

# *Furs* to FACTORIES

## 6. Ducktown Basin Museum



Copper was discovered in Potato Creek near Ducktown in 1843, making the Copper Basin one of the early major industrial sites in the southern mountains. People came from all over the world to work the mines, with as many as 30 different mines operating. Years of open ore roasting, mass timber cutting to fuel the smelters, and sulfuric acid production resulted in a stark, denuded landscape that defined the Copper Basin for generations. Vigorous remediation brought back vegetation but old timers still prefer the distinctive landscape they grew up with. The Burra Burra Mine Complex, which was built in 1899 and operated until 1959, is now home to the Ducktown Basin Museum, Tennessee's first state-owned historic industrial museum. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and includes many original mine structures built by the Tennessee Copper Company. The museum tells the story of copper mining in the Copper Basin and the efforts to reclaim the natural environment. Copperhill, located just 3 miles south of Ducktown offers a downtown that is reminiscent of a thriving mining town. Several neighborhoods in Ducktown and Copperhill still have company houses lined up in rows, with some listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

212 Burra Burra Street  
Ducktown, TN 37326  
423-496-5778  
[www.ducktownbasinmuseum.com](http://www.ducktownbasinmuseum.com)

*Hours: Summer, Mon-Sat, 10:00-4:00: Winter, Mon-Sat, 9:30-4:00*