Hiking
Jocassee offers a wide array of hiking experiences from easy strolls to strenuous treks through Piney Swamp Trail and Horsepasture Road. The trail system consists of over 35 miles of hiking trails, including the Appalachian Trail, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and the Foothills Parkway. Jocassee is a popular destination for birders, with over 150 species of birds recorded on the trails.

Waterthrush or Swainson’s warbler. Horsepasture Road’s large stands attract many serious birders in search of species like the Louisiana waterthrush or Swainson’s warbler. Although the South Carolina mountains rarely exceed 3,000 feet, they harbor bird populations unique to the state and offer excellent opportunities for on-trail birding and wildlife watching.

Hunting
Jocassee area supports one of South Carolina’s best opportunities for hunting, game species that include turkey, deer, quail, and bobwhite quail. Jocassee area serves as an important staging area for migratory waterfowl and upland game bird species, and has been important to quail and bobwhite since the early 1900s. These areas are currently managed by the South Carolina Wildlife Department.

Wildlife
Jocassee supports a diverse array of wildlife species, including many birds, mammals, and reptiles. Several mammals are native to the landscape, including black bears, white-tailed deer, and bobcats. Other species, such as the Florida panther and the red-cockaded woodpecker, are endangered. Jocassee is also home to a variety of insects and invertebrates, including butterflies and bees.

Camping and Hiking
Jocassee offers a wide range of activities for outdoor enthusiasts. Visitors can enjoy hiking, bird watching, wildlife viewing, and camping. The area also features a variety of recreational opportunities, including fishing, boating, and kayaking. Jocassee hosts a variety of events throughout the year, including festivals and concerts.

Facilities
Jocassee offers a variety of facilities, including campgrounds, picnic areas, and restrooms. The area also features a variety of interpretive programs, including guided hikes and wildlife viewing.

Map and Driving
Jocassee is located in the foothills of the South Carolina mountains, approximately 50 miles north of Columbia. It is accessible via several highways, including US 178 and SC 281. The area is served by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the US Forest Service.

For more information, please visit the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources website or contact the Jocassee Gorges Visitor Center at 800-724-5537.