

A nighttime photograph of two people walking across a suspension bridge over a waterfall. The scene is illuminated by warm, low-angle lights, creating a dramatic and adventurous atmosphere. The background is a dense forest of tall trees.

# NC<sup>®</sup>


## Visit North Carolina

**NIGHTTIME TREKS** AT FAYETTEVILLE'S  
ZIPQUEST AND OTHER **BOLD ADVENTURES**  
AWAIT AMONG THE **DIVERSE CITIES** AND  
**VIBRANT TOWNS** OF THE **PIEDMONT REGION**.







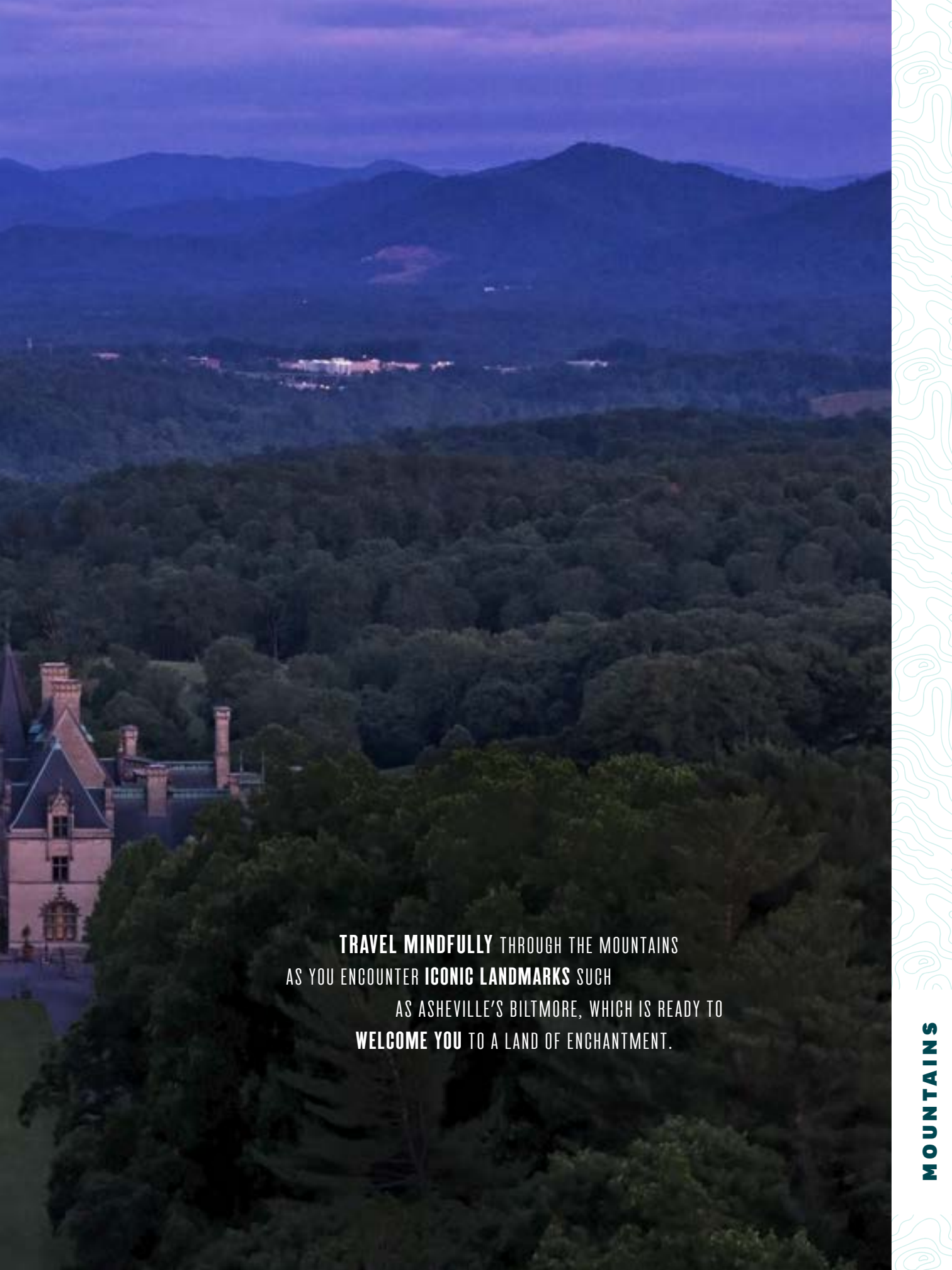
An aerial photograph of a coastal town at sunset. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of blue, orange, and pink. The ocean is visible in the distance. In the foreground, there is a dense line of green trees and a wooden boardwalk that runs along the coast. Below the boardwalk, there is a marshy area with several small ponds and patches of grass. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

**COASTAL LIGHTHOUSES** — INCLUDING  
1817 OLD BALDY — ILLUMINATE **320 MILES**  
OF OCEAN SHORELINE, WHILE **INNER COASTAL**  
**TREASURES** RADIATE THEIR OWN CHARM.









**TRAVEL MINDFULLY** THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS  
AS YOU ENCOUNTER **ICONIC LANDMARKS** SUCH  
AS ASHEVILLE'S BILTMORE, WHICH IS READY TO  
**WELCOME YOU** TO A LAND OF ENCHANTMENT.





# WE'VE GOT ADVENTURES FOR EVERY KIND OF EXPLORER



From majestic mountain landscapes, scenic hiking trails, and spectacular train excursions to the pristine waters of Fontana Lake and the Nantahala River, experience the outdoors in Bryson City.



828-488-7857 | [ExploreBrysonCity.com](https://www.ExploreBrysonCity.com) | @brysoncity

Located in far Western North Carolina one hour west of Asheville and three hours north of Atlanta.



# Come for the History Stay for the...



*Bourbon*

Weldon Mills Distillery



*Brews*

Timber Waters Brewery



*Bites*

Local Eats



*& Birds*

Sylvan Heights Bird Park

Celebrating the 250th Birthday of our Nation.  
Visit Historic Halifax County, NC, where the first  
official act to declare independence was signed.  
Plan your experience at  
[visithalifax.com](http://visithalifax.com)





# CONNECT TO THE LAND OF THE SKY WITH ROOTS THAT RUN DEEP.



## Black Mountain

Named "America's Prettiest Small Town" by Tripadvisor in 2017, this quaint spot is 10 minutes east of Asheville and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Shop for art or antiques, embark on outdoor adventures and unwind in artisan-made rocking chairs.

[ExploreAsheville.com/BlackMountain](https://www.exploreasheville.com/BlackMountain)  
828-669-2300



## Biltmore®

Experience the beauty of America's Largest Home® and century-old gardens, plus estate shopping, dining and activities at Antler Hill Village & Winery. For a complete escape, choose The Inn, Village Hotel or Cottages on Biltmore Estate™, conveniently located near downtown and with all the benefits of Biltmore's 8,000-acre backyard.

[Biltmore.com](https://www.biltmore.com)  
800-411-3812





**We craft and brew and paint and carve.**

**Born out of necessity,  
now celebrated for ingenuity.**

**We are growers who are artists  
and artists whose work grows.**

**We depend on each other for nothing  
and everything.**

**We are everyone for every single one.**

*Always.*  
**ASHEVILLE**



[ExploreAsheville.com](https://ExploreAsheville.com)

**Scan to start planning  
your next adventure**



# High Country of north carolina



Boone, Blowing Rock, Banner Elk & The Small Towns of the Blue Ridge



Get away from it all.  
Get *Inspired.*

Folks come to Grandfather Mountain for all sorts of reasons — from a family getaway to the thrill of the Mile High Swinging Bridge. But after a day on the mountain, and some hands-on time in the Wilson Center For Nature Discovery, everyone leaves inspired.

[grandfather.com](http://grandfather.com)

**GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN®**  
*Wonders Never Cease*

VISIT THE Wilson Center for Nature Discovery

North Carolina's **ONLY**  
Show  
Cavern!



**LINVILLE CAVERNS**

Check Website for Hours

US Hwy 221 North, Marion  
4 miles South of the Blue Ridge Parkway  
Exit at BRP Milepost 317 & turn left on US 221

800-419-0540 • 828-756-4171

[linvillecaverns.com](http://linvillecaverns.com)

**HAWKSNEST  
SNOW TUBING  
AND ZIPLINE**

**20 ZIPLINES &  
OVER 4 MILES  
OF RIDING**

**OVER  
30 TUBING  
LANES FROM  
400-1000 FT**

**BETWEEN  
BOONE AND  
BANNER ELK**

**HawksnestTubing.com**

**Sugar  
MOUNTAIN  
NORTH CAROLINA**

**Sweet...**  
in all 4 seasons

Stay & play in our mile-high resort village.  
Plan a vacation @ [SeeSugar.com](http://SeeSugar.com)





Request a  
free Vacation  
Planner!  
800-438-7500

MountainsOfNC.com 800.438.7500

Call the Regional Visitor Center: 800.438.7500 MountainsOfNC.com

Over 76 years of  
*QUITZY  
ROADSIDE  
AMERICA  
FAMILY  
FUN!*

**NC's  
NATURAL  
GRAVITATIONAL  
ANOMALY  
+11 other  
UNIQUE  
INTERACTIVE  
ACTIVITIES**

Located in  
between Boone  
& Blowing Rock

**MYSTERY  
HILL**

Get Tickets: [MysteryHill.com](http://MysteryHill.com)

Where Blowing Rock began...

**Celebrating 134 Years**  
North Carolina's Oldest  
Operating Resort Hotel

Listed on the National Historic Register  
Complimentary Full Breakfast  
Tavern and Dining Available

**HISTORIC HOTELS  
of AMERICA**  
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

9239 Valley Blvd, Blowing Rock  
828.414.9230 - [GreenParkInn.com](http://GreenParkInn.com)

Blowing Rock, NC  
MAKE IT YOUR NATURE

LEAVE NO TRACE OUTDOOR NC

LEARN MORE ABOUT  
LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES AT  
[BLOWINGROCK.COM](http://BLOWINGROCK.COM)

**Sweet  
Spot**

**MAST GENERAL STORE**  
EST. 1882

Valle Crucis • Boone • Waynesville  
Hendersonville • Winston-Salem  
Asheville, NC • Also in SC, TN, and VA

MASTSTORE.COM • [social icons]

Inspiring Awe  
Since 1849™

EXPLORE  
**boone**

[GetYourAweBack.com](http://GetYourAweBack.com)



# CONTENTS



## stay in style

Find inspiration and innovation at unique lodgings — including The Flat Iron Hotel in Asheville — starting on page 16.

## FOR REAL, VISIT NC

Elsewhere, someone is flying down a freeway and missing out on the real adventure. Be a true road warrior and allow ample time to explore North Carolina's 100 fun-filled counties.

### **16 | OVERNIGHT SENSATIONS**

Feel like a star at remastered lodgings, quiet campgrounds and luxe resorts.

### **24 | THE FAST LANE**

Catch the thrill of auto racing, hop on a motorcycle or trek on a mountain bike.

### **32 | OYSTER QUEST**

The NC Oyster Trail is packed with places where you can eat your fill all year.

### **34 | TUNED IN**

Turn up and turn out for music festivals, iconic venues and legendary performers.

### **38 | POURING WITH CARE**

Warm service awaits from coffee shop employees with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### **40 | FRESH-AIR FAMILY FUN**

Outdoor adventures abound across the state, with options for everyone from little tykes to big boomers.

### **48 | DISTINCT FLAVORS**

Take a taste trip through award-winning restaurants, iconic barbecue joints, global eateries and Southern staples.

### **58 | 10 WAYS TO WATER**

Go with the flow when you visit these picturesque havens of liquid excitement.

### **60 | FABLED FAIRWAYS**

Every golf course tells a tale, and these layouts are striking page-turners.



**ZipQuest, Fayetteville**  
Learn more on page 77.



**Old Baldy, Bald Head Island**  
Learn more on page 82.



**Biltmore, Asheville**  
Learn more on page 91.





MORE YOU CAN DO IN  
**ONE DISTINCT  
DESTINATION.**



EXPERIENCE  
**GREATER FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.**

A Distinct NC Destination along Interstate 95. Greater Fayetteville offers beautiful gardens, history from the Revolutionary War era to today, a range of international cuisines and more.



**DISTINCTLY  
FAYETTEVILLE**

PLAN YOUR TRIP TODAY

[DistiNctlyFayettevilleNC.com](http://DistiNctlyFayettevilleNC.com)



# CONTENTS



## TRAVEL TOOLS

12  
**WELCOME**

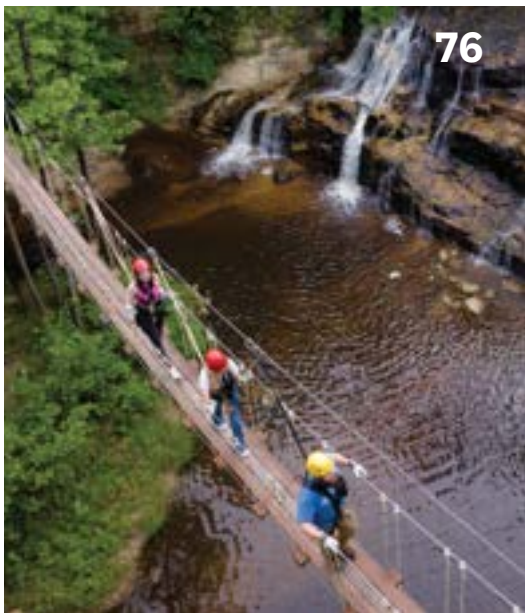
12  
**INFO FOR TRAVELERS**

106  
**LOCAL INFO SOURCES**

108  
**STATE INFO SOURCES**

110  
**TOWN AND CITY INDEX**

**Inside Back Cover**  
**STATE MAP**



## FEATURES

### 66 | **GET SOCIAL**

Raise a glass (or two), tapping into the state's booming social district scene, mocktail menus and unique sipping spaces.

### 72 | **NO LIMITS**

Throughout North Carolina, you'll find attractions that provide ways for everyone to enjoy visiting as fully as possible.

### 76 | **PASSION POINTS**

For a fresh dose of awe, follow the leads of local guides as you step boldly into new travel frontiers that match your interests.

### 88 | **BIRD SPOTTING**

Pack the binoculars! Avian aficionados flock to North Carolina year-round to spy winged wonders soaring, resting and nesting.

### 90 | **ARTISTIC SHOWCASE**

It's tough to compete with the innate beauty of mountains, beaches and forests, but these creative places burst with inspiration.

### 98 | **A FALL TO REMEMBER**

Join the annual autumn party with scenic drives, vibrant vistas and events ranging from pure fun to downright spooky.

### 102 | **CELEBRATE WINTER**

Embrace the cold or escape it. Swish down a mountain or unwind in a historic hotel, then light up the night at a glowing festival.

### 112 | **IN BLOOM**

Discover a full spectrum of color — and gorgeous photo ops — at these pit stops.





A funny thing happens

when you're left to consider

the vastness of the universe.

You find your place in it.

Bridges connect the islands.

A shared purpose connects the people.  
Keep this amazing place just as it is.

AlwaysOBX.com

*The Outer Banks*<sup>®</sup>  
OF NORTH CAROLINA

877-629-4386



# SHINE.

THE GREEN IN UPTOWN CHARLOTTE

**Charlotte.** Let your individuality shine in a place where love is deeply rooted in this city's DNA. Meet passionate people who take hometown pride to new levels and make memorable experiences that embody the soul of the Queen City, Charlotte's welcoming spirit invites you to craft an off-the-beaten-path itinerary that's uniquely you. Plan your trip at [charlottesgotalot.com](https://www.charlottesgotalot.com)



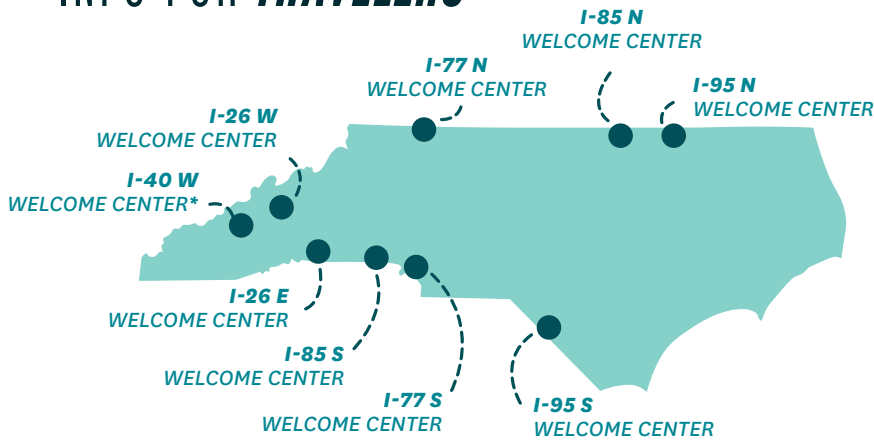


19  
**CHARLOTTE**

Instagram icon | Facebook icon | @charlottesgotalot | charlottesgotalot.com



# INFO FOR TRAVELERS



## WELCOME CENTERS AND REST AREAS

North Carolina's welcome centers feature professional travel counselors who offer free assistance with itineraries and booking room reservations for overnight visitors. The welcome centers are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Rest areas are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. [visitnc.com](http://visitnc.com) (800) VISIT NC (847-4862)

*\*Please check ahead for reopening status.*



### AIR SERVICE

Fly into one of North Carolina's ten regional and international airports for convenient connections.

[visitnc.com/getting-around](http://visitnc.com/getting-around)



### FERRY SERVICE

Vehicle ferries operate 365 days a year on seven routes along the coast: Bayview-Aurora, Currituck-Knotts Island, Cedar Island-Ocracoke, Swan Quarter-Ocracoke, Hatteras-Ocracoke, Cherry Branch-

Minnesott Beach, and Southport-Fort Fisher. The *Ocracoke Express* passenger-only ferry between Hatteras and Ocracoke Village operates during the summer months. [ncferry.org](http://ncferry.org) (800) BY-FERRY (293-3779)



### TRAIN SERVICE

Daily Amtrak passenger trains serve 16 North Carolina cities. There are also daily round-trip train services between Raleigh and Charlotte. [ncbytrain.org](http://ncbytrain.org) (800) BY-TRAIN (298-7246)

### ACCESS FOR EVERYONE

Information for visitors with disabilities is available online in English and Spanish. [ncdhhs.gov/documents/files/access-north-carolina-2015](http://ncdhhs.gov/documents/files/access-north-carolina-2015)

### SAFETY AND ALERTS

Review tips for hiking, swimming, camping, and visiting beaches and waterfalls. [visitnc.com/story/nEXa](http://visitnc.com/story/nEXa)

### STATEWIDE TRAVEL INFORMATION

Access important travel information by region, route or county for current conditions. [ncdot.gov](http://ncdot.gov)

## DEAR VISITORS,

Welcome to *The Official 2025 North Carolina Travel Guide*, your passport to explore a state with boundless opportunities to satisfy your wanderlust. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a lifelong resident, this rooted-in-real guide will cater to your desire for adventure, discovery, leisure and a host of other pursuits in all 100 counties.

For 2025, the guide unites the timeless appeal of North Carolina's scenic beauty with the dynamic appeal of authentic passion points. Raise a glass or mocktail in the state's blooming social district scene and at unique sipping venues. Bring binoculars for bird spotting and other wildlife encounters. Explore cities and towns that beam with artistic inspiration. Venture among historic hauntings, ghosts and unexplained mysteries that ensure your stay can be a scary good time if you wish. And check out inclusive destinations that make it easier for travelers of all ability levels to join the fun.

North Carolina has an unbreakable spirit — which you're sure to experience when you visit. I invite you to embrace the best of our state: pristine nature, rich culture, diverse cuisine and a spirit of hospitality that endures. Welcome to North Carolina.

Wit Tuttell  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VISIT NC



Before you visit Western North Carolina, scan the QR code for up-to-date travel recommendations. [visitnc.com/helene](http://visitnc.com/helene)



Oh  
Hey!

While most people know us for being the premier furniture manufacturing capital of the world, we also boast awe-inspiring outdoor adventures, world-class dining, and remarkable artisan exhibitions.

Now You Know



    @visithickorync

**Hickory**  
NORTH CAROLINA

VisitHickoryNC.com

**NC**  
Visit North Carolina

**VISITNC.COM (800) VISIT NC**

VISIT NORTH CAROLINA,  
THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA'S  
OFFICIAL TOURISM OFFICE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**Wit Tuttle**

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS  
**Scott Peacock**

TOURISM MARKETING MANAGER  
**Katie Bailey**

TOURISM MARKETING PROJECTS MANAGER  
**Dana Grimstead**



VICE PRESIDENT, EDITORIAL DIRECTOR  
Kylee Krizmanic

ART DIRECTOR Erin Keefer

EXECUTIVE EDITOR Brian Kramer

SENIOR PROJECTS EDITOR Jess Hoffert

SENIOR EDITOR Gary Thompson

DEPUTY ART DIRECTOR John Meek

COPY EDITOR Diane Penningroth

CONTRIBUTORS Hilary Braaksma,  
Ann Marie Brown, Austin Cannon,  
Jason Frye, Kyli Hassebrock, Tree Meinch,  
Nikki Miller-Ka, Angela Ufheil

PUBLISHER Mark Josephson

NATIONAL TRAVEL DIRECTOR Katy Hildman

ADVERTISING SALES Stacey Rosseter  
**(678) 571-7445**

Information listed in *The Official North Carolina Travel Guide* has been carefully compiled to ensure accuracy at the time of publication. Information herein that was supplied by North Carolina businesses is subject to change without notice. The State of North Carolina's Official Tourism Office cannot, and does not, guarantee the accuracy of all information furnished and will not be responsible for omissions or errors. The publisher assumes no responsibility or liability for errors, changes or omissions in the guide. Please verify hours and admission policies with destinations.

**For additional travel information, contact:**

Visit North Carolina  
150 Fayetteville St., Suite 1200  
Raleigh, NC 27601

PHONE: (800) VISIT NC (847-4862)

EMAIL: [info@visitnc.com](mailto:info@visitnc.com)

WEBSITE: [visitnc.com](http://visitnc.com)

**PRINTED IN THE USA**

This guide was printed under a no-cost agreement on behalf of the taxpayers of North Carolina, thanks to the support of partner advertising.

EXPERIENCE IT  
for Yourself.

Come discover how God used a dairy farmer's son to tell the world about His love—and see for yourself how this never-changing message changes everything.

Mon.-Sat., 9:30-5:00 | [BillyGrahamLibrary.org](http://BillyGrahamLibrary.org)  
704.401.3200 | 4330 Westmont Drive, Charlotte, NC

  
The **BILLY GRAHAM**  
Library

FREE ADMISSION

© 2024 BGEA A MINISTRY OF BILLY GRAHAM EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION





## Your Invitation to Biltmore

*George Vanderbilt envisioned Biltmore Estate as a retreat where his loved ones could escape the stress of everyday life. Today, this cultural destination offers you the same opportunities. Marvel at Biltmore House, wander through lush gardens, savor estate-to-table cuisine and award-winning wines, peruse charming shops, and explore our breathtaking 8,000-acre Blue Ridge Mountain backyard.*



EST. 1895

**BILTMORE**

ASHEVILLE, NC





# For Real, Visit NC

*Meet me at  
Merle's*

Elsewhere, being social involves taking a selfie and waiting for the likes to grow. Here, you'll make deeper connections in neighborly cocktail bars and coffee shops, at vibrant music festivals, and at inclusive lodgings that make you feel right at home. For real.



You'll feel like a star at these remastered classics, family-friendly campgrounds and romance-filled resorts.



**Heiϗts House  
Hotel**  Raleigh

After globe-trotting to overnight stays in celebrated lodgings, Sarah and Jeff Shepherd envisioned transforming their neighborhood's sleepy 1860 mansion into a similarly desired destination. Their dream evolved into a painstaking two-year transformation of the Italianate Heiϗts House, now back to its original glory — and then some — with gleaming wood floors, a stained-glass-topped cupola, and nine guest rooms outfitted with fireplaces, vintage rugs and gold-framed televisions that display works of art. An original piece by Salvador Dali hangs in the airy dining room, where guests enjoy pastries from **Bolted Bread**, another Dylan Heiϗts neighborhood treasure.



# IT'S NOT THE CAROLINAS WITHOUT CAROWINDS

TWO NEW  
FAMILY  
RIDES  
IN 2025!



**TWO STATES.  
ENDLESS WAYS TO PLAY.**

VISIT [CAROWINDS.COM](https://www.carowinds.com) FOR  
PARK INFO, CALENDAR & TICKETS.

**Carowinds**

CHARLOTTE, NC | FORT MILL, SC



# Grand Revivals

**What's old is new again at spectacular lodgings with both subtle and elaborate nods to their storied pasts.**



## ARRIVE Wilmington

Wilmington

On the site of the old Wilmingtonian Hotel (once damaged by an escaped circus elephant a century ago), ARRIVE rolls out a fresh welcome mat with vintage-radio-style Bluetooth speakers, cushy robes and neighborhood field guides in each room. Raise a glass at the courtyard Gabo Bar and nosh on crispy Brussels sprouts at Dram Yard.

## The Flat Iron Hotel

Asheville

Completed in 1926, one of Asheville's first skyscrapers (nine stories tall) now serves vacationers looking to stay in the heart of downtown's rich art, music and culinary scene. The hotel, which opened in 2021 boasts a popular rooftop that pairs true Ridge Mountain views with local wine and beer — along with small plates showcasing the bounty of area farmers.

## Opal and West House

Shelby

A private home for generations of families, the 1860 building — transformed into a boutique hotel in 2021— welcomes visitors to its seven bedrooms. The original hardwood floors and beadboard ceilings remain, with high-end finishes and furnishings adding mod touches. Contemporary comforts include sound machines and rain showers in each room.





# BOURBON, BATTLES BALLOONS & MORE!

ANY DAY CAN BE AN ADVENTURE **IN STATESVILLE, NC**



[visitstatesville.com](http://visitstatesville.com)



@visitstatesvillenc     



## Under the Stars

**Bring your nature-loving crew to these quiet campgrounds, with accommodations ranging from rustic to red carpet.**

### **Broad River Campground**

📍 Mooresboro

Living in a bubble has never felt more freeing. The campground's five geodesic domes — each appointed with themed comforters and furniture — allow guests to peer into nature while maintaining privacy. Hot tubs on each patio set the stage for literal forest bathing, and if you want to stay connected, there's free Wi-Fi and a smart TV in each dome.

### **Platform Camping**

📍 Roanoke River

Pitch your tent and fall asleep to the sound of gently flowing water from a camping platform on the Roanoke River. Spread out across 140 miles of the Roanoke River State Trail, more than 20 reservable campsites put paddlers and peace-seekers in the shadows of cypress trees and within sight of river otters and beavers. Plan ahead: Access to modern restrooms and shower facilities varies by location.

### **Turkey Creek Campground**

📍 Almond

Let songbirds provide your morning alarm in the Great Smoky Mountains. Whitewater rafting, mountain biking, the Appalachian Trail and Great Smoky Mountains National Park are all within reach of this campground with more than 40 tent and RV sites. Stay awake for a free evening light show of flickering fireflies throughout the spring and summer months.



### **OUTDOOR NC LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLE** *Be Careful with Fire*

If you choose to have a campfire, check regulations, secure a permit if needed and keep the fire small. Before leaving, confirm that the fire is completely out and the ashes are cold.





## Resort Getaways

**Surrounded by water and woods, these retreats have everything you need to kick back and savor reconnection.**

### **Chetola Resort**

📍 Blowing Rock

This mountain oasis has a way of reeling guests in and never letting go. Guides from the resort's Orvis-endorsed fly-fishing lodge lead clinics, as well as floating and wading fishing expeditions in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Fish at the resort or on nearby streams, then dive into seared trout with sauteed lemon arugula at Timberlake's Restaurant.

### **Grandover Resort & Spa**

📍 Greensboro

Swing into serenity at two 18-hole courses, including the newly renovated West Golf Course with fresh greens. Speaking of fresh greens, the 244-room property serves up a Southern-inspired salad with fried chicken skins, tomatoes, cucumbers and scallions at Finial restaurant. Cap off the day with a fireside cocktail at 1808 Bar.

### **The Umstead Hotel and Spa**

📍 Cary

Peruse a portion of the 98-piece art collection (including glasswork by Dale Chihuly) and chill in a luxe outdoor pool featuring a woodland backdrop. At Herons restaurant, frame-worthy entrees such as the Carolina chicken with leeks and chanterelle mushrooms showcase ingredients from the resort's own farm.

### **Old Edwards Inn & Spa**

📍 Highlands

A spa and dual outdoor mineral pools ease guests into relaxation at this European-style resort. Lie on a chaise in the Serenity Solarium (with fountains and a stone fireplace) while waiting for an immersive bath ritual and massage. To unwind even further, sip vino in The Wine Garden while listening to the cascade of a patio-side waterfall.

### **Sanderling Resort**

📍 Duck

It's all about the view at this Outer Banks retreat. Rooms, suites and a handful of private vacation rental homes overlook the ocean and the Currituck Sound. When it comes to fun on the water, you have plenty of options. Rent SUPs, kayaks and boogie boards, or take a boat ride across the sound to Sanctuary Vineyards.



**PAW**

*of approval*

Fido deserves a beach escape too. For an additional fee, up to two dogs can stay in each Sanderling Resort guest room or vacation home.





# Where shopping becomes the ultimate “give it” or “keep it” debate.



by *Josie Roberts*

Age 63

Columbia, South Carolina

*I'm an antique-lover and upcycler. In short, I love the old things found in your grandma's attic and things other people consider junk. I find joy in turning a long lightbox into a mantle or an old door into a leaning shelf. I want my house and the stuff in my house to be as unique as I am. That's why I head to Kinston to do my picking for art, antiques and everything in between. I always find something I didn't even know I needed.*

**Some people say,** “Money can't buy you happiness.” I say it can buy you a slightly used canoe that you can turn into a coffee table. That makes me happy. So, isn't it basically the same thing? If you think like me, I suggest you hop in a car and head to Kinston. This little town in Eastern North Carolina has everything an amateur antique picker, shopaholic, and part-time hoarder is looking for.

This weekend, I'm headed to Kinston with Gail, my ride-or-die best friend of 20 years. I'm looking for something to fill that empty wall space in my living room that I've been staring at for two years. Gail is looking for something to

fill the empty room her son left behind when he moved off to college. Stop one on our list is Ironclad Marketplace – a store with a little bit of everything you didn't know you wanted.

On the outside, Ironclad Marketplace looks to be a simple warehouse. On the inside, it's a 12,000 square-foot antique and collectibles market with over 50 vendors. This place sells everything from furniture to handmade crafts and every sort of “somebody's got-to-have-it” you can imagine.

We head inside to begin our treasure hunt. This place is massive. In one booth I see retro modern side tables mingling with country sideboards. In another booth I see quilts falling



lazily over perfectly padded rockers. In yet another booth I see accent pillows in colors that match hand-blown glass vases and plates and paintings. If it was in Grandma's attic, excluding Grandpa, you'll probably find it here.

In mere seconds, Gail hones in on an antique dresser and bolts toward the back of the store. And, just like that, we're off. By the time I get to her she's in full on inspection mode. Drawers are opened and closed. Handles are checked and given the customary jiggle to see if they're loose. She lasers in on the paint job, running her hand over the finish, checking for any subtle scratches and wear. After a few minutes of playing ring around the rosey with the dresser, Gail stands and gives me the thumbs up. Looks like we have our first purchase of the weekend.

As Gail takes her tag to the front of the store to get the item marked as sold, I start to browse around. I'm drawn over to an antique wooden ladder that has been turned into a hanging shelf for storage

baskets. It's nice, but a little too tall for the wall in my living room. I move from booth to booth to booth. I find an antique Coca-Cola bottle cap that is about 4 ft. round and consider how I can mount it on a wall or turn it into a table. I look through some old Elvis records, because he's Elvis - thank you very much. I browse through some antique toys and find myself saying "I had one of those" until I realize it makes me seem as old as the antique toys.

In my shopping haze, I didn't even notice Gail hadn't made it back to me. I contemplate sending out a search party, then she arrives. It seems the owner of the store knew exactly the right pieces to go with her dresser. So, now she has an antique headboard that was an old grocery store sign, a depression glass lamp, and a side table made out of a wine barrel. She's even picked up two colonial-like paintings of children. I'm all for the bedroom pieces. But those paintings are a little too much on the creepy, "eyes-follow-you-around-the-room" side for me. After a few references to horror movies with us as the unlikely victims, Gail agrees. The paintings go back on the wall to haunt the next unlucky shopper.

At this point, we are three hours into our shopping weekend. Gail has already blown her budget, but she seems content. "Buyers remorse is for amateurs," she says. So, now the focus becomes finding that perfect piece for me.

A framed movie poster from Gremlins 2? Pass. A 1960s baker's rack painted neon pink and yellow? Not

### I BROWSE THROUGH SOME ANTIQUE TOYS AND FIND MYSELF SAYING "I HAD ONE OF THOSE" UNTIL I REALIZE IT MAKES ME SEEM AS OLD AS THE ANTIQUE TOYS.


for me. A set of dining plates adorned with various roosters? Cute, but pass again. A full box of LIFE magazines? Now, that's a possibility.

Looking through the box, there are about 30 total magazines in plastic sleeves. They all look like they're in great condition. I spot covers featuring Marilyn Monroe, the moon landing, Elvis (hi again, old friend). I start to picture row upon row of framed LIFE covers lining my wall mixed with pictures from my own life. It will be a virtual history of the world and of me. I love it. I pick up the box and announce


that my search is over. Gail is overjoyed. I think she really likes the idea. I also think she's getting hungry.

I hoist the box on the counter to pay up. That's when the owner tells me if I'm buying the entire box, he'll give me 20% off. "Great shopping and a discount? That just means more to spend tomorrow," I announce. And with that, Gail starts searching through her pocket book like she has lost something. "You okay?" I ask. "Yeah," she says. "I forgot this was only our first day here. I wanted to make sure I had another credit card." She then raises her hand with several cards displayed in a fan. "Charged and ready," she says. "Now, let's go get us some barbecue. I need some energy to make it through the rest of this town tomorrow."


Who is this woman? Is she excited or possessed? And from the corner I see the children in the pictures watching as we exit the store.




**Check out some local shops**




- Consigned Designs
- Once Again
- Just Add Salt
- Art 105
- Neuse Sports Shop & The Villager
- Community Council for the Arts Gallery
- Southern Heritage Folk Art and Antiques
- Copper Mill Mercantile
- Echoes of Time Emporium
- Ironclad Marketplace





**BARGAINS & BITES TOUR**





2 Days | 15 Stops





**Reward Program**

*Join Kinston Rewards today. Shop at participating local shops, restaurants, attractions, and lodging partners to save 10% on select purchases every time.*



Powered by gasoline or gravity, all sorts of speeding vehicles race through North Carolina, inviting you to spectate and appreciate — or perhaps participate.

# otorcycling

CHEROKEE VALLEY  
ROBBINSVILLE

**Twist the throttle and hear the roar of a motorcycle while roaring down serpentine mountain highways that put you in hog heaven.**

Ride above the clouds at times on the 11-mile Cherokee Valley Way, which hugs the crest of the Unicoi Mountains on the western edge of the Nantahala National Forest. The popular route makes sweeping curves as it follows NC-129 from Robbinsville to the state line. Rev up for seemingly endless mountain views and scenic overlooks.

With 18 tight turns—some banked racetrack style, Tail of the Dragon is a seriously sinister route that motorcyclists will literally lean into. The twisty 11-mile segment of US-129 in Deals Gap is bordered by the Great Smoky Mountains and the Cherokee National Forest, with few intersecting roads or driveways to worry about.

## R R R I S

Catch an *Easy Rider* vibe from one-off vintage choppers like those in the classic movie. Sales heels through time Museum in Maggie Valley houses around 100 motorcycles across 25 makes, including Harley-Davidson, Indian and Excelsior.



IT'S TIME TO CATCH YOUR  
BREATH BECAUSE SOON IT  
WILL BE TAKEN AWAY.



— VISIT —  
**HAYWOOD**  
WESTERN NC MOUNTAINS

Experience the unrivaled beauty of Haywood County through its charming mountain towns: Waynesville, Maggie Valley, Canton, Clyde, and Lake Junaluska.

Create an **UNFILTERED** experience at [VisitHaywood.com](https://www.VisitHaywood.com)





CHARLOTTE MOTOR SPEEDWAY CONCORD

## Auto Racing

*If you've got a fast car, you can be someone in North Carolina. Celebrate the exhilaration of auto racing at these venues.*

### THE INTIMIDATOR

More than a dozen attractions in Cabarrus County honor the memory of NASCAR legend **Dale Earnhardt**. A 9-foot-tall statue in Dale Earnhardt's hometown of Kannapolis captures the late NASCAR racer's larger-than-life presence.



### Charlotte Motor Speedway

Concord

NASCAR's flagship facility is also home to zMAX Dragway, the world's first four-lane drag-racing surface — it's nicknamed the Bellagio of drag strips for its 30,000-seat grandstand and 40 luxury suites. Back at the main venue, watch the Coca-Cola 600 and other races on the 1.5-mile quad oval, take a tour or book an on-track driving experience.

### North Wilkesboro Speedway

North Wilkesboro

The historic track opened in 1947 and hosted early NASCAR races. After powering down in 1996 and parking in idle for many years, the track was overhauled and returned to host the 2023 NASCAR All-Star Race. Fun fact: In 2024, construction crews discovered what was rumored to be an abandoned moonshine cave under the grandstands.

### NASCAR Hall of Fame

Charlotte

Some experiences here aren't just interactive, they're hyperactive — frantically changing a tire or filling the fuel tank during the Pit Crew Challenge, excitedly announcing a race from the broadcast booth, or white-knuckle driving a virtual track in a simulator. Other exhibits let you learn NASCAR history at a more leisurely pace.

### North Carolina Auto Racing Hall of Fame

Mooresville

Get a rear-view perspective and follow the evolution of North Carolina's motorsports industry through more than 40 cars on display. See a 1940 Ford Deluxe Coupe like the ones moonshiners used to race (that's what eventually led to NASCAR), Tony Stewart's signature orange No. 20 Chevy from his 2005 NASCAR championship season, and other vehicles associated with iconic racers and moments.



WHERE NAPA VALLEY *Lifestyle*  
MEETS BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS MAGIC



**ARRIVE TO** a lakeside inn surrounded by lush fields, gardens and forests with a woodland trail, just a five-minute drive from downtown Highlands.

**SETTLE IN** with delicious inclusions like a champagne arrival, afternoon hors d'oeuvres and a hot chef-made breakfast to start each day.

**RELAX IN** sumptuous style with spacious guestrooms, cozy fireplaces and terraces that look out into the forest.

**DELIGHT IN** the embrace of home-grown hospitality, handcrafted cocktails and live music on weekends.

Make Half-Mile Farm your next North Carolina getaway.

A Private Experience for Guests 18 and Older.



HALF-MILE FARM   
A Luxury Country Inn by Old Edwards



# Mountain Biking

**With hills, what goes up must come down, and that makes for marvelous mountain biking over our real State terrain.**



**OUTDOOR NC LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLE** *Tips for Mountain Biking*  
Reconsider riding options when the trail bed is soft. If you encounter patches of mud or ice, ride through them and not around. This prevents trail widening and damage to trailside plants.



## Lake Norman

### State Park

📍 Troutman

Spend an hour or a day riding the 100-plus-mile Itusi Trail's loops of 0.25 miles to almost 10 miles. The routes are fast, flowy and rolling, ranging from easy to moderate in difficulty. Loops run clockwise in odd-numbered years, so in 2025 you can start the 1-mile Hawk Loop from the parking lot.



## Mountain Creek Park

📍 Sherrills Ford

Variety is the spice of mountain biking life at this new outdoor hub, which features a 1.2-acre pump track and 18 miles of trails. Some routes are tight and twisty, while others are rolling and swooping. Wherever you ride, expect dirt rollers, berms, tabletops, rock jumps, gullies, drops and sweeping turns.



## Sanjee Park

📍 Sanford

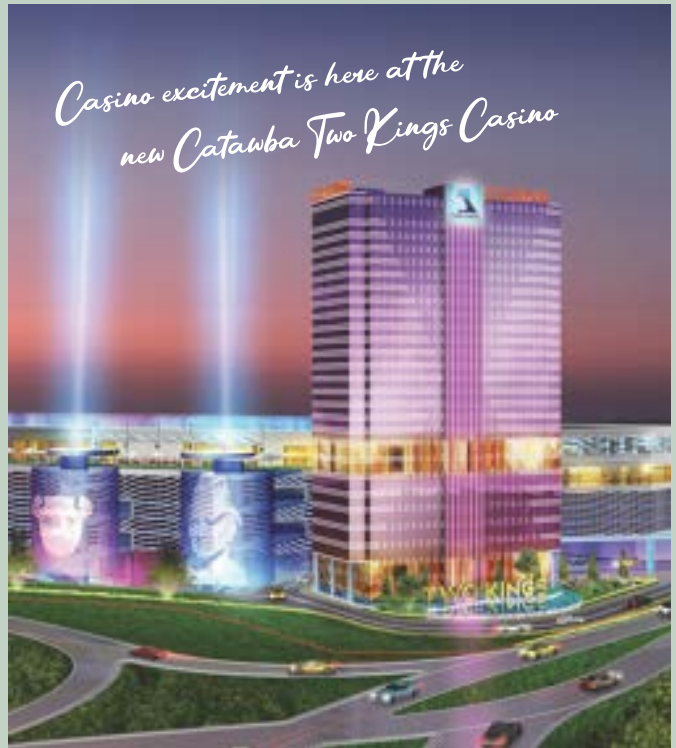
A rhythmic medley of uphill climbs, speedy downhill runs, technical boulder gardens and big jumps has bikers singing the park's praises. Warm up on the pump track before tackling the trails. Optional routes at the more technical sections accommodate beginning and intermediate riders without sacrificing thrills for more experienced riders.



Historic  
**KINGS MOUNTAIN**  
 NORTH CAROLINA  
*It's Revolutionary!*



*Experience a new world taste, with "Southern Charm" at Veronet Vineyards Winery*

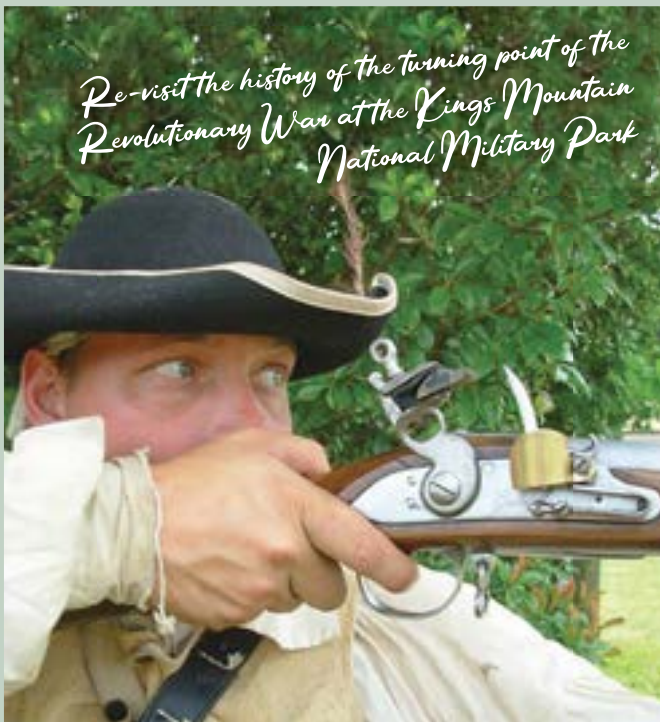


*Casino excitement is here at the new Catawba Two Kings Casino*



**Southern Artisan Spirits**  
 DISTILLERY & TASTING ROOM

*Try a tour and sip of the award winning Cardinal Gin*



*Re-visit the history of the turning point of the Revolutionary War at the Kings Mountain National Military Park*



*Hike the serene, forested Gateway Trail or venture into Crowder's Mountain State Park*

*Find yourself here*

[DiscoverKingsMountain.com](http://DiscoverKingsMountain.com)







**EARL SCRUGGS CENTER**

MUSIC & STORIES FROM THE AMERICAN SOUTH

103 S. Lafayette St.  
Shelby, NC

[www.EarlScruggsCenter.org](http://www.EarlScruggsCenter.org)  
704.487.6233



318 S. Washington St.  
Shelby, NC

[www.DonGibsonTheatre.com](http://www.DonGibsonTheatre.com)  
704.487.8114





Discover a perfect escape in Shelby, located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains where you can relax or find adventure! Plan your visit at [CityofShelby.com](http://CityofShelby.com).



Carolina Harmony Trail

City Park Carrousel



Newgrass Brewing Company



## Morgan and Wells Bed & Breakfast



This Craftsman style Bed & Breakfast in the heart of town offers six unique suites that blend vintage charm with modern hospitality and amenities. Enjoy luxurious ambiance and five-star service for a memorable stay. Walkable to Uptown Shelby's shops, attractions, trails and dining, striking the perfect balance between relaxation and adventure.

400 North Morgan St, Shelby, NC 28150  
[morganandwells.com](http://morganandwells.com)  
704-648-8000



## Rediscover Your Rhythm Boiling Springs, NC

- Tranquil parks, peaceful rivers, and nature's beauty await.
- Local art, performances, and vibrant festivals enrich your experience.
- Hike, cycle, and explore—every step is a new thrill.
- Feel the adrenaline at Shadyside Drag Strip's racing action.
- Cheer on Gardner-Webb University's Division I athletics, home of the Runnin' Bulldogs.





# OYSTER QUEST

Lovers of bivalves, rejoice! The NC Oyster Trail is packed with aquatic farms and restaurants where you can eat your fill throughout the year.



**GHOST FLEET  
OYSTER COMPANY  
HAMPSTEAD**

## Tour

More than a dozen North Carolina oyster farms let you in on their secrets to mariculture (marine farming). Learn what conditions create the tastiest oyster, then shuck and sample a few while you're on the water. **Ghost Fleet Oyster Company** offers tours of their floating farms in Sneads Ferry and Hampstead, filling you in on all things oyster: life cycle, the importance of shell recycling and more. Farther down the coast, **Epic Excursions** provides three-hour tours of **Middle Sound Mariculture** farm near Wilmington, where the water is perfectly salty for raising a delicious oyster. Their tours include a boat ride to a barrier island for oyster snacking with wine pairings. Best of all, farmed oysters are safe to eat year-round.

## Taste

When you tour an oyster farm, you'll sample as many as you can shuck. For shuck-free savoring, make your way to a restaurant or seasonal event that puts these mollusks on the pedestal they deserve. Jackson's **Last Saturday Oyster Roast** takes place in January, when guests can dine on platters heaped high with roasted oysters.

**Rusty Hooks Dockside Grill** in Southport serves oysters on the half-shell, steamed and fried. (Pro tip: Enjoy your feast at a table with a sunset view.) **Ocracoke Oyster Company** serves select oysters from a trio of farms on the Outer Banks; enjoy yours on the half-shell with a zippy side of wasabi and ginger, doused in spicy mustard vinegar sauce, or prepared Rockefeller-style.

## LEARN MORE

Oysters are more than tasty treats — they're essential to the coastal ecosystem. At the **North Carolina Estuarium** in Washington and **Hatteras Island Ocean Center** on the Outer Banks, exhibits spotlight the role oysters play in the environment and the conditions that help oysters, clams, crabs and other sea creatures thrive.

# Real quality beach time.

Spend a little more time enjoying the beach with the ones you love and a little less time fighting for your spot in the sand at North Carolina's uncrowded coast.

CRYSTAL COAST N.C.

Book the uncrowded coast.  
[crystalcoastnc.com/Visit](http://crystalcoastnc.com/Visit)



**JOHN COLTRANE  
INTERNATIONAL JAZZ  
AND BLUES FESTIVAL  
HIGH POINT**

# TUNED IN

Turn up and turn out for these festivals, venues and legendary performers who help define North Carolina's diverse music scene.



**MERLEFEST  
WILKESBORO**

STORY: GARY THOMPSON. PHOTOGRAPHS: (COLTRANE) COURTESY OF JOHN COLTRANE FESTIVAL, (MERLEFEST) ALLISON ISLEY, (EARLE THEATRE) SAM DEAN

## Fab Festivals

***Music has the power to unite people, especially through festivals that draw folks from all over to share a common passion.***

Hip-hop superstar J. Cole invites some of his favorite artists to **Dreamville Festival**, a Black-owned music celebration held each April with a global playlist of artists in Raleigh's Dorothea Dix Park. The 2024 edition featured SZA, 50 Cent and Nicki Minaj. Jazz legend John Coltrane learned to play saxophone while growing up in High Point. Every Labor Day weekend, the town celebrates his legacy by hosting the **John Coltrane International Jazz and Blues Festival**. The lineup fuses jazz with blues and funk. The first **Lovin' Life Music Fest** took place in May 2024 at Charlotte's First Ward Park, with

Post Malone, Stevie Nicks and The Avett Brothers among more than 40 performers spanning genres and generations. An encore is planned for May 2025. Since 1988, April's **MerleFest** in Wilkesboro has honored the memory of Eddy Merle Watson, son of beloved folk musician Doc Watson. The music coming from a dozen stages is "traditional plus" — Appalachian roots sounds seasoned with country, blues, bluegrass and more. A family-friendly spirit pervades the **Shakori Hills Grassroots Festival of Music and Dance**, held each May and October in Pittsboro. Besides hearing a variety of live music, adults and kids can play games, take dance and yoga lessons, and learn about sustainability.

# Storied Venues

***Magic happens when artists, audiences and atmosphere vibrate on the same frequency. Each of these memorable spaces offers a distinct feel.***

## **Play That Funky Dive Bar**

Named one of the South's best dive bars, the **Backstreet Pub** in Beaufort has occupied a century-old converted bakery for decades, and the cozy brick building with patio seating rolls out live music every week with rock, funk and blues bands. The clientele is as varied as the performers, and it's always a friendly crowd.

## **Rock the Cradle of Bands**

Nirvana, Public Enemy, John Mayer, Joan Baez and Iggy Pop have all played at **Cat's Cradle** in Carrboro, less than a mile from UNC-Chapel Hill. Though its address has changed a few times, the 750-person venue has drawn established bands and up-and-comers for more than 50 years.

## **The Freshest Beats**

Once a produce warehouse where fruits and veggies arrived by train, **The Fruit** in Durham is now a cool place to see the fruits of human creativity. It's a museum by day and dance venue by night, curating photography exhibitions, electronic music performances and festival-like parties in one vibrant space.

## **Throwback Music Hall**

Built in 1920, the **Historic Earle Theatre** in Mount Airy houses the Old-Time Music Heritage Hall and the nation's second-longest-running live radio show — WPAQ's *Merry-Go-Round*, broadcast live every Saturday. Visit Thursday afternoons for free traditional dance, fiddle, banjo, mandolin and guitar classes.



## *Great stories start here*

**THIS WEEKEND** I "foodied" my way through Nash County. One night, I had dinner prepared by a celebrity chef. The next day, I drank a craft beer you can't buy anywhere else. I tasted award-winning mac n' cheese. Finally, I had BBQ that made me realize why diet is a four-letter word. I also think my pants shrank.

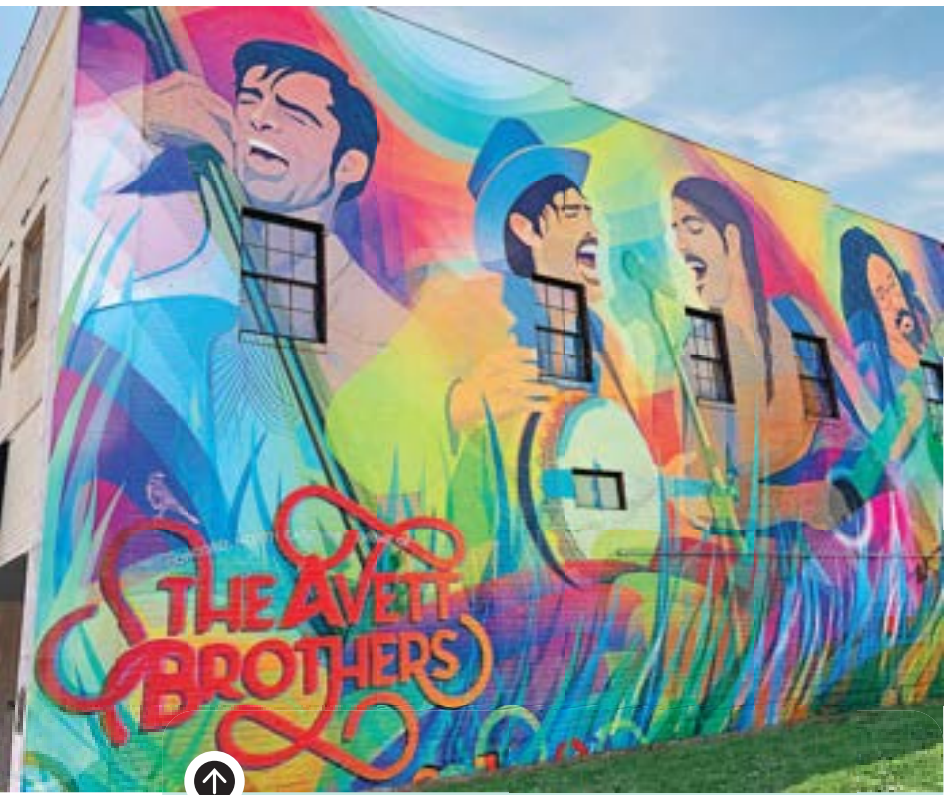
Start your great story at [EXPLORENASHCOUNTY.COM](https://www.explorenashcounty.com)











**ANOTHER NC ICON**

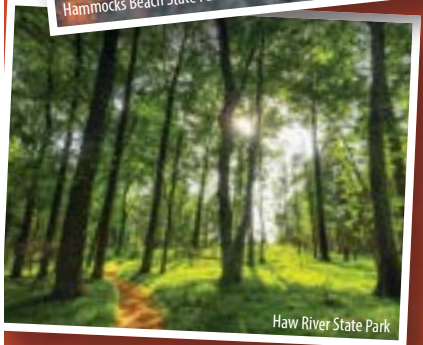
No hard feelings if you haven't yet seen the mural honoring folk-rock band The Avett Brothers in their hometown of Concord. North Carolina artist Caswell Turner created the colorful piece, which covers the exterior of Hawthorne's NY Pizza and Bar on Union Street North downtown. Titled *Bloom*, the work incorporates some of the group's lyrics.



**EARL SCRUGGS CENTER**  
SHELBY



Hammocks Beach State Park



Haw River State Park

*North Carolina State Parks*

Great trails are there for you to follow. Don't go off the trail to help make sure these parks will be there tomorrow.



Singletary Lake State Park



Elk Knob State Park



[ncparks.gov](http://ncparks.gov)







**Esteamed Coffee** 📍 Cary

Inside a renovated 1940 cottage in downtown Cary, the baristas have unique stories to tell, but also share a few qualities: They proudly wear aprons with the Esteamed Coffee logo, they'll welcome you with friendly smiles, and they all live with some form of disability. Founded by locals Angie Hudson and Tamara Lapsley, Esteamed and other North Carolina coffee shops are aiming to put a dent in the nation's high unemployment rate for adults with disabilities. Here, employees whip up mildly spiced chai lattes, espresso-based frappés and refreshing fruit smoothies. Signs encourage guests to speak clearly and take a first sip to ensure their beverage was properly made to order — a good reminder for all of us to slow down and savor.

**321 Coffee**

📍 Durham and Raleigh

At three locations, including the State Farmers Market in Raleigh, order sustainably sourced and roasted coffee in its pure form or in the Love Big Latte with French vanilla, whipped cream and a ribbon of caramel.

**A Special Blend**

📍 Greensboro and High Point

Membership to the Percolator Club comes with a free monthly drink (macchiatos, matcha-based drinks and milkshakes are just a few of the options) and helps sustain this nonprofit striving to provide “community in a cup” for both employees and customers.

# POURING WITH CARE

Get your fill of comforting beverages and warm service from coffee shop employees with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Awaken Coffee**

📍 Greenville

Beans from Davidson-based Haerfest Coffee Roasting Company, which shares a similar mission of providing pathways to people with special needs, bring the buzz to The Lavender Bee latte with local honey.

**Bitty & Beau's Coffee**

📍 Wilmington

The original Bitty & Beau's opened here in 2016, and it sparked a movement. Now there are 18 of them across 11 states. Visit the OG location for a mango smoothie, mint chocolate frappé or cold brew.



# NEW BERN



*Step into the charm*  
of North Carolina's first capital city.

New Bern is a place where history, creativity, and adventure converge. From strolling through centuries-old streets to visiting the birthplace of Pepsi and experiencing the inspiration behind Nicholas Sparks' novels, every moment in New Bern is a story waiting to unfold.

[www.VisitNewBern.com](http://www.VisitNewBern.com)



# FRESH-AIR FAMILY FUN

With so many all-ages outdoor attractions across the state, North Carolina has the natural appeal to unite everyone from little tykes to big boomers.



## Mountain Treasures

**Take family fun to new levels with these open-air experiences that are sure to pique your interest and heighten your senses.**



### **Grandfather**

#### **Mountain** Linville

A serpentine drive brings travelers to the Mile High Swinging Bridge, a walkway stretching across a chasm to Linville Peak. Leave your fear of heights in the car to admire the forest draping like a quilt across ridges. Experienced hikers trek the Grandfather Trail, encountering ladders en route to MacRae Peak.

### **The Orchard at Altapass**

#### Spruce Pine

Dedicated to preserving Appalachian culture, the 100-year-old orchard grows 25 varieties of heirloom apples. From late July through late October, hayride passengers cling tight as a tractor pulls them over bumpy trails to the trees for U-picking. Savor the fruits on a stroll through the butterfly garden.

# *Check In and* **BLISS OUT**

Surround yourself in European-style luxury with premium leisure amenities in the heart of downtown Highlands, NC, with heated pools, world-class spa, farm-fed restaurants and live music venues.

OLD  
EDWARDS  
INN *and Spa*

RELAIS &  
CHATEAUX

OPRAH DAILY HOTEL O-WARDS WINNER  
TRAVEL + LEISURE AMERICA'S BEST SMALL MOUNTAIN TOWN  
TRAVEL + LEISURE TOP 500 WORLD'S BEST HOTEL





**OUTDOOR NC LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLE** *Plan Ahead and Prepare*  
 Before you travel, learn about your destination, its regulations and safety matters. Choose lesser-known areas to reduce your impact and have a backup plan if a location is crowded.

**Stone Mountain**

**State Park**

📍 Roaring Gap

It took centuries for molten lava to cool and crystallize, forming the massive granite dome of Stone Mountain. From a distant overlook, the bald 600-foot-tall mound looks almost diminutive, but the landmark towers above hikers roaming the park's 20 miles of trails past waterfalls, lush forest and woodland lakes.

**Great Smoky Mountains Railroad**

📍 Blowing Rock

The hiss of steam from antique locomotives sends visitors back in time at North Carolina's first theme park, founded in 1957. Chug through Wild West scenes — and beware of bandits — on a 4-mile train ride around the site. Get your kicks at *Diamond Lil's Can-Can Revue* and indulge sweet cravings at *Fudge Works*.



**COOLESVILLE**

Find a gnome away from home at *Hello House on Cott Creek Road* in Waynesville. Counting the bed-and-breakfast's 5-acre grounds for whimsical garden ornaments is part of the fun, as is a bevy of board games to play. Relax amid ponds, a stream, a waterfall, walking paths and native plants.



Go for the gold, stay for the emeralds, garnets, rubies and sapphires. When it comes to prospecting for precious stones and metals, the Blue Ridge Mountains shine. **Emerald Hollow Mine** in Addenite is the world's only public emerald mine and home to the town's namesake (and rare) pale-to-emerald green mineral. At **Lucky Strike Gold and Gem Mine**, an old commercial mining site in Marion, pan for gold in the same stream as 1800s prospectors, or screen a bucket of ore for garnets, amethysts, topaz, rose quartz and other gems. **Sugar Creek Gem Mine** in Banner Elk offers prefilled buckets of rough gemstones that you take to the flume line, where you'll sift through sand and rock to find your tiny treasures. The outfitter guarantees you'll find precious or semiprecious stones on every trip.





200 Main 



**MOUNTAIN-CHIC LODGING BY OLD EDWARDS**  
Downtown Highlands, North Carolina



**We provide your playlist.**



**Take a Mountain Road Trip!** The scenic mountain vistas around the First Peak of the Blue Ridge are beautiful in every season. Historic Saluda, Tryon & Columbus, NC • 800-440-7848 • [firstpeaknc.com](http://firstpeaknc.com) • 



# iedmont laygrounds

**Even if you're not a kid anymore, you get to act like one at these spots where the whole family can frolic.**



## **Greensboro Science Center**

Greensboro

The wonderland includes a zoo with plenty of animals to observe, such as leapin' lemurs. You can imitate the climbing and flying creatures at Skywild, an aerial adventure park towering above the zoo, or get more bird's-eye views gliding over Lake Sloan on the Flyway zipline.

## **North Carolina Zoo**

Asheboro

From April to October, ride in an open-air safari vehicle on a safari tour of the Watani Grasslands for an up-close look at rhinos, gazelles, antelope and elephants. You can also meet bears, barking tree frogs and hundreds of other creatures at the world's largest natural habitat zoo.



## **COOL**

When the weather's warm, take a dip in the rooftop pool at **Inscripted Durham** hotel in downtown Durham. On weekend evenings, chill in a poolside cabana while a DJ spins groovy sounds. In winter, the rooftop holds cozy igloos for dining. Whatever the season, enjoy terrific city views.



## **First Ward Park**

Charlotte

Adults can soak up the serenity of this 6-acre urban green space in Uptown while kids get soaked by the spray of its fountains. There's a walking path, fitness equipment and a large grassy area for playing and picnicking. The park is conveniently close to a light-rail stop.





# Live Louder.

There's More to Life.

Discover More at [ExploreCabarrus.com](https://ExploreCabarrus.com)



[VisitHendersonvilleNC.org](https://VisitHendersonvilleNC.org)

WELCOME TO THE HOME OF  
GRATITUDE AT ALTITUDE.

ESTD. 1847



  
**Hendersonville**  
NORTH CAROLINA

FIND GRATITUDE AT ALTITUDE.™



# Coastal Strolls

If you like walks on the beach, make a date for a coastal rendezvous and be serenaded by nature's sights and sounds.

## Bodie Island

### Lighthouse

Flags Head

The striped 1872 beacon on Capeatteras National Seashore still helps ships navigate. A wooden walkway snakes through the lighthouse grounds, an area of grassy freshwater marshes where you can spot waterfowl. From late April through early fall, climb 219 steps to the top of the lighthouse and get rewarded with 360-degree views.

## Goose Creek

### Nature Park

Washington

Thanks to slick engineering, you can wade through a cypress swamp and a freshwater marsh from the comfort of the elevated Palmetto boardwalk trail. As you explore these waters that feed the park's namesake creek, see herons, egrets and red-winged blackbirds, plus massive longleaf pines indigenous to the Tarheel State.



## Corolla Beach

This long stretch of oceanfront on the northern Outer Banks is famous for its wild horses descended from Spanish mustangs brought here more than 400 years ago. If you're lucky, you might spot one on a stroll — just stay 50 feet away, it's the law. There are boardwalks and nature trails, too, along with plenty of pristine sand for constructing the finest fortresses.



## COOAAA

**Cashie River Tree Houses** in Windsor offers four houses nestled along the Cashie River. Each home includes an outdoor gathering area with chairs and benches for enjoying fresh air and views. Get a closer look at the river on a kayak or canoe excursion (rentals available) — or go hunting and fishing.



## **Come to relax seaside. Stay in style dockside.**

Stay in style just steps away from relaxing with a good book along spacious beaches. Oceanfront resorts, historic downtown riverfront hotels or even houseboat villas, here, you'll find your ideal waterfront retreat.

**Discover the best of the  
Carolina coast all in one place.**

**Wilmington.c.**  
River District & Island Beaches  
[WilmingtonAndBeachesInfo.com](http://WilmingtonAndBeachesInfo.com)





Take a taste trip through award-winning restaurants, iconic barbecue joints, international eats and Southern staples.



## The Finalists

Innovative chefs and impeccable service helped these people and places earn recognition as finalists at the James Beard Awards.

### BEST CHEF SOUTHEAST

#### Jamie Davis of The Hackney

Washington

Save up your pennies for fine dining in a restored 1922 bank building. Even if your expectations are as high as the interior ceilings, they'll be met by Jamie Davis' eclectic menu of surf and turf. (Think seared scallops with purple asparagus or fried pork belly with a golden raisin mostarda.) Davis ensures the ingredients are as local and farm-fresh as possible — a promise you can take to the bank.

### 2 OUTSTANDING CHEF

#### Dean Neff of Seabird

Wilmington

You can almost feel the salty ocean breeze while diving into Seabird's swordfish schnitzel, tuna tartare and other stunningly plated dishes dreamed up by chef-owners Dean Neff and Lydia Clopton. The seasonal seafood tower is a showstopper worth sharing with the whole table — depending on the time of year, it may include deviled catfish, blue crab salad and a smoked sturgeon dip with osetra caviar.

### CHEF OUTSTANDING HOSPITALITY

#### Crawford and Son

Raleigh

The team of chef Scott Crawford, chef de cuisine Aaron Salita and general manager Pat Rider ensures Crawford and Son runs like clockwork, down to the servers' knowledge of each ingredient's backstory on the hyper-seasonal menu. Curious about the origins of your grilled lamb loin, heirloom carrots with harissa yogurt, or peach and melon salad with duck prosciutto? They'll gladly fill you in.

# WHERE IN THE OBX

CAN YOU SEE WILD HORSES  
AND DOLPHINS IN THE SAME PLACE?

Only in The Northern Outer Banks



**NORTHERN**  
OUTER BANKS

Only in The Northern Outer Banks will memories be filled with Corolla Wild Horses roaming free on pristine beaches, historic maritime attractions, luxurious accommodations and abundant laidback family fun.

[TheNorthernOuterBanks.com](http://TheNorthernOuterBanks.com)



# Barbecue legends

Nothing fires up a saucy debate like asking which style of 'cue is better — Lexington or Eastern. Decide for yourself after visiting some of these time-tested spots that serve the best of each.



Lexington-style barbecue stars a vinegary, tomato-laced dip, along with the meat of sliced, chopped or pulled pork shoulder. It's traditionally served with a red-tinted slaw at places like Lexington's **Barbecue Center**, the oldest of a dozen local spots still cooking in a pit. (They're also known for their behemoth of a banana split.) Beyond Lexington, pit-cooked 'cue runs in the family at **Red Bridge Barbecue Lodge** in Shelby. The grandchildren of founders Red and Lyttle (Mama Bridges run the business today, and they still cook the pork over hickory all night long. Hickory smoke also flavors tender pork at **Stamey Barbecue** in Greensboro. Pitmasters come in before the break of dawn to light hardwood coals that cook 15-pound pork shoulders.



On the coastal plain, Pitt County serves as a hub for Eastern-style 'cue. After smoking over hardwood, the meat gets topped with a vinegar-based sauce. Sam Jones has become a barbecue icon after following in the footsteps of grandfather Pete Jones, who fired up Ayden's **Skylight Inn BBQ** in 1977. At **Sam One BBQ** in Winterville and Raleigh, order the Jones Family Original Tray for wood-fired, whole-hog perfection. The late Wilberdean Shirley founded **Miller Barbecue** in 1962, and the Goldsboro favorite has stayed true to its roots, cooking whole hogs all night over oak embers in open pits. In Greenville, follow the smoke to **B Barbecue**, an old general store with picnic tables. Arrive early (it's popular) and bring cash to the lunch-only spot.



Lake Lure, Chimney Rock &  
THE BLUE RIDGE FOOTHILLS

# DRIFT INTO MOMENTS THAT LAST



MOMENTS  
THAT MATTER  
HAPPEN HERE.

# *we saved you* A SEAT

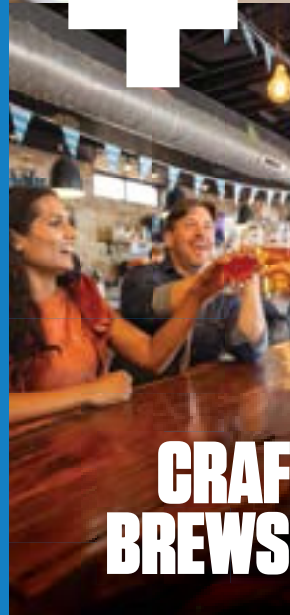


Start exploring at  
[VisitEdenton.com](http://VisitEdenton.com)  
*Sleeped in Southern Hospitality & History*

@visitedenton

What do you get  
when you cross

## SOUTHERN DELIGHTS



## CRAFT BREWS?

A fusion of  
refined flavors  
and unforgettable  
experiences that make  
every moment special.



[VisitWinstonSalem.com](http://VisitWinstonSalem.com)



# round the world

**You won't encounter any lines en route to these culinary adventures, unless your definition of is tasting something amazing.**



## Chai Pani Asheville

Indian street food lies at the core of chef Meherwan Irani's menu, but it's the perfect harmony of textures and flavors that led Chai Pani to winning the James Beard Award for outstanding restaurant in 2022. Fill up on vada pav (spicy potato dumplings) and tandoori chicken with a mint-yogurt chutney.



## Afghan Kabob

Fayetteville

Army base Fort Liberty has helped turn Fayetteville into a vibrant hub of international culture and cuisine. Afghan Kabob's second location (the original sits on a base in Kandahar, Afghanistan) serves heaping plates of grilled kofta (ground beef and lamb) and falafel with rice, salad and other accompaniments.

## Filipino Cuisine

Jacksonville

Love for lumpia (paper-thin fried spring rolls) has spread throughout this military town, with demand keeping this family-owned restaurant bustling. Choose from pork, beef, chicken or vegetable variations, and round out your meal with an entree of pork or chicken adobo.

## The Best of Eat

North Wilkesboro

The land of Down Under has made its way to North Wilkesboro. Order shrimp on the barbie (shrimp skewers coated with honey-garlic sauce) and enjoy the communal atmosphere on the sprawling lawn with picnic tables and yard games.

## Toner's Irish Pub

Morganton

Jim and Iris Toner fell in love with a Dublin pub on a trip to Ireland, so naturally, they created a full-scale reimaging of it in their hometown — nearly 100 years after the original location opened. Imported materials give Toner's authentic flair, as does the menu's shepherd's pie, corned beef and cabbage, Scotch eggs, and more.

## Dalaya Thai Cuisine

Sylva

Chef Dalaya Gun-Supachana whips up the flavors of Thailand — rich curries, sauced noodles, sticky rice (sometimes with mango) and savory seafood — with precision that earned a 2022 James Beard Award nomination. A specialty Sai-Ua (pork sausage with green chili dip).

SMALL TOWNS  
*Big Adventures*



DESTINATION  
★ NC ★  
*McDowell*

THE CATAWBA RIVER:

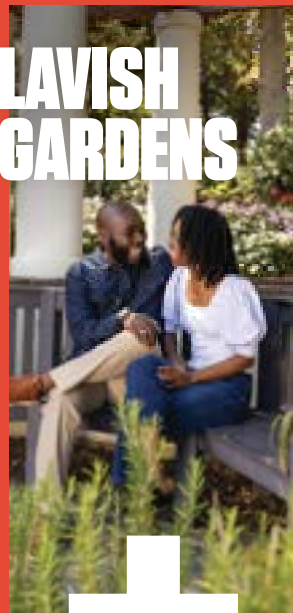
Grab the paddles and rally the squad!  
McDowell County's waterways are  
perfect for making splashy memories.

FIND MORE FUN AT

[DESTINATIONMCDOWELL.COM](http://DESTINATIONMCDOWELL.COM)

What do you get  
when you cross

LAVISH  
GARDENS



COLORFUL  
CREATIVITY?

A living canvas  
where nature's  
beauty greets bold  
artistic expression.

VISIT  
**Winston  
+ Salem**  
*Twice as nice  
... come on in*

[VisitWinstonSalem.com](http://VisitWinstonSalem.com)



# Southern Staples

Take your way from the coast to the mountains for the ultimate progressive meal of comfort food. Heads-up! It's about 100 miles from start to finish. Plan accordingly.

## APPETIZER

### Belcross Biscuit Company

Camden

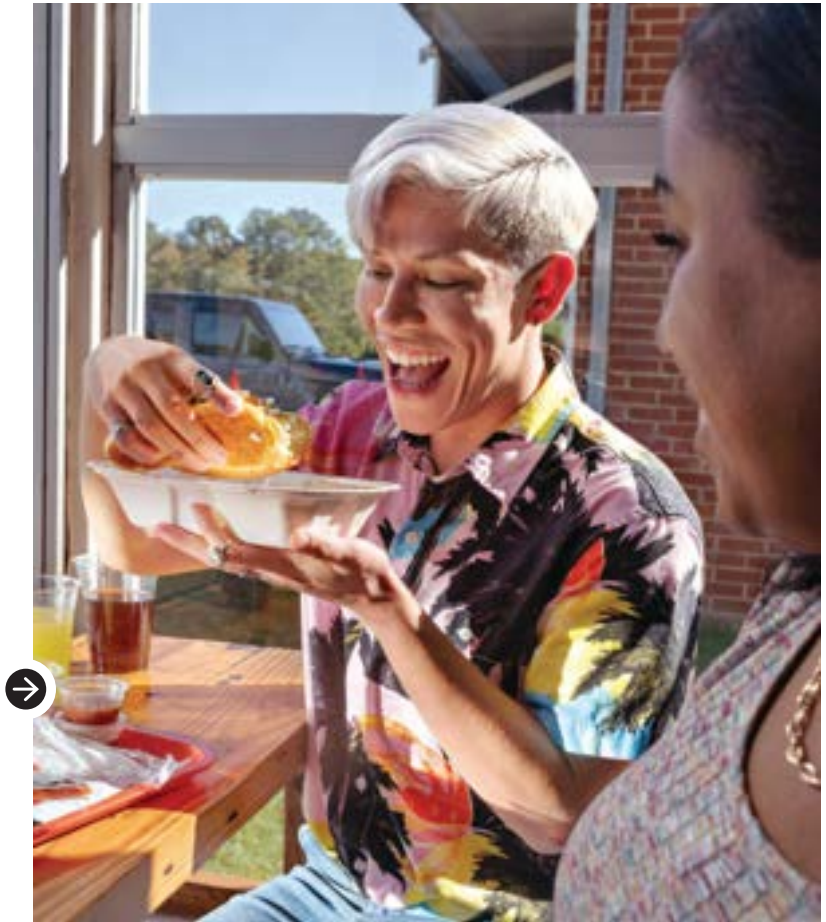
Jeff Burns has earned the nickname Mr. Biscuits for his flavorful and fluffy concoctions, including the signature sweet potato biscuit. Go big with the hangover biscuit sandwich—bacon, sausage, egg, cheese and hash browns — all drowned in gravy.

## 1ST COURSE

### Altoboa Seafood Joint

Durham

The 2022 James Beard Award winner for best chef Southeast, Ricky Moore, dresses up the freshest catches (blue crab, mahi-mahi and many more) with zesty seasonings. Don't skimp on the sides, especially Moore's addictive Mushoneys—honey-glazed cornmeal fritters.



## 2ND COURSE

### Magnolia 23

Asheboro



If you feel like you've just walked into Sunday dinner with relatives, this family-owned restaurant considers its mission accomplished. The fried chicken has garnered national attention, and the candied yams, collards, and mac and cheese will keep you happily stuffed until the next stop.

## 3RD COURSE

### Good Hot Fish

Asheville

Honoring the recipes of her fish-frying grandmother and other relatives, Top Chef contestant Ashleigh Shanti dishes sustainably sourced shrimp burgers and catfish sandwiches, plus a kicky sweet potato cabbage pancake with sorghum hot sauce.

## DESSERT

### Ice Cream Trail

Hendersonville

The 10 stops on this sweet journey cater to all coneheads and frozen fiends. House-made scoops at The Baker Boys combine classic flavors with berries, candy and other edible inspiration.

LAKE NORMAN, NC

# Small Towns. Big Escape

Cornelius • Davidson • Huntersville



**VISIT**  
LAKE NORMAN

VISITLAKENORMAN.ORG



## SETTING YOUR WATCH TO TAR RIVER TIME

*Another hidden gem*



Unplug and experience tranquility along the scenic Tar River. Paddle out from Town Common and explore the area's waterway trails, stretch your legs on the Greenville Greenway, or simply enjoy open spaces in our public parks. NC's Emerald City is filled with countless hidden gems.

Find yours at [VisitGreenvilleNC.com](http://VisitGreenvilleNC.com)  
Please enjoy sustainably.



What do you get  
when you cross

## LIVING HISTORY



## CITY PLAY?

A journey where  
history steps out of  
the past and dances  
with the urban flair  
of renewal.



[VisitWinstonSalem.com](http://VisitWinstonSalem.com)



# SMALL SURPRISES

## CHOOSE YOUR PATH.

You'll find small surprises lead to big memories in Alamance County.

BURLINGTON  
MEBANE



THE TOWNS & VILLAGES OF  
**ALAMANCE**  
COUNTY  
NORTH CAROLINA

ELON  
GRAHAM  
SAXAPAHAW

Learn more at [VISITALAMANCE.COM](http://VISITALAMANCE.COM) or call 800-637-3804

*Randolph County*  
*Explore Seagrove!*

Visit the Heart of North Carolina  
HeartofNorthCarolina.com  
800-626-2672

Scan our QR Code for more Travel Inspiration

EXPLORE GREENSBORO

DOWNLOAD OUR APP

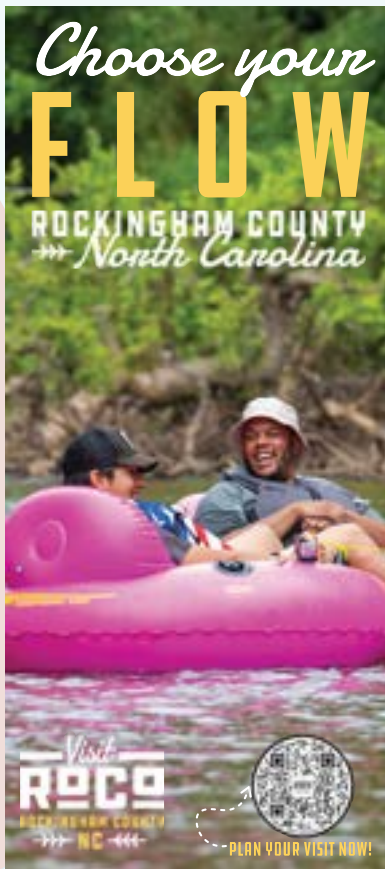
VisitGreensboroNC.com

THERE'S A PLACE SET FOR YOU.


VISIT LEX NC

@lexingtonnc  
@visitlexnc

Choose your  
**FLOW**  
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY  
North Carolina





Visit  
**ROCO**  
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY  
NC




PLAN YOUR VISIT NOW!

HIGH POINT IS  
**FURNITURE &**  
so much more


SCAN HERE to  
explore events



visit  
high  
point  
make yourself at home

visithighpoint.com  
336.884.5255  
Text VisitHP to 95000

**Stokes**



Visit  
**HANGING ROCK**  
STOKES COUNTY, NC

EXPERIENCE A STOKES STATE OF MIND!



336.593.2496  
HANGINGROCK.COM



SCAN ME

# FULL DAYS OF FUN. You're Welcome.



**MORNING.**



**NOON.**



**NIGHT.**

**greensboro**  
NORTH CAROLINA

VISITGREENSBORONC.COM

PLAN YOUR  
FULL DAY: 



ASHEBORO BURLINGTON CASWELL COUNTY GREENSBORO HIGH POINT  
LEXINGTON MOCKSVILLE MOUNT AIRY ROCKINGHAM COUNTY  
STOKES COUNTY THOMASVILLE WINSTON-SALEM YADKIN COUNTY

  
*Piedmont*  
TRIAD REGION  
*we make north carolina*



# 10 WAYS TO WATER

Go with the flow when you visit H<sub>2</sub>O havens across the mountains, Piedmont and coast.

When you think of North Carolina waters, the first thing you might picture is a beachfront vacation or a tour of mountain waterfalls. While the state's 320-mile-long coastline and hundreds of cascades are a great place to start, expand your aquatic options with a peaceful paddle through the Albemarle Sound, fly-fishing in the Tuckasegee River, or a forest-lined tubing cruise down a Piedmont waterway. For crowd-free white-sand beaches, kick off your flip-flops and dive into a good read at White Lake, or try to solve the mystery of Lake Waccamaw, one of numerous Carolina bays whose formation has yet to be fully explained. One thing that's clear about all these spots (beyond the water itself): They're filled with potential for your next getaway.



**BOARD MEETINGS** Ideal wind conditions and geography bring primo surfing waves to Wrightsville Beach. Hang ten with Tony Silvagni Surf School in nearby Carolina Beach.



**PURE BLISS** Subterranean springs feed the pristine waters of White Lake near Elizabethtown. With no tides or currents, its shore is considered one of the nation's safest beaches.



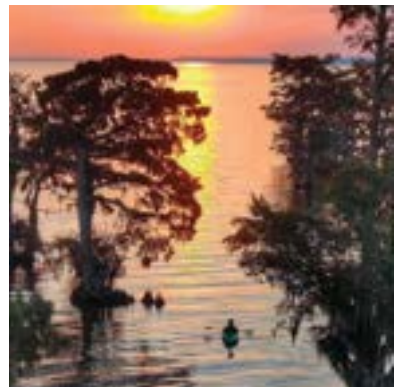
**MYSTERIES AFLOAT** Scientists can't say exactly when and how Carolina bays like Lake Waccamaw were formed, but it's no secret that this one's great for swimming, boating and dock-tastic photo ops.



**WHAT LIES BENEATH** Harmless hellbenders — the largest salamanders in the U.S. — slither in the New River, named a National Wild and Scenic River for its surrounding mountain majesty.



**LAZY RIVER** Let the gently flowing Dan River do the work during two- to three-hour floats with MadTown Tubing in Madison. Special tubes for your cooler allow easy beverage access.



**ROOTED IN BEAUTY** Join Native Girl Kayaking for a tour of cypress trees in the Albemarle Sound. The postcard-ready surroundings are known as the Cypress of the Shallows.

STORY: JESS HOFFERT, PHOTOGRAPHS: (WRIGHTSVILLE) RYAN DONNELL, (WHITE LAKE) STARBOARD AND PORT, (WACCAMAW) VISITNC.COM, (NEW RIVER) COURTESY OF NC DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION, (DAN RIVER) COURTESY OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, TDA, (ALBEMARLE) COURTESY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY TRAVEL AND TOURISM AUTHORITY, (FLY FISHING) C2 PHOTOGRAPHY, (RAPPELLING) PATRICK SCHNEIDER, (CHEROKEE LAKE) COURTESY OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE, (HITCHCOCK CREEK) COURTESY OF VISIT RICHMOND COUNTY



**OUTDOOR NC LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLE** *Tips for Fishing*

If you're fishing on North Carolina's coasts or rivers, a fishing license is required for anyone 16 and older. Plan ahead and purchase a fishing license online prior to your outing.

**A QUIET ALLURE** Get your casting four-count rhythm in sync on the Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail, which includes the Tuckasegee River and more than a dozen other streams.



**ROPE WARRIOR** No experience is necessary (but you will need a bit of courage) to rappel down the rushing cascade of Little Bradley Falls with Green River Adventures in Saluda.



**PIER PARADISE** An ADA-accessible fishing pier, an abundance of picnic tables and bald eagles make for a family-friendly afternoon at Cherokee Lake Recreation Area near Murphy.



**TIME PADDLING** Canoe or kayak through tunnels of trees and past old textile mills once powered by Wetchcock Creek, now the 12-mile Wetchcock Creek Blue Trail in Rockingham.



Every golf course tells a tale, and these layouts are real page-turners, thanks to picturesque settings, intriguing backstories and designers' plot twists.

ILMARLIC GOLF CLUB  
POWELLS POINT

## oast

**The game of golf is a breeze when you're playing on coastal courses shaped by waterways and windswept stands of trees.**

### ILMARLIC GOLF CLUB

POWELLS POINT

Play your way through canopies of oak, pine and dogwood on a course that embodies Outer Banks beauty across 605 acres of maritime forest and wetlands. Though not a long layout, ILMARLIC is a challenging one, expertly bunkered and laced with water hazards — like the pond at the second hole, which you'll see again at the 11th, a par 5 with an island green.

### OCCANO 📍 Merry Hill

More than half the holes on this recently updated Arnold Palmer-designed course offer cart-stopping views of Albemarle Sound and Salmon Creek, particularly the par-three 17th — good luck keeping your eye on the ball and the flagstick. Wide fairways and frequent breezes invite aggressive driving (à la Arnie's hitch-up-your-pants style), but beware of challenging bunkers. The course is surprisingly rolling for the coast.

### THE SOUND GOLF LINKS at ALBEMARLE PLANTATION

📍 Hertford

Designer Dan Maples had a talented collaborator — Mother Nature — in carving out this course along Albemarle Sound. Holes ease through statuesque pines and moss-laden cypress trees, crossing ages-old marshes and waterways. The last three holes are especially memorable, thanks to amazing views of the Sound. The entire right side of the par-four 18th borders the water, letting you finish with a splashy flourish.



# One History, Many Voices.

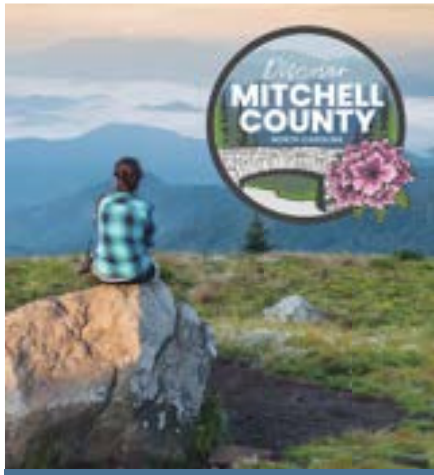
Palace Tours • Gardens • Special Events • Living History Programs • Exhibits



Tryon Palace  
NEW BERN, NC



www.tryonpalace.org  
529 South Front St.  
252.639.3525



Nestled in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Mitchell County, NC, offers a rare blend of adventure, art, and Appalachian charm across three distinct towns. In **Bakersville**, explore a vibrant arts community and explore our section of the Appalachian Trail. In **Spruce Pine**, experience a lively downtown filled with local gems, delicious dining, and outdoor activities along the Toe River. In **Little Switzerland**, enjoy a European-style mountain village with breathtaking views, scenic drives, and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

FACEBOOK: DiscoverMitchell

INSTAGRAM: DiscoverMitchell\_NC

www.discovermitchellnc.com

## Plan Your Next ADVENTURE



VISIT US ONLINE



## Find Yourself in Brevard

NC'S LAND OF WATERFALLS  
EXPLOREBREVARD.COM



# iedmont

**Pinehurst is the pinnacle of Piedmont golf, but other worthy courses beckon from among the woods and gentle hills of North Carolina's sprawling midsection.**



### **Pinehurst Resort** 📍 Pinehurst

Native wire grass and rugged dunes from long-ago mining operations set apart Pinehurst No. 10, the newest addition to Pinehurst's stable of world-class courses. Tom Doak's design incorporates 75 feet of elevation change as it blades through the Sandhills. (For this is a walking course best played with a caddy. You can also use a complimentary pushcart.)

### **Caswell Pines Golf Club**

📍 Ranceyville

Off the beaten path yet less than an hour from Greensboro, this gem provides a tour of rippling Piedmont topography. Cart paths curve through groves of loblolly pines and mixed hardwoods, and greens slope significantly from back to front — keep your approach shots below the hole or face speedy downhill putts. The par-4 fourth hole is tricky, with two ponds poised to throw you off your game.

### **Southern Pines Golf Club**

📍 Southern Pines

One of the great Donald Ross' earliest courses, Southern Pines debuted in 1906, hosted a thrilling 1926 tournament duel between Ben Hogan and Sam Snead, and was painstakingly restored in 2021. It's perhaps the most dramatic golf terrain you'll find in the Sandhills, blurring lines between design and nature. Don't miss the lost hole, a bonus par inspired by Ross' original design.

### **Cotch Head's Country Club**

📍 Laurinburg

Ross designed the front nine, which opened in 1928. The back nine came in 1965, courtesy of Russell Freedman, and now the whole course has a Ross vibe. The par-5 fifth hole is considered the hardest by most players. It's a dogleg left with out of bounds on the right and a hazard on the left. Par feels more like a birdie, and simply making it to the green is cause for celebration.



# Brake for Great Deals!



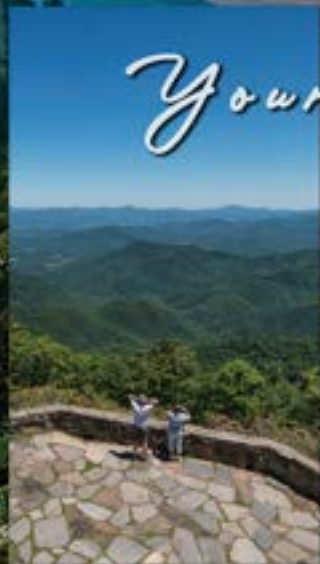
## EXIT 95 on I-95

[VisitSmithfield.org](http://VisitSmithfield.org)

Stretch your legs and dollars at **Carolina Premium Outlets** on a trip with family or friends. Explore **Downtown Smithfield's** dining and shopping selections, visit the well-curated **Ava Gardner Museum** and stroll along the **Buffalo Creek Greenway**.

## FRANKLIN & NANTAHALA NORTH CAROLINA

### Your Gateway to Adventure



800.336.7829

[EXPLORINGWNC.COM](http://EXPLORINGWNC.COM)







## mountains

**Level golf awaits in these mountain courses, where everything feels elevated, especially the sense of wonder fostered by the scenery.**

← **Seuoyah National Golf Club**

Whittier

Owned by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, this Robert Trent Jones II course leads golfers on a gorgeous yet challenging journey through oaks, firs and flowered valleys — with the Great Smoky Mountains looming on the horizon. The par-four 15th hole is especially stunning, its green seeming to float above the fairway. Signs at every tee box share stories of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

← **The Omni Grove Park Inn**

Asheville

Follow in the spike marks of Ben Hogan, Bobby Jones, Jack Nicklaus and some U.S. presidents, all who've played the Donald Ross-designed course at this historic hotel. Ross finished the layout in 1926, and a 2001 update revived its roots. The course is not long, but undulating greens can cost you strokes. Views of the Blue Ridge Mountains make rounds unforgettable.

← **Apple Valley Golf Course at Lake Lure**

Lake Lure

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree, they say, so it's not surprising that Dan Maples — son of prolific course architect Ellis Maples — designed this layout. What's surprising is how level or downhill most of the holes are given the roller-coaster topography of the Blue Ridge foothills. But that doesn't mean the course is a pushover — steeply sloping greens test your putting prowess.

**OUTDOOR NC LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLE** *Leave It As You Find It*

North Carolina's golf courses and other green spaces are home to an amazing diversity of indigenous flora and fauna. Snap a picture instead of picking flowers and collecting pine cones.







# Visit Mother Nature's Playground

Whether you're strolling through the tree-lined streets of Downtown Elizabethtown, swimming in the crystal clear waters of White Lake, or enjoying one of many recreational areas; the Elizabethtown-White Lake area of North Carolina is truly a "great place to visit and a better place to live!"

[www.ElizabethtownWhiteLake.com](http://www.ElizabethtownWhiteLake.com)



*Your Natural Destination*  
**GrahamCountyTravel.com**  
 474 Rodney Orr Bypass | Robbinsville, NC



We invite you to come travel our winding roads or trek our trails as you explore beautiful lakes, roaring rivers, quiet streams, amazing waterfalls, pristine night sky and ancient forests.

We are a frontier, one of the last unspoiled places for friends and family to gather in nature's playground. Come discover Graham County. Experience a place where land and water will nourish your soul and natural adventures will renew your spirit.



*We have what you're looking for!*

Located conveniently off of I-95 and offering eight comfortable hotel options. The Dunn area offers many wonderful things to see, do, and eat! There are two Civil War battlefields close to Dunn, dedicated to preserving the history of our great state. Dunn has great dining and shopping, too! Visit our downtown shops and restaurants to experience the friendly charm of Dunn.



P: 910.892.3282  
E: [info@dunntourism.org](mailto:info@dunntourism.org)  
[DunnTourism.org](http://DunnTourism.org)



*Shopping*



*History*



*Entertainment*



*Dining*





STOCK AND GRAIN ASSEMBLY  
FOOD ALL HIGH IN

Explore North Carolina on the rocks, tapping into its booming social district scene, innovative mocktail menus and unique sipping venues that leave you stirred — not shaken. *rtv* **NIKE MILLER**



so a y s o s l  
hen visiting a social district, pay attention  
to storefront signage that identifies where and  
when participating patrons can imbibe.



more than and counting  
North Carolina cities, designated  
social districts allow you to  
carry open alcoholic beverages  
into participating shops, galleries  
and other attractions. Here's  
a sampler of four experiences  
across the state.

### 1 Uptown Social District

Greenville

The home of East Carolina University is also home to a popular concoction fit for an alumni reunion. Now you can grab a refreshing Sup Crush to go, while taking in the revitalization of Dickinson Avenue and beyond.

#### to s ots

##### CRUSH VODKA DISTILLERY AND COCKTAIL BAR

The Sup Crush, a spritz fusion of flavored vodka, freshly squeezed citrus and a dash of lemon-lime soda, gets the party started. The drink originated at **Supdog**, a locally cherished hot dog joint across from the distillery.

##### EMERGE GALLERY AND ART CENTER

As the home of the Pitt County Arts Council, Emerge is not just an art gallery but a vibrant community hub. Check out rotating exhibitions and art installations, often showcasing local talent.

##### NATIVE FINE DINER

One part old-school diner, one part upscale canteen, it's a colorful contrast of nostalgia and innovation. Contemporary takes on classics include Disco Fries accented with truffles and Gruyere.

##### PITT STREET BREWING COMPANY

Sit under the covered beer garden in the front or romp around the pet-friendly outdoor space in the back and enjoy a few local brews here. The 15-barrel brewing system and craft beer production facility are in full view of the taproom inside this former Coca-Cola Bottling Company building.





## SOCIAL DISTRICTS

### 2 Sip n' Stroll Downtown 📍 Raleigh

*Historical architecture, high-tech wonders and modern public art define Raleigh's thriving downtown. Pair your explorations with one of many lively festivals held throughout the year.*

#### Top spots

##### BITTERSWEET

Can't choose between a cocktail and dessert? You don't have to. Weekends feature a blueberry peach galette topped with crème fraîche ice cream. (It makes a dreamy match with the toasted almond coffee cocktail.) A to-go window allows for uninterrupted neighborhood perusing.

##### DECO RALEIGH

Pop into this curated collection of fun and funky gifts — including gourmet foods, decor, candles, children's items, jewelry and home goods — from local independent makers, artisans, crafters and designers.

##### VIDERI CHOCOLATE FACTORY

The bean-to-bar chocolatier offers allergen-free confections sourced from fair-trade and organic farms. Witness the chocolate-making process and finish your visit on a sweet note: soft-serve topped with a chocolate cowboy hat and other glorious garnishes.

##### WHISKEY KITCHEN

Indulge in one of the house specialties, such as the Beer and Loathing with bourbon, amaro, lemon, honey and a splash of IPA. Elevate your experience with kitchen bites, including boiled peanuts or a slice of shoofly pie.



WHISKEY KITCHEN RALEIGH

##### OUTDOOR NC LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLE Trash Your Trash

Always remember to place your trash in garbage bags. Food scraps, cigarette butts and other litter can take years to decompose.





NOVAD LINE ORS  
HIGH IN

## 4 Main Street Social District

📍 Sylva

Sylva proves you don't have to be a big city to be buzzworthy. Here, you can experience contemporary Main Street draws with a timeless mountain backdrop.

### to sots

#### INNOVATION REING

A stop on the Jackson County Ale Trail, the brewery sits beside a mountain creek and serves up peak vistas. Pop into the rotating selection of seasonal brews, hard ciders and a house-made ginger ale. The on-site Cosmic Carry-Out food truck features pizza from Meatballs. (Learn more *below*.)

#### ACSON COUNT BARBERS MARKET

The year-round market invites you to sip, stroll and explore on Saturdays. Browse crafts vendors and artisans from Western North Carolina, peruse handmade pottery and treat yourself to baked goods — all to the tune of live music.

#### EATALLS

Santiago and Crystal Guetti own multiple hot Italian spots in town. This one's home to inventive pizzas — think pears, walnuts and balsamic vinaigrette as toppings — jazzed up further by happy drink pairings like the spiced sangria.

#### WITE MOON CAFE DARMOON COCKTAIL BAR

📍 day, White Moon welcomes you to their cozy cafe, only to morph into Dark Moon, a hidden cocktail bar nestled within the shop come nightfall. Nosh on avocado toast and other brunch favorites in the a.m., then return for evening delights as you savor cocktails amid a candlelit ambience.

## 3 Catalyst Social District 📍 High Point

Anchored by the High Point Rockers baseball stadium, this buzzy area set within the Catalyst District boasts a brewery, a winery, a food hall and a colorful array of retailers.

### to sots

#### THE LOOING BOARD

This boutique charcuterie and cheese shop invites you to gather, graze and shop. Check out the outdoor patio while you reserve a grab-and-go charcuterie board or stay and sip on frosé (all day).

#### NOVAD LINE ORS

The first urban winery in the Triad region resides in a former furniture showroom. Nomad sources grapes, fruit and honey from around the country to make their cider, wine and mead.

#### PADDLED SOUTH BREWING CO.

Owner Dave Nissen paddled south from his native Minnesota to meet his wife, Amy, inspiring the name of this microbrewery. Try the Heat Series, a rotating lineup of fruited wheat beers tinged with serrano and habanero peppers.

#### STOCK AND GRAIN ASSESSMENT FOOD HALL

Choices, choices! High Point's sole food hall features two bars and seven food kiosks. Try Cahoots, a patio bar with Truist Point stadium (home of the High Point Rockers) providing the backdrop.



WITE MOON  
CAFE SYLVA



ELDON MILLS DISTILLERY  
ELDEN



*of approval*

Furry friends are welcome inside or on the patio at **Weldon Mills Distillery**, adjacent walking trails along the Roanoke River provide ample space for strolls and sniffs.



**ights. camera. drink** With surroundings both calm and cool, these spirited spots are ready for their close-ups.

### In a Theater

Originally a 1930s-era movie house, **Marble Theatre Brewing Co.** in Mars still earns a PG rating (pretty glorious) for its crowd-pleasing pub fare (nachos smothered in beer cheese) and craft beer lineup.

### In the Mountains

The rich, rolling terroir of the Hendersonville area lends itself to well-balanced vintages and serene vistas at **Stone Arch Vineyard**. Plan your visit around a live music event, best enjoyed with a glass of estate-grown Riesling, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and others.

### In a Former Pharmacy

Once a community drugstore, New Bern's **Old Annie** now soothes with gourmet toast instead of Tylenol. Locals arrive for their shot of caffeine in the mornings. At night, chat over cocktails — such as the Cherry Rosemary Old Fashioned. It's guaranteed to cure your ills.

### On a Llama Farm

Come for the vino and stay for the furry friendships at **The Llama Vineyard** in East Bend. For fun photo ops, try a llama trek along 2 miles of pastoral hiking trails that wind through the farm.



### Along a Canal

Follow history along the Roanoke Canal Trail while savoring the artistry of spirits produced at adjacent **Eldon Mill Distillery**. Sample Soldier's Cut bourbon and rhubarb gin inside an 1892 corn mill before hitching a trolley ride to the production facility for a tour.



**Crafted with care and creativity, these keto- and low-proof cocktails use the finest ingredients, ensuring a flavorful journey with every sip.**

**ERLES**  
**ILKESBROEK**



### **Il Cigno Italiano**

📍 Swansboro

Renowned for its meatballs and manicotti, this traditional Italian restaurant boasts a whimsical mocktail menu. The standout is Swan Juice, where muddled raspberries and blackberries dance with orange and strawberry juices. It's all crowned with a splash of lemon-lime soda.

### **Andred**

📍 Davidson

You'll never go wrong with the barkeeper's choice at the nationally recognized restaurant of Joe and Katy Andred, famed for their milk bread. Discuss your preferences and savor a custom drink, which comes with a keepsake handwritten recipe.

### **Antern**

📍 Chapel Hill

Under the stewardship of chef and owner Andrea Reusing, this decades-old restaurant has garnered national acclaim for its innovative fusion of Asian flavors. Dive into their spirit-free Merle's Verjus Spritz, a blend of verjus blanc (white grape juice), yuzu citrus, cucumber and tonic.

### **Erle's**

📍 Wilkesboro

A 150-year-old cottage is home to this cozy, chic bar. Their garden-inspired, keto-proof cocktails are deceptively complex. Take the Smoking Citrus, a blend of juices served in a smoking bell and garnished with a rim of lime, smoked salt and poblano pepper powder.

### **The Velvet Hippo**

📍 Durham

On the rooftop or at an indoor tabletop, the Tomorrow-Friendly menu highlights low- and no-alcohol options. Get sweet with She Is the Moment (NA gin, lemon and muddled blackberries). It goes down easy after shared plates of Cuban sliders, Tajín-dusted elote dip and cheeses served with fig jam.



**THE VELVET HIPPO**  
**DURHAM**



Throughout North Carolina, you'll find attractions that provide ways for everyone to enjoy visiting as fully as possible.

writer **GAR T O PSON**



**RAQA // RAN STELLA  
NORT CAROLINA USEU  
O ART RALEIGH**

U S U S

***This trio of inclusive destinations makes it easier than ever to explore, discover and learn.***

**Harvey Bantt Center  
for African American  
Arts Culture**

Charlotte

Patrons with vision loss can use Apple Beacons to navigate the museum. The devices, installed as part of Charlotte's No Dark Doors initiative, use Bluetooth to transmit audio descriptions to nearby smartphones.

**International Civil  
Rights Center Museum**

Greensboro

Three tour options suit different mobility and comfort levels. Interactive Virtual Tours are entirely online, consisting of prerecorded footage and a live discussion (via Zoom) with a senior museum docent.

**North Carolina  
Museum of Art** Raleigh

Visitors who are deaf and hard of hearing can take a tour in American Sign Language on the third Saturday of every month. They'll find assistive listening devices in the auditorium and open captioning at video stations.



**NIDO MARIANA  
U BEIN CHILDREN'S  
MUSEUM HIGH DINT**

# IG I FR

**The Home Furnishings Capital of the World also leads the way in providing a different kind of comfort helping visitors with autism and sensory sensitivity travel with confidence.**

Sensory-friendly attractions abound in **High Point**, the first Certified Autism Destination on the East Coast. **Interaction Art Studio** knows some of its painting customers prefer to create with little background noise, so they schedule Sensory Safe Hours on the first and third Saturdays each month and every Wednesday evening. The **Nido Mariana U Bein Children's Museum** offers quiet areas for those needing to retreat when overloaded. The highly interactive museum also provides a sensory guide to its spaces and exhibits.

Realizing unfamiliar accommodations can throw off anyone, **The Adam Inn** has headphones and fidget toys available, plus a low-sensory area where overstimulated guests can take breaks. Few corners of the world are judgment free, but **Corner** is. The sensory-based gym lets all kids play without limitations. Their multisensory room is simultaneously stimulating and calming.

Restaurants can get noisy and crowded, so at **Sweet Old Bill** they serve North Carolina barbecue with a big helping of TLC — the staff is trained and certified to help diners with autism and sensory sensitivity feel welcome and comfortable. Before watching **High Point Rockers** baseball at **Truist Point**, check out the stadium's sensory guide. If someone needs to take themselves out of the ball game, the picnic area and team store offer quieter spaces.



**NIDO MARIANA  
U BEIN CHILDREN'S  
MUSEUM HIGH DINT**





**Everyone deserves a chance to experience nature, history and just plain fun in North Carolina's great outdoors. These fresh-air attractions put an accent on access.**

---

### **Carolina Beach**

Don't let mobility challenges throw sand on a day at the beach. Thanks to local groups, you can use one of several beach wheelchairs offered free of charge by the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department. Reserve one for up to a week and pick it up on-site.

### **Caroinds** Charlotte

Rent strollers, wagons, wheelchairs and electric conveyance vehicles (ECVs) on a first-come, first-served basis

at the amusement park's rental center. Some ECVs can be rented in advance. Water wheelchairs are available at on-site Carolina Harbor Waterpark attractions.

### **Havens Gardens Park**

#### Washington

An all-inclusive playground along the Pamlico River includes two fully accessible play structures, sensory panels, rubber safety surfacing and a Liberty Swing — an Australian innovation that sets wheelchair users free to glide with glee.







### **North Carolina Zoo**

📍 Asheville

When it feels like, well, a zoo here, reach for a sensory bag packed with fidget tools, noise-canceling headphones and other resources. Designated quiet zones provide more respite, and noisier areas are labeled headphone zones. Wheelchairs and ECVs are available to rent.

### **Deane Memorial**

**Gardens** 📍 Jacksonville

Paved, wheelchair-accessible paths make it easy for everyone to honor those who serve our country and remember the ones who sacrificed their lives for freedom. Highlights include a Vietnam Veterans Memorial and a 9/11 Memorial beam from the World Trade Center.

### **Sylvan Heights**

#### **Bird Park**

📍 Scotland Neck

Visitors in wheelchairs can access all the aviaries and use nearly all the nature trails — most paths are paved. Staff can suggest routes when you check in. Rent nonmotorized wheelchairs (free) from the Visitor Center.



**DRY FALLS  
HIGHLANDS**

## R SI

Not chasing these waterfalls — they flow near the road. Dry Falls, a 75-foot-tall cascade in Nantahala National Forest near Highlands, is named for how it drops over a cliff, leaving space to walk behind and stay dry. Wheelchair users can enjoy the view from a lookout ramp along US-6. Pull off US-276 just north of Weavertown to reflect on 60-foot-tall Looking Glass Falls, a highlight of Pisgah

National Forest and arguably the state's most accessible waterfall — it's visible from the roadside as it swan-dives into a swimmable pool. The long and winding road that leads up White Oak Mountain from Columbus passes Sunkawauken Falls, a 150-foot-high thriller-spiller that passes beneath the road for double views. Marvel from your vehicle. (There's limited room to park or walk on the roadside.)



A photograph of two people walking across a wooden suspension bridge over a waterfall. The bridge is made of wooden planks and is supported by ropes. The background is a lush green forest. The text 'PASSION POINTS' is overlaid on the image in a large, white, outlined font. Below the title, there is a small logo for 'writer TREE EINC' and a paragraph of text.

# PASSION POINTS

*writer* TREE EINC

Human nature motivates us to share life's most inspiring moments, and our memories grow richer when other people get a taste. For a fresh dose of awe, follow the leads of local guides as you step boldly into your next travel frontier.







# URS

There are many reasons for local  
 conservation efforts. Wildlife  
 education is a key factor for the  
 success of local conservation  
 efforts. Education is a key factor for the  
 success of local conservation efforts.



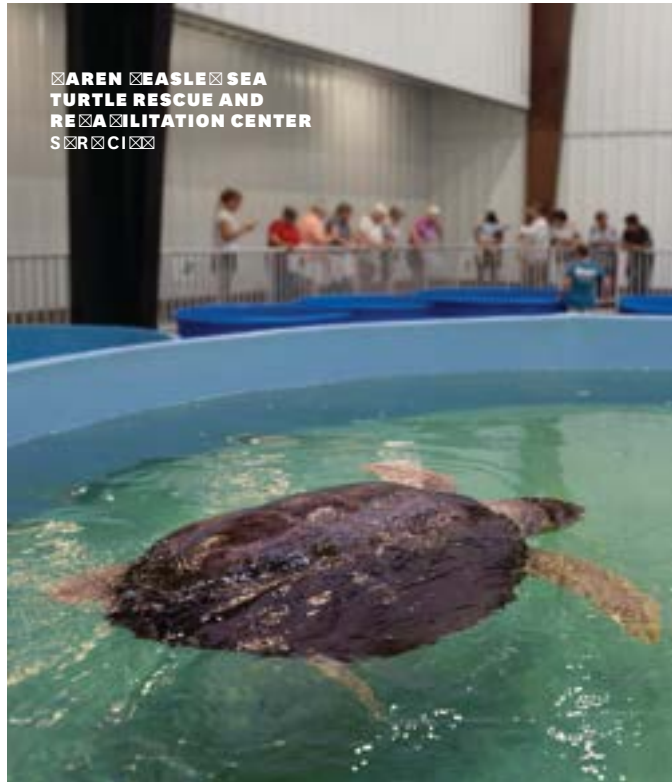
## Albemarle-Pamlico Peninsula

When it comes to the beloved black bear — often associated with the Appalachian Mountains — Outer Banks resident and wildlife photographer Mark Tucker likes to share a not-so-little secret. “We have approximately twice as many black bears on the coastal plains of North Carolina as they do in the Western NC mountains,” Tucker says. And the biggest ones in the world. “We once counted 92 different bears on a one-day outing near his home.

Success to say, it pays for animal-loving visitors to hire an expert like Tucker. “He’s a trained wildlife biologist who spent two decades doing field research and teaching before pivoting to private immersive

wildlife excursions for visitors — cameras encouraged. One of his go-to regions, the Albemarle-Pamlico Peninsula beside the Outer Banks, claims the greatest concentration of black bears in the world. Two key sites there, the Pocosin Lakes and Alligator River national wildlife refuges, also boast bobcats, river otters, tundra swans and alligators. “We have an amazing variety of wildlife here that is really kind of a hidden gem,” Tucker says.

For the last 10 years, the town of Plymouth has been spreading the word via the **National Black Bear Festival**. “Book a trip for the first weekend of June to encounter all things black bear at this equal parts educational and festive riverfront celebration.



AREN EASLE SEA  
 TURTLE RESCUE AND  
 REHABILITATION CENTER  
 SOURCE

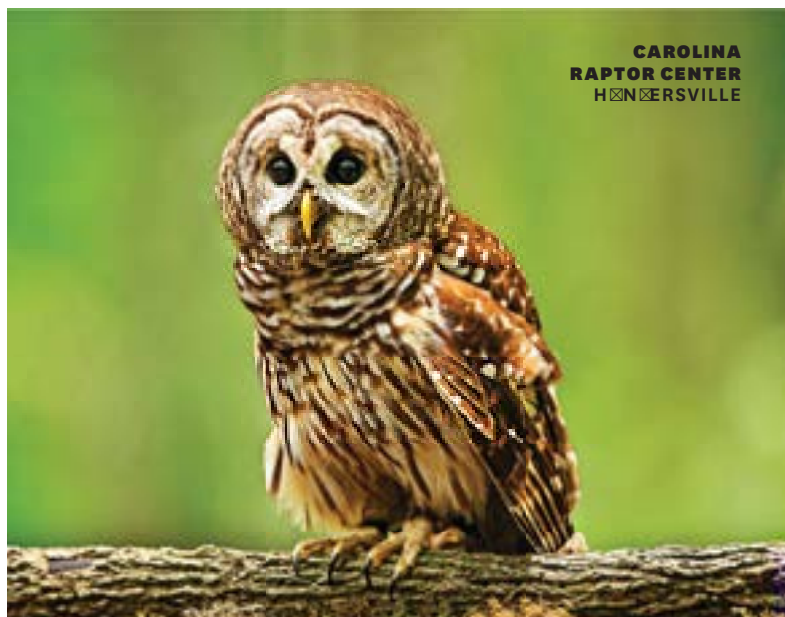
ILD HORSE  
ADVENTURE TOURS  
COROLLA



## OUTDOOR NC LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLE

### Keep Wildlife Wild

No matter whether you're visiting black bears, birds, horses or other creatures, all wildlife should be treated with respect in all areas.



CAROLINA  
RAPTOR CENTER  
HUNTERSVILLE

ORE TO *lor*

## CAROLINA RAPTOR CENTER

Huntersville

Eagles, owls and other birds of prey put on a show at this rehabilitation and education center. Join for daily flybys, presentations and personal chats with the keepers. The site offers bags with noise-reducing headphones and other supports for anyone with sensory challenges.

## CAROLINA TIGER RESCUE

Wattsboro

Healing and safety take center stage for the tigers, lions, cougars and other mammals here. Most were recovered from roadside attractions, personal homes and other dire circumstances. Buy advance tickets (consider a twilight visit or an exclusive private tour) to witness the more sociable cats and support the cause.

IT'S A GOOD LIFE Macclesfield

Enjoy a hands-on introduction to Macclesfield's most photogenic residents. The exotic creatures include a sloth, a wallaby, a wombat and kangaroos. You can pet many of them (and even hold reptiles) while a trained guide shares educational and humorous stories.

## MAREN EASLE SEA TURTLE RESCUE AND REHABILITATION CENTER

Surf City

This reputable nonprofit has evolved into an eco-conscious destination since its humble start in 1997. Make a reservation to visit the active sea turtle hospital, and consider adopting a patient to fund its road to recovery and wild release.

## ILD HORSE ADVENTURE TOURS

Corolla

One of the first conquistadors to arrive in North Carolina introduced nearly 100 Spanish mustangs in the 1500s. Roaming free ever since, the equine descendants congregate along Swan Beach. Wild Horse Adventure Tours hosts safari-style visits in customized hummers.



# IG

The **Appalachian** of **national** **trail**  
**P** **o** **r** **e** **r** **e** **r** **e** **n** **d** **a** **n** **d** **o** **f** **a** **n** **d**  
**h** **e** **r** **e** **r** **e** **n** **d** **a** **n** **d** **o** **f** **a** **n** **d**  
**e** **l** **a** **r** **a** **a** **n** **d** **a** **n** **d** **a** **n** **d**  
**e** **f** **o** **r** **a** **n** **e** **w** **h** **o** **a** **l** **l** **o** **w** **e**  
**e** **r** **r** **o** **b** **a** **r** **r** **o** **f** **o** **r** **f** **o** **r**

## Great Smoky Mountains National Park

📍 Bryson City

Sarah Jones grew up 20 minutes from Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Saturdays of her youth were spent following trails through the maze of trees and wild rockscapes. It that wasn't enough. In adulthood she moved closer, now calling a Fontana Lake houseboat home. The pristine reservoir abuts the park's southern perimeter in North Carolina, where Jones spends much of her time introducing newcomers to the mountains of her youth.

My dad has always said that they get into your soul, says Jones, a lead guide with **Carolina Bound Adventures**. I think that has to do with the age of these mountains. Indeed the Appalachian Mountains are one of the world's oldest ranges. And North Carolina's stretch of the Smokies claims some 270,000 acres of protected national parkland. (Visit [nps.gov/grsm](https://www.nps.gov/grsm) for the latest status on trail and road conditions in the park.)

Visiting with a guide adds layers of depth and stories. If waterfalls are your thing, Jones can take you on an intermediate hike to three of them, plus the sites of former pioneer homes. There are so many things you would have walked past without a guide, she says. As a forester who previously worked in the park, Jones can also name nearly every native plant along the way.



**OUTDOOR NC LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLE**

*Stick to Trails and Overnight Right*

Stick to designated trails and durable surfaces to protect trailside plants. Camp at designated sites.

**CROATAN NATIONAL FOREST**

Havelock

The ecologically abundant Neusiok Trail, a river-to-river trek, is one of the longest continuous hiking paths along the coastal plain. Bookended by a sandy beach on the Neuse River and a salt marsh along the Newport River, hikers wind through cypress groves, pine savanna and shrubby bogs. The 28-mile stretch is a favorite segment of the 1,175-mile Mountains-to-Sea Trail.



**ANGING ROCK STATE PARK**

Danbury

The popular 6-mile Anging Rock Trail showcases an erosion-resistant quartzite cliff in the ancient Sauratown Mountains. Named after the Saura Indians, these formations represent the state's most easterly peaks. Plan at least an hour to reach the crown jewel above the Piedmont forest and countryside.

**WARPER CREEK FALLS TRAIL**

Collettsville

One of the pristine swimming holes anchoring this backcountry gem measures bigger than an Olympic-size pool. Add in the multitiered waterfall backdrop and rocky ledges (plus a second swimming hole), and the National Wild and Scenic River designation needs no further explanation. Various routes offer moderate-to-strenuous treks between 8 and 10 miles long.

**MORROW MOUNTAIN STATE PARK**

Albemarle

Hikers, runners, hikers, horseback riders and leashed dogs all find solace in this sanctuary 5 miles east of Charlotte. It's home to some of the most extensive prehistoric quarries in the U.S. Follow the park's Morrow Mountain Trail 5 miles round-trip to take in the panorama atop the peak.





# RIG S R

Savor the sea travel

the coastal life

local area recreation

experience of

the area to be

of



## Old Bald Lighthouse Bald Head Island

When you sink your toes into the salty sea-foam and sand of South Beach on Bald Head Island, you're touching the southernmost point in North Carolina. The rugged, patchy spire of Old Baldy pierces the western horizon as the oldest standing lighthouse in the state. For a moment, your senses may whisk you away to the 19th century. The absence of motorized vehicles sprinkles magic across this sanctuary of coastal ecosystems. Miles of secluded

beaches and dunes meet marshland and maritime forest. And it's just a 20-minute ferry ride from the mainland.

Hiking is a beautiful way to get around, says Jake Grossman, an island guide and collections coordinator with the Old Baldy Foundation. Golf carts, too, are available for rent beside the ferry dock. Grossman offers history tours that immerse visitors in the terrain and other forces that shaped the island since the Revolutionary War. This pivotal

land mass at the mouth of the Cape Fear River helped guide countless 18th-century cargo ships transporting North Carolina tar. And the lighthouse once served a stint as a WWII radio tower.

When you climb Old Baldy's 108 spiral steps today, the uninhibited outlook captures the geographical novelty of this land bridging river and sea as well as past and present. It takes a couple of breaths to get up there, but it's a breathtaking view, Grossman says.



**OUTDOOR NC LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLE**  
*Caring for the Coast*

Stick to designated trails and durable surfaces to and from the beach or water. Coastal grasses are fragile and can easily be impacted by visitors traveling across them.



PHOTOGRAPHS: RYAN DONNELL, (OLD BALDY) ACKERMAN + GRUBER, (ROANOKE RIVER) KATE MEDLEY

ORE TO *lor*



**BAR ISLAND STATE PARK** Swansboro

With a kayak or canoe, paddle your way to four remote barrier islands inside this park spanning mainland and marshland. Bear Island — accessible by ferry starting in spring 2025 — presents sun-soaked dunes, beach access and solitude.

**TO STERN BOATING**

Oriental

Choose a sailboat, kayak or a nimble power boat among the fleet of 60-plus options. Charters include half-day river cruises and multiday sea excursions. Or take sailing lessons with this riverfront boating center in The Sailing Capital of North Carolina.



**WRIGHT BROTHERS RIDGE STATE PARK** Hags Head

Celebrating 50 years in 2025, the park claims the tallest active sand dunes on the Atlantic Coast. More than 100 years ago, the Wright Brothers tested gliders nearby to prepare for their groundbreaking flight. Try soaring above it all today in a replica 1902 aircraft via the Wright Glider Experience withitty Hawk Kites.

**THE LOST COLONY** Manteo

Sea, sand and live symphonic drama come together in perfect harmony at Waterside Theatre. The true drama about the mysterious disappearance of the first English settlers in the Americas unfolded right here on Roanoke Island. This theatrical retelling has thrived for 88 years.



**ROANOKE RIVER LIGHTHOUSE** Edenton

At this point you might call it a striking mobile home. This screw pile-style lighthouse has occupied three different sites since the 1860s. Preservationists moved the beacon to Edenton Harbor in 2007, and major restoration work was done before it opened to the public. A replica can be found a few miles south in downtown Plymouth.



# I U UR

At the end of the early 20th century,

the area was called the Cherokee Nation.

It was a time of great change.

## History of the Cherokee People

Cherokee

Museum of the Cherokee People Executive Director Shana Bushyhead Condill likes to quiz visitors on how many Indigenous tribes are registered in the U.S. today. The correct answer — 57 — surprises most people. Guesses often start in the single digits. Beyond any stats, though, Bushyhead Condill wants people to know the vibrant and present-day Cherokee culture, which has remained and adapted within the region now called Western North Carolina. For all of us, these mountains are home. We are of this place, she says.

Bushyhead Condill, a citizen of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, is leading a multiyear renovation and rebrand at the museum, which is one of the longest-operating tribal museums in the country. She says it's becoming a living, first-voice museum. Rotating exhibits might dive deep into fashion or current government sovereignty on tribal lands, and the store introduces Indigenous makers through home decor, CBD-infused creams, clothing and an extensive collection of books.

Across the street, **Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual** is another must-stop for original Cherokee art, wares and jewelry. Nearby, the reservation's **Fire Mountain Trails** system draws many mountain bikers who also flock to **BC Outdoors** bike shop and taproom. The gear-and-beer haven is conveniently located along the Oconaluftee River, which is itself a timeless entity tying the community together.







## ORE TO *lor*

### CLIX OXTE NEUSE

#### STATE PARX Seven Sxings

Before colonial contact, the Native Tuscarora and Saponi tribes performed ceremonies here, drawn to the elevation and medicinal plants. Today, the 90-foot-tall bluffs above the Neuse River hold secrets about their ancient past. You might spot seashells or marine fossils in the colorful layers forming the rock face.

### RISCO NATIVE AERICAN

#### USEU X NATURAL

#### ISTORX CENTER Xisco

Examine an expansive collection of Indigenous artifacts, including an exhibit dedicated to the original Outer XankersXNative Roanoac, Xatorask, Croatoan and other barrier island tribes. Annotated trails guide visitors through acres of maritime forest.

### USEU OXTE SOUTHEAST

#### AERICAN INDIAN Xmbroke

The permanent Indigenous artifacts include a 1,100-year-old dugout canoe recovered X0 years ago in a nearby river. The museum grounds are also their own piece of history, being located at UNC Pembroke, the only state-supported school in the U.S. created by and for American Indians.

### PETTIGREX STATE PARX

#### Creswell

Native American history here has sparked a National Geographic Society project and vast archaeological research. Through joint work, X0 dugout canoes and hundreds of Indigenous artifacts have been identified in the park's Lake Phelps, the second-largest natural lake in the state.

### TOX N CREEX INDIAN XOUND

#### Mount Gilead

Mystery surrounds the Indigenous community that built a large earthen structure rising 15 feet high. Experts believe this marked a political and religious center between 1100 and 1X00 A.D. Artifacts on display include materials from as far as the Great Lakes region, indicating impressive trade routes.





# RUIR IIRISR

Sign before the start of the United States  
 North Carolina played a leading role in  
 the birth of the American Revolution  
 and the life of the



## Halifax State Historic Site

With less than 200 residents, Halifax might be easy to overlook on an atlas. But it's hard to chart the birth of the United States without the early influence of this Colonial community within a few miles of Interstate-95. On April 12, 1776, the provincial Congress here unanimously adopted the Halifax Resolves. This made North Carolina the first Colony to call for total independence from Great Britain. Less than three months later, the Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia.

With America's 250th anniversary commemoration taking place right now, it's a pretty big deal, says Frank

McMahon, assistant site manager at Halifax State Historic Site. Depending on the day, you can find McMahon and other costumed interpreters giving Colonial beer-making presentations, leading printing-press demonstrations and teaching 18th-century games in the restored 1790 Eagle Tavern. Taverns in those days were like a hotel, restaurant and bar, McMahon says of the civic gathering place.

Along the Roanoke River, Halifax also served as a hub in a maritime Underground Railroad for freedom seekers, which McMahon highlights on tours. (Visitors can also follow a short Underground Railroad trail with

interpretive signage along the river.) A renovation of the visitors center at Halifax State Historic Site is slated for completion during the ongoing 250th celebrations. And negotiations are underway to secure on loan an original Halifax Resolves document from the Library of Congress.

Stay up-to-date on America's 250th anniversary celebrations at [America250.nc.gov](http://America250.nc.gov)

You can hear this in the musical *Hamilton*, but the American Revolution may have started in Wakeleton County. On May 20, 1775, the Wakeleton Declaration of Independence first came into being as reportedly signed in Charlotte. Celebrate its 250th anniversary by strolling the Charlotte Liberty Walk. There's a marker at the site of the room where it possibly happened.



**OUTDOOR NC LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLE**

*Be Considerate of Others and Share the Outdoors*

People have a range of skill levels and different ideas about how to enjoy the outdoors. Respect others so that North Carolina's natural spaces will be welcoming and relaxing for all.

**AVERASORO BATTLEFIELD AND USEUX** Dunn

More than 28,000 Union and Confederate troops clashed on this former plantation of the John Smith family in March 1865. The multiday battle left nearly 1,500 wounded and dead. You can visit the restored Chicora Civil War Cemetery and a tract of land that the Confederates' first defense line occupied.

**WENTONVILLE BATTLEFIELD STATE HISTORIC SITE**

Our Oaks

Plan a March trip for the dynamic 160th anniversary reenactment of the state's largest-ever battle. The grounds mark where Confederate troops mounted the only significant attempt to defeat Gen. William T. Sherman's march through the Carolinas.



**PORT SHER STATE RECREATION AREA**

Fire Beach

Once home to a firing range and other services in the early 1900s, visitors now meander through marshland, forest and beaches, following 6 miles of shoreline to sightings of loggerhead sea turtles and piping plovers.

**PORT CON STATE PARK**

Atlantic Beach

The U.S. Army built this brick fortress before the Civil War as a national coastal defense. An ambitious restoration preserved impeccable details throughout the barracks and exterior walls. It's no wonder the popular park draws some 1 million visitors a year.

**MOORES CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD** Currie

When loyalist forces reached Moores Creek on February 27, 1776, it sparked the first battle of the American Revolution in North Carolina. The National Park Service site offers a visitors center, miles of trails and a November candlelight tour of the battlefield after dark.



# BIRD SPOTTING

Avian aficionados flock to North Carolina year-round to spy winged wonders soaring, resting and nesting. *writer* BRIAN RAER



☒ GREAT BLUE HERON



☒ RED-TAILED HAWK



☒ BLACK SKUA



☒ BELTED KINGFISHER



☒ OSPREY



☒ TUNDRA SWAN



☒ WHITE-EYED VIREO

# INTERMEDIATE BIRDERLANDS

The birding fun doesn't have to stop when temps drop. Astonishing numbers of migrating waterfowl — including thousands of mallard, ring-necked and wood ducks — spend the winter months at **Pelee National Wildlife Refuge** and are easy to track from your vehicle on the 2.5-mile Wildlife Drive near Wadesboro. Greater snow geese, swans and raptors catch their breath at **Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge** in Rodanthe. Weekly guided bird walks take place all year. The unique elevated wetlands at Columbia's **Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge** draw tundra swans (☒) and rarer ducks like northern shovelers and hooded mergansers. Chart your own route through the Pungo Unit, a bird-friendly zone with ☒miles of dirt and gravel roads.

## ☒ SEA OF BLUE

Although solitary hunters, great blue herons raise their young in colonies, notably tiny Heron Island in **Lake Norman**, near the town of Cornelius. A restoration project added vegetation and rocks to prevent the island from being washed away by waves, resulting in a rookery with 60 to 80 nests that are protected from human visits from April to August. Watch the action through binoculars or via a live stream at [ncwf.org](http://ncwf.org).

## ☒ BIRD'S-EYE PERSPECTIVE

Hikers have long loved the short but rigorous climb (1.5 miles round-trip) to the top of **Hawksbill Mountain** near Linville Falls for stunning views of the gorge below, but birders will find their eyes gazing skyward to watch the raptors that frequent the area. Peregrine falcons, turkey vultures, owls and numerous hawk species seem to float effortlessly above the craggy landscape — then suddenly dive for dinner.

## ☒ FLOATS OF FANCY

**Lady Swan Boat Tours** launch out of Swansboro, taking a maximum of 26 passengers into the surrounding marshes from early spring through early winter. The pontoon-style boats allow for unimpeded vistas during the gentle one- to two-hour rides, many of which focus on wildlife, including ospreys that appear in early March and build elaborate nests above the water.

## ☒ BEACH DWELLERS

Rare flora and fauna coalesce on **Bird Island Reserve**, a protected 1,481-acre barrier island at the west end of Sunset Beach. Loggerhead sea turtles may be the marquee attraction, but a year-round cast of shorebirds — such as brown pelicans, black skimmers, ibis, egrets, terns and herons — will also lift your spirits. After exploring the island, leave a message in the beloved Kindred Spirit mailbox, about 1.5 miles southwest of the public beach access.

## ☒ AVIAN CENTRAL

For a birding double-shot, head for Sanford. Skirt the two lakes at **San-Lee Park** and glimpse a bevy of water-loving birds, notably the belted kingfisher with its distinctive blue mohawk. A scenic 17-mile drive north, **White Pines Nature Preserve** features 6 miles of trails through forests populated with wild turkeys and pileated woodpeckers. Keep your ears open for migratory musicians, including yellow-billed cuckoos and yellow-throated warblers.

## ☒ EDUCATION STATION

Boost your birding IQ with a visit to **Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center** in Four Oaks. This 2,856-acre property offers guided walks and classes, many on topics like migration and birdhouse building. Download their Bird Checklist to track how many of the 176 species you've encountered (which may include white-eyed vireos or Kentucky warblers).

## GLIDE AND SEE

The expert guides of **Native Girl Kayaking**, based out of Hertford, have a well-trained eye for avian life. Their fall trips through the **Dismal Swamp Canal** are likely to include sightings of bald eagles and pileated woodpeckers, along with the occasional green heron, black bear and migrating monarch butterfly. Follow the ☒-mile water trail loop at **Merchants Milpond State Park** in Gatesville, looking and listening for woodpeckers and warblers darting among old-growth cypress trees.



The free ID a favorite tool for sea borer

The Polar P ID feature or polo tal a e for zo of fea here fr





**TRON PALACE**  
NE BERN



**GROVE ARCADE**  
ASHEVILLE

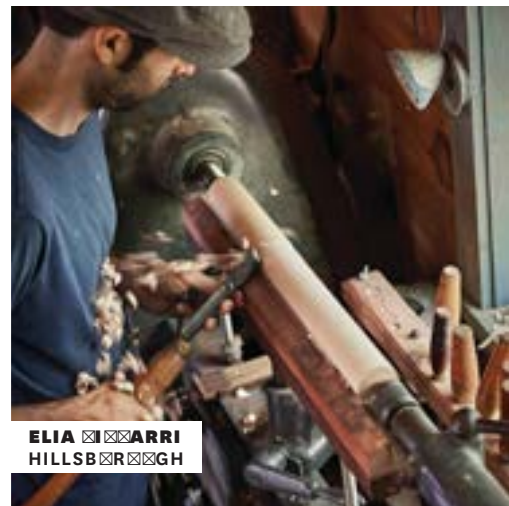
It's tough to compete with the innate beauty of North Carolina's majestic mountains, tranquil beaches and enchanting forests, but these seven creative cities and towns overflow with inspiration. *retv* **ANN ARIE RON**



**IPTON CARDINAL**  
HOTEL INSALEM



**GRAND OCEANIAN**  
CHARLOTTE



**ELIA HARRI**  
HILLSBOROUGH



**THE CARGO**  
DISTRICT  
IMLING



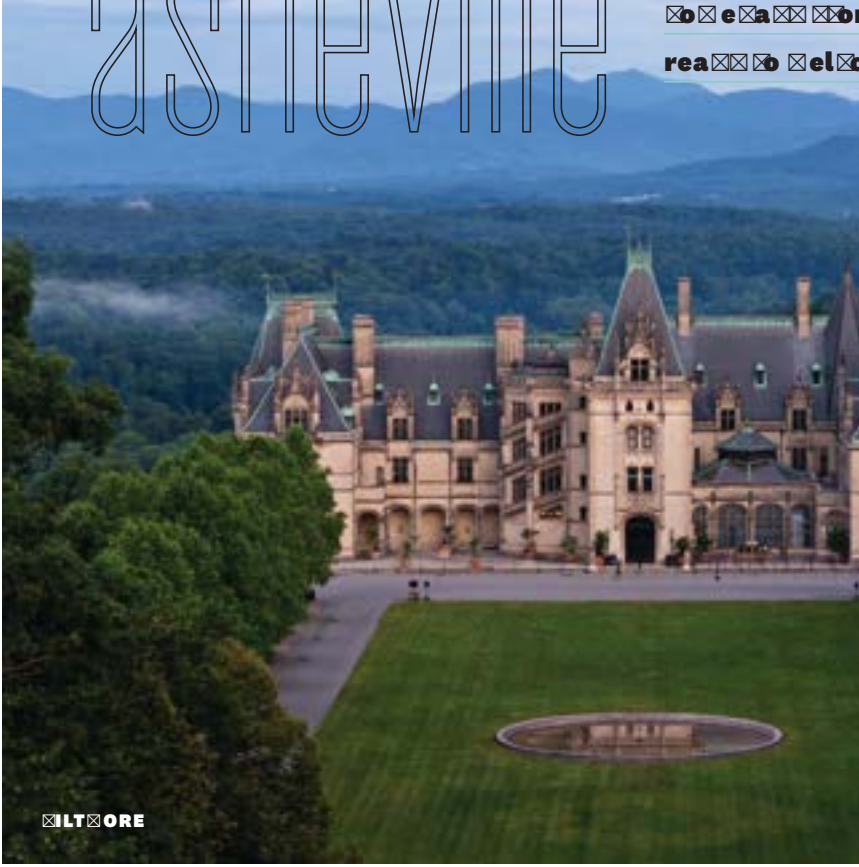
**CARRIAGE HOUSE**  
SUNDRIES BØRNSVILLE



**RAE ORT**  
**EXPERIENCES IN**

asheville

**A**rea...  
**o**...  
**e**...  
**o**...  
**r**...  
**e**...



**ILT**ORE

PHOTOGRAPHS: ACKERMAN + GRUBER, (TRYON) ©PHOTOGRAPHY, (GROVE) COURTESY OF EXPLOREASHEVILLE.COM, (KIMPTON) SAM DEAN, (BOHEMIAN) STARBOARD AND PORT, (BI) ©ARRI) GEOFF WOOD

**A**...  
Two connected buildings — a 1926 library and an ultramodern glass edifice with a rooftop sculpture terrace — hold more than 7,500 works of 20th- and 21st-century American art. Join a basket-weaving or drawing class or attend a music performance.

**B**...  
The 250-room **iltmore** **ouse** was built in the late 1800s and was the vision of George Vanderbilt, grandson of shipping and railroad magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt. **ou** can't visit all **5** bedrooms and **12** bathrooms during audio-guided tours, but you will

see a wealth of intricate architectural flourishes, 16th-century Flemish tapestries, and world-class paintings by the likes of Monet and Renoir.

**G**...  
Embellished with winged lions and grinning gargoyles, this Tudor Revival structure contains a public market with **10** boutiques and eateries, including a mash-up of a champagne bar and used book shop. Outside the building, artisans sell jewelry, paintings and locally made honey.

**L**...  
Live comedy clashes with local history in the best

way on wacky bus tours through downtown and the Montford Area **istoric** District. Get your rubber chicken **icket** at check-in, order a beverage to go and prepare for hilarity to unfold on the bus as well as outside your window.

**T**...  
This gilded Art Deco food hall houses a sampler of Asheville's diverse food and beverage scene, with eight vendors, including me**an**-level **ighland** **rewing**. A couple of must-try highlights **rispy** sandwich perfection from **uxton** Chicken Palace and silky salted caramel ice cream from The **op**.

**A**...  
**C**... **B**... **F**...  
**R**...  
**B**... **M**... **C**... **T**...  
**A**... **P**... **C**...  
**S**... **B**...  
**M**... **C**... **B**...  
**M**... **C**... **A**...  
**N**...  
**M**...  
**N**...  
**op**...





HEART GLASS AND GALLERY

# burnsville

## TRAILS TO TREASURE

- [Tennessee](#)
- [The Mill and](#)
- [The Fork](#)
- [Arts Free Library](#)
- [Rural and a College](#)
- [of the area gallery](#)
- [The of](#)

Drive through its leafy valley and spot barns and churches gussied up with painted wooden squares. Two driving tours showcase Burnsville’s many quilt blocks, which comprise one of the largest concentrations of this rural art form. A special block decorates the *ancey Common Times Journal* building near the town square. *Burnsville Sundial* is the world’s only quilt block that tells time.

More artsy surprises are within walking distance. On West Main Street, two fourth-generation glass artists run **Heart Glass and Gallery** out of a former gas station. See the works of local glassworkers — cups, vases,

ornaments, bowls, lighting — or attend a glassblowing demonstration. For a full-blown arts getaway, visit during the **Mount Mitchell Craft Fair** the first weekend in August and peruse 200-plus vendors to the tune of bluegrass music.

Stay for the weekend at the 22-room **Nurray Hotel**, an 18th-century charmer that’s just been restored with a blend of original and contemporary touches. Sleep in the main hotel building or in one of four spacious rooms in the Carriage House, and dine at **Carriage House Sundries** where the menu features pizzas and grilled sandwiches, plus an array of beer, wine and scotch.

M... M... B... S...  
 S...ections of legacy... B...C...A...A... G...  
 S...ur legacy... M...  
 P... E...  
 ...

**A COLORFUL  
WEEKEND IN**

# winston-salem

**The area's premiere  
destination for a  
weekend of  
celebration**

**FRIDAY**

Check in at **Kimpton Cardinal Hotel** downtown. The former R.J. Reynolds headquarters (which provided architectural inspo for the Empire State Building) is now a fun-loving lodging with stylish decor, bowling lanes and a two-story spiral slide. Dinner awaits downstairs — steak frites and onion soup at **Katmarie Braerie and Bar**

**SATURDAY**

Check off the day by rewinding the clock at **Old Salem Museum & Garden**, a restored

Moravian settlement dating back to 1766. Chat with costumed interpreters as you wander the town's cobblestone streets. Stand inside the tavern where George Washington slept, and pop into **Inkler Bakery** to purchase a tasty souvenir — traditional Moravian ginger cookies.

At lunchtime, swing over to **Incendiary Brewing Company** and nab an outdoor table by the railroad trestles — the brewery was built under an abandoned train track. Check back with an award-winning IPA, then walk five



EARLS



INKLER BAKERY

blocks to Liberty Street's **Arts District on the Green**, an art-themed park dotted with giant steel ribbons, an ever-changing mural wall and grassy berms for picnicking. Save time to drop by **Underdog Records** and flip through racks of vinyl LPs.

When evening falls, join the festive crowd at **Earls** for soulful Southern fare and live country and bluegrass music. Finish your peach cobbler and see a concert at **Ramkat**, a hopping venue across the street.

**SUNDAY**

Wrap up the weekend at **Reynolda House Museum of American Art**, the 1917 mansion built for a tobacco tycoon now contains artworks by Thomas Eakins, Frederic Edwin Church and Georgia O'Keeffe. Deputy Director Phil Archer says, "It's a small collection, but what you see is recognizable, much-studied work by important artists — the work they created when they were at the pinnacle of their powers."











# wilmington

## COASTAL CANVAS



THE PLANT OUTPOST

**A dynamic art museum, indie boutique shopping and a riverside promenade place this coastal city high on the list of America’s coolest waterfronts.**

### Cameron Art Museum

This 42,000-square-foot institution houses 4,500 works, including Japanese woodblock prints and Mary Cassatt paintings, plus an ambitious schedule of workshops, gallery talks, film screenings and concerts. An outdoor sculpture park honors the United States Colored Troops, who won a critical Civil War battle here. On-site **Cam Cafe’s** weekend brunch draws a crowd.

### The Cargo District

Shopping is more fun at Wilmington’s anti-mall, a nine-block radius of repurposed shipping containers that shelter shops, cafes and drinkeries. Browse locally made goods at **Crafted Outpost**, tropical houseplants at **The Plant Outpost** and esoteric LPs at **The Fuzzy Needle**. When hunger calls, **CheeseSmith** whips up next-level grilled cheese sandwiches.

### The Hive

This trendy lodging straddles the line between vacation rental and traditional hotel. Eighteen loft-style suites have full-size kitchens and living rooms with ample seating, so friends and family can hang out together or carve out solo work spaces. Original art and au courant furnishings add to the fashionable vibe.

### Wilmington Riverwalk

Spanning nearly 2 miles, this waterside walkway skirts the Cape Fear River, overlooking Wilmington’s historic district and the moored **Battleship North Carolina**. It’s become the city’s main connector to public parks, shops, boutiques, galleries and outdoor cafes.

## SPLASHY DISPLAYS

ACB T JEKS **tribute to Carolina Shag** S N **Summer on the Boardwalk,** Hurricane Alley’s F V



TRIBUTE TO CAROLINA SHAG BY JEKS



### PAW of approval

You and your canine companion can get in your steps along the **Wilmington Riverwalk**.

As sunset draws near, nosh on a giant soft pretzel at **Anne Bonny’s Bar and Grill** and linger at the outdoor bar until golden hour.



A ☒A ☒☒ ☒☒

# REMEMBER



Learn more about the ☒rown Mountain Lights — and the ongoing quest to discover their source — with this episode of *The Atlas of The Atlas* ☒bscura Podcast.





As the days fade and nights turn cool, all color washes down mountainsides and spreads across North Carolina in the party with scenic drives, vibrant vistas and events ranging from pure fun to downright spooky. *It's* **Autumn**.



**Plan** *Burke County*

Get to know Burke County over 100 miles that usher you from the foothills to the mountains and back. See towering **Linville Falls**, admire the distinct summits of **Table Rock** and **Hawksbill** mountains from **Waynesville**, and savor the mysterious **Bernheim Lanes** as you circle back to Morganton. Just be sure to check current road conditions before departing.

PHOTOGRAPH: VISITNC.COM

**ISEAN'S VIEW**  
**BURKE COUNTY**

## inspired routes

### The Lenoir County Experience

#### Relax a bit of fall color

#### Local over a scenic area

#### Take a scenic drive of area

#### **Asheboro** *Take Mattamuskeet to Manteo*

You'll definitely have the chance to spot the namesake of this 100-mile path, especially as you get out and explore the wetlands of **Asheboro**. **Norfolk Wildlife Refuge**. Along with gators, try to spot any bears or wolves before crossing the Croatan Sound to **Roanoke Island**, the site of a mysterious English settlement, the emeraldist in what would become the United States.

#### **NC-1** *Cracoke Island*

Along this short but striking 100-mile striking coastal highway, you'll find marsh creeks winding through emerald grasses, groves of evergreen maritime forest and beaches where your hot spots may be the only ones around. Pair oysters and the day's catch available on numerous restaurant menus with orange-tinted sunsets.

#### **Princeton** *Seagrove*

Along this 100-mile stretch of scenic rolling hills and hazy woods where dozens of pottery studios and October **Art Council** **Wax** welcome creatives of all media. Between Eagle Springs and Seagrove studios like **Clay** **Clay** **Clay** **Clay** **Clay** and **EMC** **EMC** **EMC** **EMC** **EMC** keep this art tradition thriving.

#### **Swainsboro** *Surry County*

The heart of **Madkin Valley** overflows with wineries along more than 100 miles of cycle-friendly pathways. Pedaling mountain bikes to the top of **Piedmont** says hello with **Edmont** panoramas as you gain a half-mile of elevation in only 10 miles of roadway. And rolling into wineries like **Swainsboro** in Dobson and **Onion** **Swainsboro** in Mount Airy gives you numerous occasions to toast the ride.



# unique perspectives

**Capture a fresh view of autumn with the help of hot-air balloons, steam locomotives, ranchers and nature guides.**

## FROM THE *pasture*

In Ayden, the Jersey cows at **Simply Natural Creamery** produce the milk that makes the ice cream at **Sally's Dairyland**. Icy treats, family-friendly farm games, and a meet and greet with cows and calves make for a sweet stop. In Chapel Hill, join sheepdog Sophie on the Sheep Herding Experience at **Union Grove Farm**. Watch her masterfully move 240 Katahdin sheep from pasture to pasture.



## FROM THE *air*

With the wind in your hair and the Piedmont countryside spread like a patchwork quilt below, join one of Statesville's hot-air balloon pilots for an unforgettable flight. In October, **Carolina BalloonFest** fills the skies with billowing balloons above town, while a feast of festival food and live music ensures the party on the ground is just as good.

## FROM THE *beach*

While you're shelling on the **Shackleford Banks**, don't be surprised if you see hoof prints in the sand or hear a horse whinny in the woods nearby. More than 100 wild horses call this stretch of the Crystal Coast home. See their coats shining (from at least 50 feet away, per the law) as they wade in the surf, frolic in the dunes, and browse for a lunch of marsh grass and new-grown leaves.



## FROM THE *water*

As the wind rises, sails snap and a flotilla of sailboats scatters across the surface of **Kerr Lake**. This 50,000-acre reservoir in the rolling hills of Henderson has plenty of room for sailors, paddlers, water-skiers and anglers. Cast a line for largemouth and striped bass, listen for the call of kingfishers, or go for a swim in these pristine waters.

## FROM THE *rails*

Soak up peak views aboard the **Great Smoky Mountains Railroad** steam locomotive that puffs its way through fiery foliage in the Nantahala Gorge. Depart Bryson City Depot for scenic excursions, and book a Raft and Rail package through October if you want to add a splash of whitewater rafting to your autumn.

# frightfully fun

Sea of balloons are here to lead you to a world of fall fun. So grab your friends and family and get out there for a night of frightfully fun. Or, if you're looking for a more subtle scare, there are a few other options for you. Use the map to find the best spots for your next frightfully fun road trip.



Packed with paranormal places, scary stories and local haunts, North Carolina frightens visitors in the best way. Explore the NC Haunted Trail's three regional segments (Mountain Mysteries, Paranormal Piedmont and Creepy Coast) or combine them into one thrilling statewide journey. Start plotting your supernatural escape at the above QR code, which also delves into spooky places to stay and gets you connected to the first in a night podcast, a perfect accompaniment for your next haunted road trip across The Tar Heel State.

## Granville Haunt Farm, Oxford

Drive out of reality and into a horror movie at Granville Haunt Farm where clowns and horror icons from the big screen produce hair-raising thrills outside your vehicle.

SCARE-O-METER RATING: 3/5

## Halloween Farm, Phippsville

Will werewolves attack your hayride? Can you escape the corn maze with your sanity intact? With five haunted attractions on hand, you're in for the scare of your life.

SCARE-O-METER RATING: 3/5

## Halloween Camp, Mebane

Howls and screams emerge from the wild woods, curling the toes of the faint of heart. So scary for you, their no-scary walk-throughs offer a more family-friendly experience.

SCARE-O-METER RATING: 3/5

## Halloween Ghost Walk, Elizabeth City

Connect with the spirit world as ghosts and phantoms from Elizabeth City's past stalk the city's haunted history. Meet notable local residents at historic homes and along the streets of downtown.

SCARE-O-METER RATING: 3/5

## Halloween Haunts, Clinton

Masked murderers and creepy clowns stalk the woods and hunt the hayrides in both summer and fall. Their Halloween festival in early June boasts a zombie prom.

SCARE-O-METER RATING: 3/5

## Halloween Scare Walk, Archdale

Frightening folks for four decades, these woods feature a nightmare-inducing cast to keep your adrenaline pumping. Good luck making it through the dark tram ride.

SCARE-O-METER RATING: 3/5

## Halloween Castle, Gastown

How far can a pumpkin go? Find out via catapults, an air cannon and trebuchets that launch the orange gourds a country mile at the family-friendly fest.

SCARE-O-METER RATING: 3/5

## Halloween Horror, Salisbury

With a snort and a roar, a mutant hog lunges out of the dark, scaring you into the arms of an ageless witch and leaving you wanting.

SCARE-O-METER RATING: 3/5

## Halloween Fun, Warrington

Join an event for the Addams Family and possibly your family too. All ages find something to enjoy among the haunted house, ghost walk and kid-friendly games.

SCARE-O-METER RATING: 3/5





# WINTER



Embrace the cold or escape it. Swish down a mountain or unwind in a historic hotel, then light up the night at a glowing festival. Welcome to North Carolina's coolest season.

*rtv* **AUSTIN CANNON**

**SUGAR MOUNTAIN RESORT**  
**SUGAR MOUNTAIN**





PHOTOGRAPHS: (SUGAR MOUNTAIN) LESLIE RESTIVO, (HAWKSNEST) JARED KAY



**Check your transportation mode of choice** — skis, tubes or an alpine coaster — then whoosh down a mountain. You'll make it to the bottom just in time to do it all over again.

**Beech Mountain Resort**

📍 Beech Mountain

At the highest ski area in the eastern United States, 17 runs cascade from the mountain's 5,506-foot-high peak, forming a 95-acre snowbound playground. Each winter, the resort hosts Adaptive Ski Week, an instructional skiing clinic that welcomes hundreds of people with disabilities.

**Cataloochee Ski Area**

📍 Maggie Valley

North Carolina's first ski area opened in 1961 to give local ranch hands somewhere to work during the winter. Today, the mountain hosts skiers and snowboarders making their alpine debuts — 80 percent of the slopes are rated for beginners, and you can reserve a lesson ahead of time.

**Hawksnest Snow Fun**

📍 Seven Devils

Spinning and sliding hundreds of feet down a snowy hill is almost guaranteed to put a smile on your face. After you pick one of the 25 lanes, deposit yourself and

the kiddo into an inner tube and unleash some joyful screams on the way down.

**Sugar Mountain Resort**

📍 Sugar Mountain

Toward the bottom of the 5,000-foot-high peak, new skiers can swish around Easy Street and Little Nell. Oma's Meadow and Sugar Slalom are for the more experienced skiers, and while Whoopeddoo is fun to shout into the clouds, the run of the same name is only for experts. Après-ski at the Last Run Lounge that's for everyone.

**Wilderness Fun Alpine Coaster** 📍 Banner Park

Gravity shepherds riders down this 160-foot-long coaster that weaves and twists through the trees, with speeds reaching 27 mph for those who only brake when it's mandated. The track stays open during gentle flurries, so a ride in the winter months often comes with your own snow globe moment. Opt for the three-ride ticket — you won't regret it.

Indoor Rushes

- P**
- 
- T**
- 
- 
- 
- Paraclete**
- Indoor Skydiving**
- R**
- F**
- 
- 
- O**
- 
- M**
- Hour Martin**
- 
-





**DANIEL STONE BOTANICAL GARDEN BELMONT**

**Historic inns and a tiny house village recharge your batteries, while walks among orchids and butterflies offer a sneak preview of spring and summer.**

### Among the Flowers

You can meander Belmont's Daniel Stone Botanical Garden year-round, but for a burst of winter color, duck into the Orchid Conservatory. The five-story, 8,000-square-foot glass house is filled with blooming orchids and tropical plants near a waterfall.

### On a Naparound Porch

Each room at The Inn at Rosehill in Monroe features French doors that open up to a 10-foot-wide porch on both the first and second floors. That's where you'll enjoy the sun rising over the 52 acres before a soul-warming, country-style breakfast.



*of approval  
our furry friend  
can join you for a patio  
brew at many of Rocky  
Mount's breweries,  
and pets under  
pounds are allowed  
to hog the human bed  
at River and Twine.*

### In a Century Old Bank

The Oxeil, a 101-year-old Renaissance Revival structure in Winston, contains former bank and dentist offices that have been transformed into seven hotel rooms. The accommodations sit above the lobby's original 16-ton vault door. Admire the hotel's intricate plaster ceiling before hopping aboard the first registered elevator in North Carolina.

### With Butterflies

Butterflies representing dozens of species flutter around a glass-walled conservatory at Durham's Museum of Life and Science when they're not resting on more than 200 varieties of tropical plants. Step into the Insectarium for a closer look at invertebrates from around the world, including buzzing honeybees and fanged tarantulas.

### At a Restored Cotton Mill

Wander through a collection of taprooms, shops and restaurants across the Rocky Mount Mills campus, where the 19th-century mill in Rocky Mount was once one of the state's largest textile producers. When you're ready to call it a night, adjourn to your tiny house rental at adjacent River and Twine



# ILLUMINATE

*The holiday season brings flickering light shows, rousing carols and — if the kids stay on the Nice List — a meeting with a certain big guy in a red suit.*

## Candy Land Christmas

📍 Lincolnton

**NOVEMBER–DECEMBER**

For more than a month, downtown Lincolnton is Christmas cheer central, especially during the annual candy-themed parade and tree lighting. On December nights, kids can meet Santa Claus in the park while adults relax on a carriage ride.

## Country Christmas Train at Denton FarmPark

📍 Denton

**NOVEMBER–DECEMBER**

The Handy Dandy Railroad chugs past Christmas light displays, a live nativity scene and dancing elves on its 1.5-mile track. Afterward, snag a photo with Santa at the train depot before heading to the Gingerbread House for cookies.

## Down Home Country Christmas

📍 Rose Hill

**NOVEMBER–DECEMBER**

The heartwarming show at Duplin Winery combines stories and carols with a multicourse meal in the winery's bistro. To make the most

of your evening, schedule a wine tasting beforehand and try the cheese dip.

## A Flat Rock Playhouse Christmas

📍 Flat Rock

**NOVEMBER–DECEMBER**

This lively performance of yuletide carols and choreography is sure to soften any Scrooge. The show changes each year, with performers blending classic holiday tunes and new foot-tapping favorites.

## Mike's Farm Festival of Lights

📍 Beulaville

**NOVEMBER–DECEMBER**

Come for the 10-layer chocolate cake at the farm's bakery; stay for an after-dark hayride through the holiday light display. You can also reserve a table at the farm's restaurant for a meal of classic fried chicken and mashed potatoes.

## NC Chinese Lantern Festival

📍 Cary

**NOVEMBER–JANUARY**

More than 40 LED-fueled lanterns may take the form of dragons, tigers



**MIKE'S FARM FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS BEULAVILLE**

and pagodas to warm the evening sky at Koka Booth Amphitheatre. When you're finished walking through the displays, catch nightly performances of traditional martial arts, dance and acrobatics.

## Candlelight Christmas Tour

📍 Murfreesboro

**DECEMBER**

Horse-drawn carriage rides transport visitors through 1800s Murfreesboro. Candlelit walkways — and perhaps sparks from the blacksmith demonstration — will guide you toward 19th-century estates, including the boyhood home of Walter Reed, the army doctor whose work helped eradicate yellow fever.

## Southport Winterfest Flotilla

📍 Southport

**DECEMBER**

Bring your lawn chair, blanket and hot chocolate for this maritime light show. Vessels adorned with bright holiday lights and decorations cruise past the waterfront, where local elementary school students decide on the best-decorated boat.

## Winterfest at Tryon International

📍 Mill Spring

**NOVEMBER–JANUARY**

Roll down the windows as you cruise past the light-up snowmen, Christmas trees and reindeer that take over the equestrian resort each winter. When you finish your lap, lace up some ice skates and glide around the Tryon Stadium rink.













**VOLLIS SIMPSON**  
**IRLIGIPAR**  
**WILSON**

## State Information Sources

### STATE AGENCIES

**NC Agritourism Office,**  
 1020 MSC, Raleigh 27699; (919) 707-3120;  
[ncagr.gov/divisions/marketing/agritourism](http://ncagr.gov/divisions/marketing/agritourism)

**NC Dept. of Natural & Cultural Resources,**  
 4601 MSC, Raleigh 27699; (919) 814-6800; [ncdcr.gov](http://ncdcr.gov)

**NC Dept. of Transportation - Ferry Division,**  
 2300 Ferry Rd., Havelock 28532; (252) 463-7020; [ncdot.gov/divisions/ferry](http://ncdot.gov/divisions/ferry)

**NC State Parks,** 1615 MSC, Raleigh 27699; (919) 707-9300; [ncparks.gov](http://ncparks.gov)

**NC Wildlife Resources Commission,**  
 1701 MSC, Raleigh 27699; (919) 707-0040; [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org)

**Visit North Carolina,** 150 Fayetteville St., Suite 1200, Raleigh 27601; (800) 847-4862; [visitnc.com](http://visitnc.com)

### WELCOME CENTERS

**I-26 East NC Welcome Center,**  
 I-26 at Mile Marker 68, Columbus 28722; (828) 894-2120

**I-26 West NC Welcome Center,**  
 I-26 at Mile Marker 6, Mars Hill 28754; (828) 689-4257

**I-40 West NC Welcome Center,**  
 I-40 at Mile Marker 10, Waynesville 28786; (828) 627-6206

**I-77 North NC Welcome Center,**  
 158 I-77, Mount Airy 27030; (336) 320-2181

**I-77 South NC Welcome Center,**  
 93001 I-77, Charlotte 28273; (704) 588-2660

**I-85 North NC Welcome Center,**  
 231 I-85, Norlina 27563; (252) 456-3236

**I-85 South NC Welcome Center,**  
 I-85 at Mile Marker 2, Kings Mountain 28086; (704) 937-7861

**I-95 North NC Welcome Center,**  
 I-95 at Mile Marker 181, Pleasant Hill 27866; (252) 537-3365

**I-95 South NC Welcome Center,**  
 I-95 at Mile Marker 5, Rowland 28383; (910) 422-8314

**NC Welcome Centers & Tourism Call Center,** 4324 MSC, Raleigh 27699; (800) 847-4862; [visitnc.com/welcome-centers](http://visitnc.com/welcome-centers)

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Blue Ridge Parkway Association,**  
 PO Box 2136, Asheville 28802; (828) 670-1924; [blueridgeparkway.org](http://blueridgeparkway.org)

**NC Ski Areas Association,** [goskinc.com](http://goskinc.com)



**EXPLORE  
NATURE'S  
PLAYGROUND**



**DISCOVER BURKE COUNTY**

Home to the Linville Gorge Wilderness (pictured), Lake James as well as 6 waterfalls and more than 250 miles of trails!



**FOLLOW**

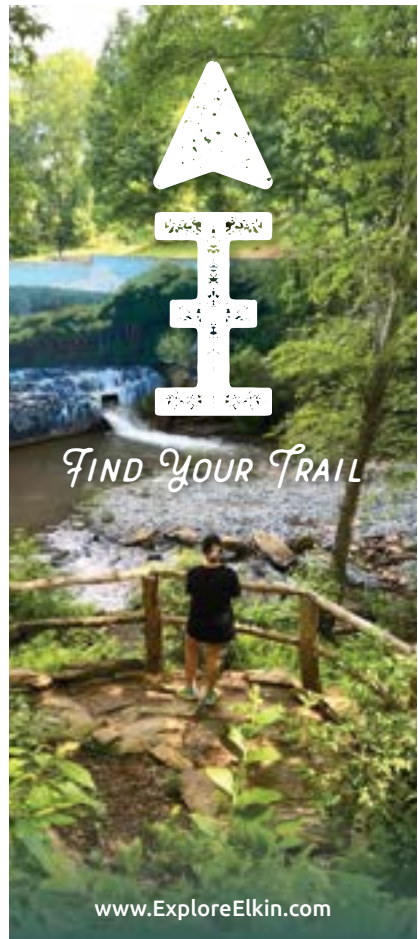
Visitor Center  
 140 N Sterling Street,  
 Morganton, NC 28655



It sounds too good to be true at first. But then, you start to dig in and discover a place with arts and culture, historic architecture, amazing food, refreshing outdoor experiences, and more. Suddenly, an amazing trip to Sanford doesn't sound so far-fetched.

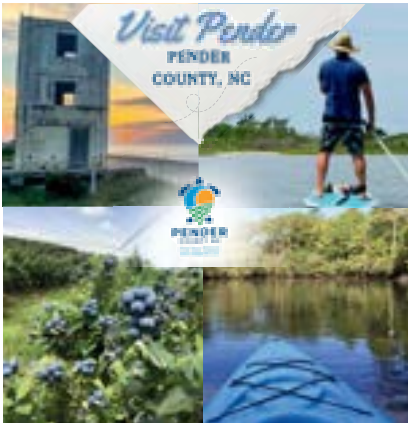
visit  
**sanford**

229 Carthage St.  
 919.718.4659  
 visitsanfordnc.com



PLACES to EXPLORE

[www.ExploreElkin.com](http://www.ExploreElkin.com)



[www.VisitPender.com](http://www.VisitPender.com)



*Where Business Comes Naturally*

Host your conference, trainings or retreats at Haw River State Park. 4 large meeting spaces up to 125 people, minutes from the Triad area.

**Haw River State Park**  
[www.ncparks.gov/meetings](http://www.ncparks.gov/meetings)

*Shop and Savor*

**North Carolina Specialty Foods**

From our jars and tins to your table. Our online directory will introduce you to dozens of handcrafted and artisanal foods made in North Carolina.



**NC Specialty Foods**  
 Association  
[ncspecialtyfoods.org](http://ncspecialtyfoods.org)



NORT ☒ TOPSAIL ☒ EAC ☒





# TOWN AND CITY *INDEX*

Albemarle.....	81	Gatesville.....	89	Oriental.....	83
Almond.....	20	Goldsboro.....	50	Oxford.....	101
Archdale.....	101	Greensboro.....	21, 38, 44, 50, 72	Pembroke.....	85
Asheboro.....	44, 54, 75	Greenville.....	38, 50, 67	Pilot Mountain.....	99
Asheville.....	6, 18, 52, 54, 64, 90-91	Halifax.....	86	Pinehurst.....	62
Atlantic Beach.....	87	Hampstead.....	32	Pittsboro.....	34, 79
Ayden.....	50, 100	Hatteras.....	32	Plymouth.....	78, 83
Bald Head Island.....	6, 82	Havelock.....	81	Powells Point.....	60
Banner Elk.....	42, 103	Henderson.....	100	Raeford.....	103
Barnardsville.....	77	Hendersonville.....	54, 70	Raleigh.....	16, 34, 38, 48, 50, 68, 72
Beaufort.....	35	Hertford.....	60, 89	Roaring Gap.....	42
Beech Mountain.....	103	Hiddenite.....	42	Robbinsville.....	24
Belmont.....	104	High Point.....	8, 34, 38, 66, 69, 73	Rockingham.....	59
Beulaville.....	105	Highlands.....	21, 75	Rocky Mount.....	104
Black Mountain.....	91	Hillsborough.....	90, 94	Rodanthe.....	89
Blowing Rock.....	21, 42	Huntersville.....	79	Rose Hill.....	105
Brasstown.....	101	Jackson.....	32	Roxboro.....	94
Brevard.....	75	Jacksonville.....	52, 75	Salisbury.....	101
Bryson City.....	77, 80, 100	Kannapolis.....	26	Saluda.....	59
Burnsville.....	90, 92	Kinston.....	104	Sanford.....	28, 89
Camden.....	54	Kure Beach.....	87	Scotland Neck.....	75
Carolina Beach.....	58, 74, 97	Lake Lure.....	64	Seagrove.....	99
Carrboro.....	35	Lake Waccamaw.....	58	Seven Devils.....	103
Cary.....	21, 38, 105	Laurinburg.....	62	Seven Springs.....	85
Chapel Hill.....	71, 100, 112	Lexington.....	50	Shelby.....	18, 36-37, 50
Charlotte.....	26, 34, 44, 72, 74, 77, 87, 90, 95	Lincolnton.....	105	Sherrills Ford.....	28
Cherokee.....	84	Linville.....	40	Sneads Ferry.....	32
Clinton.....	101	Linville Falls.....	89, 98-99	Southern Pines.....	62
Collettsville.....	81	Macclesfield.....	79	Southport.....	32, 105
Columbia.....	89	Madison.....	58	Spruce Pine.....	40
Columbus.....	75	Maggie Valley.....	24, 103	Statesville.....	100
Concord.....	26, 37	Manteo.....	83, 99	Sugar Mountain.....	102-103
Cornelius.....	89	Marion.....	42	Sunset Beach.....	89
Corolla.....	46, 78-79	Mars Hill.....	70, 112	Surf City.....	78-79
Creswell.....	84-85	Mebane.....	101	Swansboro.....	71, 83, 89
Currie.....	87	Merry Hill.....	60	Sylva.....	52, 69
Danbury.....	80-81	Mill Spring.....	105	Troutman.....	28
Davidson.....	38, 71	Mocksville.....	112	Wadesboro.....	89
Denton.....	105	Monroe.....	104	Warrenton.....	101
Dobson.....	99	Mooresboro.....	20	Washington.....	32, 46, 48, 74
Duck.....	21	Mooresville.....	26	Waynesville.....	42
Dunn.....	87	Morganton.....	52, 92, 99	Weldon.....	70
Durham.....	35, 38, 44, 54, 71, 104	Morrisville.....	103	White Lake.....	58
Eagle Springs.....	99	Mount Airy.....	35, 99	Whittier.....	64
East Bend.....	70	Mount Gilead.....	85	Wilkesboro.....	15, 34, 71
Edenton.....	83	Murfreesboro.....	105	Wilmington..	8, 18, 32, 38, 48, 90, 97, 112
Elizabeth City.....	101	Murphy.....	59	Wilson.....	108
Elizabethtown.....	58	Nags Head.....	46, 83	Windsor.....	46
Fayetteville.....	6, 8, 52, 76-77	New Bern.....	70, 90, 96	Winston-Salem.....	90, 93
Flat Rock.....	105	North Topsail Beach.....	109	Winterville.....	50
Four Oaks.....	87, 89	North Wilkesboro.....	26, 52	Wrightsville Beach.....	58
Frisco.....	85	Ocean Isle Beach.....	77	Yanceyville.....	62
		Ocracoke.....	32, 99	Youngsville.....	101



**Luxury, Serenity and Comfort Await You!**

Twenty-five luxury cabins on a delightful 40-acre forested property with trout pond, stream, waterfall, gardens and fountains. All cabins are tastefully decorated, completely equipped and beautifully furnished. Amenities include seasonal woodburning fireplaces, covered decks, hot tubs and much more. One-, two- and three-bedroom cabins available, as well as pet-friendly options.

**(800) 235-2474 • [www.ashevillecabins.com](http://www.ashevillecabins.com)**



**HAMPTON INN & SUITES  
Asheville Airport**

Located 2 miles from Asheville Regional Airport and WNC Agricultural Center. Five minutes from Biltmore Park and Sierra Nevada Brewery. Enjoy a complimentary hot breakfast daily and free WiFi. Short drive to Downtown Asheville, Blue Ridge Parkway, and Biltmore Estate.

**828-687-0806  
[www.asheillesuites.hamptoninn.com](http://www.asheillesuites.hamptoninn.com)**



**HILTON GARDEN INN  
Asheville South**

Biltmore Estate just a short 10 minute drive. Convenient to I-26 and I-40. Downtown Asheville, Biltmore Park and Asheville Regional Airport within 10 minutes. Blue Ridge Parkway is 2 miles away. Enjoy our restaurant, full bar and expansive outdoor entertainment area.

**828-633-6024  
[www.asheillesouth.hgi.com](http://www.asheillesouth.hgi.com)**



**HAMPTON INN ASHEVILLE  
Tunnel Road *All NEW 2024!***

Located right off I-240, two miles from Downtown Asheville, Biltmore Estate and Village, South Slope Brewing District, Harrah's Cherokee Center - Asheville, and The Orange Peel music venue are less than 3 miles from our door. Enjoy a hot breakfast and wi-fi on us!

**828-255-9220  
[www.ashevilletunnelroad.hamptoninn.com](http://www.ashevilletunnelroad.hamptoninn.com)**



**HAMPTON INN & SUITES  
Asheville Biltmore Area**

Convenient to I-26 and I-40. Across the street from Tanger Outlets and popular restaurants. Biltmore Estate, Downtown Asheville, and Biltmore Park within 10 minutes. Bob Lewis Ballpark and Blue Ridge Parkway 5 minute drive. Craft Beer and Wine Bar. Free breakfast!

**828-575-9593  
[www.ashevillebiltmorearea.hamptonbyhilton.com](http://www.ashevillebiltmorearea.hamptonbyhilton.com)**



**HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON  
Asheville Tunnel Road**

Located just one mile from Downtown Asheville. Enjoy many downtown locally owned breweries, shops, and restaurants. River Arts District, South Slope Brewery District and Orange Peel Music Venue all within 3 miles. Our spacious suites offer kitchen and separate living area.

**828-252-5400  
[www.asheville.homewoodsuites.com](http://www.asheville.homewoodsuites.com)**

**Vacation Rentals  
Hatteras NC**  
Forever Island Memories Begin!  
Budget Friendly beach vacation rentals  
Avon to Hatteras Village.  
Come join us for a getaway at the Beach!  
Open year round for you to escape anytime!  
[www.dolphinrealtyhatteras.com](http://www.dolphinrealtyhatteras.com)  
[www.hatterascabanas.com](http://www.hatterascabanas.com)

*Boyd Mountain*  
LOG CABINS & CHRISTMAS TREE FARM  
WAYNESVILLE/MAGGIE VALLEY, NC

**828.926.1575  
BOYDMOUNTAIN.COM**

REYNOLDA

Visit Reynolda and explore a renowned collection of American art including works by Georgia O'Keeffe, Frederic Church, and Romare Bearden, along with lush formal gardens, walking trails, boutique shops, and restaurants — all in one historic estate.

**[reynolda.org](http://reynolda.org)  
Centrally located in  
Winston-Salem, N.C.**



for Outdoor NC  
Leave No Trace  
Principles that  
provide a pathway  
for everyone to  
have responsible  
and safe outdoor  
adventures in  
North Carolina.

*Emerald Isle Realty*

**The beach vacation of your  
dreams is within reach!**

*A Tradition on the North Carolina Coast Since 1962!*  
**[EmeraldIsleRealty.com](http://EmeraldIsleRealty.com) | 877.392.0788**



# IN BLOOM

A full spectrum of color awaits at these pretty pit stops.



## 1 Airlie Gardens

📍 Wilmington

Azaleas, tulips and camellias thrive among fountains, sculptures (including a chapel comprised of colorful glass bottles) and towering centuries-old oaks dripping with Spanish moss across the lush 67-acre property.

## 2 North Carolina Botanical Garden

📍 Chapel Hill

Roam through rare wildflowers in the Piedmont habitat and step into the restored cabin of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Paul Green at this paradise dedicated to conserving native North Carolina plant species.

## 3 The Fields at Sunflower Trail

📍 Mocksville

Become fully engulfed in a maze of blazing-yellow sunflowers — some up to 8 feet tall — during the summer bloom (typically July and August). Pick a few, and the owners will wrap them up for you.

## 4 I-26 West NC Welcome Center

📍 Mars Hill

In the Blue Ridge Mountains, a medley of flowering perennials, pollinator plants, sunflowers and monarch butterflies lures travelers to this oasis from spring through fall.

# Gorgeous views and sighs of relief abound.

North Carolina's Brunswick Islands' natural beauty and expansive beaches are the perfect place for you to relax and unwind. Put your toes in the sand and bring the whole family for a vacation you'll never forget.

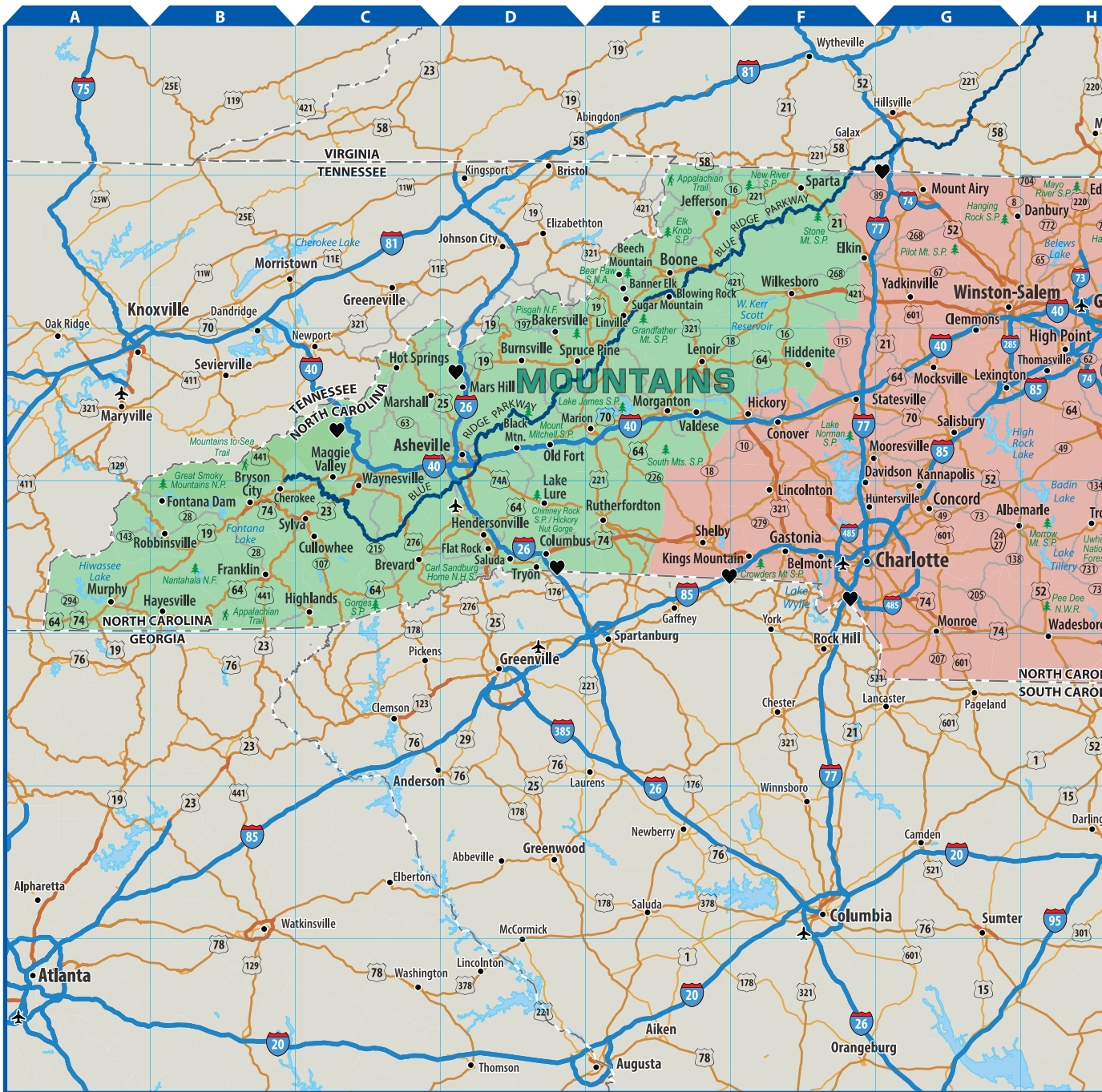
north carolina's  
**brunswick islands**  
ncbrunswick.com



Scan to download or  
request your printed  
Vacation Guide.

SUNSET BEACH • OCEAN ISLE BEACH • HOLDEN BEACH • OAK ISLAND • CASWELL BEACH  
BALD HEAD ISLAND • LELAND • SHALLOTTE • SOUTHPORT • CALABASH





**Abbreviations used on map**  
 S.P. ....State Park  
 S.N.A. ....State Natural Area  
 N.P. ....National Park  
 N.F. ....National Forest  
 N.H.S. ....National Historic Site  
 N.W.R. ....National Wildlife Refuge

**Towns and Cities**

Ahoskie ..... M2  
 Albemarle..... H4  
 Asheboro..... H3  
 Asheville ..... C3  
 Atlantic Beach..... M5  
 Avon ..... O4  
 Bakersville ..... D2

Bald Head Island ..... K7  
 Banner Elk ..... E2  
 Bath ..... M4  
 Beaufort ..... M5  
 Beech Mountain..... E2  
 Belmont ..... F4  
 Beulaville ..... K5  
 Black Mountain ..... D3  
 Blowing Rock ..... E2  
 Boone ..... E2  
 Brevard ..... C4  
 Bryson City..... B4  
 Burgaw ..... K5  
 Burlington ..... I2  
 Burnsville..... D3  
 Calabash ..... J6  
 Camden..... N2  
 Carboro..... I3

Cary ..... J3  
 Carolina Beach..... K6  
 Chapel Hill..... I3  
 Charlotte..... F4  
 Cherokee ..... B4  
 Clayton ..... J3  
 Clemmons..... G2  
 Clinton ..... J4  
 Columbia ..... N3  
 Columbus..... D4  
 Concord ..... G4  
 Conover ..... F3  
 Corolla ..... O2  
 Creedmoor..... J2  
 Cullowhee ..... C4  
 Currituck..... N2  
 Danbury ..... H2  
 Davidson..... F3

Duck ..... O2  
 Dunn ..... J4  
 Durham ..... J3  
 Eden ..... H2  
 Edenton ..... M2  
 Elizabeth City..... N2  
 Elizabethtown..... J5  
 Elkin ..... F2  
 Emerald Isle ..... M5  
 Fayetteville..... I4  
 Flat Rock ..... D4  
 Fontana Dam ..... B4  
 Franklin ..... B4  
 Gastonia..... F4  
 Gatesville ..... M2  
 Goldsboro ..... K4  
 Greensboro ..... H2  
 Greenville ..... L3

Halifax..... L2  
 Hatteras..... O4  
 Hayesville ..... A4  
 Henderson ..... K2  
 Hendersonville ..... D4  
 Hertford ..... M2  
 Hickory ..... F3  
 Hiddenite ..... F3  
 High Point ..... H3  
 Highlands..... B4  
 Hillsborough ..... I2  
 Holden Beach ..... K7  
 Hot Springs ..... C3  
 Huntersville ..... F4  
 Jackson ..... L2  
 Jacksonville..... L5  
 Jefferson ..... E2  
 Kannapolis ..... G3

Kill Devil Hi.....  
 Kings Moun.....  
 Kinston .....  
 Kitty Hawk.....  
 Kure Beach.....  
 Lake Lure .....  
 Laurinburg.....  
 Lenoir.....  
 Lexington .....  
 Lillington .....  
 Lincolnton.....  
 Linville .....  
 Lumberton.....  
 Lumberton.....  
 Maggie Vall.....  
 Manteo .....  
 Marion .....  
 Mars Hill.....



Asheville.....O3	Marshall ..... C3	Old Fort .....D3	Rowland.....I5	Statesville .....F3	Washington .....M3
Blount.....E4	Mebane .....I2	Oriental ..... M4	Roxboro ..... J2	Sugar Mountain .....E2	Waynesville..... C4
Caldwell.....L4	Mocksville .....G3	Oxford.....J2	Rutherfordton.....E4	Sunset Beach.....J7	White Lake ..... J5
Catawba.....O2	Monroe.....G4	Pine Knoll Shores...M5	Salisbury .....G3	Surf City .....L6	Whiteville ..... J6
Cherokee.....K6	Mooresville .....G3	Pinehurst .....I4	Saluda.....D4	Swan Quarter.....N4	Wilkesboro .....F2
Clay.....D4	Morehead City.....M5	Pittsboro .....I3	Sanford.....I4	Swansboro .....L5	Williamston.....L3
Columbus.....I5	Morganton.....E3	Plymouth .....M3	Scotland Neck.....L2	Sylva .....B4	Wilmington.....K6
Curry.....E3	Mount Airy.....G2	Raeford.....I4	Seagrove.....H3	Tarboro.....L3	Wilson .....K3
Dalhart.....J4	Mount Olive.....K4	Raleigh .....J3	Shelby.....E4	Thomasville .....G3	Windsor.....M3
Dare.....F4	Murfreesboro.....L2	Reidsville.....H2	Siler City.....H3	Topsail Beach .....L6	Winston-Salem .....G2
Davidson.....E3	Murphy.....A4	Roanoke Rapids .....K2	Smithfield.....J3	Trenton .....L4	Wrightsville Beach ..L6
DeWitt.....K2	Nags Head.....O3	Robbinsville .....A4	Snow Hill.....K4	Troy .....H4	Yadkinville .....G2
Dobson.....I5	New Bern.....M4	Rockingham .....H5	Southern Pines.....I4	Tryon .....D4	Yanceyville .....I7
Durham.....C3	Oak Island.....J7	Rocky Mount.....K3	Southport.....K6	Valdese .....E3	NC Welcome Center
Edgecombe.....O3	Ocean Isle Beach.....K7	Rodanthe.....O3	Sparta .....F2	Wadesboro.....H4	
Forsyth.....D3	Ocracoke .....N4	Rose Hill .....K5	Spruce Pine.....D3	Warrenton .....K2	
Gaston.....C3					

♥ Welcome Center





THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS



HIGHLANDS

NORTH CAROLINA

— ELEV. 4118 —

*For elevated experiences, all year long.*



[visithighlandsc.com](http://visithighlandsc.com)



WHAT'S **LURKING**  
AT THE END OF A DARK,  
WINDING ROADTRIP?

AN EVEN  
**DARKER**  
PODCAST.



FIRST IN  
FRIGHT  
NC



a PODCAST about the SPOOKIEST place on earth




**ELSEWHERE, A COUPLE IS  
CLINKING GLASSES OF A  
CAB POURED FROM A BOX  
IN THEIR KITCHEN.**



For Real, Visit **NC**

Explore more of North Carolina at [visitnc.com](https://www.visitnc.com)

 Banner Elk