

# A GREAT NEW SITE IS BORN!

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**Regardless of where you are, whether it's your home, the office or on the road, you can now "visit" Garrett County and Deep Creek Lake via an exciting new Web site – [www.deepcreekdiscoveries.com](http://www.deepcreekdiscoveries.com).**

This user-friendly site (*right*) offers interactive virtual tours of "destinations" that include a variety of attractions and businesses located throughout the area. Each tour features stunning panoramic, 360° scenes that you can "enter" to explore different vantage points and hone in on whatever strikes your fancy, whether it be a fabulous pair of sunglasses or a sunset view of the lake. It's the next best thing to being there.

All you need is a computer, an Internet connection (preferably high-speed) and Internet browsing software such as Windows Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox with the QuickTime Player Plug-in enabled. A computer mouse is also helpful. Designed and produced by AAD-INC. and *Mountain Discoveries* magazine, the site gives Garrett County attractions and businesses a new and exciting way to showcase what they have to offer.

To begin your touring adventure, enter [www.deepcreekdiscoveries.com](http://www.deepcreekdiscoveries.com) in your Web browser to get to the site's Home page. If you don't have QuickTime Player installed on your computer, look below the *Deep Creek Discoveries* banner at the top to locate and click on the Support link next to the little wrench icon. You'll land on a Web page that tells you "How to Use This Site." The second paragraph includes a link that allows you to download and install the QuickTime Plug-in, plus instructions and contact information if you need more help.

To get the most from your virtual tour experience, it's worth taking a moment to read the tips offered in the first paragraph. After you've selected and clicked on a tour, the image changes from a black and white grid to blurred view to the fully rendered image. A word of caution: be sure to move your mouse s-l-o-w-l-y to avoid possible dizziness! If you want to hone in on a particular item or location for a closer look, click on the + sign below the tour image.



When you're browsing a store's site, this feature gives new meaning to the term "window-shopping." Be sure to move to the bottom of each tour for the amazing "benchmark" that looks somewhat like a cross between a porthole and a circular mirror. The benchmark offers a "through the looking glass" view of each location, complete with GPS coordinates.

Now that you've figured out how to tour the site, click on the "View Tours" link for the Tour Directory listing all destinations in alphabetical order, along with GPS coordinates for serious trekkers. Color-coded icons featuring images appropriate for different types of destinations will help you, the "virtual tourist," quickly locate sites of interest. A nifty feature of the Tour Directory page allows you to see all tours in each category on a single page when you click on the desired category link. For example, to find attractions, click on that icon and – presto! You'll see virtual tours for fun places to go, all on one page.

Now that you've figured out how easy it is to get around, it's time to start touring!

Let's begin with **Attractions**. Garrett County's three state parks and the Savage River Reservoir lure thousands of visitors every year, in all seasons. If you're looking forward to some fun in the sun, you can view the beach and picnic areas at the state parks – *Deep Creek Lake*, *Herrington Manor* and *New Germany*. If you're thinking of an overnight stay with a touch of comfort, check out the cabin photos at the *Deep Creek Lake* and *Herrington Manor* sites. The *New Germany* tour offers appealing, sunny views of the

park's popular lake and its surroundings. You can almost smell the evergreens and hear the birds as you "move" through the parks. The *Savage River Reservoir* and *Savage River Tailwater* tours allow you to see, respectively, the reservoir and surrounding mountains above the Savage River Dam, plus the river itself, a popular whitewater paddling and world-class trout fishing destination. Avid paddlers can whet their appetites for watery adventure with a look at the two *Mountaintop Whitewater Course* tours. The first features the course and its immediate surroundings while the second view, from the holding pond area above the course, offers a larger perspective. The *Lodestone Golf Club* atop Wisp Mountain features stunning mountain and lake views from a challenging course for golfers at any level. Finally, there's a tour of a very different sort – *Smiley's Funzone Arcade* – where you'll get a glimpse of the 50+ games available for kids of all ages.

If retail is your thing, select the **Shopping** icon and let your fingers do the walking. The aptly named *Trader's Landing* tour highlights its lakeside location along Rt. 219 that's accessible by boat or vehicle. Here's where you can find sporting goods, furniture, IT services and restaurants. *Bear Creek Traders* carries such a large selection of merchandise that a single tour just won't suffice – so there are two. Check out famous label clothing, gourmet cookware, housewares, bath and body products, goodies for your pets, lawn and garden accessories, home décor and accents, books and stationery, puzzles and games, all-American toys and even an old-fashioned candy counter. If you're a fan of bookstores with a cozy, personal touch, browse *The Book Market and Antique Mezzanine* tour that features a delightful children's nook and treasures from yesteryear.



Above are a few samples of how the panorama photos look when they are shot.

Top photo: Willow 'O the Wisp beach area,  
2nd photo: The Silver Tree Suites lobby,  
3rd photo: Savage River below the dam,  
Bottom photo: Herrington Manor Lake  
and activity area.

All of the "Panos" are high resolution and shot with professional cameras that capture high detail.

At left is a "Benchmark", which appears at the bottom of all panos and feature location and GPS coordinates, as well as a fish eye view of the pano.

Ladies and those who love them will enjoy window-shopping at Petticoat Junction, a boutique where fashion and fun unite. For haute “cou-tour,” go to *Studio 24E*, an upscale “lifestyle gallery” for fans of the chic and unique. Two tours of *The McHenry Beverage Shoppe* offer a visual taste of the wines, liquors, beer, sodas, snacks and cigars available. *Deep Creek Foodland Fresh* merits the moniker “supermarket,” with two tours showcasing its deli, bakery, produce section, fish market, salad bar and gourmet shop – along with the usual grocery items.

The **Dining** option includes tours of three popular restaurants. *The Four Seasons Restaurant* has two separate tours for its new lounge and dining area. Tastefully appointed with hardwoods, tile and stone, the restaurant is light and airy with large windows featuring terrific views of the lake. You’ll find a rustic, casual atmosphere in the *Pine Lodge Steakhouse* and *Pine Lodge Saloon*. The spacious dining area features a log interior with lofts and a massive stone fireplace; be sure to take a look at the diorama tucked into one of the lofts. The saloon features a central bar area, plus options for indoor and outdoor seating. There’s plenty of room at *Smiley’s Pizzeria*, where you’ll see ample seating options to enjoy Smiley’s specialties like buffalo chicken wings, cheese fries and, of course, pizza.

After thinking about food and drink, it might be a good idea to think about touring the **Fitness/Spa** link,

which will take you to the *Balanced Body Studio*. Scroll through for a glimpse of the room filled with Pilates equipment, a class in the exercise room, goodies for sale in the retail shop and a smoothie bar for post-workout treats.

The **Lodging** icon takes you to *Will O’ the Wisp*, a resort offering condominiums and cottages for rent. The beach tour offers an overview of the resort’s lakeside setting, while the pool and hot tub tour reveals an inviting, spacious area for relaxation.

Now that you’ve seen a bit of what Deep Creek Lake has to offer, you may be ready to click on the **Real Estate** link. You’ll come to a site featuring the *Suites at Silver Tree*, offered by *Carol Wills & Sam Housley* of Long & Foster Real Estate. Four tours reveal views of the impressive lobby, with a main and a lower area, a luxury suite that includes a loft, and a spacious reading loft above the main lobby. During your main lobby tour, take a look at the stone inlay image of Deep Creek Lake that welcomes guests near the entrance. Don’t miss the massive twin fireplaces nestled amidst the rafters in both lobby tours.

Now that you’ve navigated the sites that interest you, be sure to check back often so you won’t miss new virtual tours as they’re added to [www.deepcreekdiscoveries.com](http://www.deepcreekdiscoveries.com). These tours will help you keep up with what’s new in Garrett County and plan your next visit. And they’re a lot of fun to navigate. Meanwhile, happy touring!



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