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ELITE RELAXATION

High Hampton Inn

By Aaron R. Fodiman and Margaret Word Burnside
Photography by Noraa



The rustic architecture of the High Hampton Inn blends with the natural beauty of its setting. Built in 1933, the Inn is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and Historic Hotels of America.

THIS NORTH CAROLINA institution dates back to 1933, when the present High Hampton Inn was built. It replaced a small inn that had been built a decade before, but had been destroyed by fire in 1932. Today, it is one of the most prestigious inns and residential communities in the state. The resort's most noted amenity

is its nationally-recognized golf course.

Located in the small town of Cashiers, this fashionable inn also has six tennis courts, a health club, and a 35-acre lake for swimming, sailing, boating and fishing. It is a family destination with many of its visitors spanning three generations, with grandparents and grandchildren enjoying

joint activities and dining together. High Hampton Inn has been selected as a Historic Hotel of America by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and is considered one of the best family resorts in the nation. In addition to the inn itself, there are cottages and vacation homes located on the 1,400-acre estate. ▶



▲ *The Inn's dining room serves tasty, home-style meals that are included in their Full American Plan rates.*

To us, in addition to the comfortable accommodations, one of the most enjoyable elements of the resort is its breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets that feature homemade soups and breads, fresh salads, American country-style

▲ *The rustic mountain look of the High Hampton Inn is in keeping with its relaxed, unpretentious atmosphere.*

entrées and vegetables, as well as gourmet desserts. The three meals are included in your room tariff (Full American Plan), and you are assigned a table in the dining room, where you can meet with your family and friends during the times the buffet is open.

High Hampton is a laid-back, relaxing environment that encourages you to converse, take walks or just sit and rock. There are no televisions or telephones in the rooms. The lobby has a television-viewing area, fireplaces, board game playing areas, and seating for reading or conversing. It is the world as it used to be. The slow-paced, homey comforts and cheerful personnel make every moment here a pleasure.



▲ Cottages, such as this one with several bedrooms and central meeting areas, are ideal for family sharing

◆ At 4,370 feet above sea level, Rock Mountain overlooks the Golf Club's 8th green that is located on this island in their 35-acre lake.

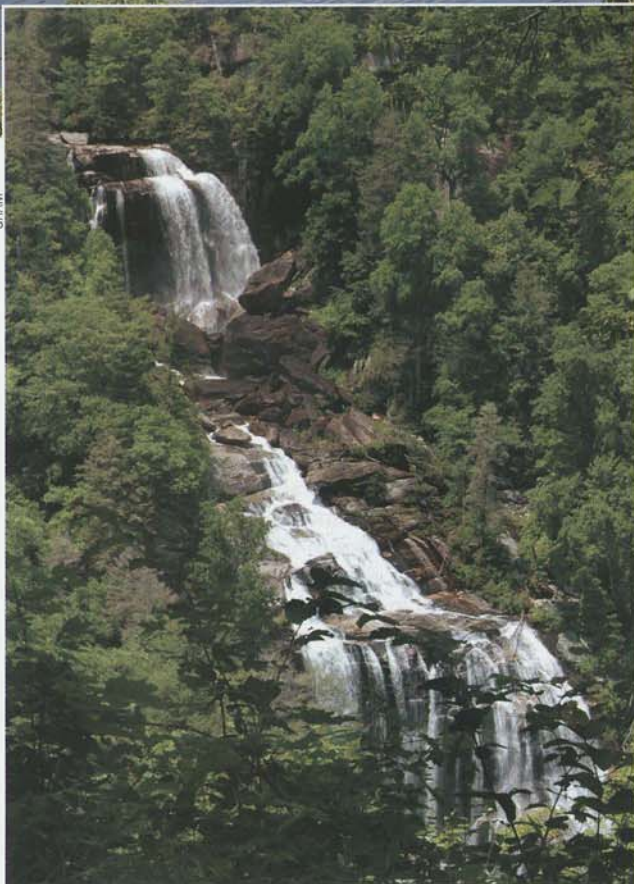
One of the natural wonders that is not to be missed is Whitewater Falls in the Nantahala National Forest, which is only a few miles from the inn. The waterfall plunges over 400 feet in North Carolina and then drops several hundred more feet in South Carolina. This makes these falls higher than Niagara Falls and the highest waterfall in the Eastern United States.

We found another treat several miles away in Highlands at the Glass Museum on Chestnut Street. It is dedicated to cut glass that was crafted during the American Brilliant Period that began in 1876 at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia and ended during World War I in 1916. The museum was founded by George and Bonnie Siek, who believe that Americans were the finest glassmakers in the world. ▶



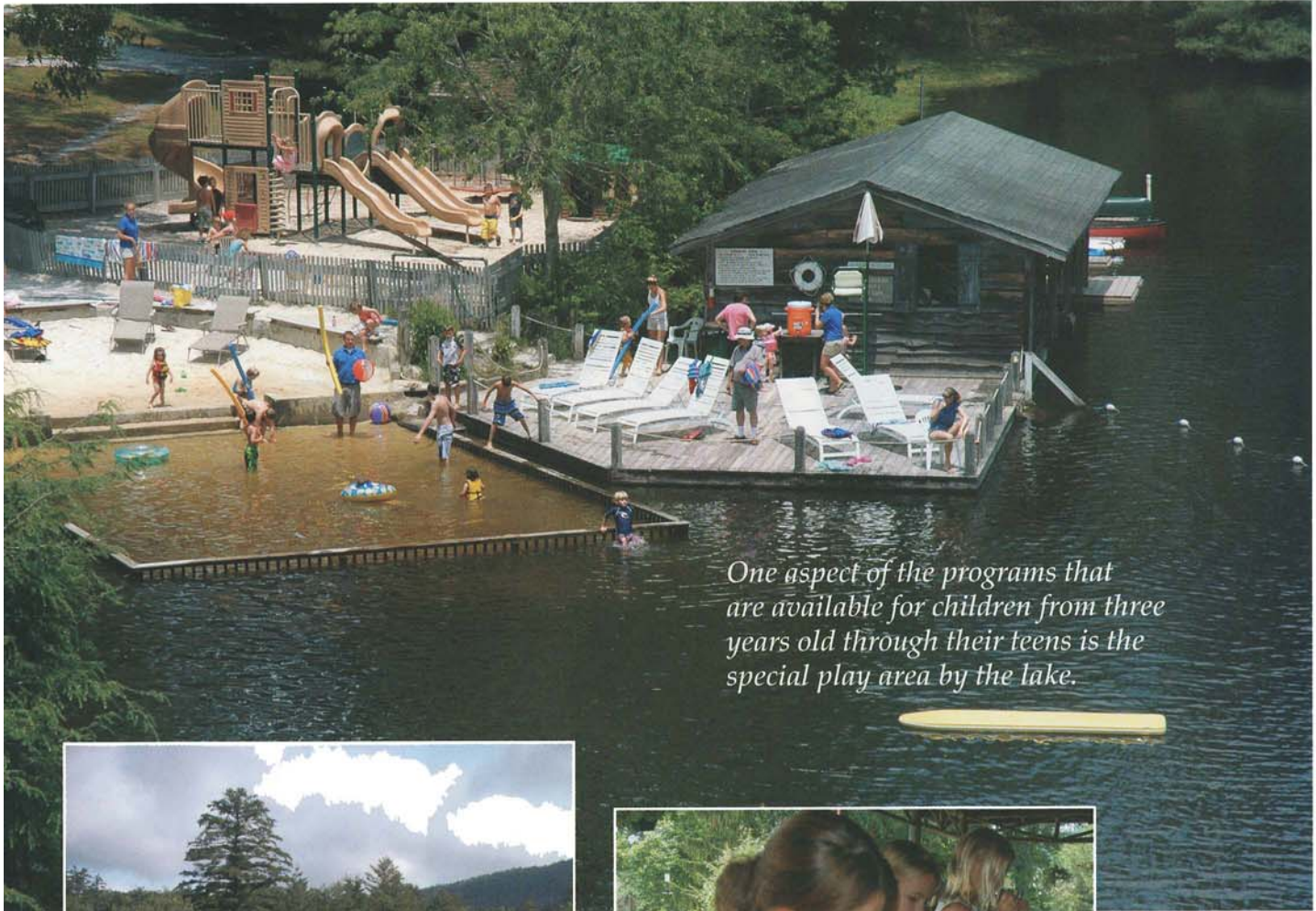
▲ *The High Hampton's lake is ideal for fishing, boating and swimming.*

◀ *White Water Falls, near the resort, is the highest waterfall in the Eastern United States.*



GRAM

Since Cashiers is almost 3,500 feet above sea level, the temperature tends to be comfortable all day long with a slight chill that moves in after dark. The resort is owned by the McKee family, who purchased the property in 1922 from descendants of the Hampton family who had purchased it in 1855. The simple charm of this Blue Ridge hideaway is that, year after year, things only change for the better. It is family oriented, with a lot of attention being given to activities for children during the day and teenagers at night. There are activities for everyone in the weathered wood and stone buildings that make up the resort. The burro-drawn cart rides for the young ones and arts and crafts programs are mixed in with other activities that range from lawn games to nature hikes. The inn didn't serve liquor until 1994; men are still required to wear jackets and ties to dinner; and wake-up calls are a knock on your door by one of the friendly staff.



One aspect of the programs that are available for children from three years old through their teens is the special play area by the lake.



▲ The 1,400-acre property is filled with natural beauty and scenic views.



GRAM

◀ Children and teenagers enjoy the multitude of special activities for them at the Inn.

This unpretentious setting will relieve the stress from your hectic lifestyle, as you sit before the huge stone chimney with fireplaces on four sides after a homey meal, and contemplate what you will choose to read before retiring. The super-comfy beds insure a night of blissful sleep, while the fresh mountain air stirs around you. Here you can enjoy time with family and friends, as you refresh your spirits in a scenic paradise that is filled with mountain charm and ageless simplicity. This is also an ideal location for meetings and private events, such as weddings and family reunions. They are so committed to keeping things as they were, they have a no-service-charge, no-tipping policy, just to show that it is their pleasure to serve you. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: The High Hampton Inn and Country Club is located at 1525 Highway 107 South in Cashiers, North Carolina, 1-800-334-2551. It is open from April 28th through November 12th.