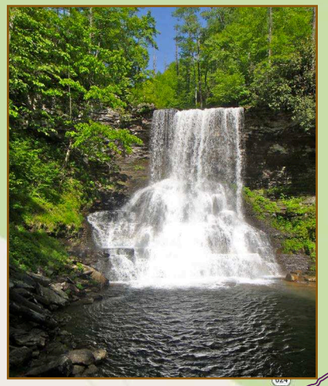
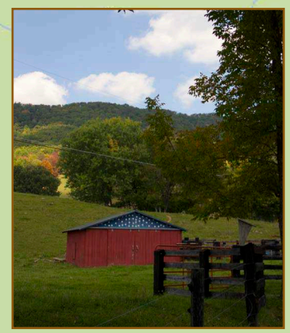
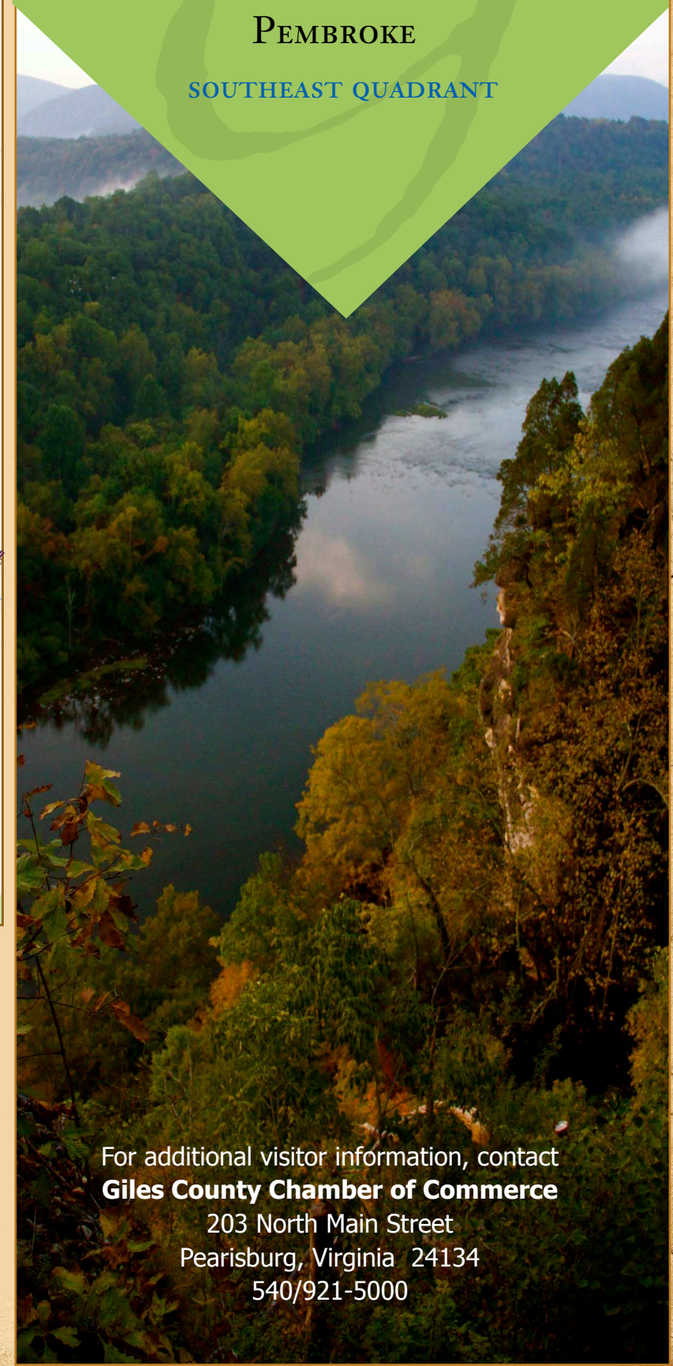




Special thanks to Doug Martin, Peter and Mary Jane Imhof.

1 PRICE HOUSE
2 VILLAGE GREEN
3 GINGERBREAD HOUSE
4 MT. OLIVET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5 NEWPORT RECREATION CENTER
6 MCWHORTER HOUSE
7 CLOVER HOLLOW BRIDGE
8 THE WILLIAM ZELL HOUSE
9 LINK FARM BRIDGE
10 SHERRY MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
11 PLOWSCREW RED BARN
12 HISTORIC ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE
13 GIVENS FAMILY FARM
14 WALNUT GROVE FARM
15 CLOVER HOLLOW CHRISTIAN CHURCH
16 GIVENS (VINCIL) HOME
17 FARRIER HOME
18 MOUNTAIN LAKE LODGE
19 THE WILDERNESS CONSERVANCY
20 HORSESHOE BEND
21 CASTLE ROCK RECREATION
22 PEMBROKE MEMORIAL CHURCH
23 CASCADES RECREATION AREA
24 LITTLE STONY CREEK SCHOOL HOUSE

GILES COUNTY
Driving Tours
Newport - Mountain Lake Pembroke
SOUTHEAST QUADRANT



For additional visitor information, contact
Giles County Chamber of Commerce
203 North Main Street
Pearisburg, Virginia 24134
540/921-5000

SE QUADRANT

Village of Newport, Mountain Lake Resort and the Town of Pembroke.

The Village of Newport has had quite a remarkable past. Indians and herds of buffalo lived here before Jamestown was even settled. In the late 18th century settlers came from the area near Price's Fork in Montgomery County and built homes. Trade flourished here in Giles County and Newport became a resort where many travelers spent the night at the hotel. The village was also known as "Hell's Half Acre" because of the saloons and the drunken brawls that took place. It was a very busy place. But in 1902, much of the center of the town burned. A period of rebuilding and revitalization took place. Now beautiful homesteads, farms and covered bridges remain in the picturesque landscape to visit and appreciate. The Newport Agricultural Fair, which is the oldest in the state, is held every year at the Newport Recreation Center during the second week of August.

NEWPORT

The starting point for the tour of Newport is Rt. 42, Bluegrass Trail, a Virginia Scenic Road. From Rt. 460, turn onto Rt. 42 and pass the small Super Val-U grocery and Newport Post Office on the left.

1. Hotel and old store on the right. Bear right to continue on Rt. 42 for .4 miles until you reach the Price House on the left.
2. The **1 Price House** was the home of the Price family who first settled in Montgomery county and then in Giles Co.
3. Immediately past the Price House is the **2 Village Green**, a quiet spot with lovely garden and gazebo, perfect for a picnic.
4. Directly across the street is the Taylor Home also known as the **3 Gingerbread House**, an example of local architecture rebuilt after the fire.
5. Proceed to the **4 Newport-Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church**, on the left side of the road. The congregation organized in 1850; the church building dates from around 1852. The parsonage built in 1910 is directly across the street from the church.
6. Down the road .3 miles to the right is the **5 Newport Recreation Center** which is the site of the old **Newport High School**. The school was built with funds from the WPA in 1932. Continue .1 mile to the corner of Rt. 42 and Clover Hollow Road.
7. Here on the left, is the **6 McWhorter House**, built by Robert Price in 1872.
8. Turn left onto Clover Hollow Rd. Sinking Creek is on the right.
9. Go .5 mile and stop at the **7 Clover Hollow Bridge**, one of the 3 covered bridges in Newport, and one of only a few remaining in the state of Virginia. It spans Sinking Creek, was built in 1916, and then restored in the 1990s.

10. Look toward the left and down a driveway to see **8 The William Zell House** (circa 1840) from the bridge. This is now a private residence. Zell's Mill was located on Sinking Creek here and was known for planing the lumber for Mountain Lake Hotel.
11. Turn left onto Zells Mill Rd. Another view of the beautiful old home, formerly a bed and breakfast and now a privately owned home. Follow Sinking Creek 1.5 miles to Rt. 700.
12. Turn left onto Rt. 700, Mountain Lake Rd. On the right is the **9 Link Farm Bridge** which dates from 1912 and is now on private property. Turn around and proceed straight ahead on the winding and twisting Rt. 700 for 1.3 miles.
13. Visit the **10 Sherry Memorial Christian Church** located on land donated by Lute Porterfield and named for his son, James Sheridan Porterfield, who was killed in a sawmill accident at that site.
14. Continue on Rt. 700 for 1.3 miles to Rocky Sink Rd., Rt. 602 and enjoy the beautiful view.
15. On the right is a **11 large red barn with Plowscrew VA** written in large letters on the side. The story is about a gentleman who was plowing his field but went to sleep instead. While he was sleeping others took his plow apart and scattered the pieces possibly hiding the screws needed put it back together. You can see millstones in the road from the 1830s.
16. Jones Lane is .8 miles on the right. Turn onto Jones Lane which is named for Hiram Jones a local civil war soldier. On the left .3 miles are the remains of a **12 one room schoolhouse.**
17. After going .5 miles turn left onto Clover Hollow, an area of picturesque farms and fields. On the right is the **13 Givens Family Farm**, followed by the **14 Walnut Grove Farm** home of the Lucas family.
18. Less than .1 mile on the left is the **15 Clover Hollow Christian Church**, which dates from the 1860-1870s and was first a Lutheran Church.
19. Observe the scenic views and beautiful old homes, for example the Carter Home and the turn of the century home, the Crockett Sarver Home.
20. Veer left onto Clover hollow. **16 Givens (Vincil) Home with John's Creek Mt**. In the background is 2.1 miles from the Clover Hollow Christian Church.
21. Turn right onto Clover Hollow again, and notice the **17 Farrier Home** on the left; it dates from approximately 1900.
22. Complete your tour by driving 1.6 miles to Rt. 42 and following the signs to Rt. 460.

Mountain Lake

Mountain Lake, on top of Salt Pond Mountain, is one of only 2 natural fresh water lakes in Virginia and the highest in elevation east of the Mississippi River. Approximately 6,000 years old, geologists believe that the lake was formed along an active fault line by rock slides and damming during several earthquakes.

Christopher Gist, a surveyor and a frontiersman is credited with the first sighting of Mountain Lake on May 11, 1751 and during the Revolutionary War, the lake with its plentiful deer and buffalo made it a perfect hideout for outlaws. In the early 1800s Henry Chapman purchased the lake and its surrounding tracts of land and began the tradition of hosting visitors and guests there.

During the Civil War, General George Crook and his Union soldiers spent one night at the lake while making the difficult trip over the Salt Pond Mountain to West Virginia. After the war, the lake grew in popularity and a second hotel was completed in 1875 along with cottages, stables and mills. The present hotel **18** was built of fieldstone in 1936.

Today, there are many indoor and outdoor activities for visitors to enjoy. Magnificent views of the surrounding mountains can be seen on the miles of hiking and biking trails. And, bird watching is a big attraction for enthusiasts from all over.

19 The Wilderness Conservancy was formed in 1989 by Mary Mood Northan Endowment and was charged with preserving the natural beauty and resources of the area and promoting educational programs and environmental research. There is dining in the hotel and many seasonal events take place here.

Continue on to Mountain Lake by going west on Rt. 460 to Rt. 700, Mountain Lake Rd. Travel on Rt. 700 seven miles up to the resort. Be very careful on this steep and twisting drive. You will notice beautiful panoramic views of the countryside to the west, and will enter the Jefferson National Forest and pass the site of the Wilderness Conservancy at Mountain Lake. You will arrive at Mountain Lake with the hotel on the right and the lake on the left. Parking is straight ahead.

You make your return trip by exiting Mountain Lake resort and turning right onto Doe Creek Rd. (Rt. 613) and traveling on this for 4.8 miles until you reach Rt. 460 again. This is a route with fewer drop offs than the Mountain Lake Rd. (Rt. 700). Travel east on Rt. 460 to the small town of Pembroke.

Pembroke

Pembroke was settled around 1750 by Philip Lybrook, a Dutchman. In 1765 John Snidow, his wife Elizabeth and eight children left Pennsylvania to settle near their friend Philip Lynbrook. John Snidow died on the way but the children continued on and settled in Pembroke. A descendent of his, who was the postmaster in 1845, named the town Pembroke while reading a book dedicated to the Earl of Pembroke. The town sits on the New River against the backdrop of Castle Rock. In Pembroke today you can see the historic cliffs, the New River, or hikes trails of the Jefferson National Forest. The town also hosts an annual heritage fair every fall.

1. As you enter Pembroke and turn onto Snidow St. (south), take an immediate left onto Castle Rock Dr.
2. Continue on this road for .8 miles and turn left onto Old Farm Rd.
3. Take road for .3 miles .to the intersection of 1432 and 1430 (Old Farm Rd.). Turn left here and proceed 1.1 miles through the **20 Horseshoe Bend** subdivision to the cul-de sac. You can, along the way, enjoy the wonderful view of the scenic New River, which can be seen between the homes and the lots on the right.
4. Turn around at the cul-de sac and notice the majestic cliffs, among them Castle Rock, on the right as you leave.
5. Continue on Horseshoe Farm Road to the stop sign.
6. Turn left into the entrance of **21 Castle Rock Recreation Facility**.
7. Castle Rock Recreation, a public facility, has an 18-hole golf course, a swimming pool, tennis courts, and picnic shelter. There are lovely views here of the cliffs and the town of Pembroke below.
8. Exit the Castle Rock recreation area and go 1.35 miles to Snidow St., where you will make a left turn. There are many beautiful old homes along this street.
9. Along this route is the **22 The Pembroke Memorial Church.** It was built by George Snidow, Jr. and Marshall Rice and has a framework of hewn oak secured with wood pins. The unusual ceiling in this house of worship is covered with embossed tin tiles installed before the Civil War.
10. Turn right onto Cascade Drive and notice on the right the **Pembroke Library**, the smallest public library in the state of Virginia. Cross Rt. 460 or Virginia Ave.; continue on Cascades Dr. Little Stony Creek will be on your right as you go toward the **Jefferson National Forest and the 23 Cascades Recreation Area**.
11. Notice the little schoolhouse on your right after 2 miles. This is now a private residence but has a plaque commemorating **24** "**1875-1926 Little Stony Creek Schoolhouse**".
12. From Rt. 460 or Virginia Ave. you will have traveled 3.4 miles to the **Jefferson National Forest** and the entrance to the Cascades Recreation area. Here you can relax in the peaceful quiet of your surroundings or hike the 2 miles to the place where Little Stony Creek cascades over 69-foot high rock wall creating a pool below. There is a lovely picnic area with tables and grills where you can enjoy refreshments and the beautiful scenery after your trek to the waterfall.
13. Return to Rt. 460 or Virginia Ave. by the same route.