



*Enjoy Small Town Living*

TOWN OF  
**VALDESE**  
NORTH CAROLINA



## Our Story 1893

850 Years of  
Waldensian History

In 1173, during a period of Roman Catholic dominance, a wealthy merchant of Lyon, France known as Valdez, and later as Peter Valdo, became troubled about his own salvation. Valdez sought to read and interpret the Bible for himself and felt led to live out its teaching as it was written. With his new understanding of Matthew 19: 21, “To be perfect, go and sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven; then come follow me,” Valdez decided to distribute his worldly goods among the poor and began preaching and evangelizing. Soon, Valdez and his followers became known as the Poor of Lyon and went around spreading the Gospel with the open Bible. Their zealous preachings were met with opposition from the established Roman Catholic Church and led to them being declared heretics.

Despite facing severe persecution, the Waldenses never strayed from their devout beliefs. Many of them were massacred during the Inquisition in the years following their origin, but those that survived chose to join the Reformation in 1532 because the movement shared many of the same beliefs they had held since the twelfth century. Their belief that scripture should be available to all led them to commission Olivetan, a relative of John Calvin, to translate the Bible into French as their contribution to the Reformed movement.

Unfortunately, the threat of persecution continued to plague the Waldensians during the Reformation years and beyond. Many of them were systematically killed, tortured, or imprisoned. In 1685, acting on the word of Louis XIV, King of France, the Duke of Savoy set about to eradicate all Waldensian worship and practice. Thousands were sold into slavery, put into prison, or killed in unprovoked attacks designed to systematically remove all evidence of their existence as a people.

Eventually the Waldenses were given a choice of either renouncing their faith or being exiled. The majority chose exile, and in the winter of 1685, thousands crossed the mountains into Switzerland. While the Waldenses were thankful for the shelter offered in Switzerland, they longed for home, and in 1689 a contingent of men began the journey back toward Italy to fight for the right to their homeland in what is known as The Glorious Return. Over a period of ten days, 900 men faced harsh conditions and battles with French soldiers as they made their way across the 200 miles back to their homeland. Only 600 men made it back to the valleys they called home, but they were able to reclaim their homeland.

Although the Waldenses had returned to their homes, they would continue to face harsh conditions for centuries to come. On February 17th, 1848, King Charles Albert signed the Edict of Emancipation granting the Waldensians their civil liberties and assuring their freedom. The Waldenses were now able to live their faith openly and without fear. Ironically, after hundreds of years of persecution, it was prosperity that caused the Waldenses to leave the valleys of Italy for America. In 1893, a small group came to Burke County looking to make a new life and established the small town of Valdese. Their hard work and perseverance created the town that continues to thrive today.

*Celebrating Our Waldensian Heritage*

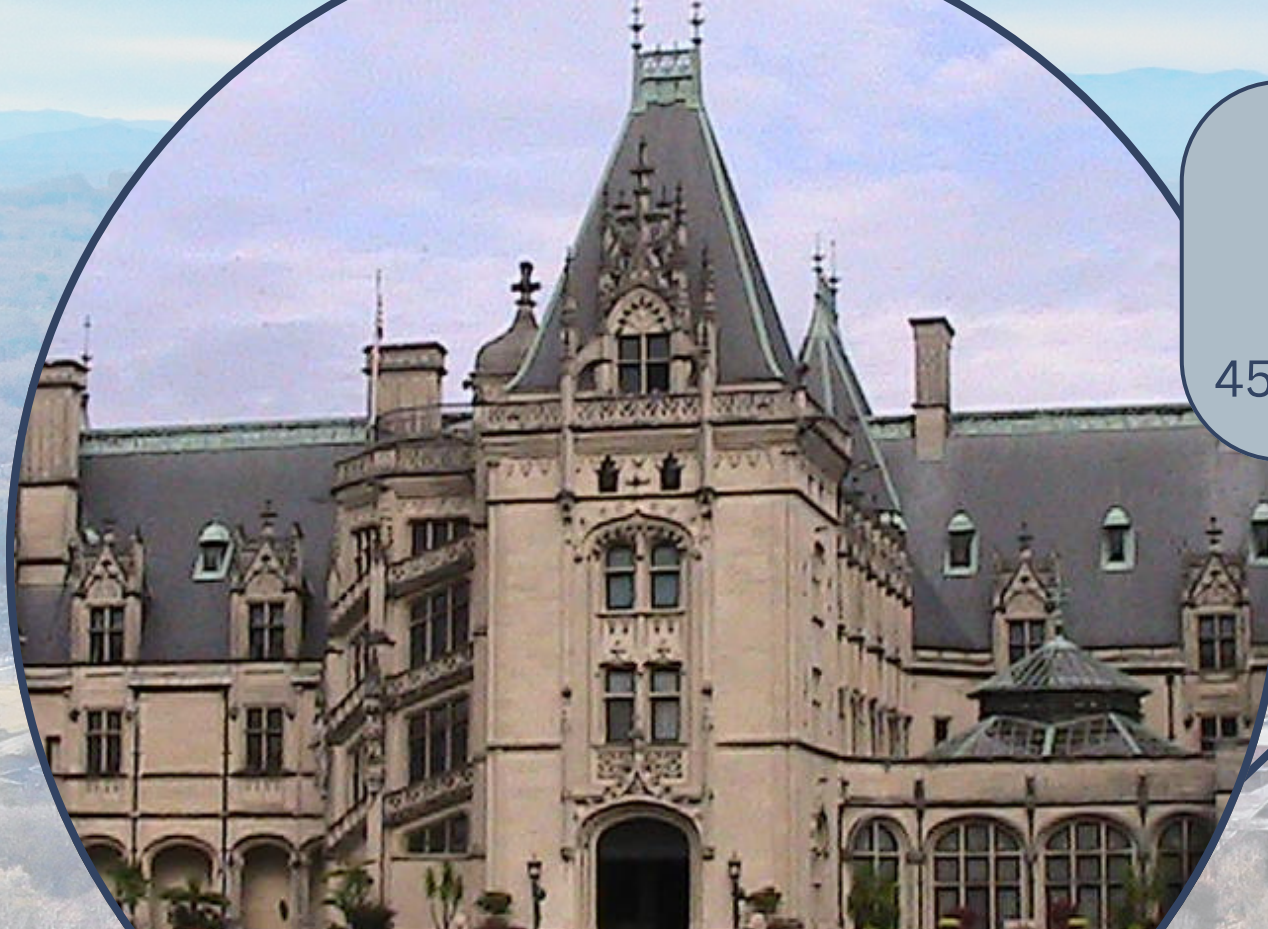
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## Why Valdese, NC?

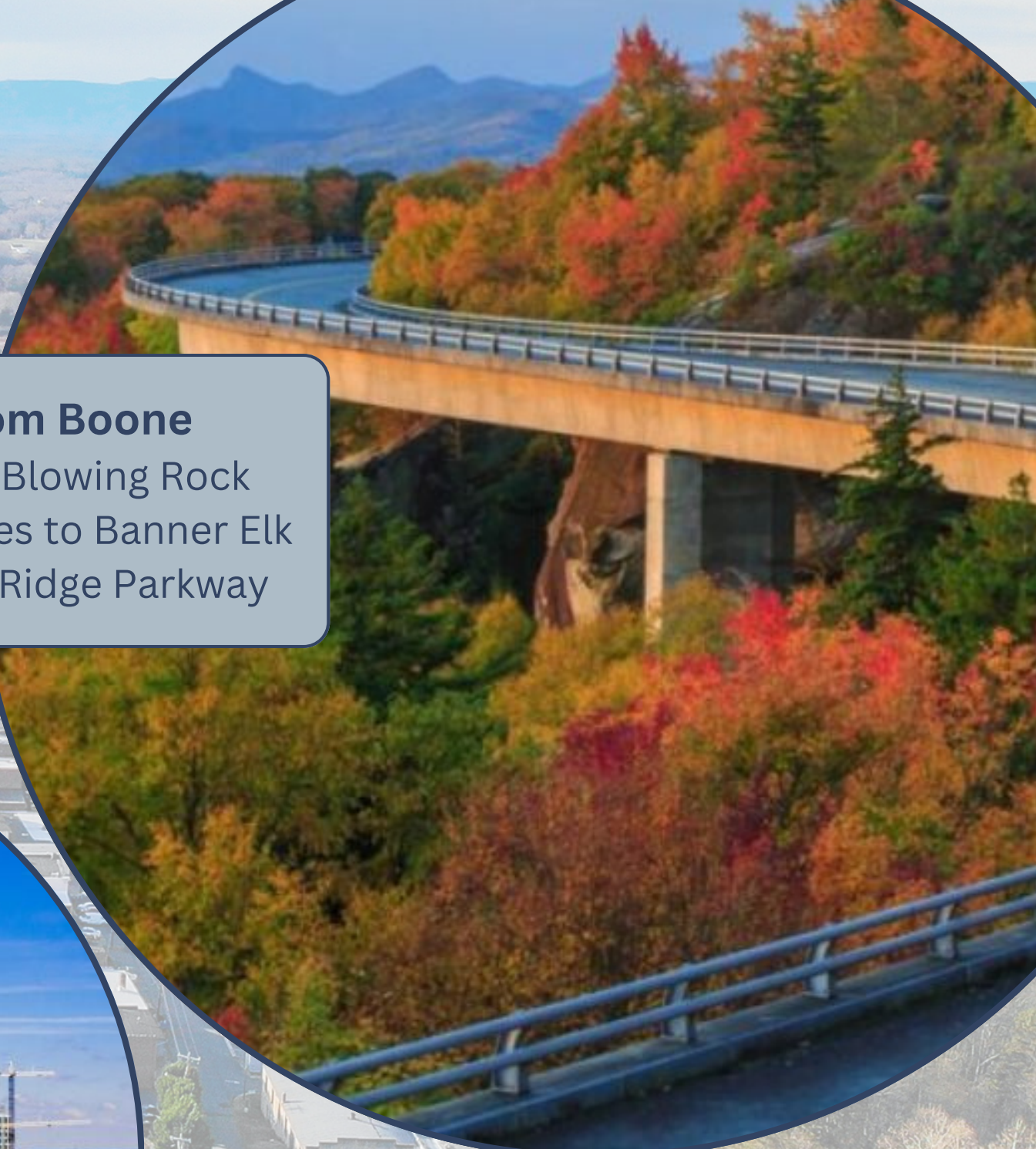
### *Location*

Slower Pace  
Mountain Views  
Lakefront Strolls  
Downtown Music  
Avoid Traffic


Valdese is conveniently  
located along Interstate 40  
Exits 111 & 112



**1 hour from Asheville**  
12 minutes to Morganton  
30 minutes to Marion  
45 minutes to Black Mountain

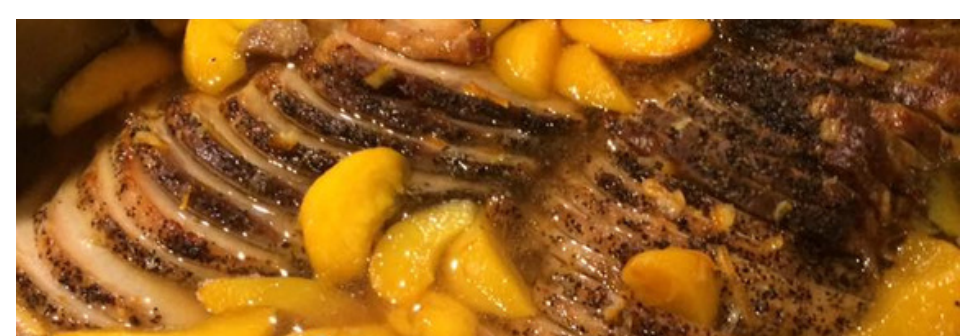
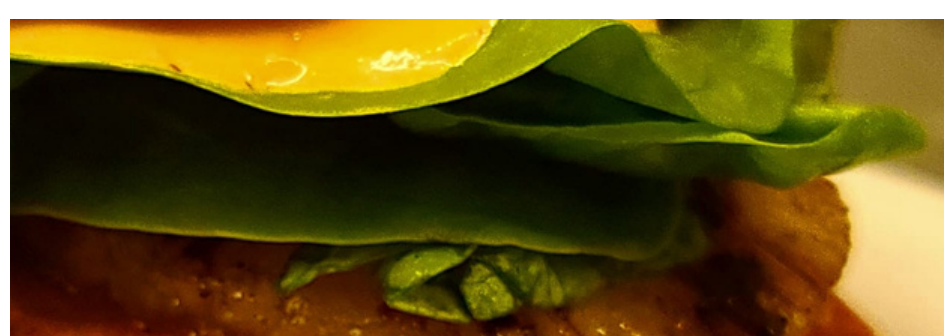


**1 hour from Boone**  
52 minutes to Blowing Rock  
1 hour 11 minutes to Banner Elk  
1 hour to Blue Ridge Parkway



**1 hour from Charlotte**  
47 minutes to Gastonia  
35 minutes to Lincolnton  
20 minutes to Hickory

TOWN OF  
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Taqueria El Mana - Chubby's - Osaki - Myra's & Myra's Little Italy  
 Mountain Burrito - Highlands Butchery - 100 Main  
 Los Compadres - Twin Brothers Pizza - The Picnic Basket - 2Sisters Deli

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Edict of Emancipation Celebration  
Lucky Leprechaun Hunt  
Spring Craft Market  
Granville Morrow Fun Fish Day  
Friday Night Cruise Ins  
Summer Kickoff Concert Celebration  
Family Friday Nights Concert Series  
Valdese Independence Day Celebration  
Historic Valdese Waldensian Festival  
LPDA Regional Bocce Tournament  
Outdoor Drama: From This Day Forward  
Summer Finale Concert Celebration  
Bluegrass at the Rock Concert Series  
Plein Air Fest & Wet Paint Reception  
Valdese Treats in the Streets  
Grateful Gobbler Coloring Contest  
Christmas in November Craft Show  
Valdese Christmas Parade  
Hatley Memorial Tree Lighting  
Mingle with Kris Kringle  
Community Christmas Production  
Annual Art Gallery Exhibits  
P&W Railroad Museum Open Houses



# Annual Events



Arts &  
Culture

Community Theatre, Open Art Studios, and Specialty Workshops

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Family Friendly

Costume Contests, Afternoon Park Visits, Free Play Games, Fun for all ages!

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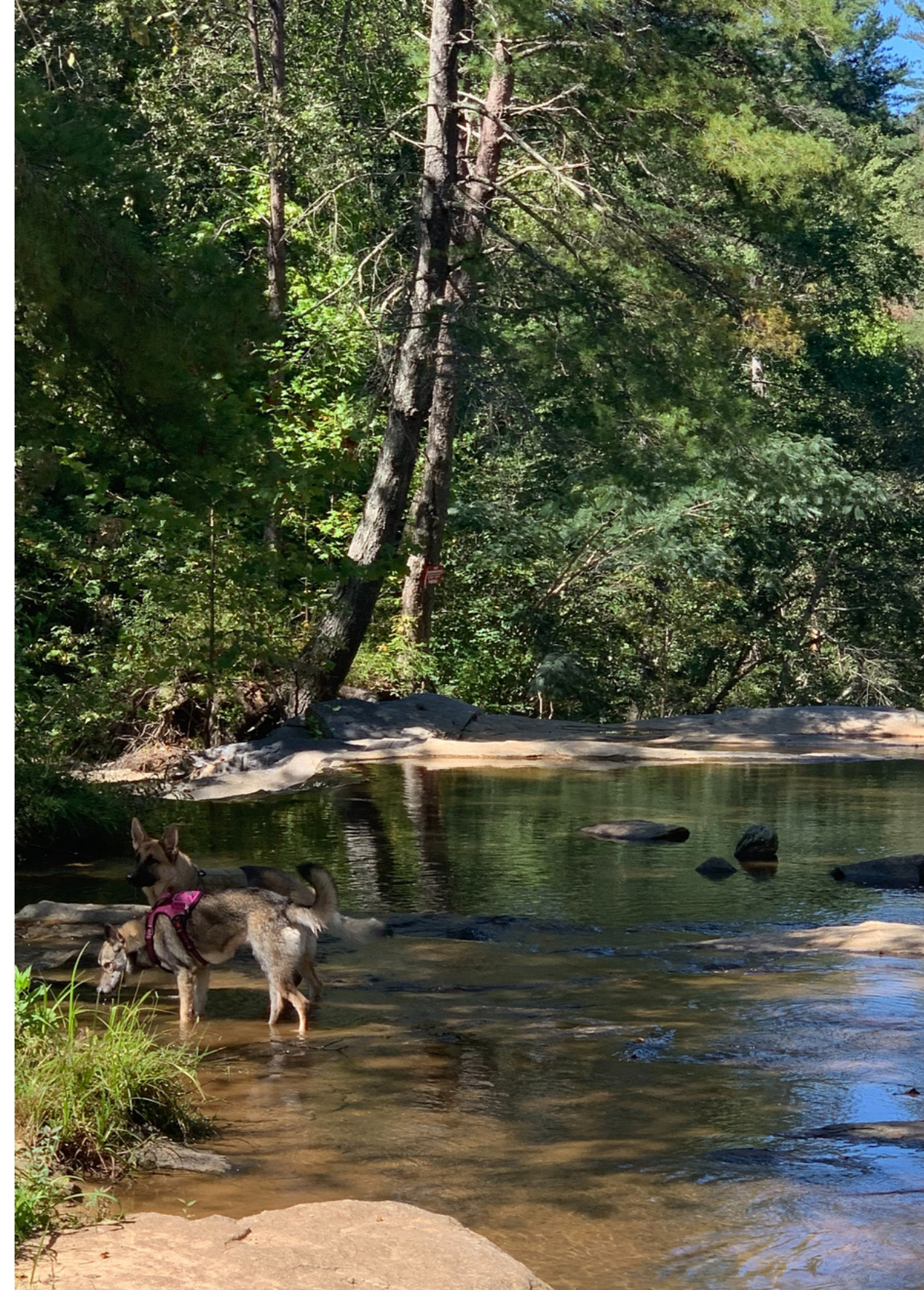
Valdese  
Lakeside Park



Valdese Lakeside Park (VLP) is a 300 acre passive park which meanders the shoreline of Lake Rhodhiss. Bordering Valdese to the north, VLP, features 7 Miles of Hiking & Mountain Biking, Picnic Tables, Shoreline Kayak Launch, Shoreline Fishing, 4,000 linear feet of greenway, Dog Park, Convenient Parking & Restroom Facilities.

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McGalliard  
Falls Park

Located just a short walk from the main road is Valdese's hidden gem, McGalliard Falls Park. The park features a beautiful waterfall, historic Grist Mill, and plenty for any outdoorsman to explore. The park also includes a volleyball court, a nature trail, picnic facilities, and restrooms in addition to the natural attraction of the falls.

TOWN OF  
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Downtown  
& Lakefront  
Living

**Local Realtors:** Thompson Realty 828-879-9343  
Brinkley & Associates 828-874-2233 | Zimmerman Realty 828-874-2222  
**Online Resources:** [visitvaldese.com](http://visitvaldese.com) | [nclakefront.com](http://nclakefront.com) | [nclakeproperty.com](http://nclakeproperty.com)

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**UNC Health Blue Ridge**—Valdese is a health center bringing a higher level of medical expertise to residents of Burke and surrounding communities. Our commitment to patients goes beyond caring for physical needs. We believe that it is the personalized care we provide that will make your experience here the most memorable.

At UNC Health - Blue Ridge we are leading the way in advanced, comprehensive, community-based healthcare services, including:

**A full-service, 24-hour emergency department**

- Surgery
- Cancer Center
- Wound Healing Center
- Physician Practices
- Advanced Diagnostic Imaging
- Laboratory Services
- Community Room

**Blue Ridge**

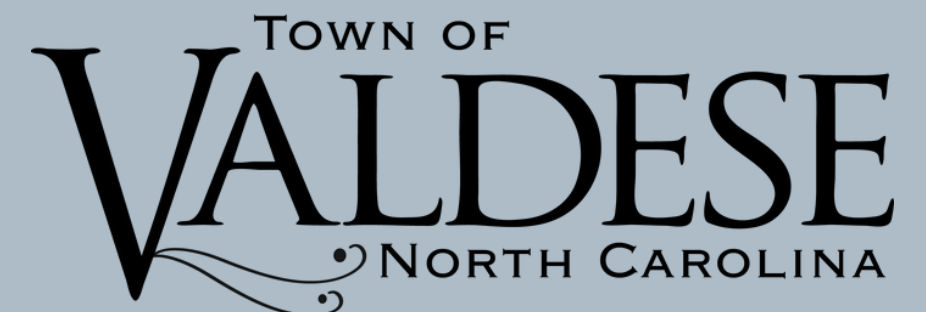
- Cancer Center
- Pain Management Therapy
- Wound Center



**Local Healthcare Options:**

- Valdese Express Care
- Dr. Clontz Dentistry
- Carolina Dentistry
- Rock Drug Pharmacy
- Reynolds Family Wellness Center
- Catawba Valley Healthcare
- Amorem (Formerly Burke Hospice)
- Modern Treatment Healthcare
- Fitness:*
- Valdese Aquatics & Fitness Center
- Next Level Training by Mindy Melott

*Your Health*





# Demographics

Population: 4,689

Land Area: 7.58 Square Miles

Altitude: 1,193 feet above sea level

Climate: Average Temperature = 59° & Average Rainfall = 58.2"

Income: Median Household Income = \$63,068

Housing Units: Total = 2,135

Median Age: 46.7 years

Median Property Value: \$120,700

Burke County Public Schools: Valdese Elementary School, Heritage Middle School, Draughn High School

Poverty Rate: 10.1%

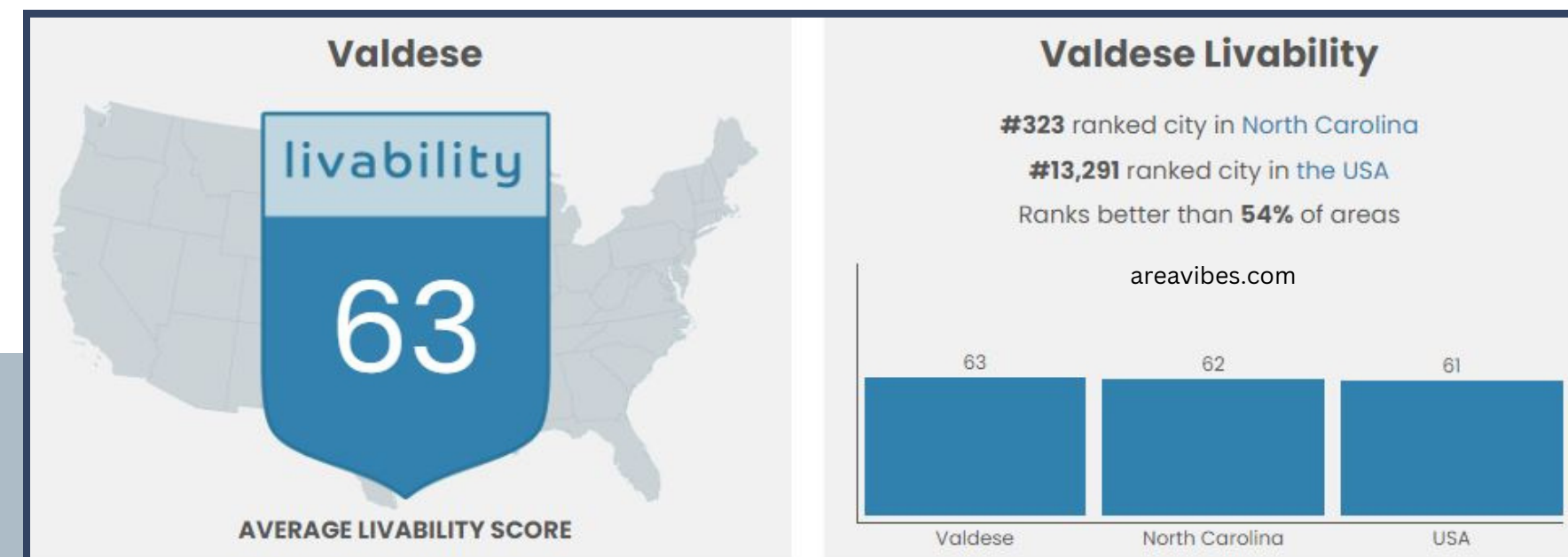
## Crime Rates:

Total Crime is 27% below the National Average

Violent Crime is 42% below the National Average

Property Crime is 24% below the National Average

*This data reflects the 2022 calendar year and was released from the [FBI](#) in September 2023; this is the most current data available - [areavibes.com](#)*





## OUR WHY ARE THE THINGS THAT MATTER MOST TO YOU

### Secure Your Future with a Reliable Internet Solution

High speed Fiber internet is about more than just connecting to the Internet. It's being able to contact emergency services quickly. It's kids being able to do their homework and learn from home. It's being able to have Telehealth doctor appointments and check on prescriptions. It's helping businesses step into the digital age more effectively. No matter your desire, access to high quality, affordable and fast Internet can help.

- Quality of Life
- Healthcare
- Opportunity
- Education
- Public Safety
- Digital Equity
- Economic Development



## Foothills Broadband

When you're relocating what are things that you consider important? Quick and reliable access to Emergency Services? Connectivity for your kids to be able to reach you when they need you, do their homework, and chat with their teachers? The ability to access a doctor from home? When you relocate to Valdese, NC, you will have access to all these things and more. How? With Fiber Broadband Internet. Foothills Broadband is a local, fiber internet service provider who is currently building infrastructure for a locally owned and operated fiber network in Downtown Valdese and the surrounding areas of Burke County. With Fiber Internet, your quality of life is improved, and with a locally owned company your customer service is better. We can't wait to have you as a resident of Valdese, NC and as a customer of Foothills Broadband!



Learn More at  
*visitvaldese.com*  
Created by Valdese  
Community Affairs  
& Tourism

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