The Carter Family Memorial Music Center, a non-profit organization, serves fans and supporters of old-time country and folk music through the presentation of weekly performances at the Carter Family Fold, in Hiltons, Virginia. It also honors the memory of the first family of country music, the legendary Carter Family (A.P. Carter, Sara Carter, and Maybelle Carter), whose first recordings (in 1927) are credited with giving birth to the commercial country music industry. The Carter Family Memorial Music Center was founded by Janette Carter, daughter of A.P. and Sara, who with Sara’s cousin Maybelle, comprised the original Carter Family. The Carter Family Memorial Music Center is directed by Rita Forrester, daughter of Janette Carter.

The original Carter Family lived on this hallowed ground, right where the Carter Fold is today, in Poor Valley, at the foot of Clinch Mountain in southwest Virginia. This was their home and base of operations. Since 1974, the non-profit Carter Music Center has presented programs of old time and bluegrass music every weekend.

Formally established in 1979, the Center’s objective is to promote old-time music and pay tribute to the Original Carter Family (A.P Carter, Sara Carter, and Maybelle Carter). The Saturday concerts highlight the musical style made popular by the Carter Family, considered by many as country music’s first family. In keeping with the traditional music style, no electrical instruments are allowed (everything is acoustic). There’s lots of dancing and fun for the entire family. Shows are family-oriented; no alcohol is permitted at concerts. Come early and browse through our Museum before the show. Concessions, souvenir and records available on site.

Once each year, a two-day (Friday and Saturday) festival takes place the first Saturday/Sunday weekend of August. Mountain craftsmen are on hand to sell their goods, and there’s lots of good country cooking going on, too.

The Carter Family Fold is part of the Carter Family Memorial Music Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of old-time, traditional country and mountain music.
Other Heritage Sites to Visit

Birthplace of Country Music Museum
101 Country Music Way, Bristol, VA 24201
(423) 573-1927 | www.birthplaceofcountrymusic.org
info@birthplaceofcountrymusic.org

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Natural Tunnel State Park
1420 Natural Tunnel Pkwy., Duffield, VA 24244
(276) 940-2674
www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/natural-tunnel

Where to Stay

Estillville Bed & Breakfast
128 Park St., Gate City, VA 24251
(423) 480-2303 | gatecityinn.com
gatecityinn@gmail.com

Where to Dine

Hob-Nob Drive In
2256 Daniel Boone Rd., Gate City, VA 24251
(276) 452-4538

The FAMILY Bakery
101 E. Jackson St. #101, Gate City, VA 24251
(276) 690-2253

Campus Drive-In
184 Kane St., Gate City, VA 24251-3407
(276) 386-3702