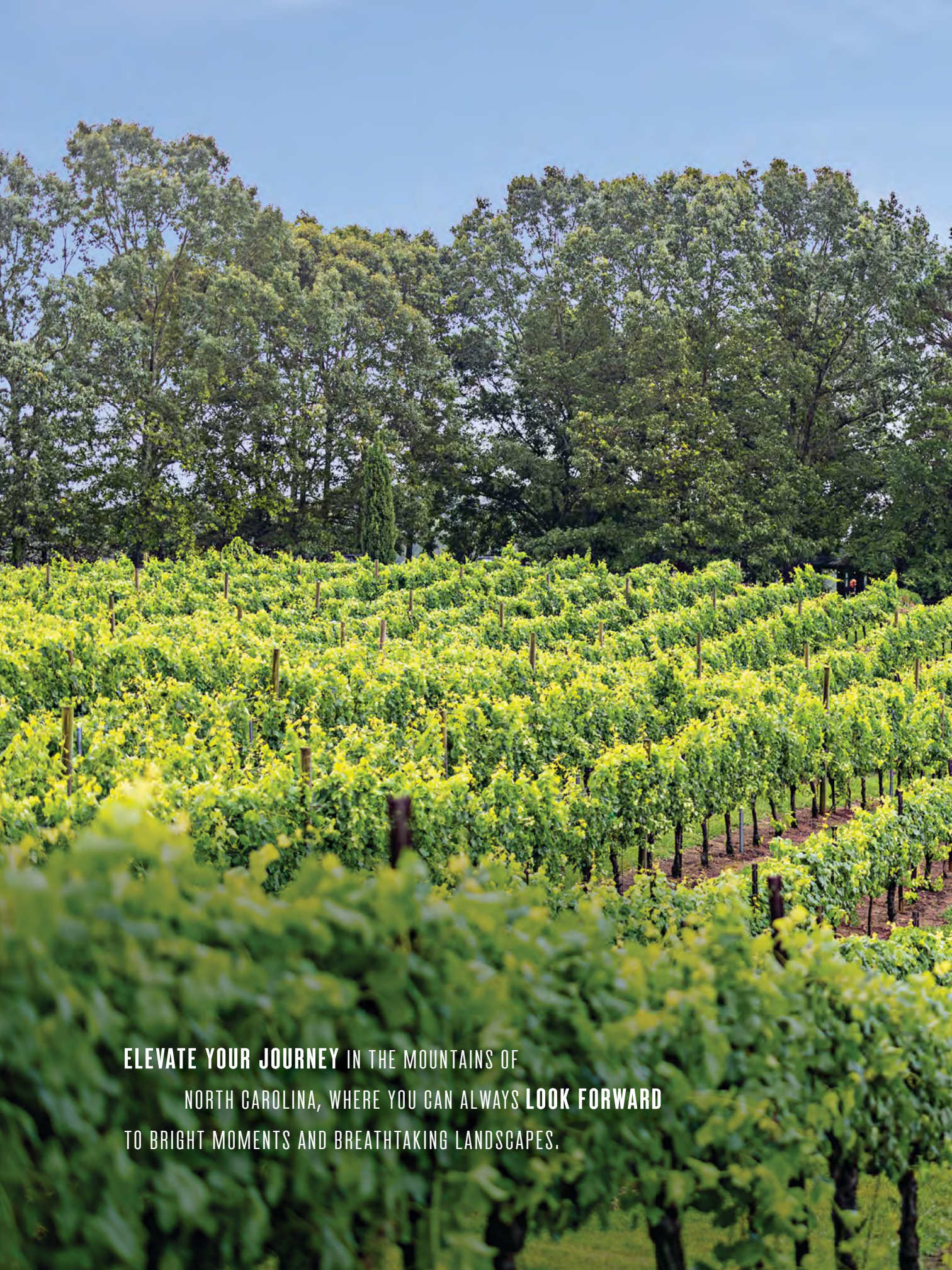


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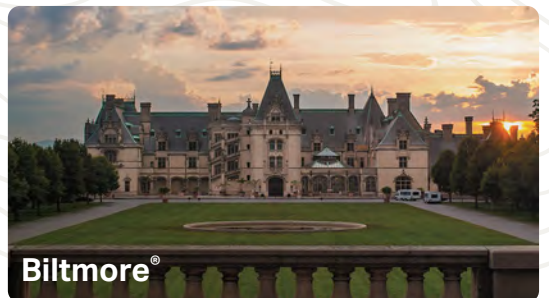
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ISLAND

picture perfect

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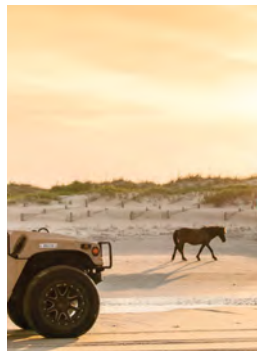
Thrilling stops and rich stories merge on the Moonshine and Motorsports Trail.



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Wild Horses, Corolla
Learn more on page 54.

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Birds



Bites



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DEAR FRIENDS,

As Governor of North Carolina, it is my honor to invite you to read *The Official 2026 North Carolina Travel Guide* — your gateway to experiencing the very best our state has to offer. Whether you are discovering North Carolina for the first time or have called it home your entire life, this guide is designed to inspire your journey across all 100 counties.

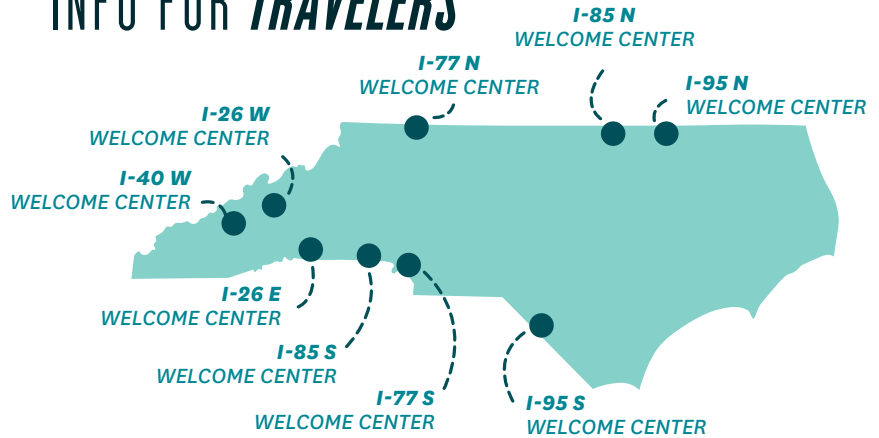
In 2026, we proudly showcase the timeless beauty of our mountains, coast, and countryside and the vibrant experiences that make our communities unique. From bustling cities filled with culture and creativity to charming small towns rooted in community, North Carolina offers something for every traveler.

North Carolina's spirit is strong and enduring, carried by the warmth of our people, the richness of our culture and the beauty of our land. I invite you to experience the hospitality that defines us, savor our diverse cuisine, and discover our varied and pristine nature.

On behalf of the people of North Carolina, welcome! We are proud to share our state with you.

Josh Stein
GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA

INFO FOR TRAVELERS



WELCOME CENTERS AND REST AREAS

North Carolina's welcome centers feature professional travel counselors who offer free assistance with crafting itineraries and booking room reservations for 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 (800) VISIT NC (847-4862)



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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* passengers-only ferry between Hatteras and Ocracoke Village operates during the summer months. ncferry.org (800) BY-FERRY (293-3779)

ACCESS FOR EVERYONE

Learn about sensory-conscious destinations, mobility-friendly paths, adaptive equipment rentals, inclusive programs and more. visitnc.com/accessible-activities

SAFETY AND ALERTS

Review helpful tips for hiking, camping, encountering wildlife and visiting waterfalls. visitnc.com/story/nEXa

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Access important travel information by region, route or county for current conditions. DriveNC.gov



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When you craft a North Carolina getaway, authenticity always finds its way into the mix. No artificial welcomes, weak substitutes or overhyped destinations here — just good, wholesome Tar Heel State hospitality that's sourced from the heart. Here's to your next great adventure!

PHOTOGRAPH: ANGELA TREIMER

WELDON MILLS
DISTILLERY WELDON

PERFECT MORNINGS

Start your day in a memorable way when you activate all of your senses — perhaps with a caffeinated boost — while reveling in nature’s bliss.



MERCHANTS MILLPOND STATE PARK GATESVILLE

Invigorating Paddles

THE GENTLE SPLASH OF OARS DIPPING INTO WATER MAKES FOR A SOOTHING MORNING SOUNDTRACK ON NORTH CAROLINA’S LAKES AND RESERVOIRS.

Coating old-growth cypress trees, fingerlike tendrils of lacy Spanish moss fracture beams of sunlight at **Merchants Millpond State Park** near Gatesville. Rent a canoe to navigate waterways snaking through the protected area, keeping watch for the gnarled backs of occasional alligators. Farther inland, eight entry points encircle the 50,000-acre reservoir at the heart of Henderson’s **Kerr Lake State Recreation Area**. Visit the marina at Hibernia Access to rent a paddleboard or kayak,

then row to Satterwhite Point to watch ospreys dive for fish. A soft breeze carries the scent of pine over the rippling waters of **Lake Waccamaw** — which some believe was created by a meteorite strike. Rent a kayak or paddleboard from nearby Burning Lake Trading Co. to see if you can surface the lake’s mysterious origin. Near the state’s northern border, start your day in a canoe on **Mayo Lake**, fishing for bass and watching the rising sun cast reflections across the water’s surface.

OUTDOOR **NC**
LEAVE NO TRACE
PRINCIPLE

LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT

North Carolina is home to an amazing diversity of indigenous plants and animals. Snap a picture instead of picking flowers, and leave rocks as you find them to protect critters’ habitats and avert other ecological impacts.



Sensory Strolls

WAKE UP TO SOUL-ENRICHING SIGHTS, SOUNDS AND SCENTS IN THESE GARDENS, PARKS AND ARBORETUMS.

Caswell Community Arboretum

📍 Yanceyville

Make the half-mile walk along the arboretum's trail a meditative one. Inhale witch hazel's spicy scent in the woodland garden, listen to the flutter of velvety wings in the butterfly garden, and feel cool relief in the shade garden within this compact but ecologically diverse space.



Eddy Merle Watson Garden of the Senses

📍 Wilkesboro

One of several gardens on the campus of Wilkes Community College, this one sprang forth from legendary local musician Doc Watson after the death of his son, Merle. Plants treasured for their strong scents and surprising textures engage guests beyond their eyes — a lasting legacy of Doc, who lost his sight by age 2.

Historic Corolla Park

📍 Corolla

Feel an invigorating burn in your legs as you ascend Currituck Beach Lighthouse's 220 steps. Then watch the sound's

waves brush against the shore to the warbles of waterfowl — once so plentiful that a wealthy couple built a hunting lodge here that's now the historical Whalehead museum.

Lumberton Riverwalk

📍 Lumberton

Amble along the downtown path following the placid Lumber River, where the green of moss-draped cypress trees contrast with the dark tributary. One block east of the path, enjoy a walk-through plaza of fountains to feel a light mist on your skin before posing with a butterfly mural and other nature-inspired artwork.

Murphy River Walk

📍 Murphy

Finches trill from sweet-smelling

dogwood trees, but you must listen closely to catch the soft splash of beavers in the Valley and Hiwassee rivers. Pause for reflection at the bridge supports emerging from the river, marking the site of a Cherokee village that was removed during the Trail of Tears.

Sarah P. Duke Gardens

📍 Durham

Dewdrops cling to vegetation blooming throughout the 55-acre collection, evaporating off camellias in the Historic Gardens & Terraces and tumbling into a waterway in the Culberson Asiatic Arboretum. The Garden Gateway project adds a new welcome center, cafe and more.



ACCESSIBLE FUN FOR ALL

All plant labels at the **Eddy Merle Watson Garden of the Senses** include Braille, and walls textured with the shapes of animals and other subjects allow those with vision impairments to get a feel for the park.

Caffeine Boosts

LOCAL COFFEE SHOPS DOLE OUT BEVERAGES TO KICK-START YOUR DAY AND — IN THE CASE OF THESE SEVEN SPOTS — OFFER A LITTLE SOMETHING BEYOND DELICIOUS DRINKS.



FOR MAKING A NEW BESTIE

Rocky Mount's **Larema Coffee House**, named for the word meaning "my friend" in the Acholi language of Uganda, serves tea lattes and coffee milkshakes blended with local ice cream. Return during the evening hours to bond with locals during karaoke and open mic nights.

FOR THE COMMUNITY-MINDED

The leaders of Charlotte's **Community Matters Cafe** — including 2025 James Beard Award semifinalist chef Chayil Johnson — foster life skills for those recovering from addiction. Employees build communication and other soft skills while learning how to bake flaky pastries and brew cinnamon bun mochas.

FOR BARBIE FANS

Glitter, boy-band posters and all of the pink accents burst out of **Backstage Coffee** in Greenville. That sense of childlike glee infuses the menu, too, with offbeat flavors like dragon fruit adding a tart juiciness to lattes topped with vanilla foam and edible glitter.

FOR GLOBAL GIVERS

Brew 2 Rescue Cafe in Hertford serves up homemade sweet potato biscuits (order them as a bun for your breakfast sandwich) and mugs of coffee while giving back to a ministry working to raise awareness about human trafficking and supporting victims overseas.

FOR FRANCOPHILES

Opened by four siblings in honor of their late father, **The Allard Bakery & Bistro** in Hudson fuses local flavors with the deceptively simple elegance of French cuisine. Hazelnut chocolate melts atop crepes, and croissants studded with caramelized onions and Gouda pair with coffee for those on the go.

FOR CUSTOMIZABLE CONCOCTIONS

Baristas at **Cork & Brew** in Roseboro whip up classics, but a fleet of syrups, sauces and add-ons (think cold foam and gummy candy) leave room for experimentation. For a boozier morning, opt for a mimosa flight with flavors like peach and pineapple.



FOR LOVERS OF A GOOD SEA SHANTY

The **Kraken Coffeehouse** crew keeps growing — outposts in Camden and Edenton have come aboard alongside the Elizabeth City flagship. In the galley, creatives mix drinks, such as the Irish cream and caramel-infused Redbeard and a cookie butter latte that shares the shop's name.

Vacations were meant to look like this.

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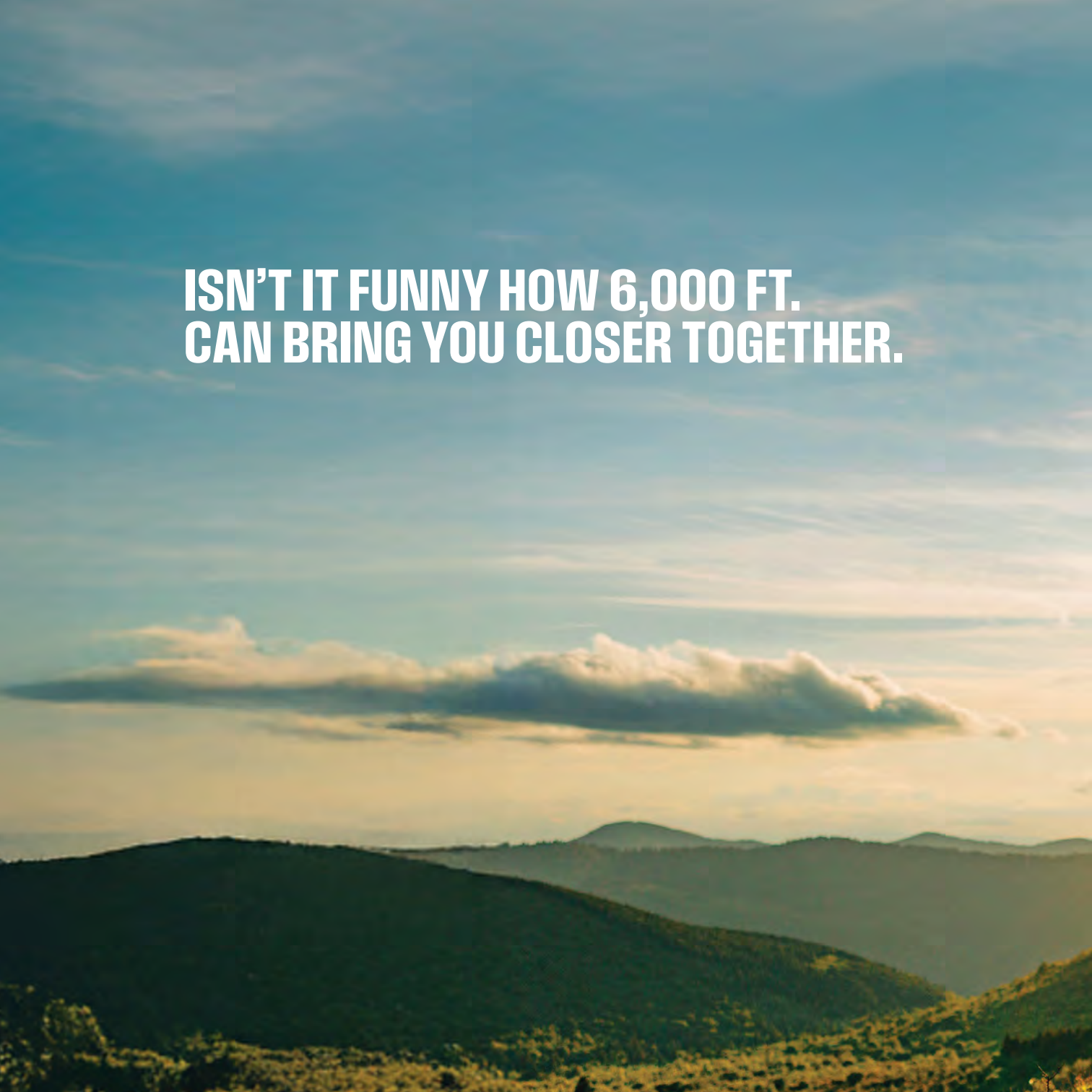
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EMERALD VILLAGE
LITTLE SWITZERLAND

Illuminating Finds

UNEARTH RARE MINERALS AND TRACK DOWN HISTORIC CAVE HIDEOUTS IN THE NORTH CAROLINA WILDERNESS.

Nestled in the Brushy Mountain foothills, Hiddenite is home to the world's only publicly accessible emerald mine. Visitors can prospect **Emerald Hollow Mine** for more than 60 other natural gems and minerals, too, including hiddenite, a rare green gemstone that can only be found in this tiny town. At **Emerald Village** in Little Switzerland, take a self-guided tour of the North Carolina Mining Museum and Bon Ami Mine, sift through buckets of gem ore at Big Deal Mine, and dig for treasure at Crabtree Emerald Mine.

Visitors to **Linville Caverns** in Marion can join year-round tours of the underground limestone complex to see stalactites, stalagmites and other formations — plus hear about the cave system's use as a refuge during the Civil War. Another noteworthy hideaway: **Tory's Den Cave and Waterfall**, named for the Revolutionary War-era Loyalists who holed up in what is now **Hanging Rock State Park**. West of Danbury, take a 0.2-mile hike to the cave from the parking lot, spotting the multitiered falls from a ledge along the way.

Trek trails in the secluded forest of **Boone's Cave Park** in Lexington to reach the cave where Daniel Boone's family is said to have lived for a year. The park is also a great spot for disc golf, wildlife watching and wandering through dozens of native wildflower species.



Bring Rover to roam **Boone's Cave Park** in Lexington. Leashed dogs are welcome throughout the grounds.

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Behind a Bookcase

Named for the glowing beacon above its entrance that signals availability for walk-ins, **The Green Light** in Raleigh is designed to feel like a true 1920s speakeasy. Masked behind stacks of books in **The Merchant NC** — another fine cocktail bar — The Green Light is popular, so reservations are recommended (especially on weekends) for access to drinks like the Honey Rose with lemon, bourbon, rosemary and honey.

Hidden in Plain Sight

Asheville's curious cocktail connoisseurs find **The Crow and Quill** on North Lexington Avenue by looking for the number 106 above the door. Menu mainstays include the low-alcohol Evening Repose, made with sweet vermouth and tonic. In Hickory, **No Entry, A Cocktail Bar** sits unassumingly behind the beer garden of City Walk Brewing and Distilling. Cozy up with craft beverages and nosh on memorable small plates, such as baked feta with tomatoes and focaccia bread.



THE GREEN LIGHT
RALEIGH



Down an Alleyway

An unassuming sign atop a brick veneer arch just off Pailin's Alley in Elizabeth City subtly identifies **Juniper** cocktail bar. A seasonal Old Fashioned leads their menu, and the espresso martini is made with freshly roasted beans sourced from local Muddy Waters Coffeehouse. In a Wilmington alley, **The Blind Elephant** speakeasy is members only, but membership is quick and simple — you'll just need your

ID and a \$5 yearly fee. Once inside, choose from a robust lineup of craft cocktails (including cannabis-infused options), mocktails and more than 200 varieties of whiskey.

Underground

A 10-seat bar in the basement of Charlotte's **Supperland** restaurant offers visitors an exclusive coursed cocktail experience that pairs mixed drinks with small bites. While guests know the seasonal

theme when making reservations, the specific libations and nibbles are meant to be a surprise.

In a Former Jail

Inspired by the Prohibition era, **The Slammer** in Franklinton is a jailhouse-turned-juke joint that hosts live music and serves up a rotating menu of seasonal beverages. Newbies can expect an enthusiastic welcome and a tour of the converted jail, which is housed in the basement of the former town hall.

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

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In Beautiful Highlands, NC

AMAZING DISPLAYS

Sports passions run high in North Carolina. These museums preserve memories and memorabilia for fans to treasure and share.



ACC Hall of Champions

📍 Greensboro

Celebrate the storied Atlantic Coast Conference by gazing at game mementos and posing with life-size mascots from all member universities, including Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, NC State and Wake Forest. (The NC State Wolfpack have two: Mr. and Ms. Wuf.) Sit in a broadcast booth to provide play-by-play for video from conference contests.



Carolina Basketball Museum

📍 Chapel Hill

This shrine to UNC hoops is a short walk from the Dean Smith Center, where the Tar Heels play home games. One of the most impressive exhibits lists all the North Carolina players who have been first-round NBA draft picks — 55 and counting — including a guy named Michael Jordan, who has his own display.



Duke Basketball Museum

📍 Durham

The Blue Devils are up by 4 over archrival UNC with first-round NBA draft picks: Duke has had 59, most of them coached by Mike Krzyzewski, whose legacy pervades this space. In 42 seasons here, Coach K won five national titles. See the photo of “Krzyzewskiville” — a tent village of students camped outside the stadium before a game.



North Carolina Auto Racing Hall of Fame

📍 Mooresville

From start to finish, it’s a fascinating ride through the state’s history of speed, with more than 40 vehicles on display. See the rear wing piece that made Buddy Baker’s 1969 Dodge Daytona fly around the track, and the orange No. 20 car driven by Tony Stewart during his 2005 NASCAR championship season.



North Carolina Baseball Museum

📍 Wilson

Down the left-field line at historic Fleming Stadium — near the home of Minor League Baseball’s new Wilson Warbirds — the museum honors North Carolinians who played the game at all levels, including seven Major Leaguers in the Hall of Fame. An exhibit on Williamston native Gaylord Perry (famous for throwing spitballs) includes a pair of his spikes.



Richard Petty Museum

📍 Randleman

All hail the stock car legend they call King Richard — the most recognizable face (and cowboy hat) of a famous racing family. The museum holds plenty of Petty’s cars and trophies, plus the site maintains his childhood home. Perhaps the most prized item on display is the Presidential Medal of Freedom Petty received in 1992.

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NEW BERN 

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Christopher Prieto's Full Nelson sandwich piles on the beef ribs, pulled pork and sausage.



'CUE THE REMIX

North Carolina pitmasters and restaurateurs are flipping the script, blending tradition with bold flavors, unexpected formats and new-school swagger.

Prime Barbecue 📍 Knightdale

Pitmaster Christopher Prieto combines his Puerto Rican heritage, cross-country travels and deep respect for tradition into what he calls “crossover ‘cue.” The menu pulls inspiration from Eastern North Carolina whole hog barbecue and Texas-style brisket, with dashes of global flair — think red beans and rice replacing slaw on pork trays. “There are no more borders in barbecue,” Prieto says. “Authenticity is always the priority, but creativity tells our story.”

Prieto’s artful approach to barbecue balances science and soul: Modern pits allow for precision, while the slow-smoking technique honors tradition. “Barbecue is a giant science experiment using meat and fire,” he says, making Prime not just a restaurant, but a testing ground that connects cultures, communities and generations. Ready to share? Dig into the Trinity plate of brisket, sausage and ribs — and try the pork- and sausage-studded Puerto Rican barbecue rice.

**SKYLIGHT INN
BBQ AYDEN**



KEEPING IT CLASSIC

IN NORTH CAROLINA, BARBECUE IS BOTH HERITAGE AND RELIGION.

Barbecue loyalty runs deep in North Carolina, especially when it comes to Lexington-style versus whole hog Eastern-style varieties. Lexington-style centers on pork shoulder that's sliced, chopped or pulled and served with a vinegary, tomato-laced "dip." Lexington's **Barbecue Center** is the oldest of a dozen local spots still cooking in a pit, dishing 'cue with the traditional red-tinted slaw. Eastern-style purists use the whole hog, cooking it low and slow before dressing it in a vinegar-pepper sauce. For a taste of the original, head to **Skylight Inn BBQ** in Ayden, where the Jones family has crafted whole hog perfection since 1947.

Farmer and the Dail

📍 Snow Hill

This country cafe rethinks barbecue between two slices of bread. Their brisket melt layers tender slow-smoked and sliced brisket with melty cheese, house barbecue sauce and bacon aioli on toasted sourdough — a rich and smoky upgrade to your typical lunch.

Hardware Cafe

📍 Warrenton

In addition to rotating barbecue specialties (think ribs, brisket wraps and pork bowls), the Boss Hogg steals the show among specialty hot dogs crafted in this restored hardware store. The juicy frank is topped with pulled pork, cheese sauce and coleslaw, all doused with a kicky Sriracha sauce.

Harry's BBQ

📍 New Bern

This local staple cranks up the charm with its plant-adorned patio and dials up the creativity with its Whole Hog pizza. The meaty pie comes loaded with pulled pork, pork belly, mozzarella, whiskey barbecue sauce and crispy onions, turning an Italian icon into a platter of full-on comfort food.

Highlands Smokehouse

📍 Highlands

Thai-inspired fried ribs pack a serious punch — crispy, sticky and kissed with a honey-soy glaze. The global take feels right at home among other meaty favorites, including burnt ends slathered with a Cheerwine barbecue sauce.

Hubba Hubba Smokehouse

📍 Flat Rock

Grilled pimento cheese and barbecue meld in a melt-in-your-mouth sandwich from this woodsy, wood-fired mountain haven. Choose smoky pulled pork or sliced brisket to accompany house-made pimento spread in a soul-satisfying mash-up you won't soon forget.

Pour Folk Provisions Co.

📍 Lexington

In the heart of Lexington-style 'cue country, this brewpub adds a tippy, tangy twist to the traditional barbecue sandwich. Vinegar-based pork is braised in the brewery's signature lager and stacked with red slaw on a soft bun.



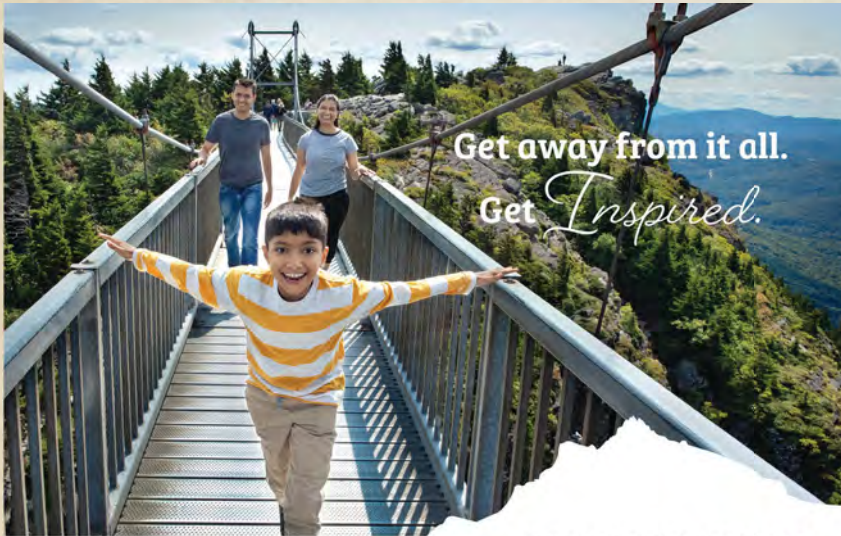
Highlands Smokehouse rolls out the alfresco welcome mat to furry friends. The patio is perfect for pups who love fresh mountain air with a side of dropped rib tips.

High Country

of north carolina



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DESIGNER GREENS

Several renowned golf architects worked magic with North Carolina sod, soil and sand. Their legacies live on at these courses that are open to the public.



PINEHURST NO. 2
PINEHURST

Donald Ross

THE SCOTSMAN ENHANCED AMERICAN GOLF BY DESIGNING 400-PLUS COURSES, INCLUDING DOZENS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

At **The Omni Grove Park Inn** golf course in Asheville, presidents and PGA legends have taken backswings against the backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains and a historic resort hotel. The course turns 100 in 2026, as do the Ross-designed courses at **Waynesville Inn & Golf Club** and the coastal **Wilmington Municipal Golf Course**.

Despite its name, **Pinehurst No. 2** at Pinehurst is No. 1 on golf bucket lists. Incredibly, Ross had limited design experience when he created this Piedmont resort's first four layouts. Though not an especially long course, No. 2 challenges with crowned greens, rustic rough, natural-looking bunkers and shotmaking dilemmas.

The Ross-designed course at **Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club** in Southern Pines can test the best, having hosted the U.S. Women's Open four times. Designed in 1927, it underwent a 2017 restoration that brought back Ross' wide, ridged fairways. The signature hole, No. 3, offers a short yet spectacular par 3.

“

It was right here in these Sandhills that the first great national movement in golf was started.

—DONALD ROSS



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Piedmont

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Jack Nicklaus

📍 Pinehurst No. 9, Pinehurst

The Golden Bear has been designing courses longer than he played them as a pro. This one opened in 1989, becoming the resort's No. 9 in 2014. Nicklaus drew inspiration from Ross' No. 2, but he diverged from the Pinehurst portfolio by drawing up wide fairways and multitiered greens that demand smart shot-shaping.



Tom Fazio

📍 Pinehurst No. 8, Pinehurst

Fazio's designs consistently make lists of best modern courses. He created No. 8, which opened in 1996, for Pinehurst's centennial. Carved from a nature preserve near the resort, the course is secluded, woody and watery — holes route around ponds, marshland and sandy waste areas. The greens are fast and crowned, à la Donald Ross.

Mike Strantz

📍 Tobacco Road Golf Club, Sanford

Though cancer cut his career and life short, Strantz left behind several acclaimed courses, including this one sculpted out of a former tobacco farm and sand quarry. Opened in 1998, Strantz's inventive layout features an array of blind shots, large waste areas, towering dunes and craggy cliffs. Green locations keep you wondering what's next.

THE PRO SHOPS OF PINEHURST

While golfers have a dozen courses to play at Pinehurst, shoppers have even more choices: Eleven pro shops stock golf gear, gifts, artwork, books and more. Get a classic Pinehurst polo to wear on your local links, a souvenir pin flag, or tumblers for sipping on the go. In addition to a large golf shop inside the main clubhouse, there are two shops at The Carolina Hotel, plus pro shops near outlying courses.

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OUTDOOR **NC**

Coast

HOW DO YOU MAKE A MEMORABLE DAY OF GOLF EVEN BETTER? JUST ADD WATER. DRAIN PUTTS AND SOAK IN THE SCENERY AT COASTAL COURSES.

Arnold Palmer

📍 Occano, Merry Hill

Arnie played college golf a few hours away at Wake Forest. His course teaches the virtues of aggressive driving and drawing or fading the ball. It also maximizes proximity to Albemarle Sound, with 11 holes with water views. Palmer insisted on keeping a tree that stands in the middle of the 13th fairway.

Ellis Maples

📍 Brandywine Bay Golf Club, Morehead City

A Donald Ross protégé, Maples shaped dozens of North Carolina courses, including this one originally designed by Bruce Devlin. Maples revamped holes that route between pines and around water. Tight fairways and doglegs reward accuracy, while greens guarded by slopes punish timid approaches.

Fred Couples

📍 Carolina National Golf Club, Bolivia

At age 65, Couples still plays competitively, just missing the cut at the 2025 Masters. Here, he designed three 9-hole layouts named for large native birds seen on-site: The Egret, The Heron and The Ibis. Chase your own birdies and eagles amid the serene wetland landscape situated along the Lockwood Folly River.



BRANDYWINE BAY GOLF CLUB
MOREHEAD CITY

Mountains

TAKE YOUR GOLF GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL ON DEMANDING COURSES FULL OF INVIGORATING PEAKS AND VALLEYS — AND EXHILARATING VISTAS.

William Prevost Sr.

📍 Maggie Valley Club & Resort, Maggie Valley

While not as well-known as other course designers, Prevost founded this club in the early 1960s, turning farm fields into fairways. A 2007 renovation modernized the course, which features an 800-foot rise in elevation from the front Valley Nine to the back Mountain Nine. The 13th green delivers majestic mountain views.

Robert Trent Jones Jr.

📍 Sequoyah National Golf Club, Whittier

Jones apprenticed with his famous golf architect father before setting out on his own. This course, owned by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, opened in 2009, taking golfers on a stroke-stoked journey through the region's Native culture (with help from tee-box signs) and natural beauty (with help from the Great Smoky Mountains).

“

The very best courses are those where nature has provided the canvas, and my job is to discover her secrets and reveal them.

—ROBERT TRENT JONES JR.

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DIRTBAG ALES BREWERY AND TAPROOM
HOPE MILLS

Raise a Glass to Fayetteville

Fayetteville weaves patriotism into its name. The Piedmont city honors Revolutionary War hero and French aristocrat Marquis de Lafayette. **Gaston Brewing Company** continues that connection, drawing its name from the French word for host. The brewery's restaurant sits within walking distance of the **U.S. Army Airborne & Special Operations Museum**. Fayetteville's Fort Bragg became known as Home of the Airborne during WWII. Today it's the world's largest airborne facility. Fort Bragg's Womack Army Medical Center brought together the owners of **Dirtbag Ales Brewery and Taproom** in nearby Hope Mills. Heroes Homecoming pilsner, brewed with NC ingredients, honors those who've served. Old Glory hangs above the brewing tanks at **Heckler Brewing Company** in Fayetteville, a reminder of the privilege it is to drink in peace.

RAISE A GLASS

In Charlotte, **Olde Mecklenburg Brewery's** Captain Jack pilsner salutes patriot James Jack, who rode horseback from Charlotte to Philadelphia carrying the Mecklenburg Resolves, a set of anti-British resolutions predating the Declaration of Independence.

More Patriotic Pints

FIND STAR-SPANGLED SUDS ACROSS THE STATE.

NC Beer Factory

📍 Rocky Mount

This nanobrewery not only invites customers to gather in its taproom, but also encourages building community through partnerships with local charities.

Salty Turtle Beer Co.

📍 Surf City and Raleigh

With two Marine veterans as part owners, Salty Turtle embodies service by supporting the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center.

Tobacco Wood Brewing Co.

📍 Oxford and Durham

North Carolina's first female-veteran-founded brewery won gold at the 2021 Great American Beer Festival for The Admiral, a smooth and bold imperial stout.

Topsail Island Brewing

📍 Sneads Ferry

Check out the wall of military photos inside this brewery, which also recognizes those who have served through employment opportunities, beer names and T-shirts.



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SEE THE SITES

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Wilmywood

THE CAMERA-READY CITY OF WILMINGTON AND ITS NEARBY ISLAND BEACHES EARN SCREEN TIME IN MORE THAN 300 FILMS AND TELEVISION SHOWS.

The Summer I Turned Pretty

This wildly popular 2022–2025 Prime Video series captures a perfect summer around the Wilmington area, and you can, too — but no guarantees you’ll make like Belly Conklin and get caught in a love triangle between two brothers. *Pretty* feels like an undersell at **Fort Fisher State Recreation Area** in Kure Beach, one of the settings for the show’s fictional Cousins Beach. Fake snow was used at Fort Fisher

for an iconic scene in Season Two, and you can create your own flurry of romance by driving on the beach (four-wheel drive only) or walking hand in hand along the boardwalk trail through maritime forest. Continue your date at **Carolina Beach Boardwalk** (also featured in Season Two) and play carnival games like the main characters. Then head into Wilmington for burgers at **Hell’s Kitchen**, featured not only in *The Summer I Turned Pretty*, but also *Dawson’s Creek* and *One Tree Hill*.



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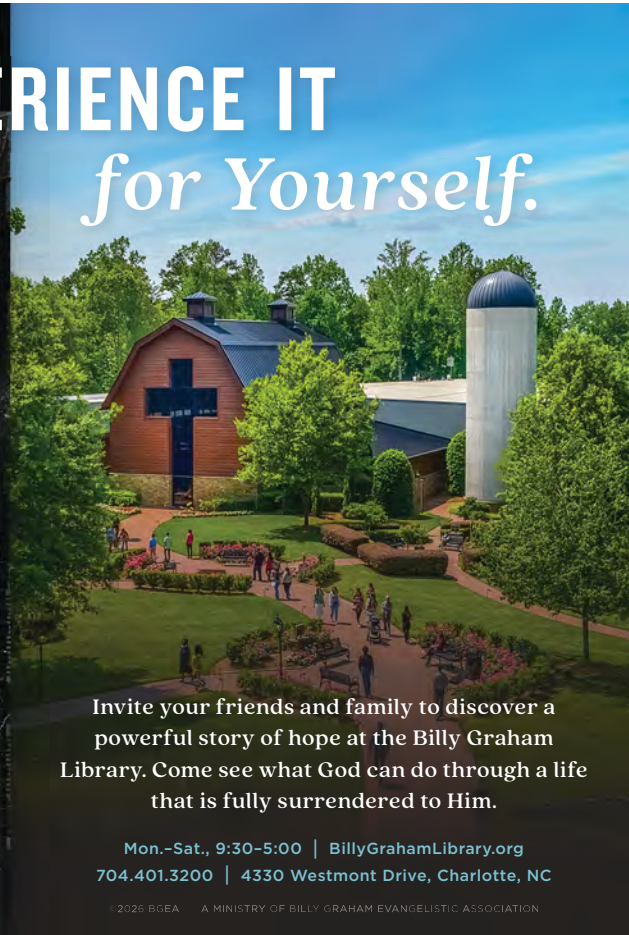
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Charlotte and Beyond

THE QUEEN CITY REGION CONTAINS A NUMBER OF GEMS IN ITS FILM PRODUCTION CROWN. HERE ARE THREE THAT FREQUENTLY FLY UNDER THE RADAR.



Please Don't Destroy:

The Treasure of Foggy Mountain

Don't expect anything too deep in this 2023 comedy narrated by John Goodman, even though its film sites are packed with action and adventure. Characters rollerblade through Charlotte's **NoDa** (North Davidson) neighborhood, home to dozens of colorful murals and dining spots like **NoDa Company Store**. Head west for hilly hikes and epic climbs at **Crowders Mountain State Park**, where the crew searches for treasure. Try your own luck casting for bass, bluegill and crappie at the fishing pier.

Homeland

Charlotte served as the backdrop for the first three seasons of the 2011–2020 spy thriller featuring Claire Danes. Between shoots, Danes and co-star Damian Lewis often dined at **Good Food on Montford**, showcasing a seasonal lineup of global small plates. Afterward, cross the bridge covered with lovers' locks at **Freedom Park**, a frequent locale for the show's outdoor scenes.

American Animals

The lines between reality and fiction are often blurred in this gripping 2018 docudrama, but one thing's for certain: That's the Charlotte skyline standing in for Lexington, Kentucky. North of the city, the Chambers Building at **Davidson College** was the exterior setting for the film's pivotal heist scenes. Nearby **Kindred** will steal your carb-loving heart with its acclaimed milk bread.



MOUNTAIN SPOTLIGHTS

RELIVE MEMORABLE MOMENTS FROM A TRIO OF HOLLYWOOD BLOCKBUSTERS.

Dirty Dancing

At **Lake Lure Inn & Spa**, you'll have the time of your life staying in the same guest rooms as Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey, who starred in the 1987 film shot nearby. The inn also rents two *Dirty Dancing*-theme cabins.

Forrest Gump

"Run, Forrest, run!" In the 1994 classic, Tom Hanks' character famously crosses the country on foot. Hanks' brother Jim served as a stand-in for the run up a drivable switchback at **Grandfather Mountain** that's aptly named Forrest Gump Curve.

The Hunger Games

No need to volunteer as tribute before venturing into the wilderness of Panem — aka **DuPont State Recreational Forest**. For the 2012 film, scenes with Katniss and Peeta were shot near Triple Falls (viewable from an overlook) and Bridal Veil Falls (accessible via two trails).



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By Nicholas Sparks

ONE OF NORTH CAROLINA'S MOST-READ AUTHORS LOVES TO SHOWCASE THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE TAR HEEL STATE IN HIS COMPELLING ROMANCE NOVELS. YET THE HEART-TUGGING NATURE OF THESE LOCATIONS IS ANYTHING BUT FICTIONAL.

📍 New Bern

Nicholas Sparks has a soft spot for this coastal community; it's featured in his novels *A Bend in the Road*, *The Wedding and The Notebook*. He also lives here — right along the Trent River. The town's self-guided *A Walk to Remember* tour leads devotees to 15 sites referenced in his books. Start at **Tryon Palace**, the state's first Capitol, which hosted George Washington in 1791 and still stuns with meticulously manicured

gardens. Additional stops include **The Birthplace of Pepsi-Cola** (serving the drink where Caleb Bradham concocted it in 1898). Mentioned in *The Notebook* as “one of the best restaurants in town,” **The Harvey** is writing a new chapter as a stunningly renovated boutique hotel. Located in a 1790s mansion, The Harvey's guest rooms and common areas marry old-time architecture with modern decor and contemporary furnishings.



**THE HARVEY
NEW BERN**

25

Sparks novels written — most of them showcasing North Carolina settings

50+

language translations

130

MILLION

(and counting) copies sold worldwide



**THE BIRTHPLACE
OF PEPSI-COLA
NEW BERN**



**UNION POINT PARK
NEW BERN**



SPARKS NOTES

In an interview with our travel guide editors, Nicholas Sparks called New Bern “pretty darn beautiful in its own special way, especially around sunset. There are few places like it.”

Sparks’ favorite locale to read a book (aside from his own backyard) is **Union Point Park** at the convergence of the Neuse and Trent rivers. As for unwinding on the water, he frequently travels up **Brice’s Creek** on a Jet Ski or in a boat. “It’s really easy to just kind of float along up there and think to yourself, *This hasn’t changed in 300 years or more,*” he says.

Sparks loves to end his days on his back porch, “watching the play of light as it changes over the course of a day into evening.” And once the sun goes down, there’s more to experience. “You see a lot of shooting stars,” he says. “It’s got its charms when you sit out and hear crickets — and there are fireflies too. You just kind of let the day happen to you.”

More Sparks Settings

YOU DON'T HAVE TO READ THE BOOKS TO FALL FOR THESE COASTAL AND PIEDMONT SETTINGS — BUT IT DOES ADD TO THEIR ALLURE.



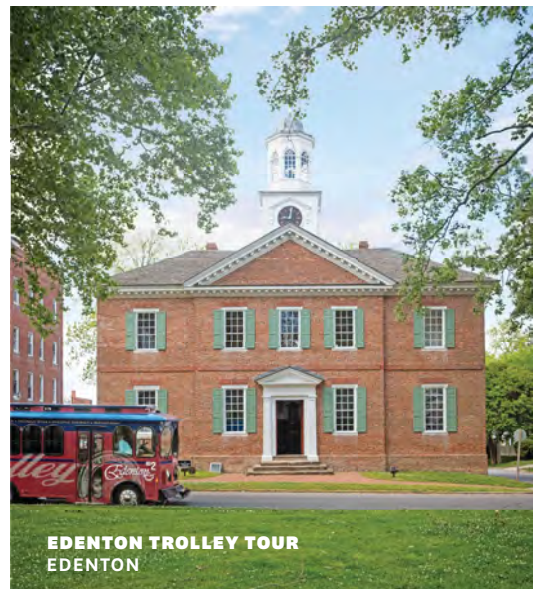
BIRKHEAD MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS ASHEBORO

📍 **Asheboro**

Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction. Shortly after Sparks wrote about rare white deer in his 2024 novel *Counting Miracles*, they seemed to miraculously appear on the property of the **North Carolina Zoo**. The free-roaming deer are indeed elusive, but you may try your luck spotting them along the Tot Hill and Thornburg trails in the **Birkhead Mountains Wilderness** area of Uwharrie National Forest. Downtown Asheboro plays a supporting role in the story about unearthing the past. Find your own treasures at furniture and gift shop **Minkology**, or among loose-leaf options at **Carriage House Tea**.

📍 **Edenton**

While the main character in the 2000 Sparks novel *The Rescue* struggles to fall in love, visitors have no issues getting attached to its setting of Edenton. Perched on the banks of Albemarle Sound, the **Penelope Barker House Welcome Center** recounts the 1774 Edenton Tea Party — the first known political action by women in Colonial America. Once you've allowed the waterfront of Edenton Bay to fully soak in from the welcome center's double porch, hop aboard an engaging **Edenton Trolley Tour** for a narrated trip through the centuries.



EDENTON TROLLEY TOUR EDENTON

**OCRACOKE
LIGHTHOUSE
OCRACOKE**

Ocracoke Island

The village of Ocracoke makes the perfect backdrop for *The Wish*, a 2021 Sparks novel in which the main character is inspired by a boy who photographs the island's idyllic landscapes. Snap your own memories at **Ocracoke Lighthouse**. Built in 1823, the beacon towers 75 feet over the village, its 8,000-candlepower beam visible up to 14 miles offshore. For another serene scene, hike a trail through salt marsh and grasslands at **Springer's Point Nature Preserve**. Legendary pirate Blackbeard met his fate here.



LOVE LETTERS

On Bird Island near Sunset Beach, the **Kindred Spirit Mailbox** — where visitors share their deepest thoughts and desires — inspired the 2018 Sparks novel *Every Breath*. “While it has a rich history all its own, what has stayed with me all these years is the romantic notion of a lonely mailbox in the middle of nowhere filled with handwritten notes of love, loss and hope,” Sparks says.

THE BLOWING ROCK
BLOWING ROCK



PARKWAY PAIRINGS

The undulating Blue Ridge Parkway has been dubbed America's Favorite Drive for its scenic twists and roadside attractions. Double your fun with nearby stops that pack a one-two punch along the North Carolina stretch of its 469 miles.

ROCK + ROLL

Gaze out over Johns River Gorge at **The Blowing Rock**, located off the Blue Ridge

Parkway exit at Milepost 291.8. The landmark got its name from the vertical gusts of wind that blow through the gorge and up the steep slopes surrounding it. Legend says the winds were powerful enough to blow back a young Chickasaw woman's Cherokee lover who leapt from the overlook. From there, head to Blowing Rock's **Tweetsie Railroad**, where train rides and an amusement park provide entertainment for visitors of all ages. Hop aboard one of two vintage narrow-gauge locomotives for a journey past Wild West scenes before exploring the rest of the park's offerings, including a carousel, Ferris wheel, gold-panning area, arcade and Western-themed live performances.

All paths lead to peak moments.

In the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, there's room to breathe. Lose yourself in the landscape and uncover the peace of a place where time is always well spent.

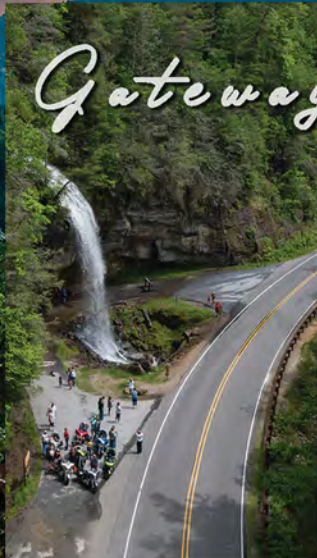
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JACKSON COUNTY

CLIMB + CASCADE

Milepost 451.2 leads to the Blue Ridge Parkway's highest visitor center: **Waterrock Knob** in Jackson County. From the parking lot, hike a 1.2-mile out-and-back trail to the summit for a panorama of the Great Smoky Mountains. Not far away (Milepost 455.7), **Soco Falls** provides another striking view. From the parking lot, it's less than a five-minute walk to see the double falls.

CATCH + COZY

Take the exit at Milepost 294 for **The Speckled Trout Outfitters**, a Blowing Rock-based paradise for anglers, who can book guided fly-fishing excursions at well-stocked rivers and creeks with wade-in access. After a long day of casting, wind down at **Rhode's Motor Lodge** in Boone, where the nostalgia of a drive-up motor inn meets the luxury of a modern mountain lodge.



OUTDOOR **NC**
**LEAVE
NO TRACE**
PRINCIPLE

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

Sections of the Blue Ridge Parkway may be closed from time to time due to weather or maintenance. For the latest updates, visit [nps.gov/blri](https://www.nps.gov/blri)



WOODS + WONDER

Milepost 411.8 leads ramblers to the **Cradle of Forestry** in Pisgah National Forest. It's the location of the nation's first forestry school, founded in 1898, and home to 3 miles of trails dotted with seven preserved buildings that guests can explore at their own pace. Rest up for more Parkway pursuits at the **Pisgah Inn** near Canton, where the 5,000-foot elevation offers majestic Blue Ridge mountainscapes.

FLORA + FOLK ART

Enjoy elevated views of blooming rhododendrons, violets and more at **Craggy Gardens** near Swannanoa. A visitors center is located at Milepost 364.4, with trails and a picnic area nearby. As you approach Asheville, pull off the Parkway to browse the **Folk Art Center** and its collection of Appalachian folk art.



PHOTOGRAPHS: (OVERLOOK) STEVE YOCOM, (LODGE) TOMMY PENICK, (FOLK ART) C2 PHOTOGRAPHY

Book your campsite and enjoy a Naturally Wonderful evening!



Cabins



Tent Sites



RV Sites



Paddle-in Sites

ncparks.gov/camping



COAST ENCOUNTERS

In Eastern North Carolina, the water provides sustenance, recreation and commerce. It also inspires wonder about the creatures that make their homes here.



Instigator **Fishing and Diving** **Charters**

📍 **Hubert**

For a good rush, don a wetsuit, fins and a mask — and grab your spear — before plunging into the Atlantic on a spearfishing dive. Experienced captains lead trips to natural ledges where spiny lobsters hide. Pesky lionfish are also a target. Afterward, channel your inner King Triton and strike a trophy pose with your catch.

Wrightsville **Kayak Co.**

📍 **Wrightsville Beach**

Sharks Tooth Island may sound like a mythical place from a blockbuster movie, but this outfitter has the treasure map to the real deal. On a self-guided tour, paddle to the island on the Cape Fear River, spending a half day hunting for fossilized teeth from megalodon, great white, hammerhead and other shark species. A handy identification guide outlines the species for each shape and size.

On Water

EXPERIENCE OYSTER FARMING, SPEARFISHING AND BEACHCOMBING ON GUIDED TOURS BY PROFESSIONALS WHO KNOW THE SECRETS BENEATH THE SURFACE.

NC Oyster Trail

What if you could support ocean health by slurping oysters and tossing back the shells? That isn't wishful thinking — it's a fact. An oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water daily, and shells provide habitat for marine creatures. Learn more along the **NC Oyster Trail**, a collection of restaurants, markets and experiences. Board

a pontoon with **Ghost Fleet Oyster Co.** to tour a farm near North Topsail Beach, discovering how water composition affects flavor. At **Slash Creek Oyster Co.** in Hatteras, ocean tides washing into Pamlico Sound create a unique balance. Ride in their boat, *The Half Shell*, to see the operation.

ACCESSIBLE FUN FOR ALL

Each July in Nags Head, professional surfers and therapists join forces at **Surfing for Autism**, sharing the sport's therapeutic benefits with people on the autism spectrum over the course of a weekend.

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Download on the
App Store



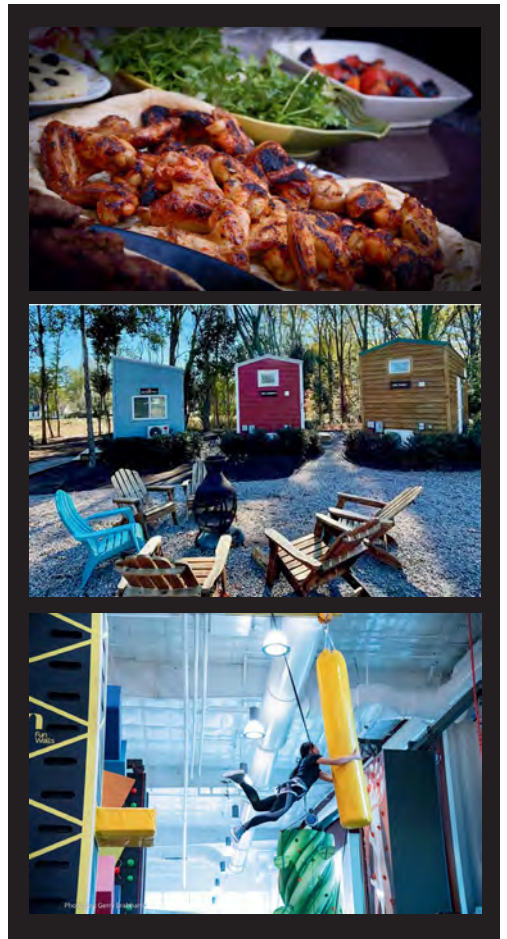
ROCKY MOUNT & NASH COUNTY – NORTH CAROLINA'S BEST-KEPT GETAWAY.

Just off I-95, Nash County makes it easy to check in and start exploring. Choose from well-known hotel brands or a unique stay at River & Twine, North Carolina's largest tiny house hotel, located at historic Rocky Mount Mills—also home to the state's largest craft beer incubator.

Dine at 100+ restaurants, from pit-smoked barbecue to chef-driven cuisine, then stretch your legs on the Tar River Trail, browse local shops, or catch a community festival.

Families can get active at Game Day Adventures with climbing walls, a ninja ropes course, and arcade fun.

With authentic flavor, small-town hospitality, and experiences you won't find anywhere else, Rocky Mount & Nash County turn a quick stop into an unforgettable getaway.



EXIT 95 on I-95

Free to roam.



VisitSmithfield.org

In Smithfield stretch your legs and dollars at Carolina Premium Outlets. Meander through locally-owned boutiques for treasures, sweet treats, and small-town charm. Explore Downtown's dining selections, visit the well-curated Ava Gardner Museum, and stroll along the Buffalo Creek Greenway.

On Land

MEET THE ANIMALS THAT INHABIT FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS ALONG THE NORTH CAROLINA COAST — AND THE PEOPLE WORKING TO ENSURE THEIR FUTURES.

The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation

Center 📍 Surf City

Book a tour of this rehab facility to see loggerhead, Kemp's ridley and green turtles. Observe the progression from rescued turtles acclimating in the sick bay to rehabilitated turtles awaiting release. Those lucky enough to visit during a release event experience the center's ultimate goal: returning healthy turtles to their home-sweet-salty-home in the ocean.

Red Wolf Center

📍 Columbia

Red wolves are the most endangered wolves in North America. Learn about their plight and efforts being made to sustain the

species at Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. Engaging educational exhibits outline the wolves' struggles, while a pair of wolves at the center inspires visitors to do their part to ensure the creatures' survival.

Wild horses

📍 Corolla and Shackleford Banks

It's hard to describe the experience of seeing a horse emerge atop a dune or a foal trotting in step alongside its mother through the sand. Catch these magical moments on the northern beaches of Corolla or along the skinny southern strip of Shackleford Banks. Be sure to stay at least 50 feet away from the horses — it's the law.

OUTDOOR **NC**
**LEAVE
NO TRACE**
PRINCIPLE

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

No matter whether you're visiting sea turtles, red wolves, wild horses or other creatures, all wildlife should be treated with respect in all areas.



**WILD HORSES
COROLLA**

Ben Lindemann



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Fresh Catches

CALABASH CRUNCH. OYSTER LIQUOR. BOTTOMLESS HUSH PUPPIES. THESE RESTAURANTS DELIVER SIGNATURE FLAVORS COOKED INTO THE REGION'S CULTURE.



Bay Sire Bistro

📍 Jackson

Surrounded by farm fields in the rural northeast corner of the state, Bay Sire Bistro conjures coastal cravings with a crab-dip appetizer and shellfish-packed risotto. Friday nights bring rotating specials, like the seafood platter with fried flounder and jumbo shrimp.

Cafe Pamlico

📍 Buxton

Start your Outer Banks day with a flight of four mimosas and eggs Benedict or shrimp and grits. Guests of the attached Inn on Pamlico Sound enjoy complimentary kayaks and paddleboards — a perfect way to work off the indulgent breakfasts.

Mayo's Seafood Restaurant

📍 Bayboro

This casual eatery makes use of its proximity to rivers, streams and sounds that teem with fresh fish and shellfish. When in season, lightly breaded soft-shell crabs are a delicacy on a plate or sandwich. Hush puppies are a must year-round.

Preston's Corner Bar and Grill

📍 Swansboro

In this small town bordered by waterways and minutes from the ocean, two Southern traditions meet on a bun: Pimento cheese tops fried shrimp for a spicy shrimp burger, complete with fried jalapeños. Wash it down with a seasonal cocktail.

Rx Chicken & Oysters

📍 Wilmington

This downtown restaurant maintains historical ties while ensuring a brighter future. The name and building honor former tenant Hall's Drug Store. The husband-and-wife owners regularly spearfish for menu items (including invasive lionfish) and farm their own shellfish for clam ceviche and Lucy Bea oysters on the half shell.

Sunny Side Oyster Bar

📍 Williamston

No frills. No fuss. And no luck in months without an "r." Just oysters, shrimp, scallops and crab legs

steamed and served with cocktail sauce, butter and crackers. Open September through April since 1935, the restaurant draws charm from its simplicity. (No website, reservations or side dishes necessary.)

Waterfront Seafood Shack

📍 Calabash

Watch boats unload their bounty onto the dock while waiting on baskets and sandwiches filled with Calabash-style seafood that's freshly caught and lightly fried. This open-air restaurant hosts diners at grass umbrella-shaded picnic tables with pristine river views. It's just one of more than a half-dozen local restaurants serving up the signature flash-fried and breaded icon of Brunswick County.



200Main 

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

BEAUTY
YOU CAN FEEL
MOMENTS
YOU'LL REMEMBER

Where trails, rivers, lakes, mountain views, and charming Main Streets invite you to slow down, explore, and make memories that last.



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#VISITLIKEITMATTERS



RACE AND SHINE

Start your engines for this scenic, storied exploration of stock car racing and distilling along North Carolina's Moonshine and Motorsports Trail.



STONE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK
ROARING GAP

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.

In the middle of the 20th century, North Carolina served as the proving ground for the burgeoning sport of stock car racing. That era's drivers competed against one another on the track in NASCAR's earliest days, but some also raced the law — hauling illegal moonshine through the countryside in swift, modified vehicles. The Moonshine and Motorsports Trail traces those histories, making 17 pit stops at historic parks, speedways and museums dedicated to the collective roots



of auto racing and distilling.

Parks

Admire the symbolism at Kannapolis' **Dale Earnhardt Tribute Plaza**, where the granite base of The Intimidator's statue is separated into seven sections — one for each of his Winston Cup titles. Hike along **Dismal Swamp State Park's** trails near South Mills, keeping your eyes peeled for wildlife and Prohibition-era moonshine stills. Spy an eclectic mix of mammals, reptiles and birds at the **North Carolina Zoo** in Asheboro, mere miles from two storied locales: Purgatory Mountain, an infamous bootleggers' lair, and Level Cross, the birthplace of the Petty family's racing dynasty. Near Roaring Gap, wander for miles through **Stone Mountain State Park**, the bygone moonshine hub that's now home to intoxicatingly gorgeous hiking trails like the Stone Mountain Loop Trail, which meanders along the park's woods, through its valleys and past the mountain's tiered waterfall.



DALE EARNHARDT TRIBUTE
PLAZA KANNAPOLIS

WHAT STIRS YOUR SOUL?



In Cabarrus County is a collection of distinctive cities and towns that merge to form one extraordinary destination. Here, the pulse-pounding rush of racing goes hand in hand with an easy-going hometown vibe. From lively downtowns to serene trails, the unique rhythm of each area combines with remarkable hospitality to create an uncommon experience you won't soon forget. What Stirs Your Soul? Plan your getaway at [ExploreCabarrus.com](https://www.exploreCabarrus.com).



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](https://www.firstpeaknc.com) • 



**CHARLOTTE MOTOR
SPEEDWAY** CONCORD

RACE SHOP PIT STOPS

**GO OFF-TRACK
WITH SOME OF THE
BIGGEST NAMES
IN AUTO RACING.**

Hendrick Motorsports

📍 Concord

The headquarters of the winningest organization in NASCAR — more than a dozen Cup Series titles to its name — is open to visitors on weekdays. Peruse race trophies and other memorabilia in the campus' two lobbies before absorbing additional history at the museum.

JR Motorsports

📍 Mooresville

Eager to get a glimpse of a NASCAR team's operation? Schedule a free shop tour to see how JR Motorsports — co-owned by Dale Earnhardt Jr. — outfits its cars for race day.

Penske Racing

📍 Mooresville

Swing by the Team Penske Retail Store to nab a shirt or cap for your next day at the track. Then climb the stairs to the fan walk, the perfect perch to watch mechanics tune the team's cars.

Speedways 🏆

**RELIVE THE EARLY DAYS OF
DIRT TRACK RACING OR WATCH
TODAY'S STARS SCRAPE THE
WALL AS THEY SPEED AROUND A
MODERN-DAY SUPER SPEEDWAY.**

The finely tuned machines that roar around today's banked behemoths can trace their ancestry to the cars that zipped through the early temples of speed throughout North Carolina. In 1946, **North Wilkesboro Speedway** was famously built as a dirt track for whiskey runners to perfect (and showboat) their high-speed handling. Eighty years on, the storied track hosts today's speed demons who compete in NASCAR races. A little more than 50 miles east, **Bowman Gray Stadium** in Winston-Salem

originally served as a football field for college games before earning the nickname "The Madhouse" for chaotic racing around its quarter-mile track. Racing fans who visit **Occoneechee Speedway** in Hillsborough can walk the trail around the dirt track, the only remaining such track from NASCAR's inaugural season. In Rougemont, "the fastest 3/8-mile racetrack in America" — aka **Orange County Speedway** — still hosts racing, with drivers taking the 19-degree banked turns at white-knuckle speeds. Last year, NASCAR returned to **Rockingham Speedway**, 60 years after the legendary Curtis Turner christened "The Rock" with his final victory. Then there's Concord's state-of-the-art **Charlotte Motor Speedway**, where the best drivers in the world gun it around the 1.5-mile oval during the longest NASCAR race of the season: the Coca-Cola 600.



HISTORY WAS MADE ★ HERE ★

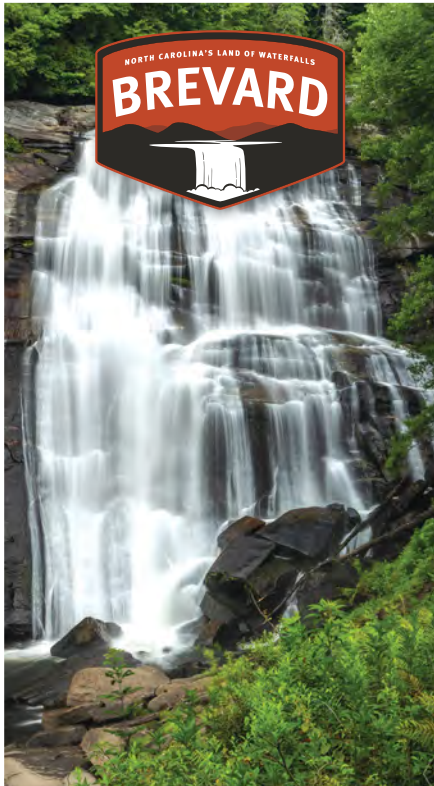


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Nestled in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Mitchell County, NC, offers a rare blend of adventure, art, and Appalachian charm across three distinct towns. In **Bakersville**, explore a vibrant arts community and explore our section of the Appalachian 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](https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverMitchell)
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www.discovermitchellnc.com

Museums

MOONSHINERS, RACE CAR DRIVERS AND FRONTIERSMEN LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR TODAY'S NORTH CAROLINA. DELVE INTO THEIR STORIES AT THESE SITES.



NASCAR HALL OF FAME
CHARLOTTE

Johnston County Heritage Center and Johnston County Museum

 Smithfield

Separated by a block of E. Market Street, these partner organizations have long documented the county's history, with records predating the Civil War. The museum is housed in the former Rose's Department Store, and it's where travelers can learn about Percy Flowers, a Johnston County moonshiner prolific enough to earn a mention in *The Saturday Evening Post*.

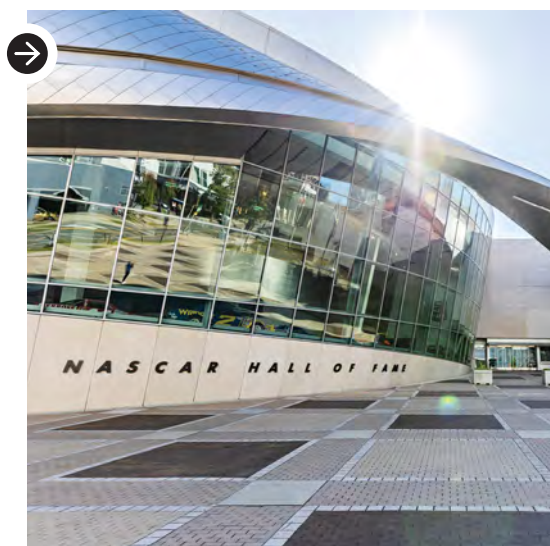
Mountain Gateway Museum and Heritage Center

 Old Fort

Envision life on the Appalachian frontier, where families spun and wove traditional crafts and concocted folk medicine remedies (and, indeed, some moonshine). The museum also includes a pair of 19th-century cabins. One of them, the Morgan Cabin, was configured with a design of 13 logs, 13 beams and 13 joists, which Appalachians believed would bring good luck.

ACCESSIBLE FUN FOR ALL

The **NASCAR Hall of Fame** is a certified Sensory Inclusive venue. Anyone in need of a sensory kit — which contains headphones, fidget tools and other items — can check one out upon arrival.



PHOTOGRAPHS: KEENAN HAIRSTON, (BOAT) KATE MEDLEY, (TRAIN) DALTON PERRY



Museum of Ashe County History

📍 Jefferson

Within the 1904 Ashe County Courthouse, this museum chronicles the county's mining industry with an authentic dynamite blasting box. The area's moonshining roots aren't in dispute either. Just check out the mid-20th-century still, which the museum's staff says could still work today. Nearby, the *Virginia Creeper* train exhibit features a model locomotive chugging through accurate models of Ashe County towns.

Museum of the Albemarle

📍 Elizabeth City

This northeast North Carolina region was home to some of the first European settlers, and the museum's exhibits describe how the Albemarle's people lived off the land and coastal waters. Those nearby rivers and sounds later provided both fresh water for moonshine making and splashy escape routes for evading authorities. The region's sweeping swampland also made a great hiding spot for stills.



Museum of the Albemarle covers coastal stories from both human and animal perspectives.

NASCAR Hall of Fame

📍 Charlotte

Racing's legendary drivers are forever enshrined in the Hall of Honor here, and this year, you can see the cars and collections of three Class of 2026 inductees: Kurt Busch, Harry Gant and Ray Hendrick. Want to put your own foot to the floor? Climb into a thrilling racing simulator to rip around a favorite NASCAR track.



North Carolina Transportation Museum

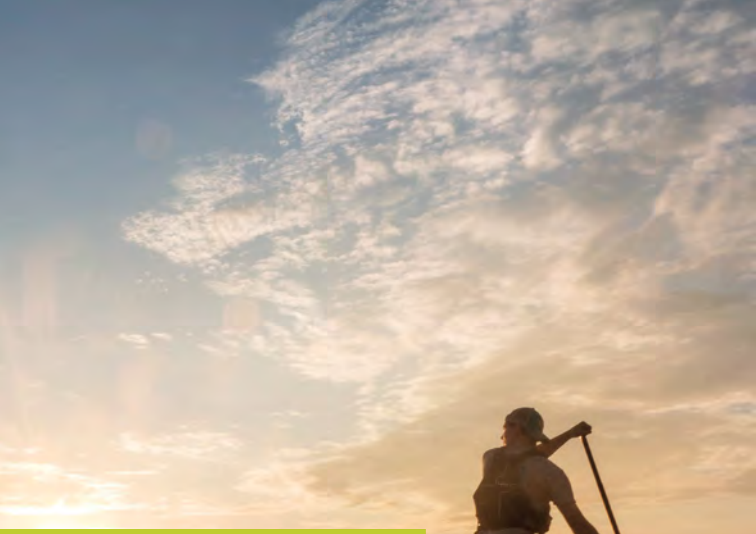
📍 Spencer

This former railway repair facility is now a monument to trains, cars and planes from earlier eras. Inspect a replica Wright Flyer — the first plane to achieve sustained, controlled flight — before embarking on a train ride through history. Or wander through the Back Shop, a massive space filled with antique railcars, fire trucks and automobiles.





JOYCE KILMER MEMORIAL FOREST ROBBINSVILLE



HAMMOCKS BEACH STATE PARK SWANSBORO



RIVERWALK HICKORY

OUTDOOR SAMPLER

North Carolina and Mother Nature make quite the team, welcoming wanderers with an enticing array of outdoor options. Avoid adventure overwhelm by choosing one — or several — of these spectacular starting points.

WRITER **JASON FRYE**



OCRACOKE ISLAND





**HEMLOCK BLUFFS
NATURE PRESERVE**
CARY

OUTDOOR **NC**
**LEAVE
NO TRACE**
PRINCIPLE

**STICK TO
TRAILS AND
OVERNIGHT RIGHT**

Keep to designated trails and durable surfaces to protect trailside plants. Camp at existing or designated sites.

ALONG THE BOARDWALK

Boardwalks offer more than an easy waterfront stroll. In the Tar Heel State, they teem with carnivorous plants, lead you through cypress groves and inspire you to take notice of the natural world.

VENUS FLYTRAPS

Patches of carnivorous plants grow beside elevated boardwalks at **Carolina Beach State Park**, allowing for close encounters with the native Venus flytrap. The wheelchair-accessible, mixed-surface Flytrap Trail leads through longleaf pine forests, pocosin wetlands and wild-grass savannas.

SUBURBAN FOREST

Eastern hemlock trees, galax and other mountain vegetation thrive in **Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve**, a 140-acre patch of unspoiled wilderness in Cary. Boardwalks on Swift Creek Loop keep the fragile ecosystem healthy while giving you bee-worthy access to wildflowers in spring.

CYPRESS SWAMP

Watery trails lead kayakers through **Goose Creek State Park** in Washington, while land-based explorers navigate the cypress swamp on a boardwalk suspended over serene waters. Cypress trees line the walkway, their knees jutting out of the water like Seussian sculptures.

CITY SOLITUDE

The Catawba River sets the pace along Hickory's **Riverwalk**, a respite from the bustle of downtown's shops and restaurants. Sections of this pet-, bike- and pedestrian-friendly boardwalk and trail hang over the river, offering an uninterrupted perspective of the water and woody shore.

INDIGENOUS INFLUENCE

Dugout canoes hidden for a thousand years have emerged from the silty mud of Lake Phelps — evidence of Indigenous history at what became **Pettigrew State Park**. Shoreside boardwalks highlight new aspects of this Creswell lake where stargazing opportunities and winter tundra swans abound.

BIKING FOR ALL

You only need two wheels and the right trail to see North Carolina through fresh eyes.

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.

MOUNTAIN RIDES

After one glimpse of the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky mountains, riders know this land was built for mountain biking. Around Hendersonville, **Ride Kanuga** was created by and for bikers. Beginners develop skills on progressive trails, and experts hone their techniques on feature-filled runs. At **Tsali Recreation Area** near Robbinsville, old logging roads help you cut to the chase on 40 miles of trails in four big loops.

RAIL TRAILS

Hop in the saddle near Lincolnton and coast past seldom-seen vistas of the Catawba River along the **South Fork Rail Trail**, where rock outcroppings, seasonal blooms and a bald cypress swamp make every pedal crank pay off. In Rutherford County, ride the **Thermal Belt Rail Trail**, more than 13 tree-shaded miles where city parks and small town buildingscapes blend with bucolic countryside on a buttery smooth ride.

RIDE KANUGA
HENDERSONVILLE



Pro Tip Greensboro's Greg Lawrence posts adrenaline-pumping rides on his Pedal Vision YouTube channel. "Go with friends when you can, especially if they know the trails," he says. "And if you want info on where to ride, there's no better place to ask than the local bike shop." Scan the QR code to learn more about Greg Lawrence and Greensboro's cycling community.



SLIP AND SLIDE

Mountain streams aren't just for wading and fly-fishing. North of Brevard, **Sliding Rock** has doubled as Mother Nature's waterslide for generations. This only-in-North Carolina experience delights swimmers of all ages as refreshing mountain waters rush them down the slick stone face to the plunge pool below.



START YOUR ENGINES

Feel like a pro as you speed through the twists and turns at **Trackhouse Motorplex** on high-powered, grown-up go-karts. The 11-turn, 0.7-mile track in Mooresville is modeled after Italy's Kartdromo Parma circuit, giving it the look and feel of top tracks but at speeds you can control.

HIGH SPEED

Thrill at the rush of wind as you soar through the skies, race through turns and glide over rocks.

FLY DOWN A MOUNTAIN

The steepest and fastest zipline in North Carolina, **The Gorge** sends you soaring over the Green River Gorge in Saluda. Over the course of 11 zips, you'll zoom through a forestscape of old-growth trees and the Green River Game Lands wilderness. Pause for a photo op on the sky bridge and steel yourself for three big rappels.

WHOOSH THROUGH THE WOODS

At 3,800 feet in length, the Scaly Mountain Screamer holds the title of longest mountain coaster in North Carolina. The serpentine thrill ride at **Highlands Outpost** allows you to regulate your speed (or ignore the hand brake) as you whip through twists and turns in the forests of Scaly Mountain near Highlands.

ROLL AND COAST

At **Carowinds** in Charlotte, take it easy with a pint-size adrenaline rush on Snoopy's Racing Railway (with a top speed of 31 mph) or crank it up to 95 mph on the revered Fury 325, one of the tallest and fastest roller coasters on the planet. Slow down, chill out and go with the flow at the adjacent Carolina Harbor water park.

ACCESSIBLE FUN FOR ALL

If you need an ASL interpreter while enjoying the rides and attractions of **Carowinds**, inquire at least a week before you visit and a team member will help with translation and conversation during live shows and your day in the park.

NATIONAL TREASURES

National parks have been called America's Best Idea, and North Carolina's lineup of parks, monuments and sites reinforces this sentiment with historical allure and scenic beauty.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

📍 Cherokee

At first glance, you might think a UFO hangs suspended over Kuwohi, the highest peak in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. But don't panic: It's just the disc-shaped observation tower, where you can spot seven states and marvel at the rumpled landscape of the nation's most-visited national park. You could follow the Appalachian Trail's tough route to the top, but most visitors hike a short paved path through the forest to the curving concrete ramp. Sunrise and sunset are simply spectacular from the summit and the parking area, where you'll

witness tendrils of mist rising from hidden coves and hollers, lending these mountains their mysterious name. Plan for a morning hike or an evening return from the summit and soak up the beauty of a moment that'll make it hard to leave.

CARL SANDBURG HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

📍 Flat Rock

Trails trace a 5-mile lacework pattern across the farm and home of poet Carl Sandburg. Walk the woods that inspired Sandburg and his wife, Lilian, before visiting the barn where she raised prize-winning goats (you can still visit goats here) and touring the home where Carl crafted poems and essays.

FORT RALEIGH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

📍 Manteo

Home to an ill-fated settlement, the birth of the first English child in the New World, and a freedmen's colony for enslaved people during the Civil War, this is a place of mystery and hope. A paved trail leads to an earthen fort from the 1580s where English colonists tried to establish their first North American settlement.

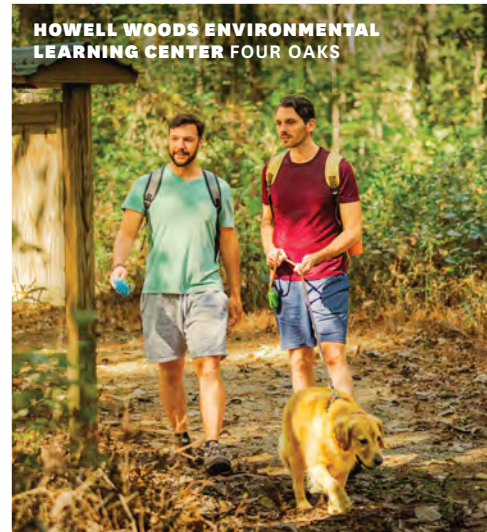
WRIGHT BROTHERS NATIONAL MEMORIAL

📍 Kill Devil Hills

Spread your arms and imagine the Outer Banks' breeze sending you aloft as you run along the paths of the first powered flights in human history. Orville and Wilbur Wright — with the help of a crew of locals — soared into history here in 1903 when they launched their Wright Flyer into the December sky.



GRASSY CREEK VINEYARD AND WINERY ELKIN



HOWELL WOODS ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER FOUR OAKS

FOREST BATHING

Dip into the quiet woods for a slow, restorative hike that'll have you connecting with nature in new and deep ways.

North of Elkin, the woods around **Grassy Creek Vineyard and Winery** hold a surprise: one of the state's first trails designated for forest bathing. Trailside benches and a mural at Klondike Dam offer moments of contemplation as you become a part of this landscape and ask yourself, *How do I fit in here?* It's also the perfect question to ponder over a post-hike glass of wine from the vineyard.

The whisper of Rockfish Creek may pull you into a meditative waterfront moment in **Hoke Community Forest** near Raeford. Or, if you listen long enough, groves of hardwoods and Atlantic white cedar trees share their own story through rustling and creaking. Sensory moments seem limitless at **Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center** in Four Oaks, where forests, creeks and wetlands provide a

sense of calm. Occasional meteor shower campouts and interactive events enhance jaunts through the 2,800-acre park.

Stop and smell the trailside wildflowers at Pollocksville's **Island Creek Forest Walk**, or let yourself trace the wind as it moves through Spanish moss, the high branches of tupelo trees and the frond-like leaves of skyscraping cypress.

Old-growth forests hold secrets suitably aged for the Great Smoky Mountains around Robbinsville, and in **Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest**, you can tap into that timeless spirit when you make yourself quiet in this serene space. Rushing waters wake the senses at **Raven Rock State Park** in Lillington, but you may also find the silence equally invigorating as you perch on a stony promontory and watch the sunset.

OUTDOOR **NC**
LEAVE NO TRACE
PRINCIPLE

TRAVELING WITH PETS

Pups are in for a ton of fun when they join you on an outing, but be mindful of their waste (pick it up, pack it out) and keep them on a leash so they don't disturb wildlife.



Pro Tip Once you've experienced life below the trees, elevate your senses by climbing above them. Forrester Stavish, owner of Asheville-based **Fox Mountain Guides and Climbing School**, recommends that amateur rock climbers hire guides certified through the American Mountain Guides Association. "In North Carolina, most climbing areas have beginner-friendly routes, so take advantage of that," he says. Scan the QR code to learn more about Forrester Stavish and other Outdoor NC guides.

PRISTINE BEACHES

Sunny skies and soft sand abound along the coast. These three destinations deliver some of the cleanest shores and waves of fun.



Beach Safety 101

Scan the QR code for important info on rip currents, beach warning flags, wildlife encounters and more.



CAMPING OASIS

Explore lush marshlands, sand dunes, maritime forests and undeveloped Bear Island at **Hammocks Beach State Park** near Swansboro. To make the most of your time, stay at the new mainland camping area, home to camper cabins, tent sites and RV sites with full hookups. Then take a ferry or paddle a kayak to discover the park's outer reaches.

SPRING-FED SERENITY

Hidden by tall pines and verdant fields, the sandy beaches of **White Lake** gleam in the summer sun, begging you to bury your toes, build a sandcastle or dive into a good read. Fed by subterranean springs, the lake near Elizabethtown has no tides or currents, earning its reputation for being one of the nation's safest beaches.

VILLAGE PLAYGROUND

The shores near the quaint village of Ocracoke are a frequent favorite of renowned beach expert Dr. Stephen Leatherman (aka Dr. Beach) for accessibility, cleanliness and variety. The sandy strip of **Ocracoke Beach** is chock-full of opportunities for surfing the waves, scouring the sand for shells, reeling in a big fish or driving to a secluded spot for sunbathing.

ACCESSIBLE FUN FOR ALL

At **Ocracoke Beach**, a long wheelchair ramp offers easy access to the shore. If you need to borrow a beach-ready wheelchair, the Ocracoke Island Discovery Center has you covered.

PIER BLISS

Iconic structures line the coast, providing anglers with a chance to fish deep waters and giving vacationers idyllic ocean backgrounds for snapshots.

JOHNNIE MERCERS FISHING PIER

📍 Wrightsville Beach

Stroll more than 1,200 feet beyond the shore on the state's first concrete pier for a unique perspective of surfers, shorelines, sunrises and sunsets. The full-service tackle shop can set you up for fishing and increase your odds of reeling in a prize king mackerel or flounder.

OAK ISLAND PIER

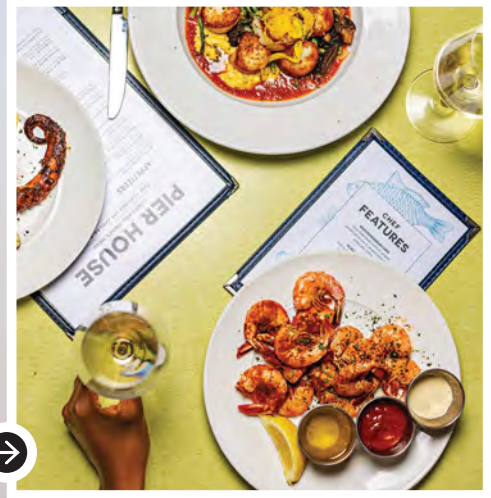
📍 Oak Island

Lined with 30 stations tailor-made for king mackerel fishing — plus several built for anglers of all accessibility needs — this wooden pier oozes yesteryear charm. The 27-foot-high pier deck (the state's tallest) provides a seagull's-eye view of the coastline.

OCEANANA PIER

📍 Atlantic Beach

Fish the Crystal Coast waters from this wooden pier that's been a family and angler favorite since 1959. Stretching far beyond the breakers, this pier has nearly 1,000 feet of space to spread out, giving plenty



of room for sightseeing and fishing. If you're not into catching your dinner, the Pier House Restaurant plates up regionally famous shrimp burgers and fresh catches.

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. Scan the QR code to purchase a fishing license prior to your angling outing.



OCEANANA PIER
ATLANTIC BEACH

MAKE A SPLASH

Expand your relationship with water. There's a floating, snorkeling or wakeboarding excursion that matches your skill and ability level in North Carolina — for real.



NANTAHALA OUTDOOR CENTER Bryson City

While the staff at NOC have trained Olympians on some of the best whitewater in the region, they also facilitate fantastic rafting and kayaking jaunts for beginners. If you're new to the sport, their Class I expeditions still deliver plenty of action.

ENDLESS RIVER ADVENTURES Bryson City

You're in for a dam fine time when you challenge the rapids on the Cheoah River. Water releases from the Cheoah Dam raise rapids from ripples to ragers, but the guides at Endless River Adventures know these Class IV waters like their own backyards.

OXBOW RIVER SNORKELING Rosman

Admire mountain waters from a new angle: through a snorkeling mask. With freshwater biologists as your guide, search for the protected ancient eastern hellbender (a huge salamander) and observe hidden aquatic communities in the streams and watersheds of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

RIDE WAKE & SURF CO.

 Mooresville

Wakeboarders skim over the otherwise placid waters of Lake Norman, kicking up a rooster tail of mist and zigzagging across the wake as they make sharp cutbacks only to leap, twist, flip and fly. Enjoy charter rides and tubing excursions as well as wakeboarding and wakesurfing lessons.

U.S. NATIONAL WHITEWATER CENTER

 Charlotte

The world's largest human-made whitewater river cranks out Class II-IV rapids that cater to rafters, kayakers and whitewater paddleboarders of all experience levels. Choose between high-intensity sessions and family-friendly excursions.



Pro Tip Christie and Kevin Merrill, cofounders of **Oxbow River Snorkeling**, say to “move slowly, breathe gently, and stay low in the water for the best chance to see fish and other species acting naturally.” They add, “Wetsuits ward off scrapes and help with buoyancy.” Scan the QR code for tailor-made itineraries crafted by and for outdoors enthusiasts.

SOAK IN THE VIEW

Fair warning:
After you experience
full-moon floats,
gently flowing rivers
and peaceful Piedmont
lakes, you're going
to want to come back.

Tournament anglers come to one of the state's largest lakes (nearly 24 square miles) in search of huge largemouth bass (and striper, white bass and crappie). But the calm waters of **High Rock Lake** also draw boaters, swimmers and campers who often spot bald eagles soaring in front of the High Rock Mountain backdrop near Lexington.

A full-moon mountain paddle on the lazy South Fork New River sheds new light on the woody High Country region. Under the guidance of **RiverGirl Fishing Co.** guides, you'll kayak the mirrorlike moonlit river near Todd, listening for the calls of night birds. Eerie reflections float on the tea-black

waters in coastal swamps and creeks — a scene that can conjure the best kind of goosebumps.

At **Shalotte River Swamp Park** in Ocean Isle Beach, a Swamp Boat Eco-Tour reveals secrets behind and below the tannin-stained water. See century-old trees and encounter American alligators on the walkway to the boat.

Farther north, kayak along a scenic stretch of the 55-mile-long **Tar River Paddle Trail** with equipment from Greenville-based **Riverside Recreation**, looking for blooms and birds among the trees, creatures lurking in the reeds, and raptors hunting overhead before you paddle back to town.

ACCESSIBLE FUN FOR ALL

In Carolina Beach, the nonprofit **Ocean Cure** ensures a fun day of surfing and lounging for kids and adults of all ability levels. In addition to loaning complimentary beach wheelchairs and walkers, they offer adaptive surf therapy events throughout the summer.



MIND BLOWING

Fire meets imagination at glassblowing studios, where skilled craftspeople transform hot glass into works of art — and you can get in on the action.

WRITER **JODI HELMER**



HEARTH GLASS AND GALLERY BURNSVILLE

Cedar Creek Gallery

CREEDMOOR

Explore a curated collection of works by more than 250 artists from across North America. The on-site glassblowing studio occasionally serves as a venue where artists transform their molten medium into keepsakes such as ornaments, drinking glasses and menorahs.

Dillsboro Creative Arts Center

DILLSBORO

Methane recovered from an old landfill at Jackson County Green Energy Park powers the glassblowing and metals labs at this center. Schedule a gallery tour to shop for gorgeous glass art, or sign up for classes in glassblowing, casting and flameworking.

The GlasStation

FARMVILLE

A former Gulf Oil gas station is the hottest art studio around. Students in the School of Art and Design at East Carolina University in Greenville take private classes in the studio. Instructors fuel monthly continuing education classes and demonstrations for the general public.

Goldhagen Art Glass

HAYESVILLE

Artist David Goldhagen merges ancient techniques with bold colors to create handblown marvels. The Hayesville gallery is stocked with bowls, platters, sculptures and furniture. You may even meet Goldhagen while he's working in the studio.



HEARTH GLASS AND GALLERY BURNSVILLE



STARWORKS STAR

Hearth Glass and Gallery

BURNSVILLE

Multiple generations of artists in the Harvey Littleton family continue the tradition of tending the flame in Western North Carolina. The gallery features their work alongside other regionally blown masterpieces, and local artists teach classes to aspiring glassblowers.

Hot Glass Alley

CHARLOTTE

With a mission to make glass art more accessible to the greater community, this Charlotte studio opens its doors to the public for tours. Watch artists at work and take group or private classes in glassblowing, fusing and stained glass. Also shop for translucent vases, jewelry, bowls and other stunning pieces.

Moon Girl Glass

MARSHALL

Kristen Muñoz is a self-described alchemist who uses traditional glassblowing and flameworking techniques to make equal parts striking and functional craft bowls, decanters, drinking glasses and lighting. Beginner classes allow you to dip your toes into the art form.

North Carolina Glass Center

ASHEVILLE AND BLACK MOUNTAIN

This nonprofit glass studio and gallery helps emerging and established artists enhance their careers and provides affordable one-day and multiweek classes. You can also pop in to shop for handmade keepsakes.

HOT TICKET

Every April, artists gather for **Firefest** (not to be confused with the infamous Fyre Festival) at Starworks. Forming the centerpiece of the weekend event, a massive fire provides the source for glassblowers and other artisans to tackle ambitious projects, including a dramatic sculptural finale. Watch the works reveal themselves between artist demos, live music, hands-on workshops and gallery tours.

Starworks

STAR

A former sock factory has been transformed into an expansive space filled with galleries and studios. Visiting glass artists from around the world work in open studios and offer live demos and classes.

Woodhaven Glass

BREVARD

An old repair shop was converted into a modern studio where New York native Larry Zapf pursues his passion for glassblowing. Shop a huge selection of glass pieces or sign up for a class to make your own one-of-a-kind creation.

CULTURAL PATHWAYS



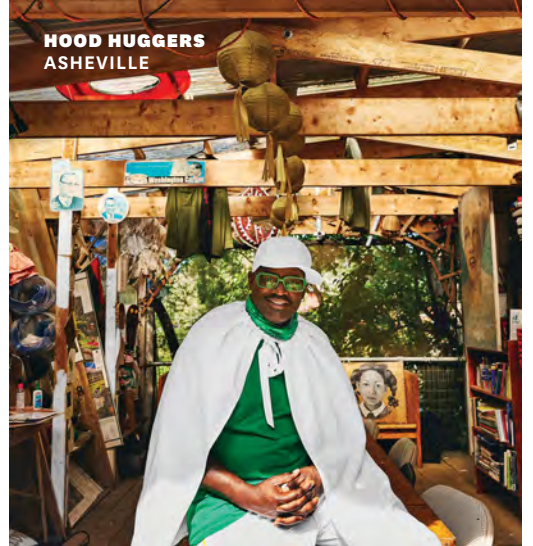
HISTORIC HALIFAX



**PALMER-MARSH
HOUSE BATH**



**QUALLA ARTS AND
CRAFTS MUTUAL
CHEROKEE**



**HOOD HUGGERS
ASHEVILLE**



**OCONALUFTEE
INDIAN VILLAGE
CHEROKEE**

The past holds vivid flavors and captivating textures that influence our present world. Travel through time and connect with diverse communities when you explore these vibrant landmarks and destinations.

WRITER **TREE MEINCH**

AMERICA 250

The Tar Heel State played a major role in the founding of our nation. Ring in America's 250th birthday at these notable sites and history-inspired destinations.

Beyond the historical symbols of redcoats and patriots who shaped the American Revolution, real-life neighbors and families with opposing ideas about the future lived in the Colony of North Carolina. Their differences escalated into brutally violent conflict throughout the early 1770s. Then — on February 27, 1776 — the swift Battle of Moores Creek Bridge near Currie sealed the first significant victory for the rebels in the Revolutionary War.

"It's our little corner of the American Revolution," says Jason Collins, chief of interpretation, education and volunteers at **Moores Creek National Battlefield**. "It's very humbling to walk in their footsteps and see what both sides sacrificed."

This year — 250 years since the notable battle and the birth of the United States — presents a unique opportunity to recognize North Carolinians who risked all for their beliefs. "Almost every person fighting in this battle was a North Carolina local," Collins says.

An anniversary event February 26-28 will commemorate this history with a wreath-laying ceremony, proclamations by state and local officials, guided tours, and other programming. The land encompasses 88 acres of cypress swamp, wetland pine savanna and upland pine forest. Pay a visit to explore, reflect and cross a bridge near the site of the 18th-century structure that helped shape the American Revolution.



JASON COLLINS

Chief of Interpretation,
Education and Volunteers
at Moores Creek
National Battlefield



**MOORES CREEK
NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD
CURRIE**

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, (HALIFAX) ANGELA TREIMER, (HOUSE) BAXTER MILLER, (HOOD HUGGERS) STARBOARD AND PORT, (QUALLA) JOHN NOLTNER, (OCONALUFTEE) MIKE BELLEME

AMERICA 250 More to Explore



DOWNTOWN HALIFAX

Trek The soil beneath **Overmountain Victory State Trail** preserves more than woods and waters. Patriot militia marched this 330-mile route before defeating the British in the pivotal Battle of Kings Mountain on October 8, 1780. The still-evolving project with separate sections is part of a National Historic Trail that extends into three neighboring states.

Reflect In a violent prelude to the Revolutionary War, a band of backcountry settlers in North Carolina rebelled against Colonial authority. The Piedmont movement became known as the Regulator War. The final battle occurred in 1771 at **Alamance Battleground State Historic Site** in Burlington, where today you can examine a cannon, a powder horn and other historical artifacts.

Drive A 10-mile loop around **Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site** in Four Oaks captures the sheer scale of the largest battle ever fought in the state. This Civil War landmark showcases the Harper House, a farm home-turned-hospital that treated more than 500 wounded soldiers. Prioritize the audio tour for a dive into the context and character of the land.

Tour Each brick comprising the **Captain Charles McDowell, Jr. House** in Morganton was handmade on-site in 1812. Flat jack arches over the windows and other signature features make the home a shining example of vernacular Federal-style architecture. Interested in delving further? Contact the Historic Burke Foundation to schedule a visit.

REVOLUTIONARY LORE

Did the American Revolution start in Mecklenberg County? On May 20, 1775, the Mecklenberg Declaration of Independence (existence unproven) was reportedly signed in Charlotte. On the **Charlotte Liberty Walk**, there's a marker at the site of the room where it (possibly) happened.



**BENTONVILLE BATTLEFIELD
STATE HISTORIC SITE FOUR OAKS**

Swig Named for the 16th-century English settlement that vanished from nearby Roanoke Island, **Lost Colony Brewery** in Nags Head serves suds inspired by historical turning points. The Nags Head IPA celebrates the hoppy British creation (the first IPA was brewed in England in the 1700s) while Hatteras Red nods to the 1700s legend of the “Hatteras Witch.”



See An outdoor amphitheater in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Boone has hosted **Horn in the West** for more than 70 years. The Revolutionary War play ranks as one of the oldest and longest-running productions in the country. Witness fire dancing, sword fighting and early American history unfolding on land with ties to the Revolution.

Commemorate One of the first official seeds of U.S. independence from England sprouted as the Halifax Resolves of 1776. “There were freedom seekers here from the very beginning,” says Frank McMahon, assistant site manager at **Historic Halifax State Historic Site**. Visit in April for the 250th anniversary Prelude to Revolution event, with multiple days of tours, demonstrations and living-history activities.

Listen Visitors can experience multiple dynamic audio tours created by the National Park Service for **Guilford Courthouse National Military Park** in Greensboro. Here “the Americans fought like demons,” as British Lt. Gen. Charles Cornwallis put it after a battle that shifted the course of the Southern campaign of the American Revolution.

Discover Coastal water laps against floodplain forests in **Historic Bath**, touted as the first town in North Carolina. Established in 1705, the river community welcomes visitors inside the Palmer-Marsh House and the Bonner House for pristine examples of 18th- and 19th-century architecture. You can also retrace the steps of Blackbeard in the historic district that was home to the infamous pirate.

Pieces of the Past

In PBS terms, the **Brady C. Jefcoat Museum of Americana** in Murfreesboro is *American Experience* meets *Antiques Roadshow*. A widower who acquired an old phonograph eventually amassed this wonderfully eclectic collection of 17,000 items including records, jukeboxes, washing machines and more.

For more commemorative events in 2026, visit America250.nc.gov

INDIGENOUS HERITAGE

Home to more than 130,000 Native Americans with distinctive cultures and traditions, North Carolina offers a rich tapestry of living history.



KEVIN TAFOYA

Featured artist at Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual

Over generations, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has passed down the story of a water spider that harnessed fire after lightning struck a tree. The small creature spun a web bowl to bring the flame safely to the people. That's why you'll find the spider symbol across many aspects of Cherokee culture today.

You can also spot the legendary water spider — and the water serpent — in the colorful digital artwork of Kevin Tafoya, who hails from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and Santa Clara Pueblo (Kha P'ò). "These are our stories of creation, how we came to be, and

the beings who gave us different things," Tafoya says of his captivating images, which are part of **Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual** in Cherokee.

With a mash-up of modern pop sentiment and Cherokee tradition, Tafoya is committed to sharing a living identity that represents both present and past. And he encourages visitors to dig deeper into this world via the artists and educational resources at sites around town. "We're not feathers and headdresses and riding horses or living in tepees," he says. "We're a different culture. Come in with an open mind."

**QUALLA ARTS AND CRAFTS
MUTUAL CHEROKEE**



More to Explore

3 More Cherokee Musts

Preserving the past is only the start at the **Museum of the Cherokee People**. This Appalachian institution, operating for nearly 80 years, advances the living culture and identity of the Cherokee with rotating exhibits, live talks and hands-on workshops.

Nearby **Oconaluftee Indian Village** continues the Cherokee story. Visitors witness live craft demonstrations, traditional dances and historical buildings throughout this re-created 18th-century Cherokee community nestled in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Watch the first stars of the night twinkle overhead while seated in Cherokee's beloved Mountainside Theatre. The timeless **Unto These Hills** live drama debuted in 1950 and continues to share the story of the Cherokee people before and after the Trail of Tears.



OCONALUFTEE INDIAN VILLAGE CHEROKEE



UNTO THESE HILLS CHEROKEE

FOLLOW THE STORY

Plan extra time for spontaneous stops at farm stands as you cruise along the **Indian Heritage Trail**. This 22-mile cultural route weaves through North Carolina's prime peach-growing region in the Piedmont. Nearly 1,000 years ago, the Pee Dee people constructed the earthen mounds visible at **Town Creek Indian Mound State Historic Site** in Mount Gilead. At the other end of the trail, the **Rankin Museum of American Heritage** in Ellerbe presents one of the largest Native American collections in the state, including a 700-year-old canoe and other pre-colonial artifacts.

HONOR THE STORY

The Lumbee Tribe of southeastern North Carolina represents "those who remain." This resilient Indigenous group includes descendants of three different language families who found sanctuary from colonial forces in the swamps and dark waters of the Lumber River. Immerse yourself in the colorful art, unique stories and artifacts of the Lumbee at the **Museum of the Southeast American Indian** at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. The university is the only four-year public institution in the United States created by and for American Indians.

LIVE THE STORY

Activate all the senses via sassafras tea tasting, wild greens eating and even corn pounding at May's 40th annual **Fading Voices Demonstration Day**, held in Robbinsville. For nearly four decades, this celebration of Snowbird Cherokee tradition has introduced all ages, backgrounds and abilities to the myriad flavors and practices that connect local people to the land.



BLACK HISTORY

Celebrate Black heritage, leadership and entrepreneurship across North Carolina, where a new generation of leaders is paving the way for the future.



AYA SHABU

Founder of Whistle Stop Tours

Durham's **Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice** is more than a building. It's a portal into the creative force and boundary-busting tenacity of a revolutionary who changed history. The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray was an Episcopal priest, writer, LGBTQ+ figure and human rights activist. Murray also became the first Black person to receive a doctorate of the science of law from Yale Law School in 1965.

Aya Shabu, founder of **Whistle Stop Tours**, says standing on the front lawn of Murray's childhood home marks one of her favorite experiences in Durham. "History will touch each of us differently according to our own pasts, identities, wounds and dreams," she says. As an artist and city tour guide, Shabu paints

a vivid picture of Black heritage, using history as her brush. "Architecture, music, monuments, narratives, food and culture are revealed as living and sacred," she says.

Shabu's guests encounter the past through song, dramatic storytelling and other performances. They leave knowing intimate details about Murray's Grandma Cornelia; Stephen Slade, the innovator of Durham's bright leaf tobacco; and other locals. The priority for Shabu is bridging the past and present via engagement. "Tourgoers are actively in their bodies," Shabu says, "performing ritual, creating human sculptures to make sense of information, and moving with a call to action from the start of the tour."

More to Explore

Ride Climb aboard a colorfully tagged **Hood Huggers** van or bus in Asheville for a thought-provoking ride down history lane. Local guide DeWayne Barton puts you up close and personal with the textures, figures and sites shaping a rapidly evolving city. “The art of resilience” emerges as a dominant theme in the many sculptures, green spaces and institutions celebrating Asheville’s Black roots.

Stay **The Historic Magnolia House**

in Greensboro was originally a motel listed in *The Negro Travelers’ Green Book* as a safe place to stay in Jim Crow-era North Carolina. Guests in its heyday included Tina Turner, Jackie Robinson, James Baldwin and Ray Charles. You can now book a getaway for yourself in the renovated 5,000-square-foot Italianate Victorian home, which reopened as a bed-and-breakfast in 2022.

See Charlotte’s **Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture** hosts visually engaging exhibitions, musical acts, dance and theatrical performances highlighting the African American experience. At the center dedicated to Charlotte’s first Black mayor, scan a QR code at Abel Jackson’s *Past, Present & Future* mural to learn the backstories of the many local faces and places represented across the 57-foot-long work.

Honor Inside the **International Civil Rights Center & Museum**, you can approach the actual F.W. Woolworth lunch counter where the Greensboro A&T Four staged a historic sit-in within an all-White dining space. The interactive museum highlights the sit-in as well as other pivotal moments that paved the way for the Civil Rights Movement in America.



Jam The Ocean City community was founded in 1949 as the only place African Americans could buy coastal property in North Carolina. Today it’s known for the ever-growing **Ocean City Jazz Festival** on North Topsail Beach, scheduled each Fourth of July weekend. Check the calendar for a 2-mile Learn and Hike tour during the festival that illuminates the history underlying the music and sandscape.



COLORS

2026 NC TRAVEL GUIDE

84

VISITNC.COM

HAWKSBILL MOUNTAIN
BURKE COUNTY

HOW

Seek out fleeting floral fireworks in the wilds and gardens of North Carolina.

WRITER **BRIAN KRAMER**

PEAK PINK

Rhododendrons

First a pop, then clusters, and before you realize it, waves of rhododendrons have engulfed North Carolina's High Country in billowy magenta. The catawba rhododendrons that showboat on the mountain balds in Pisgah National Forest are celebrated during June's **North Carolina Rhododendron Festival** in Bakersville, with numerous native varieties of these hearty evergreen shrubs sporting pale-to-fuchsia shades of pink from May through late June. (Pro tip: The higher the elevation, the later in the year you'll likely encounter flowers.) The blossoms at **Hawksbill Mountain** and **Linville Falls** are renowned, but you can drive or hike just about anywhere there's a path along Linville Gorge and spy rosy blossoms from outlooks and along trails. Get your heart pumping with a spring or early summer wildflower trek along the mile-long Rhododendron Trail at **Mount Jefferson State Natural Area** near West Jefferson. This moderate-to-strenuous route branches off the popular Summit Trail and follows the ridgeline to striking mountain vistas.

Meet the Expert *Chris Liloia*

As habitat gardens curator at NC Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill, Chris Liloia oversees four large gardens that display southeastern plants as you might find them in the wild. "Our habitat collections are great places to watch the seasonal progression of native plants," Liloia says.





NC BOTANICAL GARDEN
CHAPEL HILL

REELING IN SPRING

Trout Lilies

As early as February, spring ephemerals begin revitalizing North Carolina woodlands. Among these delightful here-and-gone plants, trout lilies are superstars that “really deliver on the warmth and optimism of spring,” says Chris Liloia of the **NC Botanical Garden**. Each six-petal flower stands just 2 to 6 inches tall, but the gracefully nodding yellow heads almost vibrate against the plants’ mottled green-gray leaves, which resemble the color and shape of brook trout. You’ll encounter colonies of trout lilies from early March through mid-April across North Carolina, before trees leaf out and block sunlight from reaching the forest floor. Notable viewing destinations include the trails that crisscross **Rocky Face Mountain Recreational Area** near Hiddenite and the Pump Station Trail at **Eno River State Park**, a 15-minute drive northwest of Durham. Need a good trout (lily) fishing guide? The Eno River Association leads free spring wildflower hikes in search of the plants as well as other delicate blooms, such as jack-in-the-pulpits and Dutchman’s breeches.

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.



PHOTOGRAPHS: (TROUT LILY) COURTESY OF NC BOTANICAL GARDEN, (SUNFLOWERS) RYAN DONNELL



SEA OF YELLOW

Sunflowers

An annual that's been a perennial favorite for centuries, sunflowers were one of the first plants grown by Native Americans, alongside corn, beans and squash. The tradition continues at **Dix Park**, where the City of Raleigh has planted 5 acres of sunflowers since 2018, inviting the public to explore the patch daily from dusk to dawn. (See them at their peak in July.) In Mocksville, **The Fields at Sunflower Trail** opens up 14 acres of flowers to picnics, yoga classes, self-guided strolls and July's Sunflower Extravaganza, with a variety of food trucks and vendors. Starting in early August, **The Ten Acre Garden** in Canton allows visitors to get lost in a golden maze, take a hayride tour of the farm and leave with a fresh bouquet. "While cultivated sunflowers are agriculturally and horticulturally relevant, there are also a lot of species of native sunflowers that grow wild throughout the state," says Liloia, pointing to the eight native varieties that lift visitors' spirits at the NC Botanical Garden from late July into October or November.





BLAZE OF GLORY

Azaleas

The varied terrain of North Carolina nurtures at least seven varieties of native southeastern azalea, but Graham County is the hot spot for *Rhododendron calendulaceum*, commonly known as the flame azalea, which glows in hues from golden to tangerine to scarlet. In late April, the first orange sparks show up at Robbinsville's **Stecoah Valley Cultural Arts Center** and other lower-elevation locales. Before long, the fiery tones creep up the surrounding mountains. When the color finally reaches full intensity on **Hooper Bald** along the Cherokee Skyway, the town hosts the **Flame Azalea Festival** with live music, Cherokee cultural demonstrations, azaleas for sale and guided flower tours in June. Approximately 400 miles east in Wilmington, the state's azalea affection fuels April's **North Carolina Azalea Festival**. Since 1948, this festival has welcomed around 300,000 people annually to a five-day affair with nationally known music acts, culinary creativity, garden tours, a parade and a fireworks finale.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO Exact bloom seasons are affected by altitude, temperature, rainfall and other factors. Optimize the timing of your floral field trips by following the social media accounts for the towns and destinations you plan to visit.

ELEVATED ESCAPES



**RUSTIC RIDGE ROOFTOP SKOOLIE
CASAR**

Take your vacation to the next level with spectacular lodgings under the stars, fresh-from-the-farm culinary experiences, and exclusive tours and activities. While all of these places will make you feel like a VIP, there's a destination here for every budget.

WRITER **JESS HOFFERT**

Starry Nights

Instead of counting sheep, count the number of constellations you can spot before dozing off in unique digs.

Banner Elk Glamping

📍 Banner Elk

After returning from a short stroll to Banner Elk Winery, kick back in a cozy king bed and gaze through the skylight of your luxury geodome. Private hot tubs and firepits allow for mountain views accompanied by steam and smoke.

Cherry Treesort

📍 China Grove

Live like a pampered squirrel in eight decked-out tree houses, or burrow like a hedgehog into two subterranean hobbit houses complete with circular doors. Trevor's Layaway enchants guests with soaring ceilings and a wraparound deck.

The Glamping Collective

📍 Clyde

Ten glass cabins and 16 partially transparent domes allow for panoramic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains without stepping outside. But you'll definitely want to step out to enjoy your private patio and hot tub. Go big with the Ultra Luxe Dome, with 400 square feet of interior space to sprawl out and see the stars from your king bed.

Roamly Getaways

📍 Pisgah Forest

They may look like three ordinary Airstreams in the woods, but step inside one and you'll feel like you've entered a photo shoot for an interior design magazine. Smartly appointed spaces maximize cozy quarters, and you can always head out for fresh air on your covered deck with a hot tub, sofa and grill.

Rustic Ridge

Rooftop Skoolie

📍 Casar

The wheels on this bus no longer go 'round and 'round, but you can certainly go up and down, thanks to a rooftop patio delivering grade A vistas of the South Mountains. Prepare to be amazed at how spacious — and stylish — a school bus can be when the seats are stripped out.

Salt + Pine

Glamping

📍 Leland

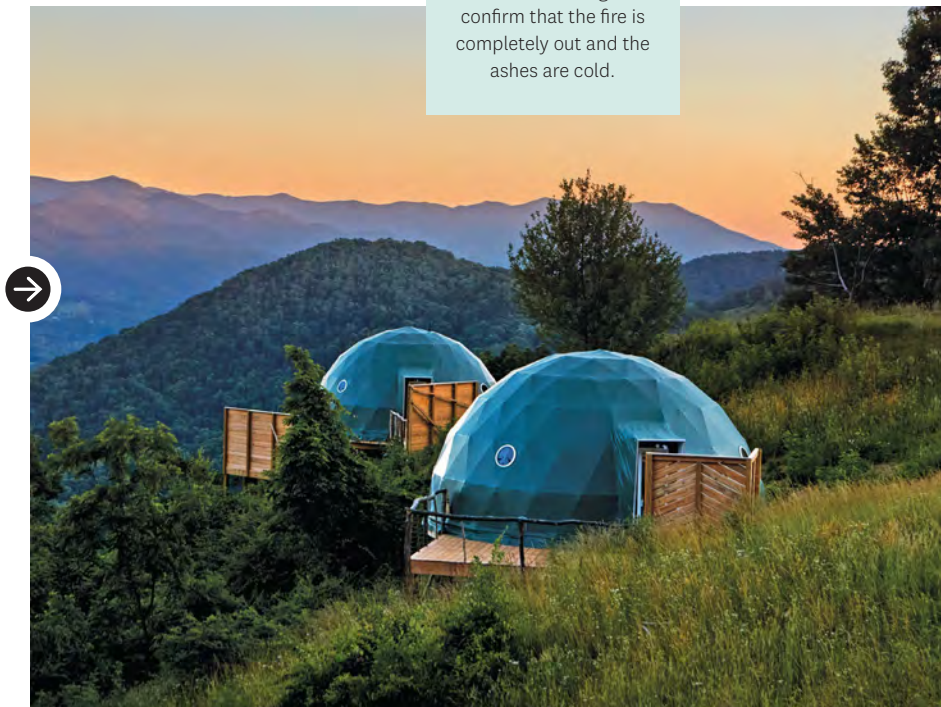
This brand-new Central American-inspired retreat stars a two-bedroom bungalow with a private patio and hammock among the pine trees. Stay connected with streaming smart TVs or unplug from it all on the backyard yoga platform as you decompress within 30 miles of pristine oceanside beaches.

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.



Relax + Refocus

These memorable stays harmonize striking nature with self-nurture.



The Fearington

House Inn 📍 Pittsboro

Freshly cut flowers from the courtyard gardens accent rooms designed for ultimate comfort — think heated towel racks and 300-thread-count Egyptian cotton bed linens. The garden's herbs infuse the prix fixe menu at the on-site restaurant, serving entrees like seared flounder with saffron and golden beets.

Half-Mile Farm

📍 Highlands

Surrounded by rolling mountain woods, guests find outdoor bliss while canoeing on a secluded lake, hiking and biking through the

forest, and swimming in the heated saltwater pool. Soothing treatments at Serenity Spa feature herbs and botanicals sourced on-site, and breakfasts showcase the farm's organic produce.

Juneberry Ridge

📍 Norwood

Make new friends and connect with the land during two- and three-night regenerative farm stays. Tours of the property's greenhouses, mixology classes, clay shooting, forest bathing treks and yoga sessions are sandwiched between satisfying farm-to-fork meals — with ample time for rest in cabins and cottages.

The Lighthouse

📍 Kure Beach

A fresh look — including a complete interior renovation — has given these nine apartment-style suites a serious glow-up. The only thing that hasn't changed: unbeatable views of the Atlantic Ocean. Watch the tide roll in from a private balcony or follow the boardwalk to the sandy beach and Kure Beach Pier.

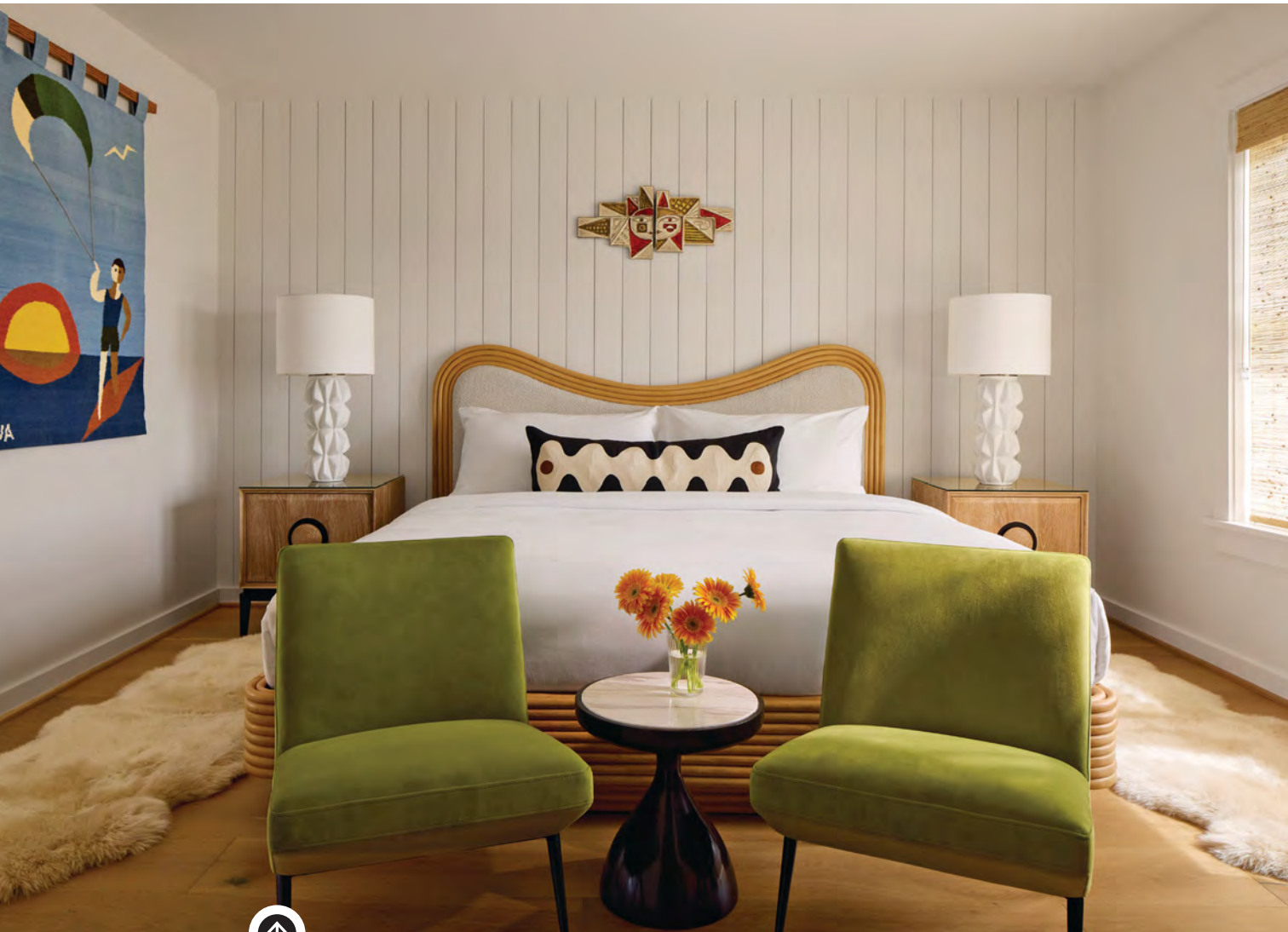
The Mast Farm Inn

📍 Valle Crucis

Timeworn wooden floors lead to a jetted tub for two in the 1810 Loom House, the oldest habitable log cabin in the state. Other rustic-chic options include modern Mary Mast's Cottage, a two-story charmer renovated in 2023. Release tension at on-site River Birch Nordic Sauna.



THE SWAG WAYNESVILLE



Edgecamp Pamlico Station 📍 Rodanthe

Renowned designer Jonathan Adler brings midcentury modern splash to 14 guest rooms at this new-in-2024 hotel on the Outer Banks. In-room wellness baskets feature yoga mats, a percussion massager and more. Continue the self-care routine at the hot tub, sauna and nearby beach.

The Sanderling Resort 📍 Duck

Savor coastal Southern fare while soaking up views of the Currituck Sound at Theodosia, the latest venture of North Carolina native and acclaimed chef Vivian Howard. It's just one jewel in the crown of this resort's 2025 transformation, which includes a renovated spa and new color palettes echoing shades of the shore.

The Swag 📍 Waynesville

Mountaintop experiences await: gourmet picnics served with Great Smoky Mountains vistas, yoga on a deck above the trees, and ridgetop horseback rides and hikes — for starters. Finely presented four-course dinners put an elevated spotlight on Appalachian cuisine, with barbecue feasts and live bluegrass performances every Thursday.



Savor + Indulge

Farm-to-table dining has been around since the existence of farms and tables, but these places cultivate fresh twists with ever-evolving menus and methods.

Spoon River

📍 Belhaven

Boaters dock along the Pungo River to walk downtown and dig into elegantly plated meals with regionally harvested ingredients. Like the menu, the decor often switches out, too, adding elements of surprise for repeat visitors. Lift spirits further with bright seasonal cocktails, such as the Limelight with vodka, pistachio syrup, pineapple and lime juice.



Bistro Europa

📍 Mocksville

Under the glow of chandeliers, tuck into the likes of seared scallops with Tuscan bean puree on the covered patio of Rayson Winery and Vineyards. Or head to the indoor Rayson Chef Counter to watch the meticulous preparation of a three-course meal.

Blue Jay Bistro

📍 Littleton

Area farmers and purveyors fuel this posh experience in a town of less than 500 residents. An interior with golden accents exudes big-city swagger, yet diners are invited to come as they are to enjoy a memorable night out with offerings like tender filets and crab cakes atop pickled blueberry honey mustard.

Earl's Landing

📍 High Point

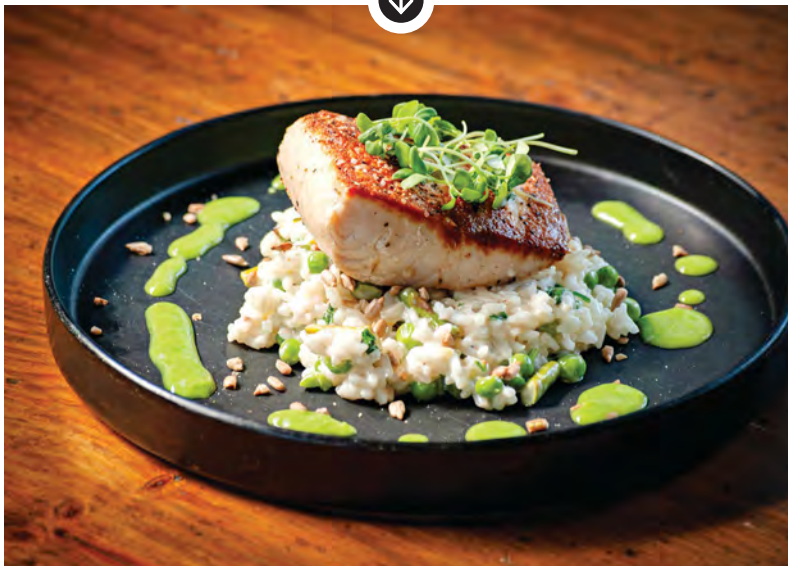
Chicken breast from Joyce Farms in Winston-Salem anchors a seasonal entree with fennel and blistered tomatoes, while roasted carrots often accompany signature steaks. Knowledgeable waitstaff lead you to the perfect drink pairing, which might just be a mojito with house-made syrup.

Farm Table

Kitchen & Bar

📍 Wake Forest

Wooden slats, beams and tabletops lend farmhouse warmth to meals that spotlight in-season produce. The Garden Fresh portion of the menu often caters to gluten-free and vegetarian diets, with texture-rich gems like an almond-studded beet salad with arugula and horseradish goat cheese.



Reimagined Favorites

Vivian Howard became a household name when the chef and her Kinston restaurant **Chef & the Farmer** took center stage in the PBS series *A Chef's Life*. Now she's hosting monthly seven-course dinners at revamped **The Kitchen Bar at Chef & the Farmer**. Capped at 20 people, each intimate seating weaves a story of the region's land and culture. (For a casual walk-in dining experience, try adjacent **The Counter at Chef & the Farmer**.) On a larger scale, beloved Charlotte restaurant **Dogwood Southern Table and Bar** recently moved into airy new digs at The Westin Charlotte. Don't overlook the duck and dumplings (succulent confit duck atop shiitake mushrooms and pillowy ricotta gnudi), which garnered a cult following at the original SouthPark location and continues to grow its fan base.



OVERMOUNTAIN VINEYARDS TRYON



TREEHOUSE VINEYARDS MONROE

Wine Down

Raise a glass to sweet dreams.

There's much more to **Grassy Creek Vineyard & Winery** than the vintages themselves, but they're a great place to start. At the former dairy farm in the mountains near Elkin, sip Chardonnay or semisweet Guernsey Red (poured from a milk bottle) in the Red Barn Tasting Room. Then venture among the pastures and pines of the 1.5-mile Grassy Creek Trail before retreating to one of three well-appointed log cabins. The largest of the Klondike Cabins features

four bedrooms and two wood-burning fireplaces. Equally spacious, each of the three modern villas at **Overmountain Vineyards** in Tryon offers a unique vista: forest, vineyard or meadow. Fully stocked kitchens allow you to whip up a meal to accompany glasses of Petit Manseng, the vineyard's signature white.

In the Piedmont, two wineries allow for unwinding above the vines. Choose between two overnight options at Monroe's **Treehouse Vineyards**: the cozy 300-square-foot Papa's Dream or the more spacious Horsefeathers Hideaway. A third tree house called Date Night makes for a carefree afternoon of

vino and views. Stays at the **Medaloni Cellars** tree house in Lewisville come with a bottle of white and two keepsake wineglasses. The journey to get there can be its own adventure, with a rugged road requiring use of an all-wheel drive or four-wheel drive vehicle.

Coast into a quiet getaway at **Cape Fear Vineyard & Winery**, where 22 themed cottages overlook a lake outside Elizabethtown. In addition to being wine-adjacent (vintages range from dry Cabernet Sauvignon to sweet Muscadine), you'll have easy access to Cape Fear Distillery, The Vines Day Spa and Topsy Toad Gallery Gift Shop.

Treat Yourself to an unforgettable visit

These exclusive activities are limited to smaller group sizes so you can partake in an immersive experience you won't soon forget.

Biltmore

📍 Asheville

If you've already taken the audio-guided tour of the lavish former residence of George and Edith Vanderbilt, consider gaining additional access to America's largest home with an expert guide. Trek up 250 steps to earn your Blue Ridge Mountain vistas on the Rooftop Tour, and see how staff navigated the 250-room chateau on the Biltmore House Backstairs Tour.

Bright Black

📍 Durham

Known for candle scents like fresh evergreen Hip Hop and calming chamomile-infused Gospel, this family-owned company also mixes intoxicating body fragrance oils. Pop in on Saturdays for a Design Your Own Body Fragrance session, allowing you to create a custom mash-up of scented oils well-suited for freshening up on the go.

Kicks & Fros

📍 Charlotte

A pair of white Nike Air Force 1 sneakers is your canvas during Kick & Sip Date Nights — evenings of shoe designing and bubbly sipping in Camp North End. Packages include two pairs of shoes; adornments such as paint, lace charms and rhinestones; and wine along with a charcuterie board.

Sierra Nevada

Brewing Co.

📍 Mills River

Sample beer directly from the cellar tanks on a three-hour Beer Geek Tour of the 200-barrel brewhouse. You'll also get an up-close look at the packaging area. Head into the hop cooler and learn all sorts of fascinating factoids — with a few under-the-suds surprises along the way. Book early; each tour is for a maximum of six participants.



BILTMORE
ASHEVILLE

**ACCESSIBLE
FUN FOR ALL**

At **Biltmore**, printed transcripts of the Biltmore House Audio Guide are available at the front desk. The audio guides are also available on tablets in an American Sign Language format.

Scary & Bright

The fall equinox ushers in ever-shortening days — the perfect time to embrace a host of ghostly experiences. Later, the winter solstice heralds festive glows and mountain snows. For chills both spooky and frosty, North Carolina's cool season serves up months of magic and memories.





**CAROLINA
THEATRE
GREENSBORO**

WILMINGTON RAILROAD MUSEUM WILMINGTON

Climb aboard a bat-black 1910 steam locomotive and blood-red caboose as you track the region's railroad history, which includes the spooky tale of Joe Baldwin. He was purportedly a conductor decapitated by a train wreck in nearby Maco. For years, a mysterious flickering along the tracks — the Maco Lights — was attributed to a lantern carried by Baldwin's specter.

SPIRITED STOPS

Oh, the paranormal places you'll go! And there's a very good chance you'll meet things that scare you right out of your pants.

CAROLINA THEATRE GREENSBORO

Since opening on Halloween night in 1927, it's allegedly been haunted by phantoms of the opera. Apparent apparitions include a worker who died during construction and a woman who perished in a 1981 fire at the theater. Perhaps you'll encounter them on a tour.

THE COUNTRY SQUIRE RESTAURANT, INN & WINERY WARSAW

Darts flying off an idle board are among the clues that spirits —

other than the distilled and fermented kind — inhabit this place. For decades, guests have been enchanted by the wooded setting, log cabin decor, and a female whose presence is often seen, heard and felt. If you visit, she might join you for a meal or an overnight stay.

DEVIL'S TRAMPING GROUND BEAR CREEK

Legend says the devil stomping in circles created this mysterious round patch of ground, where nothing seems to grow and objects left overnight disappear.

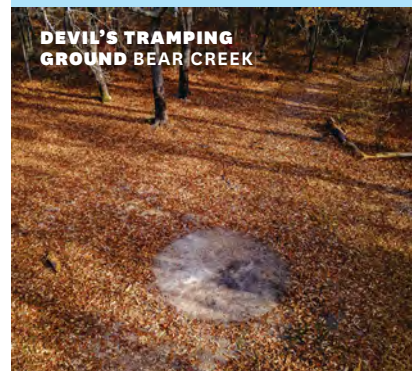
It's located deep in the woods where two paths converge. The circle is located on private property, but you can book an overnight at the nearby campground, which offers primitive tent sites (no running water or bathroom, but always a chance of paranormal activity).

MADISON DRY GOODS AND COUNTRY STORE MADISON

If you've seen the Netflix series *28 Days Haunted*, you know this building had a past life as a funeral home. Members of the Lawson family were taken here after farmer Charles Lawson killed his wife, six children and himself on Christmas Day in 1929. There's a murder museum in the former embalming rooms.



If you like scary stories, the *First in Fright* podcast covers everything otherworldly in North Carolina, including the Devil's Tramping Ground, haunted hotels and more. Scan the above QR code to start listening.



**DEVIL'S TRAMPING
GROUND BEAR CREEK**

TERRIFYING TOURS

Consider this your invitation to a “tragical” mystery tour that’s dying to take you away.



Spooky stops on self-guided **Benson Ghost Tours** in Benson include the C.T. Johnson Building, where patrons have seen UFOs — unexplained flying objects — like books and bottles. A family dentistry had its own teeth-chattering incident when the occupied exam chair rose on its own. **The Boo & Brew Ghost Tour** in Sanford pairs restaurants and breweries with tales from the town’s haunted history. You’ll hear about furniture-store owner Lee McIver, fire-and-police chief John T. McKernan, and set designer Ernest Badgett, whose spirit acts up at the Temple Theatre.

Discover Swansboro haunts with **Crystal Coast Ghost**. Their Spirits of Swansboro Ghost Walk is an all-ages moonlit stroll, while SOS After Dark is an adults-only pub crawl to cocktails and dark tales. (If you want to see the ghost of longtime resident Billy Carter, try Clyde Phillips Seafood Market.) Many Civil War veterans lie in New Bern, while some linger above ground. Learn more on a **Ghosts of New Bern**

walking tour that starts at The Black Cat Shoppe and hits John Wright Stanly House, New Bern Academy, and Cedar Grove Cemetery. (Beware its entry arch.)

Lights, camera, axes! October’s **Granville Haunt Farm** in Oxford is a drive-through horror movie. Stay in your vehicle while a cast of creepy characters performs scenes from scary films. During the holiday season, the haunt farm converts into a twinkly and terror-free wonderland.

If there’s something strange in your neighborhood, who you gonna call? Ghost bus tours! Actors leading **LaZoom Tours** motor coach trips in Asheville and Charlotte elicit both screams and howls of laughter with reenactments of local characters and haunts. Spooky stuff is par for the course on a Haunted/True Crime Golf Cart Tour from **Southern Charm Rides**. Ride through Charlotte’s historic Fourth Ward, encountering two graveyards and hearing tales of Queen Charlotte, Elvis and other spirits that linger around the neighborhood.

Discover more haunted NC stories and destinations at ncfirstinfright.com



PAW OF APPROVAL

At **The Roanoke Island Inn**, dogs are welcome in rooms 2, 3, the Bungalow and Dot's Cottage. They're also free to sniff around the breezeway and grounds of the Manteo property. (Furry phantoms get to stay free of charge.)

SPOOKY STAYS

Instead of choosing a chain like Supernatural 8 or Motel 666, spend the night at one of these upscale boo-tique lodgings.

BALSAM MOUNTAIN INN BALSAM

It was built in 1905 to host travelers spending summer in the cool Blue Ridge Mountains. Some must not have checked out, for their spirits are said to noisily haunt the halls. One is The Sheriff, who supposedly was shot outside the hotel in 1928 and died in room 205.

THE CAROLINA INN CHAPEL HILL

An elegant fixture on the UNC campus, it was long the home of William Jacobs, who lived in a

suite from 1948 until his death in 1965. From then on, guests reported being mysteriously locked out of the room, in addition to stranger things. You can still book Jacobs' suite, now room 256.

THE DUNHILL HOTEL CHARLOTTE

Originally called Mayfair Manor, the 10-story hotel opened in November 1929 — just after the stock market crash that triggered the Great Depression. The apparition of a man who tragically fell to his death from an upper floor appears in hallways

and rooms, accompanied by sounds of footsteps. Room 906 is said to be the most haunted.

THE HISTORIC BROOKSTOWN INN WINSTON-SALEM

Once a cotton mill known for its harsh conditions, the hotel is considered one of the city's most haunted sites, especially the fourth floor. That's where a mill worker named Sally, who fell to her death in an elevator shaft, reportedly lived. Her spirit is said to haunt room 401, part of a former dormitory.



THE ROANOKE ISLAND INN MANTEO

Roscoe Jones, son of the original owner, Asa Jones, inherited the place while serving as Manteo's postmaster. When he was fired in the 1930s, a despondent Jones holed up in the inn until he passed away. Ever since then, guests have reported a man in a postal uniform coming and going from the inn.



WILD FOR WINTER

When the air is crisp, get your kicks in the mountains, where gravity and snow combine to produce adrenaline.

APPALACHIAN SKI MTN. BLOWING ROCK

Skiing and snowboarding reign as kings of the mountain, but there's a certain majesty to the skating here, too, especially when you take to the ice under a starry sky. The state's only Zamboni-maintained outdoor rink provides ski-slope views on one side and long-range mountain vistas on the other.

BEECH MOUNTAIN RESORT BEECH MOUNTAIN

A more-than-mile-high peak anchors the highest ski area in the Eastern United States, where 17 runs traverse 95 acres of snow and nine lifts help you scale the slopes. Two terrain parks let bold skiers and boarders learn new tricks, while evening Cosmic Snow Tubing brings on the party vibes with lights and music.



THE CHUTES AT CROWDERS SPRINGS KINGS MOUNTAIN

Snowless tubing down three 200-foot lanes means all the thrills with fewer chills — no freezing your assets. Go down a chute solo or share a tube with a friend or family member. A towline takes your tube back to the top. After riding, warm up with some coffee and treats around the campfire.

HATLEY POINTE MOUNTAIN RESORT MARS HILL

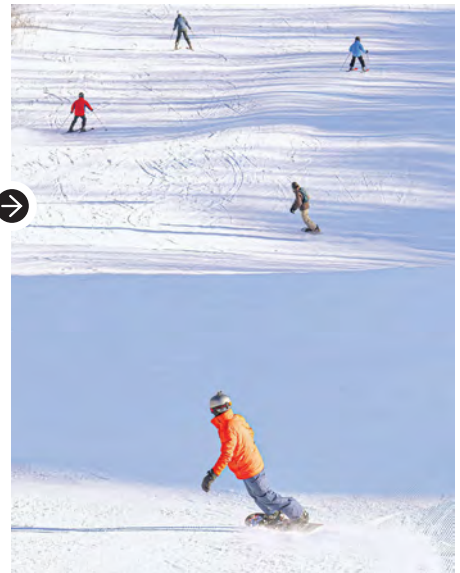
In the shadow of Big Bald Mountain, Hatley Pointe tops out at 4,700 feet, giving downhillers and snowboarders 54 acres of skiable terrain and a 700-foot vertical drop. The 22 slopes and trails, all lit for nighttime runs, include five rated beginner, 12 intermediate and five advanced, plus 73 snowmaking machines for guaranteed fun.

SUGAR MOUNTAIN RESORT SUGAR MOUNTAIN

The skiing options are pretty sweet here, thanks to a 5,300-foot peak, 125 skiable acres and a vertical drop of 1,200 feet. Experts feel the full sugar rush on the Whoopdeedoo and Boulderdash slopes, while beginners stick to Lower Flying Mile and Easy Street. Tubers, ice-skaters and snowshoers taste the action too.

ZIP N SLIP MARS HILL

Have a totally tubular time at this tubing-only spot with eight to 10 lanes that send you sliding downhill for more than 800 feet (under optimal snowiness). A “magic carpet” conveyor belt takes you back to the top for another go. When you need a break, watch the fun from a solarium with a fireplace.



BEECH MOUNTAIN RESORT BEECH MOUNTAIN



ACCESSIBLE FUN FOR ALL

January’s Adaptive Ski Week at **Beech Mountain Resort** welcomes hundreds of people with disabilities to the slopes. Instructors give lessons in techniques such as mono-ski, bi-ski, tri-ski and four-tracking.



PHOTOGRAPHS: KATE WARREN, (APPALACHIAN) TOMMY PENICK, (SUGAR MOUNTAIN) LESLIE RESTIVO



MAGICAL MIGRATIONS



Hike, bird-watch, kayak, fish and more in North Carolina's wildlife refuges, joining migrating creatures that rest and refresh here in winter.

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.

All sorts of waterfowl winter at **Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge**. The 15,000-acre coastal haven at Cedar Island is a combo of brackish marsh and pocosin-woodland habitat that attracts thousands of ducks, colonial waterbirds and reclusive marshbirds. It's home to one of North Carolina's largest populations of eastern black rail and Bachman's sparrows.

Lake Mattamuskeet, the state's largest natural lake, anchors **Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge** in Swan Quarter. It's on the Atlantic Flyway, so there's an avian influx all year, drawing flocks of birders. (Tundra swans arrive around Thanksgiving.) It's not just for the birds — black bears reside here too.

Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge near Wadesboro is a great place to catch red-headed woodpeckers, cedar waxwings (who like to feast on the berries of holly trees) and Eastern fox squirrels. Track them from your vehicle on the 2.5-mile Wildlife Drive, also keeping an eye out for white-tailed deer and wild turkey.

Mass sunrise takeoffs (and sunset landings) of swans and geese are a memorable sight at **Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge** in Pantego. The refuge's Pungo Unit is the best area for watching wildlife in their element. Waterfowl congregate around Pungo Lake and area wetlands, while black bears roam agricultural fields and adjacent forests.



COOL CELEBRATIONS

Winter is the most wonderful time of the year for reveling in seasonal festivals and holiday traditions both old and new.

CHRISTMAS IN THOMASVILLE

THOMASVILLE 📅 DECEMBER

Holiday cheer in Chair City (nicknamed for its furniture heritage) means a radiant parade with marching bands and festive floats, plus Chair City Christmas: a night of music, meeting Santa and Mrs. Claus, and free toys for kids.

FOREST CITY CHRISTMAS

FOREST CITY

📅 NOVEMBER–JANUARY

The town strings more than a million lights along Main Street. Take a carriage ride or hayride past the dazzling displays and see the huge lighted ornament in the Pavilion on Park Square.

HORSE-DRAWN TROLLEY RIDES

GOLDSBORO

📅 NOVEMBER–DECEMBER

It's the next best thing to dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh. The equine excursions begin at the annual Downtown Lights Up event on the Tuesday night before Thanksgiving.

KERSEY VALLEY CHRISTMAS

ARCHDALE

📅 NOVEMBER–DECEMBER

Some two million LED lights help a farm produce a bumper crop of Christmas joy. Take train and wagon rides, zoom down a huge slide, meet holiday characters, and shop Santa's workshop for gifts.

MEADOW LIGHTS **BEENSON**

📅 NOVEMBER–DECEMBER

One yard decorated for Christmas has grown into more than 30 acres of lights. Bask in the glow from aboard a train and pop into the Old Country Store for candies and sodas.

THE POLAR EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE

BRYSON CITY

📅 NOVEMBER–DECEMBER

Conjure a holiday story on a Great Smoky Mountains Railroad journey to the North Pole to pick up Santa, drinking hot chocolate and jingling all the way. On the return trip to Bryson City, Santa hands out gifts.

'TIS THE SEASON

LAURINBURG 📅 DECEMBER

A nonprofit's vision of a nostalgic, Hallmark-style holiday brings people downtown for decorated trees and shop windows, ice-skating (cue scenes from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*), and a live Nativity.

VISIT HAYWOOD ICE FEST WEEKEND

HAYWOOD COUNTY

📅 JANUARY–FEBRUARY

Four days of frozen fun feature ice-carving demos, ice games, ice-skating, a 5K race, an ice block party and a cool jazz concert. Events take place in Waynesville, Maggie Valley, Canton and Clyde.

YADKIN WINTER REDS

YADKINVILLE

📅 FEBRUARY–MARCH

Over two weekends, Yadkin County wineries pour samples of their winter reds in souvenir glasses, pairing them with tasty bites. Start with your assigned winery and travel to the others.



Local Information Sources

MOUNTAINS

Alleghany County C of C, 58 S. Main St., Sparta 28675; (336) 372-5473; alleghanycountychamber.com

Ashe County C of C, 01 N. Jefferson Ave., Suite C, West Jefferson 28694; (336) 846-9550; ashechamber.com

Avery County C of C, 4501 Tynecastle Hwy., Unit 14, Banner Elk 28604; (828) 898-5605; averycounty.com

Beech Mountain VC, 403A Beech Mountain Pkwy., Beech Mountain 28604; (828) 387-9283; beechmntn.com

Blowing Rock TDA, 132 Park Ave., Blowing Rock 28605; (828) 295-4636; blowingrock.com

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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, 31 College Pl., Suite 120, Asheville 28801; (828) 298-5330; blueridgeheritage.com

Burnsville-Yancey C of C, 106 W. Main St., Burnsville 28714; (828) 682-7413; yanceychamber.com

Caldwell County C of C, 1909 Hickory Blvd. SE, Lenoir 28645; (828) 726-0616; explorecaldwell.com

Cherokee County TDA, 20 Tennessee St., Murphy 28906; (828) 557-0602; visitcnc.com

Cherokee Welcome Center, 498 Tsalali Blvd., Cherokee 28719; (828) 497-9195; visitcherokeenc.com

Clay County C of C, 96 Sanderson St., Hayesville 28904; (828) 389-3704; claychambernc.com

Destination McDowell, 91 S. Catawba Ave., Old Fort 28762; (828) 668-4282; destinationmcdowell.com

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Explore Asheville CVB, 27 College Pl., Asheville 28801; (828) 258-6109; exploreasheville.com

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Explore Boone, 171 Grand Blvd., Boone 28607; (828) 266-1345; exploreboone.com


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Explore Brevard, 175 E. Main St., Brevard 28712; (828) 884-8900; explorebrevard.com

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Franklin Area C of C, 98 Hyatt Rd., Franklin 28734; (828) 524-3161; franklin-chamber.com


Advertising Partner, p. 49

 **Graham County T & TA**, 474 Rodney Orr Byp., Robbinsville 28771; (828) 479-3790; grahamcountytravel.com

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Haywood County Tourism, 91 N. Lakeshore Dr., Suite 2, Lake Junaluska 28745; (828) 944-0761; vithaywood.com

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 **Jackson County TDA**, 773 W. Main St., Sylva 28779; (828) 586-2155; discoverjacksonnc.com

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Madison County TDA, 56 S. Main St., Mars Hill 28754; (828) 680-9031; visitmadisoncounty.com



Mitchell County TDA, 26 Crimson Laurel Cir., Suite 11, Bakersville 28705; (828) 537-1690; discovermitchellnc.com

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Morganton/Burke County TDA, 140 N. Sterling St., Morganton 28655; (828) 433-6793; discoverburkecounty.com

Advertising Partner, p. 109

Mount Airy Tourism, 200 N. Main St., Mount Airy 27030; (336) 786-6116; visitmayberry.com

NC High Country Host, 6370 US Hwy. 321 S., Blowing Rock 28605; (828) 264-1299; highcountryhost.com

Advertising Partner, p. 30-31

Northwest NC VC, 2121 E. US Hwy. 421, North Wilkesboro 28659; (336) 667-1259; wilkeschamber.wixsite.com/nwncvisitorcenter



Polk County T & T, 20 E. Mills St., Columbus 28722; (828) 894-2324; firstpeaknc.com

Advertising Partner, p. 59

Rutherford County TDA, 146 N. Main St., Rutherfordton 28139; (828) 287-6113; visitncsmalltowns.com

Advertising Partner, p. 57

Sugar Mountain Tourism, 251 Dick Trundy Ln., Sugar Mountain 28604; (828) 898-9292; seesugar.com

Advertising Partner, p. 30

Swain County TDA, 2 Everett St., Bryson City 28713; (828) 488-7857; explorebrysoncity.com

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Valdese Dept. of Tourism, 400 Main St., Valdese 28690; (828) 879-2126; visitvaldese.com

Visit Alexander County, 151 W. Main Ave., Taylorsville 28681; (828) 352-7756; visitalexandernc.com

Visit Banner Elk, 100 W. Main St., Banner Elk 28604; (828) 898-5398; bannerelek.com

Visit Cleveland County, 200 S. Lafayette St., Shelby 28150; (704) 484-4901; landofrhythm.com

Visit Hendersonville, 201 S. Main St., Hendersonville 28792; (828) 693-9708; vithendersonvillenc.org

Visit Hickory, 1960 13th Ave. Dr. SE, Hickory 28602; (828) 322-1335; vithickorync.com

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Visit Highlands NC, 108 Main St., Highlands 28741; (828) 526-2112; highlandschamber.org

Visit Smokies, 4437 Georgia Rd., Franklin 28734; (828) 369-9606; visitsmokies.org

Visit West Jefferson, 1 S. Jefferson Ave., West Jefferson 28694; (336) 246-3560; visitwestjefferson.org

Visit the Yadkin Valley, 257 Standard St., Elkin 28621; (336) 526-1111; yadkinvalley.org

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Wilkes TDA, 203 W. Main St., Wilkesboro 28697; (336) 838-3951; wilkescountytourism.com

PIEDMONT

Alamance County VB, 200 S. Main St., Burlington 27215; (336) 570-1444; visitalamance.com

Advertising Partner, p. 10

Anson County TDA, 114 W. Wade St., Wadesboro 28170; (704) 694-4181; visitanson.com

Cabarrus County CVB, 10099 Weddington Rd., Suite 102, Concord 28027; (704) 782-4340; explorecabarrus.com

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Caswell County TDA, PO Box 1722, Yanceyville 27379; (336) 514-5285; visitcaswell.com

Chapel Hill/Orange County VB, 308 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill 27516; (919) 245-4320; visitchapelhill.org

Charlotte Visitor Info Center, 329 S. Tryon St., Charlotte 28202; (800) 231-4636; charlottesgotalot.com


Advertising Partner, p. 4-5

Davie County C of C, 135 S. Salisbury St., Mocksville 27028; (336) 751-3304; discoverdaviecounty.com

Discover Durham, 212 W. Main St., #101, Durham 27701; (919) 687-0288; discoverdurham.com

Distinctly Fayetteville, 245 Person St., Fayetteville 28301; (910) 483-5311; distinctlyfayettevillenc.com

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Explore Nash County, 1104 Falls Rd., Rocky Mount 27804; (252) 972-5080; explorenashcounty.com

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Franklin County TDA, 112 E. Nash St., Louisburg 27549; (919) 496-3056; franklin-chamber.org

Gaston County TD, 620 N. Main St., Belmont 28012; (704) 825-4044; gogastonncc.org

Granville County TDA, 124 Hillsboro St., Oxford 27565; (919) 693-6125; visitgranvillenc.com

Greensboro Area CVB, 2411 W. Gate City Blvd., Greensboro 27403; (336) 274-2282; visitgreensboroncc.com

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 **Halifax County CVB**, 260 Premier Blvd., Roanoke Rapids 27870; (800) 522-4282; vithalifax.com

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Heart of North Carolina VB, 500 Albemarle Rd., Asheboro 27203; (336) 626-0364; heartofnorthcarolina.com

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Hillsborough VC, 150 E. King St., Hillsborough 27278; (919) 732-7741; vithillsboroughnc.com

I-73/I-74 VCs, 4393 I-73/74 - Northbound; 4390 I-73/74 - Southbound, Seagrove 27341; (336) 626-0364; heartofnorthcarolina.com/visitor-centers

Johnston County VB, 234 Venture Dr., Smithfield 27577; (919) 989-8687; johnstoncountync.org
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Lake Norman CVB, 19900 W. Catawba Ave., Suite 102, Cornelius 28031; (704) 987-3300; visitlakenorman.org
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Lexington TA, 2 N. Main St., Lexington 27292; (336) 236-4218; visitlexingtonnc.com
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Lincolnton-Lincoln County C of C, 101 E. Main St., Lincolnton 28092; (704) 735-3096; lincolnchambernc.org



Lumberton VB, 3431 Lackey St., Lumberton 28360; (910) 739-9999;

lumberton-nc.com
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Monroe Tourism & VB, PO Box 69, Monroe 28111; (704) 282-4542; monroenc.org/266/Tourism

Montgomery County TDA, 100 W. Main St., Troy 27371; (910) 573-3153; discoveruwharrie.com



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Rowan County CVB, 204 E. Innes St., Suite 280, Salisbury 28144; (704) 638-3100; visitrowancountync.com

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Stanly County CVB, 1000 N. First St., Suite 11, Albemarle 28001; (704) 986-2583; visitstanly.com



Statesville CVB, 104 N. Center St., Suite C, Statesville 28677;

(704) 682-7756; visit.statesvillenc.com
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Stokes County Tourism, 1014 Main St., Danbury 27016; (336) 593-2496; hangingrock.com
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Tarboro Edgecombe C of C, 500 Main St., Tarboro 27886; (252) 823-7241; discoverededgecombe.com

Thomasville VC, 44 W. Main St., Thomasville 27360; (336) 472-4422; visitthomasvillenc.com

Union County C of C, 903 Skyway Dr., Monroe 28110; (704) 289-4567; unioncountycoc.com



Vance County TDA, 946-T W. Andrews Ave., Henderson 27536; (252) 438-2222; kerlake-nc.com

Visit Harnett, PO Box 1270, Lillington 27546; (919) 600-9156; visitharnett.com

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Warren County TDA, 540 W. Ridgeway St., Warrenton 27589; (252) 257-3037; warrencounty.com

Wilson County TDA, 228 Goldsboro St. S., Wilson 27893; (252) 243-8440; comeseewilson.com

Yadkin County TDA, 205 S. Jackson St., Yadkinville 27055; (336) 679-2200; visityadkin.com

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Ahoskie C of C, 310 S. Catherine Creek Rd., Ahoskie 27910; (252) 332-2042; ahoskiechamber.net

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Columbus C of C & T, 601 S. Madison St., Whiteville 28472; (910) 642-3171; thecolumbuschamber.com

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Duplin County TDA, PO Box 965, Kenansville 28349; uncorkduplin.com

Elizabethtown-White Lake C of C, 207 E. Broad St., Suite B, Elizabethtown 28337; (910) 862-4368; elizabethtownwhitelake.com

Gates County, 200 Court St., Gatesville 27938; (252) 357-2495; gatescountync.gov

Greene County C of C, PO Box 364, Snow Hill 28580; (252) 747-8090

Hyde County EDC, 30 Oyster Creek Rd., Swan Quarter 27885; (252) 926-4178; hydecountync.gov/departments/planning_and_economic_development.php

Jones County EDC, 134 Industrial Park Dr., Trenton 28585; (252) 448-1315; jonescountync.gov

Kinston-Lenoir County TDA, 101 E. New Bern Rd., Kinston 28504; (252) 522-0004; visitkinston.com

Martin County TDA, 415 East Blvd., Williamston 27892; (252) 792-6605; exploremartincounty.com

Murfreesboro C of C, 116 E. Main St., Murfreesboro 27855; (252) 398-4886; murfreesborochamber.com

NC Coast Host, nccoasthost.com



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Northampton County TDA, 127 W. Jefferson St., Jackson 27845; (252) 534-0331; visitnorthamptonnc.com

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Outer Banks VB, 1 Visitors Center Cir., Manteo 27954; (252) 473-2138; outerbanks.org
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Pamlico County C of C, 10642 NC Hwy. 55 E., Grantsboro 28529; (252) 745-3008; pamlico-chamber.com

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Perquimans County TDA, 104 Dobbs St., Hertford 27944; (910) 409-8021; visitperquimans.com

Sampson County CVB, 414 Warsaw Rd., Clinton 28328; (910) 592-2557; visitsampsonnc.com

Tyrrell County VC, 203 S. Ludington Dr., Columbia 27925; (252) 796-0723

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Visit Goldsboro, 119-C N. Center St., Goldsboro 27530; (919) 580-4336; visitgoldsborong.com

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Visit New Bern, 316 S. Front St., New Bern 28563; (252) 637-9400; visitnewbern.com
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Visit Ocracoke, 161 Irvin Garrish Hwy., Ocracoke 27960; (252) 928-6711; visitocracokenc.com

Washington County TT&A, 111 W. Water St., Plymouth 27962; (252) 793-6627; bearolina.com

Washington TDA, 102 W. Stewart Pkwy., Washington 27889; (252) 946-9168; visitwashingtonnc.com

Wilmington and Beaches CVB, 929 N. Front St., Suite 410, Wilmington 28401; (877) 406-2356; wilmingtonandbeaches.com
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Windsor-Bertie County C of C, 121 E. Granville St., Windsor 27983; (252) 794-4277; windsorberties.com



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State Information Sources

STATE AGENCIES

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

NC Dept. of Natural & Cultural Resources, 4601 MSC, Raleigh 27699;
(919) 814-6800; ncdcr.gov

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

NC State Parks, 1615 MSC, Raleigh 27699;
(919) 707-9300; ncparks.gov

NC Wildlife Resources Commission,
1701 MSC, Raleigh 27699; (919) 707-0040;
ncwildlife.org

Visit North Carolina, 150 Fayetteville St.,
Suite 1200, Raleigh 27601; (800) 847-4862;
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I-85 South NC Welcome Center,
I-85 at Mile Marker 2, Kings Mountain
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I-95 North NC Welcome Center,
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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

GENERAL INFORMATION

Blue Ridge Parkway Association,
PO Box 2136, Asheville 28802;
(828) 670-1924; blueridgeparkway.org

NC Ski Areas Association, goskinc.com



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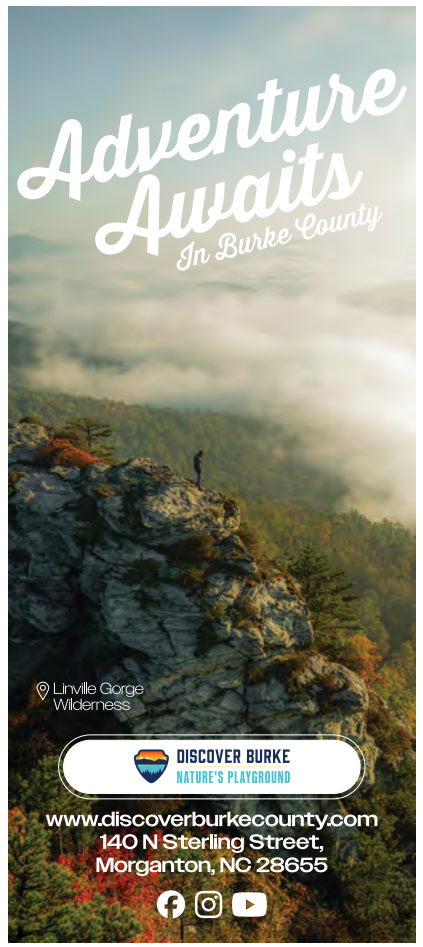


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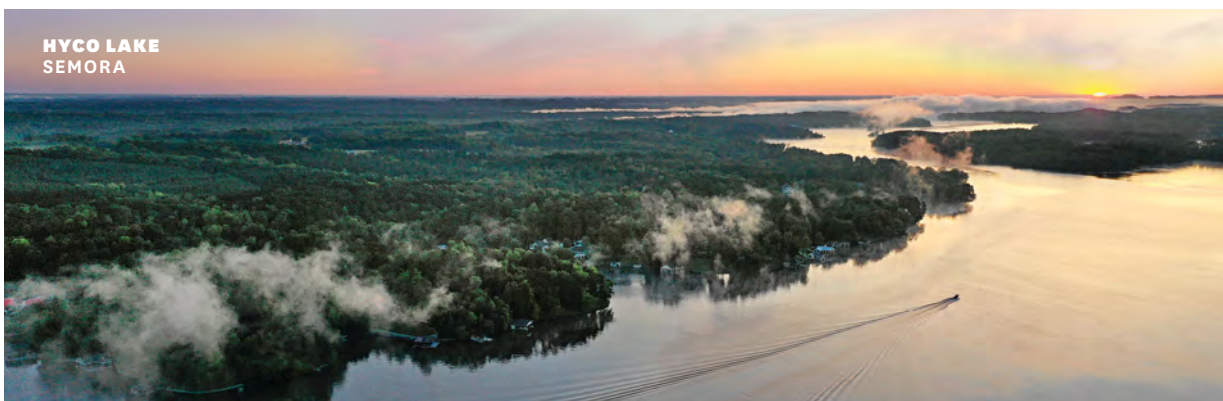
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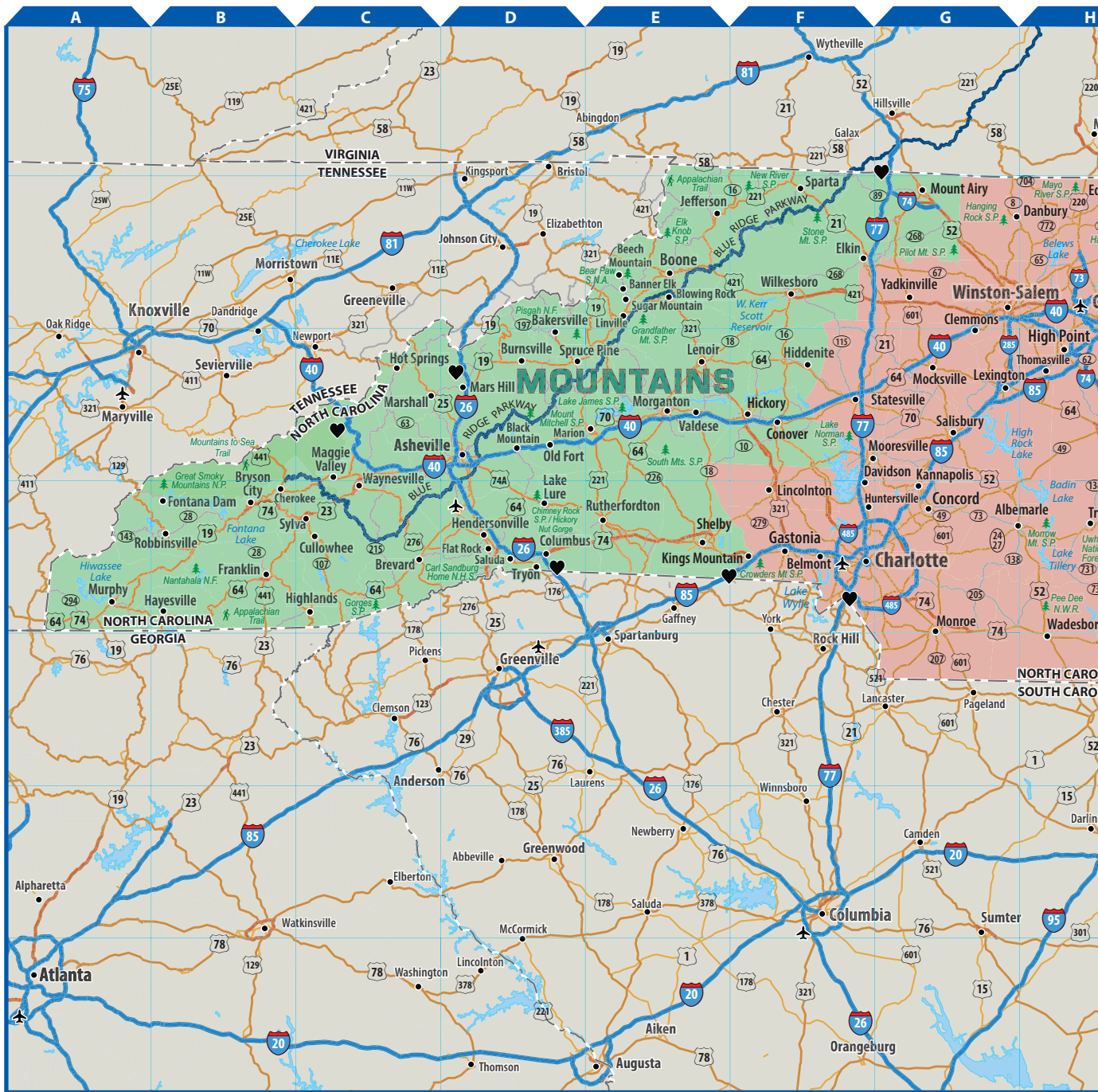
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CRYSTAL
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Abbreviations used on map
 S.P. State Park
 S.N.A. State Natural Area
 N.P. National Park
 N.F. National Forest
 N.H.S. National Historic Site
 N.W.R. National Wildlife Refuge

Towns and Cities

Ahoskie M2
 Albemarle H4
 Asheville H3
 Atlantic Beach M5
 Avon O4
 Bakersville D3

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 J7
 Camden N2
 Carolina Beach K6

Carrboro I3
 Cary J3
 Chapel Hill I3
 Charlotte F4
 Cherokee B3
 Clayton J4
 Clemmons G2
 Clinton K4
 Columbia N3
 Columbus D4
 Concord G4
 Conover F3
 Corolla O2
 Creedmoor J2
 Cullowhee C4
 Currituck N2
 Danbury G2
 Davidson F3

Duck O2
 Dunn J4
 Durham J3
 Eden H2
 Edenton M2
 Elizabeth City N2
 Elizabethtown J5
 Elkin F2
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 Flat Rock D4
 Fontana Dam B4
 Franklin B4
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 Gatesville M2
 Goldsboro K4
 Greensboro H2
 Greenville L3

Halifax L2
 Hatteras O4
 Hayesville B4
 Hendersonville D2
 Hertford N2
 Hickory F3
 Hiddenite F3
 High Point H3
 Highlands C4
 Hillsborough I2
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CaryI5	MonroeG4	Pine Knoll ShoresM5	SalisburyG3	Surf CityL6	White LakeJ5
Chapel HillI3	MooresvilleG3	PinehurstI4	SaludaD4	Swan QuarterN4	WhitevilleJ6
CharlotteI1	Morehead CityM5	PittsboroI3	SanfordI4	SwansboroM5	WilkesboroF2
ClemsonI2	MorgantonE3	PlymouthM3	Scotland NeckL2	SylvaC4	WilliamstonM3
CorneliusI4	Mount AiryG2	RaefordI4	SeagroveH3	TarboroL3	WilmingtonK6
CroftonI3	Mount OliveK4	RaleighJ3	ShelbyE4	ThomasvilleH3	WilsonK3
DanvilleI1	MurfreesboroM2	ReidsvilleH2	Siler CityI3	Topsail BeachL6	WindsorM3
Deep RiverI2	MurphyA4	RobbinsvilleB4	SmithfieldK3	TrentonL4	Winston-SalemG2
ElizabethI2	Nags HeadO3	RockinghamH5	Snow HillL4	TroyH4	Wrightsville BeachK6
ForestburgI3	New BernM4	Rocky MountK3	Southern PinesI4	TryonD4	YadkinvilleG2
FranklinI4	Oak IslandK7	RodantheO3	SouthportK6	ValdesaE3	YanceyvilleI2
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