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5 Activities to Enjoy Near Lake Jocassee

Our Friends · Monday, June 9th, 2025

Nestled in the stunning Blue Ridge Mountains of South Carolina, Lake Jocassee is a true gem for outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers. This pristine lake offers crystal-clear waters, breathtaking scenery, and a wide array of activities to enjoy. Whether you're staying in one of the cozy **Lake Jocassee cabins** or just visiting for the day, here are five must-try activities to make the most of your time in this beautiful area.

Kayaking and Paddleboarding

Exploring Lake Jocassee by kayak or paddleboard is an incredible way to immerse yourself in the natural beauty of the area. Glide across the tranquil waters, discovering hidden coves and waterfalls accessible only by boat. Keep an eye out for the diverse wildlife that calls the lake home, such as bald eagles, ospreys, and even the occasional black bear.

Hiking the Foothills Trail

The Foothills Trail, a 77-mile scenic trail that runs along the Blue Ridge Escarpment, offers some of the most spectacular hiking in the region. Several trailheads near Lake Jocassee provide access to portions of the trail, allowing you to embark on day hikes or multi-day backpacking adventures. Be prepared for stunning vistas, lush forests, and cascading waterfalls along the way.

Fishing for Trophy Trout

Lake Jocassee is renowned for its exceptional trout fishing, with crystal-clear waters that are home to brown trout, rainbow trout, and the elusive brook trout. Whether you're an experienced angler or a beginner, you'll find ample opportunities to cast your line and reel in a trophy catch. Be sure to obtain the necessary fishing licenses and familiarize yourself with local regulations before setting out.

Scuba Diving in the Depths

For a truly unique experience, consider scuba diving in Lake Jocassee. The lake's clear waters offer excellent visibility, making it a popular destination for divers. Explore submerged forests, hidden caverns, and even the remnants of an old lodge that was flooded when the lake was created. With depths reaching up to 300 feet, Lake Jocassee presents an exciting challenge for experienced divers.

Waterfalls and Swimming Holes

The area surrounding Lake Jocassee is dotted with stunning waterfalls and refreshing swimming holes, perfect for a hot summer day. Take a short hike to the picturesque Laurel Fork Falls, or venture a bit further to discover the towering Twin Falls. For a more secluded experience, seek out the lesser-known Mill Creek Falls or the tranquil waters of Eastatoe Creek.

Relaxing at the Campground

After a day filled with adventure, there's nothing quite like returning to your cozy accommodations to unwind. The campgrounds around Lake Jocassee offer a range of options, from rustic tent sites to fully-equipped RV spots. Gather around the campfire, roast marshmallows, and share stories of your day's adventures with fellow campers.

Lake Jocassee is a true paradise for those seeking outdoor adventure, natural beauty, and a chance to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life. With its crystal-clear waters, stunning scenery, and endless opportunities for recreation, it's no wonder that visitors return year after year. So pack your bags, grab your gear, and head to Lake Jocassee for an unforgettable experience in the heart of South Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains.

Photo: Kelly via Pexels.

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