies). Note that much of this hike is “off trail.” Guide will recount stories told by local moonshiners and revenuers. There have been over 150 still sites GPS'd and photographed within the park. This 2-mile hike on Garden Creek features one well-preserved still with three 1,000 gallon tanks. Continue up an unnamed creek to view several “barrel stills.” (Stone Mountain map - <http://www.ncparks.gov/sites/default/files/ncparks/maps-and-brochures/stone-mountain-park-map.pdf>)

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

2:30 p.m. – Guided Downtown Stroll

Meet at the Elkin Directional Tree, directly across the street from The Liberty. A local guide from the Elkin area will lead you through 14 landmarks including the Trail Tree, multiple murals, museums, historic landmarks, Elkin's oldest home, Brushy Mountain Winery and other charming stops. This stroll can also be done as a self-guided walk at any time with the guide available at the concierge desk.



TBD - Guided 1-Mile Overmountain Victory Trail



hike with Period Dress

This hike starts at the Elkin Recreation Center and features the eastern prong of the Federal Overmountain Victory trail. It follows Elkin Creek downstream to the Yadkin River. From

there it follows the Yadkin up stream. Self-guided Saturday and Sunday. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

5:30 – Hiking

Boot Gala at the Liberty, 222

E. Main Street, Elkin.



REGISTRATION AND FEE REQUIRED.

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=54ke8qcab&oeidk=a07ede1pfs683b38a90>

SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH

9:00 a.m. – Registration opens for Annual Membership Meeting (with coffee!) in Coley Hall at The Liberty, 222 E. Main Street, Elkin.



9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. – CONCIERGE SERVICE OPEN AT THE LIBERTY

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Membership Meeting, Coley Hall at the Liberty

REGISTRATION AND FEE REQUIRED.

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=54ke8qcab&oeidk=a07ede1pfs683b38a90>

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – BEER TOUR: Brewery Visits with free shuttle provided by Frog Holler Tours.

Meet at Angry Troll Brewery, downstairs from the Liberty. Start on site with Elkin's newest brewery, Angry Troll. Frog Holler shuttle will then take participants to Skull Camp, returning to The Liberty by 6 p.m. No fee to participate, as each brewery will charge individually to taste. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

3:00 – 4:00 – WORKSHOP: Tips on Creating a Unique Trail with Dr. William Blackley and Joe Hicks. Meet at The Liberty, Coley Hall. This workshop is designed to engage participants in a discussion about how the Elkin Valley Trails Association came to build its unique trail system from scratch - based on existing opportunities. We'll discuss how our all-volunteer organization created a vision, established a mission and then goals, partnered with friends, clubs, governmental agencies, etc. and over the last

five years built or caused to be built – 16+ miles of trail; bridges and boardwalks of 12, 15, 20, 23, 25 x 2, 40 x 2, 58, 110, 140 and 178-feet; a mountain bike course; history, flora, and birding trails; and much more . . . and raised over \$750,000 through grants, donations, 5 & 10K runs, Duck & Turtle Regattas, Trail Boogies, Music Picnics, Farmer's Market participation, Yadkin Valley Tour de Vino bicycle rides of 31, 50, 71 and 100 miles, Vineyard Stomps, and more. Our goal for the workshop is to review successful EVTA initiatives that could be rolled over into your community. We will listen to your concerns and questions and share our thoughts.

3:15 – 4:00 p.m. – WORKSHOP: Explore the Trail with Me. Meet in the Game Room at the Liberty (the front room opposite the restaurant) Join Friends' Virginia Guilfoile and Danny Bernstein to explore ways to connect day or weekend hikers with hosts along different areas of the trail. This would be a way for hikers to explore new areas of the MST with someone familiar with that area. The program would link people through a list of MST members who are willing to host a hiker in their home and/or introduce them to their local trail. Join us as we brainstorm the logistics of how we might make this idea work.

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. –YOGA: Yoga Practice with Friends. Meet at Yoga on Main, downstairs from the Liberty. Come experience the physical and mental benefits of yoga practice at Yoga on Main, a small neighborhood studio in historic Elkin. All are welcome and mats are available at the studio. Consider bringing comfortable clothing for this session. \$5 fee to participate to be paid to the instructor. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – WINE TOUR: Grassy Creek & Elkin Creek Vineyards



Shuttle will leave the Liberty parking lot at 1:30 to visit Grassy Creek and Elkin Creek Vineyards. First stop will be Grassy

Creek with a tasting and tips about wine tasting etiquette. Second stop will be Elkin Creek with a

tasting and vineyard tour. Tour cost is \$70, which includes tasting fees, transportation and tour guide - \$10 discount available for the first 100 people to sign up. Register online at:

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5:30 p.m. – Watch for more details on evening events and special happenings in Elkin – the “best small town in America!”



SUNDAY, MARCH 26TH

Enjoy church services at: Galloway Memorial Episcopal Church, 312 W. Main Street; Elkin First Baptist Church, 110 Gwyn Avenue; Presbyterian Church, 151 Hillcrest; First United Methodist, 340 Hawthorne Road; St. Stephen Catholic Church, 101 Hawthorne Road; First Baptist Church, 134 Winston Road, Jonesville.

Enjoy winery brunches at: Elkin Creek Winery, Shelton Winery, Sander's Ridge Winery, JoLo Winery, Herrera Vineyards. Information available at the EVTA concierge desk.

9:30 a.m. – HIKE: Guided 6 Mile Hike from Devil's Garden Overlook to Widows Fall

Meet at Widow's Creek/Backpack parking lot at Stone Mountain to catch shuttle to Devil's Garden Overlook. This strenuous hike is all on the MST and marks the transition from the mountains to the foothills with a drop of over 2000 feet in elevation in six miles. A shuttle will take hikers from the Widow's Creek parking lot to Devil's Garden Overlook on the

Blue Ridge Parkway. (Stone Mountain map - <http://www.ncparks.gov/sites/default/files/ncparks/maps-and-brochures/stone-mountain-park-map.pdf>). Please bring a \$5 donation for shuttle.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

11:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Wine Tour: Roaring River Vineyards, Jones Von Drehle and McRitchie Winery and Ciderworks. Shuttle will leave the Liberty parking lot at 11:30. We will be visiting three wineries in the northern valley area. First stop is Roaring River Vineyards for a tasting and lunch. Next stop is Jones Von Drehle for a tasting and a winery tour. Last stop is McRitchie Winery and Ciderworks for a tasting. Lunch is not an included cost of the tour. Tour costs \$80 includes tasting fees, transportation and tour guide - \$10 discount available for the first 100 people to sign up. Register online at

<http://www.yadkinwinetours.com/catalog.php?category=Purchase%20Custom%20Tour%20Ticket>

12:30 p.m. – HIKE: Guided 5 Mile “Moonshine and Still Search” Hike at Stone Mountain

Meet at the lower trailhead parking lot at Stone Mountain State Park. See what a real still looked like back in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. (Not what you see on TV or the movies). Much of this hike is “off trail” so be prepared for uneven and ungroomed terrain. Guide will recount stories told by local moonshiners and revenuers. There have been over 150 still sites GPS'd and photographed within the park. This five-mile hike has good views of Stone Mountain and features two of the largest stills in the park, one with eight 1,000 gallon tanks. Also visit a barrel still and remnants of one of the earliest stills in the park.

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REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

12:30 p.m. – HIKE: Guided 3 Mile “Moonshine and Still Search” Hike on Garden Creek

Meet at Garden Creek Baptist Church lot on main road inside Stone Mountain Park. See what a real still looked like back in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. (Not what you see on TV or the movies). Note that much of this hike is “off trail.” Guide will recount stories told by local moonshiners and revenuers. There have been over 150 still sites GPS'd and photographed

within the park. This 2-mile hike on Garden Creek features one well-preserved still with three 1,000 gallon tanks. Continue up an unnamed creek to view several “barrel stills.” (Stone Mountain map - <http://www.ncparks.gov/sites/default/files/ncparks/maps-and-brochures/stone-mountain-park-map.pdf>) **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

SELF-GUIDED EXCURSIONS

HIKING:

Self-Guided 4 Mile Wells Knob Hike

Take 21 North out of Elkin for 11 miles and turn left on Traphill Road. Go .1 mile and turn left on Roaring Gap Church Road. Go 1¼ miles and turn left on Roaring Gap Road. Go ½ mile and turn right at Wits End Eventing drive. Start of the trail is 700 feet on right. Take the marked trail to top of knob (2 miles) for beautiful views of the valley below and Blue Ridge Mountains. The trip back is downhill and not as strenuous.

Self-Guided 2 Mile Elkin Hike

From the Elkin Recreation Center follow the granite dust trail north (upstream) along Elkin Creek on the Elkin and Alleghany Rail Road bed. Enjoy the nature and historical signs and pause at the “Shoe Factory Dam.” Cross a 140 foot bridge and continue ½ mile and cross a second 180 foot bridge to the reservoir and return. Make sure you ring the gong at least once for luck!



Self-Guided 4.5 Mile Stone Mountain State Park Hike

Enjoy the highlights of Stone Mountain State Park and the MST by starting at the lower parking lot and taking the loop trail. 100 yards from the lot, take the left fork up and over the top of Stone Mountain. This is a strenuous trail with many steps but the views are well worth the 800 foot climb. Continue on

marked trail to the top of “Beauty Falls,” the second highest falls in the park. Take the 264 steps to the bottom of the falls and follow the trail to the trail junction to the lower and middle falls. Here the MST goes left, but you go right continuing on the loop trail. Take in the restored Hutchinson Homestead as you make your way back to the lower parking lot.

Self-Guided 3 Mile Hike at Grassy Creek Trail

After sampling wine at the Grassy Creek Vineyard tasting room, follow the marked trail ½ mile across the creek and up to the top of the ridge where you join the MST. Go right on the MST toward Byrd’s Branch Campground. Once there enjoy some ice cream and return.

Overmountain Victory Trail

Stretching 330 miles through four states (Virginia, Tennessee, North and South Carolina) the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail traces the route used by patriot militia during the pivotal Kings Mountain campaign of 1780. 2 miles of trail are accessible in Elkin. This trail begins at Elkin Municipal Park and currently runs west along the Yadkin River.

Downtown Elkin Stroll

Pick up map and directions at the concierge desk.

ROAD CYCLING:

Four Beautiful Bike Rides in the Heart of the Yadkin Valley Wine country

Visit <http://yvtdv.com/theRide.html> for details, cue sheets and maps of each ride.

31 Mile Loop – south through Swan Creek area vineyards with rolling terrain and a few strenuous hills.

50 Mile Loop – north through Mountain Park area vineyards with rolling terrain and numerous strenuous hills and one mountain.

71 Mile Loop – east and north of Elkin passing numerous vineyards, rolling terrain with a number of strenuous hills.

100 Mile Loop – north, south and east with rolling terrain and numerous strenuous hills. 7,000 feet of climbing.

MOUNTAIN BIKING:

Ride Elkin's new mountain bike park. Bring your bike and helmet and ride during day light hours. Start at the Elkin Rec Center, and head north along the MST. Watch for signs after about 1/3 of a mile for the course.

PADDLING:

Three Great Paddles on the Yadkin

Ronda to Elkin – Enjoy a leisurely 7 mile float (3 to 4 hours) on the Yadkin River with take out in downtown Elkin.

Elkin to Burch Station – Enjoy a 6.5 mile float (3 hours) on the Mitchell River. Combine with the Ronda to Elkin float for a 13.5 mile (6 hour) float.



Burch Station to Rockford – Enjoy a 12 mile float (6 hours) on the Mitchell River. Start at Elkin for a full day, 18.5 mile float.

For paddle shuttle services visit:

yadkinriveradventures.com
rockyforesttriverrun.com
roaringrivercanoe.com

ANTIQUE, COLLECTIBLES, JUNQUE SHOPPING:

Elkin Antiques & Collectibles Mall (they also have collectible comics and record albums next door)
131 US-21 BUS (South Bridge St, downtown Elkin)
Elkin, North Carolina
<https://www.facebook.com/Elkin-Antiques-and-Collectibles-Mall-333208710031930/>

Antique Mall of the Foothills
<http://antiquemallofthefoothills.com>
1526 NC-67 Jonesville, NC 28642
ph: 336-835-6400
info@antiquemallofthefoothills.com

State Road Antique Mall
<https://www.facebook.com/stateroadantiquemall/>
1229 US 21 Hwy, State Road, North Carolina
(336) 874-7400

The Shoppes at The Dutch Castle (open Saturday and Sunday only)
656 N Bridge St., Elkin, North Carolina
(336) 469-3989

Meadows Trade N Post
<https://www.facebook.com/Meadows-TRADE-N-POST-498082193592135/>
318 W Main St, Elkin, North Carolina
(336) 776-7059

Trish's Open Air Market
E Main St (Across from the Liberty)
Elkin, NC
Trish Vestal, 336-428-7656
trishvestal@gmail.com

Kennedy Auto and Antiques
108 E Main St Elkin, NC 28621
Phone number (336) 835-4547
<https://www.facebook.com/Kennedys-Auto-Supply-176951629020127/>

Dave's Antiques
<http://downtownelkin.com/daves-antiques/>
209 W Main St, Elkin, NC 28621
(336) 835-3355

Habitat ReStore
<https://www.facebook.com/HabitatRestoreElkinNc/>
102 E Market St., Elkin, North Carolina
(336) 526-4663

Kathy's Closet
1061 Klondike Road, State Road, NC 28676
Phone: (336) 874-7007