

# TourBook® North Carolina



AAA DIAMONDS ARE NOW INSPECTED � CLEAN<sup>™</sup>

# Diamonds take the guess work out of vacation planning.

Learn more about the AAA Diamond Program inside.



## **READY TO HIT THE OPEN ROAD?**

Choice Hotels<sup>®</sup> and AAA are working together to enhance the road trip experience for all types of travelers. With over 2,000 properties throughout the United States and 7,500+ worldwide, Choice Hotels has a stay for anyone.

#### **BOOK NOW**



### WHY CHOICE HOTELS?

- Save 10% or more on stays
- Get fast-tracked to Gold Elite status after your first stay
- Join Choice Privileges® and earn reward points on your stays
- Variety of hotels conveniently located just minutes from highways
- Many pet-friendly locations



#### AAA MEMBERS SAVE 10% OR MORE WITH CHOICE HOTELS\* PLUS, GET FAST-TRACKED TO GOLD ELITE STATUS AFTER YOUR FIRST STAY

















# Less pause, more peace

Allianz Travel Insurance can give you more confidence when planning your AAA vacation. With more covered reasons for up to 100% cancellation reimbursement, plus emergency medical benefits and 24/7 assistance for travel mishaps, you can spend less time putting off your dreams and more time living them.



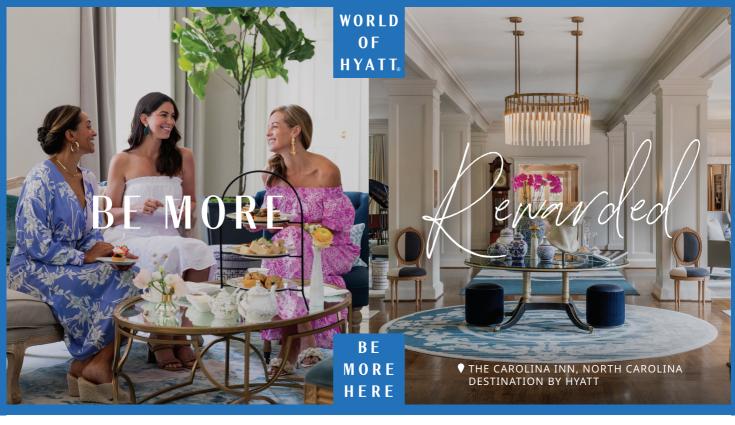
Visit AAA.com/TravelInsurance or ask your AAA Travel Advisor about protecting your trips.





Insurance + Assistance

Terms, conditions, and exclusions apply. Plan(s) underwritten by BCS Insurance Company or Jefferson Insurance Company. AGA Service Company is the licensed producer and administrator of these plans. Plans include insurance benefits and assistance services. Contact AGA Service Company at 800-284- 8300 or 9950 Mayland Drive, Richmond, VA 23233 or customerservice@allianzassistance.com. 1247420\_082924



## NORTH CAROLINA IS DELIGHTED TO HOST YOU WITH SEVERAL INCREDIBLE HYATT HOTELS

Southern charm and good times abound in North Carolina, as well as several fantastic Hyatt hotels. Check out the sweet coffeehouses, lively restaurants and eclectic boutiques near **The Carolina Inn** and **Rizzo Center**. Or stay at **Hyatt Place Charlotte Downtown** and race to the NASCAR Hall of Fame—one of several exciting museums and attractions nearby. Whether you're looking for a slow, leisurely stay, or an adventurous one, Hyatt will put you exactly where you want to be.

> Book the AAA rate and save up to 10%. Plus, World of Hyatt members can earn points for qualifying nights.

#### LEARN MORE

For complete terms and conditions visit AAA.com/hyatt. Hyatt<sup>®</sup>, World of Hyatt<sup>®</sup> and related names, designs, and marks are trademarks of Hyatt and/or its affiliates. © 2024 Hyatt Corporation. All rights reserved.

# **North Carolina**

Get more travel information:	:
AAA.com/tripcanvas	
AAA.com/roadservice	
AAA.com/autorepair	
AAA.com/office	
AAA TripTik® Travel Planne	r

Published by AAA Travel Services 1000 AAA Drive, Heathrow, FL 32746-5063 Copyright AAA 2024, All rights reserved

Stock # 4672 (v1 112024) Cover Photo Credit: Corolla, North Carolina / © iStockphoto / DougHendricks

#### **Featured Information**

Icon Legend	269
Good Facts To Know	16
Orientation Map	17

#### **City Listings**

, .	
Aberdeen	25
Albemarle	
Apex	
Archdale	
Arden	27
Asheboro	
Asheville	
Atlantic Beach	
Banner Elk	
Bath	
Beaufort	
Belmont	
Benson	
Bermuda Run	

Black Mountain	50
Blowing Rock	51
Blue Ridge Parkway	
Boone	
Brevard	
Bryson City	
Burlington	60
Cape Hatteras National Seashore	
Cape Lookout National Seashore	62
Carolina Beach	
Carrboro	63
Cary	64
Cashiers	
Chapel Hill	68
Charlotte	72
Attractions	
Hotels	
Cherokee	
Chimney Rock	
Clemmons	
Clinton	
Columbus	
Concord	
Conover	
Cornelius	
Corolla	
Croatan National Forest	
Davidson	
Dillsboro	
Dobson	126
Duck	127
Dunn	
Durham	
Eden	
Edenton	



Elizabeth City 140
Elkin
Emerald Isle
Fayetteville
Flat Rock
Fletcher
Forest City 147
Fort Liberty
Fort Raleigh National Historic Site 147
Franklin
Fuquay-Varina
Garner
Gastonia 150
Gibsonville
Goldsboro 151
Graham 153
Great Smoky Mountains
-
National Park
National Park153Greensboro155Greenville165
Greensboro
Greensboro155Greenville165Guilford Courthouse National168Military Park168Hatteras168Havelock168Henderson168Henderson169Hertford170
Greensboro
Greensboro
Greensboro155Greenville165Guilford Courthouse National168Military Park168Hatteras168Havelock168Henderson168Henderson169Hertford170Hickory171Highlands172High Point173
Greensboro
Greensboro155Greenville165Guilford Courthouse National168Military Park168Hatteras168Havelock168Henderson168Hendersonville169Hertford170Hickory171Highlands172High Point173Hillsborough173
Greensboro155Greenville165Guilford Courthouse National168Military Park168Hatteras168Havelock168Henderson168Henderson169Hertford170Hickory171Highlands172High Point173Holly Springs174



Outer Banks	213
Pinehurst	213
Pine Knoll Shores	215
Pineville	215
Pisgah National Forest	216
Raleigh	217
Reidsville	233
Roanoke Rapids	233
Rockingham	234
Rocky Mount	234
Rodanthe	237
Roxboro	237
Salisbury	237
Sanford	239
Sapphire	239
Selma	239
Shallotte	239
Shelby	240
Smithfield	240
Sneads Ferry	242
Southern Pines	243

Southport Spring Lake Statesville Sunset Beach Swansboro	244 245 247
Sylva	
Tarboro	
Thomasville	248
Uwharrie National Forest	249
Wake Forest	249
Washington	250
Waxhaw	250
Waynesville	251
Weaverville	251
Wilkesboro	252
Williamston	252
Wilmington	253
Wilson	259
Winston-Salem	261
Wright Brothers National Memorial	268
Wrightsville Beach	268





# TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

Do more. Worry less. Our AAA Travel Agents can make trip planning easy.

To find your AAA Travel Agent, go to AAA.com/offices

# 100% OF AAA DIAMOND-DESIGNATED HOTELS ARE NOW INSPECTED CLEAN

OUR OBJECTIVE MEASURE OF CLEANLINESS RECOGNIZED BY THE 26K HOTELS

ANNUALLY INSPECTED ACROSS NORTH AMERICA, MEXICO & THE CARIBBEAN





# TESTED SURFACES

GUEST ROOM DOOR HANDLES, LIGHT SWITCHES, TV REMOTE, THERMOSTAT CONTROL, DESK SURFACE, BATHROOM VANITIES, FAUCET HANDLES AND TOILET FLUSH.

# OUR AAA INSPECTORS TEST

## DIAMOND PROGRAM

# TRAVEL WITH SOMEONE YOU TRUST



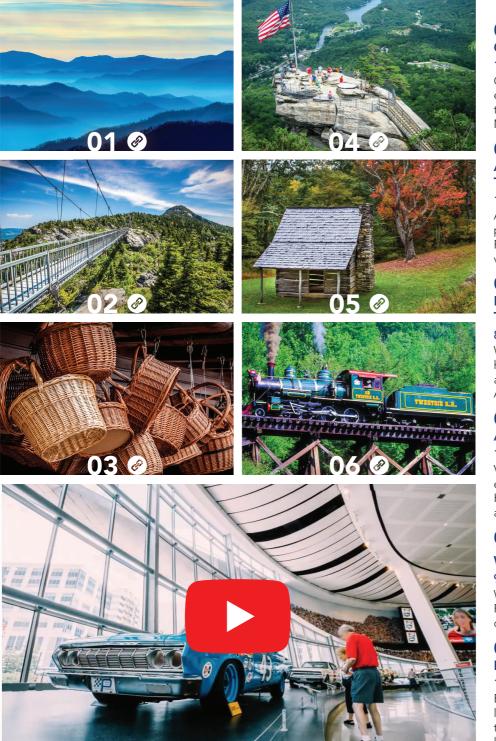
AAA DIAMONDS GIVE YOU PEACE OF MIND WHEN CHOOSING A HOTEL

AAA.COM/DIAMONDS

# ROAD North Carolina TRIPS

You'll experience some of the most beautiful scenery in the Southeastern U.S., as North Carolina highlights the best of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The slow and winding drive offers views of immense forests, craggy peaks and deep valleys. Mid-June boasts blooming rhododendrons, while late October offers the best of fall foliage; be sure to have your camera ready.

\*Due to ongoing recovery efforts from hurricanes, check locally for road and attraction updates.



#### 01 CHEROKEE TO ASHEVILLE, NC

#### 100.2 miles: 3 hours, 10 minutes

Cherokee not only marks the western end of the 469-mile parkway but is the southern gateway to Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

#### 02 ASHEVILLE TO BLOWING ROCK, NC

#### 117.4 miles: 3 hours, 28 minutes

After bypassing the Asheville area the parkway follows the northern edge of Pisgah National Forest, where awesome views take in 6,000-foot mountain peaks.

#### 03 BLOWING ROCK TO NC/VA STATE LINE

#### 86.1 miles: 2 hours, 13 minutes

Western North Carolina is renowned for handmade crafts, ranging from baskets and pottery to hammered dulcimers and Appalachian-style banjos.

#### 04 ASHEVILLE TO CHARLOTTE, NC

#### 129.0 miles: 3 hours, 7 minutes

Visit Chimney Rock State Park for exceptional views that include Lake Lure. Hikers can reach the summit by means of a marked trail and stairways.

05

#### WINSTON-SALEM TO BOONE, NC

#### 95.1 miles: 1 hour, 47 minutes

Watauga County's portion of the Blue Ridge Mountains offers sweeping views of valleys, woodlands and mountains.

#### 06 BOONE TO ASHEVILLE, NC

#### 104.1 miles: 2 hours, 53 minutes

Enjoy photogenic marvels of stunning long-range vistas and close-ups of the rugged mountains and pastoral landscapes abound.

For a complete list of itineraries and details visit aaa.com/roadtrips



Pisgah National Forest / © iStockphoto.com / Kruck20

You go to North Carolina for the simple, stunning beauty of it. The state is an intricately composed mosaic of natural wonders. Mother Nature not only smiled on the northern of the two Carolina sisters; she spoiled her like an only child.

So tall that they mingle with the clouds, the Great Smoky Mountains are blanketed with a distinctive bluish haze that sometimes seems to envelop still lakes. rocky cliffs and an unbroken carpet of green trees. Other colors dazzle according to the season. The first spring wildflowers in early March are delicate shades of white and pink. A palette of greens characterizes the lush woodlands of summer, while the deep red and gold hues that mark fall foliage flare in mid-October.

Falling water plummets, cascades and glides over cliffs and rocks throughout western North Carolina, creating sounds from soothing to thundering. At Pisgah-one of four national forests-the trees stand so close together that they rub limbs, and the gorges are so deep that the sun only penetrates down to the cool clay at high noon.

The Outer Banks form a broken strand of barrier islands within shouting distance of the mainland; standing on a wide expanse of sandy beach, you feel like vou can see as far south as Miami. Mother Nature's handiwork reveals itself in windblown sand dunes, woods, marshlands and an island where wild ponies roam.

# North Carolina

Good Facts To Know	16
Orientation Map	17
Recreation Areas Chart	18
Alphabetical City Listings	25
MAJOR DESTINATION:	
Charlotte	72

Legends and stories give the North Carolina coast a sense of mystery. Historians still don't know what became of the so-called "Lost Colony" that Sir Walter Raleigh established on Roanoke Island in 1587. More than 100 men, women and children journeyed from England to establish the first settlement in America; within 3 years it had disappeared, leaving behind scarcely a trace save the enigmatic word "Croatoan" carved into a tree.

Stories of Blackbeard and his visits to Ocracoke, on the other hand, are plentiful. It's said that the pirateless commonly known by his given name, Edward Teach—blazed into battle with his beard braided into two pigtails and bedecked with ribbons, and that he left treasure buried along the Carolina coast. Blackbeard and his flamboyant exploits have a contemporary equivalent; the buccaneer was one of the models for Johnny Depp's character Capt. Jack Sparrow in the enormously successful "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies.

#### Building on Her Blessings

Many of the state's abundant natural gifts have been made accessible via the Blue Ridge Parkway. The



highway was literally carved out of the mountains, creating overlooks that place panoramic vistas practically in the palm of your hand. Peaks like the Black Mountains, fog-topped in the distance, pose for the camera from a perspective you could never reach on your own two legs.

George W. Vanderbilt found the scenery in the vicinity of Asheville so inviting that he created a little haven for himself. Standing in the midst of acres of woodland, the Biltmore is an enormous replica of a 16thcentury French château. Lavishly decorated and surrounded by immaculately landscaped gardens, the estate is one heck of a showplace that also takes full advantage of its natural setting.

Lighthouses stand watch over the barrier islands, their bold colors and vertical profiles contrasting dramatically with the tan-colored dunes and pancake-flat terrain. Cape Hatteras Lighthouse protects ships along the notorious stretch of coast dubbed the "Graveyard of the Atlantic." Emblazoned with black-and-white stripes, this tall brick tower is a regal sight to behold.

And North Carolina has its share of visionaries. When Orville and Wilbur Wright decided that the only way to go was up, they built the "Flyer" and successfully launched it from the sand dunes at Kill Devil Hills. Gazing up into the sky in 1903, the brothers most definitely had visions of grandeur. Today the views are yours to enjoy.

#### Recreation

Ski, hike or bike in the mountains. Kayak, surf or scuba dive in the ocean. Fish, swim or boat in the lakes. With all of these options at your doorstep, the best place to be in North Carolina is *outside*.

Campers travel from around the country to pitch their tents in the unspoiled terrain of the Tar Heel State's four national forests and numerous state parks. Anglers cast their lines into lakes and mountain streams for bass and rainbow and brook trout. Marlin favor the surf at Oregon Inlet.

Hiking trails wind through the Blue Ridge Parkway and Nantahala and Pisgah national forests. The Appalachian Trail also passes through Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Grab a trail map at park ranger stations and then set out for a little adventure. The Deep Creek area in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (near Bryson City) is known for its rushing streams and pretty waterfalls, accessible from several loop trails that are bright with wildflowers in spring and swaddled in ferns and fungi in summer. Another popular pastime is tubing on Deep Creek, a fun way for the entire family to beat the heat.

Don your helmets and pads and hit the hilly mountain biking trails at Wilson Creek Area, near Marion. Or tackle the left Tsali Loop in the Nantahala Cheoah Ranger District in Nantahala National Park. Once you've made the 11-mile trek to the top, congratulate yourself, catch your breath and look to the north for a stunning vista of Fontana Lake and the Great Smokies.

Each gust of wind changes the size and shape of sand dunes at Jockey's Ridge State Park in Nags Head. A hike up one of the tall, swooping dunes is rewarded with a jumping-off point for hang gliders. The waters off Nags Head are great for sea kayaking as well. For reservation information contact Kitty Hawk Kites; phone (877) 359-8447.

Hiking in the mountains / © iStockphoto.com / Joel Carillet





#### GOOD FACTS TO KNOW

#### **ABOUT THE STATE**

POPULATION: 10.439.388. AREA: 53,819 square miles; ranks 28th. CAPITAL: Raleigh. HIGHEST POINT: 6.684 ft., Mount Mitchell. LOWEST POINT: Sea level. Atlantic Ocean. TIME ZONE(S): Eastern. DST.

#### GAMBLING

MINIMUM AGE FOR GAMBLING: 21.

#### REGULATIONS

TEEN DRIVING LAWS: No more than one passenger under age 21 is permitted; family members are exempt. If a family member younger than age 21 is a passenger, then non-family passengers under age 21 are not permitted unless driving to school. Driving is not permitted 9 p.m.-5 a.m. The minimum age for an unrestricted driver's license is 16 years and 6 months. For more information, phone (919) 715-7000.

SEAT BELT/CHILD RESTRAINT LAWS: Seat belts are required for driver and all passengers ages 16 and over. Children ages 8-15 or over 80 pounds are required to be in a child restraint or seat belt; child restraints are required for children under age 8 and under 80 pounds. AAA recommends the use of seat belts and appropriate child restraints for the driver and all passengers.

**CELLPHONE RESTRICTIONS:** Text messaging is prohibited for all drivers. All cellphone use is prohibited for drivers under 18.

**HELMETS FOR MOTORCYCLISTS:** Required for all riders.

**RADAR DETECTORS:** Permitted. Prohibited for commercial vehicles.

MOVE OVER LAW: Driver is required to slow down and vacate the lane nearest stopped police, fire and rescue vehicles using audible or flashing signals. Law also requires driver to move over for tow truck drivers assisting motorists on the roadside. Also included in the law are utility vehicles, municipal vehicles and road maintenance vehicles.

FIREARMS LAWS: Vary by state and/or county. Contact the Law Enforcement Liaison Section, Attorney General's Office, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001; phone (919) 716-6400.

#### HOLIDAYS

HOLIDAYS: New Year's Day, Jan. 1 • Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday, Jan. (3rd Mon.) • Good Friday, Mar. 29 • Memorial Day, May (last Mon.) • Independence Day, July 4 • Labor Day, Sept. (1st Mon.) • Veterans Day, Nov. 11 • Thanksgiving and day after, Nov. (4th Thurs. and Fri.) • Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and day after Christmas, Dec. 24-26.

#### MONEY

**TAXES:** North Carolina's statewide sales tax is 4.75 percent, with local options for an additional 2 to 2.75 percent. Localities may impose a Room Occupancy Tax of varying percentages.

#### **VISITOR INFORMATION**

**INFORMATION CENTERS:** State welcome centers are found on I-85N near Kings Mountain • I-85S near Norlina • I-95S near Roanoke Rapids • I-95N near Rowland • I-77S near Dobson • I-77N near Charlotte • and I-40E near Waynesville. Information, free brochures and picnic and rest area facilities are available. Centers are open daily 8-5 • closed federal holidavs.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION FOR VISITORS:

Travel & Tourism Division 301 N. Wilmington St. Raleigh, NC 27601 (919) 814-4600

#### NATIONAL FOREST INFORMATION:

U.S. Department of Agriculture U.S. Forest Service 160 Zillicoa St., Suite A Asheville, NC 28801 (828) 257-4200 (main office) (877) 444-6777 (campground reservations only)

#### FISHING AND HUNTING REGULATIONS:

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission 1701 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699 (919) 707-0010 (main line) (919) 707-4011 (wildlife help line) (833) 950-0575 (hunting and fishing licenses)

#### **RECREATION INFORMATION:**

North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation 121 W. Jones St. Raleigh, NC 27601 (919) 707-9300

#### **ROAD AND FERRY INFORMATION:**

North Carolina Department of Transportation, Public Information Office, Customer Service Office 1 S. Wilmington St. Raleigh, NC 27601 (252) 463-7020 (800) 293-3779 (reservations)





Ø

## **Recreation Areas Chart**

Shaded columns below indicate available services and activities.



CAMPING	PICNICKING	HIKING TRAILS	BOATING	BOAT RAMP	<b>BOAT RENTAL</b>	FISHING	SWIMMING	PET FRIENDLY	<b>BICYCLE TRAILS</b>	NATURE PROGRAMS	VISITOR CENTER	LODGE/CABINS	FOOD SERVICE
(See	plac	e lis	ting	s.)									

See	plac	e lis	sting	s.)			_			
(See	e pla	ice I	listin	gs.)	)			 		
					See place listings.)         (See place listings.)         (See place listings.)         Image:	See place listings.)         (See place listings.)         (See place listings.)         Image:				



## **Recreation Areas Chart**

Shaded columns below indicate available services and activities.



Find thousands of places to camp at AAA.com/campgrounds

NATIONAL SEASHORES (See place listings.)														
Cape Hatteras 75 miles along the Outer Banks.														
<b>Cape Lookout</b> 56 miles along the Outer Banks. Bird- watching, hunting, shelling, windsurfing.														
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS														
John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir 106,860 acres n. of Henderson on the Virginia border off I-85. Water skiing.														
W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir 1,470 acres 4 mi. w. of Wilkesboro on SR 268W. Canoeing, kayaking.														
STATE														
<b>Carolina Beach</b> 420 acres 1 mi. n.w. of Carolina Beach off US 421.														
<b>Cliffs of the Neuse</b> 892 acres 3 mi. w. on SR 55, then 2 mi. n. on SR 111. Scenic. Canoeing.														
<b>Crowders Mountain</b> 5,126 acres 6 mi. w. of Gastonia off US 29/74 on SR 1125. Canoeing, rock climbing.														
<b>Dismal Swamp</b> 14,000 acres 3 mi. s. of the Virginia border on US 17. Canoeing, kayaking.														
<b>Eno River</b> 4,139 acres 3 mi. n.w. of Durham off CR 1569. Canoeing, kayaking.														
Falls Lake 38,000 acres 18 mi. n. of Raleigh off SR 50.														
<b>Fort Fisher</b> 287 acres 5 mi. s. of Carolina Beach off US 421. Interpretive programs, off-roading.														
Fort Macon 424 acres 2 mi. e. on SR 1190. Historic.														



Recreation Areas Chart         Shaded columns below indicate available services and activities.         Image: State of the service o	CAMPING	PICNICKING	HIKING TRAILS	BOATING	BOAT RAMP	BOAT RENTAL	FISHING	SWIMMING	PET FRIENDLY	<b>BICYCLE TRAILS</b>	NATURE PROGRAMS	VISITOR CENTER	LODGE/CABINS	FOOD SERVICE
Goose Creek 1,672 acres 8 mi. e. of Washington on US 264.														
<b>Gorges</b> 7,443 acres in Sapphire at jct. SR 281S and US 64. Horseback riding; rare plant species, waterfall overlook.														
<b>Hammocks Beach</b> 1,520 acres 4 mi. s. via SR 24 and ferry. Scenic. Canoeing, kayaking, shelling; paddling trails.														
Hanging Rock 7,049 acres 4 mi. n.w. off SR 89. Scenic. Rock climbing; waterfalls.														
<b>Jones Lake</b> 2,208 acres 4 mi. n. of Elizabethtown off SR 242. Canoeing, paddleboarding.														
Jordan Lake 47,000 acres 10 mi. w. of Apex off US 64.														
Kerr Lake 50,000 acres 11 mi. n. of Henderson on the Virginia border off I-85.														
Lake James 3,644 acres 5 mi. n.e. of Marion on SR 126. Canoeing.														
Lake Norman 32,510 acres n.w. of Huntersville off I-77. Canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding.														
Lake Waccamaw 10,670 acres 6 mi. s. of Lake Wac- camaw off US 74/76. Interpretive programs.														
Medoc Mountain 3,892 acres 15 mi. s.w. of Roanoke Rapids via SR 48, then 2 mi. w. on SR 561. Canoe- ing, kayaking; horse trails.														
Merchants Millpond 3,352 acres 6 mi. n.e. of Gates- ville on SR 1403. Canoeing, kayaking.														



#### NORTH CAROLINA 21

٦

Recreation Areas Chart         Shaded columns below indicate available services and activities.         Image: State of the services of the services and activities of the services of the	CAMPING	PICNICKING	<b>HIKING TRAILS</b>	BOATING	BOAT RAMP	BOAT RENTAL	FISHING	SWIMMING	PET FRIENDLY	<b>BICYCLE TRAILS</b>	NATURE PROGRAMS	VISITOR CENTER	LODGE/CABINS	FOOD SERVICE
Morrow Mountain 4,496 acres 5 mi. e. via SR 24/27/73 and SR 1719 (near Badin). Scenic. Canoeing, kayaking, swimming (pool); horse trails, museum.														
Mount Jefferson 607 acres 1.5 mi. s. of Jefferson off US 221.														
<b>Mount Mitchell</b> 1,996 acres 35 mi. n.e. via the Blue Ridge Pkwy. and SR 128 at Milepost 355. Scenic. Museum, observation platform.														
<b>New River</b> 2,359 acres 8 mi. s.e. of Jefferson via SR 88. Canoeing, kayaking.														
<b>Pettigrew</b> 17,743 acres 8 mi. s. via US 64. Scenic. Canoeing, kayaking.														
<b>Pilot Mountain</b> 3,651 acres 24 mi. n. of Winston- Salem off US 52. Canoeing, mountain climbing; horse trails.														
<b>Raven Rock</b> 4,694 acres 6 mi. n.w. of Lillington off US 421. Historic. Scenic. Paddling; horse trails.														
<b>South Mountains</b> 18,048 acres 13 mi. s. of Morganton on CR 1904. Horse trails.														
<b>Stone Mountain</b> 14,210 acres 7 mi. s.w. of Roaring Gap off US 21. Mountain climbing; horse trails.														
Weymouth Woods-Sandhills Nature Preserve 900 acres 2 mi. s. of Southern Pines off US 1 on SR 2074.														
William B. Umstead 6,000 acres 10 mi. n.w. of Ra- leigh off US 70 or 11 mi. w. on I-40. Canoeing; horse trails, row boats.														



## **Recreation Areas Chart**

Shaded columns below indicate available services and activities.



Find thousands of places to camp at AAA.com/campgrounds

	CAMPING	PICNICKING	HIKING TRAILS	BOATING	BOAT RAMP	BOAT RENTAL	FISHING	SWIMMING	PET FRIENDLY	<b>BICYCLE TRAILS</b>	NATURE PROGRAMS	VISITOR CENTER	LODGE/CABINS	FOOD SERVICE
NΔ	<b>Y</b> (.9	See	nlac	e li	stind	y)								

BLUE RIDGE PARKWA	Y (3	See p	olac	e lis	sting	g.)	 	-		_	
Crabtree Falls 253 acres at Milepost 339.5.											
<b>Doughton</b> 6,000 acres at Milepost 239. Horse trails, interpretive programs.											
Julian Price Memorial 4,200 acres at Milepost 297. Canoeing; horse trails, interpretive programs.											
Linville Falls 995 acres at Milepost 316.											
Mount Pisgah 680 acres at Milepost 409.											
ОТН	R										
<b>Blue Jay Point</b> 236 acres in Raleigh 9 mi. n. on Six Forks Rd. from I-440, then following signs. Educational exhibits, garden area, playgrounds.											
<b>Broad River Greenway</b> 436 acres 3 mi. s. of Boiling Springs on SR 150. Canoeing, tubing; horse trails. Flat-bottom boats only.											
<b>Cane Creek</b> 1,050 acres 14 mi. s. of Monroe off SR 200. Canoeing; ball fields, horse trails, miniature golf (seasonal), playgrounds.											
<b>Cedarock Park and Historical Farm</b> 414 acres at 3916 R. Dean Coleman Rd. Historic. Camping (tent), canoeing, disc golf, hiking, kayaking, mountain biking; horse trails.											
<b>Chatuge Lake</b> 7,050 acres 5 mi. e. of Hayesville via US 64.											
<b>Dan Nicholas</b> 350 acres 8 mi. s.e. of Salisbury on Bringle Ferry Rd. Tennis; carousel, miniature golf course, nature center, paddleboats, splash pad.											



Recreation Areas ChartShaded columns below indicate available services and activities.Image: Shaded columns below indicate available services and activitie	CAMPING	PICNICKING	<b>HIKING TRAILS</b>	BOATING	BOAT RAMP	<b>BOAT RENTAL</b>	FISHING	SWIMMING	PET FRIENDLY	<b>BICYCLE TRAILS</b>	NATURE PROGRAMS	VISITOR CENTER	LODGE/CABINS	FOOD SERVICE
<b>DuPont State Forest</b> 10,400 acres 11 mi. w. of Hen- dersonville on US 64 to Crab Creek Rd., then 4.3 mi. s. to DuPont Rd., following signs. Boats with electric motors only. Bicycling, hunting, mountain biking; horse trails, waterfalls.														
Fontana Lake 10,640 acres 2 mi. e. of Fontana Vil- lage. Horse rental, nature trails.														
<b>Hagan-Stone</b> 409 acres 6.5 mi. s. of Greensboro on US 421, then w. 2 mi. on park road. Playground, swimming pool.														
Hiwassee Lake 6,090 acres 15 mi. w. of Murphy via SR 294. Canoeing, horseback riding, kayaking.														
<b>Lake Gaston</b> 20,300 acres on the Virginia border between I-95 and I-85. Jet skiing, tubing, wakeboarding, water skiing.														
<b>Lake Julian</b> 10 mi. s. of Asheville off I-26 on SR 280. Canoeing, kayaking; horseshoes, playground, sand volleyball court.														
Lake Lure 1,500 acres 1 mi. e. on US 74.														
Lake Wheeler 800 acres 6 mi. s.w. of Raleigh via Lake Wheeler Rd. Sand volleyball court.														
<b>McDowell Nature Preserve</b> 1,108 acres at 15222 York Rd. in Charlotte. Playground.														
<b>Latta Nature Center and Preserve</b> 1,460 acres at 6211 Sample Rd. in Huntersville. Paddleboarding; amphitheater, fishing dock, garden, guided tours, horse trails.														



Recreation Areas Chart         Shaded columns below indicate available services and activities.         Image: State of the service o	CAMPING	PICNICKING	HIKING TRAILS	BOATING	BOAT RAMP	BOAT RENTAL	FISHING	SWIMMING	PET FRIENDLY	<b>BICYCLE TRAILS</b>	NATURE PROGRAMS	VISITOR CENTER	LODGE/CABINS	FOOD SERVICE
<b>Reedy Creek Park</b> 116 acres at 2900 Rocky River Rd. in Charlotte. Basketball, disc golf, horseshoes, soccer, softball, volleyball; cricket pitch, playground.														
<b>Roanoke Rapids Lake</b> 4,600-acre lake on the Virginia border between I-95 and I-85 with a 17-acre lakefront for swimming. Bird-watching, kayaking, playground.														
<b>Shelley Lake/Sertoma Park</b> 237 acres in n. Raleigh on W. Millbrook Rd. Boating allowed only on boats rented within park. Bicycle rental.														
<b>Tar River Reservoir</b> 1,852 acres 5 mi. w. of Rocky Mount on SR 97, then 2 mi. n. on SR 1745. Water skiing.														
West Point on the Eno 404 acres, 5105 N. Roxboro St. Historic.														



Discover thousands of pet-friendly places to stay, play and dine. Get insight to guide your decisions.





#### ABERDEEN

Hotels p. 25

#### HAMPTON INN & SUITES BY HILTON SOUTHERN

PINES-PINEHURST BOOK NOW 910/693-4330

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates! Hotel. Address: 200 Columbus Dr 28315. Facility: 103 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry. INFREE DIAMOND INSPECTED © CLEAN

HILTON GARDEN INN SOUTHERN PINES/PINEHURST BOOK NOW 910/692-0801

THREE DIAMOND

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 155 S Hill Rd 28315.

TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT SOUTHERN

PINES/ABERDEEN BOOK NOW 910/246-5080



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy<sup>™</sup> points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 205 Columbus Dr 28315.

#### ALBEMARLE

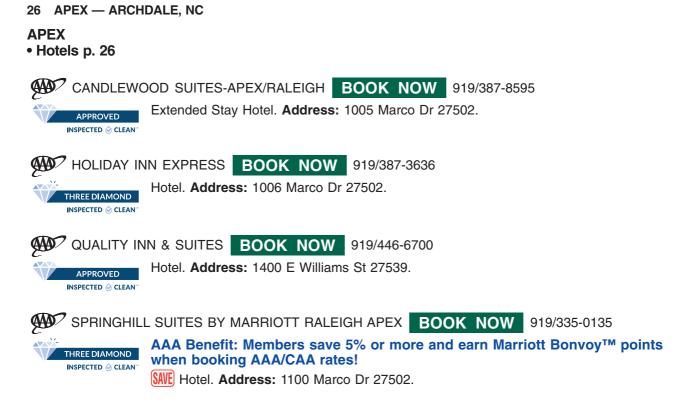
• Hotels p. 25

Albemarle is on a crest of the Uwharrie Mountains, the worn slopes of which rise more than 1,800 feet and are older than the Appalachians. Founded in 1857 as the seat of Stanly County, Albemarle is an industrial center for textiles, lumber, bricks and aircraft tires. Stanly County Chamber of Commerce: 116 E. North St., Albemarle, NC 28002. Phone: (704) 982-8116.

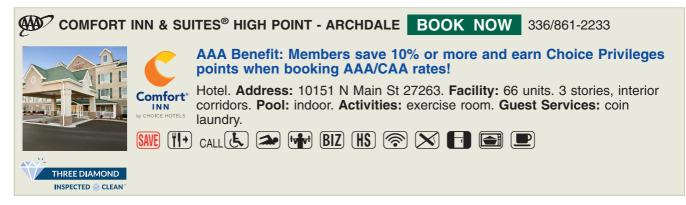
**Self-guiding tours:** A walking tour of downtown leads visitors to some 50 historic sites. A brochure featuring a map and description of the sites is available at the chamber of commerce.



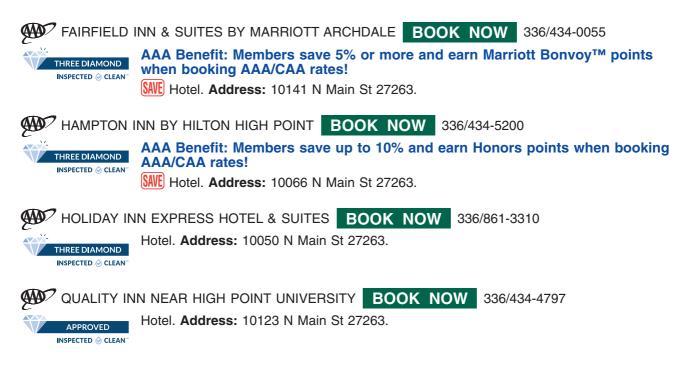




#### ARCHDALE • Hotels p. 26







#### ARDEN • Hotels p. 27

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT ASHEVILLE AIRPORT BOOK NOW 828/684-5000

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

**SAVE (fyi)** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Three Diamond. Address: 360 Rockwood Rd 28704. Facility: 91 units. 5 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.

HOLIDAY INN & SUITES ARDEN-ASHEVILLE AIRPORTBOOK NOW828/684-6000fyiHotel. Under major renovation, call for details.Last Designation: Three Diamond.Address: 9 Brian Blvd 28704.

HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON ASHEVILLE AIRPORT **BOOK NOW** 828/676-1776 **(fyi)** Extended Stay Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Three

**(fyi**) Extended Stay Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Three Diamond. Address: 390 New Airport Rd 28704.



#### **ASHEBORO**

#### • Hotels p. 28

Once home of the Keyauwee, Saponi and other small Native American tribes, the Asheboro area was settled about 1740 by German families fleeing European wars. English, Irish and Scottish pioneers soon followed. Asheboro was named for Samuel Ashe, governor of North Carolina 1795-98. The city and its early industries were nurtured by the waters of the Deep and Uwharrie rivers, along which several mills were built.

Situated near Asheboro is the 1911 Pisgah Covered Bridge, one of only two accessible covered bridges in the state. Also nearby is the Seagrove pottery region, said to be the nation's largest community of working potters.

Heart of North Carolina Visitors Bureau: 145-B Worth St., Asheboro NC 27203. Phone: (336) 626-0364 or (800) 626-2672.

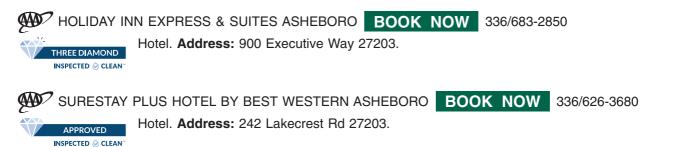
NORTH CAROLINA AVIATION MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME is 3 mi. s. on US 49, then e. on Tot Hill Farm Rd. to 2222-G Pilot's View Rd. (next to Asheboro Regional Airport). The 25,000-square-foot facility features a 1941 Piper "Flitfire" that Orville Wright flew in 1943 and an S-56 made famous by Smith Reynolds' 6,000-mile solo journey in the early 1930s, as well as historical, experimental and even unmanned aircraft. Two hangars contain military vehicles, weapons, equipment and uniforms from World Wars I and II, the Korean and Vietnam wars and the Cold War. Other exhibits include torpedo and memorial submarine displays and an army convoy.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (336) 625-0170.

NORTH CAROLINA ZOO, 6 mi. s. on SR 159, following signs to 4401 Zoo Pkwy., contains more than 1,600 animals and 60,000 plants from North America and Africa. The Watani Grasslands Reserve features exhibits with African elephants, lions, southern white rhinoceroses and 10 species of African antelope. The free-flight R.J. Reynolds Forest Aviary contains 120 birds and more than 3,000 tropical plants.

The North Carolina Streamside habitat displays such indigenous wildlife as fish, snakes, frogs, otters and bobcats. Other exhibits include red wolves, bison, elk, seals, roadrunners, ocelots, and grizzly and black bears as well as a polar bear habitat.

A tram system throughout the park is free. The AirHike ropes course and guided 45-minute Zoofari tram tour, which travels through the 38-acre Watani Grasslands exhibit, also are available. Special events are held throughout the year. **Note:** Inquire about AirHike policies regarding age, clothing and weather. **Time:** Allow 3 hours minimum. **Phone:** (336) 879-7000 or (800) 488-0444.



#### ASHEVILLE

#### • Hotels p. 32

Tucked away in the scenic Appalachians just off the Blue Ridge Parkway, Asheville should by rights be an unsophisticated backwater of interest only to adventure travel types and those who just want to get away from civilization. Yet somehow the city manages to combine the homey feel of a small mountain town with a funky, artsy vibe you'd expect to find in a much larger city. Things to see like museums and art galleries, carefully restored buildings and edgy civic sculptures, sidewalk cafés and local restaurants, street performers and a flourishing live



music scene—they are all part of the mix that makes this vibrant destination so distinctive.

Asheville has been a vacation mecca since the days when 19th-century doctors prescribed the city's fresh mountain air, mild climate, abundant mineral waters and hot springs as the perfect prescription for rehabilitation as well as relaxation. In the late 19th century, when tuberculosis was still a devastating illness, the first tuberculosis sanitarium in the United States opened in Asheville. Following the arrival of the railroad in 1880, the town became a renowned health resort and the destination of choice for a select group of rich and famous Americans.

Artists, writers, statesmen and socialites have all been drawn to Asheville since rail lines first crested the Blue Ridge Mountains. One of the first well-heeled visitors was George W. Vanderbilt, who accompanied his mother on a trip to town in 1888. Smitten by the mountains' beauty, he envisioned building a magnificent country estate; the following year construction of his dream house began. The 250-room, French Renaissance-style Biltmore was completed 6 years later. To furnish it Vanderbilt traveled throughout Europe collecting expensive artwork and antiques, and hired Frederick Law Olmsted to transform 125,000 acres of farmland into a vast tract of carefully laid out gardens, parks and woodland.

Another visionary who left an early imprint was Edwin Wiley Grove, a medicine manufacturer who visited the area in 1897 seeking relief from a bronchial condition. In 1913 he constructed The Omni Grove Park Inn out of hand-cut boulders hauled by wagon train from nearby Sunset Mountain. The inn was designed to resemble a rustic lodge Grove had seen at Yellowstone National Park, but offering all the comforts and amenities of a top-notch resort hotel. Today it maintains the elegant atmosphere that has attracted presidents, generations of Rockefellers and distinguished guests like Thomas Edison, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Henry Ford.

Despite the massive scale of these twin landmarks, the biggest construction boom was yet to come. By 1930 Asheville's skyline included such impressive buildings as the neo Gothic-style Jackson Building and the distinctive octagonal, terra-cotta tile roof and chevron accents of City Hall, designed by North Carolina native Douglas Ellington. Other Ellington landmarks are the architecturally distinctive S&W Cafeteria building, an ornate eye-catcher on Patton Avenue, and Asheville High School.

Also notable is the Grove Arcade, a Gothic-looking indoor shopping mall at Battery Park and Page avenues. The 1909 Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., has a tileand-mortar dome built without an underlying supporting structure. It was designed by Spanish-born craftsman and architect Rafael Guastavino, who came to Asheville to work on the Biltmore and later retired to the area.

Pink granite markers embedded in the sidewalk mark the Asheville Urban Trail, a 1.7-mile loop tour through downtown. The 30 artworks along its length interpret various aspects of the city's heritage and are fun places to go. Free self-guiding tour maps are available at the Asheville Art Museum, the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce/Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Thomas Wolfe Visitor Center, and at many downtown hotels and galleries.

One Urban Trail focal point is the Thomas Wolfe Memorial State Historic Site *(see attraction listing)* featuring the author's boyhood home. Wolfe drew from childhood memories growing up in an Asheville boarding house to craft his autobiographical 1929 novel "Look Homeward, Angel." The story was set in a fictional North Carolina mountain town called Altamont, but residents recognized their city and were outraged at the unflattering portrayal. The book was banned for a time from the local library, and Wolfe felt so unwelcome that he didn't travel to his hometown until 8 years after it was published; phone (828) 253-8304.

For many writers, Asheville and the mountains have served as a muse. F. Scott Fitzgerald, a frequent visitor, stayed at The Grove Park Inn while his wife Zelda was being treated at a local psychiatric hospital. O. Henry (William Porter) married an Asheville native and is buried in Riverside Cemetery not far from Wolfe. Station #4 on the Urban Trail features a bronze comb and watch chain set into the pavement, symbols from O. Henry's Christmas story "The Gift of the Magi."

Following the Urban Trail also brings you to Pack Square Park, Asheville's historic center, which encompasses more than 6 acres of green space sprinkled with fountains, food places and specialty shops, all framed by the surrounding mountains and an Art Deco skyline.

Concerts and cultural events are presented at several venues throughout downtown, including the U.S. Cellular Center Asheville (formerly Asheville Civic Center) and Thomas Wolfe Auditorium; phone (828) 259-5544, or (800) 745-3000 for tickets. The Diana Wortham Theatre presents more than 150 performances annually; phone (828) 257-4530. The Orange Peel, 101 Biltmore Ave., is a favorite venue for live music; phone (828) 398-1837. And the Asheville Community Theatre has entertained audiences with homegrown productions since 1946; phone (828) 254-1320.



Safe Travels – We've Got You Covered Stop by your local AAA office or visit us online.

AAA.com/Insurance





#### 30 ASHEVILLE, NC

While Asheville offers many big-city diversions and things for couples to do, the natural setting really stands out. Many heavily forested slopes are threaded by winding roads and hiking trails, bringing outdoorsy types face to face with some of the state's most beautiful vistas. For details about recreational opportunities and travel sites, contact Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services, (828) 250-4260, or the Pisgah National Forest Ranger District, (828) 877-3265. If you'd rather appreciate nature from the comfort of a car window, three scenic highways beckon: the Blue Ridge Parkway, US 74 and I-40.

Two rivers, the Swannanoa and the French Broad, and a number of lakes guarantee almost year-round rafting, canoeing and kayaking. Fly fishing fans flock to abundant streams and fishing holes. Various adventure travel tours and group travel packages are offered by area outfitters; contact the Asheville Convention & Visitors Bureau for a list of companies.

French Broad River Park, on Amboy Road just off I-240, includes a multiuse track for walking and biking, play and picnic areas and a dog park. In-line skaters and skateboarders find fun at Food Lion SkatePark, Cherry and Flint streets. The park's layouts cater to all levels of expertise and are fun things to do with kids. Safety helmets are required and admission is charged; for more information phone (828) 225-7184.

Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce/Convention & Visitors Bureau: 36 Montford Ave., Asheville, NC 28801. Phone: (828) 258-6101 or (800) 257-1300.

**Shopping:** The centerpiece of Asheville's downtown shopping district is the beautifully restored Grove Arcade, 1 Page Ave. Finished in 1929, the white, neo-Gothic structure complete with gargoyles was the brainchild of E.W. Grove, a Tennessee millionaire and builder of Asheville's luxurious Omni Grove Park Inn. Used as a government building for decades beginning in World War II, Grove Arcade reopened as a public market in 2002 and offers fun things to see.

Inside the Arcade, skylights bathe spiral staircases, ornate moldings and delicate wrought-iron balustrades in filtered sunshine. The specialty stores and boutiques you'll find here are far from run-of-the-mill, tending to offer rare collectibles and high-end imported goods. By contrast, the colorful Portico Market outside the building's south entrance offers shaded stalls where craftspeople, artists and farmers sell a variety of goods, catching the attentions of both serious shoppers and those just passing by along the sidewalk.

Asheville's downtown shopping district continues along nearby Haywood Street, home to jewelry stores, chocolatiers and such local institutions as Malaprop's Bookstore/Cafe. There are also several stores along the length of Broadway/Biltmore (the street is called Broadway north of Patton Avenue, and Biltmore Avenue south of Patton) including Mast General Store, 15 Biltmore Ave., a branch of the famous emporium that opened in Valle Crucis in 1883. Perusing the retro merchandise, which includes cast-iron cookware, pottery, crafts, baskets and folk toys, feels like wandering through a museum, although the store also sells the latest hiking and camping gear, too.

Scattered throughout downtown are more than 20 art galleries, a reflection of Western North Carolina's rich craft tradition. The Asheville Downtown Gallery Association publishes a brochure that includes a map and the dates of periodic art walks. It's available at member galleries and the Asheville Convention & Visitors Bureau (36 Montford Ave.).

A similar brochure highlights the River Arts District, just west of downtown at Haywood Road and Roberts Street. It shows the locations of the working artists' studios housed in 22 converted early-20th-century industrial buildings along the French Broad River. Painting, pottery, sculpture, wood working, glass making, weaving—with more than 200 artists working in all sorts of media—are things to see; the variety here is dizzying.

Adjacent to The Omni Grove Park Inn, the Grovewood Village, 111 Grovewood Rd., offers contemporary and traditional furniture, rugs, glassware, pottery, clothing and jewelry by some of the Southeast's finest artisans. The gallery is housed in restored English-style cottages built in 1917 to house Biltmore Industries, renowned at one time for its homespun wool.

Another one of Asheville's prime shopping destinations is Biltmore Village, on busy US 25 next to the Biltmore entrance. Originally a model community designed in the 1890s to enhance the approach to George W. Vanderbilt's opulent estate as well as benefit the area's citizens, Biltmore Village today is a small, walkable district with treeshaded lanes, brick sidewalks and historic English-style dwellings housing shops, local restaurants and art galleries. Although the din of traffic rumbling along US 25 may subtract somewhat from the otherwise tranquil setting, Biltmore Village is still a pleasant area to travel and shop for antiques, jewelry, gourmet food and upscale clothing.

Just off the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway, the Folk Art Center *(see attraction listing p. 55)* is home to the Southern Highland Craft Guild. The center not only interprets Appalachian Mountain culture but also houses galleries selling contemporary as well as traditional crafts produced by guild members. The guild also has a store in Biltmore Village.

Farther afield, the WNC Farmers Market, 570 Brevard Rd., sells mountain crafts, produce and local food specialties. Biltmore Park Town Square, I-26 exit 37, is a modern



villagelike shopping center featuring shops, boutiques and eateries.

**ASHEVILLE MUSEUM OF HISTORY** is adjacent to the Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College and is located in the 1840s Smith-McDowell House at 283 Victoria Rd. Built in the 1840s by affluent businessman James McConnell Smith, the three-level house contains rooms furnished in various 19th-century styles that include an 1850s bedroom, an 1860s sitting room and an 1880s parlor.

The museum features five galleries with permanent and temporary exhibits covering thousands of years of Western North Carolina history. Highlights include an interactive timeline that gives an overview of the region's history using stories, photos, and artifacts.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (828) 253-9231. (GT)

**BILTMORE** is on US 25, 3 blks. n. of I-40 exit 50 or 50B to 1 Lodge St. George Washington Vanderbilt, grandson of railroad magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt, supervised construction of the 250-room mansion, which is surrounded by 8,000 acres of land, beginning in 1889; it opened on Christmas Eve 6 years later.

Vanderbilt provided his guests and made available to staff many labor-saving devices unavailable to the general public at the end of the 19th century, such as electric elevators and lights and central hot water. He also traveled the world acquiring art and other treasures for the house, and visitors will see—in addition to Vanderbilt family china, crystal and 16th-century tapestries—works by such masters as Albrecht Dürer, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, John Singer Sargent and James McNeill Whistler.

Self-guiding tours include three floors of Biltmore House, 75 acres of formal gardens and Antler Hill Village, which includes the winery, exhibition hall, farm and village green. The Walled Garden features tulips in the spring, annuals and perennials in the summer and a carpet of chrysanthemums in the fall. The Rose Garden blooms June through October with more than 250 varieties. The 15-acre Azalea Garden is vibrant in late April and May.

Special events are featured seasonally and include ⊽ Biltmore Blooms, held in the spring; ⊽ Christmas at Biltmore, a holiday event showcasing the house in all its yuletide splendor; and ⊽ Candlelight Christmas Evenings.

**Note:** All tours of the property involve considerable walking and climbing. Access for physically impaired guests is provided to most parts of the estate, except for some sections of Biltmore House and the gardens; reduced admission is offered. **Time:** Allow 4 hours minimum. **Phone:** (828) 225-1333 or (800) 411-3812. **GT** 

**THE BOTANICAL GARDENS AT ASHEVILLE** is at 151 W.T. Weaver Blvd.; from US 19/23, take exit 25 (the University of North Carolina at Asheville exit). The grounds feature 10 acres of plants and flowers indigenous to the southern Appalachian Mountains and include two creeks, wooded areas, meadows, a historic cabin and picturesque bridges. Pets are not permitted in the garden.

Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (828) 252-5190.

CHIMNEY ROCK AT CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK—see Chimney Rock p. 119.

**GROVEWOOD VILLAGE**, 111 Grovewood Rd., adjacent to The Omni Grove Park Inn, is rich in art and history. It once housed the former weaving and woodworking complex of Biltmore Industries, a force in American craft and textiles that was originally backed by Edith Vanderbilt. The 11-acre property now features Grovewood Gallery, working artist studios, Biltmore Industries Homespun Museum and the Estes-Winn Antique Car Museum.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (828) 214-7768.

HISTORY@HAND TOURS departs from various locations and offers five different narrated 90-minute walking tours. The Downtown tour focuses on Asheville's history and architecture. The Family Store Downtown Tour highlights the architecture and history of the eclectic area as well as Asheville's Jewish history. Tours of Montford (the city's first residential historic district), historic Biltmore Village and Riverside Cemetery (a Victorian-style rural garden cemetery) also are offered.

The Downtown and Family Store tours depart from Pack Square; phone for departure locations of additional tours. **Phone:** (828) 777-1014. [GT]

**MOUNT MITCHELL STATE PARK**—see Blue Ridge Parkway p. 54.

**NORTH CAROLINA ARBORETUM**—see Blue Ridge Parkway p. 55.

**SIERRA NEVADA BREWING CO.** is 17 mi. s. off I-26 at 100 Sierra Nevada Way. Ninety-minute guided Brewhouse Tours take visitors behind-the-scenes to see the brewery process at work. Educational tastings are included for guests ages 21+. Self-guiding tours through an upstairs visitor corridor provide a bird's-eye view of the brewhouse and include a visit to the warehouse and packaging hall.

Additional guided tours are available, including a 90minute History of Beer tour, a 3-hour Beer Geek tour and seasonal tours. An amphitheater, gardens, fire pits and bocce courts are on the grounds. **Phone:** (828) 708-6176 or (828) 681-5300.



32 DOWNTOWN ASHEVILLE, NC

DOWNTOWN ASHEVILLE • Hotels p. 32

AC HOTEL BY MARRIOTT ASHEVILLE DOWNTOWN BOOK NOW

828/258-2522



## AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

**SAVE (fyi)** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Three Diamond. **Address:** 10 Broadway St 28801. **Facility:** 132 units. 9 stories, interior corridors. **Parking:** on-site (fee). **Terms:** check-in 4 pm. **Amenities:** safes. **Activities:** exercise room. **Guest Services:** valet and coin laundry.

#### ALOFT ASHEVILLE DOWNTOWN BOOK NOW 828/232-2838



## AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

**SAVE (fyi)** Boutique Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Three Diamond. **Address:** 51 Biltmore Ave 28801. **Facility:** This hotel features an industrial chic lobby with a bar and pool table. Rooms are compact and streamlined, with small desks, platform beds and huge wall-mounted TVs. 115 units. 6 stories, interior corridors. **Parking:** on-site (fee). **Terms:** check-in 4 pm. **Amenities:** safes. **Pool:** heated outdoor. **Activities:** exercise room. **Guest Services:** valet and coin laundry.



ELEMENT ASHEVILLE DOWNTOWN BOOK NOW

828/575-5881

**(fyi)** Extended Stay Contemporary Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Three Diamond. **Address:** 62 College PI 28801.



FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON ASHEVILLE DOWNTOWN BOOK NOW

828/253-1851

**fyi** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Three Diamond. **Address:** 22 Woodfin St 28801.



HILTON GARDEN INN ASHEVILLE DOWNTOWN **BOOK NOW** 828/255-0001 **fyi** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Three Diamond. **Address:** 309 College St 28801.



SAVE Hotel. Address: 31 Woodfin St 28801.





#### ASHEVILLE Hotels p. 34 Restaurants p. 47

ABBINGTON GREEN BED & BREAKFAST INN AND SPA BOOK NOW 828/251-2454

[fyi] Historic Bed & Breakfast. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Four Diamond. Address: 46 Cumberland Cir 28801.



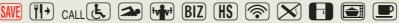
[fyi] Historic Bed & Breakfast. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Three Diamond. Address: 86 Edgemont Rd 28801. Location: Located in a quiet residential area. Facility: In the Grove Park district, the 1909 Greek Revival mansion now operates as the Albemarle Inn and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The rooms offer historic charm. 11 units. 3 stories (no elevator), interior corridors. Terms: age restrictions may apply. Activities: massage.



BAYMONT BY WYNDHAM ASHEVILLE/BILTMORE VILLAGE BOOK NOW 828/274-2022



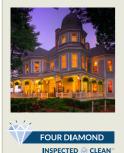
Hotel. Address: 204 Hendersonville Rd 28803. Facility: 71 units. 5 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: hot tub, exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.











Historic Bed & Breakfast. Address: 119 Dodge St 28803. Location: Located in a residential area. Facility: The owners have carefully preserved and maintained the elegant décor and natural woodwork throughout the house, which sits on a knoll overlooking—and within walking distance of—Biltmore Village. 8 units, some two bedrooms and cottages. 1-3 stories (no elevator), interior/exterior corridors. Terms:



BROOKSTONE LODGE ASHEVILLE BILTMORE VILLAGE, ASCEND HOTEL

COLLECTION BOOK NOW 828/398-5888



THREE DIAMOND

ASCEND<sup>®</sup> HOTEL COLLECTION

AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 4 Roberts Rd 28803. Facility: 73 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: limited exercise equipment. Guest Services: valet laundry.







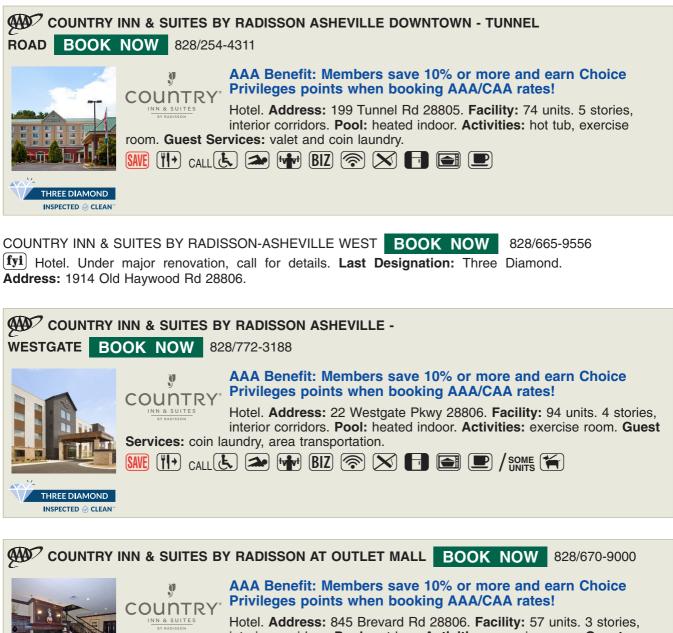
#### COMFORT INN BILTMORE WEST BOOK NOW 828/665-6500

## AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

**SAVE (fyi)** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Approved. Address: 15 Crowell Rd 28806. Facility: 62 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.



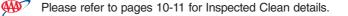


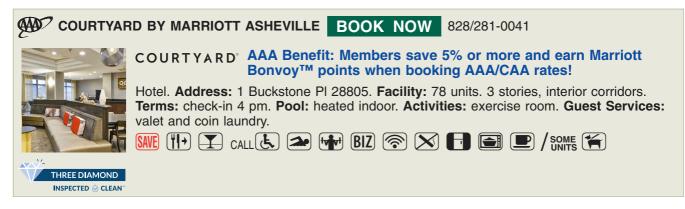


interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest

Services: coin laundry. SAVE CALL & 🛋 🖬 BIZ 🛜 🔀 📑 🖃 🖭







#### COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT ASHEVILLE BILTMORE VILLAGE BOOK NOW 828/782-5000

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvov™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

(SAVE) (fyi) Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Three Diamond. Address: 26 Meadow Rd 28803. Facility: 112 units. 5 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room, Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.

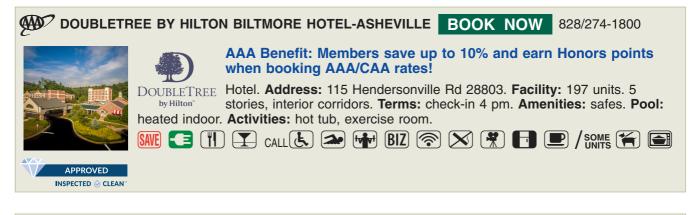


DAYS INN NORTH BOOK NOW 828/645-9191

[fyi] Motel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Approved. Address: 3 Reynolds Mountain Blvd 28804.



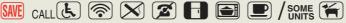




## ELEVATION LOFTS HOTEL BOOK NOW 828/761-7742



Vacation Rental Condominium. **Address:** 52 Broadway St 28801. **Facility:** This unique option is more like apartment living than your traditional hotel experience. Built in 1923, this historic property is completely modernized inside. Advance reservations are required. 6 kitchen units, some two and three bedrooms. 1-3 stories, interior corridors. **Terms:** check-in 4 pm. **Amenities:** safes. **Guest Services:** complimentary laundry.





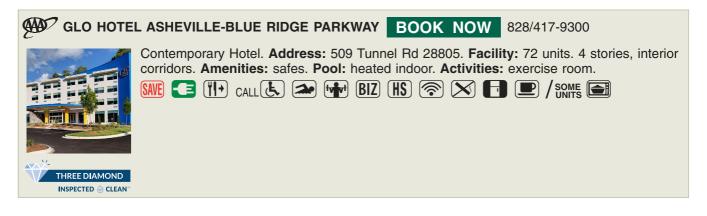


THE FOUNDRY HOTEL ASHEVILLE, CURIO COLLECTION BY HILTON BOOK NOW 828/552-8545



# AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

**SAVE (fyi)** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Four Diamond. **Address:** 51 S Market St 28801. **Facility:** 87 units, some two bedrooms. 4 stories, interior corridors. *Bath:* shower only. **Parking:** valet only. **Terms:** check-in 4 pm. **Amenities:** safes. **Dining:** 2 restaurants, entertainment. **Activities:** exercise room. **Guest Services:** valet laundry.



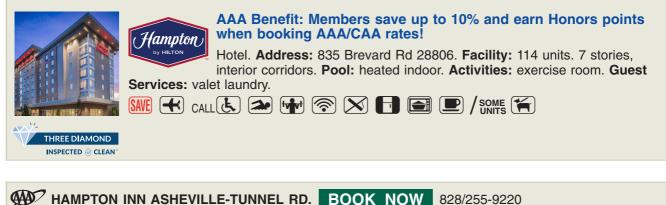
GRAND BOHEMIAN HOTEL ASHEVILLE, AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION **BOOK NOW** 828/505-2949 **fyi** Boutique Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Four Diamond. **Address:** 11 Boston Way 28803.

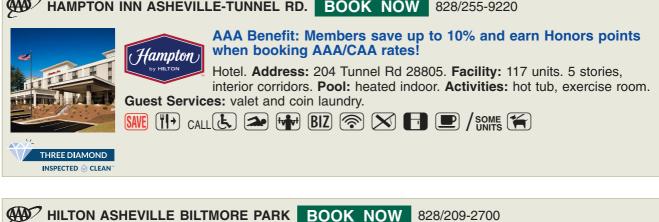




### HAMPTON INN & SUITES BY HILTON-ASHEVILLE BILTMORE

AREA BOOK NOW 828/575-9593







AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

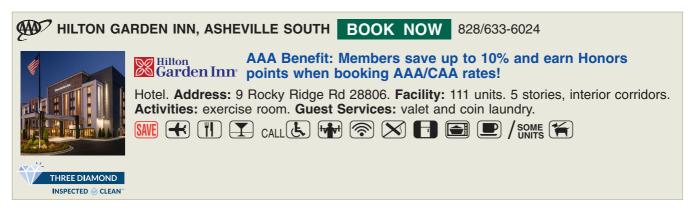
Hotel. Address: 43 Town Square Blvd 28803. Facility: 165 units. 5 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site and valet. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: hot tub. exercise room.

spa. Guest Services: valet laundry.



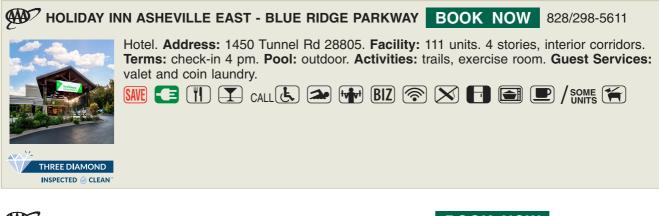


#### 42 ASHEVILLE, NC



HOLIDAY INN ASHEVILLE - BILTMORE WEST BOOK NOW 828/665-2161

**fyi** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Three Diamond. **Address:** 435 Smokey Park Hwy 28806.



HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES ASHEVILLE DOWNTOWN BOOK NOW 828/225-5550 Hotel. Address: 42 Tunnel Rd 28805. INSPECTED © CLEAN

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL & SUITES SOUTHWEST-OUTLET CENTER BOOK NOW 828/665-6519 Hotel. Address: 12 Rocky Ridge Rd 28806.



### HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON ASHEVILLE BILTMORE VILLAGE BOOK NOW 828/348-1560

**(fyi)** Extended Stay Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Three Diamond. **Address:** 61 Thompson St 28803.

#### HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON-ASHEVILLE BOOK NOW 828/252-5400



# AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

**SAVE (fyi)** Extended Stay Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Three Diamond. Address: 88 Tunnel Rd 28805. Facility: 94 efficiencies. 6 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: hot tub, picnic facilities, exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.

# THE INN ON BILTMORE ESTATE BOOK NOW 828/225-1660



SAVE

**fyi** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Four Diamond. **Address:** 1 Antler Hill Rd 28803. **Facility:** 210 units. 7 stories, interior corridors. **Parking:** on-site and valet. **Terms:** check-in 4 pm. **Amenities:** safes. **Dining:** 6 restaurants, entertainment. **Pool:** heated outdoor. **Activities:** hot tub, self-propelled boats, fishing, recreation programs, bicycles, playground, lawn sports, trails, exercise room, spa. **Guest Services:** valet laundry, area transportation.

(¬♣) (¬₽) (♠) call(೬) (∞ (¬₽) (BIZ) (¬?) (∞)

### KIMPTON HOTEL ARRAS BOOK NOW 828/255-0303



Boutique Hotel. **Address:** 7 Patton Ave 28801. **Facility:** Located in the center of downtown, this former bank building was completely reimagined and transformed into a hotel offering upscale rooms outfitted in "modern mountain" décor with Art Deco nods. 128 units. 3-9 stories, interior corridors. **Parking:** valet only. **Amenities:** safes. **Activities:** bicycles, exercise room, massage. **Guest Services:** valet laundry.







# THE OMNI GROVE PARK INN BOOK NOW 828/252-2711



(fyi) Historic Resort Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Three Diamond. Address: 290 Macon Ave 28804. Facility: This historic 1913 resort is an attraction unto itself with massive stone fireplaces and terraces with truly stunning mountain views. Rooms feature many Craftsman-style period furnishings. 513 units. 6-11 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee) and valet. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 6 restaurants, also, Vue 1913 An American Brasserie, see separate listing, entertainment. Pool: heated outdoor, heated indoor. Activities: regulation golf, tennis, recreation programs, playground, game room, trails, health club, spa. Guest Services: valet laundry, area transportation. (See ad p. 45.)

SAVE TI TH CALL & DE HE BIZ S X R D D / SOME T

QUALITY INN - ASHEVILLE DOWNTOWN/TUNNEL ROADBOOK NOW828/505-4648fyiMotel. Under major renovation, call for details.Last Designation: Approved.Address:180 Tunnel Rd 28805.

RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT ASHEVILLE BILTMORE BOOK NOW 828/281-3361



# AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

**SAVE (fyi)** Extended Stay Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Three Diamond. **Address:** 701 Biltmore Ave 28803. **Facility:** 72 units, some two bedrooms, efficiencies and kitchens. 1-3 stories, interior corridors. **Pool:** heated indoor. **Activities:** hot tub, picnic facilities, exercise room. **Guest Services:** valet and coin laundry.

THE RESTORATION ASHEVILLE BOOK NOW 828/220-0368

**(fyi)** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Three Diamond. **Address:** 68 Patton Ave 28801.

 THE SCENIC HOTEL BILTMORE VILLAGE
 BOOK NOW
 828/277-0026

 Hotel. Address: 186 Hendersonville Rd 28803. Facility: 117 units. 6 stories, interior corridors. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: hot tub, exercise room.

 Image: Construction of the stories of t



# Take *Time* TOGETHER.

# BOOK NOW



# Share the security and savings with those you love

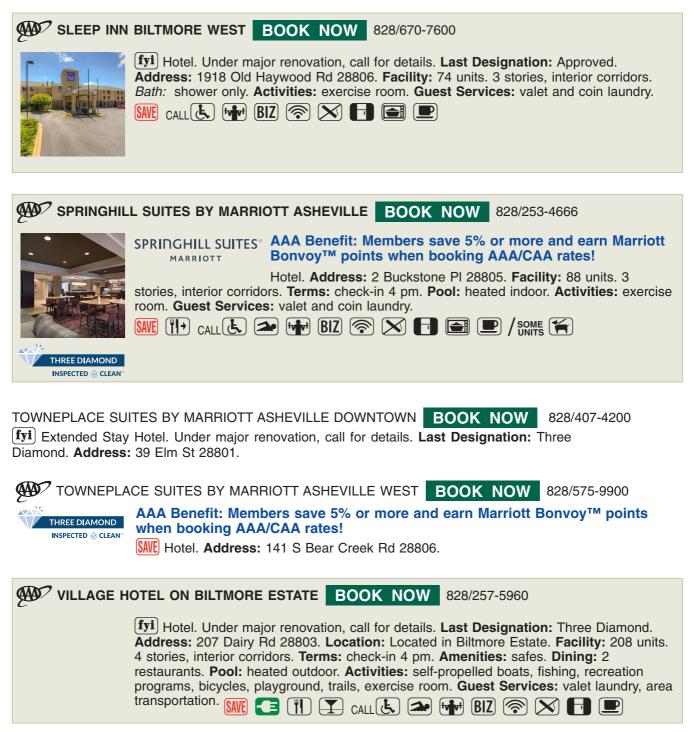
Add drivers in your household as Associate members and give them the same great benefits you trust and enjoy.

## Renew your membership today:

- Online at AAA.com/membership
- Visit your local club office
- Call 800-Join-AAA (564-6222)



#### 46 ASHEVILLE, NC





#### WHERE TO EAT

RED STAG GRILL AT GRAND BOHEMIAN HOTEL 828/505-2949

American Fine Dining. **Address:** 11 Boston Way 28803.

VUE 1913 AN AMERICAN BRASSERIE 828/252-2711 American Fine Dining. **Address:** 290 Macon Ave 28804.

## ATLANTIC BEACH

In the late 1800s, when "surf bathing" was popular, beachgoers were transported across the Intracoastal Waterway to Atlantic Beach by sailboat. A pavilion was built on the beach in 1887, which offered refreshments and a place for changing clothes. Ever since then Atlantic Beach has been a popular spot for summer tourists.

The 265-acre Theodore Roosevelt Natural Area is 7 miles northwest of Atlantic Beach; nature trails and observation decks afford views of the coastal woodlands. A Marine Resources Center is nearby off SR 24 on Bogue Sound.

**FORT MACON STATE PARK**, 424 acres, is 2 mi. e. on SR 58 to 2303 E. Fort Macon Rd. Fort Macon was built 1826-34; young Lt. Robert E. Lee designed the garrison's jetties. The Confederacy captured the fort during the Civil War. Exhibits include re-creations of the mess hall, kitchen,

living quarters and WWII barracks. Other features include a moat, powder magazines and several cannons. Bathhouse facilities are available. *See Recreation Areas Chart.* 

Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (252) 726-3775. GT 1  $\swarrow$ 

# • Hotels p. 47

High peaks and rugged ridges surround Banner Elk, offering year-round beauty and such recreational activities as skiing, golf, horseback riding, rafting, hiking and fishing.

**Avery County Chamber of Commerce:** 4501 Tynecastle Hwy., Unit 2, Banner Elk, NC 28604. **Phone:** (828) 898-5605 or (800) 972-2183.

BEST WESTERN MOUNTAIN LODGE AT BANNER ELK BOOK NOW 828/898-4571



Hotel. **Address:** 1615 Tynecastle Hwy 28604. **Facility:** 100 units. 2 stories (no elevator), exterior corridors. **Parking:** winter plug-ins. **Pool:** heated outdoor. **Activities:** exercise room. **Guest Services:** coin laundry.





#### BATH

Bath, founded in 1701, started out as a bustling trade center and seat of government. The town's role changed in 1785, when governmental activity was moved to the newly formed community of Washington. Bath's boundaries remain essentially the same as when it was incorporated in 1705 as North Carolina's first town.

**HISTORIC BATH STATE HISTORIC SITE** is at 207 Carteret St. The oldest incorporated town in North Carolina, Bath was chartered in 1705. It was the colony's first official port of entry. When he was not plundering in the Caribbean, Blackbeard was a resident. Tickets for guided tours of the Bonner House and Palmer-Marsh House can be purchased at the visitor center. The Van Der Veer House and Exhibit Center can be explored on a selfguiding tours. A 15-minute video about Bath's history is shown throughout the day.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (252) 923-3971. **GT** 

**Bonner House**, 200 Front St. at Historic Bath State Historic Site, has a collection of period furniture. Behind the 1830 house is the Ruth McCloud Smith Memorial Garden. **Phone:** (252) 923-3971. **GT** 

**Palmer-Marsh House**, 104 S. Main St. at Historic Bath State Historic Site, is a restored 1751 house. A Colonial kitchen, still in original condition, is in the cellar. **Phone:** (252) 923-3971. **(GT)** 

**Van Der Veer House** is at 103 S. Harding St. at Historic Bath State Historic Site. Built about 1790, the restored property contains exhibits depicting nearly 3 centuries of Bath's history. It's named for Jacob Van Der Veer, a founder of the Bank of Washington, who lived here for 12 years beginning in 1924. **Phone:** (252) 923-3971. **GT** 

**ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH** is at 101 Craven St. Built in 1734, it is said to be the oldest existing church in the state. The walls of the building are 2 feet thick and constructed of solid brick. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (252) 923-9141.

# BEAUFORT

#### • Hotels p. 49

First known as Fish Town, Beaufort (BO-fort) was established in the early 1700s. This seacoast town has a picturesque historic district with narrow streets and old houses. In the Old Burying Ground, deeded to the town in 1731, the earliest legible marker date is 1756. The graveyard was declared full in 1825, yet townspeople continued to use it until the early 1900s. Graves face east in the oldest portion so that the occupants would face the sun on "Judgment Morn." Among those buried here is an English sailor interred upright so he could salute the king.

**Beaufort Historical Association Welcome Center:** 130 Turner St., Beaufort, NC 28516. **Phone:** (252) 728-5225 or (800) 575-7483.

**BEAUFORT HISTORIC SITE**, 130 Turner St., offers guided building tours led by docents in period dress. All tours depart from the Beaufort Historical Association Welcome Center. Tours include the 1796 Carteret County Courthouse; the 1829 county jail; an 1859 apothecary shop; the 1778 Samuel Leffers Cottage, a typical early fisherman's cottage; the 1825 Josiah Bell House, which is furnished in Victorian fashion and has a formal side garden; and the John C. Manson house, a Bahamian-type house furnished in the Federal style. The 1732 Rustell House serves as an art gallery. Historic district bus tours and Old Burying Ground cemetery walking tours also are offered.

Phone: (252) 728-5225 or (800) 575-7483. GT

**ISLAND EXPRESS FERRY SERVICE**, 600 Front St., provides round-trip service and sightseeing tours from Beaufort to Shackleford Banks as well as from Harkers Island to Shackleford Banks and Cape Lookout National Seashore. The 4-hour trip to Cape Lookout offers scenic views from a large 49-passenger catamaran. **Phone:** (252) 728-7433.

**Crystal Coast Lady Cruises** departs from 600 Front St. Guided cruises allow passengers to see wild horses, dolphins and other attractions by water. **Phone:** (252) 728-8687. **GT** 

NORTH CAROLINA MARITIME MUSEUM IN BEAUFORT, 315 Front St., depicts the state's maritime and coastal natural history. Exhibits include artifacts from Blackbeard's flagship, the *Queen Anne's Revenge*; ship models; a sperm whale skeleton and heart; and displays about the U.S. Life Saving Service, the seafood industry and boatbuilding. Field trips to coastal habitats are offered year-round for tidal flat and salt marsh exploration. Lectures and educational programs and trips are offered; check the museum schedule for information.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (252) 504-7740.



# BEAUFORT HOTEL BOOK NOW 252/728-3000



THREE DIAMOND

Boutique Hotel. Address: 2440 Lennoxville Rd 28516. Location: Waterfront. Facility: Located on Taylor Creek, this charming hotel features upscale, custom furnishings and nods to the historic area. 133 units, some efficiencies. 3 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet and street only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor. Activities: hot tub, boat dock, fishing, bicycles, lawn sports, picnic facilities, exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.

SAVE 👖 🖬 🍸 call 🛃 🎿 🙀 HS 🛜 🔀 🗗 🗩 / SOMES ੱ



 Historic Bed & Breakfast. Address: 116 Queen St 28516.

#### BELMONT

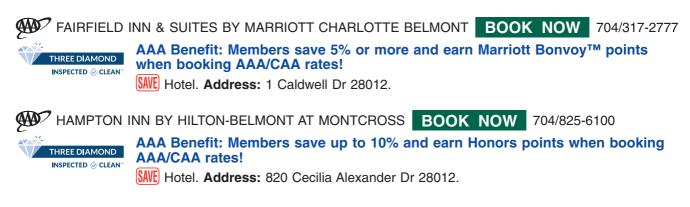
#### • Hotels p. 49

Belmont is home to Belmont Abbey, a Catholic college founded by Benedictine monks in 1876. The campus was built on the former grounds of the Caldwell Plantation.

**Gaston County Travel & Tourism:** 620 N. Main St., Belmont, NC 28012. **Phone:** (704) 825-4044 or (800) 849-9994.

**DANIEL STOWE BOTANICAL GARDEN**, 6500 S. New Hope Rd., features more than a dozen themed areas that include the Four Seasons Garden, the southern Cottage Garden, the subtropical Canal Garden, the Encore Azalea Garden and perennial gardens. The first of two trails that connect to the Carolina Thread Trail and form a 3.2-mile loop around the garden leads three-quarters of a mile to a pond with flora and fauna, while the second traverses field and forest to a view of Lake Wylie. The Orchid Conservatory is an 8,000-square-foot home to a variety of orchids and tropical plants. The grounds feature a children's garden, 12 fountains and a visitor pavilion topped by a 1909 stained-glass dome.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (704) 825-4490.







# BENSON

• Hotels p. 50



# BERMUDA RUN

• Hotels p. 50

HAMPTON INN BY HILTON - BERMUDA RUN/I-40 BOOK NOW 336/998-3480

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

ME Hotel. Address: 196 NC Hwy 801 N 27006.

## BLACK MOUNTAIN

THREE DIAMOND

INSPECTED 🔗 CLEAN®

#### • Hotels p. 50

Blessed with glorious Blue Ridge Mountain views in every direction, Black Mountain is rather like a scaleddown version of Asheville, its larger sibling some 15 miles to the west—meaning that it has a thriving arts scene, a downtown shopping district chockablock with art galleries, antique shops, bookstores and artist studios, and loads of recreational opportunities centered around scenic Lake Tomahawk. A favored summer activity is strolling along the shoreline in Lake Tomahawk Park while feeding ducks and admiring views of the Seven Sisters, a lineup of mountain peaks that do seem somehow related. The Lake Eden Arts Festival, or LEAF, celebrates music, dance and performing arts in mid-May and again in mid-October at Camp Rockmont, 377 Lake Eden Rd. This multicultural festival offers a little bit of everything: poetry slams, healing arts, handicrafts, water recreation on Lake Eden, a kids' village and last but not least, music that ranges from gospel, Cajun and blues to reggae, bluegrass and New Orleans-style jazz. For schedule information phone (828) 686-8742.

Black Mountain-Swannanoa Chamber of Commerce: 201 E. State St., Black Mountain, NC 28711. Phone: (828) 669-2300 or (800) 669-2301.

HAMPTON INN BY HILTON BLACK MOUNTAIN **BOOK NOW** 828/669-1000 (**fyi**) Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Three Diamond.

Address: 306 Black Mountain Ave 28711.





#### **BLOWING ROCK**

#### • Hotels p. 51

Named after the colossal rock formation that towers over the John's River Gorge, Blowing Rock was incorporated in 1889. This Blue Ridge Mountains summer resort boasts picture-postcard scenery, pleasant weather, art festivals and—of course—recreational opportunities galore. Authors Margaret Mitchell and Pearl S. Buck got in touch with their respective muses here, and 19th-century artist Elliott Daingerfield whiled away summers vacationing and teaching art classes while painting the vivid, symbolic North Carolina landscapes for which he is best known.

On select Saturdays from May through October, admire the Art in the Park displays on the American Legion grounds or head over to Memorial Park and groove to the tunes during a Sunday Concert in the Park. Specialty shops brimming with antiques, art and crafts await those in search of souvenirs.

Blowing Rock's refreshingly cool summer temperatures are perfect for golfing, camping, fishing, biking, rafting, swimming and other outdoor activities. The Blowing Rock Trout Derby in April kicks off the sport fishing season. Cheer on your favorite equine at the Blowing Rock Charity Horse Show, held during the summer. In winter bundle up and set out for a day of skiing, snowboarding or ice-skating at Appalachian Ski Mountain, 940 Ski Mountain Rd.; phone (828) 295-7828, or (800) 322-2373 for reservations.

Spreading over some 8,000 acres along the Blue Ridge Parkway, Moses H. Cone and Julian Price memorial parks

boast miles of horseback riding and hiking trails. Bass Lake, half a mile south on US 221, is a walking, jogging and horseback riding hot spot. If climbing exhilarates you, check out Grandfather Mountain in nearby Linville just off the Blue Ridge Parkway (see attraction listing p. 54).

Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce: 132 Park Ave., P.O. Box 406, Blowing Rock, NC 28605. Phone: (800) 295-7851.

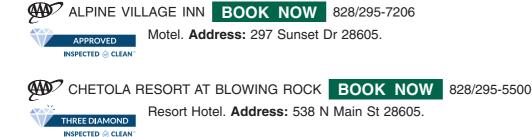
**Shopping:** Tanger Outlets, on US 321 at 278 Shoppes on the Parkway Rd., offers more than 25 stores and is open daily.

**GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN**—see Blue Ridge Parkway p. 54.

**TWEETSIE RAILROAD**, 4.2 mi. n. on US 321, is a Western theme park incorporating a restored narrow-gauge, coal-fired steam locomotive that once ran from Boone, N.C. (*see place listing p. 56*) to Johnson City, Tenn. Fond of the train's whistle, area residents coined the unusual name. Today's passengers experience mock robberies during the train ride. The railroad town has an 1880s general store, a blacksmith shop and jail.

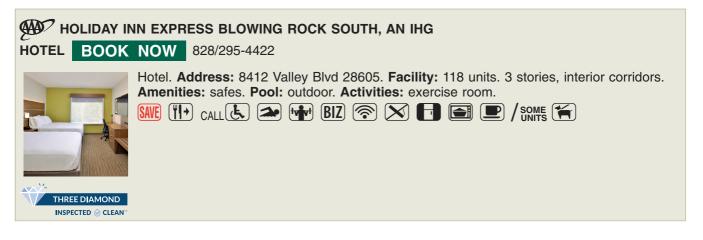
Live musical shows are presented regularly. A chairlift runs to a re-created mining town, where kids can pan for gold, visit the animal petting area or board a small train for a trip to Mouse Mine No. 9. Amusement rides also are offered. The park's location offers scenic views of the surrounding area.

**Time:** Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (828) 264-9061, (877) 893-3874 for tickets or (800) 526-5740.





#### 52 BLOWING ROCK - BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY, NC





The Blue Ridge Parkway connects Shenandoah National Park in Virginia and Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee. The 469mile scenic road follows the crest of the Blue Ridge and other ranges at elevations from 649 to 6,047 feet.

The concept for the construction of the parkway began during Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration in the 1930s. The project, in addition to creating a scenic route linking the two new national parks and spurring tourism, was a way to provide jobs for many of those left unemployed during the peak of the Great Depression. Begun in 1935, the dedication of the completed parkway did not take place until 1987, although sections of the road have been enjoyed by travelers for many years.

Free of billboards and with little residential encroachment, the road is tailor-made for leisurely drives. Areas of outstanding scenic interest include Humpback Rocks, Otter Creek, the Peaks of Otter, Roanoke Mountain, Rocky Knob and Smart View in Virginia; and Doughton Park, E.B. Jeffress Park, Julian Price and Moses H. Cone memorial parks, Linville Falls, Crabtree Falls, Craggy Gardens, Mount Pisgah and Waterrock Knob in North Carolina.

Hiking trails, varying in length from short strolls to the lengthy and strenuous Appalachian Trail, can be reached from many overlooks and parking areas; information can be obtained at parkway visitor centers. During the summer ranger programs and living-history demonstrations at various points along the parkway provide insights into the natural diversity and cultural traditions of the Southern Appalachian region. Wildflowers are in bloom from mid-May through August; fall foliage is at its peak in October. Pets are prohibited in parkway lodges but are permitted on trails and in campgrounds if leashed. Picnic areas and drinking water are available at intervals along the parkway. Hunting is prohibited.

Many visitor accommodations are open May through October only. Food is available seasonally at Mabry Mill, Mount Pisgah and Peaks of Otter. There are overnight facilities at Peaks of Otter Lodge and lodges at Mount Pisgah. Other accommodations are nearby but off the parkway.

Concrete mileposts help motorists keep track of mileage along the road, beginning at Milepost 0, south of the entrance to Shenandoah National Park, and concluding at Milepost 469, the southern terminus, at Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The speed limit of 45 mph is enforced. To drive the entire length, plan on 2 to 4 days at an average speed of 35 mph. For additional information contact Blue Ridge Parkway Headquarters, 199 Hemphill Knob Rd., Asheville, NC 28803; phone (828) 348-3400.

The parkway is open all year, but sections of the road may be closed during icy or snowy weather. Most park facilities are closed November through April. Schedules are subject to change.

North Carolina High Country Host Visitor Center: 6370 US 321, Blowing Rock, NC 28605. Phone: (828) 264-1299 or (800) 438-7500.

**Note:** The points of interest below are listed in order from north to south according to their location to the northern terminus of the parkway at Shenandoah National Park.



**HUMPBACK ROCKS VISITOR CENTER** is at Milepost 5.8, 6 mi. s.e. of Afton, Va. The center features an outdoor museum of 1890s farm buildings, including a single-room log cabin. Costumed interpreters provide demonstrations of gardening, basket making and weaving. Three hiking trails are on the grounds. Picnic tables are available. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (540) 943-4716.

JAMES RIVER VISITOR CENTER, at Milepost 63.6, 3 mi. n. of Big Island, Va., chronicles the story of the James River and the Kanawha Canal. A pedestrian walkway crossing the river leads to a restored canal lock. **Phone:** (434) 299-5496.

**PEAKS OF OTTER VISITOR CENTER**, at Milepost 85.6, 10 mi. n.w. of Bedford, Va., houses exhibits about forest ecology and the history of the Peaks of Otter area. Nearby is an 1830s cabin that sheltered early travelers. A 1930s-era historic farm offers living-history demonstrations. Stop by the Nature Center to learn about the plants and animals of the Blue Ridge. Walking trails to the summit of Sharp Top Mountain and around Johnson Farm and Abbott Lake are available. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (540) 586-4496. **GT** 

**MABRY MILL** is at Milepost 176.2, just n. of jct. US 58, 1 mi. n.w. of Meadows of Dan, Va. A display of pioneer items includes a blacksmith shop, a gristmill, a sawmill and a sorghum press. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (276) 952-2947.

**BLUE RIDGE MUSIC CENTER** is at Milepost 213, 10 mi. s. of Galax, Va. The natural beauty of the Blue Ridge Parkway is the backdrop for concerts, performances and special events held at this facility. Banjo and fiddle players frequent the main outdoor stage and the center's intimate indoor theater. Local and regional musicians perform in the visitor center breezeway as part of the Midday Mountain Music Program. Evening concerts are offered on weekends. The state-of-the-art Roots of American Music Museum explores the history, development and cultural impact of the music made in this region.

**Time:** Allow 45 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (276) 236-5309, or (866) 308-2773, ext. 212, for concert tickets.

**CUMBERLAND KNOB**, at Milepost 217.5, marks the site where the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) began the construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway in 1935. Several interpretive signs describe the history of the parkway and the philosophy behind its design: to build a road that does not detract from the natural landscape's beauty. A small family cemetery, one of more than 75 within the parkway's boundaries, stands nearby. Two trails begin behind a building that was the parkway's first concession stand. The Cumberland Knob Trail offers an easy half-mile stroll through a forest to a rustic stone shelter. The Gully Creek Trail leads down into a heavily wooded ravine and along—and even through—a picturesque creek with several splashing cascades. It is a strenuous 2.5-mile climb down and back; hikers should allow at least 2 hours for the round-trip.

**Note:** Due to the often slick, wet rocks along the Gully Creek Trail, sturdy shoes with a nonslip sole are recommended.  $\overline{r}$ 

**BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN FRESCOES** are at Milepost 259 in Glendale Springs, N.C., 3 mi. n. of the parkway's jct. with SR 16, and in West Jefferson, N.C., following signs from jct. US 221 Bus. Rte. and SR 194. North Carolina artist Benjamin F. Long painted these religious artworks in two Episcopal churches: Holy Trinity in Glendale Springs and St. Mary's in West Jefferson. Prerecorded narratives describe their history. The church frescoes, along with Long's work in six other North Carolina cities, comprise the Benjamin F. Long Fresco Trail. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (336) 982-3076 or (828) 298-5330.

**E.B. JEFFRESS PARK** is at Milepost 272, near Deep Gap, N.C. Named for a prominent North Carolina newspaper publisher and early Blue Ridge Parkway advocate, this roadside park features two trails. The Cascades Trail is a moderate 1-mile loop following Falls Creek through a forest thick with rhododendron and mountain laurel down to two overlooks from which you can watch the creek spill over the rocky sides of the mountain.

The half-mile Tomkins Knob Trail leads through woods to the site of Cool Springs Baptist Church, a historic location of outdoor church gatherings where mountain families once gathered to hear circuit-riding preachers. The picturesque Jesse Brown Cabin nearby, which is visible from the parkway, is where the itinerant preachers would spend the night. This easy trail ends at Tomkins Knob Overlook at Milepost 272.5. **Phone:** (828) 348-3400 for Parkway headquarters.

**MOSES H. CONE MEMORIAL PARK AND PARKWAY CRAFT CENTER** is at Milepost 294, 3 mi. w. of Blowing Rock, N.C. The park features 25 miles of trails and panoramic views. The Parkway Craft Center occupies Moses Cone's former manor house and is operated by the Southern Highland Craft Guild. Cone, a wealthy textile manufacturer, built his country estate at the turn of the 20th century. Traditional handmade crafts are available for purchase and demonstrated throughout the season. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (828) 295-7938.



#### 54 BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY, NC

**GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN** is 1 mi. s. of jct. US 221 and Blue Ridge Pkwy. Milepost 305. The rugged 5,946-foot peak was named by early pioneers for its profile: When viewed from the north, it resembles a bearded grandfather looking toward the sky.

At the entrance gate you'll receive an audio tour CD narrating the winding 2-mile drive to the summit. The road ends at the Top Shop visitor center, where you'll find several trailheads, including those for strenuous hikes along the ridge into adjacent Grandfather Mountain State Park.

The highlight of a visit to Grandfather Mountain is the Mile High Swinging Bridge, a steel suspension footbridge completed in 1999 that despite the name swings very little, especially compared to its wooden predecessor. Although it stands a mile above sea level, the bridge accessible by way of stairs behind the Top Shop or an elevator inside the shop—is only 80 feet above the ravine it spans. The views from the bridge as well as the rock outcroppings at either end are spectacular.

Halfway up the mountain is a nature museum, which has several indoor displays and a theater showing nature movies filmed on location. Outside you'll see five native wildlife habitats that are home to black bears, cougars, white-tailed deer, river otters and two bald eagles.

**LINVILLE FALLS RECREATION AREA**, at Milepost 316.4, 2 mi. n.w. of Linville Falls, N.C., has three hiking trails that begin at the visitor center. The Erwin's View Trail crosses a bridge over the Linville River, passes through a forest of hemlock and white pine trees, and leads to four overlooks, each offering a different perspective of the falls and gorge. The first has a pretty view of the relatively tranquil cascades of the Upper Falls as well as the narrow slot through which the river churns on its way to the Lower Falls.

The trail climbs to the Chimney View Overlook where you'll have a spectacular view of the 45-foot-tall Lower Falls and the columns of weathered rock that give this overlook its name. Climbing higher, the trail ends at Erwin's View Overlook, which commands a sweeping vista that includes the distant Lower Falls and Linville Gorge. A nearby overlook allows you to peer down into the gorge. The entire 1.6-mile round-trip is moderately difficult mainly due to the elevation gain.

The Plunge Basin Trail, a more strenuous hike than the first, follows the opposite edge of the river .5 miles to the Plunge Basin Overlook, which offers a sidelong view of the Lower Falls as well the pool at the falls' base. The trail descends into the gorge to a second overlook on the rocky river bank for a close-up view of the Plunge Basin. Round-trip the Plunge Basin Trail traverses 1.5 miles.

The recreation area's third trail, Dugger's Creek Loop Trail, offers an easy .6-mile out-and-back stroll along a small creek with picturesque falls. Picnicking and fishing are permitted in the campground only. **Time:** Allow 3 hours minimum. **Phone:** (828) 765-1045.

**Linville Gorge** is a scenic chasm within Linville Falls Recreation Area at Milepost 316.4. Linville Gorge Wilderness, below the falls, is part of Pisgah National Forest and has been set aside for scientific and recreational use. Paths to the falls and to lookouts have been cut through great jungles of rhododendron. Wiseman's View observation point on the west overlooks the gorge.

**Note:** The wilderness area is reached only by trail or cross-country travel. A few steep trails require moderate to expert hiking skills. **Phone:** (828) 652-2144.

**LINVILLE CAVERNS** is at Milepost 317 at Linville Falls, N.C., then 4 mi. s. on US 221. In 1822 the spectacle of trout swimming in and out of the mountainside led settlers on a torch-lit expedition inside the caves. Ever since, their discovery has been a source of fascination, and sometimes shelter. During the Civil War, deserting soldiers from both armies sought refuge among the cathedral-like arches, columns and deep passageways.

The underground temperature is a constant 52 F; a jacket and comfortable walking shoes are recommended. **Phone:** (828) 756-4171 or (800) 419-0540. **GT** 

**CRABTREE FALLS** is at Milepost 339.5. The 2.5-mile Crabtree Falls Trail begins from the parking lot of the visitor center and descends steeply nearly a mile through oak and hickory forest to beautiful Crabtree Falls. Tucked away in a forest glade, the falls splash down a 60-foothigh sloping rock face in a twinkling curtain of droplets.

Hikers can complete the loop by way of an easier but longer route that follows Crabtree Creek or return the shorter, steeper path back up the hillside. **Phone:** (828) 298-0398 for the Blue Ridge Parkway information line.  $\frown$   $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$ 

**MOUNT MITCHELL STATE PARK** is at Milepost 355, near Burnsville, N.C. The park encompasses the 6,684-foot summit of Mount Mitchell, the highest peak east of the Mississippi River, and a portion of its slopes. The mountain was named for Dr. Elisha Mitchell, who fell to his death in 1857 while attempting to prove the accuracy of elevation measurements he had recorded in prior decades.



The 1,996-acre state park offers numerous hiking trails. Guided hikes and interpretive programs are offered seasonally. Facilities include an interpretive center, an observation platform and a museum. In spring and winter check road conditions before visiting. Food is available May-Oct. Parking is available near the summit. **Phone:** (828) 675-4611. **GT** 

**CRAGGY GARDENS** is at Milepost 364.5, 18 mi. n.e. of Asheville, N.C. The Craggy Mountains, at an elevation of 5,500-6,000 feet, are a colorful sight when the rhododendrons bloom around mid-June. Trails and a visitor center are available. **Phone:** (828) 298-0398 for the Blue Ridge Parkway information line or (828) 271-4779.

**FOLK ART CENTER** is at Milepost 382, 5 mi. n.e. of Asheville, N.C., via I-40 to US 70W exit 55. Operated by the Southern Highland Craft Guild, the center celebrates the tradition of craft work in the southern Appalachian region through demonstrations, special events and changing exhibits of past and present Southern Highlands crafts. A Blue Ridge Parkway information desk is in the center. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (828) 298-7928.

**BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY VISITOR CENTER** is at 195 Hemphill Knob Rd. (Milepost 384), about 8 mi. e. of downtown Asheville, N.C. Exhibits focus on the cultural heritage and recreational opportunities of western North Carolina and along the Blue Ridge Parkway. The I-Wall, a 22-foot interactive map of the entire parkway, provides multimedia information about points of interest.

"The Blue Ridge Parkway—America's Favorite Journey," a 24-minute film that utilizes panoramic aerial photography and surround sound to give an overall picture of the parkway's construction and the natural history of the Blue Ridge Mountains, is shown in the center's theater. You can hike, too; a 1.2-mile loop trail that starts at the parking lot joins the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (828) 298-5330.

NORTH CAROLINA ARBORETUM is at Milepost 393 on the Blue Ridge Pkwy., 9 mi. s. of Asheville, N.C. Fringed by the Southern Appalachian Mountains, the 434-acre arboretum offers 65 acres of cultivated gardens and 10 miles of forested hiking and biking trails.

The Baker Exhibit Center adjacent to the main parking lot houses temporary exhibitions and the work of regional artists. The center's small greenhouse opens out to the Baker Garden, filled with colorful perennials. From here you can make your way along the Grand Garden Promenade, a broad path through series of meticulously maintained themed gardens. You'll know you've stepped into the Heritage Garden when you see the rough stone chimney and flagstone patio. It recalls the rustic cabins built by the area's settlers; surrounding it are beds with medicinal herbs and plants once used to make such practical items as brooms and baskets.

The adjacent Quilt Garden also highlights the area's heritage by re-creating traditional quilt block patterns in multihued flowerbeds. You can best enjoy this floral quilt from a raised observation area, which offers a nice view of the other gardens and features a bronze sculpture of Frederick Law Olmsted. Western North Carolina's natural heritage is the subject of the Stream Garden where the focal point is a splashing water channel constructed of a stone mosaic featuring images of locally found wildlife and lined with decorative shrubs. Benches throughout the gardens offer a welcome place to rest and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

The promenade ends at the Educational Center Entrance Plaza, where you'll find a pond, container gardens and sculptures, both abstract and realistic. The most prominent is "Oh Great Spirit," a 12-and-a-half-foot-tall, bronze statue of a Native American man with his arms and head raised toward the heavens. Nearby is the entrance to the Bonsai Exhibition Garden, a minimalist series of outdoor rooms dedicated to this centuries-old Japanese art form. Arranged on shelves along the bare, concrete walls are containers of dwarfed trees cultivated to create the illusion of miniature landscapes.

In addition to garden demonstrations, the arboretum offers educational programs and guided tours.

**Time:** Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (828) 665-2492. **(GT)**  $(\Pi)$   $\overline{A}$ 

**MOUNT PISGAH** is at Milepost 408.6. From the Mount Pisgah parking lot you can hike up to the 5,721-foot summit of the area's namesake mountain for spectacular views of the French Broad River Valley. It's worth the 1.5mile moderate-to-strenuous hike. A sign at the trailhead explains the origin of the name Pisgah: the Old Testament mountain from which Moses first saw the Promised Land.

Several other trails wind through the wilderness nearby. The 1-mile Buck Spring Trail leads from the Mount Pisgah parking lot to the Pisgah Inn, passing a clearing where George W. Vanderbilt's hunting lodge once stood. It was here in the early 1900s that Vanderbilt, grandson of wealthy industrialist Cornelius Vanderbilt, entertained guests visiting his elegant Biltmore mansion near Asheville.

The 16.3-mile Shut-In Trail, which also begins at the Mount Pisgah parking lot, was originally the road Vanderbilt constructed to connect his estate with the hunting



#### 56 BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY - BOONE, NC

lodge. Frying Pan Trail begins at the picnic area lot and ascends to a fire tower 2 miles away. **Phone:** (828) 235-8228. (1) (1)

**RICHLAND BALSAM**, near Milepost 431, 12 mi. n.e. of Balsam, N.C., is the highest point on the parkway, with a peak of 6,410 feet. A 1.5-mile walking trail winds to the summit of Richland Balsam Mountain, passing through a spruce and fir woodland that is native to climates usually found 1,000 miles north. Trail pamphlets describe this plant community, which is a living relic of the last ice age. **Phone:** (828) 298-0398 for the Blue Ridge Parkway information line.

**WATERROCK KNOB**, at Milepost 451.2, 8 mi. n.w. of Balsam, N.C., commands a 360-degree view of the main ranges of the southern Appalachian Mountains from a 6,292-foot elevation. **Phone:** (828) 298-0398 for the Blue Ridge Parkway information line.

#### BOONE

#### • Hotels p. 56

Named after Daniel Boone, who had a cabin in the area in the 1760s, the city is high atop the Blue Ridge Mountains and is home to 18,000 students attending Appalachian State University. Boone is at the intersection of two scenic highways: A scenic portion of US 321 runs west across the Tennessee border, and a scenic portion of US 421 runs east to Winston-Salem. Popular ski areas are nearby, including Beech Mountain, Appalachian Ski Mountain (see Blowing Rock p. 51) and Sugar Mountain (see Banner Elk p. 47).

Watauga County TDA: 815 W. King St., Suite 10, Boone, NC 28607. Phone: (828) 266-1345.

**Shopping:** Mast General Store, 630 W. King St., operates out of a 1913 building and is stocked with everything from cast-iron cookware and Amish rockers to boots and outdoor clothing.

**GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN**—see Blue Ridge Parkway p. 54.

"HORN IN THE WEST" is .5 mi. s. of US 421 at 591 Horn in the West Dr. This outdoor historical drama with a cast of 50 portrays the struggle of Daniel Boone and his men to establish freedom in the southern Appalachian highlands. Hickory Ridge Living History Museum contains a reconstructed log village typical of the 18th century. Costumed guides demonstrate the lifestyle of the region's early settlers. The Boone Heritage Festival is held in October.

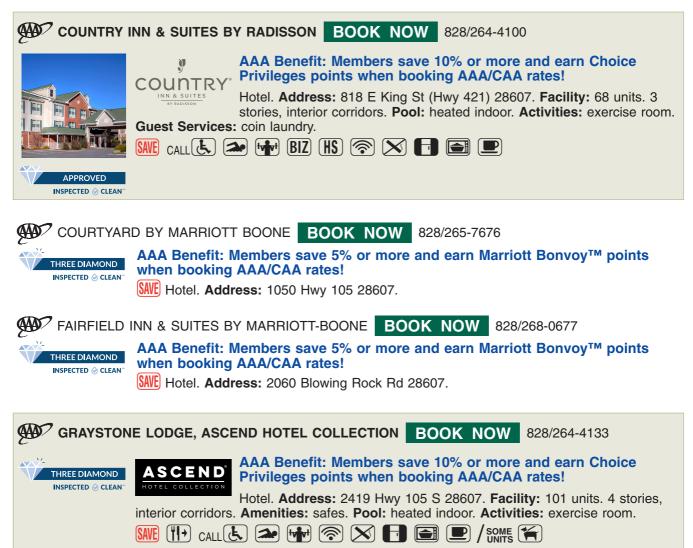
Inquire about weather policies. **Time:** Allow 2 hours, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (828) 264-2120. **GT** 

#### RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES White-water Rafting

• Wahoo's Adventures-Boone Main Office, 3385 US 321S. Caving and hiking excursions as well as rental tubes, canoes, kayaks and paddleboards also are available. Phone: (828) 262-5774 or (800) 444-7238. GT







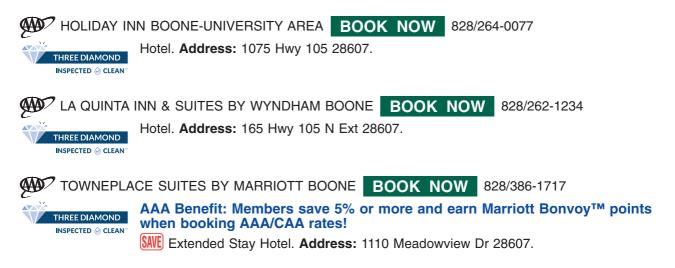
HAMPTON INN & SUITES BOONE BOOK NOW 828/386-6464



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1252 US Hwy 421 S 28607.





# BREVARD

• Hotels p. 58

This popular summer resort is all about location, location, location: It's surrounded by the exuberant woodlands that make up Pisgah National Forest, Gorges State Park and DuPont State Forest. Appropriately nicknamed "Land of Waterfalls," Transylvania County boasts more than 250 named plunges, including Connestee Falls, Courthouse Falls and Laughing Falls.

The mountain air is particularly invigorating when you're involved in an activity like hiking, biking, rock climbing or horseback riding. Less strenuous pursuits include fishing in clear streams and exploring downtown's rows of shops filled with antiques and handmade arts and crafts.

Evenings feature a variety of classical and other music performances at the 180-acre Brevard Music Center. Students ages 14-29 enroll at this institute to study with a distinguished artistic faculty in residence. Visitors can hear these gifted young people perform during a summer program that takes place from late June to early August; phone (828) 862-2100 for the main office, or (828) 862-2105 or (888) 384-8682 for the box office.

If you're lucky, you'll glimpse one of Brevard's most celebrated residents. White squirrels are said to have escaped during a carnival animal truck accident in Florida. They were later captured and given as gifts to a local resident, only to escape yet again—and begin procreating. In 1986 a Brevard City Council ordinance declared white squirrels to be a protected animal, and the town was officially designated as a safe haven for them. It's little wonder, then, that the little critters are honored at the annual White Squirrel Festival, held on Memorial Day weekend.

**Brevard/Transylvania Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Information Center:** 175 E. Main St., Brevard, NC 28712. **Phone:** (828) 883-3700 or (800) 648-4523.

### COMFORT INN & SUITES BREVARD BOOK NOW 828/862-8900



# AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

**SAVE (fyi)** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Three Diamond. Address: 2228 Asheville Hwy 28712. Facility: 63 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.



HAMPTON INN BY HILTON-BREVARD BOOK NOW 828/883-4800



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking **AAA/CAA** rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 275 Forest Gate Dr 28768.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES BREVARD CITY CENTER BOOK NOW 828/348-8745

(fyi) Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Three Diamond. Address: 185 Old Hendersonville Hwy 28712.

#### BRYSON CITY

• Hotels p. 59

#### • Part of Great Smoky Mountains National Park area— see map p. 154

Just south of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and east of Fontana Village, Bryson City is a center for recreational activities. The area offers boating, fishing, mountain biking, white-water rafting, hiking and camping opportunities.

Bryson City-Swain County Chamber of Commerce: 4 Everett St., Bryson City, NC 28713. Phone: (828) 488-3681 or (800) 867-9246.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS RAILROAD, de-parting the Bryson City depot, 45 Mitchell St., operates various half-day and full-day round-trip excursions, including the Tuckasegee River Excursion to the historic town of Dillsboro and the Nantahala Gorge Excursion. Seating is offered in open cars, coaches, crown coaches and club cars. On weekends there are Gourmet Dinner Trains and Mystery Theatre Dinner Trains. Dinosaur Train trips, based on Jim Henson's popular TV series, are offered for three weekends in July and August. The Polar Express runs early November through late December.

"Peanuts—The Great Pumpkin Patch Express" runs weekends in October. The Peanuts Easter Beagle Express runs on Easter weekend. An animal petting area and musical entertainment also are offered.

Time: Allow 4 hours, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (828) 586-8811, or (800) 872-4681 for reservations.

Wildwater Raft & Rail Excursion, departing the railroad depot in Bryson City, 226 Everett St., combines rail and white-water excursions in one outing. The adventure begins with a scenic 2-hour train trip across Fontana Lake to the top of Nantahala Gorge. Rafts are then boarded for a guided 3-hour trip down the Nantahala River. Lunch is included.

Children under 60 pounds or under 7 years old are not permitted. Time: Allow 7 hours minimum. Phone: (828) 488-2384 or (800) 872-4681.

#### **RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES** White-water Rafting

- Nantahala Outdoor Center is 13 mi. s.w. to 13077 US 19W. Phone: (828) 366-7502 or (828) 785-4850. GT
- Wildwater Nantahala is at 10345 US 19S/US 74W. A zipline course also is offered. Phone: (828) 488-2384 or (866) 319-8870. GT

### RIVERBEND LODGING BOOK NOW 828/488-9476

[fyi] Motel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Approved. Address: 470 Hwy 19 S 28713.

SLEEP INN BRYSON CITY BOOK NOW 828/488-0326

[fyi] Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Approved. Address: 500 Veterans Blvd 28713.



#### 60 BURLINGTON, NC

#### BURLINGTON

#### • Hotels p. 60

The town began as a maintenance and repair community for the North Carolina Railroad; the 1880 engine house now serves as a train station and office complex.

The 76-acre City Park, at South Church Street and Overbrook Road, contains a 1910 Dentzel Menagerie Carousel. Known for their detail and intricate carvings, only 14 such carousels still exist worldwide. In addition to 26 horses, the hand-carved animals include a lion, tiger, giraffe and reindeer, four pigs, rabbits, ostriches and cats. The carousel operates seasonally and hours vary; phone (336) 222-5030.

Burlington/Alamance County Convention and Visitors Bureau: 200 S. Main St., Burlington, NC 27215. Phone: (336) 570-1444 or (800) 637-3804.

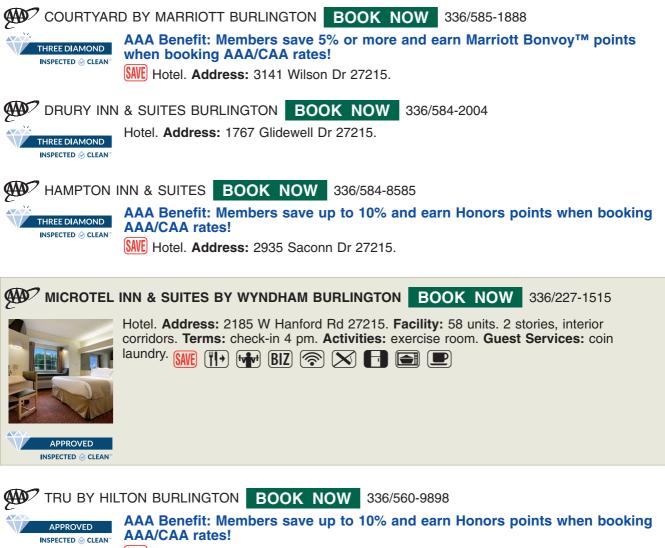
**Self-guiding tours:** Brochures outlining a walking tour of downtown Burlington are available from the convention and visitors bureau.

ALAMANCE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM is off I-40/85 exit 143 to 4777 SR 62S. The museum is inside the 19th-century home of Michael Holt III and birthplace of Edwin Michael Holt, an early textile manufacturer. It's part of a former grain plantation once known as Oak Grove, where there were at least 51 enslaved African Americans by start of the Civil War. Guided tours take visitors through the two-story Italianate Revival plantation house, which contains furnishings and accessories from the mid-1800s as well as changing exhibits. The Holt family cemetery and several farm buildings constructed immediately after the Civil War also are on the premises. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (336) 226-8254. **GT** 

**CEDAROCK PARK AND HISTORICAL FARM** is at 3916 R. Dean Coleman Rd. Located on an 1830 farm that belonged to John and Polly Garrett, the 414-acre county park offers hiking, bicycling and horse trails; two 18-hole disc golf courses; canoe and kayak rentals; and a fishing pond (a state fishing license is required). *See Recreation Areas Chart.* The farm site features the original Garrett farmhouse and other buildings. Kids will enjoy the goats, sheep and other farm animals. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (336) 570-6759.







SAVE Contemporary Hotel. Address: 982 Kirkpatrick Rd 27215.

# Hit the Road with Identity Theft Protection

Visit your local AAA office or online at **AAA.com/IDTheft** 





#### CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE • Part of Outer Banks area— see map p. 212

Extending for more than 70 miles on North Carolina's Outer Banks, Cape Hatteras, America's first national seashore park, is one of the most extensive linear stretches of undeveloped coastline on the Atlantic coast, embracing Ocracoke, Hatteras Island and the southernmost part of Bodie Island. The islands are connected by a free bridge and free ferry service.

The main attractions are the wild beauty and vast expanses of sand and water. A few villages are scattered along the Outer Banks Scenic Byway, providing easy stopover points for food, lodging and cultural heritage. Bottlenose dolphins can often be seen close to shore, shorebirds and waterfowl abound, and seashell hunters will find a good variety. The sand is soft and deep at times. Motorists should park in designated areas and only leave the road where off-road vehicle travel is permitted.

The national seashore is public property; residents and visitors have free access to the ocean and soundside. State fishing regulations apply to waters inside and outside the boundaries of the park. Regulated waterfowl hunting is permitted within sections of the seashore, excluding Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. Day-use facilities are at Coquina Beach, Buxton Beach near the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and on Ocracoke Island. For more information phone (252) 473-2111 or (252) 475-9000. See Recreation Areas Chart.

**BODIE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE VISITOR CENTER** is on SR 12, 8 mi. s. of jct. US 158 and US 64 at 8210 Bodie Island Lighthouse Rd. The visitor center and lighthouse provide a glimpse of life as a lighthouse keeper in the late 1800s. Tours include the keepers' house and a climb to the top of the lighthouse. A short trail over the wetlands offers an observation deck. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (252) 475-9417. **GT** 

**CAPE HATTERAS LIGHTHOUSE**, built in 1870, is about 1 mi. s.e. of Buxton at 46379 Lighthouse Rd. The tallest such brick structure in the United States, the 208-foot renovated lighthouse warns ships away from Diamond Shoals, also known as the "Graveyard of the Atlantic." A balcony, perched at the top of a 257-step climb, offers an observation point. The keeper's quarters contains a visitor center and exhibits about area history. A self-guiding nature trail begins near the lighthouse. Visitor programs are held throughout the summer. Visitors wishing to climb the lighthouse must be at least 42 inches tall.

**NOTE:** Due to restoration work, the lighthouse is closed for climbing until summer 2026. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (252) 473-2111.

**PEA ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE** covers approximately 5,880 acres just s. of Oregon Inlet on Hatteras Island. Birds include more than 250 species of local and migratory fowl. Observation decks, about 5 miles south of the Oregon Inlet bridge, permit views of the ocean, wildlife and shipwrecks along the shore. A visitor center is located off SR 12 just s. of Oregon Inlet. **Phone:** (252) 987-2394 or (252) 473-1131.

# • Part of Outer Banks area— see map p. 212

Cape Lookout National Seashore extends for 56 miles along North Carolina's Outer Banks from Ocracoke Inlet in the north to Beaufort Inlet in the south. In addition to Portsmouth Island, Core Banks and Shackleford Banks, it encompasses a host of undeveloped barrier islands.

Cape Lookout can be reached only by boat, and onisland transportation is limited. Passenger and vehicle ferries leave regularly from Harkers Island, Atlantic and Davis; service is generally not available during the winter months. Charter service to Portsmouth can be arranged from Ocracoke. Rates for round-trip service to the park start at approximately \$14-\$20 per person, \$75-\$80 per vehicle.

Popular recreational activities are seashell collecting, surf fishing, bird-watching, boating and camping. Shackleford Banks is home to a herd of horses that have the freedom to roam with minimal human contact; they're interesting to observe but also hard to spot. Grazing undisturbed across the island, these equines are believed to have inhabited it since the early 1500s.

Portsmouth Village, a prosperous pre-Civil War port, is on the northern end of Core Banks. The Portsmouth Village Historic District includes still-standing buildings as well as structural remains that date from the 1850s. Cape Lookout Lighthouse, still operational, is in the Cape Village Historic District on Core Banks. The nearby Keepers' Quarters, which serves as a visitor center in summer, also is a meeting point for programs sponsored by park rangers. Rustic cabins are available for rent mid-March through November at Great Island and Long Point; for reservations phone (877) 444-6777.

A visitor information station at the east end of Harkers Island Road is open daily 9-5, Apr.-Oct.; Mon.-Sat. 9-5, rest of year. Closed Jan. 1 and Christmas. For information contact the Superintendent, Cape Lookout National Seashore, 131 Charles St., Harkers Island, NC 28531; phone (252) 728-2250. See Recreation Areas Chart.



# CAROLINA BEACH

• Hotels p. 63







THREE DIAMOND

HAMPTON INN & SUITES CHAPEL HILL/CARRBORO

DOWNTOWN **BOOK NOW** 919/969-6988



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 370 E Main St, Unit 100 27510.



#### 64 CARY, NC

#### CARY

#### • Hotels p. 64 • Restaurants p. 68

A bedroom community for the nearby cities of Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, Cary sits in the heart of North Carolina's Triangle region. The town is home to the USA Baseball National Training Complex (7445 Green Hope School Rd.), which hosts selection and training events as well as games and tournaments for youth, collegiate and professional baseball.

Outdoor concerts and the North Carolina Symphony's Summerfest series take place at Booth Amphitheatre, 8003 Regency Pkwy., a scenic venue nestled in the pine trees next to Symphony Lake; phone (919) 462-2025 for ticket information.

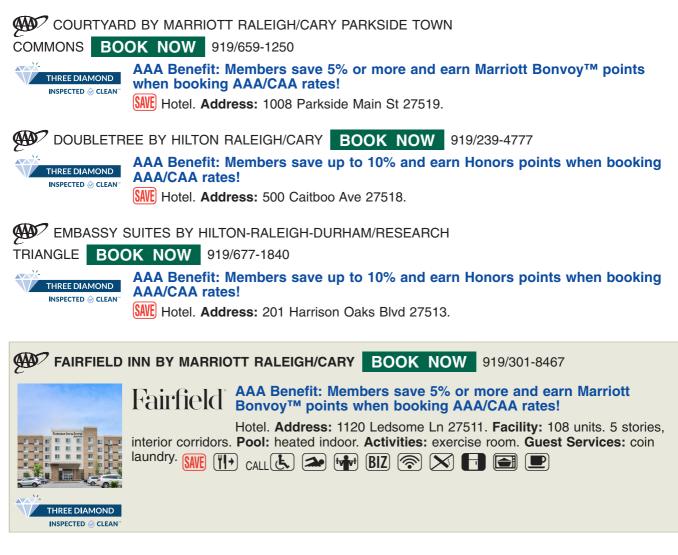


Hotel. **Address:** 5730 Dillard Dr 27518. **Facility:** 139 units. 6 stories, interior corridors. **Pool:** outdoor. **Activities:** exercise room. **Guest Services:** coin laundry.

🖪 🕪 🏋 call 🛃 🎿 ╈ 🖪Z 🛜 🗙 🗗 🚍 里







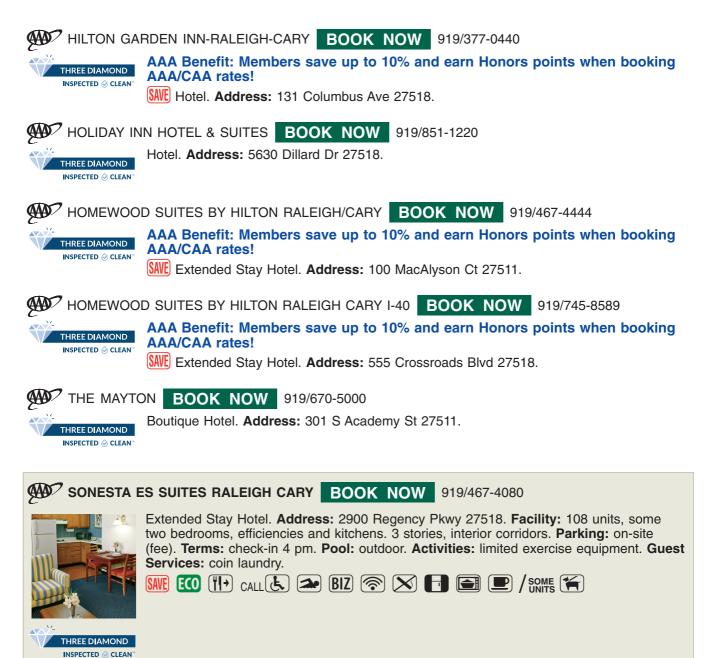
HAMPTON INN & SUITES BOOK NOW 919/233-1798



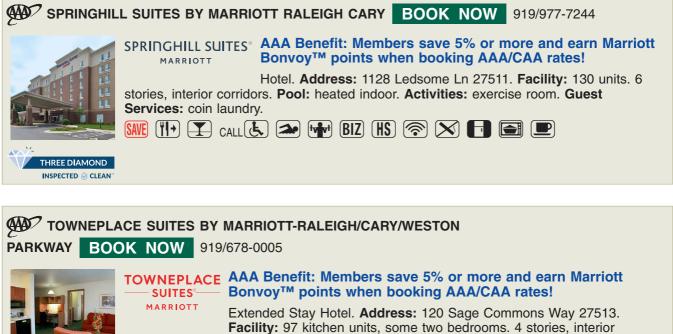
AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 111 Hampton Woods Ln 27607.









corridors. **Pool:** outdoor. **Activities:** exercise room. **Guest Services:** valet and coin laundry.



# THE UMSTEAD HOTEL & SPA BOOK NOW 919/447-4000



**INSPECTED**  $\bigotimes$  CLEAN

Hotel. **Address:** 100 Woodland Pond Dr 27513. **Facility:** Amid a bevy of gardens on the banks of a small pond, the luxury hotel features spacious rooms and posh marble bathrooms with soaking tubs. Elegant public areas are adorned with commissioned artwork. 150 units. 7 stories, interior corridors. **Parking:** on-site and valet. **Amenities:** safes. **Dining:** Herons, see separate listing. **Pool:** heated outdoor. **Activities:** sauna, hot tub, steamroom, bicycles, trails, health club, spa. **Guest Services:** valet laundry, area transportation.





#### WHERE TO EAT

HERONS 919/447-4000

**FIVE DIAMOND** 

American Fine Dining. Address: 100 Woodland Pond Dr 27513.

#### CASHIERS

This resort town sits on a plateau surrounded by the Nantahala National Forest and the Appalachian Mountains. European settlers began arriving in the early 1800s, and by the end of the 19th century Cashiers was a summer home for many elite Southerners. Recreational activities include golfing, fishing, swimming, boating, horseback riding and tennis.

Cashiers Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center: 202 US 64 W., Cashiers, NC 28717. Phone: (828) 743-5191.

WHITEWATER FALLS SCENIC AREA is 10 mi. e. on US 64, then 10 mi. s. on US 281. The Whitewater River drops more than 400 feet in a series of falls and cascades before continuing on downstream into Lake Jocassee. A point above the falls, accessed by a short paved path from the parking lot, offers a view of the mountains and the South Carolina Piedmont. **Phone:** (828) 743-5191.

#### CHAPEL HILL

#### • Hotels p. 69 • Restaurants p. 71

Named for the New Hope Chapel that was erected on a hill at the crossing of two main roads, the community of Chapel Hill now centers on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Research Triangle Park, a center for industrial and governmental research, is 12 miles east of Chapel Hill via SR 54 and I-40 (see Durham p. 127).

Bustling Franklin Street is considered the center of social life for the university and the town, with shops, restaurants, bars, bookstores and nightlife venues lining the thoroughfare.

Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau: 501 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill, NC 27516. Phone: (919) 245-4320 or (888) 968-2060.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL**, off SR 15, was chartered in 1789 and was the first public university in America to graduate students in the 18th century. At the heart of the 700-acre campus is the historic Coker Arboretum, planted in 1903. Visitor parking is available in a number of municipal lots along Franklin and Rosemary streets. **Phone:** (919) 962-1630 for tour information, or (800) 722-4335 for sports events tickets. **GT** 

Ackland Art Museum is at 101 S. Columbia St. on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus. Displays include paintings, drawings, sculpture, photographs, prints and artifacts representing ancient to modern cultures. Edgar Degas, Eugène Delacroix, Peter Paul Rubens, Rembrandt van Rijn and Archibald Motley are among the artists on display. Collections feature Asian art and 16th- to 20th-century European and American art. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (919) 966-5736.

**Carolina Basketball Museum** is on the first floor of the Ernie Williamson Athletics Center at 450 Skipper Bowles Dr., on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Visitors begin their experience watching a 6-minute game-day video before viewing interactive displays in the main museum space. Photos, videos, trophies, uniforms and statistical panels present the history and heritage of Tarheel basketball. Phil Ford, Michael Jordan, Dean Smith and other athletes are showcased.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (919) 962-6000.

**Morehead-Patterson Bell Tower** is e. off Columbia St. to 200 South Rd., on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This campus landmark has 12 bells duplicating those at West Point.

Morehead Planetarium and Science Center is on campus at 250 E. Franklin St. The planetarium served as a NASA training center for Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and Skylab astronauts; it contains arts and sciences exhibits, the 220-seat GlaxoSmithKline Fulldome Theater, a rose garden and a large sundial. The west wing features the UNC visitor center.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (919) 962-1236 for general information, or (919) 843-7997 for the ticket office.

**North Carolina Botanical Garden** is at 100 Old Mason Farm Rd. off the US 15/501 bypass. This 80-acre UNC facility has plants native to North Carolina and the Southeast. Displays include a natural habitat garden, wildflower

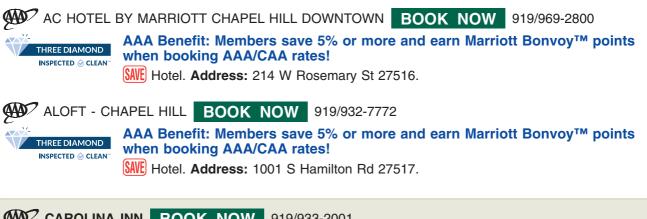


borders, an herb garden, and carnivorous and aguatic plant collections. The grounds also encompass a natural area with walking trails. The garden's Education Center has exhibits, botanical-themed art, a Green Gardener Reference Library and an auditorium for events.

Leashed dogs are permitted on Piedmont Nature Trails. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (919) 962-0522.

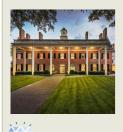
The Wilson Special Collections Library, on South Rd., on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, offers exhibitions and historic rooms. The North Carolina Collection Gallery contains exhibits pertaining to the history of North Carolina and the university as well as rooms displaying Elizabethan, early Colonial and 19th-century furnishings, maps and books. Changing exhibitions feature items from the Rare Book Collection, the Southern Historical Collection, the Southern Folklife Collection and the University Archives.

Guided 30-minute tours are available by reservation. Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (919) 962-0104. **GT** 



#### CAROLINA INN BOOK NOW 919/933-2001

HOTELS



FOUR DIAMOND

INSPECTED 🥝 CLEAN



Historic Hotel. Address: 211 Pittsboro St 27516. Facility: Opened in 1924, the hotel is centrally located on the UNC campus and offers **DESTINATION®** stylish, upscale rooms in a variety of sizes. 185 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee) and valet. Terms: check-in 4 pm.

Amenities: safes. Dining: Crossroads Chapel Hill, see separate listing. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: complimentary and valet laundry. Affiliated with Destination Hotels.

("I) 🐨 (X) call (&) 👘 (BIZ) (HS) () 🐼 (I) 🗩 SAVE E



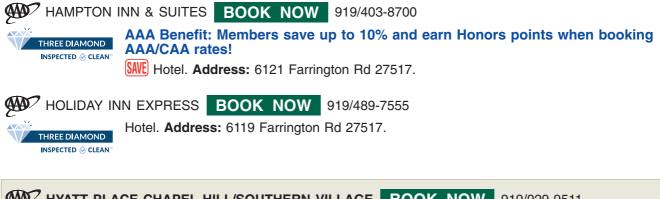


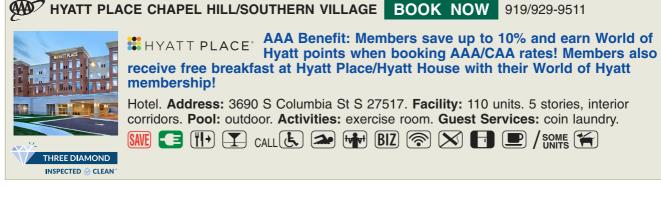
AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 100 Marriott Way 27517.



#### 70 CHAPEL HILL, NC







SHERATON CHAPEL HILL BOOK NOW 919/968-4900

THREE DIAMOND

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1 Europa Dr 27517.



THE SIENA HOTEL, AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION BOOK NOW 919/929-4000



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates! SAVE Boutique Hotel. Address: 1505 E Franklin St 27514.

TRU BY HILTON CHAPEL HILL BOOK NOW 984/291-7200



FOUR DIAMOND

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1742 Fordham Blvd 27514.

### WHERE TO EAT



🐠 IL PALIO RISTORANTE 919/918-2545

New Italian Fine Dining. Address: 1505 E Franklin St 27514.



# AAA members get exclusive perks with Hertz

AAA members enjoy exclusive benefits when booking a rental with Hertz, like up to 20% off base rates and a free additional driver!

Click: AAA.com/Hertz | Call: 1-800-654-3080 Visit: Your local AAA branch.

\*Discount applies to Pay Later base rate only. Taxes, fees, & options are excluded. Additional terms & exclusions apply. © 2024 Hertz System, Inc. All rights reserved. CS 924009



# Charlotte

Destination Area Map	73
Fast Facts	74
Must Do: AAA Editor's Picks	75
1-day Itinerary	76
Top Picks for Kids	77
Arriving	78
Getting Around	
Shopping	79
Nightlife	
Big Events	79
Sports & Rec	
Performing Arts	81
Attractions	81
Sightseeing	84
Hotels	84

More ways to look, book and save: AAA.com/tripcanvas

# Then & Now

What started as a simple crossroads named for a young queen has grown into the second-largest financial center in the country. Charlotte has expanded upward and outward to become the largest metropolitan area in the Carolinas and a popular vacation destination.

German settlers, faithful to both England and Germany, named the town for German-born Queen Charlotte, wife to England's King George III. The county adopted the name of the queen's birthplace: Mecklenburg.

Charlotte's strong ties with England were severed when a convention of North Carolinians met to compose the Mecklenburg Resolves. The 1775 statement contained resolutions intended to invalidate the authority of the king and parliament. Residents later erected a monument to the signers at the County Courthouse. Thomas Polk, the founder of Charlotte, had built a log courthouse for the new county seat in 1768 at this site, the original crossroads. The independent spirit that motivated the colonists to compose the Resolves continued, and British general Lord Cornwallis later would call Charlotte a "hornet's nest of rebellion" as a result of Patriot activity during his occupation of the city—hence the local NBA team name.

The intersection of Trade and Tryon streets, known as The Square, has been the heart of Uptown—what Charlotte's city center is called by residents. The Square serves as the center of commerce. Past, present and future are displayed in Raymond Kaskey's four bronze statues, found at each corner of the square. The statues tell Charlotte's story: A gold miner illustrates commerce; a female mill worker depicts a strong textile heritage; a railroad builder renders Charlotte's significance as a transportation hub; and a mother and child represents hope for the city's future.

Queen Charlotte's influence is omnipresent in the city nicknamed after her; street signs and the city flag are adorned with crowns shaped around the letter "M" for Mecklenburg. When lit up at night, the Bank of America Corporate Center resembles a multitiered tiara; it also

Downtown Charlotte / © iStockphoto.com / Sean Pavone



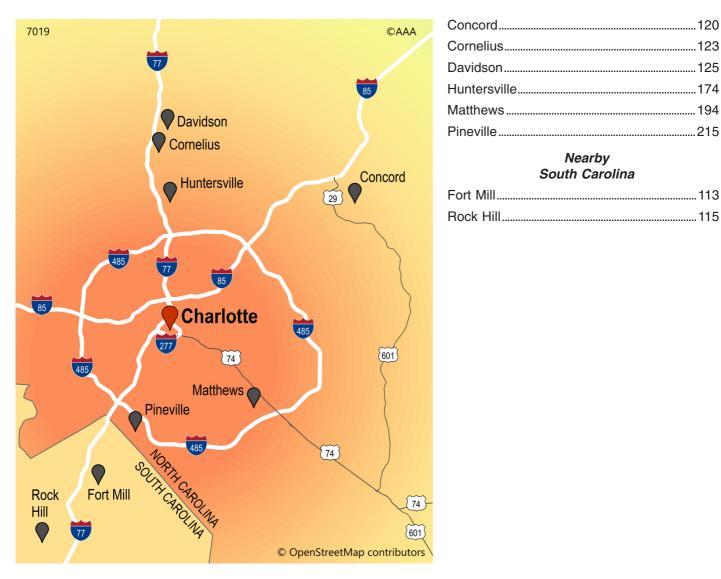






# Destination Charlotte

This map shows cities in the Charlotte vicinity where you will find attractions, hotels and restaurants. Cities are listed alphabetically in this book on the following pages.



# **FAST FACTS**

#### ABOUT THE CITY

**POP:** 731,424 • **ELEV:** 734 ft.

#### MONEY

**SALES TAX:** North Carolina has a 4.75 percent state sales tax; Mecklenburg County levies an additional 2 percent sales tax. Mecklenburg County also levies an 8 percent occupancy tax for lodging, a 1 percent prepared food and beverage tax and an 8 percent tax for rental cars.

#### WHOM TO CALL

#### EMERGENCY: 911

POLICE (non-emergency): (704) 336-7600. Info hotline: 311

FIRE (non-emergency): (704) 336-4174

HOSPITALS: Atrium Health University City, (704) 863-6000
 Carolinas Medical Center, (704) 355-2000 ● Carolinas Medical Center-Mercy, (704) 304-5000 ● Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center, (704) 384-4000.

#### **VISITOR INFORMATION**

Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority: Visitor Info Center– Uptown, 329 S. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202. Phone: (704) 339-6040 or (800) 231-4636.

Other centers are at 501 S. College St., in the Levine Museum of the New South at 200 E. Seventh St. and at Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

#### TRANSPORTATION

**AIR TRAVEL:** Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) is 6 miles west of the city on Josh Birmingham Parkway, and is accessible from Billy Graham Parkway or Wilkinson Boulevard. A hub for American Airlines, the airport is served by other major airlines as well; phone (704) 359-4910. If you're looking for things to do this weekend, check AAA.com or ask a AAA Travel Agent about airline tickets—sometimes available as part of a *AAA Vacations*<sup>@</sup> package.

Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) provides an express bus service between the airport and Uptown. Concord Regional Airport (JQF), 9000 Aviation Blvd., is in nearby Concord; phone (704) 920-5900. **RENTAL CARS:** Hertz, 5489 Josh Birmingham Pkwy., offers discounts to AAA members; phone (704) 359-0114 or (800) 654-3080.



#### Visit AAA.com/roadtrips

**RAIL SERVICE:** Amtrak, (800) 872-7245, has a station at 1914 N. Tryon St.

**BUSES:** A Greyhound station serves Charlotte at 601 W. Trade St.; phone (704) 372-0456.

**TAXIS:** Cabs are metered and charge a base fare of around \$2.50, plus approximately \$2.50 per mile or 50c per minute when the vehicle drops below 15 miles per hour. These companies operate from the airport's queue—City Cab, (704) 333-3327 • Crown Cab, (704) 334-6666 • Green Cab, (704) 777-1117 • and Yellow Cab, (980) 785-1405 • they all increase the base fare \$2 per person for more than two passengers.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:** Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS), (704) 336-7433, serves the city with more than 70 local and express routes. One-way fare is \$2.20; \$1.10 (children in kindergarten through grade 12, ages 62+ and the physically impaired); free (ages 0-5). Express fare (buses pick up in a limited area and travel directly to Uptown) is \$3; \$1.50 (children in kindergarten through grade 12, ages 62+ and the physically impaired); free (ages 0-5). Transfers from local to express are 80c; local to local transfers are free.

The hybrid-electric Sprinter Bus connects Center City with Charlotte Douglas International Airport. Passengers can count on a ride every 20 minutes on weekdays and every 30 minutes on nights and weekends for \$2.20 each way.

The 18.9-mile LYNX Blue Line provides rapid-rail service between I-485 in south Charlotte and UNC Charlotte's main campus. The service operates every 20 minutes during the day and every 30 minutes late at night and early mornings.

The Charlotte Transportation Center, 303 E. Trade St., is open daily 4:50 a.m.-1:30 a.m., but shops and restaurants have shorter hours. Phone (704) 336-7433.

contains 60 floors, which matches the number of years of the queen's reign. A Kaskey statue, a patinated bronze of the queen, is found at the north end of the airport. And the aptly named Queens Road West boasts lavish Colonialstyle houses. Also called the City of Trees, Charlotte is known for its willow oaks, which line many residential and Uptown streets. The trees, which resemble black oaks but sport long, thin leaves similar to weeping willows, are native to Charlotte.



Charlotte's road to riches began in 1799 when a 17pound nugget was found in nearby Concord, making Mecklenburg County the site of the first U.S. gold rush. This fame, coupled with the establishment of a Charlotte branch of the U.S. Mint in 1837, paved the way for the city's financial prominence.

Next to New York City, more banking establishments are centered in Charlotte than any other U.S. city, with Bank of America, BB&T and Wells Fargo's eastern division calling Charlotte home. It seems fitting that the city flag sports a green background—reminiscent of the color of money.

### Must Do: AAA Editor's Picks

- Ponder Mecklenburg County's beginnings at Historic Rosedale Plantation (3427 N. Tryon St.). Nicknamed Frew's Folly by its neighbors, the site with its Federal-style architecture and yellow trim provides a contrast to the usual plank-and-log homes of the early 19th century. Along with showcasing the plantation's obvious aesthetics, tours encompass the lives and times surrounding the people who lived and worked there, including enslaved African Americans.
- Chart the growth of Charlotte as well as the region at the Cevine Museum of the New South (401 S. Tryon St.). Multisensory displays and themed stations characterize social culture and history of the post-Civil War years. The area's reliance on cotton gave way to industry, and though slavery was abolished, Jim Crow laws continued to segregate the races. To get a sense of the times, have a seat at an old-fashioned "diner" and relive sit-in protests with on-site videos and commentary.
- Reflect on African American contributions to the arts at the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture (551 S. Tryon St.). Within a building clad in panels designed to look like West African textiles, the museum features diversity-inspired paintings and other art objects.
- Expand your repertoire with a trip to the Mint Museum Uptown (500 S. Tryon St.). The modern, 145,000-square-foot museum includes notable American, contemporary and European collections. Even kids can get involved with creative, in-gallery activities.
- Add the Solution Mint Museum Randolph (2730 Randolph Rd.) to your itinerary for a fully rounded arts experience. The museum, once a branch of the United States Mint, became North Carolina's first art museum in 1936. Highlights include period clothing and decorative objects as well as a student artists' gallery, a theater for lectures and performances, and an adjoining green space with fountains and walkways.

- Introduce yourself to the life of "America's Pastor" at The Billy Graham Library (4330 Westmont Dr.). The grounds, which include the international headquarters of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, are only a few miles from the dairy farm where the Rev. Billy Graham grew up. The library's exhibitions look back at the ministry and personal life of the man who counseled presidents.
- Throw on your lab coat and embrace your inner scientist with a trip to Discovery Place Science (301 N. Tryon St.). With an emphasis on "see, hear, touch and do science," the multimedia exhibits, IMAX shows and animal areas will reacquaint kids and parents alike with the natural world.
- Ride the Intimidator at Scarowinds Amusement and Water Park (14523 Carowinds Blvd.) for one of the fastest, tallest and longest thrills in the Southeast. The theme park straddles the border between North and South Carolina, so once your car screeches to a halt you can boast you've ridden through both states—on the same roller coaster. You can even get a bird's-eye view of the park and Uptown Charlotte on the 262-foot Carolina Skytower—airfare not required.



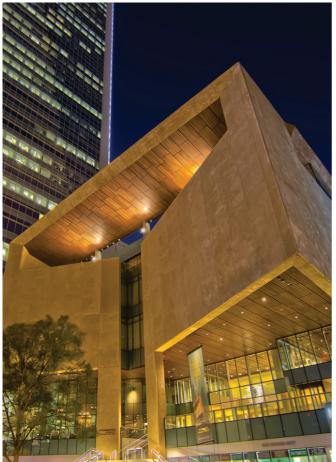
The NASCAR Hall of Fame / Courtesy of NASCAR Hall of Fame



- Brake for The NASCAR Hall of Fame (400 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.), an interactive racing experience where racing simulators, memorabilia and automobiles offer no shortage of things to do.
- Dine at a local restaurant, and then catch a show in the city receiving more and more recognition for its arts scene. The **Blumenthal Performing Arts Center** (130 N. Tryon St.) in Uptown is home to Belk Theater, Booth Playhouse and Stage Door Theater and features performances from Charlotte Symphony, Charlotte Ballet, Opera Carolina, On Q Productions, Community School of the Arts and Caroline Calouche & Co.

### **Charlotte 1-day Itinerary**

AAA editors suggest these activities for a great short vacation experience.



#### Morning

- Wake up with the whoosh of Fury 325, the record-breaking steel roller coaster at
   Carowinds Amusement and Water Park (14523 Carowinds Blvd.) that zooms up to 95 mph in 3.25 minutes—and also crosses both borders of North and South Carolina. Other fun things to do include family-friendly rides, shows and an adjacent water park.
- If you don't want to commit to a full day at the park, you can still fulfill your need for speed at the
   The NASCAR Hall of Fame at 400 E. M.L.K. Jr. Blvd. With racing simulators, the impressive Glory Road that features vintage to modern race cars, a timeline exhibit filled with memorabilia and High Octane Theater, there's something for everyone, even for those not well-versed on racing.
- Stop for lunch (or brunch if you're looking for things to do this weekend) at **Mert's Heart & Soul** (214 N. College St.). Try the sampler that gives you all the fixings, including the restaurant's renowned soul rolls, also known as egg rolls with chicken, collard greens, black-eyed peas and seasoned rice.
- Those with young children may find it worthwhile to visit **ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center** (300 E. 7th St.) for morning storytime, and then walk two blocks to ♥ **Discovery Place Science** (301 N. Tryon St.). Older kids and adults should make haste to the immersive and moving ♥ **Levine Museum of the New South** (401 S. Tryon St.)—complete with an actual lunch counter where sit-ins occurred.

#### Afternoon

- There's more to Charlotte than just Uptown. Consider heading toward Dilworth, a leafy neighborhood where there's an assortment of shops as well as food places that range from signature restaurants to food trucks. Don't miss Food Truck Friday Dilworth—an annual gathering that occurs each second and fourth Friday, April through September, at 1223 East Blvd.
- One nearby must-do is **Bad Daddy's Burger Bar** (1626 East Blvd.), a choose-your-own adventure-type burger joint that started at this location and has expanded to include several locations in the South (and Oklahoma). With several protein picks—black bean, beef, bison or tuna—as well as a variety of toppings and sides, you can try something new every time.
- If you want to learn about "America's Pastor" Billy Graham, then drive a short distance to **The Billy Graham Library** (4330 Westmont Dr.). Free to visit, the attraction features Graham's boyhood home (moved from his family's farm), a replica dairy barn

Mint Museum Uptown / © iStockphoto.com / digidreamgrafix



with exhibits about his life, and the graves of both Billy Graham and Ruth Graham, who grew up in China as the daughter of missionaries and took part in the ministry. Even if you're not religious, the manicured grounds should provide a scenic break.

#### Evening

- Located in the trendy Atherton Mill complex, the Living Kitchen (2000 South Blvd.) is a great place to grab a healthful bite to eat, especially if you're in the mood for something light but substantive. Enjoy plant-based variations on your favorite dishes, ranging from burritos to sushi, which are filled not with meat but crunchy vegetables.
- Locals flock to Alexander Michael's (401 W. 9th St.), a storefront-turned-tavern. You'll want to order the "What It Is," a blackened chicken dish served with Cajun cream sauce over a bed of pasta. The wine menu is limited, so order a pint of local craft beer.
- End the night at **Epicentre**, 210 E. Trade St., where you'll still find shopping, dining and entertainment. Do a little bowling, catch a flick at the theater or grab a late-night snack.

# **Top Picks for Kids**

#### Under 13

- Engage the imagination at ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center (300 E. Seventh St.), a library and facility dedicated to children. In addition to educational programs and a multimedia studio, you can stop by ImaginOn's service center to book a Children's Theatre of Charlotte performance.
- Take a stroll. Walking in the shadow of skyscrapers, you won't be surprised at the city's importance as one of the most prominent financial centers in the country, but you'll also find plenty of Southern hospitality. Tucked inside the "Queen City," a nod to Queen Charlotte of Mecklenberg, are quaint neighborhoods with abundant shopping centers, local restaurants and fun things to do with kids, such as museums.
- Discovery Place Science (301 N. Tryon St.) focuses on STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics—and inspires learning with in-depth displays, classes and hands-on exhibits. The location also is convenient considering many other attractions

and hotels are in downtown Charlotte (known as "Uptown Charlotte" to most in the Charlotte Metro area).

#### Teens

- Get to know the inner workings of Uptown Charlotte...by staying inside. A network of skywalks and corridors over several blocks make up
   Overstreet Mall (200 S. College St.), a nontraditional destination where you can shop or dine in a local restaurant above street level (and avoid inclement weather if necessary). Two of the most popular access points are the buildings of either Bank of America (Tryon and 2nd streets) or Wells Fargo (Trade and Tryon streets).
- Any list of things to do in Charlotte has to include the 400-acre Carowinds Amusement and Water Park (14523 Carowinds Blvd.). Thrill seekers will find



See azaleas at Rock Hill's Glencairn Garden / © iStockphoto.com / Oleg1824i



plenty of roller coasters, classic midway rides and even space to splash around on a hot day. It might take a while to go through, so consider a two-day ticket. Fun fact: The theme park straddles the border of North Carolina and South Carolina. (Head toward the rotating Carolina SkyTower, one of the theme park's original rides, to capture views of both states; it's advertised as "perfect for families." It's also the only place you're allowed to take pictures *during* a ride.)

If you're still in the area of Carowinds and have time, then plan a trip to nearby **Rock Hill, S.C.** The city is a short drive away and provides access to the scenic Catawba River and recreational activities like rafting or bicycling the extensive trail system.



LYNX Blue Line / © iStockphoto.com / Jason M. Hazard

#### All Ages

- If you don't mind a small detour from Charlotte's city limits, specifically to nearby South Carolina, the 3.35-mile Riverwalk: Piedmont Medical Center Trail (998 Riverwalk Pkwy.) is one of the newest and most popular paths. Located in Rock Hill, S.C., it's a convenient destination for bicyclists and pedestrians in the Charlotte metro area, aka Metrolina. (The adjacent River Park, 1782 Quality Circle, is pet-friendly, so you can bring your leashed dog for a stroll, too.) While you're on-site, pick up a good book or donate one to the freestanding Little Library, where readers share diverse picks in a birdhouse-size box.
- If you're still in Rock Hill, S.C., **Glencairn Garden** (725 Crest St.) provides a good spot to unwind, especially in spring and summer. The free park presents colorful landscaped gardens, including a kids' area, as well as water features, sculptures and a memorial to veterans.
- Prefer to stay in Charlotte? Plan a pit stop at a AAA GEM<sup>®</sup> attraction to learn about NASCAR's influence! Even if you're not a fan, the interactive exhibits of the The NASCAR Hall of Fame (400 E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.) impress. Catch a show in the High Octane Theater, and then check out legendary race cars in the Glory Road section.

# Arriving

#### By Car

Interstates 77 and 277 provide access to Center City Charlotte. I-77 traverses north-south through the state, and I-277 circles the city. I-85 is an east-west route that bisects I-77 just north of the city.

From the north or south, I-77 connects directly with West Trade Street, which provides access through Uptown. From the east, US 74 connects with I-277 (John Belk Freeway) to the College Street exit; head northeast on SR 29/49 (Tryon Street) to reach Uptown. From the west, I-85 connects with SR 16 (Brookshire Expressway); head southwest on SR 29/49 to reach Uptown.

I-485 surrounds Charlotte, providing access to neighboring areas.

Charlotte Douglas International Airport is west of downtown and can be reached via I-85, I-77, the Billy Graham Parkway or Wilkinson Boulevard.

### **Getting Around**

#### Street System

Center City Charlotte is encircled by I-277, which provides southern access. Uptown Charlotte is easily maneuverable by public transit, by car and on foot; streets are laid out in a simple grid pattern. Numbered streets run

southeast to northwest, with named streets running perpendicular.

Charlotte's history is closely tied to its physical nucleus; the intersection of Trade and Tryon streets forms the main crossroads. Trade Street bisects the city east to west, and Tryon Street provides the north-south dividing line.

#### Parking

Several LYNX Blue Line stations have park-and-ride lots with free parking; using this option will save you the hassle and expense of downtown driving and parking. But if you do need to drive your car, here are some parking details that should help you.

Charlotte has ample metered parking in Center City. Rates vary according to location; most metered spaces in popular areas charge 25c for 15 minutes.

Metered parking is available around the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center on First, Second, Third, Fourth and Davidson streets. Near Center City, metered spots are on College, Trade, Church and Tryon streets. Numerous lots and garages are located in the Charlotte Transportation Center and Spectrum Center vicinity, including parking lots on College Street between Stonewall and Second streets and garages at The Plaza at Two Wells Fargo Center, Discovery Place Science, The NASCAR Hall of Fame and Founder's Hall.

#### Shopping

Antique hunters frequent shops in **Dilworth, Myers Park** and **South End.** Morrison and Phillips Place, in South Park, at the corner of Sharon and Fairview roads, features shops in a quaint setting and other things to see.

**SouthPark Mall**, 4400 Sharon Rd., features several restaurants and nearly 200 stores, including Belk, Crate & Barrel, Dillard's, Macy's, Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom and Pottery Barn. **Charlotte Premium Outlets**, 5404 New Fashion Way, has some 100 outlet stores including Fossil, Kate Spade, Le Creuset and Saks 5th Avenue Off Fifth.

Other malls include **Northlake Mall**, 6801 Northlake Mall Dr., which has Belk, Dillard's and Macy's. Pineville's **Carolina Place Mall**, 11025 Carolina Place Pkwy., offers Belk, Dick's Sporting Goods, Dillard's, JCPenney. For holiday decorations head to the **Peppermint Forest Christmas Shop**, behind Carolina Place Mall at 11729 Carolina Place Pkwy., October through January.

**Concord Mills Mall** (north on I-85 to exit 49 at 8111 Concord Mills Blvd.) has places to eat and more than 140 stores from which to choose.

Though more of a food hall than a mall, **7th Street Public Market** (224 E. 7th St.) does offer a variety of goods in addition to food places. One free-standing shop, CLT Find, just might be where to buy your Charlotte souvenirs since they're made by local artisans. (This shop is one of several sprinkled around the city but might be the most convenient if you're near the museums in Uptown.)

Off I-85 exit 49 is **Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World**, a sprawling complex filled with fun things to do and see, including a 30,000-gallon fish tank, archery and driving ranges, a putting green and NASCAR memorabilia.

#### Nightlife

People in Charlotte enjoy a night on the town, especially after a sporting event, but they also revel in more intimate lounges and local watering holes. Many bars and clubs can be found in Uptown as well as the trendy area around NoDa, aka North Davidson Street, where you can find live music and restaurants open late. Nightclubs that offer entertainment may charge a cover; phone ahead and confirm cover, hours, entertainment and dress code before you go.

The Epicentre (210 E. Trade St.), though not as popular as it once was, still draws visitors, especially on game days. With LYNX light rail and the Spectrum Arena nearby, you can cheer on the team while indulging responsibly. Consider bowling at Bowlero; phone (704) 716-9300; or enjoying the rooftop lounge and views at Nuvole Rooftop TwentyTwo. Phone (980) 960-9800.

NoDa, or North Davidson Street, is a must if you're looking for things to see. This is where to find trendy local restaurants and bars, many of which sport spectacular murals. One popular venue is NoDa Company Store (3221 Yadkin Ave.), which sells a large selection of craft beers and features a stage out back with plenty of space to mingle or dance. Check ahead for live performances; phone (980) 859-0441.

Are you looking for things for couples to do this weekend? Reserve seats at The Charlotte Comedy Theater (2909 N. Davidson St.) and laugh with your date over this local ensemble's zany antics; phone (803) 548-6824.

Tilt on Trade, 127 W Trade St., is where you'll find young professionals unwinding after hours working in Charlotte. Converse, sip handcrafted cocktails or enjoy some live entertainment. Note that dress code is enforced, so dress to impress. Phone (704) 347-4870.

#### **Big Events**

Queen City residents can always find things to do in Charlotte; an array of special events occur throughout the seasons. In late February or early March the **Southern Spring Home & Garden Show** offers the first glimpse of the season with gardens, seminars, crafts and indoor and outdoor floral displays. The show takes place at **The Park**, located off Briar Creek Road.

Charlotte's spring schedule is filled with ethnic festivals and community events. The third weekend in April finds



residents engaged in a friendly competition of piping, drumming and dancing at the **Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games.** The festival features Celtic music and is held at Rural Hill Farm in Huntersville. Also in April, the **Queen's Cup Steeplechase**, in Mineral Springs, features some of the most athletic thoroughbreds and jockeys being cheered on by spectators.

The NASCAR season kicks off in May with the NASCAR All-Star Race, the Coca-Cola 600 and the Speed Street Festival.

Summer months bring outdoor festivals, entertainment and plenty of fun places to go. Charlotteans can eat and drink their way along five blocks of Tryon Street during **Taste of Charlotte** in June, when notable restaurants dish out more than 100 menu items. On Sundays in June the park adjacent to SouthPark Mall comes alive with



Attend an event at the Charlotte Motor Speedway /  $\ensuremath{\textcircled{}}$  iStockphoto.com / Sproetniek

classics from beloved musicals to Beethoven's best at Charlotte Symphony Orchestra's **Summer Pops at Symphony Park.** 

There are more NASCAR events for racing fans in September and October, namely **Bojangles' Pole Night**, **Drive for the Cure 300 Presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina** and the **Bank of America 500**. Weekends from late September or early October to mid-November find nostalgic residents reliving the past at the **Carolina Renaissance Festival**.

The **Southern Christmas Show** takes place in November. Then Victorian homes are dressed up and put on display for the **Fourth Ward Holiday Home Tour** in early December.

In late December college football fanatics flock travel from far and wide to **Bank of America Stadium** for the **Belk Bowl.** Check the weekly *Creative Loafing* publication, found at newsstands, for additional entertainment and events information.

#### Sports & Rec

Charlotte sports fans are enthusiastic rooters for their home teams. The **Spectrum Center**, at 333 East Trade Street in Uptown, is where the **NBA's Charlotte Hornets** shoot hoops; for tickets phone (800) 745-3000.

The **Carolina Panthers**, members of the **NFL**, toss the pigskin at **Bank of America Stadium**, 800 S. Mint St.; phone the ticket office at (704) 358-7253 for schedule information.

The minor league **baseball Charlotte Knights**, a Triple-A affiliate of the Chicago White Sox, play at **Truist Field**, in Uptown at 324 S. Mint St. The season runs early April to early September; phone (704) 274-8300, or (704) 274-8282 for the ticket office.

The AHL's **Charlotte Checkers** play **hockey** at Bojangles' Coliseum; phone (704) 342-4423 for tickets.

UNC Charlotte added **football** to its list of sports teams with the 2013 inaugural season of the **Charlotte 49ers** at **Jerry Richardson Stadium.** Phone (704) 687-4949.

**Stock car racing**, courtesy of NASCAR, takes place at **Charlotte Motor Speedway** in nearby Concord, with events held May through October. Phone (704) 455-3200 for information, (800) 455-3267 for tickets or (704) 455-3223 for tours. *See attraction listing in Concord.* 

Public golf courses include Charles T. Myers (18-hole), 7817 Harrisburg Rd., (704) 536-1692; Dr. Charles L. Sifford Golf Course at Revolution Park (nine-hole), 1225 Remount Rd., (704) 333-3949; The Golf Club at Ballantyne (18-hole), 10000 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., (704) 248-4383; Highland Creek Golf Club (18-hole), 7101 Highland Creek Pkwy., (704) 875-9000; Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation (18-hole), 7500 Old Sycamore Dr., (704)



573-1000; Harry L. Jones, Sr. Golf Course (18-hole), 1525 W. Tyvola Rd., (704) 357-3373; and Sunset Hills Golf Course, 800 Radio Rd., (704) 399-0980. Most courses require tee time reservations.

More than 160 area parks provide a multitude of recreational opportunities. Most parks have **picnic** areas, and many feature lakes; phone the Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Department, (980) 314-1000, for more information.

Daily **bicycle** rentals are available with **Charlotte** B-cycle, the city's bicycle-sharing system. Two-wheelers may be rented and returned at self-service kiosks scattered throughout the downtown area. A 24-hour membership costs \$8 and includes all rides under 2 hours; longer rides incur an additional fee of \$4 per half-hour up to a daily maximum of \$75. Phone (704) 332-9585 for more information. A number of cycling opportunities can be found in nearby Rock Hill. Head toward the Rock Hill Outdoor Center and Riverwalk (575 Herrons Ferry Rd.) for numerous trails and a 3.35-mile paved course; phone (803) 329-5632. Rock Hill BMX Supercross Track is at 1307 Riverwalk Pkwy.; phone (803) 326-2441. The Giordana Velodrome offers riding and racing (with proper certification) at the Rock Hill Outdoor Center; phone (803) 326-2453.

The following companies also participate in bicycle sharing: Lime, Mobike, Ofo and Spin. Each company's fleet can be recognized by a different color combination.

Northwest of Charlotte, Lake Norman (see Recreation Areas Chart) is North Carolina's largest man-made lake. Some 520 miles of shoreline make it a popular spot for camping, swimming, sailing, windsurfing and water skiing. Phone (704) 987-3300. Jetton Park on Lake Norman at 19000 Jetton Rd. offers hiking and bicycling trails as well as tennis courts and a playground. Lake Wylie, which runs along the Carolina border just south of Charlotte, offers similar activities.

For those who prefer chlorinated water, there are facilities at the **Mecklenburg County Aquatic Center**, 800 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., and the **Marion Diehl Recreation Center**, 2219 Tyvola Rd.; phone (704) 314-3483 or (980) 314-1300, respectively.

#### **Performing Arts**

The Charlotte Symphony, Charlotte Ballet, Opera Carolina, Community School of the Arts and Caroline Calouche & Co. all are resident companies at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, 130 N. Tryon St. With no shortage of things to do, the center, which also presents Broadway musicals and various performing artists, includes the Belk Theater, Booth Playhouse and Stage Door Theater. Plan your trip ahead of time, and make reservations for a show and dinner at one of the nearby restaurants.

In search of things for couples to do? The Knight Theater at Levine Center for the Arts, 430 S. Tryon St., the Duke Energy Theater at Spirit Square (home to On Q Productions) and McGlohon Theater at Spirit Square, both at 345 N. College St., and Ovens Auditorium at 2900 E. Independence Blvd., also come under the auspices of the Blumenthal organization, staging concerts and other performing arts programs and sponsoring art exhibits. The box office for all Blumenthal theaters is in Belk Theater; phone (704) 372-1000.

The **Children's Theatre of Charlotte**, 300 E. 7th St., presents classic and new plays geared toward ages 3-18. The box office is open Mon.-Fri. noon-5. Performances take place throughout the year; for schedule information during your trip, phone the box office at (704) 973-2828.



# Explore Things To Do, visit AAA.com/tripcanvas

**BECHTLER MUSEUM OF MODERN ART** is at 420 S. Tryon St. at the Levine Center for the Arts. The museum's collection, privately owned by the Bechtler family of Switzerland before being bequeathed by art patron Andreas Bechtler, features such mid-20th-century artists as Alberto Giacometti, Jean Tinguely, Alexander Calder, Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, Andy Warhol and Le Corbusier. The striking building is itself a work of art; it features a cantilevered gallery on the fourth floor supported by a column rising from the plaza below, and a soaring glass atrium that suffuses parts of the interior with natural light.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (704) 353-9209. **(GT)**  $(\mathbf{T})$ 

**THE BILLY GRAHAM LIBRARY** is at 4330 Westmont Dr. Furthering the mission of the Charlotte-born evangelist Billy Graham, the library allows visitors to delve into the story of his life and relive historic moments through stateof-the-art multimedia exhibits, films and memorabilia. Highlights include the restored Graham family home and the Memorial Prayer Garden, burial site of Graham and his wife. **Time:** Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (704) 401-3200.

**CAROWINDS AMUSEMENT AND WATER PARK,** 10 mi. s. on I-77 to exit 90, is on the North Carolina/South Carolina border at 14523 Carowinds Blvd. Covering some 400 acres, the park features more than 60 rides, shows and attractions, including 14 roller



coasters—Intimidator is one of the tallest, fastest and longest in the Southeast and Fury 325 is North America's tallest and fastest giga-coaster.

Camp Snoopy is a 12-acre area for younger children, where they can enjoy an interactive playground and meet PEANUTS characters.

Aeronautica Landing pays tribute to Carolina's aviation history with new thrill rides and interactive games. Music concerts are presented in the Paladium Amphitheatre.

Carolina Harbor is one of the largest water parks in the Carolinas and has two giant wave pools, waterslides and a 3-acre family area with a 423-gallon tipping bucket.

Kennel, stroller, wheelchair and locker rentals are available. Facilities include a first-aid station and campground. Pets are not permitted in the park. **Phone:** (704) 588-2600 or (803) 548-5300.

**THE CHARLOTTE MUSEUM OF HISTORY**, 3 mi. e. of downtown at 3500 Shamrock Dr., between Eastway Dr. and Sharon Amity Rd., was originally founded to preserve the 1774 Hezekiah Alexander Homesite. The original stone Hezekiah Alexander house, built by one of the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, is the oldest surviving house in the county and contains furniture and artifacts dating from the late 18th century. Also on the site are a re-created tobacco barn and a kitchen. Museum gallery exhibits include Solving the Rock House Mysteries and Charlotte Neighborhoods.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (704) 568-1774. **(GT**)

**DISCOVERY PLACE SCIENCE**, 301 N. Tryon St., is designed to enhance visitors' perceptions of science and technology via hands-on experiences. Multidimensional exhibits uncover the wonders of science, nature, math and technology, and online, audio, video and graphic components are used to stimulate discussion about contemporary topics. Other exhibits allow both kids and adults to experiment with forces controlled by the laws of physics and chemistry. The natural world is represented by a living rain forest, live species and an aquarium.

Legendary characters come to life in Marvel: Universe of Super Heroes. Here visitors can view such artifacts as real costumes worn in the films by Black Panther, Spider-Man and Captain Marvel. Interactive exhibits feature Marvel's 80 years of history and include such items as concept sketches, props from the movies and character statues perfect for selfies.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (704) 327-2189.

Accenture IMAX Dome Theatre is at Discovery Place Science, 301 N. Tryon St. Multiple shows are offered daily on the three-story-high, 79-foot-wide screen. **Phone:** (704) 372-6261 or (800) 935-0553.

HARVEY B. GANTT CENTER FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN ARTS + CULTURE is downtown at 551 S. Tryon St. (at Stonewall St.). This art and cultural center's striking exterior resembles the textile patterns created by West African weavers; on the building's south side, 14 glass panels depict historical scenes. A full schedule of exhibits focuses on African American artists and cultural perspectives. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (704) 547-3700.

HENDRICK MOTORSPORTS MUSEUM is at 4400 Papa Joe Hendrick Blvd. This 67-acre racing complex encompasses a museum and race shops that showcase items representing two decades of HMS racing.

The museum displays include engine components, trophies and a manuscript for the "Days of Thunder" feature film starring Tom Cruise and one of Hendrick's Chevrolet Lumina race cars. The race shops afford visitors an opportunity to view the construction of race cars from start to finish. Note: At this time campus tours are not available. **Time:** Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (877) 467-4890.

**HISTORIC ROSEDALE PLANTATION** is at 3427 N. Tryon St. Built by merchant Archibald Frew in 1815, Rosedale is considered to be one of the state's finest examples of Federal architecture. The home is noted for its original French wallpaper, faux grained woodwork and picturesque grounds with a boxwood garden, mature trees and reconstructed blacksmith shop. Guides present the lifestyles and arts of the 19th-century Catawba River Valley region.

The home can only be seen on a guided tour. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (704) 335-0325. **GT** 

**LEVINE MUSEUM OF THE NEW SOUTH** is at 401 S. Tryon St. This museum's interactive, multisensory exhibits depict and interpret the city's historical evolution since the end of the Civil War. Changing exhibits include artifacts, images, video and music clips and oral histories integrated into interactive environments, dramatically illustrating topics important to the South in general and Charlotte in particular. Digital offerings also are available.

Time: Allow 2 hours minimum. Phone: (704) 333-1887.

MINT MUSEUM RANDOLPH, 2730 Randolph Rd., is housed in what served as the first branch of the U.S. Mint from 1837 to 1861. Before it was dismantled and moved to its present site in 1933, the Greek Revival



building served as a Confederate hospital, an assay office and a federal courthouse.

The permanent collection features pre-Columbian, Spanish colonial and early North American works of art. Other highlights include European paintings and sculpture, period costumes, historic North Carolina pottery and gold coins minted in Charlotte. The museum's pottery and porcelain collection is impressive. Also of note are the coronation portraits of King George III and Queen Charlotte, the British monarchs who reigned during the American Revolutionary War.

Items in the Delhom Collection range from ancient Chinese ceramics to late 18th-century English and continental European wares. Changing exhibits are regularly presented, and the museum also has a student artists' gallery.

Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (704) 337-2000.

MINT MUSEUM UPTOWN, 500 S. Tryon St. at the Levine Center for the Arts, showcases an impressive collection of American, modern and contemporary art, as well as a craft and design collection that includes studio jewelry and furniture and works in glass, fiber art, metal, clay and wood. The beautifully designed galleries feature a range of artistic styles from traditional to avant-garde.

**Time:** Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (704) 337-2000.

**THE NASCAR HALL OF FAME** is at 400 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. between S. Brevard and S. Caldwell sts. This high-tech, interactive attraction is designed to appeal to everyone, not just race fans. It showcases the history and heritage of NASCAR with artifacts, stock cars, the High Octane Theater, the Hall of Honor where the most recent NASCAR Hall of Fame inductees are enshrined—and hands-on exhibits. Among the inductees in the Hall of Fame's inaugural class are Junior Johnson and seven-time NASCAR champion Dale Earnhardt.

Glory Road showcases 19 cars reflecting the six generations of NASCAR premier series race cars as well as 42 current and historic tracks. Various degrees of banking at racetracks are depicted, including the impressive 33degree incline at Talladega Superspeedway. The more than 50 interactive exhibits include the Pit Crew Challenge and racing simulators that invite guests to engage with the sights and sounds of the sport.

**Time:** Allow 3 hours minimum. **Phone:** (704) 654-4400 or (888) 902-6463. **GT** (**T**)



Levine Museum of the New South / © AAA / Sherry Mims

**U.S. NATIONAL WHITEWATER CENTER** is at 5000 Whitewater Center Pkwy.; from I-85 exit 29, proceed 1 mi. n. on Sam Wilson Rd., then 0.7 mi. w. on Moores Chapel Rd., following signs. This year-round outdoor lifestyle facility, home to what is billed as the world's largest manmade recirculating river and the first permanent Deep Water Solo Climbing Complex in the world offers outdoor fun for every age and skill level. Guided trips on Class II, III and IV rapids are geared to both families and experienced rafters. More leisurely pursuits include stand-up paddleboarding and flatwater kayaking on the adjacent Catawba River. The Whitewater Center also features a variety of free events including live music Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, daily yoga practices, weekly clinics and group trail runs May through September.

In addition to water recreation, the facility's 1,300 acres offer ziplines, ropes courses, tower jumps, a canopy tour,



#### 84 CHARLOTTE - DOWNTOWN CHARLOTTE, NC

rock climbing and more than 45 miles of trails for mountain biking, hiking and running. A woodsy retreat just northwest of the city center, this is a great place for families.

Various activity passes are offered. Age and weight restrictions apply. **Time:** Allow 4 hours minimum. **Phone:** (704) 391-3900. **GT (1) (2)** 

### Sightseeing

#### Self-guiding Tours

Exploring on foot is a great way to get to know the Queen City, allowing you to take in the sights, venture to nearby restaurants and see all there is to offer. A walking tour of Uptown highlights 24 places of interest; maps are available at all Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority Visitor Info Center locations. Sites on the route include First Presbyterian Church, which was built in 1857; The Green; Kaskey's bronze statues at The Square; Thomas Polk Park; and The Plaza at Two Wells Fargo Center, which features a fountain complete with bronze figures of frolicking children.

Those interested in Victorian architecture will want to make a trip to Historic Fourth Ward. In 1869 residential Charlotte was divided into four voting districts called wards.

Fourth Ward, the northwest quadrant, was occupied by merchants and ministers. This area, between 10th, Graham, 5th and Tryon streets, eventually deteriorated until restoration efforts began in the late 1970s. Today the neighborhood contains approximately 75 "Grand Old Ladies," colorfully painted Victorian residences. A fountain marks the entrance to Fourth Ward Park, bordered by Pine, Poplar, 6th and 8th streets. Descriptive brochures with a detailed map are available around the neighborhood and at the Visitor Info Center, which is full of more recommendations for things to do in Charlotte, such as the best places to eat and visit while on vacation.

Or you may just opt to take a relaxing stroll through the McGill Rose Garden at 940 N. Davidson St. This 1.3-acre urban sanctuary contains more than 200 varieties of roses as well as annuals, perennials and herbs; phone (704) 905-9808.

The Charlotte Liberty Walk walking tour connects more than a dozen Revolutionary War sites throughout Uptown, including Independence Square, Old Settlers' Cemetery and the Thomas Polk Homesite; the walk begins at the Battle of Charlotte Monument on S. Tryon Street and is marked by red granite pavers.

## DOWNTOWN CHARLOTTE

INSPECTED 🔗 CLEAN<sup>®</sup>

#### • Hotels p. 84



when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 210 E Trade St 28202.





COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT-CHARLOTTE CITY CENTER BOOK NOW 704/926-5800



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 237 S Tryon St 28202.



## THE DUNHILL HOTEL BOOK NOW 704/332-4141

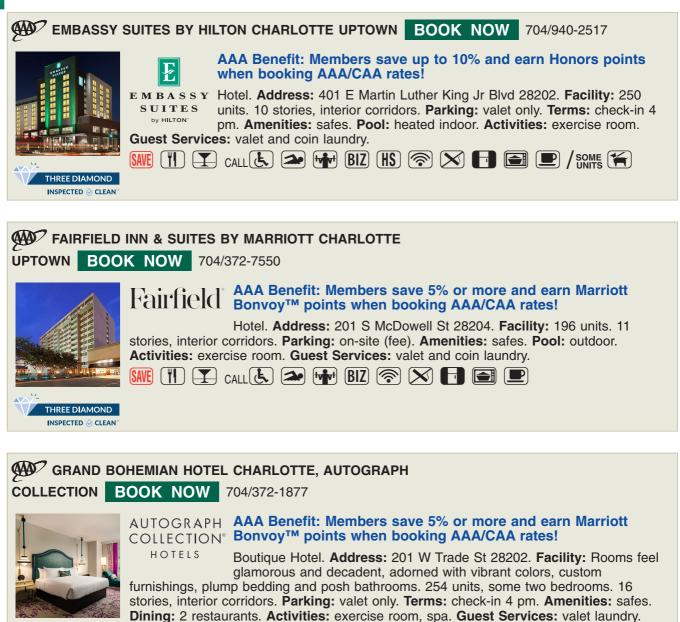


INSPECTED 🧼 CLEAN

Historic Boutique Hotel. **Address:** 237 N Tryon St 28202. **Facility:** Originally opened in 1929, the downtown hotel retains its historic charm with elegant furnishings in a variety of room sizes, and compact but nicely appointed marble bathrooms. 60 units. 10 stories, interior corridors. **Parking:** on-site (fee) and valet. **Guest Services:** valet laundry.

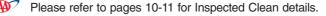
SAVE 👖 🖬 🗶 call 🛃 🛜 🔀 🗩 / SOME 🗖

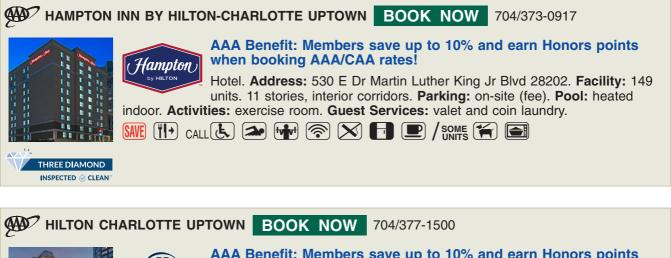


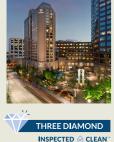




(SAVE)









AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 222 E 3rd St 28202. Facility: 400 units. 22 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee) and valet. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: health club. Guest

CALL & M BIZ S N T D / SOME SHS

Services: valet laundry.

HILTON GARDEN INN-CHARLOTTE UPTOWN BOOK NOW 704/347-5972



MiltonAAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn HonorsGarden Innpoints when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. **Address:** 508 E Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd 28202. **Facility:** 181 units. 15 stories, interior corridors. **Parking:** on-site (fee). **Activities:** exercise room. **Guest Services:** valet and coin laundry.







### **HYATT PLACE CHARLOTTE DOWNTOWN BOOK NOW** 704/227-0500



HYATT PLACE AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn World of Hyatt points when booking AAA/CAA rates! Members also receive free breakfast at Hyatt Place/Hyatt House with their World of Hyatt membership!

Hotel. **Address:** 222 S Caldwell St 28202. **Facility:** 172 units. 7-14 stories, interior corridors. **Parking:** valet only. **Amenities:** *Some:* safes. **Pool:** outdoor. **Activities:** exercise room. **Guest Services:** valet laundry.



### THE IVEY'S HOTEL BOOK NOW 704/228-1111



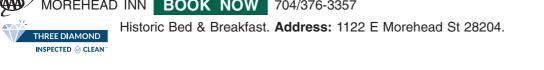
FOUR DIAMOND

Boutique Hotel. **Address:** 127 N Tryon St 28202. **Facility:** Posh décor abounds in this former vintage department store-turned-hotel, with luxury bedding, reclaimed French oak floors, glamorous bathrooms and subtle Parisian flair. 47 units. 2 stories, interior corridors. **Parking:** valet only. **Terms:** check-in 4 pm. **Amenities:** safes. **Activities:** exercise room. **Guest Services:** valet laundry.







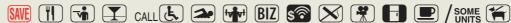


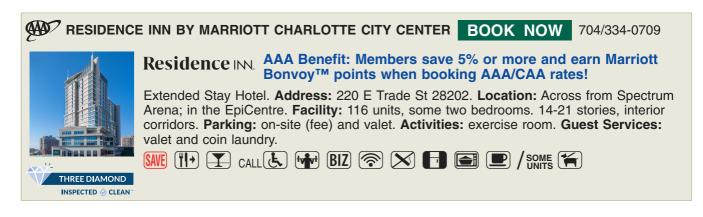
# MOV OMNI CHARLOTTE HOTEL BOOK NOW 704/377-0400



INSPECTED 🔗 CLEAN

Hotel. **Address:** 132 E Trade St 28202. **Facility:** This contemporary hotel is in a complex containing a small shopping mall, a civic center and business offices. The striking angular exterior makes for some varied room layouts. 373 units. 15 stories, interior corridors. **Parking:** valet only. **Terms:** check-in 4 pm. **Amenities:** safes. **Pool:** outdoor. **Activities:** health club. **Guest Services:** valet laundry. *(See ad p. 90.)* 







# Experience the OMNI moment.



# BOOK NOW

OMNI CHARLOTTE

# STAY CONNECTED

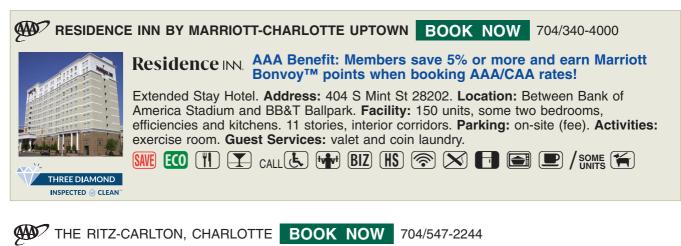


# to all the things membership can do for you

- Member discounts around you
- Cheapest gas nearby
- Diamond hotels and restaurants
- Travel information and reservations
- Roadside assistance



Download today. Connect every day. AAA.com/mobile | CAA.ca/services





AAA Benefit: Special member savings plus Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Boutique Hotel. Address: 201 E Trade St 28202.

SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT CHARLOTTE CITY CENTER BOOK NOW 704/439-8100



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 311 E Fifth St 28202.

### THE WESTIN CHARLOTTE BOOK NOW 704/375-2600



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates! Hotel. Address: 601 S College St 28202. Facility: With its modern

style, this striking glass high-rise stays busy with both business and leisure travelers. The lobby lounge is a popular after-work gathering spot for locals and convention visitors. 700 units. 25 stories, interior corridors. **Parking:** on-site (fee) and valet. **Terms:** check-in 4 pm. **Amenities:** safes. **Activities:** sauna, health club. **Guest Services:** valet laundry, boarding pass kiosk.





# • Hotels p. 92





ALOFT CHARLOTTE AIRPORT BOOK NOW 980/279-5550



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Contemporary Hotel. Address: 3928 Memorial Pkwy 28217.



# LET'S GET SOCIAL

Connect with AAA for the latest updates.

AAA.com/Facebook

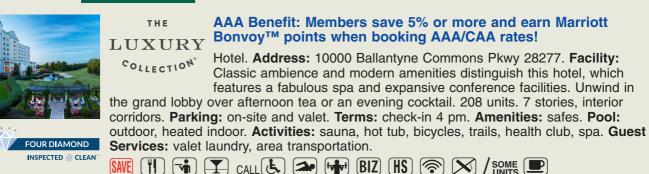
O Instagram.com/aaa\_national

🕅 AAA.com/Twitter

YouTube.com/AAA

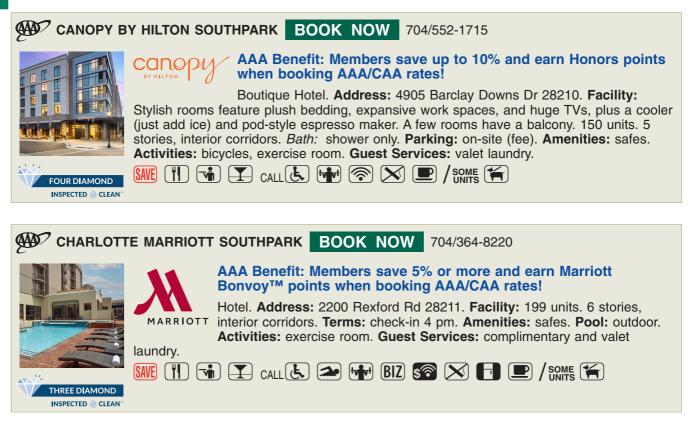












COMFORT SUITES-AIRPORT BOOK NOW 704/971-4400

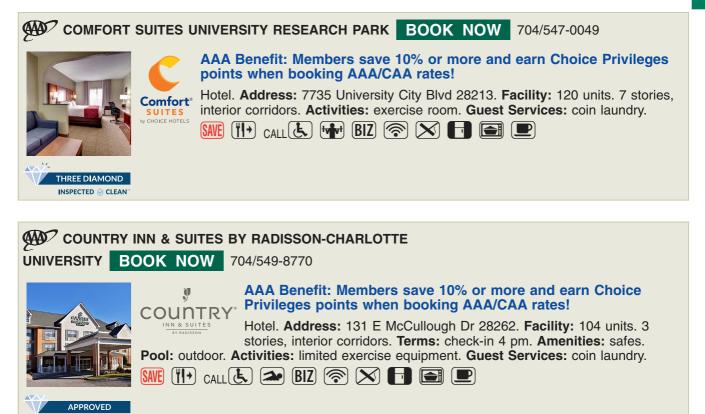


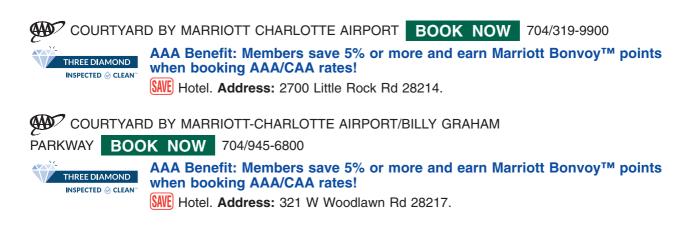
AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 3425 Mulberry Church Rd 28208. Facility: 84 units. 5 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.



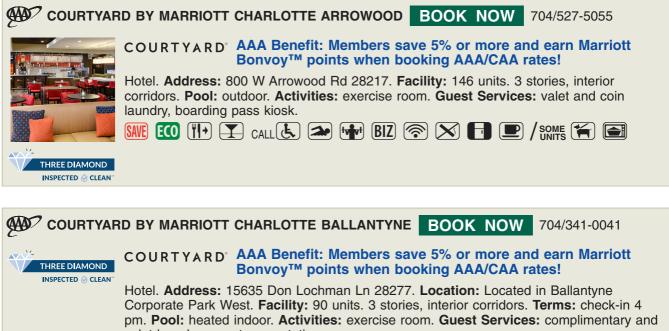








INSPECTED 🎯 CLEAN



valet laundry, area transportation.

SANE 🕪 🍸 🎿 🕂 BIZ 🛜 🗙 🗗 🗩

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT CHARLOTTE NORTHLAKE BOOK NOW 704/719-9494

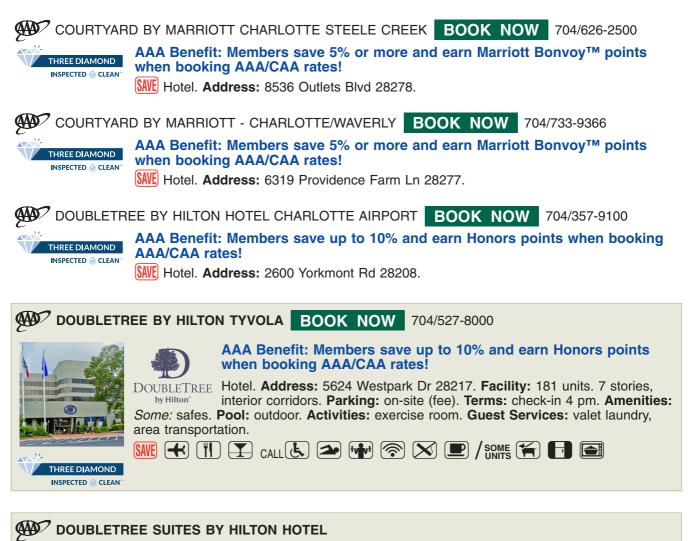


AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy<sup>™</sup> points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 9110 Harris Corners Pkwy 28269.







CHARLOTTE-SOUTHPARK BOOK NOW 704/364-2400





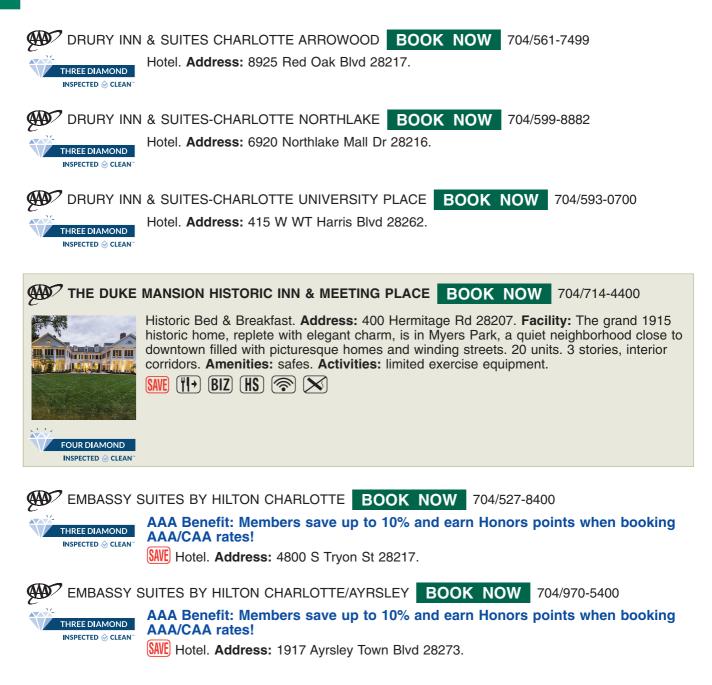
# AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

DOUBLETREE by Hilton Hotel. Address: 6300 Carnegie Blvd 28211. Location: Adjacent to South Park Mall. Facility: 207 units, some two bedrooms and efficiencies. 3-6 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry, rental car service, area transportation.

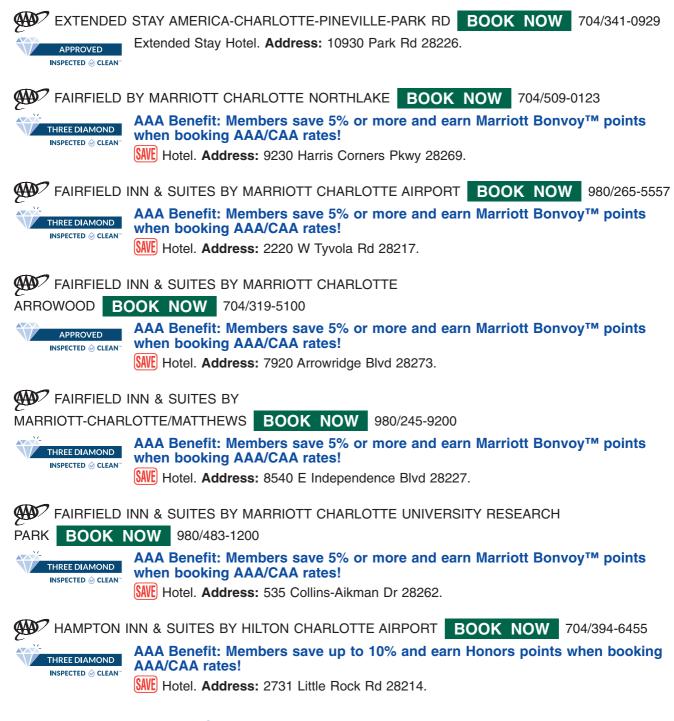




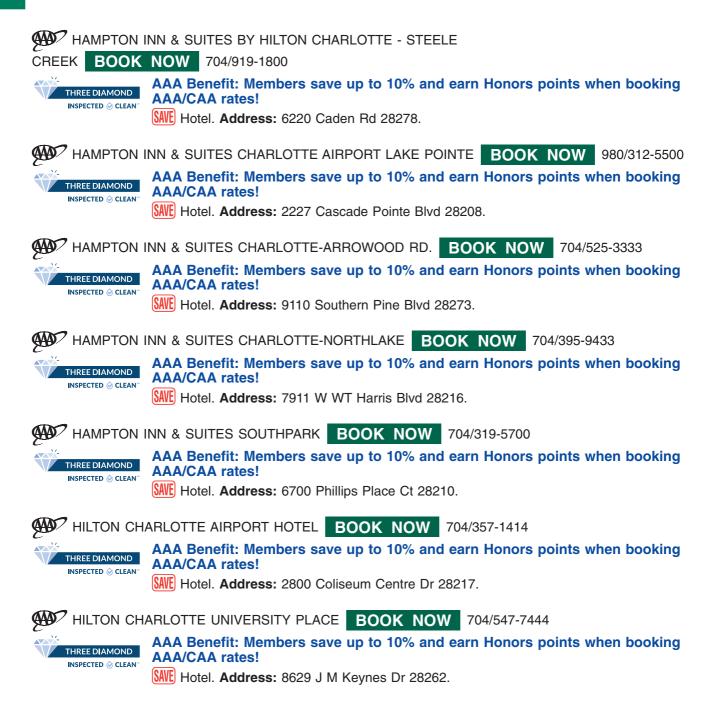




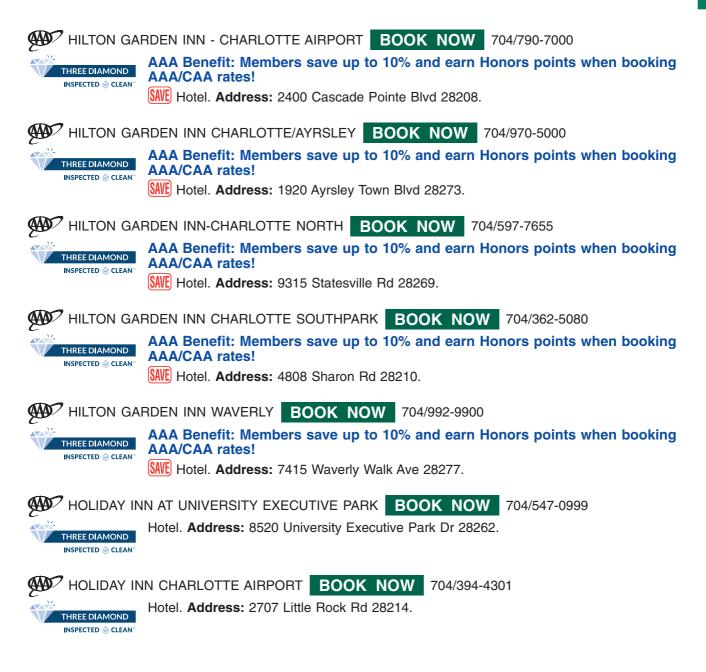




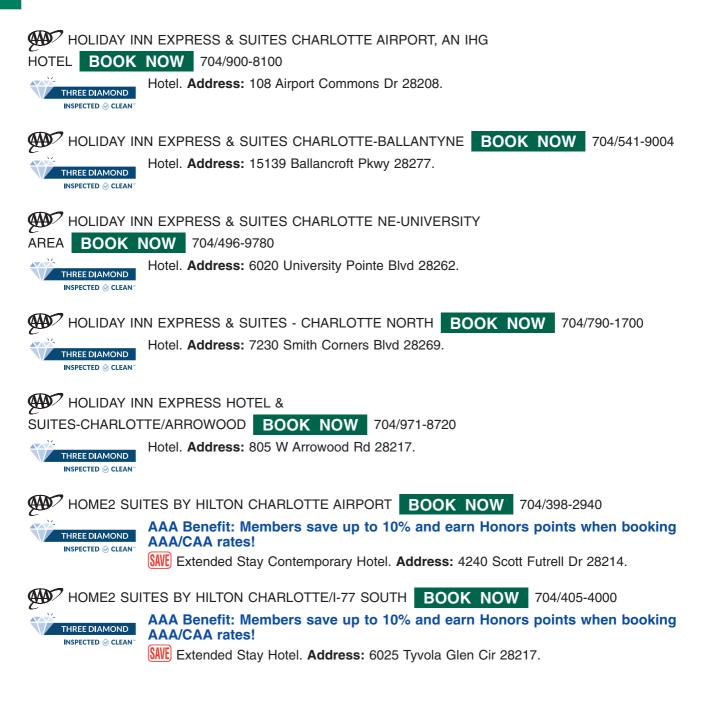




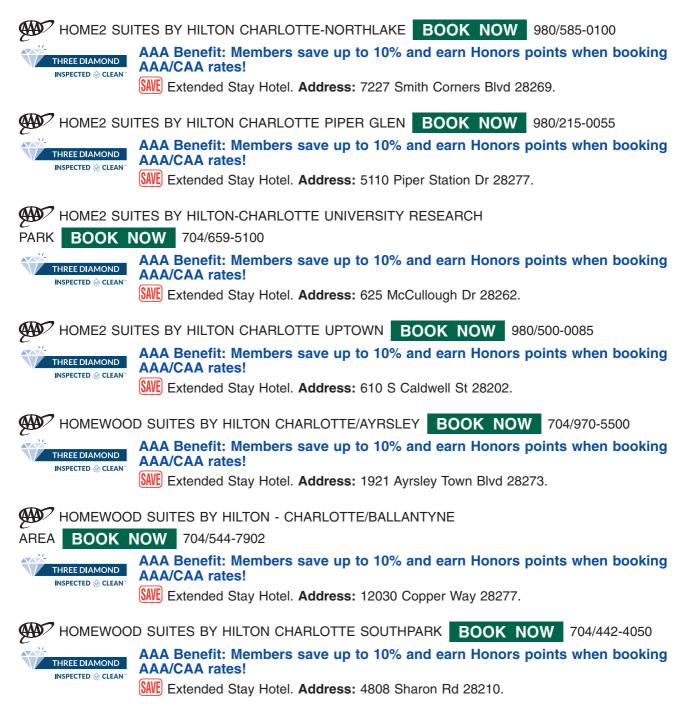




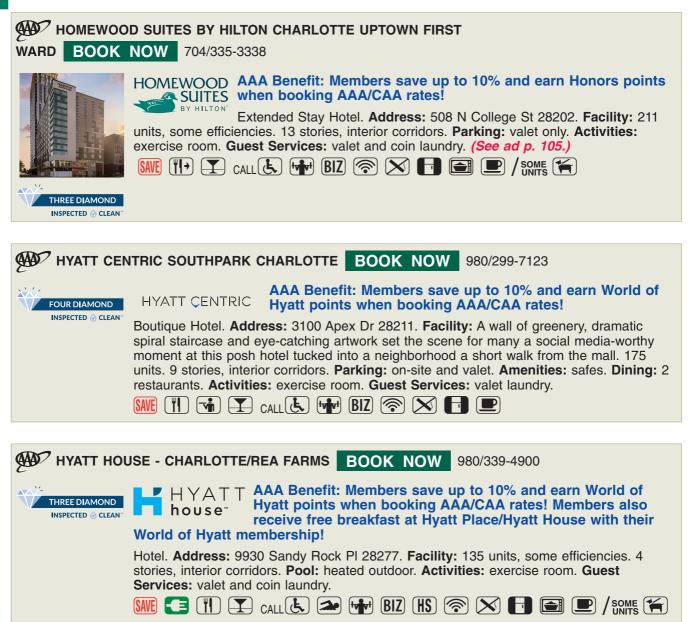
















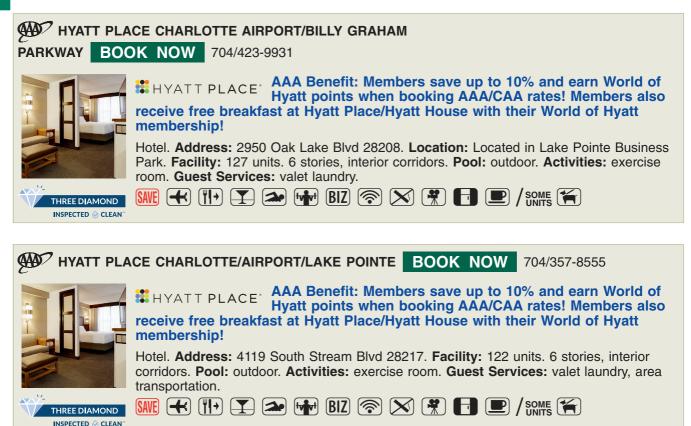
508 N. COLLEGE STREET, CHARLOTTE, NC 28202 | PH: 704.335.3338

FREE HOT BREAKFAST FREE WIFI DIGITAL KEY IN-ROOM KITCHEN ON-SITE RESTAURANT FITNESS CENTER STREAMING ENTERTAINMENT PET-FRIENDLY ROOMS VALET PARKING MEETING ROOMS

# IN THE HEART OF UPTOWN

In the center of Charlotte, NC you'll find our hotel minutes from <u>The Market at 7th Street</u> and the <u>Spectrum Center</u>. The <u>Bank of America Stadium</u> and the <u>NASCAR Hall of Fame</u> are nearby. We offer meeting space, a business center, free hot breakfast, and a fitness center. After a busy day, relax at our First Ward Social Bar and Kitchen.

8 MILES FROM CHARLOTTE/DOUGLAS INTERNATIONAL AIPORT HOMEWOOD SUITES by Hilton" CHARLOTTE UPTOWN FIRST WARD



# HYATT PLACE CHARLOTTE/ARROWOOD BOOK NOW 704/522-8400



\*\* HYATT PLACE AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn World of Hyatt points when booking AAA/CAA rates! Members also receive free breakfast at Hyatt Place/Hyatt House with their World of Hyatt membership!

Hotel. **Address:** 7900 Forest Point Blvd 28273. **Facility:** 126 units. 6 stories, interior corridors. **Amenities:** safes. **Pool:** outdoor. **Activities:** exercise room. **Guest Services:** coin laundry.







### JW MARRIOTT CHARLOTTE BOOK NOW 704/333-1101





AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy<sup>™</sup> points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 600 S College St 28202. Facility: Upscale rooms feature luxury bedding, expansive work spaces, and glamorous

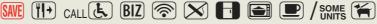
bathrooms with oversize showers and marble vanities. 381 units. 23 stories, interior corridors. **Parking:** valet only. **Terms:** check-in 4 pm. **Amenities:** safes. **Dining:** 3 restaurants. **Pool:** heated outdoor. **Activities:** cabanas, exercise room, spa. **Guest Services:** valet laundry.

AMOND D 🔆 CLEAN" 🚺 🐪 🍸 CALL 🕭 絤 🕂 🛜 🔀 🛃 🖃

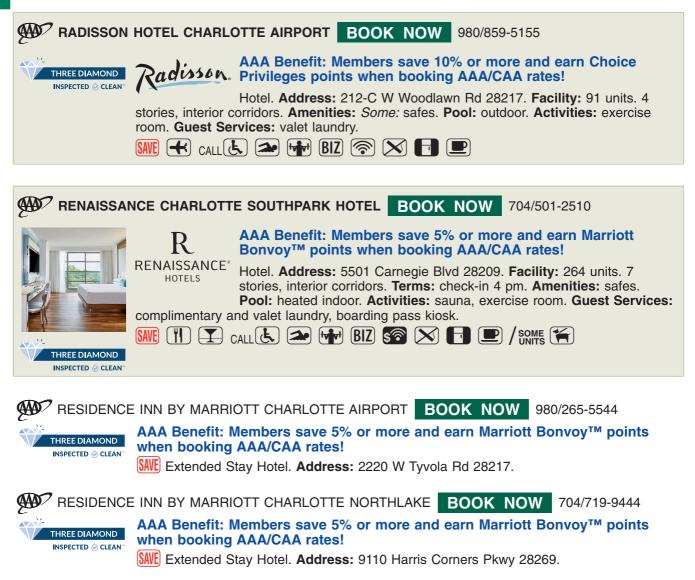
# MICROTEL INN & SUITES BY WYNDHAM CHARLOTTE/NORTHLAKE BOOK NOW 704/227-3377



Hotel. **Address:** 6309 Banner Elk Dr 28216. **Facility:** 64 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. **Amenities:** safes. **Guest Services:** coin laundry.







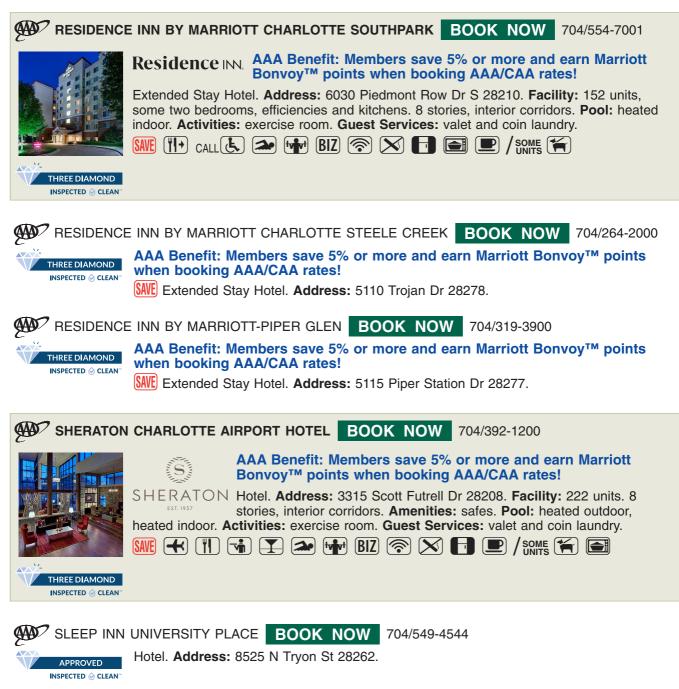
# Share with those you love

# Add an Associate membership today:

- Online at AAA.com/Membership
- Visit your local club office
- Call 800-Join-AAA (564-6222)



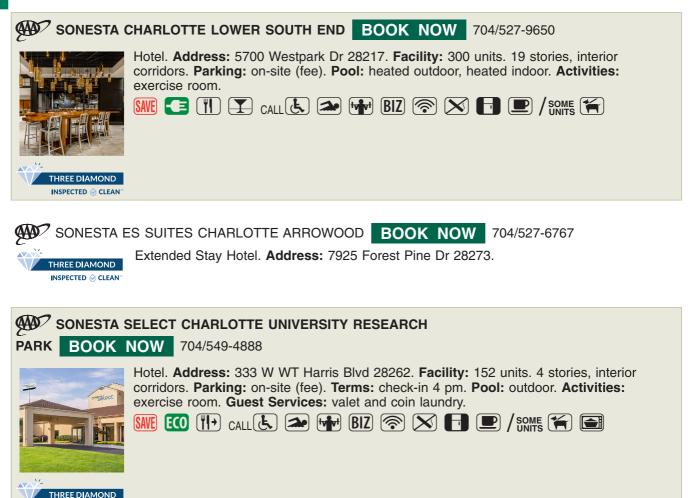


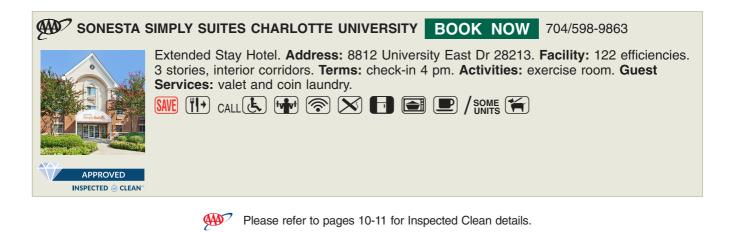


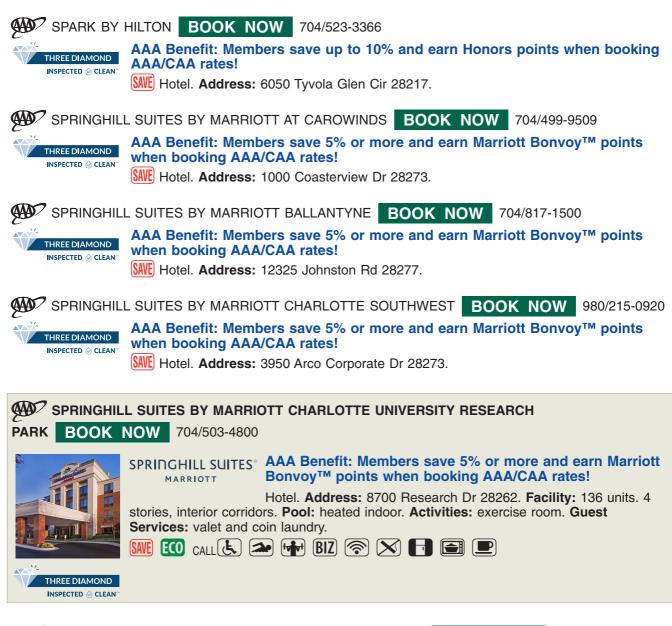


### 110 CHARLOTTE, NC

**INSPECTED**  $\bigotimes$  CLEAN







SPRINGHILL SUITES CHARLOTTE AIRPORT LAKE POINTE BOOK NOW 980/299-3100

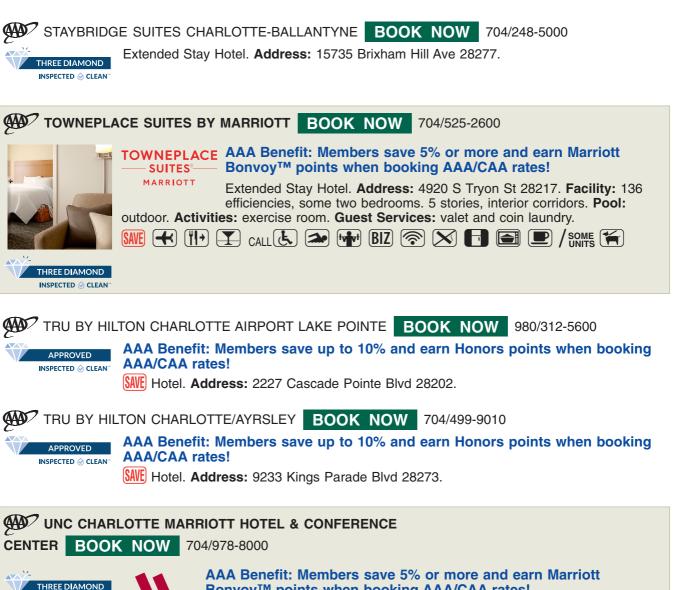
THREE DIAMOND

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 2223 Cascade Pointe Blvd 28208.

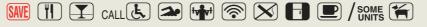


INSPECTED 🥝 CLEAN

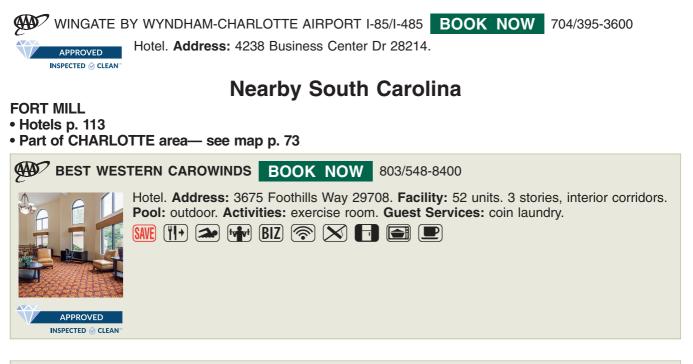


Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 9041 Robert D Snyder Rd 28262. Location: On campus of UNC Charlotte. Facility: 226 units. 7 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee) and valet. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.

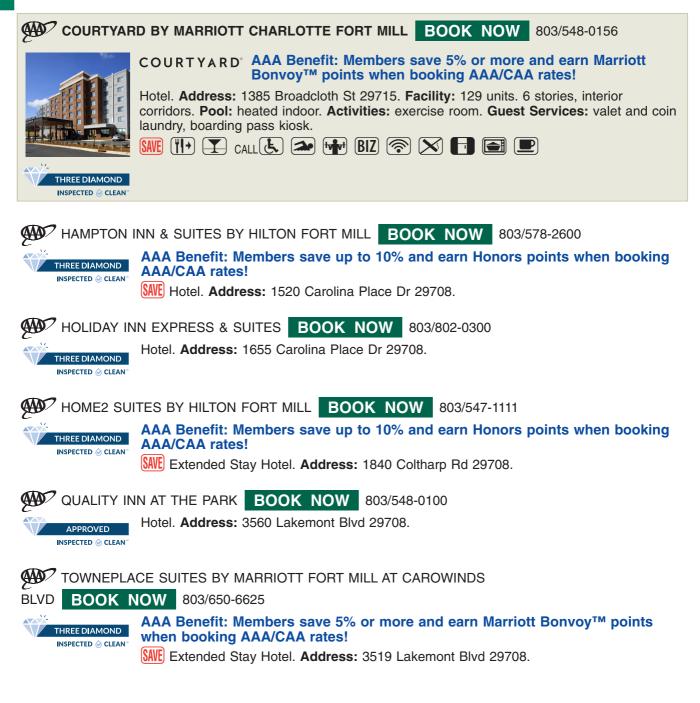














TRU BY HILTON FORT MILL BOOK NOW 803/228-9175



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

WE Hotel. Address: 120 Crisanto Ave 29715.

#### **ROCK HILL**

• Hotels p. 115

#### • Part of CHARLOTTE area— see map p. 73

The name Rock Hill is derived from the white flint rock encountered during the construction of the Charlotte, Columbia and Augusta Railroad. Not much more than a sprawling country crossroad for several decades following 1852, Rock Hill finally blossomed into an industrial town with the spread of cotton mills in the Upstate and the development of hydroelectric power on the Catawba River.

In 1895 Rock Hill obtained Winthrop College from Columbia, where it had been founded in 1886. Today Winthrop University offers an art gallery, a golf course and a lake for public enjoyment.

Several outdoor activities are available in the community. Glencairn Garden, at Charlotte Avenue and Edgemont and Crest streets, is a manicured 11-acre city park with water features, a lily pond, winding paths, a children's garden and a garden honoring veterans. Azaleas, dogwoods and wisteria reach their peak in mid-April; tulips bloom a bit later in the spring, annuals throughout the summer. Phone (803) 329-5620. Another place to enjoy the outdoors is the 3.35-mile Riverwalk: Piedmont Medical Center Trail (575 Herrons Ferry Rd.), where you can stroll, bike or launch a kayak or canoe at the Catawba River; phone (803) 326-0085 for more information.

In April Rock Hill hosts the 10-day Come-See-Me Festival, which features art exhibitions, road races, concerts, fireworks, a parade and international food.

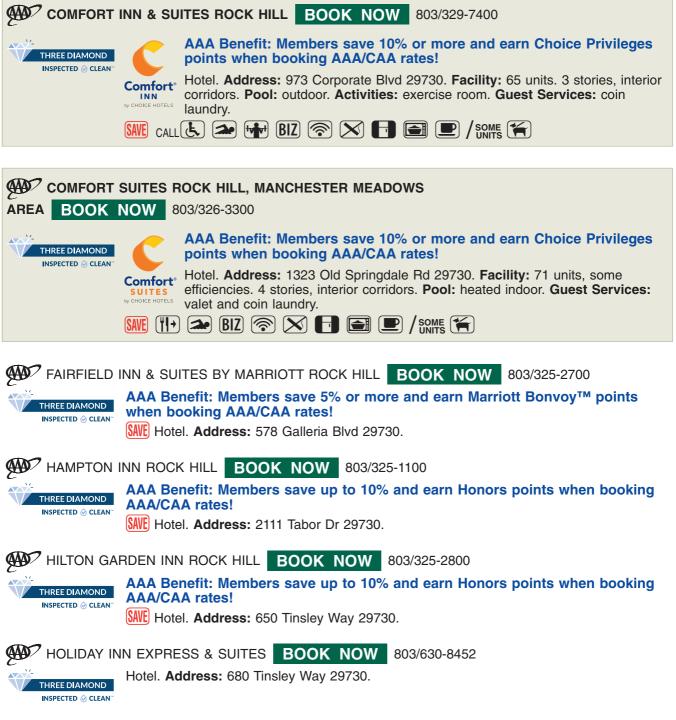
**Rock Hill/York County Convention and Visitors Bureau:** 130 E. Main St., P.O. Box 11377, Rock Hill, SC 29730. **Phone:** (803) 329-5200 or (888) 702-1320.

**Shopping:** Rock Hill Galleria (2301 Dave Lyle Blvd.) offers Belk as well as an assortment of national retailers.

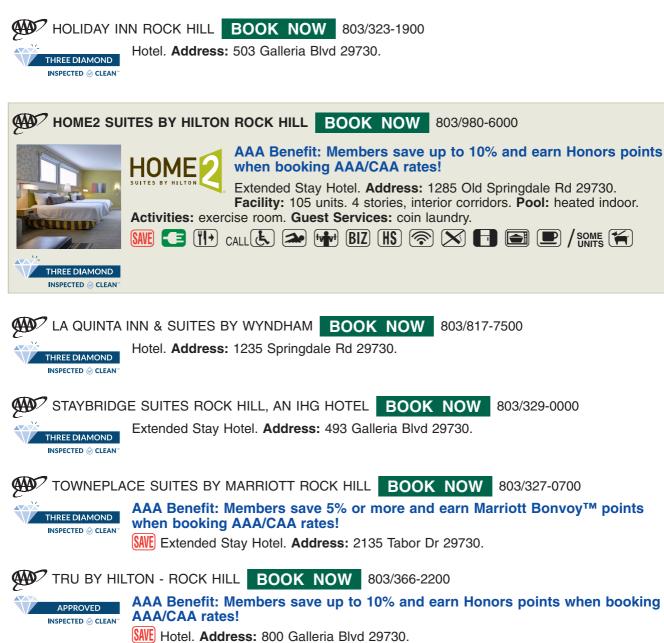
**MUSEUM OF YORK COUNTY,** w. on SR 161 from I-77 exit 82C, then n. to 4621 Mount Gallant Rd., highlights the natural history of the Carolina Piedmont and its connections to the rest of the world. A planetarium and a nature trail are available. Also displayed are works by artist Vernon Grant. **Phone:** (803) 329-2121.  $\overline{AP}$ 

CAMBRIA HOTEL ROCK HILL - UNIVERSITY CENTER BOOK NOW 803/324-0004









This ends the Charlotte section and resumes the alphabetical city listings for North Carolina.



### CHEROKEE

• Hotels p. 118

#### Part of Great Smoky Mountains National Park area— see map p. 154

Forget about present-day Cherokee for a minute and imagine a time machine magically transporting you back approximately 11,000 years. You would be sharpening a hunting tool and setting out in search of dinner, concocting natural remedies for ailments and coexisting peacefully with your neighbors. Much later, you might be marching alongside some 16,000 victims of broken promises, bidding farewell to your homeland and embarking on a painful trek along the Trail of Tears. Or maybe you were one of the fortunate few able to reclaim prized land and build a new community protected from takeover.

This story of hardship vanguished through perseverance resonates throughout the chartered Qualla Boundary, home of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The town of Cherokee is the center of this 56,000acre region. The southern entrance to Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway are both nearby, drawing outdoor enthusiasts and history buffs with plenty of recreational opportunities and events that focus on Native American culture.

Cherokee craftsmanship is on display at Qualla Arts & Crafts Mutual, 645 Tsali Blvd. Embark on a kayaking, tubing, hiking, biking, camping or bird-watching adventure. Enjoy the sounds of banjos, fiddles and guitars in the Smoky Mountains at the Cherokee Bluegrass Festival in mid-June. Treat the kids to a day filled with fishing, hands-on exhibits, food and music at the Talking Trees Children's Trout Derby, held in August. The annual Cherokee Indian Fair in October features a parade, fireworks, live entertainment and authentic food and crafts.

Cherokee Welcome Center: 498 Tsali Blvd., P.O. Box 460, Cherokee, NC 28719. Phone: (828) 497-9195 or (800) 438-1601.

MUSEUM OF THE CHEROKEE PEOPLE is at 589 Tsali Blvd. The story of the Cherokee people from prehistory to modern times is depicted through audiovisual presentations and exhibits that include crafts, clothing and weapons. Interpretive displays describe the tribe's resettlement to Western reservations and the hardships endured along the Trail of Tears. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (828) 497-3481.

OCONALUFTEE INDIAN VILLAGE, 2.5 mi. n. off US 441N at 218 Drama Rd., is a re-creation of a 1750s Cherokee community, where Native Americans demonstrate how to fashion baskets, pottery, canoes, arrows and blowguns. Also of interest are a preserved seven-sided council house as well as huts and cabins containing articles used more than 200 years ago.

The Cherokee Botanical Trail is on the grounds. Special programs are available. Phone: (828) 497-2111 or (866) 554-4557. GT

**OCONALUFTEE VISITOR CENTER**—see Great Smoky Mountains National Park p. 155.

SANTA'S LAND FUN PARK & ZOO. 3 mi. e. on US 19 to 571 Wolftown Rd., is a Christmas theme park featuring amusement rides, a large exotic and domestic zoo, a mountain heritage section, and exhibits and entertainment. Magic shows are held in the Jingle Bell Theater. Phone: (828) 497-9191 or (800) 648-7268.

"UNTO THESE HILLS" is .5 mi. n. on US 441N to 564 Tsali Blvd. This 2-hour historical drama about the Cherokee takes place in the outdoor Mountainside Theatre. The play, first presented in 1950, covers the period from the arrival of Hernando de Soto in 1540 through the tragic Trail of Tears in 1839. Some descendants of tribal members who lived the story appear in principal roles.

Designed for a young audience, the Cherokee Little Theater performance series teaches children and families about Cherokee legends. Inquire about weather policies. Phone: (828) 497-2111, or (866) 554-4557 for tickets. ( 41 )

BAY MOUNTAIN INN CHEROKEE SMOKY MOUNTAINS BOOK NOW 828/497-2102 [fyi] Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Approved. Address: 1455 Acquoni Rd 28719.

CLARION POINTE BOOK NOW 828/497-3115

[fyi] Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Approved. Address: 185 Tsalagi Rd 28719.



FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT CHEROKEE BOOK NOW 828/497-0400

**fyi** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Three Diamond. **Address:** 568 Paint Town Rd 28719.

HARRAH'S CHEROKEE CASINO AND HOTEL BOOK NOW 828/497-7777

**(fyi)** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Address:** 777 Casino Dr 28719.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL & SUITES CASINO BOOK NOW 828/497-3113

**(fyi)** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Approved. **Address:** 376 Paint Town Rd 28719.

# CHIMNEY ROCK

Chimney Rock lies in a gorge at the foot of its namesake formation, a giant granite monolith that rises sharply 315 feet. The town is a conveniently located outfitting post for a variety of recreational activities.

**CHIMNEY ROCK AT CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK**, on US 64/74A at 431 Main St., surrounds its dramatic same-named formation. For exceptional views that include Lake Lure (*see place listing p. 184*), hikers can reach the summit by means of a marked trail and stairways. An elevator, which rises 26 stories, also is available. A trail also leads to 404-foot Hickory Nut Falls. One of the highest falls east of the Mississippi River, Hickory Nut Falls were featured as a backdrop in the 1992 movie "The Last of the Mohicans."

Two lower trails are the Great Woodland Adventure which features handcrafted sculptures depicting wildlife indigenous to the region—and the Four Seasons Trail, a more strenuous, winding route. The Exclamation Point Trail leads to Exclamation Point and the Skyline trailhead and passes the Opera Box and Devil's Head. Other points of interest include Gneiss Cave, Crevice Pass and Peregrine's Point, the highest point in the park at 2,640 feet.

Myriad wildflowers, birds and plants are indigenous to the park. Some of the trails are steep in places, and negotiating them requires sure footing. Guided hikes are scheduled throughout the year. Fox Mountain Guides offer guided rock climbing.

**Time:** Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (828) 625-9611, (888) 284-8433 for Fox Mountain Guides or (800) 277-9611.

# • Hotels p. 119

**TANGLEWOOD PARK,** 4201 Manor House Cir., is a former horse farm and estate once owned by William Neal Reynolds, brother of tobacco entrepreneur R.J. Reynolds. The 1,400-acre park includes nature trails; rose, herb, friendship, fragrance and shade gardens; tennis courts; a 36-hole golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr.; a par-three course; stables; horse trails; an aquatic center; a dog park; mountain bike trails; a multi-use asphalt trail; and paddleboat and canoe rentals. The Tanglewood Festival of Lights is held mid-November through January 1 and features more than 100 lighted displays and 1 million lights in a drive-through light show.

Phone: (336) 703-6400. 🔀 📻







# CLINTON

Hotels p. 120





# COLUMBUS • Hotels p. 120

COLUMBUS INN & SUITES BOOK NOW

828/894-3303

**(fyi)** Motel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Approved. **Address:** 626 W Mills St 28722.

# CONCORD

• Hotels p. 121

### • Part of Charlotte area— see map p. 73

In 1775, disagreeing German and Scot-Irish residents of Cabarrus County finally decided on the location of the county seat. They named the site Concord (reflecting harmony), and the main thoroughfare was called Union Street in honor of the compromise that settled the issue. A memorial garden on Spring Street between Cabarrus and Corban avenues contains the graves of many Concord founders.

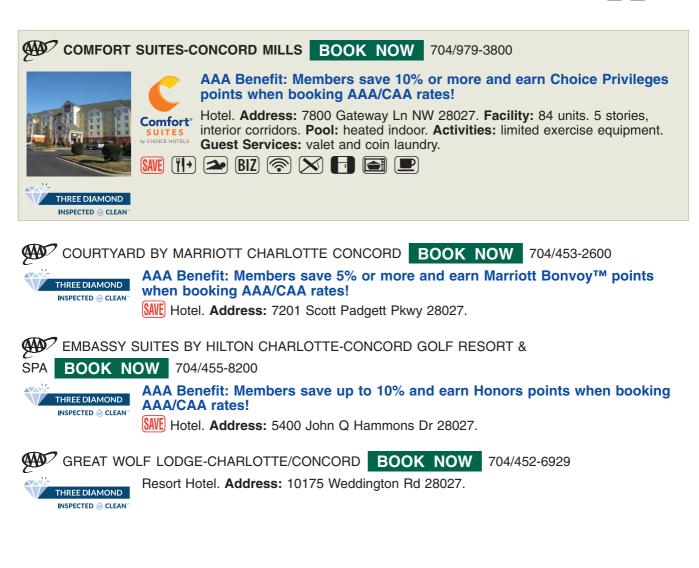
The first gold nugget discovered in the nation was supposedly found nearby by a 12-year-old boy wading in Little Meadow Creek. Another story alleges that the 17pound chunk was used as a doorstop before the boy's father took it to Fayetteville in 1802 and sold it to a jeweler for the grand sum of \$3.50; in actuality it was worth approximately \$3,600.

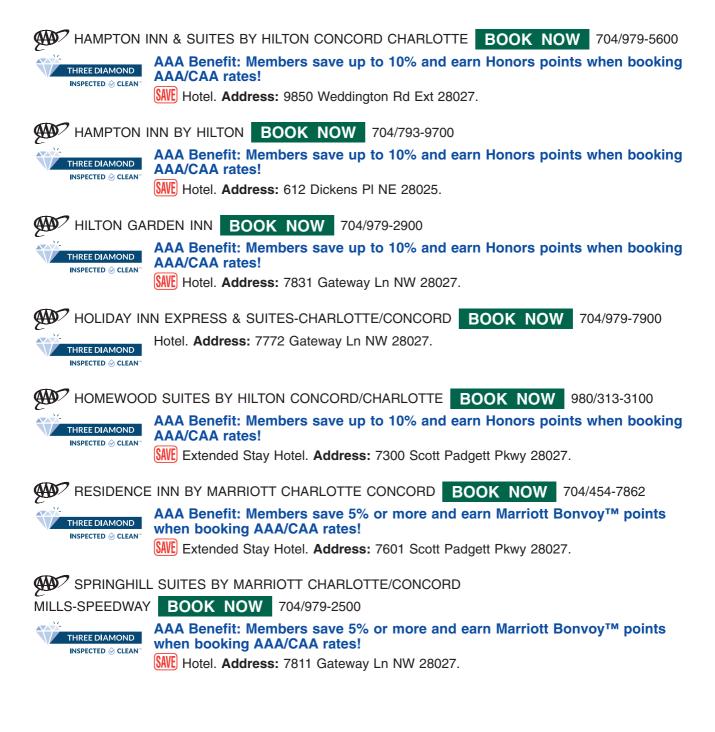


Cabarrus County Convention & Visitors Bureau: 10099 Weddington Rd., Suite 102, Concord, NC 28027. Phone: (704) 782-4340 or (800) 848-3740.

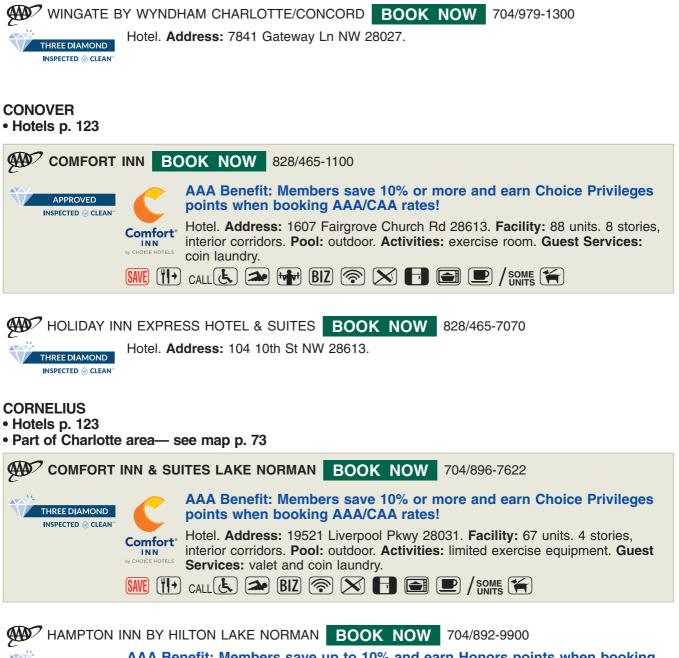
**CHARLOTTE MOTOR SPEEDWAY** is at 5555 Concord Pkwy. S. Situated in the heart of stock-car racing country, the speedway annually hosts three NASCAR Cup race weekends, Charlotte AutoFairs and stock-car racing schools. Guided tours include a van ride around the 1.5mile super speedway and a photo opportunity in Victory Circle. Expanded, behind-the-scenes tours also are available by advance reservation.

**Note:** Previously scheduled time trials and racing events may affect tour availability; phone ahead. **Time:** Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (704) 455-3223 for tour information, (704) 455-3200 for general information, or (800) 455-3267 for tickets. **GT T** 









 AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 19501 Statesville Rd 28031.



### **COROLLA**

#### • Hotels p. 125

### • Part of Outer Banks area— see map p. 212

Astride the northern stretch of the Outer Banks between the Atlantic Ocean and Currituck Sound, Corolla was hunting turf for Native American tribes until the coming of the Europeans. This area was originally called Jones Hill but was renamed Corolla—a reference to the petals of a flower—in the 1890s by the village's newly established postal service.

The historic structures seen today are reminiscent of the modest prosperity residents enjoyed around the turn of the 20th century. An 1885 chapel, an 1890 schoolhouse and the humble Parker and Grigg houses contrast with ornate vacation homes and upscale dining and shopping facilities catering to those who fancy frills.

Chances are, however, you'll find *your* thrills outdoors. Unwind in a beach chair, work on your tan and be awed by the majestic ocean. Book a kayak tour or fishing charter, rent a Jet Ski or challenge your travel buddy to a game of tennis or golf. Bike, skate or walk along the Corolla Greenway, a 6-mile trail that runs parallel to SR 12 and passes wetlands, beach access points and the Currituck Beach Lighthouse. A parking area and trailhead are located at Currituck Heritage Park, 1160 Village Ln.

And don't forget to keep your eyes peeled for Corolla's most famous residents—the wild horses of the Currituck Outer Banks. Believed to be descendants of Spanish mustangs imported by 16th-century *conquistadores*, the steeds roam a 12,000-acre refuge situated along North Carolina's northernmost beaches.

**CURRITUCK BEACH LIGHTHOUSE** is at 1101 Corolla Village Rd. in Historic Corolla Park. Visitors can climb to the top of the lighthouse, which has served as a navigational aid since 1875. A small exhibit inside explains the history of the various structures within the light station compound and explores the lives of the keepers. Exhibit

panels on the first three landings contain information on the history of lighthouses, its first-order Fresnel lens, the light station and Corolla. The grounds are available for exploration, along with an 1880s house moved from Long Pont Light Station.

**Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (252) 453-4939.

WHALEHEAD IN HISTORIC COROLLA is off SR12N at 1100 Club Rd., in Historic Corolla Park. The Art Nouveau structure, built 1922-25, was the home of waterfowl hunting enthusiasts Mr. & Mrs. E.C. Knight, Jr. Said to be the first residence on the Outer Banks to contain a basement, elevator and swimming pool, the structure features original cork floors, "corduroy" walls and Tiffany light fixtures. A boathouse, boat basin and footbridge are on the grounds.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (252) 453-9040. **(GT**)

**WILD HORSE ADVENTURE TOURS** departs from 610 Currituck Clubhouse Dr. Guests board open-air, 13passenger Humvees for a beach excursion in search of the elusive wild Spanish mustangs that have roamed the Outer Banks for centuries. Knowledgeable guides provide background information and relate local lore and ecology. The tours venture into three previously inaccessible and distinct ecosystems teeming with wildlife, including the Wild Horse Sanctuary in Swan Beach.

**Time:** Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (252) 489-4878, (252) 489-2020 or (888) 293-3497. **GT** 

**WILD HORSE SAFARI** departs from 1159 Austin St. The 2.5-hour off-road tour takes visitors across more than 30 miles of beaches, dunes and backcountry sand trails in an open-air beach cruiser to view wild Spanish mustangs upclose. The naturalist guide provides information about local history, nature and Outer Banks ecology. Segway and kayak tours also are offered; phone for schedule and prices.

Phone: (252) 453-0877. GT







### **CROATAN NATIONAL FOREST**

Elevations in the forest range from sea level to 46 ft. west of Great Lake. Refer to AAA maps for additional elevation information.

Covering 160,000 acres south of New Bern, Croatan National Forest consists mostly of pine and swamp hardwoods. As the most coastal of any national forest in the East, it contains many estuaries and waterfowl nesting areas, as well as public beaches. Three designated areas within the forest provide recreational facilities.

Some of the forest's most interesting wildlife is found in the pocosin ("swamp-on-a-hill"), a wet upland bog with a spongelike top layer of soil. Among the plant life is the carnivorous Venus flytrap, which traps insects in its leaves and digests them. Insects also provide a source of sustenance for sundew and pitcher plants. Black bears, alligators, woodpeckers, owls and a small number of bald eagles and falcons are part of the forest's ecosystem. Alligator and osprey habitats can be seen along the White Oak River and other coastal waterways. Canoes or small motorboats are best suited for navigation of the waterways. Both saltwater and freshwater fishing are possible, although fishing in the lakes is generally poor.

Cedar Point Tideland Trail, an elevated boardwalk originating at the mouth of the White Oak River across from Swansboro, winds through tidal marsh areas and hardwood and pine forests. Interpretive signs are found along both the 1- and 2-hour loops of the trail. Maps and camping information are available at the ranger office, 141 E. Fisher Ave., 9 miles south of New Bern via US 70E.

Ranger office open Mon.-Fri. 8-noon and 1-4:30. Closed major holidays. Camping fees range \$8-\$20. For further information contact the Croatan Ranger District, 141 E. Fisher Ave., New Bern, NC 28560; phone (252) 638-5628. *See Recreation Areas Chart.* 

#### DAVIDSON

Hotels p. 125

Part of Charlotte area— see map p. 73







# DILLSBORO

• Hotels p. 126

On the banks of the Tuckasegee River, downtown Dillsboro offers visitors more than 50 shops, galleries and studios specializing in traditional mountain crafts.

Jackson County Tourism Development Authority: 773 W. Main St., Svlva, NC 28779, Phone: (828) 586-2155 or (800) 962-1911.



DOBSON • Hotels p. 126 WINERIES

• Shelton Vineyards is at 286 Cabernet Ln. Phone: (336) 366-4724. 💽 GT 🖷

HAMPTON INN & SUITES-SHELTON VINEYARDS BOOK NOW 336/353-9400



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking **AAA/CAA** rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 150 Charlestowne Dr 27017.



# STRANDED ON THE ROAD? WE ARE HERE TO HELP.

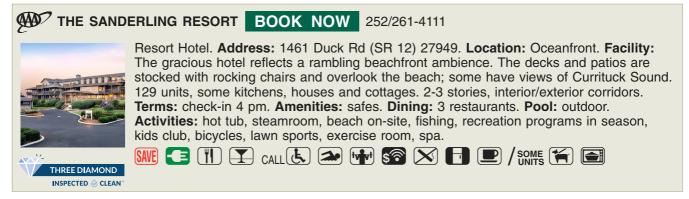
AAA Roadside Assistance has you covered directly through your mobile device. AAA.com/RoadService





### DUCK • Hotels p. 127

• Part of Outer Banks area— see map p. 212



# DUNN

• Hotels p. 127

**Dunn Area Tourism Authority:** 103 E. Cumberland St., P.O. Box 310, Dunn, NC 28334. **Phone:** (910) 892-3282.



SAVE Hotel. Address: 100 Jesse Tart Cir 28334.

# DURHAM

### • Hotels p. 129 • Restaurants p. 138

Durham, home of Research Triangle Park, Duke University and North Carolina Central University, is known for excellence in medicine, education, research, technology and industry. Major hospitals, including the Duke University Hospital, and a physician-to-population ratio four times greater than the national average, have incorporated "City of Medicine, USA" into its ever-expanding identity. Even its "tobacco town" reputation is still apt in a way; many of the former tobacco factories and warehouses have been converted into mixed-use developments with shops, local restaurants and



condominiums. The American Tobacco Complex remains a major downtown landmark with dining and events. Brightleaf Square is a shopping and dining destination.

The Research Triangle Region is an area twice the size of Rhode Island. The term "Triangle" was first used to refer to an area anchored by the state's three major universities—the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill *(see listing p. 68)*, North Carolina State University in Raleigh and Duke. It now refers to a six-county metropolitan area and a 13-county state planning region. A 7,000-acre wooded tract of land, 4 miles south of downtown via SR 147, is known as Research Triangle Park and

#### 128 DURHAM, NC

is home to many pharmaceutical and information technology companies.

**Durham Visitor Information Center:** 212 W. Main St., Suite 101, Durham, NC 27701. **Phone:** (919) 687-0288 or (800) 446-8604.

**BENNETT PLACE STATE HISTORIC SITE** is at 4409 Bennett Memorial Rd., 4 mi. n.w. off US 70/I-85 exit 173 southbound or 170 northbound. The site includes the restored Bennett House, where the largest Confederate troop surrender of the Civil War took place on Apr. 26, 1865. It was here that Gen. Joseph E. Johnston surrendered some 89,000 soldiers to Gen. William T. Sherman. Additional exhibits pertaining to the Civil War also are displayed in the visitor center.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (919) 383-4345.  $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ 

**DUKE HOMESTEAD STATE HISTORIC SITE AND TO-BACCO MUSEUM** is off I-85 exit 175 to 2828 Duke Homestead Rd. The 1852 main house, two early tobacco factories, a packhouse and a curing barn reflect the historical impact of the tobacco industry on North Carolina. The museum includes a moving mannequin that plants tobacco and explains—with a North Carolina accent—the "13-month crop." The visitor center offers a museum and a movie about the history of tobacco.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (919) 477-5498. **(GT)** 

**DUKE UNIVERSITY** is at 2080 Duke University Rd. The university spans two campuses bisected by SR 147 (Durham Freeway). The West Campus features Gothicstyle buildings while the architecture of the East Campus, formerly Trinity College, is predominantly Georgian. The combined enrollment is more than 14,800 students. **Phone:** (919) 684-3214. **GT** 

**Duke University Chapel** is on the West Campus at 401 Chapel Dr. The 50-bell carillon, with bells ranging in weight from 10 to 11,200 pounds, plays Mon.-Fri. at 5 and after Sunday worship services. The chapel houses the Flentrop Organ, which contains four keyboards and more than 5,000 pipes and rises nearly 40 feet above the gallery floor.

Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (919) 681-9488.

Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University is at 2001 Campus Dr. on Duke's central campus, adjacent to the Sarah P. Duke Gardens. Works from the permanent collection, displayed on a rotating basis, focus on modern and contemporary art, medieval and Renaissance works, classical sculpture, and African and pre-Columbian art. Two additional galleries feature changing exhibitions of modern and contemporary art.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (919) 684-5135, ext. 0. **GT** (1)

**Sarah P. Duke Gardens,** on the West Campus of Duke University, encompasses 55 acres. This award-winning public botanic garden is dedicated to excellence in garden design, horticulture and plant collections. The formal Terrace Gardens are filled with color that changes according to the seasons, while a large rose garden perfumes the air during the summer months. An Asiatic arboretum, a garden of native plants, a white garden and an organic, sustainable food garden also can be visited. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (919) 684-3698.

**HISTORIC STAGVILLE** is off I-85 exit 177, 1.4 mi. n. on Roxboro Rd., then 6.8 mi. e. to 5828 Old Oxford Hwy. This site represents the remnants of one of the South's largest antebellum plantations, owned by the Bennehan-Cameron families. Stagville's furnished main house, slave quarters and large barn are all that remain of the former estate. Daily life, particularly as it relates to the African American community, is highlighted with exhibits and a 10-minute slide presentation. **Time:** Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (919) 620-0120. **GT** 

**MUSEUM OF LIFE AND SCIENCE** is at 433 Murray Ave. Less than 5 miles from downtown Durham, encompassing 84 acres, this interactive science park includes a twostory science center with one of the largest butterfly conservatories on the East Coast. Beautifully landscaped outdoor exhibits are safe havens for rescued black bears, lemurs and endangered red wolves. Other attractions include more than 60 species of live animals, the Dinosaur Trail, Ellerbe Creek Railway, Into the Mist and treehouses in Hideaway Woods.

Note: Rental strollers, wheelchairs and lockers are available. **Time:** Allow 3 hours minimum. **Phone:** (919) 220-5429.





ALOFT DURHAM DOWNTOWN BOOK NOW 919/402-5656



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 345 Blackwell St 27701.

ARROWHEAD INN BED & BREAKFAST BOOK NOW 919/477-8430



Historic Bed & Breakfast. Address: 106 Mason Rd 27712.







COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT DURHAM NEAR DUKE

UNIVERSITY/DOWNTOWN BOOK NOW 919/309-1500



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvov™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1815 Front St 27705.

# DELTA HOTEL BY MARRIOTT RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK

RALEIGH/DURHAM BOOK NOW 919/474-3000



MARRIOTT

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

DELTA Hotel. Address: 151 Tatum Dr 27703. Facility: 125 units. 6 stories, interior corridors. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. HOTELS Guest Services: valet and coin laundry, area transportation.

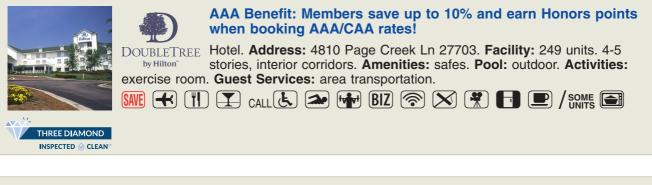


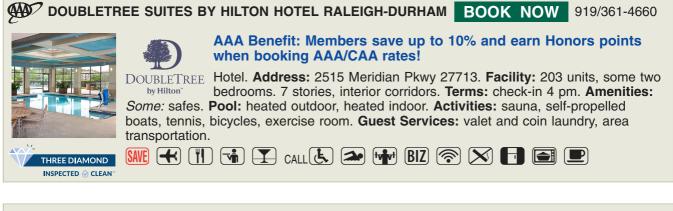




# DOUBLETREE BY HILTON-RALEIGH-DURHAM AIRPORT AT RESEARCH TRIANGLE

PARK BOOK NOW 919/941-6000





# DURHAM MARRIOTT CITY CENTER BOOK NOW 919/768-6000



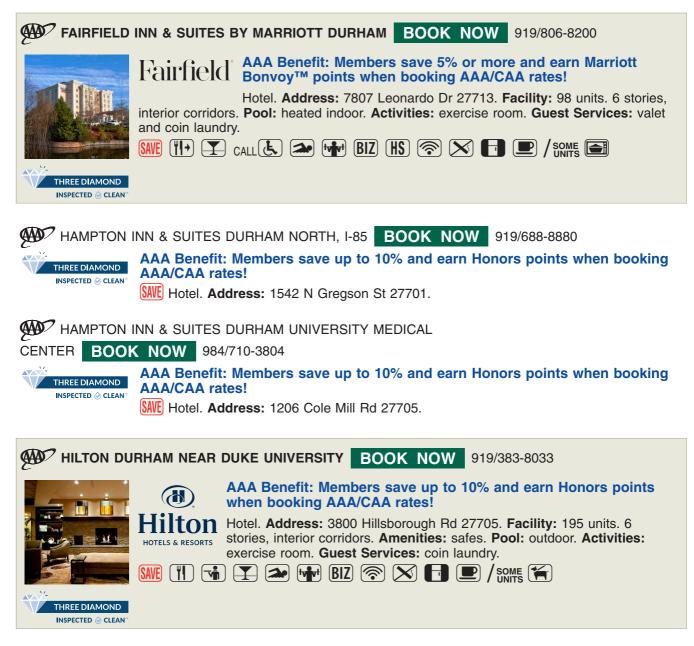
AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 201 Foster St 27701. Location: Adjacent to convention center and Carolina Theatre. Facility: 190 units. 9 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Activities: exercise room.

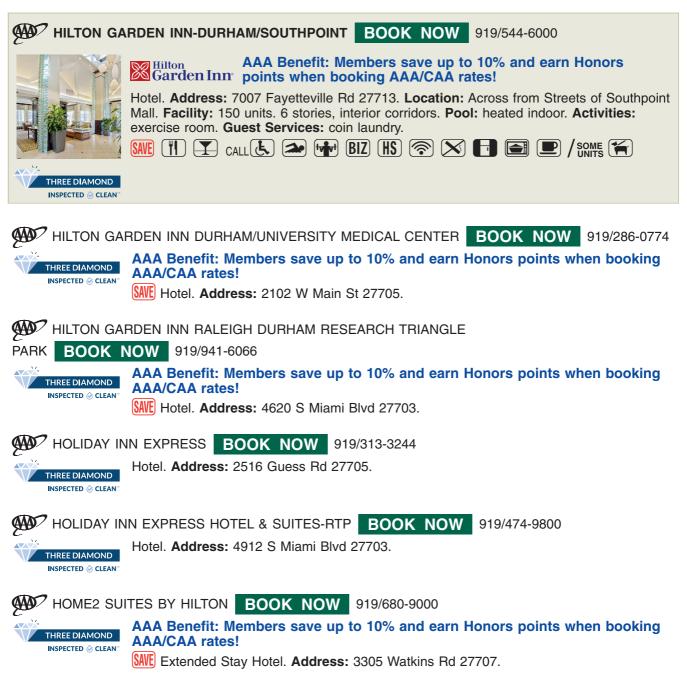
Guest Services: valet laundry.



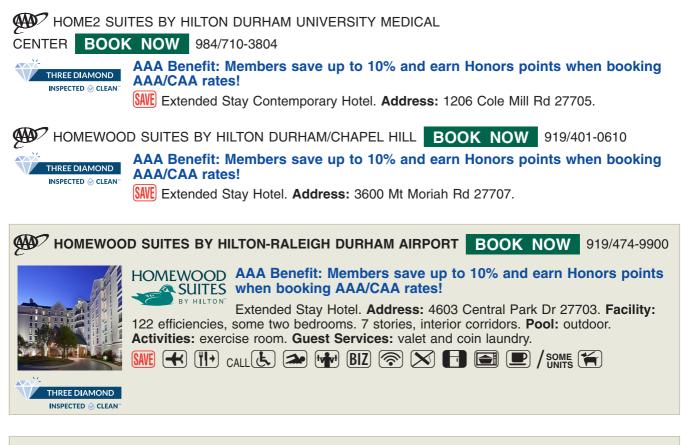












# HYATT PLACE DURHAM SOUTHPOINT BOOK NOW 919/688-7800

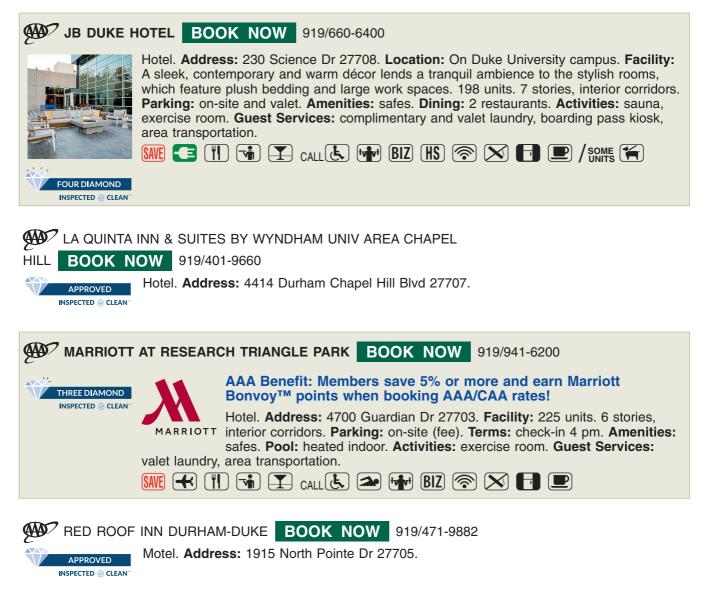


**CALCE** AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn World of Hyatt points when booking AAA/CAA rates! Members also receive free breakfast at Hyatt Place/Hyatt House with their World of Hyatt membership!

Hotel. **Address:** 7840 NC Hwy 751 27713. **Facility:** 164 units. 7 stories, interior corridors. **Pool:** outdoor. **Activities:** exercise room. **Guest Services:** valet and coin laundry.









Purchase an International Driving Permit. U.S. residents apply at AAA offices. Canadian residents apply at CAA offices.

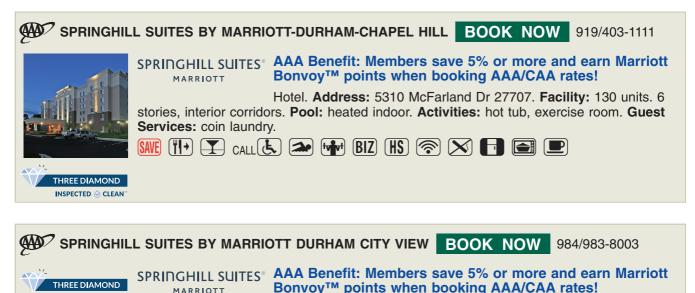
Or visit online at: AAA.com/IDP or CAA.ca/services/travel





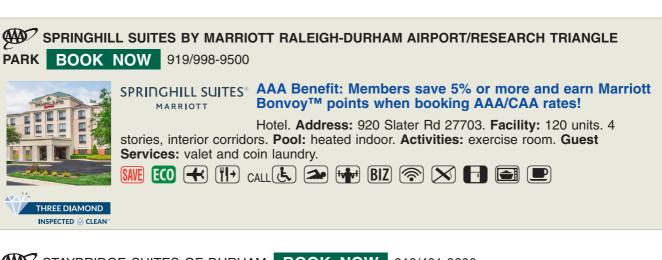






Hotel. Address: 705 S Mangum St 27701. Facility: 104 units. 5

Hereford BIZ 🛜



stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee). Activities: exercise room. Guest

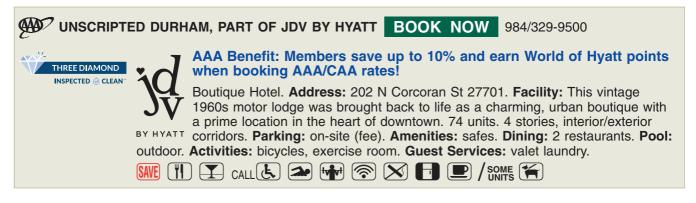




MARRIOTT

Services: coin laundry. SAVE

INSPECTED 🔗 CLEAN



# WASHINGTON DUKE INN & GOLF CLUB BOOK NOW 919/490-0999



Hotel. **Address:** 3001 Cameron Blvd 27705. **Facility:** Located in a wooded area convenient to the attractions of Duke campus, the hotel offers classically styled, upscale facilities and services. Rooms feature luxury bedding and marble-tiled bathrooms. 271 units, some two bedrooms. 5 stories, interior corridors. **Parking:** on-site and valet. **Amenities:** safes. **Dining:** 3 restaurants, also, The Fairview Dining Room, see separate listing. **Pool:** heated indoor. **Activities:** hot tub, regulation golf, tennis, exercise room. **Guest Services:** valet laundry, boarding pass kiosk, area transportation.

SAVE 🖺 🖬 🗶 call 🕭 🗫 😽 BIZ HS 🛜 🔀 🗗 🖭 / SOME 😭

# WHERE TO EAT

COUNTING HOUSE 919/956-6760 Regional American Cas

FOUR DIAMOND

Regional American Casual Dining. Address: 111 Corcoran St 27701.

THE FAIRVIEW DINING ROOM 919/493-6699

American Fine Dining. Address: 3001 Cameron Blvd 27705.

EDEN • Hotels p. 138





## HAMPTON INN BY HILTON BOOK NOW 336/627-1111

**fyi** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Three Diamond. **Address:** 724 S Van Buren Rd 27288.

#### EDENTON

#### • Hotels p. 139

One of the oldest communities in the state, Edenton served as a Colonial center of commerce, society and politics. Named for Lords Proprietary governor Charles Eden and incorporated in 1722, it was the first capital of the colony.

On the courthouse green is a marker commemorating the Edenton Tea Party, thought to be the first purely political action by women in the American Colonies—on Oct. 25, 1774, a group of 51 signed a resolution supporting the action of the North Carolina Provincial Assembly to boycott highly taxed British goods.

Historic Edenton State Historic Site Visitor Center: 108 N. Broad St., Edenton, NC 27932. Phone: (252) 482-2637.

**Self-guiding tours:** The visitor center provides a map (\$1) outlining several self-guiding walking tours focusing on the area's African American history and architectural legacy. Guided walking and trolley tours are offered for a fee. Free maps and brochures promoting historic sites and attractions in northeastern North Carolina also are available.

HISTORIC EDENTON STATE HISTORIC SITE, 108 N. Broad St., includes several notable Colonial-era buildings and the 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse. Guided walking tours begin at the Historic Edenton State Historic Site Visitor Center, a late 19th-century frame house. A 14minute slide show and exhibits about the area are presented. Trolley tours of historic downtown depart from the foot of Broadway. Bus tours also are offered.

Wear comfortable shoes for the tours. **Time:** Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (252) 482-2637. **GT** 

**Chowan County Courthouse,** on E. King St., is an example of Georgian architecture and is part of Historic Edenton State Historic Site. Built in 1767, it is said to be the most intact Colonial courthouse in America, and one of the oldest in the country. **Phone:** (252) 482-2637. **(GT)** 

**Cupola House,** 408 S. Broad St., was built in 1758 and is part of Historic Edenton State Historic Site. Its Georgian interior has elaborate woodwork and windows of wavy glass, with signatures more than 150 years old scratched into the panes. **Phone:** (252) 482-2637. **GT** 

James Iredell House State Historic Site, 105 E. Church St., was built in the early 1800s and was the homesite of Iredell, the first attorney general of North Carolina and a justice who sat on the first U.S. Supreme Court. **Phone:** (252) 482-2637. (GT)

**St. Paul's Church** (Episcopal), at Broad and Church sts., is a Colonial village church. The structure, built 1736-66, was partially burned in 1949 but was restored. Communion silver from 1725 is in use. The graves of three Colonial governors—Charles Eden, Henderson Walker and Thomas Pollack—are in the churchyard.

Phone: (252) 482-2279. GT





#### 140 ELIZABETH CITY, NC

INSPECTED 

CLEAN

### ELIZABETH CITY

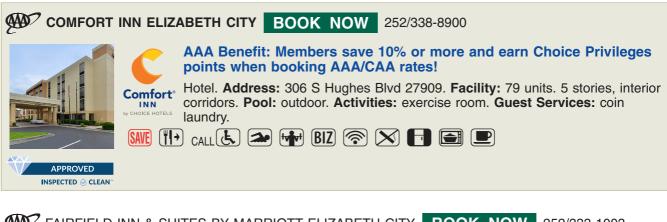
#### • Hotels p. 140

Elizabeth City is at the Narrows of the Pasquotank River, approximately 12 nautical miles from Albemarle Sound. The Dismal Swamp Canal connects the Elizabeth River in Virginia and the Pasquotank River. The canal was dug in 1790, and by the early 1800s a vigorous trade with the West Indies had been established. Historic buildings from the era include Christ Episcopal Church, 200 S. McMorrine St., and the Old Brick House, north of downtown on the Pasquotank River, also known as the Blackbeard House because of its associations with the infamous pirate.

A century later the freshwater, landlocked harbor on the Pasquotank River rivaled Baltimore as one of the East Coast's ports. It remains busy today, and the city's waterfront and proximity to the Intracoastal Waterway draw pleasure boaters. Nearby is one of the nation's largest U.S. Coast Guard installations, the Air Station Elizabeth City, as well as the Elizabeth City Shipyard and TCOM L.P. This airship and aerostat facility is adjacent to a historic 1942 hangar that launched Navy "K" airships, or blimps, during World War II.

The Center, 516 E. Main St., is the headquarters for Arts of the Albemarle. The organization presents regional art exhibitions, theater and various events; phone (252) 338-6455.

Elizabeth City Area Convention & Visitors Bureau: 501 S. Water St., Elizabeth City, NC 27909. Phone: (252) 335-5330 or (855) 842-9559.





AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 402 Halstead Blvd 27909.



# ELKIN • Hotels p. 141



EMERALD ISLE • Hotels p. 141

LIGHTHOUSE SUITES - BW SIGNATURE COLLECTION BOOK NOW 252/764-0980 Hotel. Address: 216 Islander Dr 28594.

# FAYETTEVILLE

• Hotels p. 142

As North Carolina's most inland port, Fayetteville became an early trade center because of its position at the head of the Cape Fear River. When water transportation declined, citizens responded by building a system of plank roads that revitalized commerce. The city is home to Fayetteville State University and Methodist University. Fort Liberty and Pope Field military installations are nearby.

Historic sites include the Market House, built in 1832 in the center of downtown, and Heritage Square. Theater, concerts and sporting events take place at the Crown Complex, 1960 Coliseum Dr.; phone (910) 438-4100.

**Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau:** 245 Person St., Fayetteville, NC 28301. **Phone:** (910) 483-5311 or (888) 984-3763.

**Self-guiding tours:** Brochures describing Fayetteville's historic houses and other points of interest are available from the convention and visitors bureau. A book outlining 17 cultural heritage trails is offered.

AIRBORNE AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS MU-SEUM is at 100 Bragg Blvd. It features life-size dioramas, rare aircraft, artifacts and interactive displays that celebrate this special sector of the armed forces.

Five main exhibits allow visitors to "jump" from Aug. 16, 1940—the date of the U.S. Army Parachute Test Platoon's first leap—to the World War II, Cold War, Vietnam and

post-Vietnam eras. Included among the impressive aircraft collection are a C-47 plane, Waco CG-4A glider and UH-1 helicopter.

A 24-seat motion simulator places visitors in the midst of parachute jumps, helicopter gunship attacks and daring missions. A reproduction of a war-stricken French village offers a glimpse into the aftermath of the 1944 Normandy Invasion. Other highlights include a 235-seat large-screen movie theater, a 50-seat video theater and an area devoted to changing exhibits.

Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (910) 643-2778.

**CAPE FEAR BOTANICAL GARDEN** is at 536 N. Eastern Blvd. Situated on 80 acres overlooking Cross Creek and the Cape Fear River, the garden includes an urban forest with nature trails and specialty gardens that contain more than 700 species of native plants and 2,500 varieties of ornamentals. A natural amphitheater, an 1886 farmhouse and a gazebo also are on the grounds. Seasonal events, garden tours for different age groups and various workshops are offered.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (910) 486-0221.

**FASCINATE-U CHILDREN'S MUSEUM,** 116 Green St., features hands-on exhibits encouraging children to explore their world through role-playing and interaction. Visitors can slide down the pole at a fire station, drive an ambulance, work at a bakery and shop in a grocery store. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (910) 829-9171.



#### 142 FAYETTEVILLE, NC

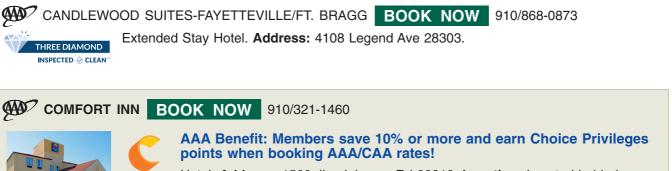
APPROVED INSPECTED 💮 CLEAN

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED 🛞 CLEAN

NC VETERANS PARK, 300 Bragg Blvd., honors North Carolina veterans from all branches of the military with flags and symbolic monuments. Walking paths, water features and sculptures are located throughout the park. The Oath of Service Wall displays bronze castings of North Carolina veterans' hands, positioned at shoulder height as though they are taking the oath of service.

INN

Military history videos are shown in the visitor center, where a chandelier made of 33,500 dog tags hangs from the ceiling and a Service Ribbon Wall made of fused glass displays every service medal awarded since the Civil War. Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (910) 433-1547 or (910) 433-1224.

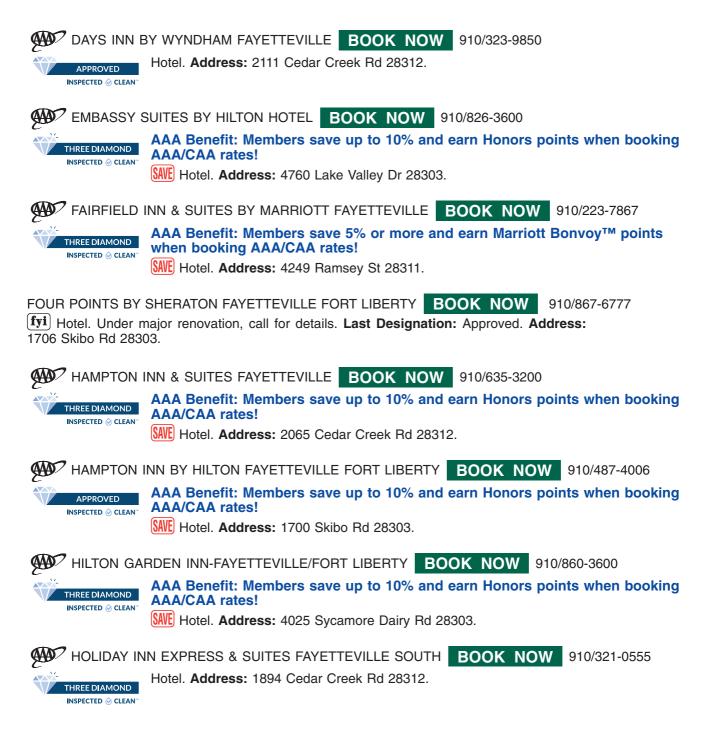


Hotel. Address: 1569 Jim Johnson Rd 28312. Location: Located behind Comfort<sup>®</sup> Cracker Barrel Restaurant. Facility: 61 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: CHOICE HOTELS outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.



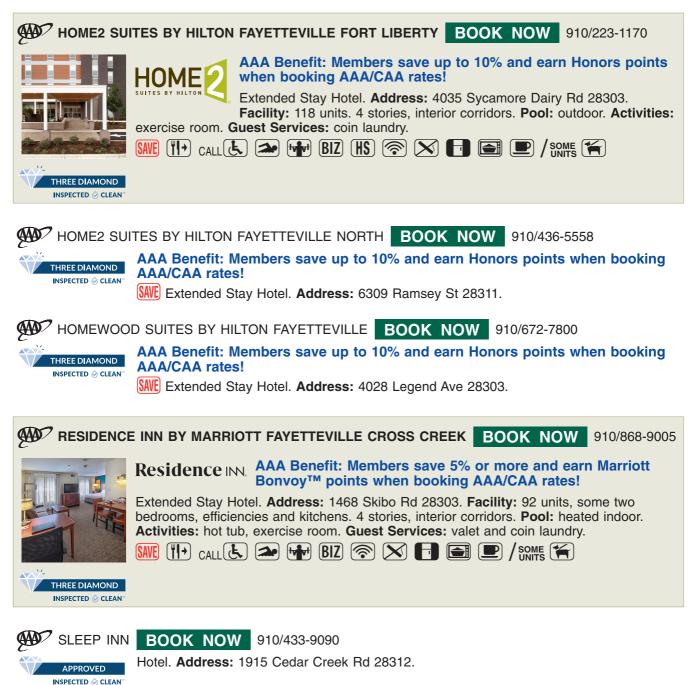


Hotel. Address: 4182 Sycamore Dairy Rd 28303.

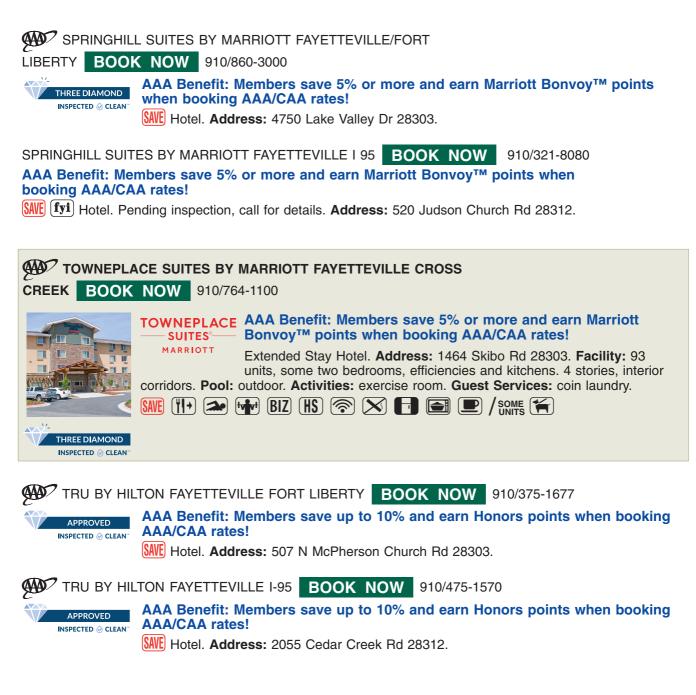




#### 144 FAYETTEVILLE, NC









## FLAT ROCK

• Hotels p. 146

**FLAT ROCK PLAYHOUSE MAINSTAGE** is at 2661 Greenville Hwy.; from I-26 exit 53, take Upward/Highland Lake Rd. 2.4 mi. w. to SR 225, then 0.7 mi. n. The "State Theatre of North Carolina" began in 1952 with a few weeks of summer performances put on by the Vagabond Players. Today the venue is celebrated for its program of professional-caliber plays, musicals and productions for youth.

The 500-seat Mainstage is housed in a barnlike structure with state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems. In 2011 a satellite venue, the 250-seat, theater-in-the-round Playhouse Downtown, opened in nearby Hendersonville at 125 S. Main St. Its "Music on the Rock" concert series is among its performance offerings.

**Time:** Allow 3 hours minimum. **Phone:** (828) 693-0731 or (866) 732-8008.

HIGHLAND LAKE INN & RESORT BOOK NOW

**(fyi)** Resort Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Approved. **Address:** 86 Lily Pad Ln 28731.

# FLETCHER

• Hotels p. 146

COMFORT INN ASHEVILLE AIRPORT BOOK NOW 828/687-9199

# AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

**SAVE (fyi)** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Approved. Address: 15 Rockwood Rd 28732. Facility: 58 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: outdoor. Activities: limited exercise equipment. Guest Services: coin laundry.

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT ASHEVILLE AIRPORT/FLETCHER BOOK NOW

828/684-1144

**(fyi)** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Three Diamond. **Address:** 155 Underwood Rd 28732.

HAMPTON INN & SUITES ASHEVILLE AIRPORT BOOK NOW 828/687-0806



# AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

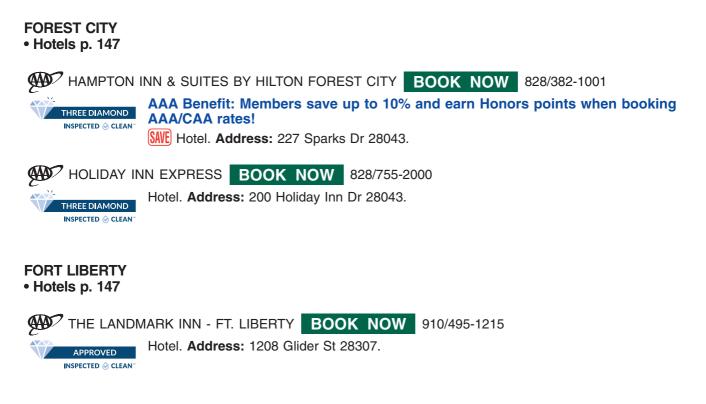
828/693-6812

**SAVE (fyi)** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Three Diamond. **Address:** 18 Rockwood Rd 28732. **Facility:** 95 units, some efficiencies. 5 stories, interior corridors. **Pool:** heated outdoor. **Activities:** hot tub, exercise room. **Guest Services:** valet and coin laundry.



WINGATE BY WYNDHAM FLETCHER AT ASHEVILLE AIRPORT BOOK NOW 828/684-4311

**fyi** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Three Diamond. **Address:** 31 Airport Park Rd 28732.



#### FORT RALEIGH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE • Part of Outer Banks area— see map p. 212

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site is on Roanoke Island, about 3 miles north of Manteo. In 1585 a group of men dispatched to Roanoke Island by Sir Walter Raleigh attempted to establish the first English colony in what is now the eastern United States. Fort Raleigh was built, but the following year the survivors returned to England.

In 1587 Raleigh ordered another expedition that included women and children, hoping to establish a permanent colony. Led by John White, these settlers rebuilt the fort. On Aug. 18, 1587, White's granddaughter, Virginia Dare, became the first English child born in the New World.

Several days later White sailed back to England for provisions, but Spanish hostilities delayed his return until 1590. He arrived to find no trace of the colonists. Many

theories about the fate of the "Lost Colony" have been proposed, but the mystery remains unsolved.

Earthworks representing those that probably were part of the original fort have been reconstructed. A simple granite stone commemorates the birth of Virginia Dare. For visitor information about the site, phone (252) 473-2111.

**ELIZABETHAN GARDENS**, 1411 National Park Dr., reached by the park road into Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, were developed as a memorial to the first English colonists who arrived in America in the late 16th century. Laid out in the formal style of a 16th-century English garden, this exquisitely landscaped green space bursts with color that changes according to the season.

Azaleas, dogwoods, rhododendrons and roses bloom in the spring. In summer it's magnolias and crape myrtles, along with hydrangeas, beds of annuals and the sweet



#### 148 FORT RALEIGH NHS - FUQUAY-VARINA, NC

scent of herbs. Fall features masses of mums, and in late fall and winter camellias put on a spectacular show. Other highlights include a thatched gazebo overlooking Roanoke Sound, lovely antique statuary, a bronze likeness of Queen Elizabeth I, a butterfly house, children's outdoor play area inspired by Elizabethan explorations and an ancient, spreading live oak believed to be more than 400 years old.

A dog-friendly policy is enforced; phone for details. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (252) 473-3234.

**THE LINDSAY WARREN VISITOR CENTER,** within Fort Raleigh National Historic Site at 1500 Fort Raleigh Rd., displays books, charts, pictures, Native American artifacts and relics associated with the period of the first colony. A 17-minute video presentation about the first English attempt to settle the New World is shown. Interpretive programs are held during summer. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (252) 475-9001.

"THE LOST COLONY" is presented in the Waterside Theater on Roanoke Island, 3 mi. n.w. of Manteo via US 64/264. This outdoor symphonic drama tells the story of England's first colony in the new world—the 1587 settlement established on Roanoke Island. Character dinners and backstage tours are available; phone for more information.

Inquire about weather policies. **Phone:** (252) 473-6000. **(GT**)

#### FRANKLIN

#### • Hotels p. 148

The small mountain town of Franklin, on a ridge overlooking the Little Tennessee River, was named for Jesse Franklin, governor of North Carolina 1820-21. Rubies, sapphires and other gemstones are mined around Franklin, with numerous gem mining outfitters set up around town.

The portion of US 64 leading southeast to Highlands offers scenic views of the Nantahala National Forest (*see Recreation Areas Chart and place listing p. 208*) as well as access to Cullasaja Falls and other area waterfalls.

**Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce:** 98 Hyatt Rd., Franklin, NC 28734. **Phone:** (828) 524-3161 or (888) 368-2414.

HAMPTON INN BY HILTON BOOK NOW 828/369-0600

**(fyi)** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Approved. **Address:** 244 Cunningham Rd 28734.

## **FUQUAY-VARINA**

• Hotels p. 148



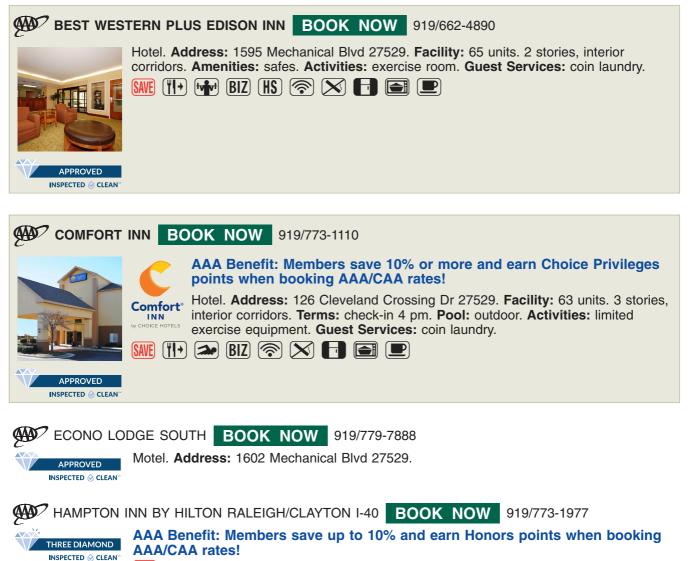


#### GARNER • Hotels p. 149

Just 6 miles south of Raleigh, the city of Garner is a quiet, residential community with plenty of small-town charm. A smattering of shops and offices are housed in brick buildings along Main Street in the historic district. The Garner Performing Arts Center (742 W. Garner Rd.)

presents community theater and other events in a renovated high school auditorium.

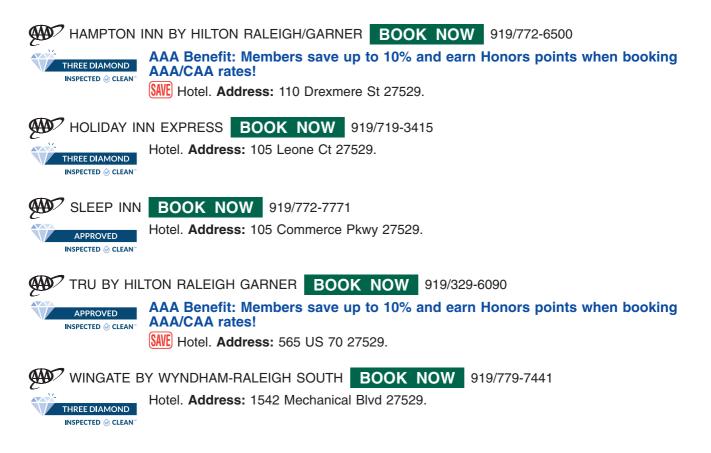
**Shopping:** Near US 70 and I-95 is Cabela's (201 Cabela Dr.), where a 105,000-square-foot showroom features a full line of hunting, fishing, boating and camping gear and equipment, in addition to museum-quality wildlife displays, aquariums and an archery area.



SAVE Hotel. Address: 100 Hampton Dr 27529.



#### 150 GARNER - GASTONIA, NC



# GASTONIA

• Hotels p. 151

Gastonia is situated in the industrial Piedmont west of Charlotte. Nearby are Kings Mountain National Military Park, S.C., and Crowders Mountain State Park (see Recreation Areas Chart).

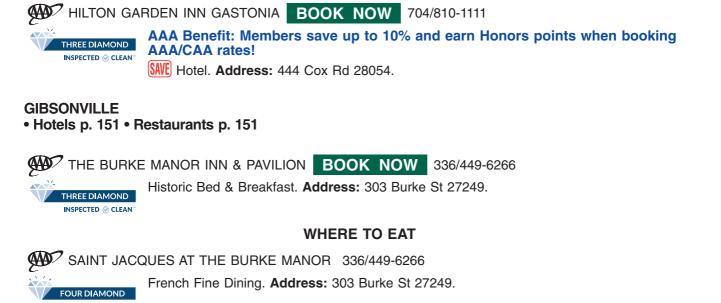
A strike at Gastonia's Loray Mill in the 1920s became the subject of several novels: "A Stone Came Rolling" by Fielding Burke, "Strike" by Mary Heaton Vorse and "To Make My Bread" by Grace Lumpkin.

THE SCHIELE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY is off I-85 exit 20 (New Hope Rd.), following signs to 1500 E. Garrison Blvd. Regional dioramas are presented in the Hall of North Carolina Natural History. The Everglades, the Sonoran Desert and the Alaskan tundra are brought to life in the Hall of North American Habitats. The extensive collection in the Hall of North American Wildlife includes moose, elk, bison, birds, insects and a number of live reptiles. The Elizabeth W. Robinson Hall of Earth and Man features fossils, exhibits about prehistoric humans, and an impressive gem and mineral display.

Tools, weapons, housing and the adornments of 12 tribal groups are exhibited in the Henry Hall of the American Indian. The James H. Lynn Planetarium offers astronomy and space science presentations. Hike the half-mile nature trail and explore the Memorial Wildlife Garden, the Catawba Indian Village, the Stone Age Heritage Site and the 18th Century Backcountry Farm.

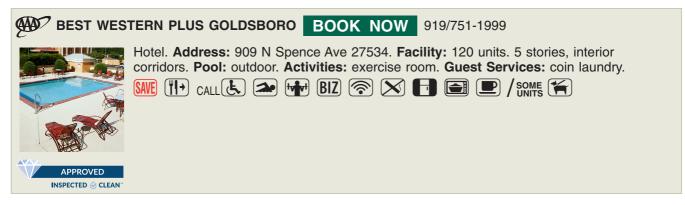
**Time:** Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (704) 866-6900.





# GOLDSBORO

Hotels p. 151





Discover thousands of pet-friendly places to stay, play and dine. Get insight to guide your decisions.





#### 152 GOLDSBORO, NC



# GRAHAM • Hotels p. 153

QUALITY SUITES BOOK NOW 336/221-9199 APPROVED Hotel. Address: 769 Woody Dr 27253.

# GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL

Elevations in the park range from 870 ft. along Abrams Creek to 6,643 ft. at Clingmans Dome. Refer to AAA maps for additional elevation information.

Divided between North Carolina and Tennessee, Great Smoky Mountains National Park covers more than 520,000 acres. A blue, smokelike haze hangs over the mountains, hence the name. Newfound Gap Road (US 441) bisects the park, which is 32 miles long and 70 miles wide.

Except for Mount Mitchell and Mount Craig, the highest mountain peaks in eastern North America are found in the Smokies—the most massive mountain uplift in the East and one of the oldest land areas on Earth. Sixteen summits rise more than 6,000 feet, and the main ridge does not drop below 5,000 feet for a distance of 36 miles.

Few places in the United States have such a variety of vegetation. Because the mountains catch the region's copious rainfall, they support an exceptionally wide variety of plant species, including more than 100 native trees. Eastern deciduous trees and red spruce constitute the park's 120,000 acres of old-growth forest. Much of the remainder is second growth.

Northern conifers, mainly spruce and fir, dominate the higher elevations; at intermediate heights grow hardwoods typical of the Northeast. Some mountaintops are covered only with grass or shrubs and thus are known as "balds."

Many streams are bordered with rhododendron, and in certain areas, such as on Gregory Bald, flame azalea grows in profusion. Rhododendron and sand myrtle are scattered throughout the mountain summits and knifeedged ridges. Dogwood and wildflowers usually bloom from mid-March to mid-May; other blossoms create spectacular displays into July.

Wildlife was scarce when the park was established in 1934, but hunting has since been outlawed and many species are recovering. Deer often are observed in Cades Cove (see attraction listing), and ruffed grouse, wild turkeys and bears live in the park.

#### **General Information and Activities**

The park is open all year. Headquarters and the Sugarlands Visitor Center are 2 miles south of Gatlinburg, Tenn., on US 441. Information about naturalist-led hikes, campfire programs and other park activities can be obtained at Sugarlands as well as at Oconaluftee Visitor Center, near the Cherokee, N.C., entrance.

Park information can be found at Cades Cove Visitor Center, 12 mi. s.w. of Townsend, Tenn. on Cades Cove Loop Road, and Clingmans Dome Visitor Center, 7 mi. s.w. of US 441 on Clingmans Dome Rd.

There are 238 miles of paved and 146 miles of gravel park roads. Newfound Gap Road (US 441), a scenic 33mile-long Cherokee-Gatlinburg route with an elevation of 5,048 feet at the state line, crosses the park. The 469-mile scenic Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina links the park with Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. The Balsam Mountain Road, a 9-mile spur, branches off the parkway just north of the Cherokee Indian Reservation. Heintooga Ridge Road, a scenic loop drive, leads to an overlook.

The park has more than 850 miles of horse and foot trails. Leaflets are provided at the start of short selfguiding nature trails. The most heavily used path is the section of the Appalachian Trail that runs the length of the park. Back-country shelters and campsites along the trail are spaced a day's hike apart, and the camping limit is 1 day per site. All shelters and some campsites require reservations. Permits are required for all back-country camping and can be obtained at Sugarlands Visitor Center; phone the backcountry office at (865) 436-1297 for more information.

Waterfalls are plentiful and welcome additions to the park's landscape. Although most require hikes of various lengths to reach, one can be enjoyed from the road: Meigs Falls is 13 miles west of the Sugarlands Visitor Center.

Saddle horses and guides can be obtained in the park. Horseback trails lead from concessionaire-operated stables at Smokemont, N.C., as well as Cades Cove and two stables near Gatlinburg.

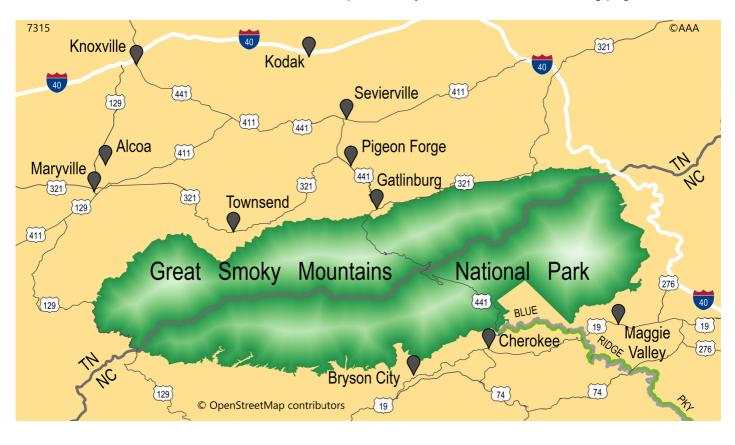
The ascent of Mount Le Conte by foot from Gatlinburg offers awesome views. Lodging on the mountaintop is available by reservation. Also noted for spectacular views





# Great Smoky Mountains

This map shows cities in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park where you will find attractions, hotels and restaurants. Cities are listed alphabetically in this book on the following pages.



Bryson City	59
Cherokee	118
Maggie Valley	191

are Charlies Bunion, reached by the Appalachian Trail 4 miles east from Newfound Gap, and Tennessee's highest point, Clingmans Dome *(see attraction listing)*.

With 735 miles of streams available, fishing for trout is ideal, although fishing for brook trout is prohibited. Visitors fishing within the park must have a license from Tennessee or North Carolina; these cannot be purchased within the park. Fishing is permitted dawn to dusk; inquire for regulations at the park visitor center.

Most of the many developed campgrounds function on a first-come, first-served basis; however, reservations are recommended May 15-Oct. 31 at Cades Cove and Elkmont, Tenn., and at Smokemont, N.C. For reservations phone the National Park Reservation Service at (877) 444-6777. See Recreation Areas Chart.

**ADMISSION** to the park is free. Parking tags will be required for any vehicle parking for more than 15 minutes. Tags can be purchased on-site or online. Camping fees vary. Reservations can be made up to 30 days in advance.

**PETS** are permitted in the park's developed areas only if they are leashed, crated or otherwise physically restricted at all times. They are not permitted on trails.

**ADDRESS** inquiries to the Park Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 107 Park Headquarters Rd., Gatlinburg, TN 37738; phone (865) 436-1200 or (865) 436-1203.

**CADES COVE**, off Laurel Creek Rd. in Tennessee, is one of Great Smoky Mountains National Park's scenic attractions as well as a historic area. An 11-mile, one-way loop road that circles a cove is popular with bicyclists and is therefore closed to all motor vehicles Saturday and Wednesday from dawn to 10 a.m., early May through late September. Park rangers conduct free tours of the mill area daily during the summer from the Cades Cove visitor center. **Time:** Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (865) 436-1200.

**CATALOOCHEE** is reached via US 276 through Cove Creek Gap, about 21 mi. n. of Waynesville, N.C. Formerly a remote but prosperous farming settlement, Cataloochee declined and its residents were displaced when the park was established in 1934. Several clues to the past remain, including a few homes, a school, a barn, a chapel and a cemetery. Elk, reintroduced to the park in 2001, now populate this highland valley known for its solitude, scenic vistas, good trout fishing and abundant wildlife. A self-guiding auto tour booklet detailing the area's history is available at a roadside box near the valley's entrance. **Phone:** (865) 436-1200.

**KUWOHI (FORMERLY CLINGMANS DOME)** is 7 mi. s. of Newfound Gap on Clingmans Dome Rd. in Tennessee.

Towering at 6,643 feet, it is Tennessee's highest point and the third tallest summit east of the Mississippi River. From the parking lot, an uphill, .5-mile paved trail leads to an observation tower, with a ramp spiraling up to the deck.

Several area trails afford recreational opportunities within the surrounding coniferous rain forest. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (865) 436-1200, option 2, for park road closure information.

**NEWFOUND GAP** is 16 mi. n. of Oconaluftee Visitor Center on Newfound Gap Rd. (US 441) or 13 mi. s. of Sugarlands Visitor Center on Newfound Gap Rd. in Tennessee. In 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated Great Smoky Mountains National Park at this site, which rests at the road's highest point. Visitors encounter spectacular views and can walk onto the Appalachian Trail. A sign indicates where one can stand to straddle the Tennessee-North Carolina border. **Note:** Newfound Gap Road is subject to closure due to weather conditions. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (865) 436-1291.

**OCONALUFTEE VISITOR CENTER** is at the south park entrance at 1194 Newfound Gap Rd. (US 441) near Cherokee, N.C. Exhibits and information about the park are provided. Next to the center is the Mountain Farm Museum, which captures the feel of a typical 1880s Southern Appalachian farm. A small farmhouse displays the essentials of a late 19th-century pioneer home. A barn, apple house, springhouse, smokehouse and working blacksmith shop also can be explored. **Phone:** (828) 497-1900.

**SUGARLANDS VISITOR CENTER** is at jct. Newfound Gap Rd. (US 441) and Little River Rd. near park headquarters, 2 mi. s. of Gatlinburg, Tenn. This center provides information, DVDs and exhibits about native plant and animal life. A nature trail and theater also are on site. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (865) 436-1291.

#### GREENSBORO

#### • Hotels p. 157 • Restaurants p. 165

Greensboro, which forms an urban triangle known as the "Triad" with Winston-Salem and High Point, is located in the heart of central North Carolina's scenic Piedmont region. The city is steeped in Revolutionary War and Civil War history and also has strong ties to the Civil Rights Movement.

The Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts, 300 N. Elm St., features Broadway Series shows and Greensboro Symphony concerts.



#### 156 GREENSBORO, NC

One notable Greensboro native was William Sydney Porter (O. Henry), whose short stories are considered American classics.

The Greensboro Grasshoppers play class A minor league baseball at First National Bank Field, 408 Bellemeade St., April through September; phone (336) 268-2255. They are a farm team for the Pittsburgh Pirates. The Greensboro Swarm play basketball with the NBA G League at The Fieldhouse at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex. The Carolina Cobras (2018 NAL champs) play indoor arena football April through August as part of the National Arena League at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex. The Wyndham Championship, since 1938, is one of the oldest tournaments on the PGA Tour. It is held in August at the Sedgefield Country Club.

**Greensboro Area Convention & Visitors Bureau:** 2411 Gate City Blvd., Greensboro, NC 27403. **Phone:** (336) 274-2282 or (800) 344-2282.

**Shopping:** Downtown Greensboro has a hub of local shops including antiques, art, books, clothing, eateries and home furnishings. Four Seasons Town Centre, off I-40 at Pinecroft Rd. and Koury Blvd., has more than 100 stores, including Dillard's, H&M and JCPenney. Among the more than 100 stores at Friendly Center, Green Valley Rd. and W. Friendly Ave., are Belk, Macy's and Sears. The Shops at Friendly Center, Hobbs Rd. and W. Friendly Ave., include Chico's, J. Crew and Talbots.

**BLANDWOOD MANSION** is near downtown at Edgeworth and Washington. The home of North Carolina Gov. John Motley Morehead, Blandwood was built as a farmhouse in the late 18th century. Redesigned in 1844 as an elegant Italian villa, the house contains many original furnishings and is considered the oldest standing example if Italianate architecture in the United States. The mansion has been restored and the outbuildings, including the carriage house, have been reconstructed.

Phone: (336) 272-5003. GT

GREENSBORO HISTORY MUSEUM, 130 Summit Ave., traces the development of Greensboro and Guilford County from early settlement to present-day industry. Voices of a City features exhibits about Native Americans and the Civil Rights Movement.

A reconstructed 19th-century Greensboro village displays a drugstore, schoolhouse, fire station, silent movie theater and a telephone switchboard. Also on the grounds is the First Presbyterian Church cemetery, the Francis McNairy House and the Isley House. A military history collection showcases more than 150 Confederate firearms. **Time:** Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (336) 373-2043. **GREENSBORO SCIENCE CENTER**, 4301 Lawndale Dr., offers interactive exhibits, a play area for young children and live entertainment. On the grounds are the Omni-Sphere Theater, which shows both full-dome and 3-D programs; a reptile gallery; areas where kids can interact with small animals; and a children's petting zoo. Among the inhabitants of the Animal Discovery Zoo are lemurs, gibbons, wallabies and a tiger.

The Wiseman Aquarium features penguins, otters, sharks, eels, hundreds of fish and rare Asian fishing cats that swim in the water to catch their prey. SKYWILD, a treetop adventure park, also is on the grounds. **Phone:** (336) 288-3769.

**GUILFORD COURTHOUSE NATIONAL MILITARY PARK**—see place listing p. 168.

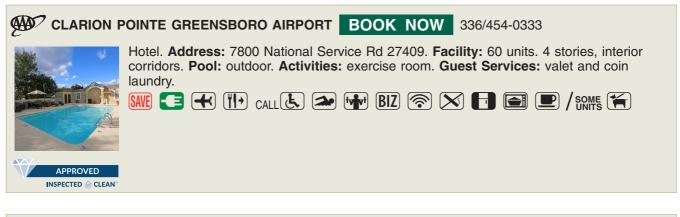
**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CENTER & MU-SEUM** is downtown at 134 S. Elm St. It is housed in the historic F.W. Woolworth building, where a "whites only" lunch counter came to symbolize a country's determination to guarantee civil rights for all after four African American college students engaged in a nonviolent protest act by daring to take their seats on Feb. 1, 1960. Exhibits salute the courageous students and other individuals who played key roles in the desegregation movement, relate the stories of battles lost and won by African Americans, and explore the ideals of global peace and equality.

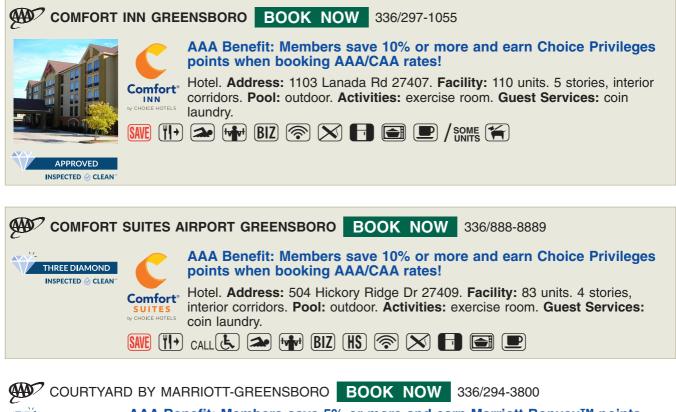
**Note:** Visitors are cautioned at the beginning of the guided tour that photos and information presented in the "Hall of Shame," which details the violent acts of the Jim Crow era, may be too disturbing for some. The graphic and heart-breaking images may upset sensitive viewers, particularly children. Young children and others are offered an opportunity to bypass this gallery. **Time:** Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (336) 274-9199 or (800) 748-7116. **GT** 

**WEATHERSPOON ART MUSEUM** is at 500 Tate St., on the University of North Carolina at Greensboro campus. The museum features six galleries devoted to modern and contemporary art, including works by Alexander Calder, Willem de Kooning and Henri Matisse. There's also an outdoor sculpture exhibit. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (336) 334-5770.

WET 'N WILD EMERALD POINTE WATER PARK, I-85 exit 121 to 3910 S. Holden Rd., has waterslides, a wave pool, a white-water adventure ride and a children's area. Dr. Von Dark's Tunnel of Terror features a 40-foot drop and two 360-degree spins in total darkness. **Phone:** (336) 852-9721 or (800) 555-5900.



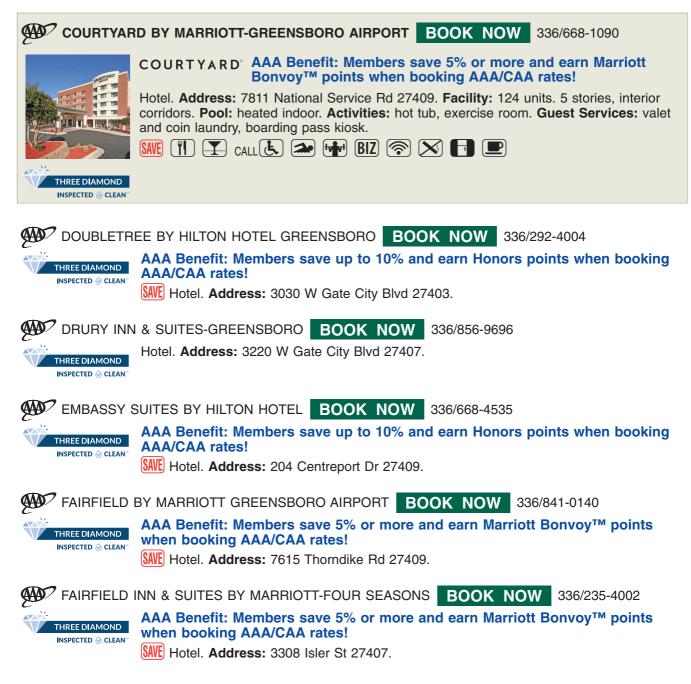






AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 4400 W Wendover Ave 27407.



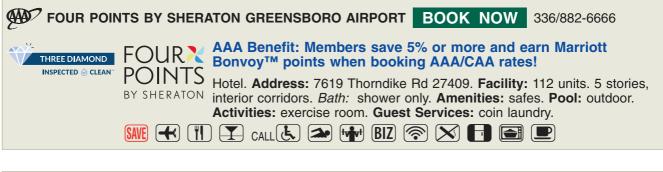


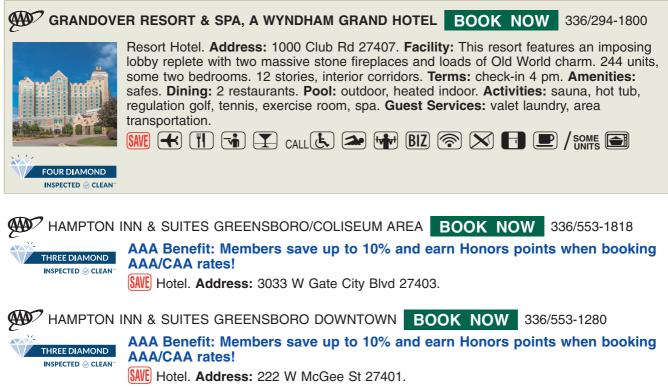
# FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT GREENSBORO

WENDOVER BOOK NOW 336/369-1300

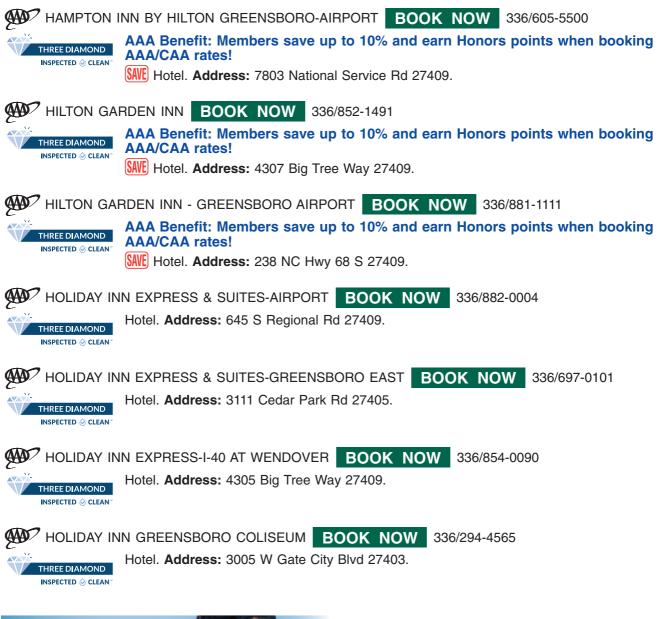
 AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy<sup>™</sup> points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 4308 Big Tree Way 27409.





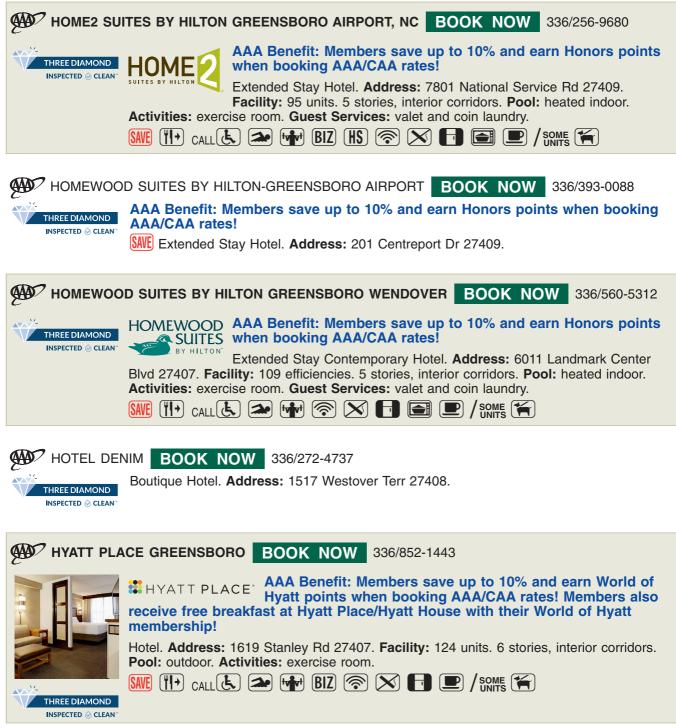




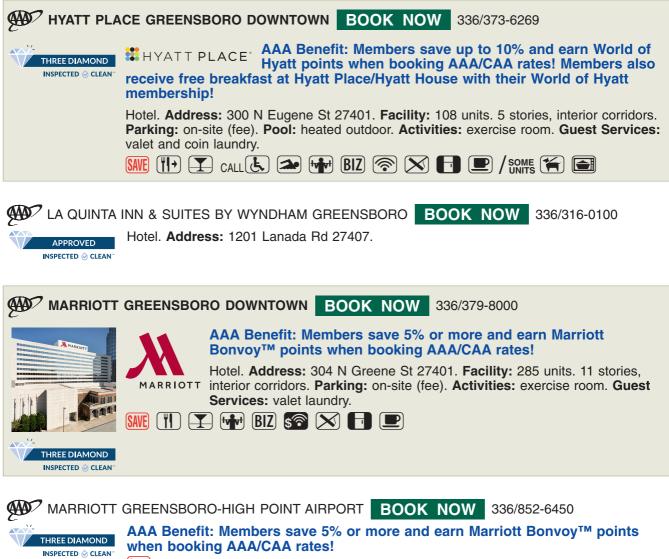


▲ For getaways off the beaten path, visit AAA.com/campgrounds or AAA.com/maps for thousands of places to camp.





#### 162 GREENSBORO, NC



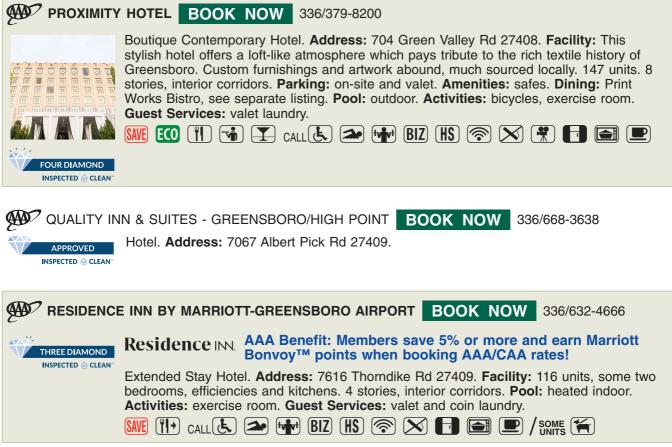
SAVE Hotel. Address: 1 Marriott Dr 27409.



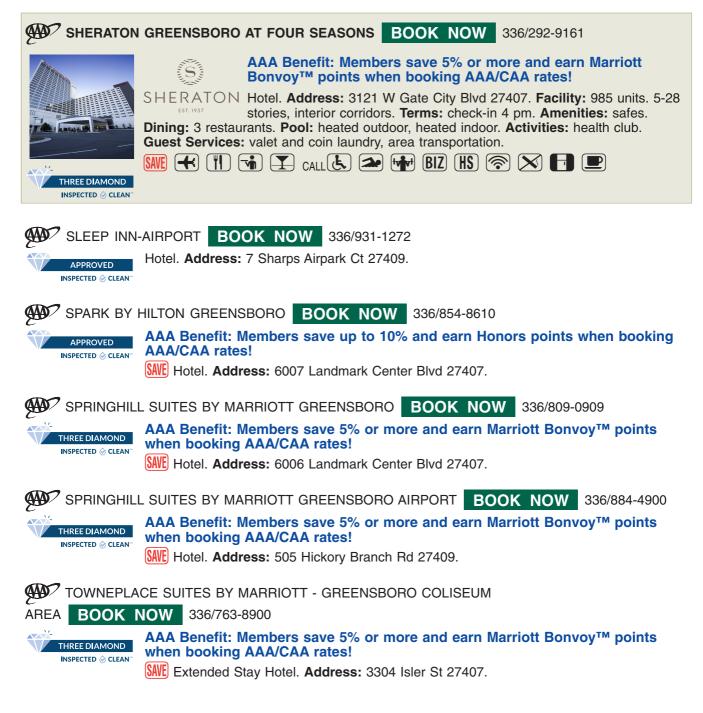
Save the cost of your **MEMBERSHIP** discounts.aaa.com



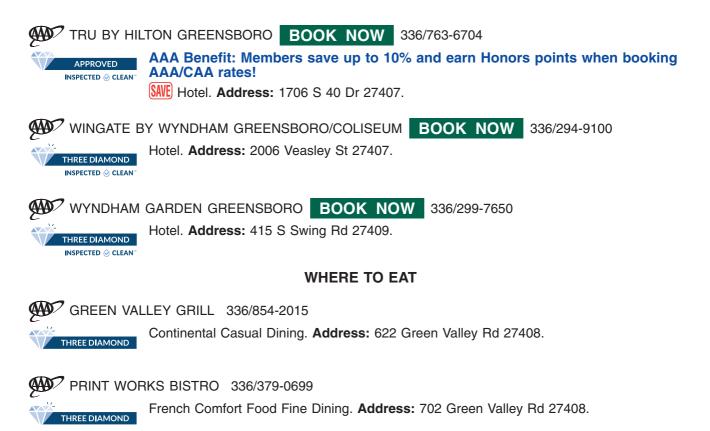












GREENVILLE • Hotels p. 166

Greenville is a major bright-leaf tobacco market. The city also serves as a regional medical center for eastern North Carolina and is home to East Carolina University. A free summer concert series is held on Sunday evenings at the Town Common on 1st Street, June through mid-Aug.

Greenville Pitt County Convention and Visitors Bureau: 417 Cotanche St., Suite 100, Greenville, NC 27858. Phone: (252) 329-4200 or (800) 537-5564.



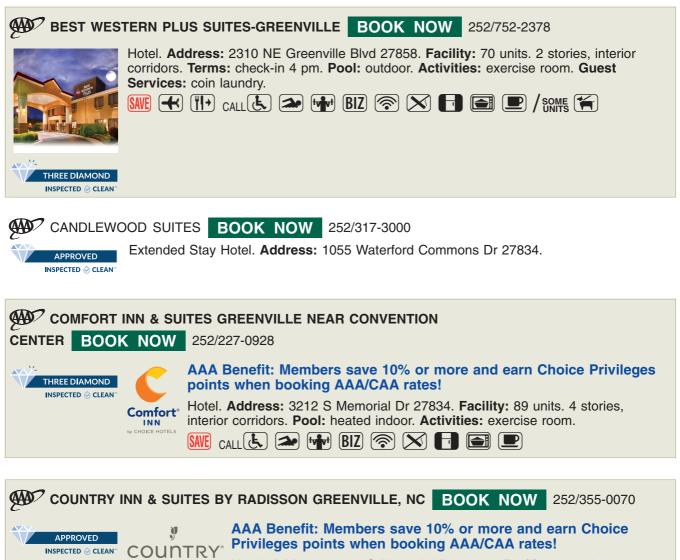
# **BE VACATION READY.**

Have your car checked out by a dependable AAA/CAA Approved Auto Repair facility.

AAA.com/AutoRepair



#### 166 GREENVILLE, NC



Hotel. Address: 3900 S Memorial Dr 28590. Facility: 60 units. 2 stories, interior corridors. Amenities: safes. Activities: limited exercise equipment. Guest Services: coin laundry.



FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT GREENVILLE BOOK NOW 252/353-0606

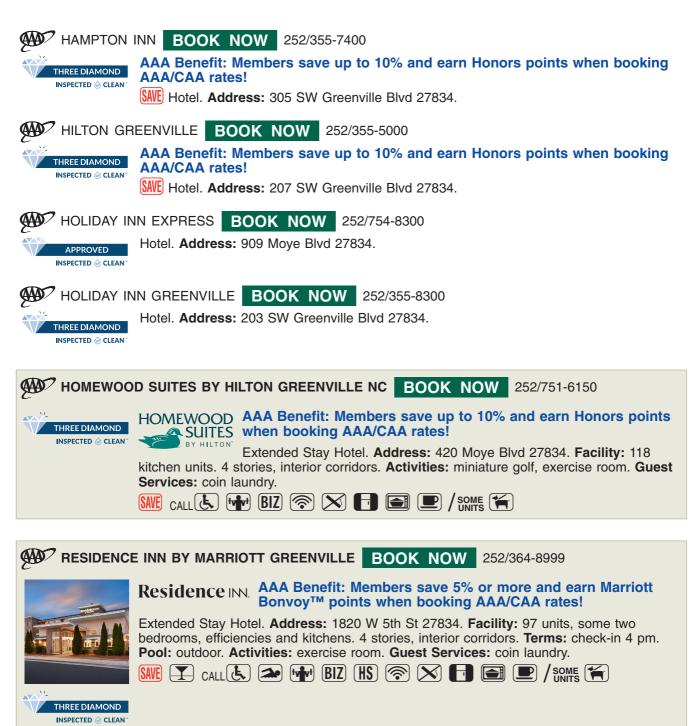


AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 908 Move Blvd 27834.



INN & SUITES





# GUILFORD COURTHOUSE NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

Guilford (GILL-ford) Courthouse National Military Park covers 226 acres in northwest Greensboro, off US 220. On Mar. 15, 1781, the Battle of Guilford Courthouse pitted Gen. Nathanael Greene's mixed Continental and militia army against Lord Cornwallis' smaller, veteran forces.

Cornwallis, eager to avenge the British defeat at Cowpens, S.C., won the battle but suffered heavy losses and failed to destroy the American force. Although defeated in battle, Greene won his objective and Cornwallis soon moved to Virginia, where he finally surrendered his army at Yorktown on Oct. 19, 1781.

There are wayside exhibits throughout the battlefield site and a visitor center with displays, films and brochures. A 2.5-mile driving tour leads to many of the monuments, including the graves of John Penn and William Hooper, signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Cavalry Monument honors all American cavalry, including Virginian Peter Francisco, known as "The Goliath of the Revolution." At the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Francisco—who weighed 260 pounds and stood 6 feet 6 inches tall—supposedly fought with a 5-foot sword given to him by George Washington.

On the grounds of the Colonial Heritage Center, a quarter mile west on US 220, are picnic areas, two log cabins and a former British military hospital built in 1778. Explore History Days events are held throughout the year. **Note:** The center is open Fri.-Sun. 8:30-5, Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Phone ahead to confirm schedule; (336) 545-5315.

The Tour Road is open daily 8:30-5. The military park visitor center is open Tues.-Sun. 8:30-5. The Tour Road and visitor center are closed Jan. 1, Thanksgiving and

Christmas. For further information contact the Superintendent, Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, 2332 New Garden Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410-2355; phone (336) 288-1776.

## HATTERAS

• Part of Outer Banks area— see map p. 212

**GRAVEYARD OF THE ATLANTIC MUSEUM** is at 59200 Museum Dr. The museum, named after the dangerous coastal waters where hundreds of shipwrecks have been discovered, documents maritime history, piracy and the influence of shipwrecks on the culture of the Outer Banks. Also featured is the original Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Fresnel lens, artifacts from the German submarine U-85, 2,000-year-old coins, and information about local Civil War activity. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (252) 986-2995.

## HAVELOCK

#### • Hotels p. 168

**EASTERN CAROLINA AVIATION EXHIBIT**, on the grounds of the Havelock Tourist & Event Center at 201 Tourist Center Dr., celebrates local Marine Corps aviation history with a collection of restored military aircraft. Visitors can learn the timeline of flight in eastern North Carolina through models of aircraft that have been designed, repaired and modified in the area. Outdoor displays include an A-6E TRAM Intruder and an RF-4B Phantom. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (252) 444-4348.

HAMPTON INN BY HILTON BOOK NOW 252/447-9400 AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking THREE DIAMOND **AAA/CAA** rates! INSPECTED 🤡 CLEAN® SAVE Hotel. Address: 105 Tourist Center Dr 28532.

HENDERSON

• Hotels p. 168

HAMPTON INN BY HILTON HENDERSON BOOK NOW 252/492-3007

 AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 385 Ruin Creek Rd 27536.



## HENDERSONVILLE

#### • Hotels p. 169

Once a hunting ground of the Cherokee, Hendersonville became a summer resort where many Lowcountry dwellers came to escape the season's intense heat. Nestled in the mountains of western North Carolina, Hendersonville continues to offer visitors year-round activities, including hiking, bicycling and antiquing.

Downtown on Main Street, the Mineral and Lapidary Museum of Henderson County displays gems, minerals, geodes and fossils from around the world; phone (828) 698-1977. Just a short distance from downtown on US 64W is Oakdale Cemetery, now home to the Italian marble angel statue that figures prominently in Thomas Wolfe's first novel, "Look Homeward, Angel." A historical marker explains its significance.

The Playhouse Downtown, 125 S. Main St., is a satellite venue of Flat Rock Playhouse Mainstage, the "State Theatre of North Carolina" (see attraction listing p. 146).

Henderson County Travel and Tourism/Visitor Information Center: 201 S. Main St., Hendersonville, NC 28792. Phone: (828) 693-9708 or (800) 828-4244.

**Shopping:** Downtown's Historic Main Street is lined with antique and specialty shops. Browse the retro merchandise at the Mast General Store, 527 N. Main St. The Henderson County Curb Market, 221 N. Church St., offers a bounty of local items: fresh-picked fruits and vegetables; plants and cut flowers; baked goods (including a regional specialty, fried sweet potato pies); jellies, jams and canned pickles; and all sorts of handicrafts and gifts created by local artisans. The market is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 8-2.

HISTORIC JOHNSON FARM is at 3346 Haywood Rd. In 1874 the Johnson Farm was purchased as a tobacco farm. It became a popular summer retreat for tourists during the Depression era. The site now operates as a farm museum and hands-on heritage learning center. Visitors may tour the 1880 farmhouse, the 1920 boarding house and the 1923 barn-loft museum. Two nature trails and 15 acres of fields, forests and streams also are on site.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (828) 891-6585. **GT** <del>7</del>



**fyi** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Three Diamond. Address: 836 Upward Rd 28731.

HAMPTON INN BY HILTON BOOK NOW 828/697-2333

(fyi) Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Approved. Address: 155 Sugarloaf Rd 28792.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES HENDERSONVILLE SE- FLAT

ROCK **BOOK NOW** 828/698-8899

(fyi) Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Three Diamond. Address: 107 Upward Crossing Dr 28731.



#### 170 HENDERSONVILLE - HERTFORD, NC

THE LODGE AT FLAT ROCKBOOK NOW828/693-9910**fyi**Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details.Last Designation: Three Diamond.Address:42 McMurray Rd 28731.



#### HERTFORD

Evocations of Hertford's past materialize the moment you encounter the town's historic "S"-shaped swing bridge. Spanning the Perquimans River and providing access to town from the north via US 17 Bus. Rte., it was built in 1928, replacing a late 18th-century drawbridge. So named because the road is at a skew to the river and the center span is perpendicular, the bridge's approaches are curved rather than straight. Over time, however, the bridge has deteriorated, and weight limits have been reduced.

Quakers arrived in Perquimans County from England in the 1600s. In 1672 the settlers assembled in Hertford to take part in North Carolina's first documented religious observance. The Edmundson-Fox Memorial at the corner of Church and Newby streets commemorates this event.

Hertford is a peaceful coastal community of tree-shaded thoroughfares, tranquil riverfront parks and neat rows of Colonial Revival and Queen Anne-style houses. A fine example of Gothic Revival architecture, the Church of the Holy Trinity (207 S. Church St.) was constructed in 1848 and still has an active congregation; phone (252) 426-5542. The Federal-style Perquimans County Courthouse (128 N. Church St.) has a courtroom that looks straight out of the early 19th century. The Jim "Catfish" Hunter Museum, located in the chamber building at 118 W. Market St., honors legendary baseball pitcher and Hertford native Jim "Catfish" Hunter; admission is free. The hall-of-famer was laid to rest in nearby Cedarwood Cemetery.

With some 100 miles of coastline, the Perquimans River is a boating, canoeing, picnicking, kayaking and fishing hot spot. At Missing Mill Park, on Grubb Street within walking distance of downtown, you can picnic, fish from a sheltered pier, stroll along a nature boardwalk, launch a canoe or relax at the water's edge and watch the sunset.

Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center: 118 W. Market St., Hertford, NC 27944. Phone: (252) 426-5657.

**Self-guiding tours:** Information about walking tours of the historic downtown area are available at the visitor center.

**Shopping:** Downtown Hertford is home to several antique shops, gift shops and cafes along Church Street and US 17. The Perquimans Arts League Gallery, in the Hall of Fame Building at 109 N. Church St., has works by local artists available for purchase; phone (252) 426-3041. An old-fashioned soda fountain inside Woodard's Pharmacy (101 N. Church St.) serves hand-dipped ice cream cones; phone (252) 426-5527.



# HICKORY

#### • Hotels p. 171

Until 1900 Hickory was called Hickory Tavern Station, after the tavern and stagecoach stop that was the town's center of activity. Today it's known for a thriving furniture-manufacturing industry.

Just east of nearby Claremont on old US 70A is the 85foot-long Bunker Hill Covered Bridge. Constructed in 1895, it is one of two covered bridges remaining in North Carolina. Although closed to vehicles, pedestrians can cross it at certain times; phone (828) 465-0383 for schedule information.

**Hickory Metro CVB & Visitor Information Center:** 1960-A 13th Avenue Dr. S.E., Hickory, NC 28602. **Phone:** (828) 322-1335 or (800) 509-2444.

**Shopping:** North Carolina's been called the "furniture capital of the world," and with dozens of discount furniture stores in Hickory and surrounding Catawba County, the destination is a fine place to go browse. One of the best-known showrooms is Hickory Furniture Mart (exit 126 on I-40), which also features leading builders and designers on-site; phone (828) 322-3510. Many antique stores, boutiques and local restaurants can be found along Union Square in downtown.

The Catawba County Public Health Department's Farmers Market is held Thursday 10-1, June through September, in the parking lot at 11th Avenue Dr. S.E. The event features fresh produce and offers tastings and tours through Catawba County Cooperative Extension Office; call (828) 695-5861 for tours. Downtown Hickory Winter Farmers Market presents artisanal goods, produce and plants for sale in a festive atmosphere full of music and street food. The event runs each Saturday from 10 to 2, November through April, at the Hickory Soup Kitchen, 110 2nd Street PI. S.E. Phone (828) 308-6508.

The only enclosed mall within 40 miles, Valley Hills Mall (1960 US 70 S.E., off I- 40) is where to find national retailers and food places. Among the anchors are Belk, Dillard's, JCPenney and Sears. Phone (828) 328-2436.

**ARTS & SCIENCE CENTER OF CATAWBA VALLEY** is off I-40 exit 125 to 231 Third Ave. N.E. Known as "The SALT Block," the center houses the Hickory Museum of Art and the Catawba Science Center. **Phone:** (828) 324-4906.

**Catawba Science Center**, 243 Third Ave. N.E. on the SALT Block, contains hands-on exhibits that explore physical, natural and earth sciences. Aquarium galleries feature saltwater and freshwater habitats, including a touch tank with sharks and stingrays. Featured exhibits are scheduled throughout the year. The Millholland Planetarium offers full-dome digital features and laser light shows.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (828) 322-8169.

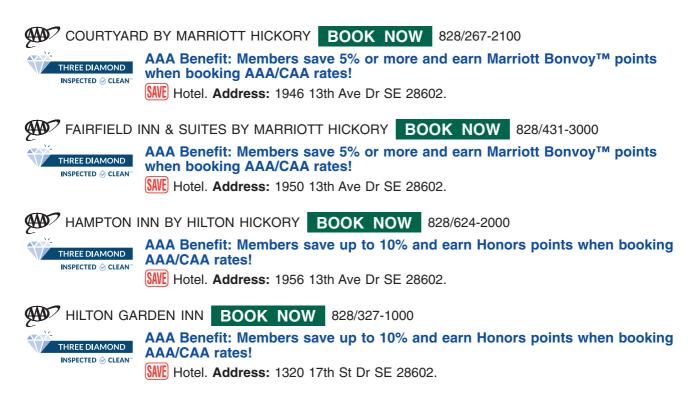
**Hickory Museum of Art,** 243 Third Ave. N.E., at the Arts & Science Center of Catawba Valley, has a permanent collection of American art dating from the 19th century to the present, including works by Thomas Cole, Lillian Genth, Robert Henri and Robert Reid. Changing exhibits are scheduled regularly. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (828) 327-8576.

# BOOK NOW 828/323-1150



Hotel. **Address:** 1520 13th Ave Dr SE 28602. **Location:** Located near Hickory Metro Convention Center. **Facility:** 118 units. 2 stories (no elevator), interior/exterior corridors. **Pool:** outdoor. **Activities:** exercise room. **Guest Services:** valet laundry.





#### HIGHLANDS • Hotels p. 172

At the junction of two scenic highways—US 64 running northeast to Brevard and SR 28 running northwest to Franklin-Highlands is situated in the midst of a temperate rain forest, a rare environment in the eastern United States. Serene fishing spots are thus in good supply, but this popular summer resort also boasts upscale Main Street shopping, good restaurants and an abundance of outdoor opportunities.

Theatrical, musical and other events are held throughout the year at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut St.; phone (828) 526-9047 for schedule information. During the summer the center hosts the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival; for additional details phone (828) 526-9060.

For a glimpse of local history, check out Highlands Historic Village, 524 N. 4th St. Here stands the town's oldest residence, the 1877 House-Boynton-Trapier-Wright Home. Also in the village are the 1908 Bug Hill Cottage, one of 60 outdoor chambers constructed as part of a tuberculosis sanatorium, and Highlands Historical Museum. Phone (828) 787-1050.

Find out what's blooming in Highlands Botanical Garden, 265 N. 6th St.; phone (828) 526-2602. Several trails traverse the grounds through woodlands and along streams where native plants thrive. Guided tours are offered Monday at 10:30, late May through early August. Six hiking trails wind through Cliffside Lake Recreation Area, 4 miles northwest of Highlands via SR 28 and Highlands Road.

Highlands Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center: 108 Main St., P.O. Box 404, Highlands, NC 28741. Phone: (828) 526-2112 or (866) 526-5841.

# HIGHLANDS INN LODGE BOOK NOW

828/526-5899

(fyi) Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Approved. Address: 96 Log Cabin Ln 28741.



# THE PARK ON MAIN BOOK NOW 828/526-4502



**(fyi)** Boutique Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Four Diamond. **Address:** 205 2Main St 28741. **Facility:** All but one of the rooms at this charming, in-town hotel are a one-bedroom suite, outfitted with a king bed, pull-out sofa, gas fireplace, and balcony. 23 units. 2 stories, interior/exterior corridors. **Terms:** check-in 4 pm. **Amenities:** safes. **SWE CALL CALL CALL CALL CALL** 

#### HIGH POINT • Hotels p. 173

High Point earned its name by being the highest point on the original survey for the old North Carolina Railroad, but furniture design and production drive today's economy. With more than 50 area manufacturers, the city bills itself "The Home Furnishings Capital of the World." Twice a year furniture designers, buyers and sellers converge on High Point for the High Point Market industry trade show. A four-story building in the shape of an 18thcentury chest of drawers is said to be the world's largest and stands at 508 N. Hamilton St.

The Bernice Bienenstock Furniture Library, 1009 N. Main St., contains a comprehensive collection of designrelated books, including rare volumes dating back to the 17th century. Tours are available by appointment; phone (336) 883-4011.

**High Point Convention and Visitors Bureau:** 1634 N. Main St., Suite 102, High Point, NC 27262. **Phone:** (336) 884-5255 or (800) 720-5255.

**Shopping:** Dozens of furniture outlets and home furnishing stores are in the area. A furniture shopping directory is available from the convention and visitors bureau.

**HIGH POINT MUSEUM**, 1859 E. Lexington Ave., presents city history through exhibits and hands-on programs. Galleries feature artifacts, images and stories from Colonial through contemporary times, including High Point's emergence as a furniture manufacturing center. Three 18th-century buildings stand in an adjacent historical park.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (336) 885-1859. **(GT)** 





BOOK NOW 336/882-3267

Boutique Hotel. Address: 1108 N Main St 27262.

#### HILLSBOROUGH

#### • Hotels p. 174

Founded on the site where the Great Indian Trading Path crossed the Eno River, Hillsborough is old enough to have witnessed many historic events during the Colonial and Revolutionary periods. It was the site of the 1788 Constitutional Convention, at which delegates demanded a Bill of Rights before they would ratify the United States Constitution. The Alexander Dickson House at 150 E. King St., which now houses the Hillsborough Visitors Center, has been referred to as "the last headquarters of the Confederacy"; Confederate Gen. Edward Johnson prepared surrender papers there for Union Gen. William T. Sherman in April 1865.



#### 174 HILLSBOROUGH - HUNTERSVILLE, NC

The historic district includes more than 100 late 18thand early 19th-century structures along streets that retain pre-Revolutionary names, the most unmistakable being King and Queen streets. The 1821 Ruffin-Roulhac House, 101 E. Orange St., is Hillsborough's town hall. Selfguiding tours can be taken during business hours; phone (919) 732-1270.

Walkers, joggers and cyclists will enjoy the scenic and shaded Hillsborough Riverwalk, a 1.8-mile urban greenway which follows the Eno River from Gold Park (415 Dimmocks Mill Rd.) through River Park (downtown at 140 E. Margaret Ln.) to the Historic Occoneechee Speedway Trail on the east end of town. **The Alliance for Historic Hillsborough:** 150 E. King St., Hillsborough, NC 27278. **Phone:** (919) 732-7741.

**Self-guiding tours:** Walking tour and informational brochures are available at the visitor center.

**BURWELL SCHOOL HISTORIC SITE** is at 319 N. Churton St. On the grounds is the 1821 frame house once inhabited by the Burwell family, who operated a school for young women. Period and reproduction pieces recount what 19th-century family and student life was like in both the Burwell home and the 1840 brick school building. A self-guiding tour explores Civil War history.

Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (919) 732-7451. [GT]



# HOLLY SPRINGS

• Hotels p. 174

HAMPTON INN & SUITES HOLLY SPRINGS BOOK NOW 919/552-7610

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1050 S Main St 27540.

#### HUNTERSVILLE

- Hotels p. 175
- Part of Charlotte area— see map p. 73

Located just 14 miles north of Charlotte, the town of Huntersville borders the southern shores of Lake Norman, North Carolina's largest man-made lake.

**Shopping:** Birkdale Village, 16805 Birkdale Commons Pkwy., is an upscale outdoor shopping center with a movie theater and more than 60 retail shops, boutiques and restaurants.

**DISCOVERY PLACE KIDS** is at 105 Gilead Rd. in the Huntersville Town Center; from I-77 exit 23, proceed .6 mi. e. Imagination, learning and fun come together at this indoor play space geared to children under 8 years of age. An "I Can" theme prevails at an arts and crafts station and brick factory, which encourage creativity and working together, respectively. There are kid-sized mock-ups of a

grocery store, veterinarian's office, fire truck, race car and ship, a two-story climbing structure and a small rockclimbing wall. Toddlers have their own special play area.

**Time:** Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (704) 286-8302.

QUEST NATURE CENTER AND LATTA NATURE PRE-SERVE is at 6211 Sample Rd. A 1,460-acre nature preserve bordering Mountain Island Lake, the park is home to the Quest Nature Center, a 3,000-foot interactive exhibit hall featuring a 6,000-gallon aquarium. Also on the grounds are the Historic Latta Plantation, the Carolina Raptor Center, an equestrian center, and hiking and horse trails. Canoe access, fishing and boating are available. Note: Swimming is not permitted. **Phone:** (980) 314-7878.

**Carolina Raptor Center**, within Latta Nature Preserve at 6000 Sample Rd., provides care and rehabilitation for injured and orphaned birds of prey. Educational exhibits



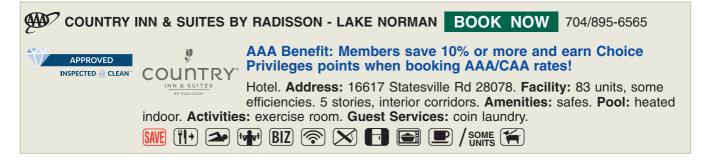
and weekend programs about raptors are presented. A .75-mile nature trail is lined with aviaries containing many varieties of hawks, falcons and owls. **Time:** Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (704) 875-6521.

Latta Place, within Quest Nature Center and Latta Nature Preserve at 5225 Sample Rd., is the circa 1800 cotton plantation and home of James Latta, a prominent businessman in the community, and his wife Jane. Once covering 750 acres, the property is nestled on a peninsula along the Catawba River. The two-story Federal-style house is furnished in period; architectural highlights include a finely detailed staircase and elaborate mantels. Outbuildings include the kitchen, a smokehouse, provisions barn, corn crib, feed barn, and animal barn.

Note: Currently the home is closed to the public; phone ahead for details. **Phone:** (704) 875-2312.

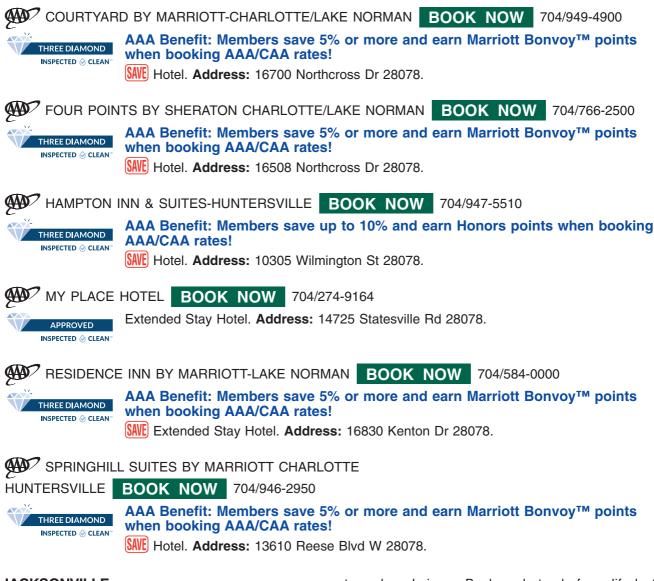








#### 176 HUNTERSVILLE - JACKSONVILLE, NC



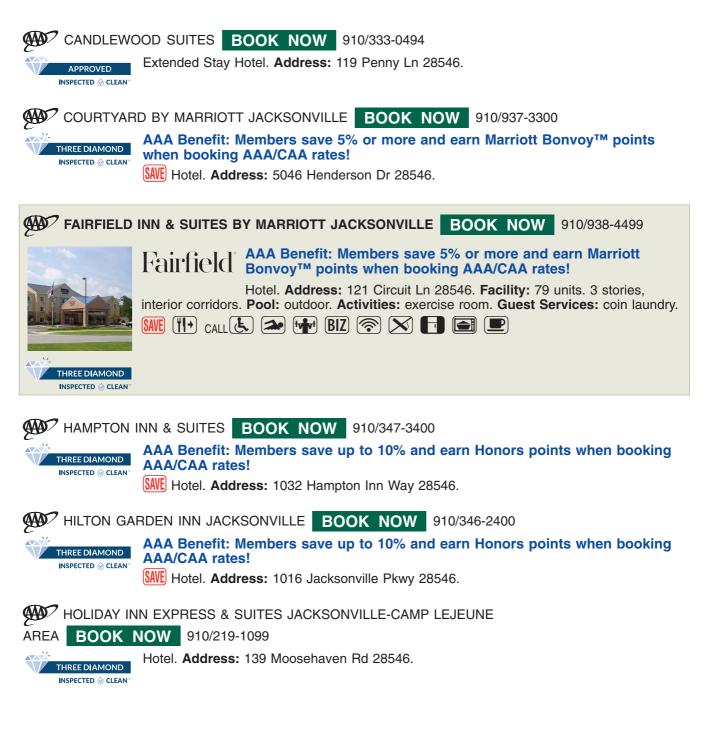
## JACKSONVILLE

• Hotels p. 177

Jacksonville, located at the mouth of the New River, is associated with Camp Lejeune, a Marine Corps base that is home to the 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force and 2nd Marine Logistics Group. The granite Beirut Memorial, built to honor marines and sailors killed in Beirut, Lebanon and Grenada, stands just outside the gate of Camp Johnson on SR 17. Each Bradford pear tree along Lejeune Boulevard stands for a life lost in Lebanon or Grenada. Also on the grounds is a 9/11 Memorial featuring a steel beam from the World Trade Center and the Onslow Vietnam Veterans Memorial, inscribed with the names of the 58,229 men and women who lost their lives in the Vietnam War.

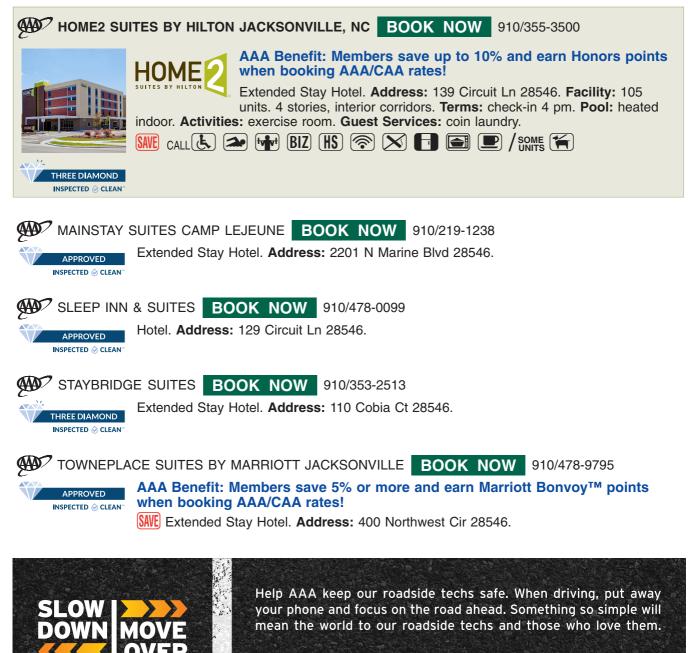
Jacksonville/Onslow Chamber of Commerce: 1099 Gum Branch Rd., Jacksonville, NC 28540. Phone: (910) 347-3141.







#### 178 JACKSONVILLE, NC

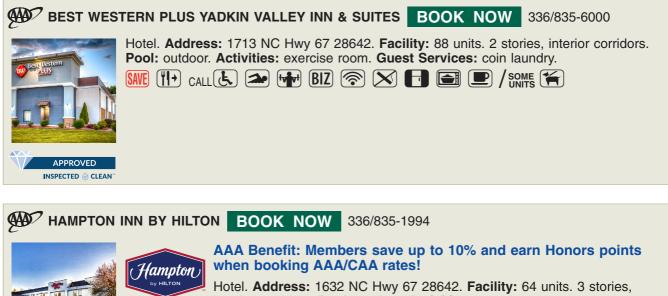


TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



# JONESVILLE

Hotels p. 179



interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room.

💵 🕪 call 🛃 🎿 <table-cell-rows> BIZ 🛜 🔀 🗗 🖃 🗩 / SOME 🐔

# KANNAPOLIS

#### • Hotels p. 179

Kannapolis (ka-NA-po-lis) was founded in 1887 as a company town around the Cannon Mills textile headquarters. Before the turn of the 20th century and the marketing of ready-made clothes, Cannon cloth was a staple in Southern homes. Situated along tree-lined brick streets,

Cannon Village reflects the architectural style of the early 20th century. Shops within the village sell antiques, furniture and other specialty items. A 9-foot bronze statue of native son Dale Earnhardt stands in the village plaza.

**Shopping:** West Avenue offers bargain hunters a wide variety of factory outlet stores representing major manufacturers.





# KERNERSVILLE

• Hotels p. 180





# KILL DEVIL HILLS

• Hotels p. 181

• Part of Outer Banks area— see map p. 212

**NAGS HEAD WOODS ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE** is at 701 W. Ocean Acres Dr. The 1,111-acre preserve is home to more than 50 species of birds and more than 300 species of plants. Visitors can explore 5 miles of trails offering

scenic views and varied flora and fauna. Trail maps are available at the information counter. Leashed pets are permitted on some trails. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (252) 441-2525.



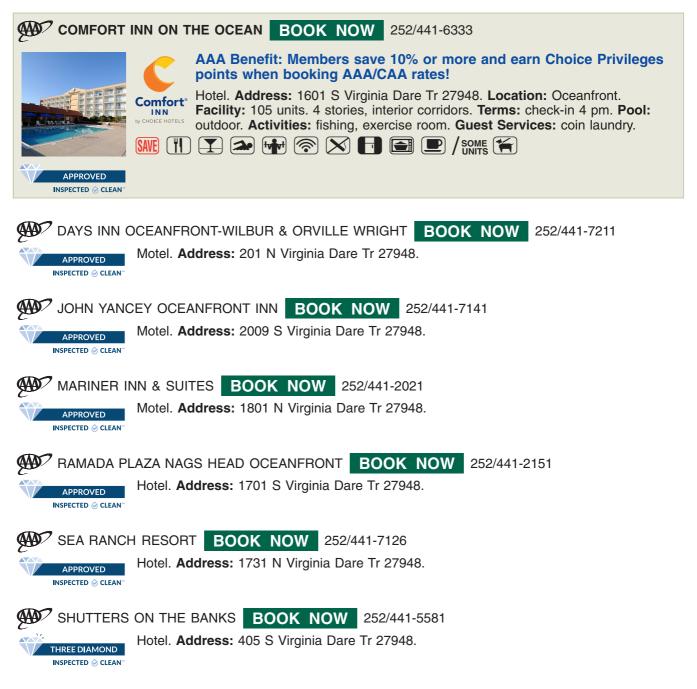
# Let Your Voice Be Heard

If your visit to a listed property doesn't meet your expectations, tell us about it.

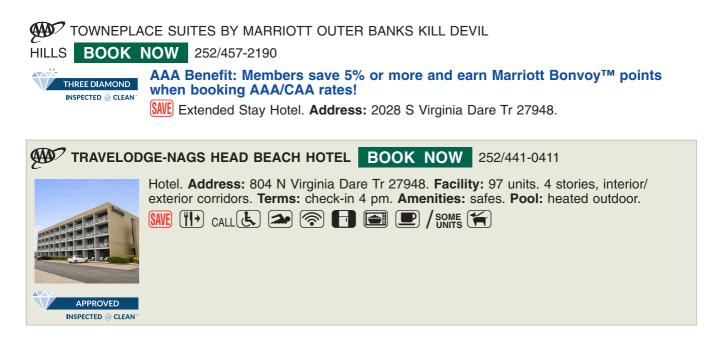
# AAA.com/MemberFeedback











#### **KINSTON**

#### • Hotels p. 182

Kinston was founded in 1762 and originally named Kingston. After the Revolution, Patriots changed the spelling to avoid any reference to England. Today Kinston is one of the nation's leading bright-leaf tobacco markets. East of town on US 70 in Spindale, Lakeside Mills operates a 19th-century gristmill; phone (828) 286-4866. Founded in Kinston in 1981, the Eastern North Carolina Bluegrass Association is dedicated to increasing public awareness of bluegrass music and its heritage.

Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce: 301 N. Queen St., P.O. Box 157, Kinston, NC 28502-0157. Phone: (252) 527-1131.





#### KITTY HAWK - KNIGHTDALE, NC 183

#### **KITTY HAWK**

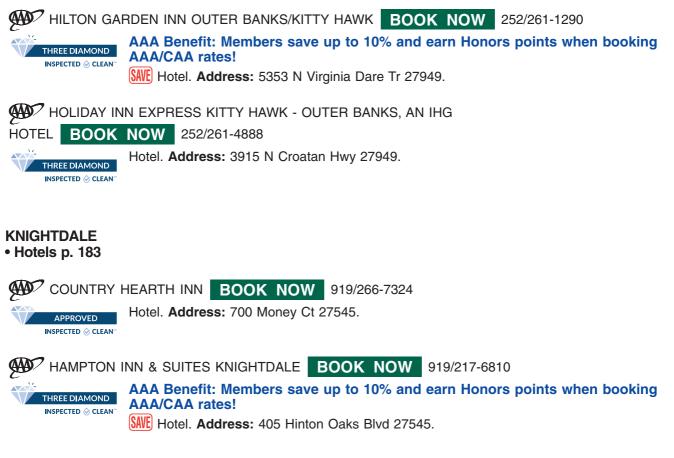
#### • Hotels p. 183

#### • Part of Outer Banks area— see map p. 212

Gazing out over the expansive dunes that constitute nearby Wright Brothers National Memorial *(see place listing p. 268)*, you might wonder what drew pioneering brothers Wilbur and Orville from Dayton, Ohio, to a windswept area of the Outer Banks to test their new-fangled gliders. There are several reasons. First and foremost, the flat terrain provided an ideal setting for takeoff and landing. The almost constant winds were an aid to sustained flight. There were no trees to veer into, and sand provided a softer landing—and thus a better chance of survival—in the event of a crash. And in 1903 this area was isolated and remote, providing privacy for the brothers' groundbreaking aerial achievements.

Flash forward more than a century later: Airplanes are an omnipresent fact of life, and it's been quite some time since the words "isolated" or "remote" could be used to describe Kitty Hawk. This beach resort is at the northern end of a row of rental properties that stretches south to Nags Head. North Carolina's ocean playground is famed for its scenic water vistas, miles of open beaches and offthe-beaten-track islands accessible only by ferry. The aircraft carrier USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63)—decommissioned in 2009 at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Wash., after more than 48 years of service—and the Apollo 14 command module, nicknamed "Kitty Hawk," are both named in honor of the town.

The Monument to a Century of Flight, about 3 miles north of Kitty Hawk on the US 158 bypass at Milepost 1, was created and dedicated in 2003. It consists of 14 wingshaped pylons ranging in height from 10 to 20 feet, situated within a 120-foot orbit symbolizing the length of the Wright Brothers' first historic flight. Black granite panels commemorate 100 significant achievements that have occurred during aviation's first century.





#### **KURE BEACH**

NORTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM AT FORT FISHER is at 900 Loggerhead Rd. The aquarium features aquatic life found in and around the Cape Fear River and wetlands area as well as the ocean beyond. Exhibits include sea horses, sea turtles, alligators (including an albino specimen), sharks, jellyfish and stingrays. Interesting facts about marine mammals are presented in the interactive Dolphin Discovery and Right Whale Quest exhibits. Daily dive shows and animal feedings take place, and an educator is on hand to answer questions and offer insight. Guests have opportunities to touch marine animals including stingrays, horseshoe crabs, anemones, sea stars, sea urchins and bamboo sharks. Kids can have some outdoor fun in the Adventure Reef Playground.

The Megalodon: Diving with North Carolina's Ultimate Predator exhibit features 3-D animations of the prehistoric shark species and a 6-foot-tall replica of a Megalodon jaw. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (910) 772-0500 or (800) 832-3474, ext. 2. (11)

#### LAKE LURE

Lake Lure takes its name from the 750-acre man-made lake in the center of town. Sitting in the heart of the Hickory Nut Gorge, it is surrounded by the Rumbling Bald mountain range; faults in the mountains have created landslides, exposing caves in the upper slopes. Scenic coves and inlets offer access for boating, swimming and fishing. Identified by its deep violet blossoms, the paulownia, or empress tree, was brought to the vicinity by George Vanderbilt. See Recreation Areas Chart.

Rutherford County Tourism - Lake Lure Welcome Center: 2932 Memorial Hwy., Lake Lure, NC 28746. Phone: (828) 287-1220 or (800) 849-5998.

**LAKE LURE TOURS**, on US 64/74A at the town marina, 2930 Memorial Hwy., features pontoon boat tours of the scenic lake. Narrated highlights include a stop at the film location used for the movie "Dirty Dancing." Local lore, such as the story of an entire town said to lie 100 feet beneath the surface, also is revealed. Lunch, dinner, champagne and twilight cruises are available.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (828) 625-1373 or (877) 386-4255. **GT 1** 

#### LAURINBURG

#### Hotels p. 184

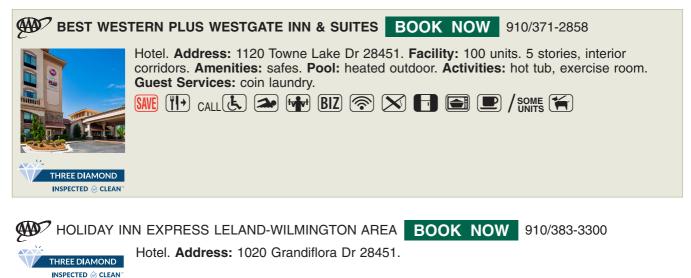






#### LELAND

• Hotels p. 185



### LENOIR

• Hotels p. 185

Caldwell County Chamber of Commerce: 1909 Hickory Blvd. S.E., Lenoir, NC 28645. Phone: (828) 726-0616.







### LEXINGTON

• Hotels p. 186

This town in the heart of the Piedmont region is celebrated for "Lexington-style" barbecue, also known as western-style barbecue. But truth be told, the main difference between this and eastern Carolina barbecue isn't the choice of meat or the way it's cooked, but the ketchupbased sauce. Held in October, The Barbecue Festival features pig races, children's activities, live entertainment and—of course—mouthwatering 'cue.

Take a walk through Historic Uptown Lexington, explore the variety of shops and restaurants and look for examples of the Pigs in the City Art Initiative—there are 65 fiberglass pigs decorated to represent local businesses. Thirty-five can be seen in the Uptown Lexington Business District; pick up a brochure from one of the many shops and restaurants. The Bob Timberlake Gallery, 1714 E. Center St., features works by the local resident and nationally acclaimed painter; phone (800) 244-0095.

Lexington Tourism Authority: 2 N. Main St., Lexington, NC 27292. Phone: (336) 236-4218 or (866) 604-2389.

**Self-guiding tours:** A walking tour brochure highlighting historic homes and buildings is available from the convention and visitors bureau.

**DAVIDSON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM** is at 2 S. Main St. Housed in the 1858 county courthouse, the museum features permanent and changing exhibits about life in the region from prehistory to the present. The courtroom features the judge's bench, jury box and prisoners' holding cage along with life-size figures illustrating a 1925 trail. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (336) 242-2035. **GT** 

**RICHARD CHILDRESS RACING MUSEUM** is at 236 Industrial Dr. Dedicated to NASCAR racing, the museum is in the original #3 race shop and houses more than 50 race cars and trucks covering Richard Childress Racing's history. A collection of trophies, awards and driving memorabilia is presented along with an area showcasing Childress' passion for wildlife and natural resource conservation.

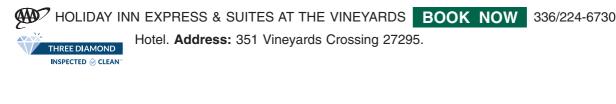
**Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (336) 731-3389 or (800) 476-3389.

#### WINERIES

• Childress Vineyards is at 1000 Childress Vineyards Rd. Phone: (336) 236-9463. GT







## • Hotels p. 187

HAMPTON INN BY HILTON LINCOLNTON BOOK NOW 704/736-2000



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 129 Roper Rd 28092.

#### LINVILLE

Three miles off the Blue Ridge Parkway, Linville is a resort community known for its excellent golf courses. The Linville River and nearby lakes provide good fishing opportunities, and hiking trails are plentiful on Grandfather Mountain. In winter the region is a ski center.

**GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN**—see Blue Ridge Parkway p. 54.

their town, a shipping point for lumber and naval supplies, would become in the future age of interstate highways. Halfway between New York City and Florida, directly off north-south I-95 and close to east-west I-74, the city is just a short drive from North Carolina's beaches and mountains. An extensive, ongoing downtown revitalization effort has not gone unnoticed: Lumberton was designated a North Carolina Main Street Community in 2005.

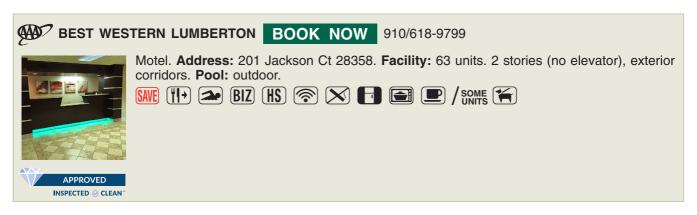
The Carolina Civic Center, 315 N. Chestnut St., opened in 1928 as a vaudeville theater and silent movie house. Escaping the wrecking ball in the 1970s, it reopened in 2009 following a major renovation project and presents classic movies and theatrical productions; phone (910) 738-4339.

#### LUMBERTON

#### • Hotels p. 187

When Lumberton was incorporated in 1859, residents could never have envisioned what a strategic location

Lumberton Visitors Bureau: 3431 Lackey St., Lumberton, NC 28360. Phone: (910) 739-9999 or (800) 359-6971. *(See ad starting on p. 188.)* 







# TRAVELING I-95 IN NORTH CAROLINA? Stop & Save in LUMBERTON I-95 - Exits 17-22

# Call 1-800-359-6971 for

(Office open Monday – Friday 9 am - 5 pm)

# IN HOTEL COUPONS LIMITED EXCLUSIONS APPLY

Richmond 240

w York 626

Coupons can be picked up at the Lumberton Visitors Bureau office, NC Welcome Centers at the Virginia line and the SC line as you enter NC on I-95.

# Email us at: info@lumberton-nc.com

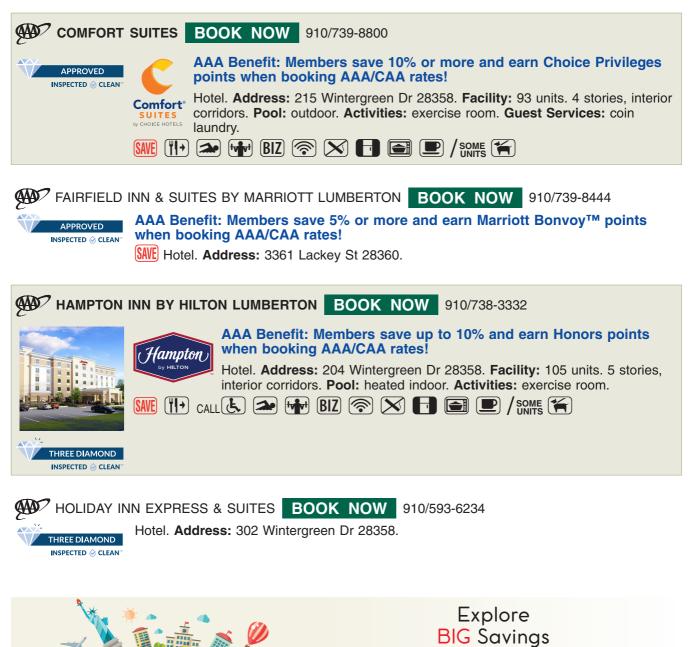
Charleston 166

LUM

Orlando 501

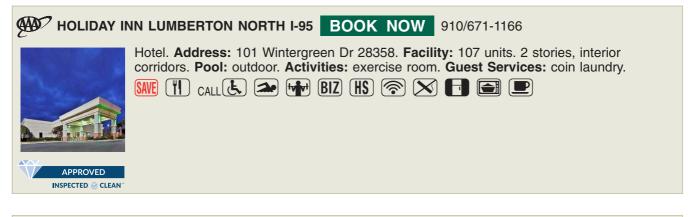
Miami 710

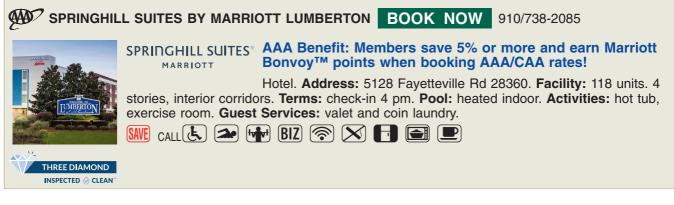
#### 190 LUMBERTON, NC



Around the Globe







#### MAGGIE VALLEY

• Hotels p. 192

• Part of Great Smoky Mountains National Park area— see map p. 154

An all-year resort town, Maggie Valley is off the Blue Ridge Parkway near the east entrance to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The community's name was selected in 1904 by the postmaster general, whose choice for the designation of the new postal district was limited to the name of one of a resident's three daughters.

**Maggie Valley Area Chamber of Commerce:** 2781 Soco Rd., P.O. Box 279, Maggie Valley, NC 28751. **Phone:** (828) 926-1686 or (800) 624-4431. WHEELS THROUGH TIME MUSEUM is at 62 Vintage Ln. This 38,000-square-foot museum presents a large collection of rare American motorcycles and related memorabilia from 1903 to the present. More than 350 of these machines are on display, with many in original condition and fully operational.

The collection covers veteran (1903-26), military (WWI and WWII), Art Deco (1926-39), postwar (since 1946), speedway and special interest motorcycles. A collection of classic automobiles includes a 1921 Cadillac Shooting Brake, an off-road hunting and camping vehicle and other early-20th-century special-interest automobiles. Changing exhibits are featured regularly. Flash photography, tripods, monopods and other photography equipment are not permitted. **Phone:** (828) 926-6266.



#### BEST WESTERN MOUNTAINBROOK INN BOOK NOW 828/926-3962



**(fyi)** Motel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Approved. **Address:** 3811 Soco Rd 28751. **Facility:** 50 units. 2 stories (no elevator), exterior corridors. **Pool:** heated outdoor. **Activities:** picnic facilities. **Guest Services:** coin laundry.

SAVE 🕪 CALL 🛃 🎿 BIZ 🛜 🔀 🗗 🚍 🗩 / SOME 🏹

#### COMFORT INN

#### BOOK NOW 828/926-9106



# AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

**SAVE fyi** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Approved. **Address:** 3282 Soco Rd 28751. **Facility:** 68 units. 2 stories, interior corridors. *Bath:* shower only. **Pool:** heated indoor. **Activities:** hot tub. **Guest Services:** coin laundry.

#### MANTEO

• Hotels p. 193

#### • Part of Outer Banks area— see map p. 212

On historic Roanoke Island, Manteo is reached by causeway from the east or west. In 1585 the English tried to establish their first New World colony at Roanoke Island. Nearby, Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside's Union forces won the Battle of Roanoke Island in 1862. In 1902 the island and Hatteras were the scenes of Reginald A. Fessenden's experiments in wireless telegraphy.

*Downeast Rover* sightseeing cruises depart from the waterfront marina on Queen Elizabeth Avenue for a 2-hour trip along Roanoke Sound, where the resident wildlife includes dolphins, herons and osprey; phone (252) 473-4866 or (866) 724-5629. **Note:** Parents should bring an appropriately sized life jacket for younger children; due to its length the cruise is not recommended for under age 6.

**Outer Banks Visitors Bureau:** 1 Visitors Center Cir., Manteo, NC 27954. **Phone:** (252) 473-2138 or (877) 629-4386.

**ELIZABETHAN GARDENS**—see Fort Raleigh National Historic Site p. 147.

FORT RALEIGH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE—see place listing p. 147.

**ISLAND FARM** is at 1140 US 64, following signs. This living-history site depicts mid-19th-century agricultural life on Roanoke Island. The Etheridge farmstead, a house built on land that had been farmed by the pioneer Etheridge family since 1757, is the oldest period restoration dwelling on the island. The house is filled with antique furnishings and 19th-century pieces, some of them original to the house. Other buildings include a reconstructed slave cabin, chicken coop, windmill, cookhouse, woodshed and blacksmith shop.

Visitors can meet the resident animals and take an oxcart ride on the farm's trails. The visitor center has exhibits about daily life on the farm, island culture, fishing and boatbuilding. Costumed interpreters demonstrate 19th-century children's games, farming and household duties.

Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (252) 473-6500.

"THE LOST COLONY"—see Fort Raleigh National Historic Site p. 148.

**NORTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM ON ROANOKE IS-LAND** is at 374 Airport Rd. (SR 1116). Exhibits reflect the theme "Waters of the Outer Banks." The 285,000-gallon Graveyard of the Atlantic exhibit includes sharks, fishes and a 1/3-scale replica of the USS *Monitor* shipwreck. Other highlights are the Close Encounters touch tanks, a fossil pit and river otters and alligators in the Wetlands on



the Edge gallery. The Sea Turtle Assistance and Rehabilitation (STAR) Center offers a look into the rescue, recovery and release of sick and injured sea turtles, along with the interactive exhibit Sea Turtle Rescue.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (252) 475-2300 or (800) 832-3474, ext. 4.

**OUTER BANKS CRUISES** departs from the Manteo Waterfront boardwalk at 400 Queen Elizabeth Ave. Narrated 2-hour Guaranteed Dolphin Watch tours offer views of Roanoke Sound and the chance to spot dolphins (or ride again for free). Additional cruises are available. **Phone:** (252) 473-1475 or (866) 473-1475.

**ROANOKE ISLAND FESTIVAL PARK, HOME OF ELIZABETH II**, across from the waterfront at 1 Festival Park, explores 400 years of island history. The park's centerpiece is a reproduction of a merchant ship that was part of Sir Walter Raleigh's 1585 voyage to the New World. Interpreters in Elizabethan costume re-create the lives of 16th-century mariners and soldiers. The American Indian Town exhibit has a wide variety of toscale structures and encourages visitors to explore, build, plant, dance and engage in role-play activities.

The Roanoke Adventure Museum uses interactive exhibits to tell 400 years of Outer Banks history, while the Settlement Site offers demonstrations in woodworking, blacksmithing and leatherworking. "The Legend of Two Path," a film about the impact of the colonists' arrival on Native American life, is shown several times daily.

**Time:** Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (252) 475-1500.



#### MARION • Hotels p. 193





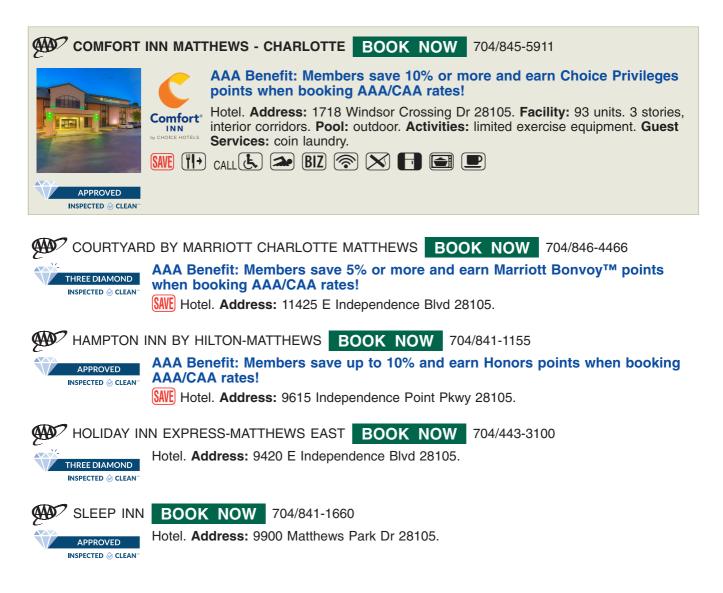
#### MATTHEWS

#### • Hotels p. 194

• Part of Charlotte area— see map p. 73

A southeast suburb of Charlotte, residents and visitors will enjoy the Matthews Community Farmers Market (on

N. Trade Street near E. John Street) on Saturday mornings, where seasonal produce, baked goods, cheeses, meats and other locally sourced goods are among the offerings. Stumptown Park (120 S. Trade St.) hosts a Summer Concert & Movie Series on Saturday evenings.





### **MCLEANSVILLE**

Hotels p. 195

HAMPTON INN BY HILTON GREENSBORO-EAST BOOK NOW 336/544-3333

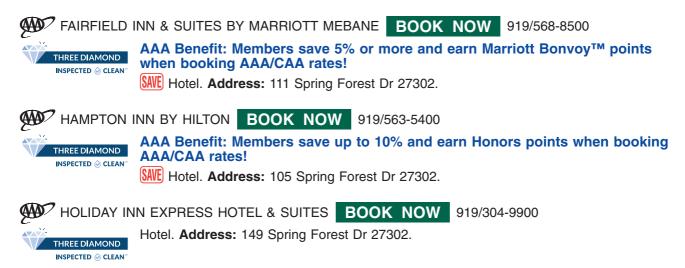


AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking **AAA/CAA** rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 903 Knox Rd 27301.

## MEBANE

Hotels p. 195



#### MOCKSVILLE Hotels p. 195

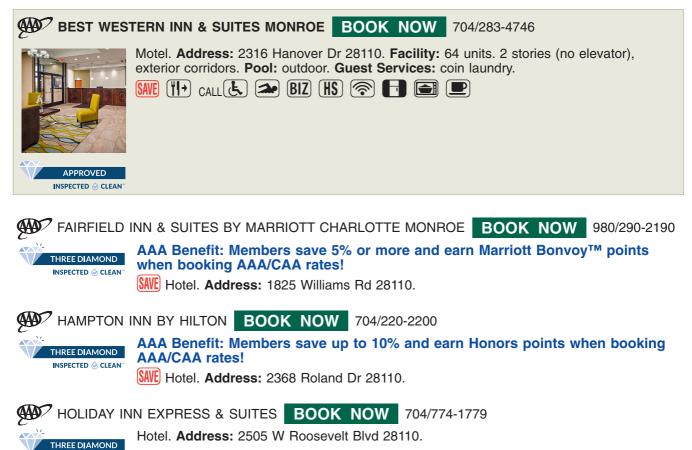




#### 196 MONROE - MOORESVILLE, NC

#### MONROE

• Hotels p. 196



#### MOORES CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

INSPECTED & CLEAN

Moores Creek National Battlefield is about 20 miles northwest of Wilmington and 4 miles west of US 421, on SR 210 near the town of Currie. The 87-acre site was the scene of a brief but decisive Revolutionary War battle on Feb. 27, 1776. Victory by the Colonists prevented the Loyalists from controlling North Carolina and helped block a British campaign to conquer the Southern colonies.

A re-enactment takes place annually the last full weekend in February. Visitor center displays and an audiovisual program depict the battle; there also are two selfguiding trails with interpretive exhibits. Guided tours are available; advance reservations are required. Picnicking is permitted. Site open daily 9-5. Visitor Center open Wed.-Sun. 9-5. Closed federal holidays. Free. Phone (910) 283-5591.

### MOORESVILLE

#### • Hotels p. 197

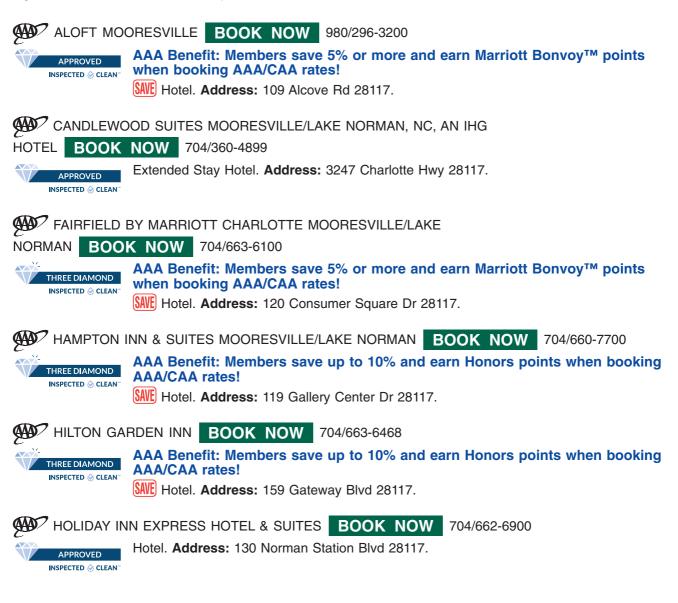
Cotton drove the economy in Mooresville's quiet early years. Quite a different industry fuels today's growth. Due to its proximity to auto racing speedways at Charlotte and in Darlington, S.C., the community now calls itself Race City USA. Mooresville is home to more than 40 race teams representing some of the sport's biggest names.



**Mooresville Convention and Visitors Bureau:** 130 Landings Dr., Suite 102, Mooresville, NC 28117. **Phone:** (704) 799-2400 or (877) 661-1234.

**NORTH CAROLINA AUTO RACING HALL OF FAME**, 119 Knob Hill Rd., chronicles racing history via some 40 original race cars, memorabilia and personal items from

the sport's best-known drivers. An art gallery features racing-related works, while the Goodyear Mini-Theater presents 45-minute films highlighting racing achievements and winning drivers. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (704) 663-5331.





# **Double the perks with Hertz + AAA**

We are where you're going.

Booking a car rental with Hertz, AAA members get access to exclusive rates and benefits.\*

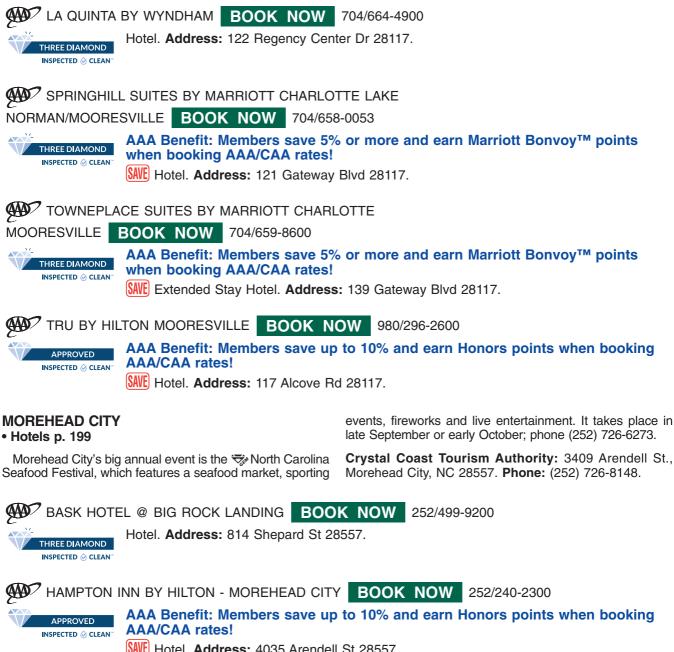
- Up to 20% off base rates.
- Add an additional driver for free.
- Young Renter fee waived for AAA members ages 20-24.
- 10% off a tank of gas.
- Free use of a child safety seat.

Plus, get a FREE rental day on us when you become a Hertz Gold Plus Rewards<sup>®</sup> member – it's free to join!<sup>1</sup>

Book now using your AAA club discount code (CDP). Join Hertz Gold Plus Rewards<sup>®</sup> for free: AAA.com/HertzGold Click: AAA.com/Hertz | Call: 1-800-654-3080 | Visit: Your local AAA branch.

\*Discounts apply to Pay Later base rate. Discount will vary depending on date, location, length of rental, car class, & other factors. Taxes, fees, & options excluded. AAA Club Discount Code (CDP) must be included in reservation. Benefits available at participating Hertz locations in the US, Canada, & Puerto Rico. Twenty-four (24) hour advance reservation required. Additional driver & young renter must be a AAA member, have a credit card in their own name, & meet standard rental qualifications. Child safety seati is subject to availability. Prepaid fuel savings is only valid when prepaid fuel option is purchased at pickup. At the time of rental, present your AAA membership card.

Valid for AAA members with new HGPR enrollment. Free day in the form of points will be added to gold profile after first paid Gold rental. Taxes/fees excluded. Terms apply. © 2024 Hertz System, Inc. All rights reserved. CS 924009



SAVE Hotel. Address: 4035 Arendell St 28557.





#### MORGANTON

• Hotels p. 200

A series of dams on the Catawba River east and west of Morganton impounds a chain of lakes that provides many recreational opportunities. Nearby Lake James has a 600-foot-long swimming beach, showers and changing areas, and a lakefront picnic area. Visitors can rent canoes and kayaks and fish for bass, walleye and bluegill. Both South Mountains State Park (see Recreation Areas Chart) and Tuttle Educational State Forest are nearby as well as Catawba Meadows Riverfront Park. Phone (828) 433-4772, (828) 757-5608 or (828) 437-8863, respectively.

A historical marker on Henderson Mill Road indicates the former location of Fort San Juan, built by Spanish explorers in 1566 and considered the first-known European settlement in the interior of the United States.

Burke County Travel & Tourism: 110 E. Meeting St., Morganton, NC 28655. Phone: (828) 433-6793 or (888) 462-2921.



FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES MORGANTON HISTORIC DOWNTOWN BOOK NOW 828/608-0900
 AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!
 ME Hotel. Address: 400 N Green St 28655.
 HAMPTON INN BY HILTON MORGANTON BOOK NOW 828/432-2000
 AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!
 INSPECTED © CLEAN

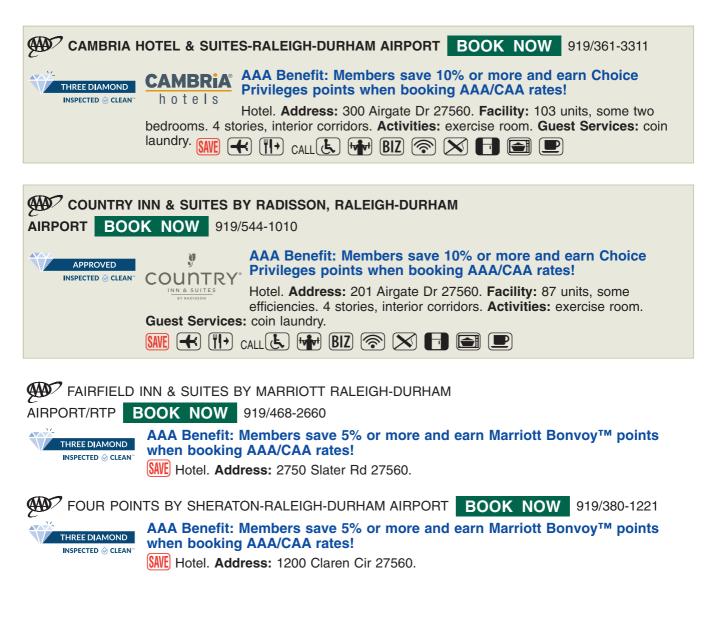
SAVE Hotel. Address: 115 Bush Dr 28655.



#### MORRISVILLE

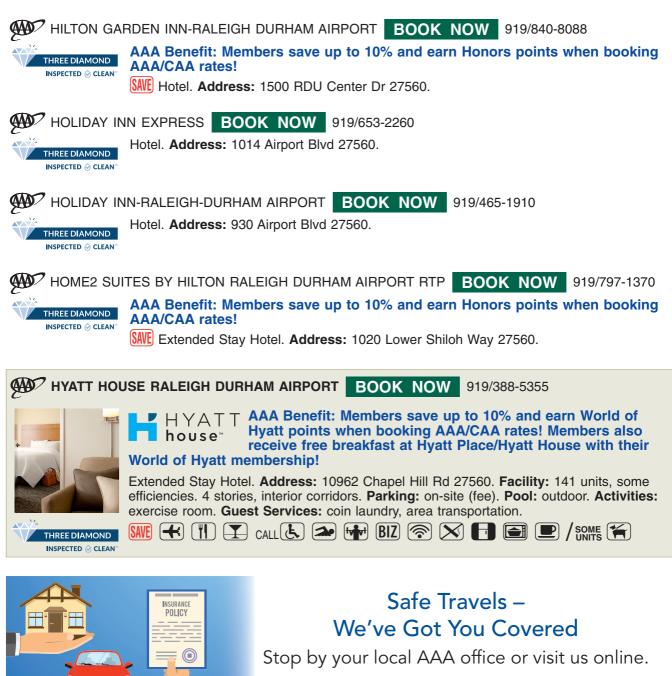
#### • Hotels p. 201

Equal distance from Raleigh and Durham, Morrisville is a suburban community with easy access to I-40, I-540 and Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are about a 30-minute drive from downtown. The city is considered a bedroom community for nearby Research Triangle Park, a center for high-tech research and development that includes more than 200 companies and 50,000 workers.





#### 202 MORRISVILLE, NC

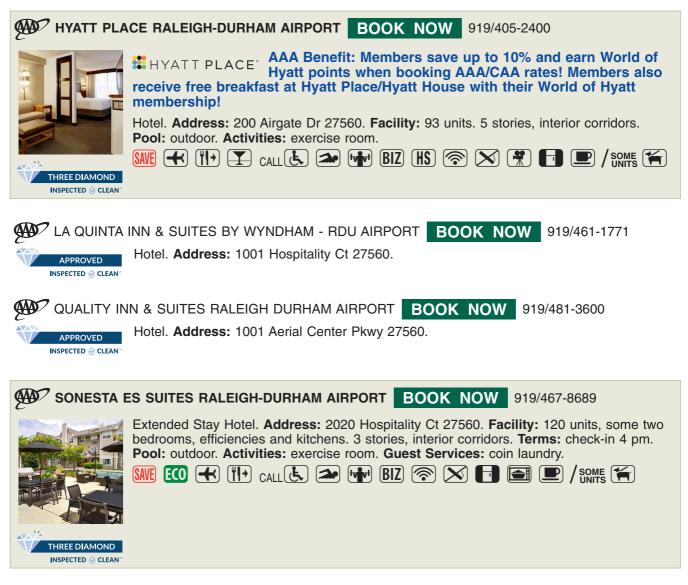


AAA.com/Insurance





0



### Hit the Road with Identity Theft Protection

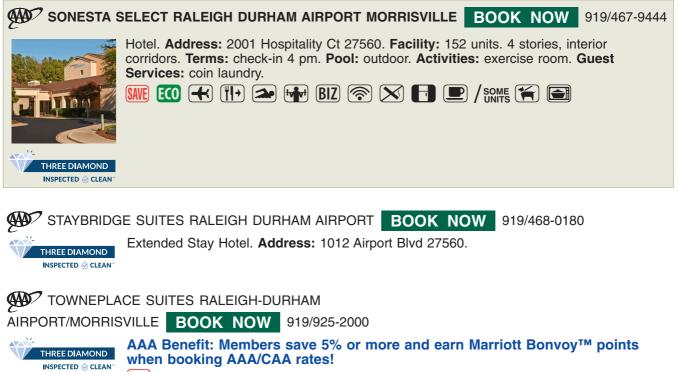
Visit your local AAA office or online at **AAA.com/IDTheft** 

All products not available at all locations.





#### 204 MORRISVILLE, NC



SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 1021 Carrington Mill Blvd 27560.

TRU BY HILTON RALEIGH-DURHAM AIRPORT BOOK NOW 919/813-7129



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 350 Airgate Dr 27560.

# AAA Car Battery Service.

Delivered & Installed on the Spot!

aaa.com/autorepair/carbatterysolutions







### MOUNT AIRY

• Hotels p. 205

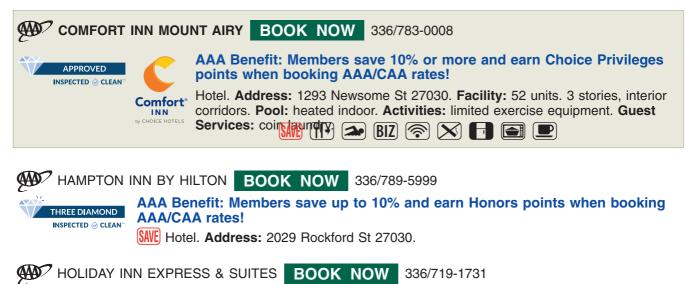
Although not incorporated until 1885, Mount Airy's history dates back to at least 1750, when it was a tiny riverfront settlement. And it still retains elements of the quintessential small town that served as the prototype for Mayberry, the fictional community in the much-beloved sitcom "The Andy Griffith Show." Griffith grew up in Mount Airy and incorporated a number of its features into the show. His former home stands in the historic district, as does the Andy Griffith Playhouse, a schoolhouse turned theater and arts center. The Mount Airy Visitor Center displays a collection of Griffith memorabilia and other items of local historical significance.

The Surry Arts Council hosts a summer music series April through October at the Blackmon Amphitheatre, 218 Rockford St.; phone (336) 786-7998.

Mount Airy Visitors Center/Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce: 200 N. Main St., P.O. Box 913, Mount Airy, NC 27030-0913. Phone: (336) 786-6116 or (800) 948-0949.

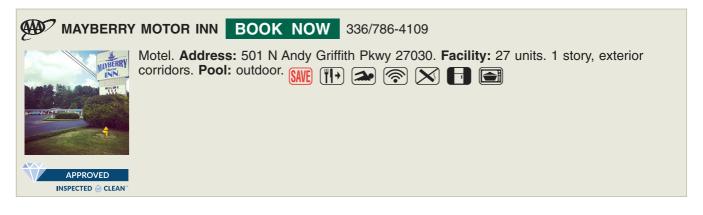
**Self-guiding tours:** A brochure describing a driving tour of the city is available from the visitors center.





Hotel. Address: 1320 EMS Dr 27030.

THREE DIAMOND



#### MURPHY • Hotels p. 206

Murphy was the site of Fort Butler, built by Gen. Winfield Scott during the roundup of the Cherokees 1837-38. A

marble shaft marks the fort's location. Hiwassee Dam and Lake *(see Recreation Areas Chart)* are nearby.

Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce: 805 US 64W, Murphy, NC 28906. Phone: (828) 837-2242.



**fyi** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Approved. **Address:** 1550 Andrews Bd 28906

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL & SUITES BOOK NOW 828/837-1111

**(fyi)** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Approved. **Address:** 130 Holiday Dr 28906.



#### NAGS HEAD

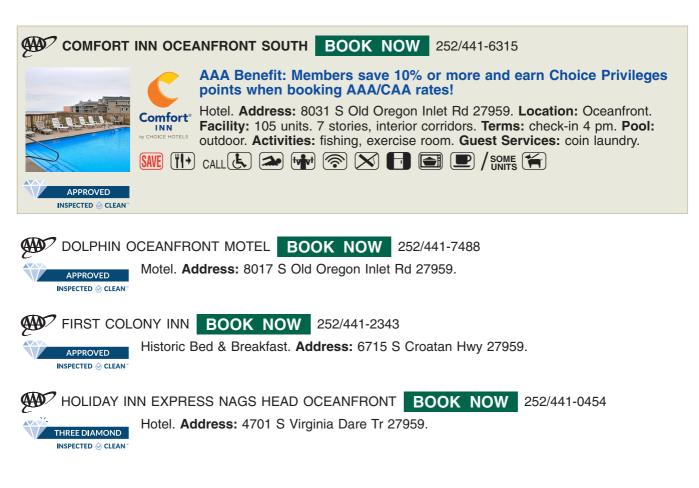
• Hotels p. 207

#### • Part of Outer Banks area— see map p. 212

An oceanfront hotel and cottage colony on the Outer Banks, Nags Head has long been a favorite place to fish, frolic in the Atlantic surf or just kick back at the beach. According to local legend, the village acquired its name from a nefarious early islander practice of tying lanterns to the necks of ponies and marching them along the dunes at night. The swinging lights simulated anchored boats, thus deceiving ship captains into running aground, where their cargo was seized. Wood from these shipwrecks was used to build homes, some of which are still standing.

Jennette's Pier, 7223 S. Virginia Dare Tr., extends 1,000 feet into the Atlantic, affording opportunities for fishing, strolling, shopping and sightseeing. The 16,000-square-foot pier house features a small aquarium with three tanks of fish on display; phone (252) 255-1501.

**Shopping:** Tanger Outlets, at Milepost 16 on US 158 at 7100 S. Croatan Hwy., offers more than 20 stores and is open daily.





#### 208 NANTAHALA NF - NEW BERN, NC

#### NANTAHALA NATIONAL FOREST

Elevations in the forest range from 1,200 ft. on the Tusquetee River below the Appalachian Dam to 5,800 ft. at Lone Bald. Refer to AAA maps for additional elevation information.

The mountainous southwestern tip of North Carolina is overspread by Nantahala National Forest. This 531,148acre wooded region, which gives rise to 10 rivers, is named after the Cherokee word meaning "land of the noonday sun" and refers to the deep gorges that receive bright light only at noon, when the sun shines directly above.

Approximately 600 miles of roads and trails, including the Appalachian Trail and a 35-mile portion of the Bartram Trail, thread the forest. Scenic drives near Andrews pass Nantahala Lake and Wayah Bald; the "Trail of Tears" crosses the Snowbird Mountains from Andrews to Robbinsville. Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, named for the author of the poem "Trees," and Slickrock Wilderness also are in Nantahala. There are several recreation areas designated for public use.

Nantahala also boasts numerous waterfalls. Whitewater Falls, 9 miles south of Sapphire on SR 281, plummets more than 400 feet in a number of smaller cascades. At Glen Falls Scenic Area, 2 miles south of Highlands on SR 106, the river plunges over a 50-foot ledge, providing a spectacular show.

Cherohala Skyway is a scenic 51-mile highway between Robbinsville and Tellico Plains, Tenn. This scenic stretch is known as the "mini Blue Ridge Parkway." This mountain road offers no facilities.

Fishing and hunting are permitted; a license is required. Information is available from the district ranger stations at Robbinsville, (828) 479-6431; Murphy, (828) 837-5152; and Franklin, (828) 524-6441; or from the Forest Supervisor's Office, 160 Zillicoa St., Suite A, Asheville, NC 28801; (828) 257-4200. For points of interest within the forest, see Cashiers p. 68, Franklin p. 148, Highlands p. 172 and Murphy p. 206; also see Recreation Areas Chart.

#### NEW BERN • Hotels p. 209

Swiss and German colonists settled New Bern in 1710, naming it for Bern, Switzerland. By 1749 the thriving river port had the colony's first printing press; two years later printer James Davis founded the state's first newspaper, the *North Carolina Gazette.* As the Colonial capital from 1766 to 1776 and the state capital from 1776 to 1794, New Bern also played an important role in the American Revolution.

In 1898, Pepsi-Cola was invented in New Bern by Caleb Bradham. His former pharmacy at the corner of Middle and Pollock streets features a soda fountain and a store that sells Pepsi-related memorabilia; phone (252) 636-5898.

Older buildings are outstanding examples of American architecture, especially the early 19th-century Federal style. The Bank of the Arts, a 1912 former bank building at 317 Middle St., displays changing exhibits by regional and national artists; phone (252) 638-2577. The Attmore-Oliver Civil War House Museum, 511 Broad St., contains 18th- and 19th-century furniture, local artifacts and a doll collection; phone (252) 638-8558.

WUMfest features arts and crafts, children's entertainment, and car and boat shows; it takes place each October; phone (252) 638-5781.

New Bern/Craven County Convention and Visitors Center: 203 S. Front St., New Bern, NC 28560. Phone: (252) 637-9400 or (800) 437-5767.

**Self-guiding tours:** Information about several different walking tours is available free from the convention and visitors center. The tours provide insight into the history and architecture of historic homes, churches and cemeteries, African American history and the Civil War era. A Walk to Remember highlights locations mentioned in novels written by local resident and popular author Nicholas Sparks.

NEW BERN HISTORIC TROLLEY TOURS departs from 610 Pollock St., across from the Tryon Palace Way Station. The narrated 90-minute tours explore the history and architecture of the former royal capital of North Carolina and include visits to the New Bern Academy Museum, Cedar Grove Cemetery and Christ Episcopal Church. **Phone:** (252) 637-7316 or (800) 849-7316. **GT** 

**TRYON PALACE** is at 529 S. Front St. The Tryon Palace complex includes the Governor's Palace, the North Carolina History Center, historic homes and formal gardens. The imposing Georgian-style palace, built over a 3-year period by Royalist Governor William Tryon, was designed to represent the British crown. It became North Carolina's first permanent capitol and was considered one of the finest government building in Colonial America. In 1798, a disastrous fire destroyed the palace; it was later reconstructed on the same site using the original architect's drawings.



The palace is furnished with rare 18th-century English and American artifacts and decorative arts, and the 21 acres of grounds are landscaped in the style of an 18th-century English garden. Tours, conducted by costumed interpreters, give visitors the opportunity to see demonstrations of weaving and cooking as they were done in Colonial times.

Also on the grounds is the North Carolina History Center, offering an interactive experience with hands-on exhibits that transport visitors back to a coastal 1830s village, as well as the Regional History Museum.

Phone: (252) 639-3500 or (800) 767-1560. GT

**Dixon House,** 529 S. Front St., is part of the Tryon Palace complex and was built in the early 1830s for merchant and former New Bern mayor George W. Dixon. Dixon eventually lost the house to foreclosure, and years later it served as a hospital for the 9th Vermont Infantry during the Federal occupation of New Bern during the Civil War. Antiques from the Federal and Empire periods decorate the interior.

Phone: (252) 639-3500. GT

**Gardens of Tryon Palace**, 529 S. Front St., can be viewed on a self-guiding tour. Among the 21 acres of themed plantings are an 18th-century Wilderness Garden, the Kellenberger Garden, the Latham Memorial Garden, the Green Garden, the Carraway Garden, the Pleached Allee and the Kitchen Garden.

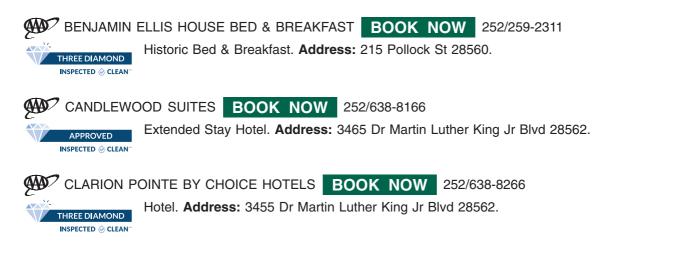
North Carolina History Center is at 529 S. Front St. and is part of the Tryon Palace complex. The center encompasses several buildings and utilizes stateof-the-art interactive technology to personalize and bring to life North Carolina history. Guests can download individual tours tailored to specific interests on their smartphones, or rent one of the devices. Regional exhibits take a look at coastal North Carolina, the Colonial era, Native Americans and the Civil War and cover such subjects as slavery and industrialization.

Kids will love the virtual time machine at the Pepsi Family Center, which transports visitors—amid a barrage of flashing lights—back to 1835 New Bern. Quilting, cooking, using a printing press, loading and sailing a ship and distilling turpentine are some of the activities that can be experienced. Next door, in the Regional History Museum, visitors can explore the history of North Carolina's Central Coastal Region through artifacts, graphics, audios, videos, and touch-screen interactives, as well as follow the River of Light to explore five centuries of the region's history

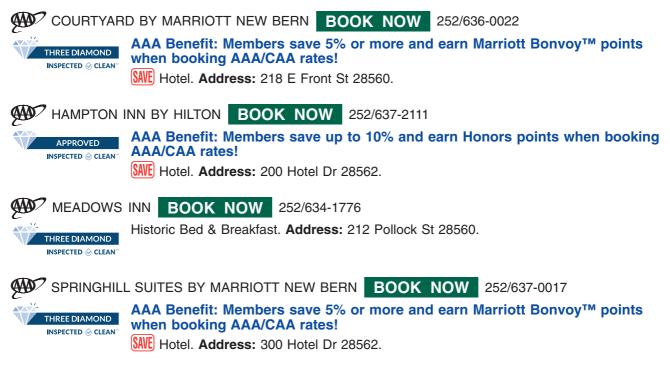
**Time:** Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (252) 639-3500 or (800) 767-1560. **GT** 

**Stanly House,** 307 George St., is part of the Tryon Palace complex. The house was built of hand-hewn longleaf pine around 1783 for John Wright Stanly, a merchant and privateer during the American Revolution. Today it contains furnishings and a garden representative of the late 18th century. Note: The home currently is closed; phone ahead for details. **Phone:** (252) 639-3500.

**Phone:** (252) 639-3500.







#### OCEAN ISLE BEACH • Hotels p. 210

THE ISLANDER INN BOOK NOW 910/575-7000



Hotel. Address: 57 W First St 28469. Location: Oceanfront. Facility: 70 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: outdoor, heated indoor. Activities: hot tub, beach on-site, limited exercise equipment. Guest Services: coin laundry.







#### OCRACOKE

#### • Hotels p. 211

#### • Part of Outer Banks area— see map p. 212

The fishing village of Ocracoke (OHK-ruh-coke) is on Ocracoke Island, adjacent to Cape Hatteras National Seashore on the Outer Banks. Houses scattered willy-nilly along sandy streets overhung with yaupon and mossfestooned live oaks present a picturesque setting that is enhanced by the backdrop of Silver Lake. Completed in 1823, the 75-foot Ocracoke Lighthouse is thought to be the oldest continually operating lighthouse on the North Carolina coast.

Ocracoke also is known to have been a hangout of Edward Teach, alias Blackbeard; the notorious pirate and his crew were killed at Teach's Hole in 1718. Legend holds that Blackbeard still wanders the area in search of his severed head.

The British Cemetery is the resting place for four HMS *Bedfordshire* crew members who died in 1942 when their trawler was presumably torpedoed by German submarines. A public memorial service attended by members of the British Royal Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard honors these sailors—two of whom are unidentified—each May.

Bicycle rentals are available in town for those who seek a practical and enjoyable means of exploring the island. Bird-watchers will be able to spot many species, particularly during the spring and fall migratory seasons. At a 100-acre exhibit area 5 miles north of the village on scenic SR 12, visitors can observe wild Banker horses that have roamed the island for nearly 3 centuries. According to one tale, the ponies were abandoned by European explorers who sought to lessen the cargo load of ships that had run aground and wrecked.

The island is a hot spot for clamming, crabbing, fishing, kayaking, scuba diving, surfing, swimming and whale watching. From sunset cruises to fishing expeditions to tours of nearby Portsmouth Island, boating activities abound. Those who, like a high tide, can't seem to pull themselves away from the shore might behold the marvelous sight of luminescent phosphorus in the nighttime surf.

Ocracoke Island is reached by a free ferry from Hatteras on SR 12 and by a toll ferry from Cedar Island and Swan Quarter. Reservations are necessary for the toll ferries and can be made up to 30 days prior to the departure date. Reserve in person at the terminal or phone (800) 293-3779. The Hatteras ferry does not accept reservations.

Ocracoke Island Visitor Center: Cape Hatteras National Seashore, 38 Irvin Garrish Hwy., P.O. Box 568, Ocracoke, NC 27960. Phone: (252) 928-4531 or (252) 475-9701.

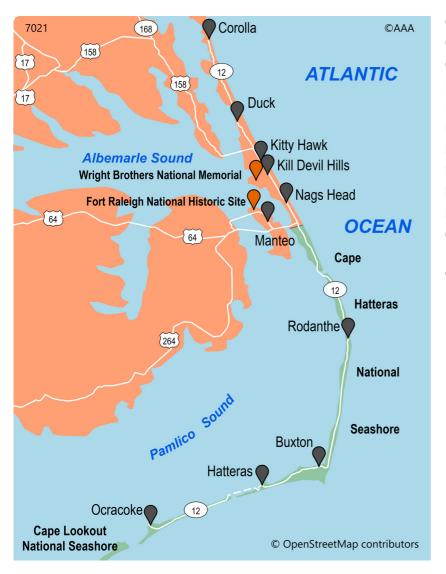






## Outer Banks

This map shows cities in the Outer Banks where you will find attractions, hotels and restaurants. Cities are listed alphabetically in this book on the following pages.



Cape Hatteras National Seashore	62
Cape Lookout National Seashore	62
Corolla	124
Duck	127
Fort Raleigh National Historic Site	147
Hatteras	168
Kill Devil Hills	180
Kitty Hawk	183
Manteo	192
Nags Head	207
Ocracoke	211
Rodanthe	237
Wright Brothers National Memorial	268

#### **OUTER BANKS**

The Outer Banks consist of a string of narrow islands and peninsulas that lie between the ocean and the sounds along 125 miles of North Carolina's coast. Through years of storms and shipwrecks, the destination has developed a distinctive culture. Certain areas include hotels and resorts, while others retain a relatively primitive charm. Residents closely identified with maritime activity have kept the speech patterns and customs handed down from the 17th century.

The area is historically rich. The first English colony attempted settlement on Roanoke Island in 1585. More than 3 centuries later, Wilbur and Orville Wright successfully launched the first flight of a power-driven airplane at Kill Devil Hills, which is a fun place to go.

The land areas of the Outer Banks are constantly being shifted by wind and wave action. Some geologists believe the banks are moving ever so slowly toward the mainland, as inlets that connect the ocean and the sounds can exist less than 100 years. Frequently created by storms, the bodies of water have a habit of regularly appearing—and then disappearing.

#### PINEHURST

#### Hotels p. 213 Restaurants p. 214

A mild climate is one of the main reasons Pinehurst is a year-round resort community. The parks and green spaces were planned by Frederick Law Olmsted, designer of New York's Central Park and Asheville's Biltmore gardens. Among the attractive in-town residences are a number of Georgian Colonial-style estates.

Pinehurst's main drawing card is golf; there are more than 40 championship courses, including many that host PGA and LPGA tournaments. Tennis tournaments take place as well. Carriage rides are a popular tourist conveyance.

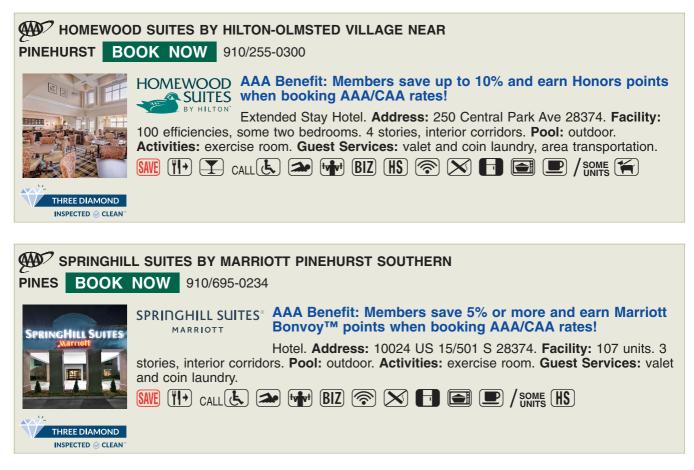
**SANDHILLS HORTICULTURAL GARDENS** is at 3395 Airport Rd. Students and staff from the landscape garden curriculum at Sandhills Community College maintain a diverse collection of themed plantings and landscaped areas, including ornamental grass, fruit and vegetable, woodland, Japanese, succulent, formal English and annual gardens, as well as a native wetland trail. The "Circle of Peace" is a sculpture depicting seven children from different cultures. A visitor center and the Hoad Children's Garden are also on the 32-acre grounds. **Phone:** (910) 695-3882.







#### 214 PINEHURST, NC



#### WHERE TO EAT



Regional American Fine Dining. Address: 155 Cherokee Rd 28374.





Connect with AAA for the latest updates.

AAA.com/Facebook

O Instagram.com/aaa\_national

🕅 AAA.com/Twitter 🛛 🖸 You





#### **PINE KNOLL SHORES**

• Hotels p. 215

#### NORTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM AT PINE KNOLL

SHORES is within the Theodore Roosevelt Natural Area, 5 mi. w. of Atlantic Beach on SR 58N at 1 Roosevelt Blvd. As visitors enter the building they encounter a 32-foot waterfall. The state's five aquatic zones are represented throughout the aquarium's "Journey From the Mountains to the Sea" theme. The largest habitat, the 306,000-gallon saltwater "Living Shipwreck," is in the Ocean Gallery and



#### PINEVILLE

- Hotels p. 215
- Part of Charlotte area— see map p. 73

**PRESIDENT JAMES K. POLK STATE HISTORIC SITE,** 2.5 mi. s. of I-485 exit 65 on Old US 521 (Lancaster Hwy.), preserves the birthplace of James K. Polk, 11th

offers a view of sea turtles, sharks, grouper and other large fish swimming through the wreckage of a sunken U-352 German WWII submarine replica.

Additional features include the Tidal Waters Gallery with an 18th-century shipwreck—Queen Anne's Revenge; the Mountain Gallery with a Trout Pool; the Coastal Plain Gallery, home to gators and the Cypress Swamp; and the Piedmont Gallery with a river otter exhibit complete with feeding programs. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (252) 247-4003 or (800) 832-3474.

president of the United States. A 12-minute film in the museum and displays in the visitor center depict his life. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (704) 889-7145. **(GT)**  $\overrightarrow{\mathbf{R}}$ 









# PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST

Elevations within the boundaries of the forest range from 1,200 ft. at Mulberry Creek to 6,285 ft. at Roan Mountain. Refer to AAA maps for additional elevation information.

The two portions of Pisgah National Forest cover 504,787 acres of the Appalachians in western North Carolina. Two main mountain chains and several lesser ranges encompassed by the forest have twenty 6,000-foot peaks, including 6,684-foot Mount Mitchell, highest summit east of the Mississippi River. Mount Mitchell is in a 1,946-acre state park surrounded by the forest, adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Part of the Appalachian Trail winds along the northwestern boundary. US 276, which runs for 37 miles between Brevard and Waynesville, is part of the Forest Heritage National Scenic Byway and offers access to various points of interest.

District rangers are stationed at Mars Hill, Nebo and Pisgah Forest. Pisgah headquarters is open Mon.-Sat. 9-5, mid-Apr. to early Nov.; Mon.-Fri. 8-4:30, rest of year. Information can be obtained at these stations or from the Visitor Information Center at the Forest Supervisor's Office, 160 Zillicoa St., Suite A, Asheville, NC 28801; phone (828) 257-4200.



Other points of interest within the forest are listed under Asheville, Brevard, Hot Springs, Linville and Waynesville. See Recreation Areas Chart.

BOBBY N. SETZER STATE FISH HATCHERY is on a forest service road 8 mi. n. of Brevard via US 276, at 1401 Fish Hatchery Rd. The hatchery produces brook, rainbow and brown trout for release in some 60 streams. Visitors strolling along the hatchery raceways can observe and feed the trout. Phone: (828) 877-4423.

CRADLE OF FORESTRY IN AMERICA HISTORIC SITE

is 14 mi. n. of Brevard via US 276 at 11250 Pisgah Hwy. Two paved interpretive trails at this historic site detail the history of forestry in the United States as well as the history of the first forestry school in America. Visitors can explore a forest environment indoors at the Forest Discovery Center or take a ride in a helicopter simulator. A logging locomotive is displayed on one of the trails. An old sawmill and historic cabins are on the grounds. A 30-minute film also is presented.

Phone: (828) 877-3130, or (828) 877-3265, ext. 226 for the ranger station.

LOOKING GLASS FALLS, off US 276 about 5 mi. past the south entrance to Pisgah National Forest, can be viewed from a walkway or the roadside. When it freezes, the 60-foot waterfall takes on the appearance of a mirror. Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (828) 877-3265. 开

LOOKING GLASS ROCK is reached by a 3-mile trail that begins about 10 mi. n.w. of Brevard via US 276, following signs. The rock is believed to be the largest granite monolith in the southern Appalachians. Popular among climbers, it also can be viewed from Milepost 417 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. **Phone:** (828) 877-3265.

SLIDING ROCK is 8 mi. n. of jct. US 276 and US 64. Sheets of bracingly cold mountain water cascade down this 60-foot-long natural waterslide, plunging daredevils into a 7-foot-deep natural pool. There are wading pools in the vicinity, but no pools for swimming.

Note: During thunderstorms and times of high water run-off, Sliding Rock is closed; phone ahead to verify accessibility. Changing facilities are available in the summer. Picnicking and alcohol are prohibited. **Phone:** (828) 877-3265.

WAGON ROAD GAP, atop the Pisgah ledge, is 20 mi. n.w. of Brevard via US 276, halfway between Waynesville and Brevard. The gap, intersecting US 276 at Milepost 412 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, affords a fine view of the surrounding area.

#### RALEIGH Hotels p. 219

Founded in 1792 and named for Sir Walter Raleigh, Raleigh was planned from the beginning as the "unalterable seat of government" for North Carolina; the town site was established on land purchased specifically by the state to be used for the state capital.

Today the city forms the southern portion of the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill region known as the Research Triangle (see Durham p. 127). Carved out in the mid-1980s, I-440 serves as the "Beltline," while Raleigh's core is found inside the Beltline. I-540 forms an incomplete outer loop linking Apex, Cary, Morrisville, Wake Forest and other suburbs.

In addition to its status as a state capital, Raleigh is known for its universities (North Carolina State University, Shaw University and Meredith College, to name a few) as well as its banking and tech firms, Wolfpack sports and booming restaurant and beer scenes. Opportunities to connect with nature range from downtown's Moore Square Park—where you'll see reasons for Raleigh's nickname "City of Oaks"-to the Capital Area Greenway System, which includes more than 100 miles of greenways and trails.

Cheer on the NC State University Wolfpack football team at Carter-Finley Stadium, 4600 Trinity Rd., or the Wolfpack basketball team at PNC Arena; phone (919) 865-1510 for tickets. The National Hockey League's Carolina Hurricanes play at the PNC Arena, 1400 Edwards Mill Rd.; phone (866) 645-2263 for ticket information. Five County Stadium in nearby Zebulon is the place to be for minor league baseball; it's home to the Carolina Mudcats, a Class A-Advanced affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers; phone (919) 269-2287 for ticket information. The Lonnie Poole Golf Course (1509 Main Campus Dr.) at NC State University is open to the public and claims to be the only collegiate course designed by Arnold Palmer; phone (919) 833-3338.

The city hosts World of Bluegrass Week in early fall at the Raleigh Convention Center; the celebration includes a trade show, the International Bluegrass Music Awards Show and a fan festival. Animal shows, a petting zoo, traditional midway rides and games, live music, fireworks and a variety of food vendors with deep-fried desserts draw crowds to the North Carolina State Fairgrounds for two weeks in mid-October for the 🐄 North Carolina State Fair; phone (919) 821-7400.



#### 218 RALEIGH, NC

Pullen Park, next to the North Carolina State University campus via Western Boulevard, has fun things to do with children, including a 1911 Dentzel carousel and a miniature train; phone (919) 996-6468. The North Carolina Executive Mansion (200 N. Blount St.) offers free tours of the governor's home. Tours must be booked at least two weeks in advance; phone (919) 715-3962.

Greater Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau Visitor Information Center: 500 Fayetteville St., Raleigh, NC 27601. Phone: (919) 834-5900 or (800) 849-8499.

**Self-guiding tours:** Maps for self-guiding tours that include the Capitol, the legislative building and the historic Oakwood neighborhood—a district that includes many well-preserved homes from the early 20th century as well as a large cemetery dating back to 1869—are available at the Visitor Information Center, 500 Fayetteville St. The center is open Mon.-Fri. 9-5; closed major holidays. Phone (919) 834-5900 or (800) 849-8499.

A free circulator bus system—the R-Line—makes it easy to get around downtown Raleigh. The hybrid electric buses run every 15 minutes. Dockless scooters and bike share stations also are available. If you need help finding your way around downtown, look for the roving Ambassadors in bright blue shirts; phone (919) 368-7962.

**Shopping:** Near downtown is Cameron Village (2108 Clark Ave.), an outdoor shopping center that's been a favorite with locals since 1949. Boutiques, independent shops and eateries fill a 6-block area.

Crabtree Valley Mall, north of downtown at 4325 Glenwood Ave. (US 70), has more than 175 shops and food places, including H&M, J. Crew, Johnston & Murphy, Madewell and Williams-Sonoma. North Hills, in the newly created "midtown" district, has shops, restaurants, hotels and a movie theater centered around Six Forks Road and Lassiter Mill Road.

Brier Creek Commons, at US 70 and I-540 near Raleigh-Durham International Airport, is an expansive area of strip malls and discount shops.

The State Farmers Market, 1201 Agriculture St., covers 75 acres and is open daily year-round; phone (919) 733-7417. The smaller Moore Square Market, which still has plenty of things to see, sets up at Moore Square (226 E. Martin St.) on Wednesdays, May-Oct.; phone (919) 821-6982.

**JOEL LANE MUSEUM HOUSE,** 160 Saint Mary's St., is thought to be the oldest existing dwelling in the county. Built in 1769, it has been painstakingly restored and furnished with 18th-century antiques. Col. Joel Lane was a prominent statesman, and his house and tavern were the sites of many historically significant meetings. An 18thcentury Colonial Revival garden and herb garden are on the grounds. Costumed docents offer guided tours that depart from the visitors center. Also on the site is a circa 1790 middle-class dwelling, a sharp contrast to the upperclass lifestyle enjoyed by Col. Lane.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (919) 833-3431. **(GT)** 

NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART is off I-40 exit 289, following signs to 2110 Blue Ridge Rd. The West Building, opened in 2010, is home to the museum's permanent collection and features more than 750 works of art from ancient Egyptian artifacts to European Old Master paintings to contemporary site-specific commissions.

Paintings representing 8 centuries of Western art include works by Sandro Botticelli, Winslow Homer, Claude Monet, Georgia O'Keeffe, Roxy Paine, Gerhard Richter, John Singer Sargent, Mickalene Thomas and Anthony Van Dyck. The museum's East Building houses special exhibitions, educational programming, films and lectures.

If artistic overload threatens to set in, refresh yourself with a walk in the Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park. Surrounding the museum buildings are 164 acres of fields, woods and creeks laced with scenic paths. Outdoor installations in the park include spinning mobiles and large pieces of sculpture. Nestled in the park is the Joseph M. Bryan Jr. Theater which presents concerts and movies in summer.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (919) 839-6262, or (919) 715-5923 for event tickets. **(GT) (TI) (Arrow)** 

NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF HISTORY, 5 E. Edenton St., includes exhibits focusing on 14,000 years of North Carolina history. The Story of North Carolina exhibit features artifacts and interactive multimedia presentations. Other exhibits highlight the state's military history, decorative arts and sports heroes. The North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame is within the museum. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (919) 814-7000.

NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES, downtown at 11 W. Jones St., explores the diverse geology, geography and wildlife of North Carolina. The four-story museum with nine exhibition halls is home to a fully restored skeleton of the predatory dinosaur Acrocanthosaurus. The state's natural treasures—everything from Venus flytraps and tiger beetles to fossilized shark teeth and scarlet tanagers—are exhibited on the first floor. Other exhibits include Mountains to the Sea, with live animals and a 20-foot waterfall.



#### RALEIGH - DOWNTOWN RALEIGH, NC 219

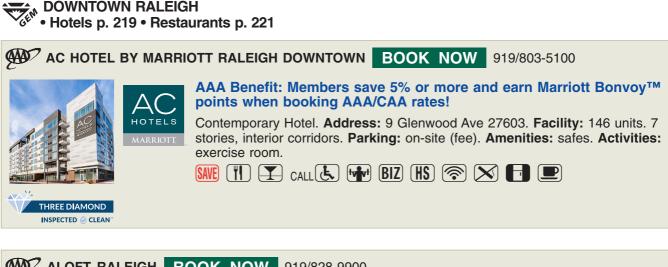
Five great whale skeletons are displayed in Coastal North Carolina, and visitors can walk among fluttering butterflies in the Living Conservatory. Highlights of a new 80,000-square-foot wing include the SECU Daily Planet, a three-story multimedia space for live programming of science news; a 10,000-gallon aquarium; and Investigate Labs, where visitors can participate in hands-on activities and research skill-building exercises.

**Time:** Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (919) 707-9800 or TTY (919) 715-6464. (1)

NORTH CAROLINA STATE CAPITOL, on Union Sq. at 1 E. Edenton St., is a restored Greek Revival structure built 1833-40 that houses the governor's office as well as historic rooms, artwork and exhibits. The 19thcentury house and senate chambers feature period wall colors, decorative finishes, original furniture and paintings. The restored State Library Room and State Geology Office reflect an 1850s appearance.

Of particular note is the centerpiece of the rotunda—a replica of the neoclassic marble sculpture of George Washington depicted as a Roman general. Commissioned by the state in 1815 and created by Italian artist Antonio Canova, the original sculpture was destroyed by fire in 1831 when the State House burned. A bronze statue of the first president also is displayed on Union Square, along with other statues and monuments, most of them works in bronze on stone bases.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (919) 733-4994, or (919) 807-7950 for tour information. **GT** 

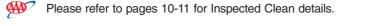


## ALOFT RALEIGH BOOK NOW 919/828-9900

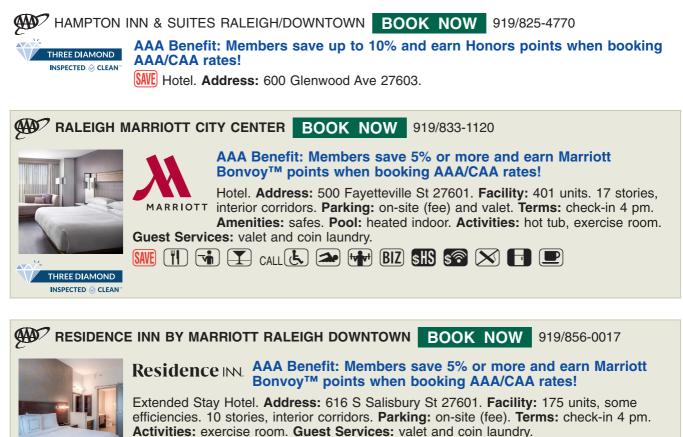




A VISION OF W HOTELS Hotel. Address: 2100 Hillsborough St 27607. Location: Across from North Carolina State University. Facility: 135 units. 7 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee). Amenities: safes. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.



THREE DIAMOND









## WHERE TO EAT

SECOND EMPIRE RESTAURANT & TAVERN 919/829-3663

American Fine Dining. Address: 330 Hillsborough St 27603.

## RALEIGH Hotels p. 221

FOUR DIAMOND





Contemporary Hotel. Address: 101 Park at North Hills St 27609. Facility: 135 units. 7 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site and valet. Amenities: safes. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.

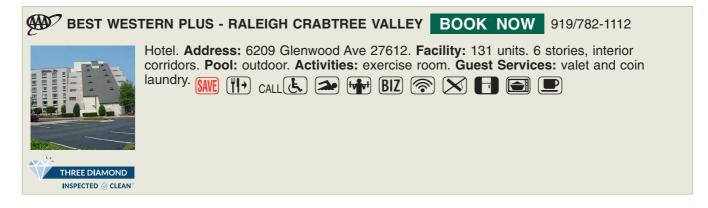
CALL ( ) IM BIZ ( ) X I



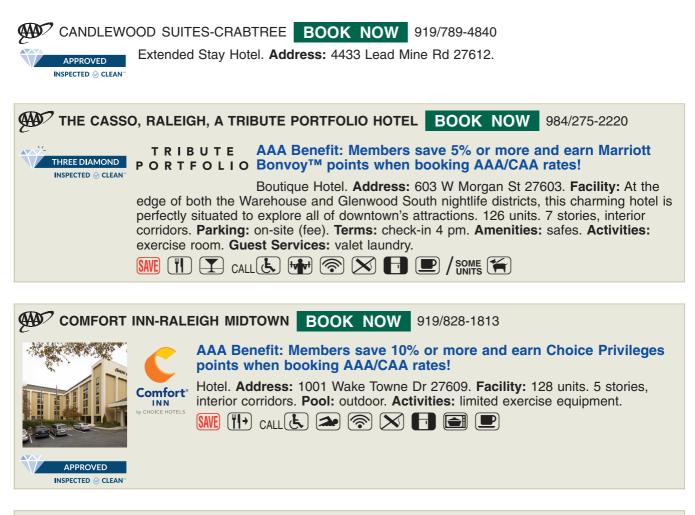


AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 10020 Sellona St 27617.

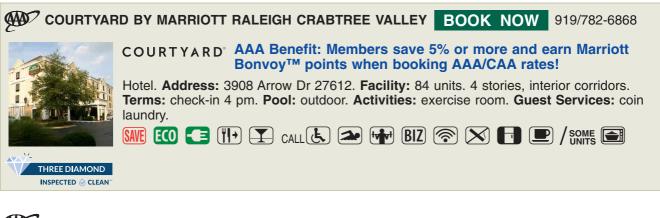












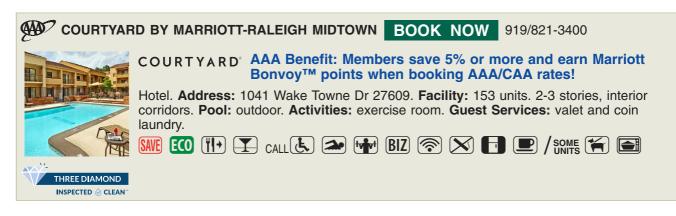
## COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT RALEIGH-DURHAM AIRPORT/BRIER

CREEK **BOOK NOW** 919/472-1000



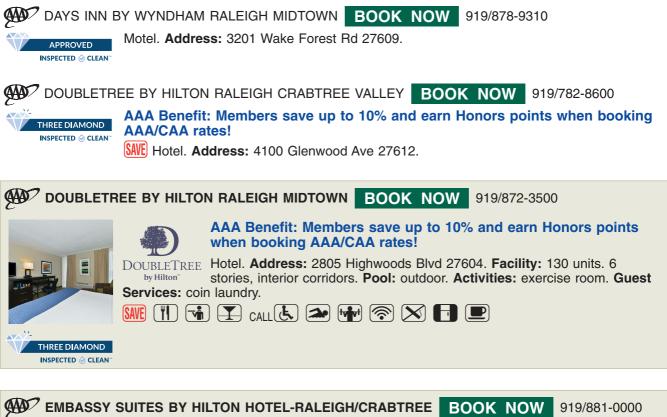
AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

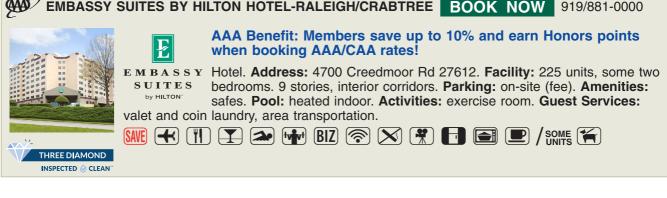
SAVE Hotel. Address: 10600 Little Brier Creek Ln 27617.











EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON RALEIGH-DURHAM AIRPORT BRIER

BOOK NOW 919/572-2200

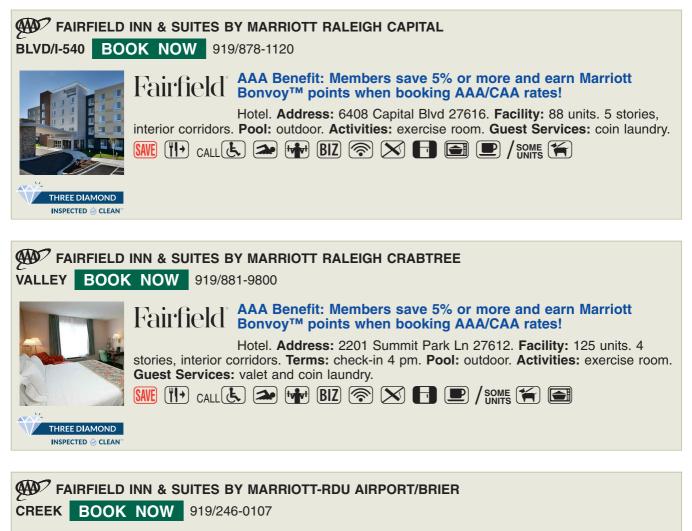


CREEK

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 8001 Arco Corporate Dr 27617.







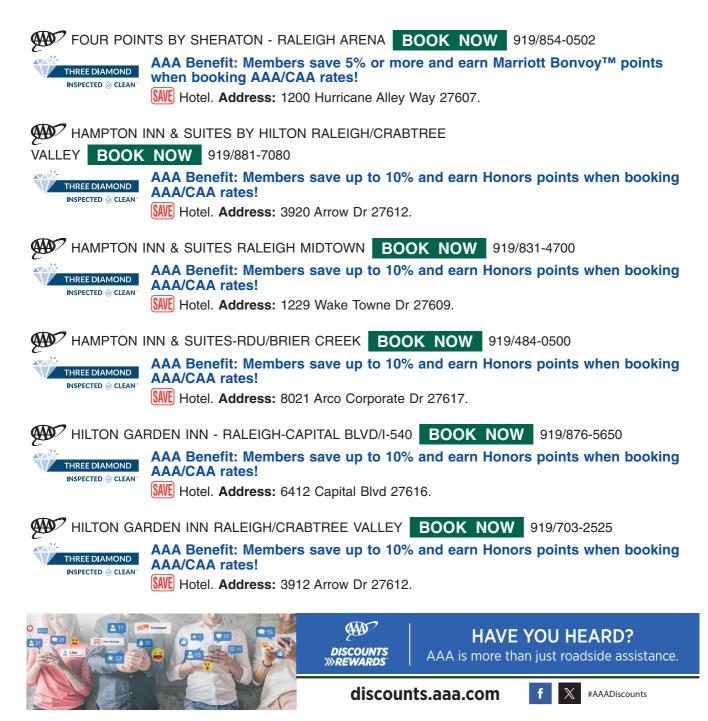
THREE DIAMOND

## Fairfield<sup>∗</sup> AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy<sup>™</sup> points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

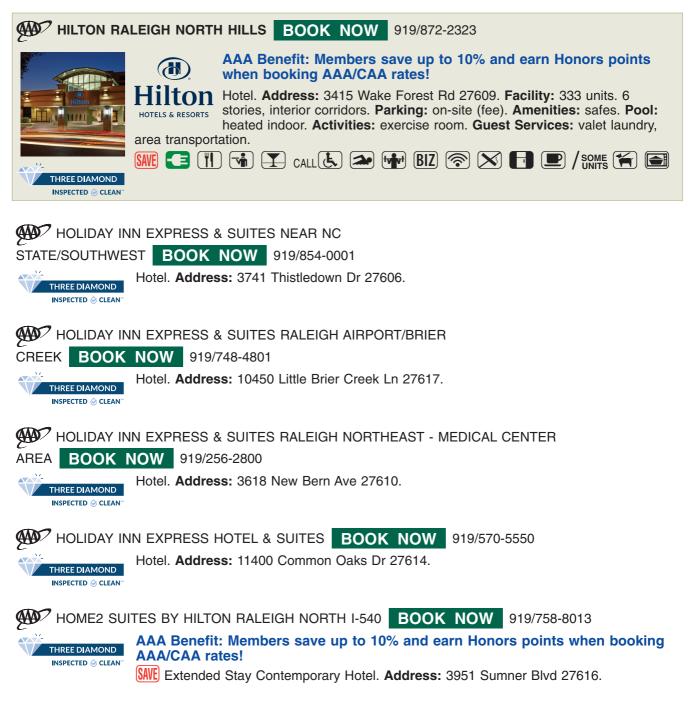
Hotel. Address: 10040 Sellona St 27617. Facility: 128 units. 6 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: hot tub, exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry, area transportation.













HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON RALEIGH STATE ARENA BOOK NOW 919/863-9330



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 6825 Chapel Hill Rd 27607.

HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON RALEIGH/CRABTREE VALLEY BOOK NOW 919/785-1131



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SWE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 5400 Homewood Banks Dr 27612.



 Image: Warth House Raleigh RDU/BRIER CREEK
 BOOK NOW
 919/405-7001

 Image: Warth House Raleigh RDU/BRIER CREEK
 BOOK NOW
 919/405-7001

 Image: Warth House Raleigh RDU/BRIER CREEK
 BOOK NOW
 919/405-7001

 Image: Warth House Raleigh RDU/BRIER CREEK
 BOOK NOW
 919/405-7001

 Image: Warth House Raleigh RDU/BRIER CREEK
 BOOK NOW
 919/405-7001

 Image: Warth House Raleigh RDU/BRIER CREEK
 AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn World of Hyatt points when booking AAA/CAA rates! Members also receive free breakfast at Hyatt Place/Hyatt House with their

 Vorld of Hyatt membership!
 Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 10030 Sellona St 27617. Facility: 130 units, some efficiencies. 6 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.

 Image: Warth Heater Warth Place/Hyatt House With Heir
 Image: Warth Place/Hyatt House With Heir

 Image: Image: Warth Place/Hyatt House
 Image: Warth Place/Hyatt House

 Image: Image: Image: Warth Place/Hyatt House
 Image: I





# HYAT house



RALEIGH DOWNTOWN SEABOARD STATION

Explore North Carolina's vibrant capital city from the Seaboard Station neighborhood, a lively downtown district that puts you steps from restaurants and shops, and close to Raleigh's main attractions: museums, entertainment, sports, PNC Center, Convention Center and more.

- Free breakfast Full kitchens Event facilities Pool
- Rooftop bar (skyline views) Pet-friendly Restaurant



11 Seaboard Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27604 | 984.326.7710



# Hit the Road with Identity Theft Protection

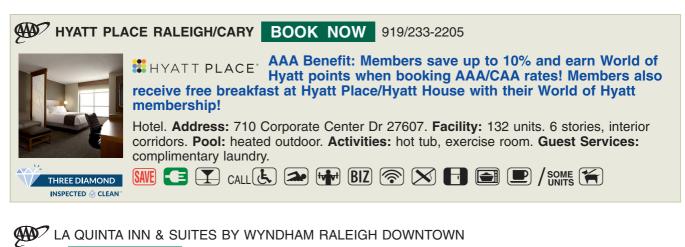
Identity thieves don't take vacations. Visit your local AAA office or online at AAA.com/IDTheft

All products not available at all locations.

HYATT HOUSE SEABOARD STATION BOOK NOW 984/326-7710

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn World of Hyatt points when booking AAA/CAA rates! Members also receive free breakfast at Hyatt Place/Hyatt House with their World of Hyatt membership!

(SAVE) [fyi] Hotel. Pending inspection, call for details. Address: 11 Seaboard Ave 27604.



NORTH BOOK NOW 919/821-0888



Hotel. Address: 2610 Westinghouse Blvd 27604.

MY MARRIOTT RALEIGH CRABTREE VALLEY BOOK NOW 919/781-7000



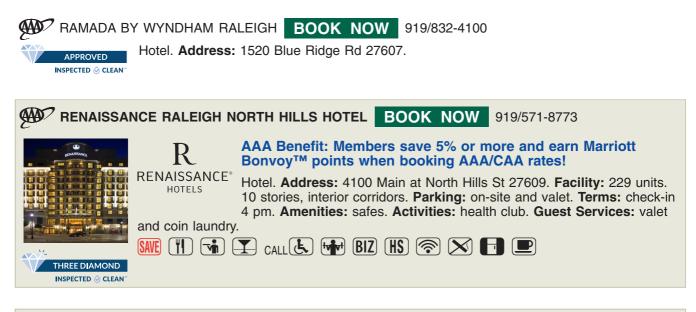
AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 4500 Marriott Dr 27612. Location: Across from Crabtree Valley Mall. Facility: 379 units. 6 stories, interior corridors. *Bath:* shower only. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry, boarding pass kiosk.











RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT RALEIGH-DURHAM AIRPORT/BRIER

BOOK NOW 919/472-1005

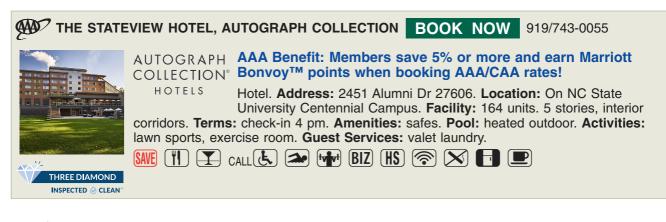


CREEK

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 10600 Little Brier Creek Ln 27617.





TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT - RALEIGH UNIVERSITY

AREA BOOK NOW 984/300-1410



INSPECTED 🔗 CLEAN

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 3771 Thistledown Dr 27606.





# REIDSVILLE

• Hotels p. 233

Incorporated in 1873, Reidsville is a former tobacco market. The Colonial Revival-style Penn House, 324 Maple Ave., was built in 1932 by tobacco executive Charles Penn. Tours are available by reservation; phone (336) 349-1099. **Reidsville Chamber of Commerce:** 140 S. Scales St., Reidsville, NC 27320. **Phone:** (336) 349-8481.

**Self-guiding tours:** A brochure describing a driving tour of several historic houses and buildings in town is available at the chamber of commerce.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL & SUITES BOOK NOW 336/361-4000

Hotel. Address: 101 Express Dr 27320.

#### **ROANOKE RAPIDS**

THREE DIAMOND

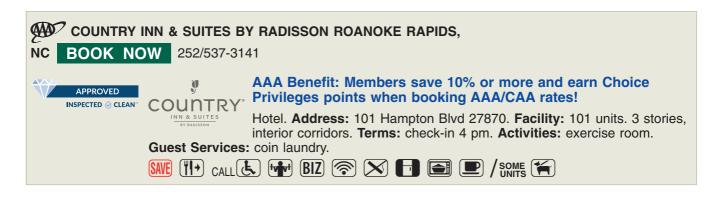
#### • Hotels p. 233

Incorporated in 1897, Roanoke Rapids grew up along the banks of the mighty Roanoke River. The river rapids are the result of the fall line, a granite shelf running the entire length of the East Coast. In the early 19th century, when the country's economy depended in large part on the transportation of goods from eastern seaports to points west, a canal was built to facilitate river commerce.

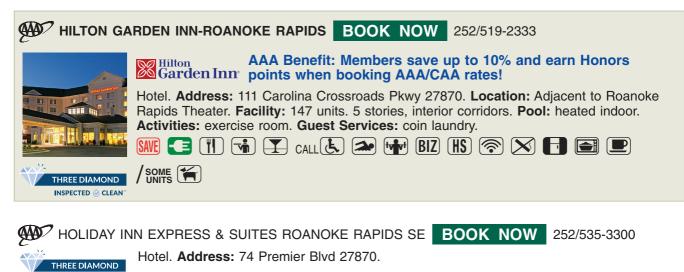
Today Roanoke Rapids is a popular stop off I-95, both as the first exit in North Carolina from Virginia as well as a notable midway point between New York and Florida. The 4,600-acre Roanoke Rapids Lake *(see Recreation Areas Chart)*, formed due to a hydropower dam, offers 50 miles of shoreline as well as bird-watching, fishing, kayaking and other outdoor adventures.

Nearby Weldon also is a popular fishing destination and is often called the "rockfish capital of the world." From mid-March to early June the Roanoke River is packed with rockfish, or striped bass, as the fish travel upriver to their spawning grounds. For more information or to book a guide, phone (800) 522-4282.

Halifax County Convention & Visitors Bureau: 260 Premier Blvd., Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870. Phone: (252) 535-1687 or (800) 522-4282.







## ROCKINGHAM

INSPECTED 🔗 CLEAN

• Hotels p. 234



#### **ROCKY MOUNT** • Hotels p. 235

Located on North Carolina's coastal plain, Rocky Mount was named for a large granite outcropping at the Falls of the Tar River. The surrounding area of the Falls, including the Cotton Mill building and Mill Village, dates back to the 1800s. The 3.9-mile Tar River Trail traces the banks of the Tar River; the Tar River Reservoir offers boating, water skiing, fishing, swimming and picnicking *(see Recreation Areas Chart)*. **Nash County Travel and Tourism:** 100 Coastline St., Suite 313, Rocky Mount, NC 27804. **Phone:** (252) 972-5080 or (800) 849-6825.

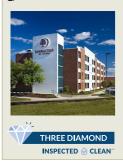
**THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM & SCIENCE CENTER AT THE IMPERIAL CENTRE** is at 270 Gay St. A live animal gallery allows visitors an up-close encounter with animals and their habitats. Other highlights include a touch tank and hands-on science and math exhibits. The planetarium features daily full-dome video presentations and laser light shows. **Time:** Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (252) 972-1266. **T** 







**DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL ROCKY MOUNT** BOOK NOW 252/937-6888



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

DOUBLETREE by Hilton Hotel. Address: 651 N Winstead Ave 27804. Location: Adjacent to Gateway Convention Center. Facility: 166 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: hot tub, exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.

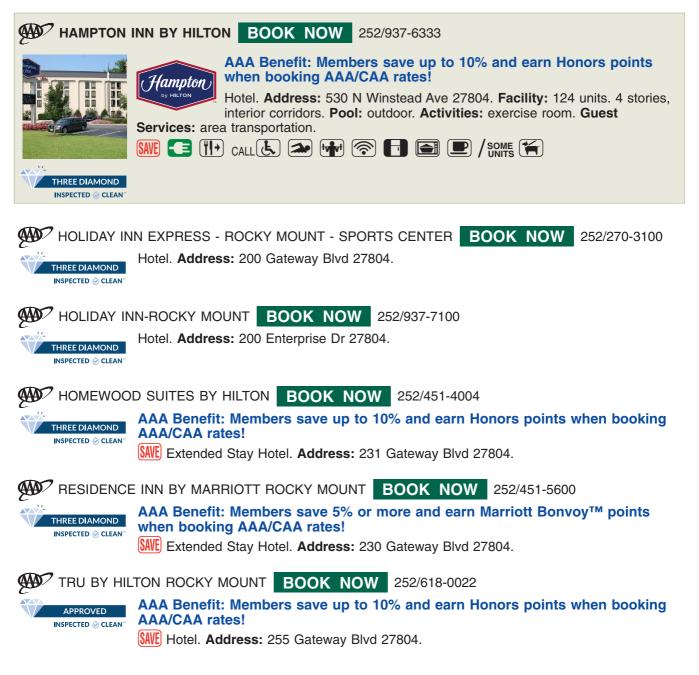


FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT ROCKY MOUNT BOOK NOW 252/221-9006

 AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 187 Wellspring Dr 27804.







#### RODANTHE - SALISBURY, NC 237

#### RODANTHE

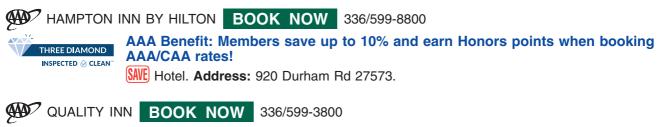
• Part of Outer Banks area— see map p. 212

#### **CHICAMACOMICO LIFE-SAVING STATION & MUSEUM**

is at 23645 SR 12 on Cape Hatteras. A precursor of today's U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Life-Saving Service was established in 1871 with a mission to rescue shipwreck victims. Commissioned in 1874, Chicamacomico was the first operational station in the state. A collection of photographs, documents and rescue gear allows visitors a glimpse into the lives of dedicated service members. Also on the grounds are eight historic buildings, including a station and house dating from 1911 and 1907, respectively. The station's operations manager was featured in the 2008 Hollywood romance "Nights in Rodanthe"; the house itself is three blocks away. Summer programs, including reenactments of the breeches buoy drill, are offered. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (252) 987-1552.

## ROXBORO

• Hotels p. 237



Motel. Address: 906 Durham Rd 27573.

## SALISBURY

#### • Hotels p. 238

Founded in 1753, Salisbury (SAULS-bur-y) was settled by Scot-Irish and German immigrants. It quickly became a trading, cultural and judicial center because of its location at the junction of two much-traveled routes. At different times during 1781 the city served as headquarters for the British general Lord Charles Cornwallis and Patriot general Nathanael Greene.

Salisbury was the site of one of the largest prison camps maintained by Confederate forces. About 5,000 Union soldiers died there and are buried in Salisbury National Cemetery, 202 Government Rd. One of the historic district's highlights is the Dr. Josephus Hall House, 226 S. Jackson St., the former home of the prison surgeon.

Civil War battles in 1865 destroyed most of the town, but the Rowan County Courthouse escaped damage. Styled after a Greek temple, it houses the Rowan Museum, which contains regional history exhibits; phone (704) 633-5946. Other historic buildings are the Thyatira Presbyterian Church, Grimes Mill and the Old Stone House.

Salisbury Rowan County Convention and Visitors Bureau: 204 E. Innes St., Suite 120, Salisbury, NC 28144. Phone: (704) 638-3100 or (800) 332-2343.

**Self-guiding tours:** The visitor center offers an audio driving tour covering the Salisbury Confederate Prison Site and National Cemetery, and a guided audio walking tour and brochure that describe the town's historic district. A driving tour brochure describing the African American Heritage Trail also is available.

**Shopping:** The Salisbury Emporium, 230 E. Kerr St., is a collection of more than 85 shops and galleries housed in the historic Frick Building. The merchandise includes art, antiques, books, furniture, garden accessories and military memorabilia.



#### 238 SALISBURY, NC





SWE Hotel. Address: 1001 Klumac Rd 28147.

## HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES BOOK NOW 704/314-4100



INSPECTED 🔗 CLEAN®

Hotel. Address: 125 Marriott Cir 28144. Facility: 90 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry. SAVE THE CALL (L) CALL (L) FOR BIZ (R) CALL (L) CALL

HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON BOOK NOW 980/432-8100



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 1300 Jake Alexander Blvd S 28146.



#### SANFORD — SHALLOTTE, NC 239

# SANFORD

Hotels p. 239

HOUSE IN THE HORSESHOE STATE HISTORIC SITE is 12 mi. w. on SR 42, then 4 mi. s. on SR 2307, following signs. Built in 1772 on a horseshoe bend of the Deep River, this two-story frame plantation house still bears the scars and bullet holes from a Revolutionary War skirmish. Benjamin Williams, a four-term governor of North Carolina, acquired the property in 1798, began planting cotton with enslaved labor, and died on the plantation in 1814. The interior is furnished with period antiques and is distinguished by elaborate woodwork.

Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (910) 947-2051. GT

HAMPTON INN BY HILTON SANFORD BOOK NOW 919/775-2000



SAVE Hotel. Address: 1904 S Horner Blvd 27330.

## SAPPHIRE Hotels p. 239

HAMPTON INN & SUITES-CASHIERS/SAPPHIRE VALLEY BOOK NOW 828/743-4545

[fyi] Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Three Diamond. Address: 3245 Hwy 64 E 28774.

## **SELMA**

Hotels p. 239



#### SHALLOTTE • Hotels p. 239





#### 240 SHELBY — SMITHFIELD, NC

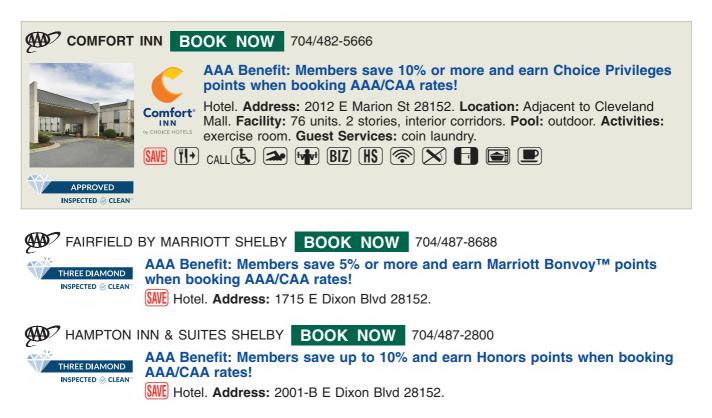
#### SHELBY

#### • Hotels p. 240

Shelby was home to a political dynasty that dominated North Carolina politics in the first half of the 20th century. The former residences of governors, senators and federal judges stand in the downtown historic district, where architectural styles range from Colonial Revival to Art Deco. The Shelby City Park Carousel operates year-round; phone (704) 484-6476.

Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce: 200 S. Lafayette St., Shelby, NC 28150. Phone: (704) 487-8521.

**Self-guiding tours:** A walking tour map of the historic district is available from the chamber of commerce.



SMITHFIELD

#### • Hotels p. 241

Chartered in 1777, Smithfield was named for John Smith, who owned much of the land on both sides of the nearby Neuse River. Downtown Smithfield has two separate historic districts; a walking tour follows the original Town Commons, now connected to 3-mile Buffalo Creek Greenway via the Neuse River Walk.

Johnston County Visitors Bureau: 234 Venture Dr., Smithfield, NC 27577. Phone: (919) 989-8687 or (800) 441-7829. **Shopping:** More than 80 discount stores can be found at Carolina Premium Outlets, exit 95 off I-95.

**AVA GARDNER MUSEUM** is off I-95 exit 95, then 1 mi. w. on US 70 Business Route to 325 E. Market St. It contains childhood memorabilia, film clips and costumes, posters, photographs, portraits, film scripts, magazine covers and other items related to screen star Gardner, who was born and raised just 7 miles east of town.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (919) 934-5830.







FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT

SMITHFIELD-SELMA/I-95 BOOK NOW 919/938-0050

 AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 809 Venture Dr 27577.

HAMPTON INN - SMITHFIELD/SELMA BOOK NOW 919/965-6151

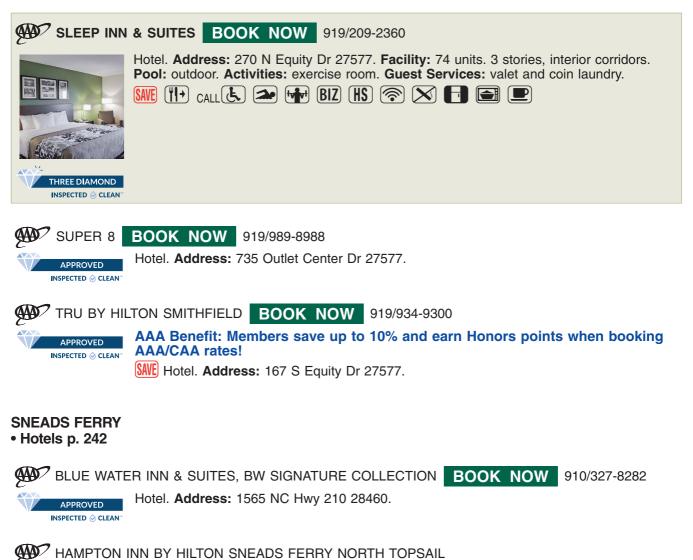


AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 160 Towne Centre PI 27577.







BEACH BOOK NOW 910/327-5555



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1248 NC 210 28460.



#### SOUTHERN PINES - SOUTHPORT, NC 243

## SOUTHERN PINES

• Hotels p. 243

An all-year resort area in the sandhills region, Southern Pines is known for mild winters, outstanding golf courses, equestrian events and beautiful pine trees. Many professional golf tournaments take place at area courses. Other popular activities are bicycling, hunting and tennis. Vendors display and sell antiques and vintage collectibles at the Shaw House Fair, held the second Saturday in October at the Historic House Museums. A 3-day Christmas open house also takes place on the second weekend in December.

**Pinehurst, Southern Pines, Aberdeen Area Convention and Visitors Bureau:** 10677 US 15/501, Southern Pines, NC 28388. **Phone:** (800) 346-5362.



MICROTEL INN & SUITES BY WYNDHAM SOUTHERN PINES **BOOK NOW** 910/693-3737 Hotel. **Address:** 205 Windstar PI 28387.

RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT-PINEHURST/SOUTHERN PINES BOOK NOW 910/693-3400



INSPECTED & CLEAN

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 105 Brucewood Rd 28387.

## SOUTHPORT

#### • Hotels p. 244

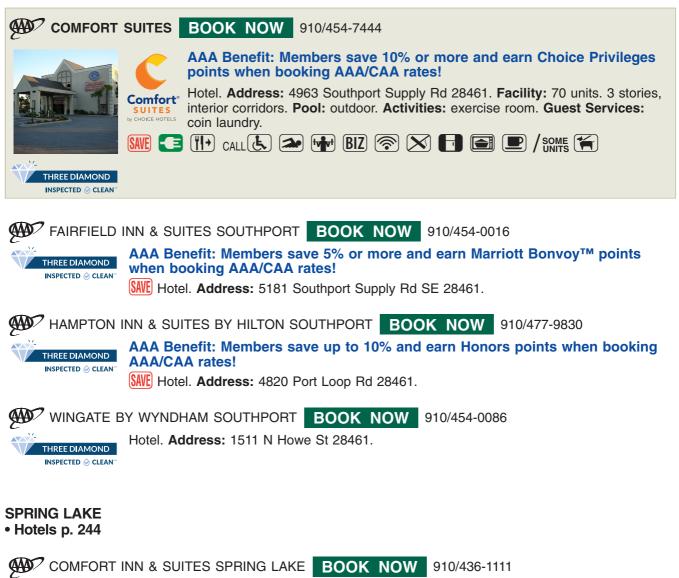
Midway between New York and Miami on the Intracoastal Waterway, Southport's yacht harbor is a popular stopping point for boat traffic. Charter boats for deep-sea fishing excursions are plentiful, and several piers accommodate land-bound anglers.

The city's position on a bluff at the mouth of the Cape Fear River made it a strategic location for Fort Johnston, built in 1764. Today the fort, which was rebuilt after being destroyed by fire in 1775, is occupied by the Commanding Officer of the U.S. Army's Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal.

Just across the Cape Fear River from Southport lies Bald Head Island, known for its pristine beaches, tidal creeks, salt marshes and absence of automobiles. The resort community on the island offers recreational activities, including daily bicycle and golf cart rentals. Ferry service from Southport is provided by Bald Head Island Transportation; phone (910) 457-5003 or (800) 234-1666.

Southport/Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce: 4433 Long Beach Rd. S.E., Southport, NC 28461. Phone: (910) 457-6964 or (800) 457-6964.







AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 115-A Lake Ave 28390.





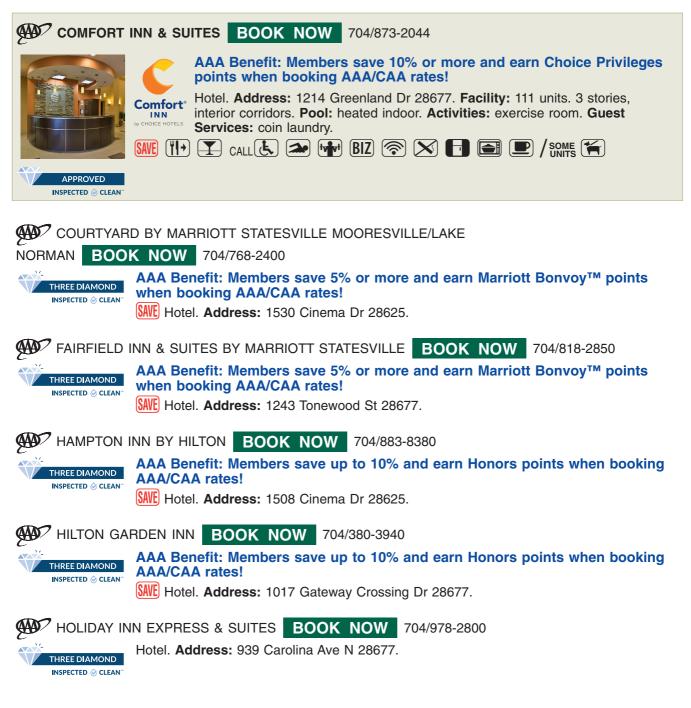
# • Hotels p. 245

Originally named Fourth Creek, Statesville was the site of Fort Dobbs, a British fort constructed in the 1700s to protect settlers on what was then the western frontier during the French and Indian and Cherokee wars. Today more than 100 historic buildings line downtown Statesville streets, and four residential historic districts feature restored homes.

Statesville Convention & Visitors Bureau: 118 W. Broad St., Statesville, NC 28677. Phone: (704) 878-3480 or (877) 531-1819.











#### SUNSET BEACH

Part of the Brunswick Island chain at the southernmost end of the North Carolina coast, the resort town of Sunset Beach is a quieter alternative to nearby Myrtle Beach, S.C. Boardwalks connect oceanfront properties with a wide stretch of beach and sand dunes. Shelling, fishing, birding and golfing are popular recreational pursuits.

## **SWANSBORO**

• Hotels p. 247



HAMPTON INN & SUITES-SWANSBORO BOOK NOW 910/325-9000



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 215 Old Hammock Rd 28584.





#### 248 SYLVA — THOMASVILLE, NC

#### SYLVA • Hotels p. 248

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES DILLSBORO BOOK NOW 828/631-1111



**(fyi)** Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Three Diamond. **Address:** 26 Rufus Robinson Rd 28779. **Facility:** 67 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. **Terms:** check-in 4 pm. **Amenities:** safes. **Pool:** heated indoor. **Activities:** hot tub, exercise room. **Guest Services:** coin laundry.

## SAVE CALL & 🖈 😽 BIZ 🛜 🗙 🗗 🖃 🛡

## TARBORO

Founded in 1760 as a county government center, Tarboro also became an important tobacco and cotton market. The scenic Tarboro Town Common, bounded by Albemarle and Park avenues and Wilson and Panola streets, dates back to the town's founding and features 15 acres of oakshaded lawn with statues, a fountain and a nature walk. **Tarboro Edgecombe Chamber of Commerce:** 509 Trade St., Tarboro, NC 27886. **Phone:** (252) 823-7241.

**Self-guiding tours:** The Tarboro Historic District National Recreation Trail highlights many carefully preserved Colonial, antebellum and Victorian homes. Brochures are available at the Blount-Bridgers House and at the chamber of commerce.

# THOMASVILLE





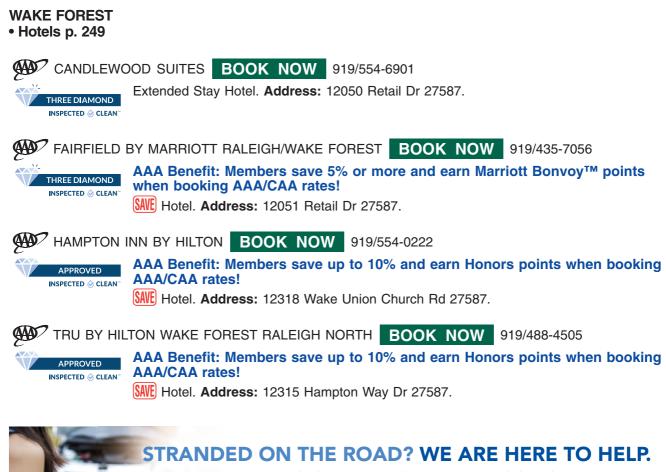


#### UWHARRIE NF - WAKE FOREST, NC 249

#### **UWHARRIE NATIONAL FOREST**

Elevations in the forest range from 500 ft. to 1,000 ft. Refer to AAA maps for additional elevation information.

Covering more than 50,000 acres in the North Carolina Piedmont region, Uwharrie National Forest was established in 1961 and is one of the smaller national forests. Named for the Uwharrie Mountains, the forest is traversed by the Uwharrie, Yadkin and Pee Dee rivers. Fishing and hunting are permitted in season. For information about regulations contact the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission; phone (919) 707-0010. The forest borders 8,000-acre Badin Lake, near Troy; campgrounds and boat ramps are available. For hikers, the 20mile Uwharrie Trail runs north to south through the national forest. The ranger station is 2 miles east of Troy on SR 24/27. For further information contact the District Ranger, 789 SR 24/27E, Troy, NC 27371; phone (910) 576-6391. See Recreation Areas Chart.



AAA Roadside Assistance has you covered directly through your mobile device. **AAA.com/RoadService** 



#### 250 WASHINGTON — WAXHAW, NC

#### WASHINGTON

#### • Hotels p. 250

In the early 1770s Washington was known as Forks of the Tar, named after the Tar River. It is the first known community in the United States to have been named for Gen. George Washington; the name appeared on letterheads as early as 1775 and was officially adopted in 1776.

Washington/Beaufort County Chamber of Commerce: 102 Stewart Pkwy., P.O. Box 665, Washington, NC 27889. Phone: (252) 946-9168.

Self-guiding tours: A walking-tour brochure available at the chamber of commerce visitor center describes a route that includes 30 noteworthy buildings, including the 1786 Beaufort County Courthouse and the 1795 Marsh House, which has a Civil War cannonball lodged in its facade.

THE NORTH CAROLINA ESTUARIUM, 223 E. Water St., utilizes some 200 exhibits, artwork, audiovisual presentations, a film and aquariums to educate visitors about the importance of estuaries—the lower portion or wide mouth of a river where outgoing freshwater currents meet the incoming salty tide. A pontoon boat tour of Tar-Pamlico River waterways is offered Wednesday through Saturday. Phone: (252) 948-0000. GT

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT WASHINGTON BOOK NOW 252/940-5630 AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED 🐼 CLEAN® when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 2090 W 15th St 27889.

#### WAXHAW

President Andrew Jackson was born in 1767 at the Old Waxhaw Settlement, a couple of miles southwest of town on the North Carolina/South Carolina border. After the War of 1812, a dispute arose as to whether he was born in North or South Carolina. Jackson maintained he was a native of South Carolina, and attempts to resolve the mystery by finding the remains of the McKemey cabin site, believed to be his birthplace, were unsuccessful. Present-day Waxhaw has a historic district filled with quaint old houses and commercial buildings.

Union County Chamber of Commerce: 216 W. North Main St., Waxhaw, NC 28173. Phone: (704) 289-4567.

Shopping: Downtown's Antique Village contains about a dozen shops in turn-of-the-20th-century buildings.

MEXICO-CARDENAS MUSEUM is 5 mi. s. of SR 75, following signs to 6403 Davis Rd. The museum honors Mexican president Lázaro Cárdenas and contains artifacts relating to Mexico's indigenous peoples. Pottery, costumes, folk art and photographs are displayed. A 1938 Chevrolet sedan, a gift from Cárdenas, also can be seen. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (704) 843-6045.

MUSEUM OF THE ALPHABET is 5 mi. s. of SR 75, following signs to 6409 Davis Rd. The museum is dedicated to the study of written language from ancient times to the present. Included are 12 rooms of exhibits about languages from around the globe, from Armenian and Brahmi to Cyrillic and Visigoth. Notations of music, Braille and sign language also are included.

Among other exhibits, visitors can view a replica of the Rosetta Stone and a working model of Gutenberg's press. Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (704) 843-6066.

MUSEUM OF THE WAXHAWS AND ANDREW JACKSON MEMORIAL is at 8215 Waxhaw Hwy. Named for its first inhabitants, the settlement was founded by the Scot-Irish about 1755. The museum's collection spans the years 1550-1900 and displays memorabilia and weapons from the Revolutionary and Civil wars, a working cotton gin, an exhibit dedicated to Andrew Jackson, Scot-Irish settlement artifacts and an 1814 Conestoga wagon. A short film detailing the history of the region also can be seen.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (704) 843-1832. [<del>-</del>**A**-]



#### WAYNESVILLE --- WEAVERVILLE, NC 251

## WAYNESVILLE

• Hotels p. 251

English, Scot-Irish, German and Dutch immigrants who relocated from the coast to the mountains in search of better land for hunting and farming settled in Waynesville in the 18th century. Originally called Mount Prospect, the town was renamed in honor of Revolutionary War general "Mad" Anthony Wayne. The World Methodist Council is headquartered at nearby Lake Junaluska.

Haywood County Chamber of Commerce: 28 Walnut St., Waynesville, NC 28786-0600. Phone: (828) 456-3021.

**Shopping:** Such necessities as stone-ground flour, work boots and jawbreaker candies are among the many wares on display at the old-fashioned Mast General Store, 63 N. Main St.



WAYNESVILLE INN AND GOLF CLUB **BOOK NOW** 828/456-3551 (**fyi**) Hotel. Under major renovation, call for details. **Address:** 176 Country Club Dr 28786.

THE YELLOW HOUSE ON PLOTT CREEK ROAD **BOOK NOW** 828/452-0991 **fyi** Bed & Breakfast. Under major renovation, call for details. **Last Designation:** Three Diamond. **Address:** 89 Oakview Dr 28786.

• Hotels p. 251

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT

ASHEVILLE/WEAVERVILLE BOOK NOW 828/645-9000



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 25 Fairfield Approach Dr 28787.



252 WHITSETT — WILLIAMSTON, NC

## WHITSETT

Hotels p. 252



THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED ☆ CLEAN<sup>-</sup> AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy<sup>™</sup> points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 3020 Hendren Rd 27377.

## WILKESBORO

• Hotels p. 252

THREE DIAMOND

INSPECTED 🔗 CLEAN®

HAMPTON INN BY HILTON BOOK NOW 336/838-5000

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1300 S Collegiate Dr 28697.



# WILLIAMSTON

• Hotels p. 253

Williamston was the birthplace of Asa Biggs, the first Confederate judge. A visitor center occupies the Federalstyle home where the Biggs family lived from 1835 until 1862, when they fled in advance of approaching Union forces.

Equestrian shows and various sports events take place in the indoor coliseum at the Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center, 2900 SR 125 South; phone (252) 792-5802 or (888) 792-5802.

**Martin County Visitor's Center:** in the NC TeleCenter at 415 East Blvd., P.O. Box 382, Williamston, NC 27892. **Phone:** (252) 792-6605 or (800) 776-8566.

**Self-guiding tours:** A walking tour brochure available from the visitor center describes the variety of architectural styles that can be seen in Williamston's two separate historic districts.



 HAMPTON INN BY HILTON BOOK NOW 252/809-1100
 APROVED INSPECTED © CLEAN
 AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!
 WF Hotel. Address: 1099 Hampton Ct 27892.
 HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS BOOK NOW 252/799-0100
 Hotel. Address: 1071 Cantle Ct 27892.
 Hotel. Address: 1071 Cantle Ct 27892.
 MF OULLITY INN BOOK NOW 252/792-8400
 Hotel. Address: 102 East Blvd 27892.

#### WILMINGTON

#### • Hotels p. 254 • Restaurants p. 259

Wilmington's history lives on in every blade of grass on Civil War battlefields and every grain of sand on some 30 miles of beaches. Situated between the Cape Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean, North Carolina's principal deepwater port was the scene of Stamp Act resistance in 1765.

Best explored by riverboat, horse-drawn carriage, trolley, Segway or on foot, the city's 230-block historic district is a treasure trove of cobblestone walkways, fishing piers, a scenic river walk, fine old homes and ancient cemeteries.

For those who can't get enough of the great outdoors, the beaches of Wilmington and its island beaches (Carolina Beach, Kure Beach and Wrightsville Beach) are hot spots for sailing, scuba diving, surfing and kite boarding. If you prefer to stay dry, hike a nature trail or discover a new favorite plant at the New Hanover County Arboretum, 6206 Oleander Dr. It has an array of exhibits designed to educate visitors about horticulture; phone (910) 798-7660.

In spring the right North Carolina Azalea Festival celebrates Wilmington's past and present with art, concerts, a parade, garden tours and a circus. Right Wilmington Riverfest, held the first or second weekend in October, draws crowds with art and craft displays, fireworks and children's entertainment. And movie buffs won't want to miss the Cucalorus Film Festival in November.

Wilmington and Beaches Convention & Visitors Bureau: 505 Nutt St., Unit A, Wilmington, NC 28401. Phone: (910) 341-4030 or (877) 406-2356. **Shopping:** A shopping spree in downtown Wilmington might make you feel as if you've stepped back into the 1940s and '50s. The renovated Cotton Exchange and Chandler's Wharf both contain boutiques and restaurants, and there are numerous antique shops. The Riverfront Farmers' Market features fresh produce from local growers as well as baked goods, flowers and crafts. The market, along North Water Street at Riverfront Park, is open Saturday mornings mid-April to late November.

**AIRLIE GARDENS** is at 300 Airlie Rd. Visitors can take a self-guiding tour of the 67-acre property, which includes 10 acres of freshwater lakes. Features include azaleas, camellias, statuary, a seasonal butterfly house and the historic Airlie Oak, dating from the mid-1500s. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (910) 798-7700.

**BATTLESHIP** *NORTH CAROLINA* is at jct. US 17 and US 421N, on the Cape Fear River at 1 Battleship Rd. Commissioned in 1941, the USS *North Carolina* served in every major naval offensive in the Pacific in World War II, earning 15 battle stars. A self-guiding tour, taking an average of 2 hours, enables visitors to explore portions of nine decks, allowing visits to the crew's quarters, the bridge, gun turrets and plotting, radio and engine rooms. Many exhibits depict the World War II experiences of crew members and their loved ones. **Phone:** (910) 399-9100. **GT** 

**BELLAMY MANSION MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND DE-SIGN ARTS**, 503 Market St., is a restored antebellum mansion showcasing social history and several architectural styles. A presentation provides background information about the site and former inhabitants, including



#### 254 WILMINGTON, NC

enslaved African Americans. Points of interest on a guided or self-guiding audio tour include rare, restored urban slave quarters. Changing exhibits also are featured. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (910) 251-3700. **GT** 

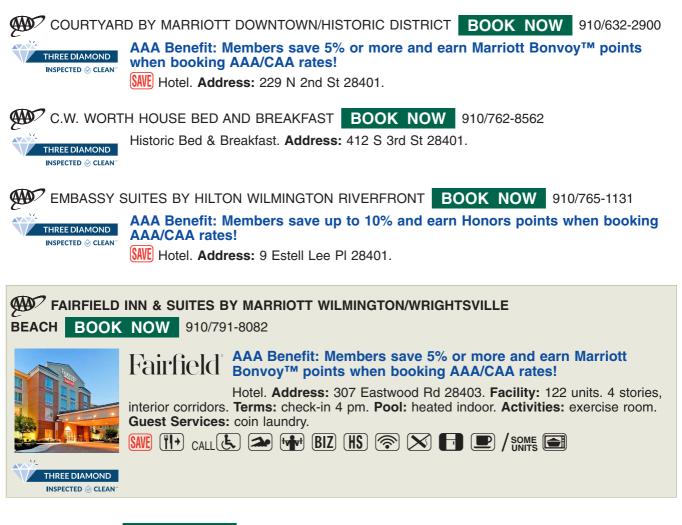
**CAMERON ART MUSEUM** is at 3201 S. 17th St. It houses an extensive collection of North Carolinian and American art from the 18th century to the present, including prints by Mary Cassatt and a collection of Seagrove Pottery. Pyramid Park includes a sculpture garden, Civil War battle site and Clay Studio at Pancoe Art Education Center. Changing exhibits and public programs are presented on a regular basis. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (910) 395-5999. **GT**  **THALIAN HALL,** 310 Chestnut St., is the only surviving theater designed by 19th-century architect John Montague Trimble. In continuous use since 1858, the theater presents more than 400 plays, films and musical performances annually. **Phone:** (910) 632-2241 for tour reservations, or (800) 523-2820 for ticket information. **GT** 

**WILMINGTON TROLLEY** departs from 106 S. Water St. Forty-five minute narrated tours give visitors a city overview. The trolley passes by many of Wilmington's historic homes, attractions and other points of interest. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (910) 763-4483. **GT** 









BOOK NOW GRAYSTONE INN 910/763-2000

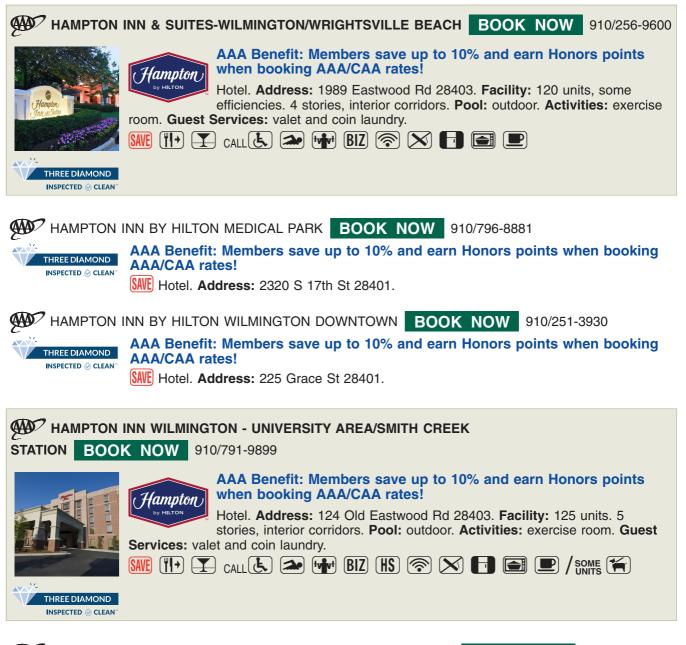
 $[\mathbf{fyi}]$  Classic Historic Bed & Breakfast. Under major renovation, call for details. Last Designation: Four Diamond. Address: 100 S 3rd St 28401.



## Love the great outdoors? Find places to camp

## at AAA.com/campgrounds





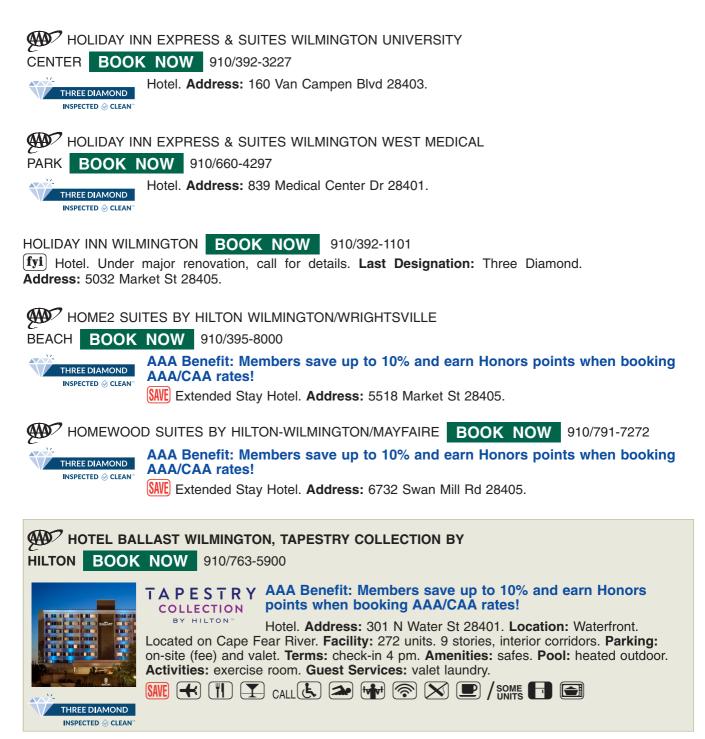
HILTON GARDEN INN WILMINGTON MAYFAIRE TOWN CENTER BOOK NOW 910/509-4046

THREE DIAMOND

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

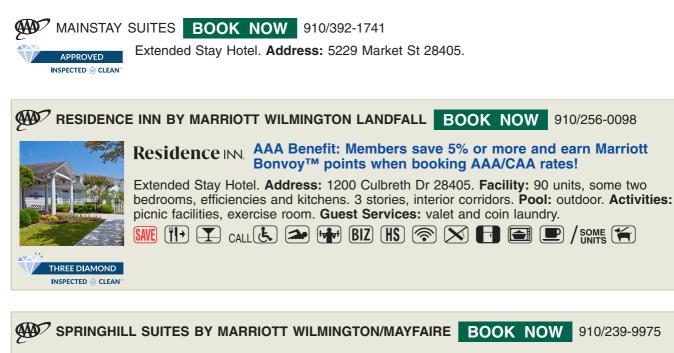
SAVE Hotel. Address: 6745 Rock Spring Rd 28405.







THREE DIAMOND



SPRIDGHILL SUITES<sup>™</sup> AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy<sup>™</sup> points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. **Address:** 1014 Ashes Dr 28405. **Location:** Adjacent to Forum Shopping Center. **Facility:** 120 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. **Pool:** outdoor. **Activities:** exercise room. **Guest Services:** valet and coin laundry.







## WINGATE BY WYNDHAM BOOK NOW 910/395-7011

Hotel. Address: 5126 Market St 28405.

#### WHERE TO EAT



THREE DIAMOND

New American Fine Dining. Address: 123 Princess St 28401.

# • Hotels p. 260

Wilson isn't just a place to pull off the highway if you're traveling down—or up—I-95, even though it's conveniently situated halfway between New York and Florida. Founded as a farming center in 1849 and once one of the world's largest tobacco markets, it's a city full of Southern charm, particularly in the downtown historic districts where streets are lined with fine old trees and lovingly restored turn-of-the-20th-century houses.

Lending Wilson a whimsical touch are whirligigs, windpropelled metal sculptures that dot the downtown area. The whirligigs were adopted in 2013 as the official folk art of North Carolina. Some of these sculptures are quite elaborate, incorporating both movement and sound; all were created by local folk artist Vollis Simpson. Check out the whirligigs in Hickory Grove Park (Kenan and Pine streets) and Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park (Goldsboro and South/Douglas streets). The Wilson Whirligig Festival, held the first weekend in November, pays tribute to the 'gigs with art and craft displays, food vendors and three stages for live entertainment.

Stop and smell the roses at the Wilson Rose Garden, 1800 Herring Ave. E. The All America selections on display range from old garden varieties to modern hybrids, and a dedicated corps of volunteer "dead heads" helps keep the bushes blooming. It's a lovely spot for a summer picnic. At the Wilson Botanical Gardens, 1806 Goldsboro St. S. on the grounds of the Wilson County Agricultural Building, stroll through butterfly, bird and perennial display gardens as well as a children's secret garden and a STEM garden, incorporating elements of science, technology, engineering and math programs.

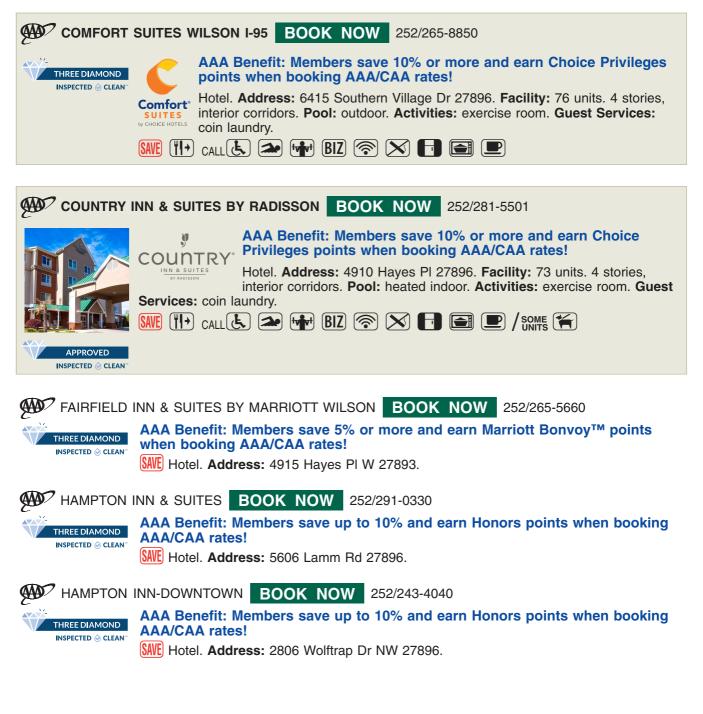
Theater, ballet, dance and symphony performances take place throughout the year at the Edna Boykin Cultural Center, downtown at 108 Nash St. N.E. Opened in 1919 as a vaudeville house, this renovated building provides a plush setting for the performing arts. The Wilson Arts Center, 124 Nash St. S.W., exhibits works by local and regional artists and is open Tues.-Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-3. Phone (252) 291-4329 for either facility.

The Oliver Nestus Freeman Roundhouse Museum, 1202 Nash St. S.E., focuses on African American history, art and culture and includes photographs that document the accomplishments of early 20th-century residents; phone (252) 296-3056. The North Carolina Baseball Museum, 300 Stadium St. S.W. at Historic Fleming Stadium, has a walk of fame and features memorabilia associated with Enos Slaughter, Jim "Catfish" Hunter and other North Carolina-born players; phone (252) 296-3048.

**Wilson Visitors Center:** 209 Broad St., Wilson, NC 27893. **Phone:** (252) 243-8440 or (800) 497-7398.

**Shopping:** Just as it is a city of trees, Wilson is also known as the "City of Antiques." More than 30 antique shops as well as seasonal flea markets offer all kinds of browsing opportunities. One of the biggest is Boone's Antiques, 2014 US 301. Items from all over the world are on display at this sprawling 4-acre store.









AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking

SAVE Hotel. Address: 3319 Heritage Dr W 27896.

#### WINSTON-SALEM

#### • Hotels p. 263

Winston-Salem dates from 1753, when a group of Pennsylvania Moravians purchased a large tract of land in the North Carolina Piedmont. Their settlement of Bethabara, meaning "House of Passage" or "Temporary Home," prospered and became a trading and crafts center. In 1766 Salem (from Shalom, Hebrew for "peace") was established nearby as the Moravians' permanent settlement.

Winston was founded in 1849. The tobacco and textile industries spurred rapid growth, and it eventually surpassed Salem. The two towns consolidated in 1913.

The city is home to the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, a branch of the University of North Carolina. The Stevens Center, a renovated 1929 movie palace at 405 W. 4th St., is one of the school's performance centers; for event information phone (336) 721-1945.

Other institutions of higher learning are Wake Forest University and Winston-Salem State University. Founded in 1892 as the Slater Industrial Academy, the latter university's name was changed to Winston-Salem Teacher's College in 1925. It was the first African American institution in the country to award degrees in elementary education. Salem College was founded in 1772 in the Moravian village; the school's female students attend classes on a 64-acre campus within the Old Salem Museums & Gardens complex (see attraction listing).

The biennial 🐨 National Black Theatre Festival, held during the summer in odd-numbered years, features workshops, film showings, storytelling, poetry jams and theatrical performances; phone (336) 723-2266.

The city's park system includes 16 miles of greenways popular with walkers, joggers, inline skaters and cyclists; for more information phone (336) 727-2063.

Winston-Salem Visitor Center: 200 Brookstown Ave... Winston-Salem, NC 27101. Phone: (336) 728-4200 or (866) 728-4200.

Shopping: Old Salem Museums and Gardens offers numerous shopping opportunities. Several stores in the vicinity of Salem Square offer fine furniture and home furnishings with an 18th-century Moravian influence. T. Bagge-Merchant is in a building where shopkeeper Traugott Bagge once operated the town store. The Downtown Arts District, at Sixth and Trade streets, is a center for many cultural activities and features numerous working studios, galleries and shops.

Among the more than 170 stores at Hanes Mall, off I-40, are Belk, Dillard's and JCPenney. The Historic West End has long been a meeting place for dining, strolling and browsing the many antique and consignment shops. Reynolda Village, next to the Reynolda House Museum of American Art, is a collection of boutiques and upscale restaurants occupying the barn and cottages of the former Reynolds estate.

KALEIDEUM NORTH is 7.5 mi. n. on US 52 to Hanes Mill Rd. exit 116, following signs to 400 W. Hanes Mill Rd. The center offers interactive physical and natural science exhibits, nature trails, live animal exhibits and a planetarium. The 15-acre Environmental Park has a barnyard area where visitors can see donkeys, cows, sheep and goats; outdoor animal habitats feature deer, a raccoon, a river otter and waterfowl. Outdoor Science Park includes an archeological dig site.

Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (336) 767-6730.

OLD SALEM MUSEUMS & GARDENS, at 900 Old Salem Rd. near downtown Winston-Salem, is a living-history re-creation of the Moravian church town of Salem that was founded in 1766. More than 100 buildings



erected over the next century are restored or have been reconstructed on their original sites. Family gardens and orchards have been replanted, and streets and lighting have been modified to suggest an 18th-century atmosphere.

Several buildings are private residences, including the half-timbered Fourth House; built in 1768, it is thought to be the oldest house in Old Salem. Twelve of the more than 90 restored buildings can be visited. Costumed interpreters throughout town demonstrate historic trades and domestic activities. The complex also is home to Salem College, a women's liberal arts school.

Self-guiding tours begin with a brief orientation program at the Old Salem Visitor Center, 900 Old Salem Rd. Attraction tickets can be purchased at the center, which contains exhibits detailing the history and lifestyle of the Moravian people. One noteworthy item is the restored Tannenberg Organ, made at the turn of the 19th century by David Tannenberg, a Moravian immigrant and organ builder. The Frank L. Horton Museum Center houses the Anne P. and Thomas A. Gray Library and the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts and MESDA Research Center.

Phone: (336) 721-7350 or (888) 653-7253. GT

**J. Blum House,** 724 S. Main St., was built in 1815 and was the home and shop of Salem printer John Christian Blum. It is part of the Old Salem Museums & Gardens complex and now features changing exhibits. **Phone:** (336) 721-7300 or (888) 653-7253.

**Market-Fire Engine House,** part of the Old Salem Museums & Gardens complex on Salem Sq., is divided into two sections. One holds two of the earliest fire engines used in North Carolina; the other is a former meat market. The original fire engines and firefighting equipment are displayed.

Phone: (336) 721-7300 or (888) 653-7253.

**Miksch Gardens and House,** part of the Old Salem Museums & Gardens complex on S. Main St. just n. of Salem Sq., was built in 1771 by Matthew Miksch. An enterprising man, Miksch sold tobacco, candles and gingerbread. Behind the house is a log shed where seasonal activities often are demonstrated.

Phone: (336) 721-7300 or (888) 653-7253.

**Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts** is at 924 S. Main St. in the Frank L. Horton Museum Center. Displayed in 24 rooms and seven galleries are furnishings and art produced from 1690 to 1820. The objects are exhibited in domestic settings, and many of the rooms were actually moved from older buildings.

**Phone:** (336) 721-7360, (336) 721-7300 or (888) 653-7253. **GT** 

**St. Philips Heritage Center,** at 900 Church St., is thought to be the oldest standing African American church in the state. The brick structure was built in 1861; an adjacent reconstruction of the 1823 log church interprets the African American experience in Moravian Salem.

Phone: (336) 721-7300 or (888) 653-7253.

**Salem Tavern Museum and Barn** are at 736 Main St. and part of the Old Salem Museums & Gardens complex. The tavern was built in 1784 and accommodated guests until 1850. The gentlemen's dining rooms, bedrooms and kitchen are furnished in period. George Washington was a guest for two nights in 1791. Behind the tavern is an 1840s heavy-timbered barn.

Phone: (336) 721-7300 or (888) 653-7253.

**Shultz Shoemaker Shop,** 712 S. Main St., was built in 1827 by Samuel Shultz and is part of the Old Salem Museums & Gardens complex. After operating his shoemaking business from his home for 8 years, Shultz built the separate shop next door, where he also made other leather items. Shoemaking is demonstrated. **Phone:** (336) 721-7300 or (888) 653-7253.

**Single Brothers' House and Gardens**, facing Salem Sq. at 600 S. Main St. and part of the Old Salem Museums & Gardens complex, is a half-timbered, brick structure dating from 1769 with a 1786 addition. It served as the home and workplace for the community's single men and older boys. The building includes a dining room, kitchen, meeting hall and trade shops in which costumed artisans can be seen at work. Pewter casting, tailoring, blacksmithing and furniture making are among the demonstrations.

Phone: (336) 721-7300 or (888) 653-7253.

**T. Vogler Gunsmith Shop** is at 913 S. Main St., near the Horton Museum Center. Visitors can observe a blacksmith working at the forge and learn about the gun-making process as they view craftspeople creating rifles and pistols. **Phone:** (336) 721-7300 or (888) 653-7253.

Vierling House and Barn is at 500 Church St., near God's Acre. Once the largest house in Salem, it was the residence of Dr. Benjamin Vierling, a prominent physician. Inside are an apothecary shop, dining room, kitchen and family quarters. A medical and health care exhibit is upstairs. At the rear of the 1802 building is a furnished wash-bake house where household chores often are demonstrated.

Phone: (336) 721-7300 or (888) 653-7253.

**Winkler Bakery,** on S. Main St., n. of Salem Sq., was built in 1800 and is part of the Old Salem Museums & Gardens complex. Inside the restored building, bakers demonstrate early baking methods using historic recipes



and a wood-fired brick beehive oven. **Phone:** (336) 721-7300 or (888) 653-7253.

**REYNOLDA HOUSE MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART** is at 2250 Reynolda Rd. near Wake Forest University. This 64-room country house, built over a 5-year period beginning in 1912, is the former home of Katharine Smith and R.J. Reynolds and stands on what originally was a 1,067-acre estate. Restored in period style, it contains a fine collection of furnishings and American paintings, prints and sculpture from 1755 to the present. The works of Mary Cassatt, Frederic Church, John Singleton Copley, Thomas Eakins, Jacob Lawrence, Gilbert Stuart and Andrew Wyeth are represented.

Also of interest are a ladies' costume collection that focuses on the first half of the 20th century, an Aeolian organ, family clothing and memorabilia dating from 1905, and vintage children's toys. Original model farm buildings have been converted into a village with shopping and dining. Japanese cherry trees bloom in late March or early April, and the gardens offer lush seasonal vistas.

A 30,000-square-foot exhibition wing includes a visitor's center, museum shop, changing exhibits, oral history stations and a video.

**Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (336) 758-5150 or (888) 663-1149.

**TRIAD ECO ADVENTURES/PEDEGO PIEDMONT TRIAD**, 176 YWCA Way, departs from various locations. The tourism company offers a selection of electric bike and paddleboard rentals as well as Segway, electric bike and trolley tours that highlight the Piedmont Triad of North Carolina. The most popular Segway tour is the Segs'N'city Tour/Exercise, where you can hop aboard a two-wheeled electric Segway vehicle for a 2-hour tour of downtown Winston-Salem. Sights seen along the way include the Trade Street Arts District, Millennium Center, 4th Street Restaurant Row, and tobacco and textile plants. Other tours range in length from 1-3 hours.

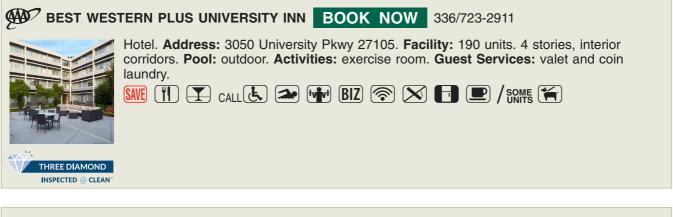
**Note:** Segway tours begin with a Segway PT video orientation and indoor training session. Inquire about weather and refund policies. **Phone:** (336) 722-777. **(GT)** 

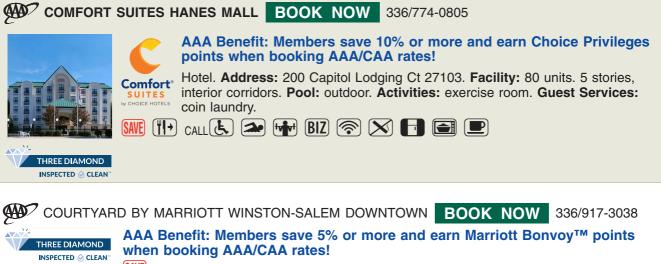
**WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY** is off Silas Creek Pkwy. at 1834 Wake Forest Rd. Campus highlights include the university's art collection in the Benson University Center, the Wait Chapel Carillon and the Scales Fine Arts Center. Campus tours can be arranged through the admissions office. **Phone:** (336) 758-5201.

**Timothy S. Y. Lam Museum of Anthropology** is at Palmer Hall, Building No. 31, off Carroll Weathers Drive, on the Wake Forest University Reynolda Campus. The museum is North Carolina's only museum devoted to the study of various world cultures. A collection of artifacts from the Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania includes household and ceremonial items, textiles, hunting and fishing gear and objects used for personal adornment. **Phone:** (336) 758-5282.

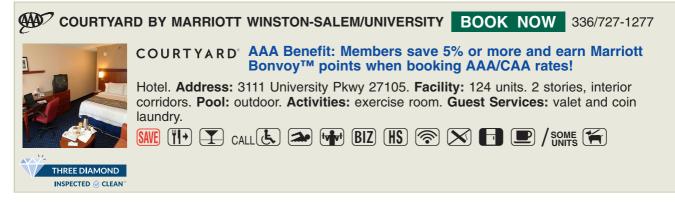




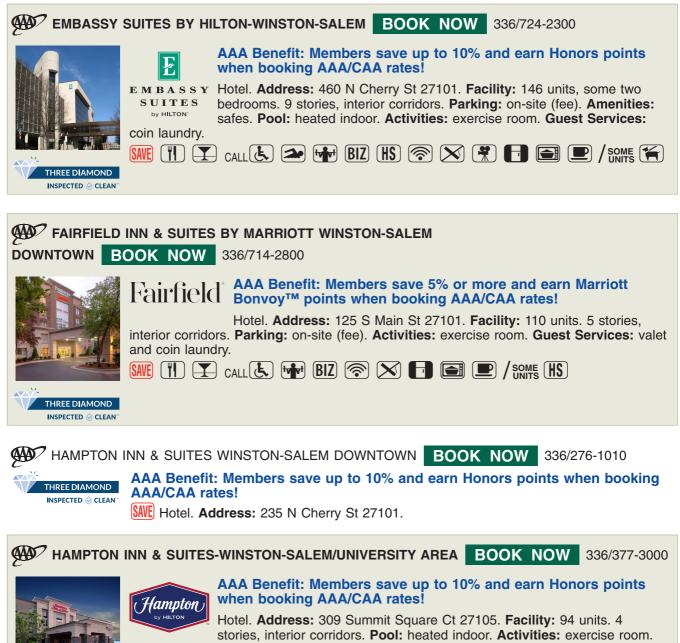




SAVE Hotel. Address: 640 W 4th St 27101.

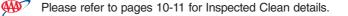




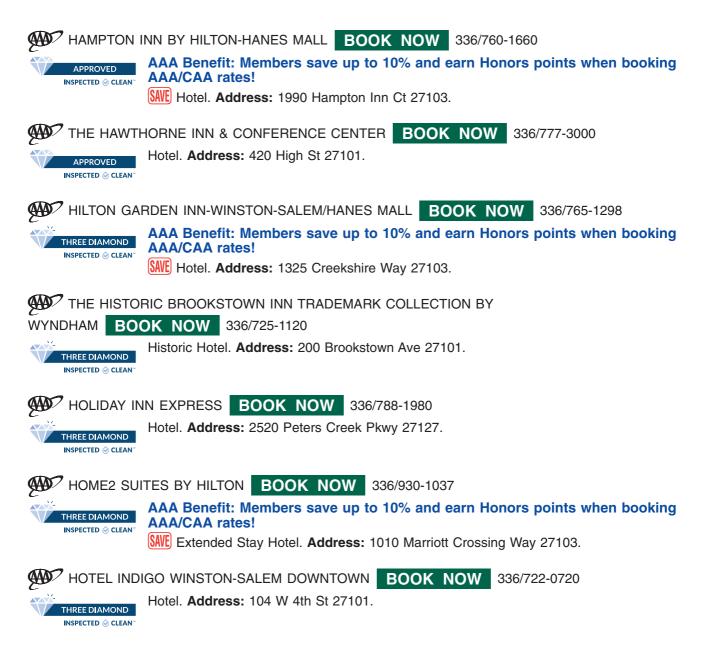


Guest Services: coin laundry.

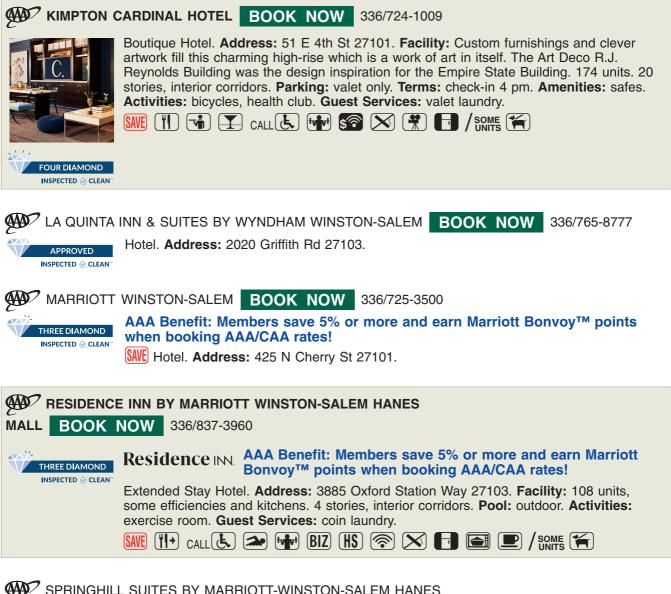




#### 266 WINSTON-SALEM, NC







SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT-WINSTON-SALEM HANES



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1015 Marriott Crossing Way 27103.



### WRIGHT BROTHERS NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Part of Outer Banks area— see map p. 212

This 431-acre area on the Outer Banks is on the US 158 bypass, at Milepost 7.5 in Kill Devil Hills. The Wright Memorial atop Big Kill Devil Hill was dedicated in November 1932 to Orville and Wilbur Wright "in commemoration of the conquest of the air." The first sustained flights by a

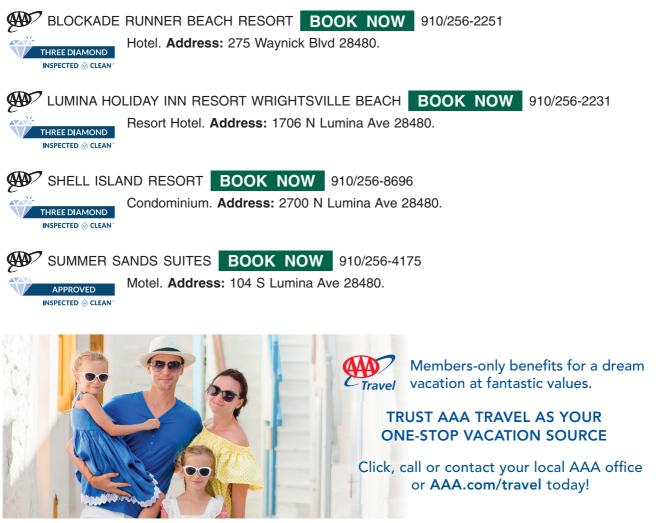
### WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH

#### • Hotels p. 268

heavier-than-air powered machine were made nearby on Dec. 17, 1903.

The visitor center contains reproductions of the 1902 glider and 1903 flyer as well as displays about the evolution of aviation and NASA space exhibits. The grounds have markers showing the distance traveled during the first four flights as well as reproductions of the Wright brothers' living quarters and hangar buildings.

Allow 1 hour minimum. Daily 9-5. Closed Christmas. Admission \$10; free (ages 0-15). Phone (252) 473-2111.



## **ICON LEGEND**

- SAVE) AAA Discounts & Rewards® member discount
- ECO Eco-certified by government or private organization.
- Electric vehicle charging station on premises.
- Smoke-free premises

### In select cities only:

(fyi) Indicates the property has not been inspected, but is included as an "information only" service.

## SERVICES

- Airport transportation
- Pet friendly (Call for restrictions/fees.)
- ( 👖 ) Restaurant on premises
- Restaurant off premises
- 🖼 Room service for 2 or more meals
- 📕 于 Full bar
- 🚺 🗋 Child care
- **BIZ** Business center
- Accessible features (Call property for available services and amenities.)

## **AMENITIES**



## Full-service casino

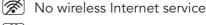
- 🔎 Pool
- Health club or exercise room on premises
- (HS) High-speed Internet service
- **\$HS** High-speed Internet service (Call property for fees.)



🛜 Wireless Internet service

Please refer to pages 10-11 for Inspected Clean details.

S Wireless Internet service (Call property for fees.)



- 😤 🛛 Pay movies
- Refrigerator
- Microwave
- Coffeemaker
- 🔏 No air conditioning
- No TV
- 🙍 No telephones

## SAFETY FEATURES

- S No sprinklers
- **SO** No smoke detectors

## DINING

- 🔪 Designated smoking section
- **B** Breakfast
- L Lunch
- D Dinner
- 24 Open 24 hours
- [LATE] Open after 11 p.m.

## **ATTRACTIONS**

- **GT** Guided Tours available
- Camping facilities
- - $\left[\mathcal{X}\right]$  Recreational activities

  - Designates an attraction of exceptional interest and quality. AAA GEM — a Great Experience for Members<sup>®</sup>.