Hiking in the Smoky Mountains is a must on your vacation! You will find numerous hiking trails in the Valley and in the National Park. Choose from easy, to moderate, to strenuous hikes; short hikes, long hikes. Make a stop here in the Valley to pick up supplies and venture into the forest.

For trail information, visit our Hiking page at www.mysmokymountainvacation.com

Cataloochee Valley is nestled among some of the most rugged mountains in the southeastern United States. Here you will find elk grazing in the fields and historic buildings that have been preserved.

Surrounded by 6,000-foot peaks, this isolated valley was the largest and most prosperous settlement in what is now Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Once known for its farms and orchards, today's Cataloochee is one of the most picturesque areas of the park.

The mountain vistas as you travel from the highway to Cataloochee are breathtaking. The road is narrow and pullovers are few, so you will need to drive slowly and take in the views.

Directions: From Maggie Valley turn left onto Highway 276 N. just before the entrance ramp to I-40 (but past the gas station). Turn left and follow the signs 11 more miles to Cataloochee. Be sure to take your cameras!

Complete your day at J. Arthur's Restaurant

A day in Maggie Valley isn't complete until you spend time at J. Arthur's with locals and other tourists. Since 1986 this world-famous restaurant has served up some of the finest food in the South.

Start with a tasty appetizer – choose from jumbo shrimp cocktail, buffalo wings, homemade French onion soup, award-winning cheese sticks, Carolina cheese fries, or J. Arthur's popular onion rings.

A few favorite entrees include prime rib, steaks, bass, shrimp and grits, salmon, ribs, and slow roasted meatloaf. Also on the menu is lobster tails or Surf and Turf.

From the grill, you can select from pork sandwich, burger, Philly cheese steak, chicken strips, fish and chips, or a combo plate with fried shrimp, cheese sticks, ribs, and wings.

A kid's menu aims to please even the pickiest of eaters.