Chasing Light

Where to catch the sky at its best

The High Country does golden hour better than almost anywhere. Set an early alarm — or pack a bottle of wine for the evening.

SUNRISE

Rough Ridge Boardwalk

A short climb to open boardwalks facing east over Grandfather Mountain and the Linn Cove Viaduct.

TIP · Bring a headlamp for the dark hike up.

SUNRISE

Beacon Heights

A quick 15-minute walk to a bald rock face with wide-open eastern views.

TIP · One of the easiest sunrise payoffs around.

SUNSET

Flat Top Tower, Moses Cone

A 2.8-mile carriage-trail climb to a fire tower with 360-degree views — unbeatable at dusk.

TIP · Leave time to descend before dark.

SUNSET

The Blowing Rock at Golden Hour

The classic cliff overlook glows as the sun drops behind the ridgelines.

TIP · Check the attraction's closing time.

ANYTIME

Blue Ridge Parkway Overlooks

Pull off at any west- or east-facing overlook and let the sky do the work.

TIP · Mileposts 302–305 are especially good.