

Collector's Journal

A SERVICE OF COLLECTORS ALLIANCE

2015 Blue Ridge Parkway Quarter – North Carolina

Twenty-Eighth in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

Blue Ridge Parkway in western North Carolina is featured on the third of five America the Beautiful Quarters in 2015. It followed the coins for Homestead National Monument of America in Nebraska and Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana, and it will be followed by Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware and Saratoga National Historical Park in New York.

Although each America the Beautiful Quarter is a one-time-only commemorative coin, the obverse of each coin retains the original portrait of George Washington by sculptor John Flanagan that has been used on all Quarters since 1932.

Also on the obverse is the mint mark under “In God We Trust,” which identifies the branch of the U.S. Mint that struck the coin for circulation. “P” is for the Philadelphia Mint, while “D” is for the Denver Mint.

The America the Beautiful Quarters series honors National Parks and other national sites of “natural or historic significance” in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories. Five coins are issued each year, and each coin is limited to a minting period of about 10 weeks.

Blue Ridge Parkway is an unusual park, but it is also the most-visited site in the National Park Service system with more than 15 million visitors annually. A 469-mile-long scenic byway that follows the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains, it starts at Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, continues for 252 miles through North Carolina, and ends at Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the Tennessee-North Carolina border.

The parkway was established in 1936, and much of the work was completed by the Works Progress Administration and other New Deal agencies during the Great Depression. Due to the



mountainous terrain, all but one of the 26 tunnels along the two-lane road are in North Carolina.

Although it is the longest linear park in the nation, Blue Ridge Parkway is rarely more than a mile or two wide. Nonetheless, it passes through hundreds of miles of exceptional scenery, from Appalachian Mountain panoramas to Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests. Many people use the parkway to access hiking trails and other outdoor activities. Wildlife is abundant, from bobcats and black bears to more than 200 bird species such as bald eagles and golden eagles.

The Blue Ridge Parkway Quarter depicts a section of the road as it enters a tunnel along the side of a mountain. The flowers in the foreground are dogwoods, the official state flower of North Carolina. As originally envisioned by the U.S. Mint's artists, there was also a cardinal – the state bird – above the dogwoods. The final design eliminated the cardinal, however.

Five additional designs created by the U.S. Mint were also under consideration for the Blue Ridge Parkway Quarter. All designs featured a curving stretch of road to highlight both the picturesque nature of the road and the mountainous scenery in the background. Two of the other designs also included dogwoods.

The Blue Ridge Parkway Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in June 2015.

Collectors Alliance • 1942 Swarthmore Avenue • Lakewood, NJ 08701
Call TOLL FREE 1-800-997-9843
www.CollectorsAlliance.com