

Dr. D's Adventure Guide:
Greenville and Eastern North Carolina

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Introduction

First things first, this should not be considered an all-inclusive travel or visitor's guide to the Greenville area. Instead, it is a subjective *Adventure Guide* primarily focused on my own preferences. The original list was created to help my fellow residents find places to hike and get outdoors in the area. With that disclaimer, this guide will show you there's a lot more to do, places to hike, and interesting things see, eat, kayak, and even pet in Eastern North Carolina (ENC) than you probably thought.

Part of the inspiration for making this guide was that this information isn't easy to find, nor is it compiled anywhere else. ENC is a bit forgotten as far as NC tourism goes. Everyone flocks to the Western NC mountains or to the coastal beaches – and there are more than enough guides on the internet for those areas. Even the central Piedmont region, with its large towns, has adequate information readily available. So, this guide mostly (but not completely) ignores those areas. Raleigh, the capital city, is only about 1.5 hours away and has a very well-developed food scene, but I have largely excluded it from the list. Similarly, I know that the beaches being so close to Greenville is a huge draw to the area. However, as entire books have been written about them, I will keep it brief in this guide.

One thing I often hear about ENC is "but all the good stuff is so far away." And this is partially true. ENC is a massive land area to cover and many things can seem very far apart, at least miles-wise. However, without the hassle of any big city driving, all those miles are relatively hassle free. The scenic country driving is an attraction for the area itself.

I cannot promise *everything* in the guide will be fun to you. However, items with a 😊 are a **Dr. D Favorite and a pretty much guaranteed good time.**

Now, to add a sense of accomplishment (and maybe competition between fellow residents), each item listed has check box for you to track your experiences. Here are the total numbers of things for you to check off your list:

FOOD: 99

HIKING: 131

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES: 140

OTHER ADVENTURES: 94

TOTAL: 474

Let's see how many you can do in your residency. At the time of publishing this list, I have personally completed 193/453 recommendations. I have some work to do.

I want to thank a few of my contributors: Matt Iandoli, Andrew Stern, Chelsea Donathan, and my editor Kaysee Donathan.

Enjoy your exploration of all Eastern North Carolina has to offer.

Food

Food will be somewhat brief. I don't eat out much and when I do, I have high standards or I want something unique, so that's what this list entails. In general, if you're looking for some good stuff, Raleigh has an amazing food scene and Wilmington has the superior seafood.

Local and State Food Trails

- North Carolina BBQ Trail:** Spans the whole state with two locations in the Greenville area. Twenty of the best "Old School" BBQ joints in the state.
- Pitt County Brew and Cue Trail:** BBQ and Beer trail in Greenville's county, pick up your "passport" in the visitor's center and visit them all.
- Little Washington Taco Trail:** Ten places to get tacos across little Washington. 30 Minutes from Greenville.
- Johnson County Beer, Wine, and Shine Trail:** 1 hour away from Greenville. 20+ sites.
- Johnson County BBQ Trail:** Good mix of old and new BBQ.
- Lexington BBQ Trail:** NC BBQ is split into Eastern and Western style. The Lexington trail is the Western style, and all the Pitt and Johnson County trails are Eastern style.
- Raleigh Beer Trail:** Showcasing a collection of the local breweries in Wake County.
- 😊 **Western NC Cheese Trail:** Spread out along the Appalachian Mountains of Western NC from Asheville up to West Jefferson; showcases some great local cheese and dairy products.

Good Eats in Greenville

BREAKFAST AND BRUNCH:

- Winslows**
- The Scullery**
- Duck Donuts** (Cake Donuts in a wide variety of flavors)

LUNCH/ DINNER:

- Mario's Tacos:** 5 minutes from the hospital, about the closest thing we have to authentic Mexican food.
- Cinnamon:** Indian cuisine, see below.
- 😊 **Kasturi:** The Indian food scene in Greenville is surprisingly good with these two offerings. Everyone has their favorite. Try them both then join the debate. Dr. Sarwar approves Kasturi; my wife votes Cinnamon.
- A Travola Market:** Italian; also has a small market inside for some take-home options.
- Villa Verde:** Dominican cuisine. New location is across the street from the hospital.
- Sup Dogs:** ESPN named it as one of the best college bars in country, likely because they drank all the alcohol this place had before rating it.
- B's BBQ:** Get here early, they are usually sold out by 1pm, and if you want the prime cuts or something like Baby Back Ribs then you must get here before 10am, especially on the weekends.
- Vidant Farm Box:** Not a restaurant but during the summer and fall you can sign up for a weekend vegetable box delivered to the hospital by local farmers. \$25 per box delivery.

DESSERT:

- 😊 **Simply Natural Creamery:** Local farm that makes its own ice cream. Christmas brings the best eggnog ever.
- Smashed Waffle:** Waffles with decadent toppings.

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Good Eats Near Greenville

I place a high emphasis on farm to table restaurants, because if you're going to live in a rural area you might as well eat the perks. There are also some local food staples and traditions. Be aware, I don't make many comments on price of food on the list. There are too many good restaurants in Raleigh, so I'll only mention one unique one.

- 😊 **Bida Manda:** *Raleigh, 1 hour 30 minutes* – Laotian cuisine.
- Skylight Inn BBQ:** *Ayden, 15 minutes* – On all the best BBQ lists.
- Yoder's Dutch Pantry:** *Grifton, 30 minutes* – Café and market, great breakfast.
- On The Square:** *Tarboro, 30 minutes* – Farm to table restaurant with a seasonal menu.
- Flo's Kitchen in Wilson:** *Wilson, 30 minutes* – Commonly called the best biscuit in North Carolina.
- Chef and The Farmer:** *Kinston, 40 minutes* – Local celebrity Chef Vivian Howard has two restaurants in the area, this and Boiler Room.
- Boiler Room Oyster Bar:** *Kinston, 40 minutes* – The other Chef Vivian Howard restaurant, more of seafood and bar vibe, cheaper alternative.
- Spoon River Artworks and Market:** *Belhaven, 1 hour* – Known for surf-and-turf farm to table. A bit expensive, has a wine market and sells the art on the walls.
- The Hen & The Hog:** *Halifax, 1 hour 10 minutes* – Southern-style farm to table, and it won't absolutely kill the resident budget.
- Mikes Farm:** *Richlands, 1:10* – This place is an outdoor family-style seating southern restaurant that also has a large store called the North Carolina Products Barn. They specialize in Agro-Tourism, so take a tour of the farm, visit the store for some local fare, and then sit down at the restaurant.
- The Country Barn:** *Beulaville, 1:10* – Southern breakfast specialist.
- The Tippy Bee:** *Chinquapin, 1 hour 15 minutes* – Wine, cheese, bakery, soda fountain, homemade ice cream! This place has it all.
- 😊 **Redneck BBQ Lab:** *Benson, 1 hour 15 minutes* – Modern Eastern NC BBQ. This was a BBQ competition team who only recently opened their own place.
- Sunni Sky's Homemade Ice Cream:** *Angier, 1 hour 15 minute* – Once or twice or ten times voted best homemade ice cream in the state, if you're into that kind of thing.
- 😊 **Andia's Homemade Ice Cream:** *Raleigh, 1 hour 30 minutes* – Despite the name the ice cream isn't actually homemade, but just google images of their creations and go right now.
- 😊 **Catch:** *Wilmington, 2 hours 20 minutes* – Expensive, but it's the freshest seafood.
- The Colington Café:** *Kill Devil Hills, 2 hours 20 minutes* – Yeah, it's expensive but you're paying for some excellent local seafood.

Local Breweries

- Uptown Brewing:** Large selection of in-house brews, on Main Street downtown.
- Pitt Street Brewing:** Dickinson Avenue, lots of outside seating and known for trivia nights.
- Mpourium:** Largest selection of beers here in town. Pay by the ounce.
- Local Oak:** Disk golf on site and outdoor space for hanging out – you can bring your dog.
- Nauti Dog:** Next door to restaurant at Main and Mill, good eats and drinks.
- Tapped:** Large selection of local craft brews, food trucks on site, sports bar-like atmosphere.
- The Duck-Rabbit Brewing Company:** *Farmville, 20 minutes* - One of the oldest and most well-known.
- Mother Earth:** *Kinston, 35 Minutes* – One of the largest, downtown Kinston near great restaurants.

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Wine and Dine

While North Carolina wine is usually thought of as a mountain tradition and for good reason (there are over 60 wineries in the mountain region) the east has its fair share of worthwhile stops too. Wine on this side of the state is dominated by the scuppernong grape. This region even hosts the scuppernong "mother vine" - the oldest living vine in the US. Circa 1584, it can be found in Manteo on Roanoke Island at the Outer Banks.

- Seven Pines Vineyard:** *Greenville* – Sells wine at the local farmers markets. No visitation.
- A Secret Garden Winery:** *Goldsboro, 45 Minutes* – \$10 golf cart tour, tasting room on site.
- Blackwater Cider:** *Williamston, 50 minutes* – A shop with no winery or farm.
- 😊 **Country Squire Winery:** *Kenansville, 1 hour 15 minutes* – Restaurant, tasting room, inn and tours.
- 😊 **Hinnant Family Vineyards:** *Selma, 1 hour 15 minutes* – Tours, tastings, and wine flights.
- Huffman Vineyards:** *Richlands, 1 hour* – Tasting room.
- Vineyards of the Scuppernong:** *Manteo, 1 hour 30 minutes* – Tasting room only.
- Lake Road Winery:** *New Port, 1 hour 30 minutes* – Tasting room at the winery.
- 😊 **Duplin Winery:** *Rose Hill, 1 hour 30 minutes* – Tours, tasting room, and restaurant.
- Bannerman Vineyard and Winery:** *Burgaw, 1 hour 45 minutes* – On-site tastings.
- OBX Winery:** *Kill Devil Hills, 2 hours* – Tasting room at the beach.
- Martin Farm and Winery:** *Knotts Island, 2 hours 25 minutes* – Tastings and tours.
- 😊 **Devine Llama Vineyards:** *Outside Winston Salem, 3 hours 15 minutes* – A winery that comes with the ability to pet and feed llamas! What else do you need to know? You can even walk them on a leash.

Farmers Markets and Other Shops

- 😊 **Leroy James Farmers Market:** *Greenville* – Usually open weekends but times change with the season. On the south side of town; it is the best farmers market for locally sourced fruits, vegetables, and meats.
- Umbrella Market:** *Greenville* - Wednesday nights in downtown (seasonally).
- Dickinson Ave Farmers and Makers Mart:** *Greenville, Downtown* – A permanent store that has art and crafts but also has some fresh local food, especially seafood, delivered on Thursdays.
- Kinston Farmers Market:** *Kinston, 30 minutes* – Saturdays; Right in downtown Kinston on the river, great location, usually only has 6-8 booths.
- 😊 **Reynolds Seafood:** *Kinston, 35 Minutes* – The best fresh seafood market outside of the beach.
- Wilson Farmers and Artisans Market:** *Wilson, 30 minutes* – Saturday mornings, 10-15 booths.
- Washington Farmers Market:** *Washington, 40 minutes* – Saturdays; Has been lackluster the last two years with only 3-4 stalls.
- Acre Station Meat Farm:** *Pinetown, 45 minutes* – Meat shop known for its packaged ham, has a restaurant on site that is basic southern food but is farm to table.
- 😊 **The Cheesecake Factory Bakery:** *Battleboro, 50 minutes* – Want to know where all of the Cheesecake Factory's cheesecakes are made? This factory! They have a small shop on the side where you can get straight-from-the-factory slices.
- Nahunta Pork Center:** *Pikeville, 50 minutes* – "The World Largest Pork Display" is what the billboard says. It's a massive pork store and butcher block. A lot of gift baskets and fresh cut meats.
- Old Beaufort Farmers Market:** *Beaufort, 1 hour* – 15-20 Booths, usually has seafood too.
- Aunt Ruby's Peanuts:** *Rocky Mount, 1 hour* – A local peanut shop with a multitude of peanut flavors.
- 😊 **Dunn Butcher Shop:** *Dunn, 1 hour 15 minutes* – With the lack of good butcher shops in Greenville, this

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small town down I-75 is the most high class shop around.

- Clayton Farm and Community Market:** *Clayton, 1 hour 15 minutes* – A little bit of a drive for a farmer's market, but usually has 10-15 booths with local bakers and fresh seafood.
- Mount Olive Pickle Company:** *Mount Olive, 1 hour 20 minutes* – The pickles you buy at the store are from right here in North Carolina. They have a gift shop where you will find all the pickle flavors you want.
- 😊 **Good Earth Peanut Company:** *Skippers, Virginia, 1 hour 30 minutes* – I know it's not in North Carolina, but it's right across the border, just off the interstate and well worth the stop. The double dipped chocolate and peanut butter peanuts are the best peanuts I've ever had.
- 😊 **North Carolina State Farmers Public Market:** *Durham, 1 hour 45 minutes* – By far the largest market in the state, has about 75-100 vendors, open on Saturdays.

Eating Festivals

Most are local festivals in Eastern North Carolina, but I also listed the big state festivals.

- NC Chili Festival:** *New Bern – April*
- NC Pickle Festival:** *Mount Olive – April*
- NC Strawberry Festival:** *Wallace – April*
- BBQ Festival on the Neuse:** *Kinston – May*
- NC Blueberry Festival:** *Burgaw – May*
- 😊 **Raleigh International Food Festival:** *Raleigh – June*
- 😊 **Asian American Food Festival:** *Raleigh – June*
- North Carolina Blackberry Festival:** *Lenoir - July*
- Sneads Ferry Shrimp Festival:** *Sneads Ferry – August*
- NC Muscadine Festival:** *Kenansville – September*
- NC Bacon Festival:** *Rocky Point - October*
- 😊 **North Carolina Seafood Festival:** *Morehead City – October*
- 😊 **NC State Fair:** *Raleigh – October*
- NC Oyster Festival:** *Wilmington – October*
- 😊 **NC Wine, Cheese and Chocolate Festival:** *Raleigh – October*
- The Barbecue Festival:** *Lexington – October*
- Outer Banks Food Showdown:** *Nags Head – November*

U-Pick Near Greenville

- Brock's Farm**
- Strawberries on 903:** Mid April through May is peak strawberry season.
- Bobs Organic Blueberries**
- Briley's Farm Market**
- Renston's Garden Market**
- Dean's Farm Market**

Hiking

When it comes to hiking in Eastern North Carolina, there is no shortage. Compared to the highly manicured and well-documented hiking in the Western Mountains region, it can be difficult to find good information about the trails on this side of the state. This list is a nearly comprehensive list of all the places you can get some hiking and nature in your lives while residents. There isn't much within the city limits of Greenville, but if you expand your travel radius a bit there is a lot to explore.

The unaffiliated trails (those that are not a State Park, National Forest or National Park) listed are meant to be comprehensive. All decent trails to get yourself out of the house and into the woods. I understand that a 1-mile trail that is 1.5 hours away might not be worth it to you, but if you group multiple together you can make a good day out of a lot of these trails.

Greenville Hikes

- ❑ **Phil Carrol Nature Reserve:** **Currently Closed** This park has been closed for a while, but they keep promising to re-open it. It has a 1-mile long trail winding around a lake, but a bridge over the water is damaged, making doing a full circle difficult.
- ❑ 😊 **River Park North:** The main out and back trail can be made to be 3 miles long. There are multiple small off-shoot trails. Easy terrain. Some nice views along the lake as you hike. The lake has a lot of areas for picnicking, fishing, and kayaking. There is a small museum at the front that shows information on the Tar River, a butterfly garden, and a place to rent kayaks.
- ❑ **Bicycle Post Trail:** This trail has a little elevation change which is a nice surprise in Eastern North Carolina. Total of about 5 miles of trails. Well blazed. If you go on the weekends, you will have to compete with cyclists as it is a mountain bike trail.
- ❑ **South Tar River Greenway:** Very popular multi-use path around 6 miles long. Has a couple of parks along it for dogs and kids. The city is constantly buying land and working at expanding it.
- ❑ **Eastside Park:** An "in progress" park. The city bought the land 5 years ago and made a bunch of nice maps about what they were going to do with it, but so far, it's still a working farm. There is a nice area in the middle that has a very small "non-potable" spring that you can climb down into a bit. Otherwise it's just a big open field that leads to some swamps in the back.
- ❑ **West Meadowbrook Park:** North side of the town. Has large open fields. The main woods trails have now been turned into a disk golf course so if you go to walk, keep your head low.
- ❑ **Alice F. Keene Park:** A stretch to call it hiking but it does have a 1.2 mile trail through the forest and fields.
- ❑ **H. Boyd Lee Park:** Another 1.2 mile stretch that wanders through the woods around the ball fields.

Hikes Near Greenville

- ❑ **Lake Wilson Reservoir:** *Wilson, 45 minutes* – 2-mile trail around the lake.
- ❑ **John Lawson Nature Trail:** *Grifton, 45 minutes* – Only a 0.25 mile boardwalk through the woods.
- ❑ **Stewart Parkway Riverwalk:** *Washington, 45 minutes* – Paved boardwalk path along the riverfront in downtown Washington.
- ❑ **Educational Forest of Wilson:** *Wilson, 45 minutes* – Two self-guided nature trails totaling about 2 miles.
- ❑ **Weyerhaeuser Cool Springs Environmental Learning Center:** *New Bern, 50 Minutes* - Four trails ranging from 1-3 miles.
- ❑ **Goldsboro Bridge Battlefield:** *Goldsboro, 55 minutes* – No museum, just a 1.5 mile trail to a very nice rustic train bridge and interpretive signs detailing the battle for the bridge during the Civil War.

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- ☐ 😊 **Cabin Lake Park:** *Duplin County, 1 hour* – 2.3 mile hiking trail around a lake, very off the beaten path. They will charge an entry fee for not being a Duplin County resident.
- ☐ **Tar River Trail:** *Rocky Mount, 1 hour* – 7 miles of trails, mix of pavement and gravel. Out and back trail.
- ☐ **Cashie Wetlands Walk:** *Windsor, 1 hour* - Near the Livermon Park & Mini Zoo. 1 mile long boardwalk trail.
- ☐ 😊 **Mitchell Mill:** *Zebulon, 1 hour* – A hidden gem owned by the State Park system but containing no facilities or true hiking trails, this is a great place to get your boots on and explore an old mill ruins and massive table rock formation.
- ☐ **Wetland Safari Trail at Sylvan Heights:** *Scotland Neck, 1 hour* – Located behind the bird park, a boardwalk trail through the wetlands, about 1 mile round trip.
- ☐ **New Bern Battlefield Park:** *New Bern, 1 hour* – 1 mile historical walk at one of NCs most important battles during the Civil War. There are many displays on how the battle unfolded.
- ☐ **Flower Hill Nature Preserve:** *Middlesex, 1 hour* – 1-mile out and back trail in a small nature preserve.
- ☐ **Martin Marietta Park:** *New Bern, 1 hour* – A small county park with a flat and open walking trail, 3.2 miles.
- ☐ **Simmons Street Wetlands:** *New Bern, 1 hour* – Similar to the nearby Martin Marietta, this is a county park with flat open walking trails and totals 2.6 miles.
- ☐ **Latham Whitehurst Nature Preserve:** *New Bern, 1 hour 10 minutes* – County park in New Bern with a long and flat gravel trail.
- ☐ **White Oak River:** *Maysville, 1 hour 10 minutes* – 7.8-mile out and back trail, can be hard to follow in places.
- ☐ **Annie Louise Wilkerson MD Nature Preserve:** *Raleigh, 1 hour 20 minutes* – Three interpretive trails totaling about 2.5 miles. Great park for kids with large play areas.
- ☐ **Turnipseed Nature Preserve:** *Clayton, 1 hour 15 minutes* – 3 miles of hiking trails with one big loop.
- ☐ **Buckridge Coastal Reserve:** *Columbia, 1 hour 15 minutes* – No official hiking trails, large lake good for fishing and kayaking. Good birding opportunities during the drive into the preserve.
- ☐ **Wake Forest Reservoir Park:** *Wake Forest, 1 hour 15 minutes* – 1.6-mile loop around a manmade lake, light forest and improved trail.
- ☐ 😊 **Roanoke Canal Museum and Trail:** *Roanoke Rapids, 1 hour 15 minutes* – 7.5-mile out and back trail near a nice museum, near a very large dam and power plant.
- ☐ 😊 **Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center:** *Benson, 1 hour 15 minutes* – Off the beaten path. Has a small amount of elevation change. 15 trails make for about 6 miles of total hiking.
- ☐ **Northampton County Nature Trail:** *Jackson, 1 hour 15 minutes* – 2-mile trail with some boardwalks.
- ☐ 😊 **Clemmons Educational State Forest:** *Clayton, 1 hour 15 minutes* – 8 miles of trails wandering through the woods and circling a lake.
- ☐ **Palmetto Peartree Preserve:** *Columbia, 1 hour 20 minutes* – Shoreline trail is an improved 0.5 mile out and back and the Woodland Boardwalk is 0.75 mile loop known for birding.
- ☐ **Durant Nature Preserve:** *Raleigh, 1 hour 20 minutes* – 5 miles of trails, around the lake, and small streams.
- ☐ **Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site:** *Four Oaks, 1 hour 20 minutes* – 7 miles of hiking trails at this site.
- ☐ 😊 **Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve:** *Cary, 1 hour 25 minutes* – Three loop trails that mix boardwalk and small amount of elevation changes that total about 3 miles.
- ☐ **Yates Mill County Park:** *Raleigh, 1 hour 30 minutes* – 3 miles of trails and the historic Yates Gristmill. On the weekends the mill is working and does tours.
- ☐ **Carl A. Schenck Memorial Forest:** *Raleigh, 1 hour 30 minutes* – Three trails that are between 1.2 miles and 4 miles in length.
- ☐ **Hubert Bypass Park:** *Jacksonville, 1 hour 30 minutes* – 1.7 miles, just one trail, easy.
- ☐ **Midway Park:** *Jacksonville, 1 hour 30 minutes* – 7 miles worth of trails. They are listed as moderate, but they are flat and easy trails, just a little longer.
- ☐ **River Falls Trailhead:** *Wheldon, 1 hour 30 minutes* – River Falls Trail and the Canal Trail combine for about 2.5

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miles worth of paved walking. Don't be fooled by "falls" - it's just a rapids, and small rapids at that.

- ❑ **Lake Benson Park:** *Garner, 1 hour 35 minutes* – A large and popular park. Hosts festivals and has a 3-mile loop trail that has some fantastic lake shots and color change during the fall.
- ❑ **Calico Creek Boardwalk:** *Morehead City, 1 hour 45 minutes* – 1.5 miles of boardwalk on the water.
- ❑ **Pauline Longest Falls:** *Fayetteville, 1 hour 45 minutes* – A 0.8-mile out and back trail on Methodist University Property. It is behind a closed parking gate and you just must tell them you are there to visit the falls. 18-foot waterfall when there is good water flow.
- ❑ **J. Bayard Clark Park & Nature Center:** *Fayetteville, 1 hour 45 minutes* – 6 miles of hiking trails and in the winter when all the leaves are dead a waterfall is visible through the trees.
- ❑ 😊 **Haw River Trails at Canoe Launch:** *Apex, 1 hour 50 minutes* – Trails on both sides of the river, go for 8 miles out and back total, along the river with some good exploring and rock hopping opportunities.
- ❑ **Abbey Nature Preserve:** *Wilmington, 2 hours* – 2 mile trail with boardwalk and swamp located at the historic site of Poplar Plantation.
- ❑ **T. Roosevelt Nature Trail at Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium:** *Pine Knoll Shores, 2 hours* – 1.2-mile out and back nature trail that is located behind the aquarium.
- ❑ **Hoop Pole Creek Nature Trail:** *Atlantic Beach, 2 hours* – Hidden well in a Food Lion parking lot it is a great boardwalk and a very nice marsh and swamp area.
- ❑ 😊 **Nags Head Wood:** *Nags Head, 2 hours 15 minutes* – This is one of the best places to get a unique hike in the state. It's a sand dune park, no official trails but two goals for a good time: make it to the water and find the hidden car.
- ❑ **Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest:** *Elizabethtown, 2 hours 15 minutes* – 2 miles of trails, mostly primitive.
- ❑ **Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve:** *Kitty Hawk, 2 hours 30 minutes* – 5.5 miles of trails on the back side of the island away from the beach. There are two areas with separate trails.

National Wildlife Refuges

The western part of the state is heavily managed by either National Park Service or the National Forest Service, but much of the land in the eastern part of the state is National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs). NWRs are known for large amounts of untamed wild, so facilities and trails are minimal for the size of the land. There is often many opportunities for boating, kayaking, or hunting. I concentrate on the hiking trails and places for good birding.

- ❑ **National Wildlife Refuges Gateway Visitor Center:** *Near Manteo, Roanoke Island, 2 hours* – Not far from Alligator River NWR. This place is brand new and has a boardwalk trail and a museum.
- ❑ 😊 **Mattamuskeet NWR:** *Swan Quarter, 1 hour 45 minutes* – Surrounds Lake Mattamuskeet. Hyde County is the most rural and medically underserved county in North Carolina for those who are interested. The park is a birding paradise. In the fall and winter, birds flock here by the thousands. There is one boardwalk trail about 0.5 miles in length as well as a 2-mile car loop through a birding area. There is a photogenic old power station as well.
- ❑ **Swan Quarter NWR:** *Swan Quarter, 1 hour 45 minutes* – South of Lake Mattamuskeet, most of this park is almost all water and protects coastal habitats on the Pamlico Sound. There is a 2-mile one-way wildlife drive at Bell Island Swan Quarter Pier. On the drive turtles and deer sighting are frequent, ending at a long pier that is good for fishing. No formal hiking trails are found in this park.
- ❑ **Pocasin Lakes NWR:** *Columbia, 1 hour 30 minutes* – This is one of the few NWRs that has its own visitor's center and a small trail to walk. There are limited trails, and the park is best seen from driving between its five main observation points around the lake. The winter is best for bird viewing.
 - ❑ **Scuppernong River Interpretive Boardwalk:** Behind the visitor center. Boardwalk trail is 0.5 miles.
 - ❑ **Duck Pen Trail:** 0.5 Miles boardwalk especially good for bird viewing

- ☐ **Alligator River NWR:** *Near Manteo, 2 hour* – This is a massive area that was leveed and canaled in order to provide area to farm before it became protected. The area has two trails but what it is really known for is its biking and driving trails. Many miles of dirt roads get you deep into this area, and it is known for sunrise and sunset drives that have a high chance of spotting bears and red wolves. In the summer the park hosts a “Red Wolf Howling Tour” where they take you out to hear the wolves at dusk. Kayaking is also a big deal here.
 - ☐ **Creek Cut Wildlife Trail:** 1-mile out and back. Boardwalk and paved sections. Walk along a creek.
 - ☐ **Sandy Ridge Wildlife Trail:** 1 mile out and back. Improved ground. Walk along a creek.
- ☐ 😊 **Croatan National Wildlife Refuge:** *South of New Bern, 1-2 hours depending on the part of the park* – A massive NWR with all sorts of activities. The park is very spread out with each of its nature trails being about 20-30 minutes from the next one. A section of the statewide Mountain to Sea Trail (MST) runs through the park along the Neusiok Trail.
 - ☐ **Island Creek Trail:** *1 hour 15 minutes* – 0.5-mile loop interpretive trail. Very nice.
 - ☐ **Weetock Trail:** Supposedly an 18-mile out and back trail, but after the first 2 miles the trail becomes so poorly maintained that it is difficult to even continue. It is blazed, sort of.
 - ☐ **Neuse River Trails:** Also known as Flanner Beach Bike Loop Trails. 3 miles of trails at the campground.
 - ☐ **Patsy Pond Nature Trail:** Interpretive trail through an open woodland of longleaf pines with low growing herbs and shrubs, has a 0.75-mile, 1-mile and 1.9-mile loop.
 - ☐ **Tideland Trail:** 1.3 to 1.8 mile loop. Part boardwalk. Located at Cedar Point Campground
 - ☐ **Neusiok Trail:** 21-mile long trail. There are three shelters with grills along the trail for camping. This is part of the MST. One of the best multiday hikes in Eastern NC. The trail has multiple small boardwalks, but the terrain is variable and you will likely get wet feet.
- ☐ **Pea Island NWR:** *Northern Tip of Hatteras Island, 2 hours 45 minutes* – The park is a bird sanctuary. It has its own small visitor center with a viewing platform and long-range viewers for birds.
 - ☐ **North Pond Wildlife Trail:** 1-mile trail with an observation tower at the end. Behind the visitor’s center.
- ☐ **Roanoke River NWR:** *Williamston, 1 hour* – A very large park that is mostly suitable for boating or kayaking. Only one trail, and it’s short. For more details see the kayaking section, there are over 160 miles of kayak trails here.
 - ☐ **Kuralt Trail:** The only designated hiking trail. A 1-mile out and back.
- ☐ **Mackay Island NWR:** and ☐ **Cedar Island NWR** are nice places to go and drive to see birds however neither has established trails to walk on.

State Parks

The State Parks system in North Carolina is very strong with some absolute gems of parks. Ranging from the pristine beaches of Hammock Beach to the highest peak in North Carolina at Mount Mitchell, the parks show the fantastic diversity of nature that NC has to offer. They have a passport program to help guide you to the 41 state parks with rewards for completing every batch of 10.

DR. D RATING SCALE: **10: Best NC State Park** → **1: Worst NC State Park** - Priority to hiking, photography, and history.

TOP 10:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. South Mountain | 6. Fort Macon |
| 2. Hammocks Beach | 7. Mount Jefferson |
| 3. Hanging Rock | 8. Grandfather Mountain |
| 4. Stone Mountain | 9. Oconeechee Mountain |
| 5. Elk Knob | 10. Goose Creek |

Eastern

- ❑ **Goose Creek State Park:** *45 Minutes – 7/10 stars* – The closest state park to Greenville is also a good one. 12 miles of trails that can be linked to form one large loop that covers 7 different ecosystems - through old oak forest, beaches, and swamp boardwalks. All trails are easy and flat. The Oak Trail can be very sandy. This park also features nice camping and kayaking areas.
- ❑ **Cliffs of the Neuse:** *1 hour – 6/10 stars* – This is another park where you can combine all of the trails to make one big loop, this one comes in at 10 miles. The Lake and Galax Trails are nice and variable.
- ❑ **Medoc Mountain:** *1 hour 10 minutes - 6/10 stars* – As close to a mountain as ENC will get. 150 feet of elevation change during the main hike that is a 6-mile loop around and on top of the “mountain,” which can be considered moderate intensity. There are numerous trails totaling about 20 miles here.
- ❑ **Pettigrew:** *1 hour 30 minutes – 3/10 stars* – The singular trail works its way around the lake and back, 2.5 miles each way. There is a scenic pier at the end of the trail. Most of the trail is off the lake in the woods with occasional breaks in the woods to see the views of the lake. Warning, there will be ticks.
- ❑ **Merchants Millpond:** *1 hour 30 minutes – 4/10 stars (7 if you bring a canoe)* – This park centers around a large lake that is gorgeous, especially from canoe. However, the three short hiking trails (4 total miles) wander away from the lake through some lackluster woods. You can rent a canoe from the state park as well.
- ❑ 😊 **Hammocks Beach:** *1 hour 35 minutes – 9/10 stars* – This park is only accessible by boat. A 20-minute ferry ride will take you from the visitor’s center to an undeveloped island where you will have the beach completely to yourself. No trail exists on the island but a 6-mile total out and back along the beach is a perfect walk.
- ❑ **Raven Rock:** *1 hour 45 minutes – 7/10 stars* – Don’t believe the Lanier “Falls” that you will see on the map. It’s all of a 6-inch falls. Not even rapids really. All of the trails in the park can be combined into one big 10-mile loop. There are a couple areas of terrain change just to mix it up a little bit.
- ❑ **Dismal Swamp:** *1 hour 45 minutes – 5/10 stars* – Come right when it opens at 8 am and hit the trail. Deer are a given, and lots of them. Bears, turtles, bobcats, otters are also common. The trails are completely straight, no views, flat and long. The shortest loop is 12 miles.
- ❑ 😊 **Fort Macon:** *1 hour 50 minutes – 8/10 stars* – A Civil War fort situated right on the beach with a long hiking trail that wanders through back island swamps and then on top of sand dunes lining the beach. 5 total miles of trails. Easy difficulty but with nice terrain changes.
- ❑ **Carvers Creek:** *1 hour 50 minutes – 3/10 stars* – This park is undergoing some massive changes as they are damming the river that runs through it. There is some water where it shouldn’t have been and dry area where it should’ve been wet. There’s an old Rockefeller vacation home that you can tour, but that’s about it. Trails total about 3 miles.
- ❑ **Jones Lake:** *2 hours 10 minutes – 3/10 stars* – A Carolina bay state park. This one has a long trail called the Bay Trail which circles the lake. It’s flat, straight, and devoid of great views. You can rent canoes.
- ❑ **Jockeys Ridge:** *2 hours 15 minutes - 5/10 stars (7 if you hang-glide)* – Very limited hiking. Total trail is 3 miles and it’s mainly a climb to the top of the main sand dune. Views are great from the top. You will leave with a lot of sand in your shoes. DO NOT SKIP THE HANG-GLIDING. One of the coolest things you can do in the state park system. \$ 20 dollars to get a hang-gliding lesson and a jump off the top of the dune. You get a max of 15-25 feet off the ground so those with a fear of heights should be fine.
- ❑ **Singletary Lake:** *2 hours 15 minutes – 5/10 stars* – Another Carolina bay state park. This one is mostly built for camping with cabins that were just built in 2020. The trail does follow a creek and a small water management feature. A long pier in the middle for swimming.
- ❑ **Carolina Beach:** *2 hours 25 minutes – Unvisited*
- ❑ **Lumber River:** *2 hours 30 minutes – Unvisited*
- ❑ **Lake Waccamaw:** *2 hours 35 minutes – 2/10 stars* – Another state park around a Carolina Bay. This one has an

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easy difficulty loop trail through the woods around the lake. About 2 miles total. One boardwalk on the lake after a short walk. There are gators in the park that you can see in the canals on the drive in.

- ❑ **Fort Fisher:** *2 hours 35 minutes – 6/10 stars* – A Civil War fort but most of the actual fort is gone. The remaining fort and historical cannons are not at the state park but at the state historical park 0.5 miles up the road. The state park is just the beach and visitor center with one small one-way trail that is 0.75 miles in length. Best when you combine the NC historic site and the nearby Fort Fischer Aquarium.

Piedmont

- ❑ **Falls Lake:** *1:25 – Unvisited*
- ❑ **William B Umstead:** *1:25 - Unvisited*
- ❑ **Jordan Lake:** *1 hour 35 minutes – 7/10 stars* – With trails ranging from 3 to 15 miles, and difficulty easy to moderate, the Jordan Lake area is good for any day. The trails around the lake have enough up and downs to keep the heart rate up despite no large elevation changes.
- ❑ **Eno River:** *1 hour 45 minutes – 7/10 stars* – 31 miles of trails including a section of the MST. The park has 3 trails listed as strenuous, but none of them really are. But there is some good elevation change and some nice strolls near the Eno River.
- ❑ **Kerr Lake:** *1 hour 50 minutes – 1/10 star (3 if you have a boat)* – This is a pure camping and boat fishing lake. There are only 2 hiking trails totaling 1.5 miles; they are easy and bland. The lake does feature 8 campgrounds with most spaces directly on the water.
- ❑ 😊 **Occoneechee Mountain:** *2 hours – 8/10 stars* – The smallest state park, only boast 4 miles of total trails, couple that with the fact that the park is has loud car traffic at the start, you would think this would be a bit of a dud, but the trails are great. Great elevation changes to get the heart pumping, trail ranges from up and down mountain, to an old quarry where you can do some rock scrambling and also a nice peaceful walk along the Eno river.
- ❑ **Weymouth Woods:** *2 hours 20 minutes – 5/10 stars* – A good example of a scrub pine forest, this is a newer state park and the trails are crisp and the visitor's center is nice. 5 miles worth of trails.
- ❑ **Haw River:** *2 hours 30 minutes – Unvisited*
- ❑ **Mayo River:** *2 hours 55 minutes – Unvisited*
- ❑ **Pilot Mountain:** *3 hours – 6/10 stars* – This park has two sections. The main section has a summit trail and a parking area close to the top, and the back section that is usually missed. The back section is great, a hike along a river and old railroad tracks that can only be reached by having your 4x4 cross over three streams.
- ❑ **Morrow Mountain:** *3 ours 5 minutes – Unvisited*
- ❑ **Hanging Rock:** *3 hours 20 minutes – Unvisited*
- ❑ **Lake Norman:** *3 hours 35 minutes – Unvisited*
- ❑ **Crowders Mountain:** *4 hours – Unvisited*

Mountains

- ❑ 😊 **Stone Mountain:** *3 hours 45 minutes – 9/10 stars* – This park has it all. Multiple waterfalls, babbling brooks and even a summit hike for a 4Ker. Trails range from easy to moderate. The summit trail can be combined with the 80-foot waterfall trail for a 7-mile loop.
- ❑ 😊 **Mount Jefferson:** *4 hours 15 minutes – 8/10 stars* – While the summit trail here is not strenuous, you can continue past it onto a ridgeline trail which boast some of the best views in the state.
- ❑ **New River:** *4 hours 20 minutes – 4/10 stars (7/10 if you kayak)* – A pure kayaking park, almost no hiking. The park is longitudinal along the water for about 30 miles with campgrounds and access areas dotting the waterway. Mostly a slow meandering waterway with a couple of class one rapids.
- ❑ **Lake James:** *4 hours 20 minutes – Unvisited*

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- ☐ 😊 **Elk Knob:** *4 hours 20 minutes – 9/10 stars* – In the winter this is one of the most consistent snow areas in North Carolina. It offers the only cross-country ski trail in the state. The 3.5-mile one way summit trail is full of wonderful views and is snowcapped 3 months of the year.
- ☐ 😊 **South Mountains:** *4 hours 20 minutes – 10/10 stars* – The Crown Jewel. Over 50 miles of trails from easy to difficult with the best trail going to the High Shoals Falls Loop near the very photogenic High Shoals Falls.
- ☐ **Grandfather Mountain:** *4 hours 30 minutes – 7/10 stars* – The lower-than-expected rating is because grandfather mountain is actually split in two. Half is the State Park which includes the absolute best hiking trail in the state with the 6-mile “Profile Trail,” but the other half is privately owned and very touristy. The private ownership houses the “mile-high swinging bridge” which can be walked for about \$20.
- ☐ **Mount Mitchell:** *5 hours 20 minutes – 6/10 stars* – If it's a clear day there are some great views from the top of the highest peak in the Eastern US. There is a decent summit trail, about 6 miles one way. It is moderate difficulty. You can also drive right to the top for the photo opp. Then there is the Black Mountain Crest Trail. The second-best trail in the state and one of the hardest 1-2 days hikes in the state. If you like extreme hiking, this is the one for you.
- ☐ **Chimney Rock:** *5 hours 10 minutes – Unvisited*
- ☐ **Gorges:** *6 hours – Unvisited*

National Park Service

Includes all the sites in North Carolina for you to check off your bucket list. Only one true National Park but many other sites managed by the NPS.

- ☐ **Great Smokey Mountain National Park:** *5 hours 30 minutes to the Cherokee Entrance* – While much of this park is in Tennessee some of its most visited sections and the highest peak at Clingman's Dome are in North Carolina including the Cades Cove hiking area, which features many of the best trails in the park.
- ☐ **Moore's Creek National Battlefield:** *Currie (near Wilmington), 1 hour 55 minutes* – An early Revolutionary War battle site and the first major American victory. Free museum and grounds, and they host reenactments.
- ☐ **Fort Raleigh National Historic Site:** *Manteo, 2 hours* – This is the museum and grounds, and then there is a relatively famous reenactment / play called *The Lost Colony Roanoke* that takes place here.
- ☐ **Guilford Courthouse National Historic Site :** *Greensboro, 2 hours 15 minutes* – Another location of a Revolutionary War battle. This is one of two battles at the end of the Mel Gibson movie *The Patriot*.
- ☐ **Wright Brothers National Memorial:** *Kill Devil Hills, 2 hours 20 minutes – \$10* – The monument is just a large stone on a hill that offers good views of the beach. There is a decent museum on the history of early aviation and the brothers' lives. Usually very busy as it's a big tourist attraction in this area.
- ☐ **Cape Lookout National Seashore:** *Near Beaufort, 3 hours (including ferry ride)* – Only reachable by ferry or private boat. Great place to camp on the beach or rent one of the beachside cabins, climb the historic lighthouse, and search for the beach horses.
- ☐ 😊 **Cape Hatteras National Seashore:** *Southern tip of OBX, 3 hours 15 minutes* – Reachable by car, this park is at the very far south end of the OBX. Featuring two of the best lighthouses in the state and hundreds of miles of wild beaches with no development. Get your 4-wheel-drive vehicle and out onto the beach, and you will easily find somewhere secluded.
- ☐ **Appalachian Trail:** The quintessential American hiking trail. Many of the best portions of the trail run through North Carolina. There are many places on the trail to do a day hike or even a 2-3 day hike, since as residents none of us have the 6 months needed to do the whole thing. The Rainbow Falls trailhead will get you along the AT and give you views of four waterfalls in 4 miles.
- ☐ 😊 **Blue Ridge National Parkway:** *4-5 hours depending on where you get on (closest entrance is near Boone)* – Two sections of the massive parkway run through the state, this Pisgah section (South), known for being the most waterfall dense area in the country and then the Highlands section (North), which contains all

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the highest peaks east of the Mississippi and many of the best views. It's a 2-lane road that passes near the tops of the mountains. As you cruise along there are countless pull off areas with great views, geographical information, or hiking trails. Take a weekend to cruise up and down the parkway, and you will not be disappointed. Be warned that due to the very windy nature of the road those in the passenger seat can be prone to sea sickness.

- ❑ **Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site:** *Flat Rock (south of Asheville), 5 hours 15 minutes*— Home of a famous poet. Entering the grounds is free, the tour is \$8. There are numerous hiking trails that start or end here, totaling about 8 miles.

North Carolina National Forests

None of the national forests are in ENC. Except for Croatan, which has some territory that is a National Forest and most that is a National Wildlife area, which is why it is not covered on this list.

- ❑ 😊 **Pisgah:** This park has one of the highest concentrations of waterfalls in the world. There are so many waterfalls here that the vast majority of them are not even named. Looking Glass Falls is one of the most powerful falls in the state and has easy drive-up access. Don't miss summertime at Sliding Rock Falls. You can slide down the falls into a cool mountain water swimming hole.
- ❑ **Uwharrie:** Across the street Morrow Mountain State Park, known for its longer trails in the 8-15 mile range, this is a great park for a long walk in the woods.
- ❑ **Nantahala:** The way far west of the state. This is a massive park that has over 600 total miles of trails, most are not very frequented. There is also some great whitewater rafting opportunities here.
- ❑ 😊 **Linville Gorge Wilderness Area:** Right next to the Linville Gorge area off the Blue Ridge Parkway, some of the best hikes in NC are in this area, and in my opinion the best view at Wisemans Point. A very interesting drive where you will likely need a 4x4.

Mountain to Sea Trail

The Mountain to Sea trail is a partially completed 1175-mile trail that runs from the far western mountains at Clingmans Dome near the Tennessee border to the far reaches of the Outer Banks. Large sections of the trail are unofficial or uncompleted, having to hike along roads or through towns to complete the full trail. Most of the incomplete parts of the trail are in eastern NC while most of the western section of the trail is complete and beautiful for multi-day hikes.

- ❑ **Mountain to Sea Trail Day Hikes** – All of North Carolina, use their website as a day hikes guide.

Outdoor Adventures

Beaches Guide

One of the premier reasons to come to Greenville for residency is the beaches. The closest beaches are going to be at Emerald Isle, 1 hour and 45 minutes away. The beaches are fantastic (and that's coming from a Floridian). There's a great variety of beaches, from the touristy beaches of Emerald Isle to the wild and natural beaches of Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The two things you must do on the North Carolina beaches is drive on the beach and see the wild horses.

The beaches of North Carolina are broadly split into the Outer Banks (OBX) and the Crystal Coast. The Outer Banks

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include Corolla, Kitty Hawk, Duck (home of duck donuts). Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Ocracoke are the "wilder" of the beaches.

DRIVE ON THE BEACH:

- 😊 Corolla
- 😊 Cape Hatteras National Seashore
- Cape Lookout National Seashore
- Portsmouth Island
- Emerald Isle
- Kure Beach at Fort Fisher State Park

SEE THE HORSES:

- Shackleford Banks Wild Horses:** *Cape Lookout National Seashore, 1 hour 50 minutes* – A wild herd of horses on a small barrier island with no development. You must take a ferry or tour boat to the island.
- Rachel Carson Reserve:** *Beaufort, 1 hour 55 minutes* – The newest wild horse island. This one was intentionally started in 1940. This barrier island is very close to Beaufort and is a couple hundred feet canoe ride and then a lovely walk on the beach to see the horses.
- 😊 **Corolla Wild Horses:** *Corolla, 3 hours 10 minutes* – A wild herd of horses that was ship wrecked on the island around 1500. There is no definitive place to see them as they roam free. Tours are available. April-May is best viewing time. You can drive your car on the beach here.

OBX (North to South)

- Corolla/Currituck Beach
- Duck
- Kitty Hawk
- Nags Head
- 😊 Cape Hatteras National Seashore
- Ocracoke:** Ride the ferry from either Cape Hatteras or Swan Quarter to this lightly-populated island off the coast. Full of eclectic island charm, it will delight. Make sure to climb the lighthouse.

CRYSTAL COAST (North to South)

- Atlantic Beach
- 😊 Emerald Isle: The closest beach.
- Topsail Beach: Known for decent surfing.
- Carolina Beach / Kure Beach:** Home of two state parks, Carolina Beach and Fort Fisher.

NC Lighthouses

The general consensus is there are seven main lighthouses in North Carolina, and it is a rite of passage for new residents to see them all. However, there are actually a few more. There are two more that are only accessible by boat and then three lighthouse reproductions that have been moved off the water onto dry land. When visiting the lighthouses always look for their distinct paint patterns and light flash patterns as this was how sailors were able to use them to navigate during the day and the night.

3 REPRODUCTIONS: *All are on land and accessible by car*

- Plymouth Lighthouse** (Plymouth)

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- Roanoke Marshes (Manteo)
- Edenton Lighthouse (Edenton)

7 MAIN

- 😊 **Bodie Island Light:** *Cape Hatteras National Seashore* – You can climb to the top on self-guided tours during certain parts of the year.
- Cape Hatteras Light:** *Very bottom of Cape Hatteras National Seashore* – This one was moved off the beach about 10 years ago so it's no longer quite as picturesque as some of the others, but the beaches in the area are the most secluded and the best in the state. You can climb to the top on self-guided tours during certain parts of the year.
- Currituck Beach Light:** *North part of OBX* – You can climb to the top on self-guided tours seasonally.
- Ocracoke:** This island is only accessible by a ferry either leaving from Swan Quarter or from Cape Hatteras. Still technically part of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. No Climbing.
- 😊 **Cape Lookout:** *Cape Lookout National Seashore* – You must take a boat or ferry to the barrier island. You can climb to the top on self-guided tours seasonally.
- Oak Island:** You can climb to the top on self-guided tours seasonally.
- Bald Head (Old Baldy):** *Bald Head Island* - A private resort island that is only accessible by boat or ferry. While you can take the ferry and just visit for the museum, lighthouse, and beaches, the website does recommend a stay at their resort.

OFFSHORE

- Price Creek:** This is more the remains of a lighthouse. It's only visible by boat or ferry, no active light.
- Diamond Shoals:** This one is on a platform way offshore. There are paid guided tours to view, however it is inaccessible as it is now in private ownership.

Animal Adventures

This is a close to comprehensive list for North Carolina. Smaller parks are included for the East while the rest of the state is reserved for big parks.

- 😊 **It's a Zoo Life:** *Macclesfield, 30 minutes – \$20* – appointment only, small private zoo where you come in small groups to meet and feed the animals.
- Livermon Park and Mini Zoo:** *Windsor, 50 minutes – Free!* – Mini zoo at a county park that also has a small trail in the woods.
- 😊 **Sylvian Heights Bird Park:** *Scotland Neck, 1 hour – \$12* – One of the largest bird sanctuaries in the country. Birds from all continents and very professionally laid out.
- Edenton National Fish Hatchery:** *Edenton, 1 hour 10 minutes* – Large fish farm run by the state to help keep the local waterways stocked with both sport fish and those that are being over fished. Nice aquarium.
- Red Wolf Center:** *Columbia, 1 hour 15 minutes* – Located at Pocosin Lakes NWR, it has a small visitor center and museum. It has a viewing area to see two of the endangered red wolves.
- Lynnwood Park Zoo:** *Near Jacksonville, 1 hour 20 minutes – \$10* – Small private zoo that does allow feeding and petting of certain animals. Many farm animals and some exotic cats and zebra types.
- Animal Ed. Ventures:** *Smithfield, 1 hour 30 minutes – \$12* – Another small private zoo with a petting area.
- Piedmont Farm Animal Rescue:** *Pittsboro, 1 hour 45 minutes* – All the farm animals!!!
- 😊 **Carolina Tiger Rescue:** *Near Raleigh, 1 hour 45 minutes – \$18* – Requires advanced registration, guided tour of all the big and small cats.
- Dukes Lemur Center:** *Durham, 1 hour 45 minutes – \$14 (Book in advance)* – Also offers a bunch of expensive

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private tours for photography and petting and feeding the lemurs.

- 😊 **Aloha Safari Zoo:** *Near Fayetteville, 2 hours – \$12* – On Sundays they have the safari trolley out for a ride around the park. The rest is a walking tour to see safari animals.
- The Animal Park at the Conservator Center:** *Near Burlington, 2 hours – \$16* – Lions, wolves and 20 species of large animals.
- Red Wolf Howling Tour at Alligator River:** *Manteo, 2 hours – \$10* – A short educational program and then a drive through the woods at dusk to search for howling wolves.
- Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center:** *Kitty Hawk, 2 hours - \$5* - See the sick turtle ICU as well as the large turtle tank of healing sea turtles.
- 😊 **Weeping Radish Farm Goat Yoga:** *Near OBX, 2 hours 15 minutes* – It's a brewery, butcher shop, winery, farm, and offers goat yoga. (Butcher shop and goat yoga not affiliated, hopefully.)
- All A Flutter Butterfly Farm:** *Greensboro, 2 hours 30 minutes – \$8* – Large farm and tours of butterfly garden.
- North Carolina Zoo:** *Asheboro, 2 hours 30 minutes – \$15* – The largest traditional zoo in the state. This was the first ever ecological zoo or a zoo designed to have the animals in an area close to their natural habitats.
- Tiger World Rockwell:** *Near Charlotte, 3 hours – \$15* – White lion, a bunch of tigers, and a few other animals.
- 😊 **Devine Llama Vineyards:** *Outside Winston Salem, 3 hours 15 minutes* – A winery that comes with the ability to pet llamas!!!! What else do you need to know? Nothing! You can even walk them on a leash.
- 😊 **Lazy 5 Ranch:** *North of Charlotte, 3 hours 20 minutes – \$11* – Drive through park. You buy food and feed out the window.
- Sea Life Charlotte:** *Charlotte, 3 hours 30 minutes – \$18* – Largest Aquarium in the state.
- Carolina Raptor Center:** *Charlotte, 3 hours 30 minutes – \$12* – 0.75mi walking trail, 30 species of birds of prey.
- Zootastic Park:** *North of Charlotte, 3 hours 30 minutes – \$15* – Large park with walking tours and drive through.
- The Wildlife Habitat at Grandfather Mountain:** *Linville, 4 hours 30 minutes – \$15* – A small bird and mammal park, that even has a couple of bears. See on your way up to the mile-high swinging bridge.
- Western North Carolina Nature Center:** *Asheville, 4 hours 30 minutes – \$11* – Tigers, otters, & bears oh my.
- Farmony's Safari Adventure:** *Near Asheville, 5 hours – \$15* – Small park that offers petting and feeding tours.

NC STATE AQUARIUMS:

- 😊 **Fort Fisher:** *Near Wilmington, 2 hours – \$12*
- Manteo:** *2 hours – \$13*
- Pine Knoll Shores:** *1 hour 45 minutes – \$14*
- Jeanette's Pier:** *Nags Head, 2 hours – \$14*

Sports

If you're super motivated to get injured and want to feel like a college kid again, we are eligible to play intramural sports with the ECU students. There is also the Greenville Sports League, an adult sports league that plays all sorts of stuff.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

- Kinston:** *30 minutes – Down East Wood Ducks:* Class A of the Texas Rangers
- Zebulon:** *1 hour – Carolina Mudcats:* Class A of the Milwaukee Brewers
- Fayetteville:** *1 hour 35 minutes – Fayetteville Woodpeckers* – Class A of the Houston Astros (Brand new stadium in 2019, very nice place to watch a game after eating in downtown Fayetteville and walking over)
- 😊 **Durham:** *1 hour 45 minutes* – this is by far the best minor league experience in the country with the legendary Durham Bulls (of movie fame) – Class AAA Affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays

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PROFESSIONAL

- Carolina Panther:** NFL, Charlotte
- Carolina Hurricanes:** NHL, Charlotte
- Charlotte Hornets:** NBA, Charlotte
- North Carolina Courage:** Women's professional Soccer Team in Raleigh
- North Carolina FC:** Raleigh based men's professional soccer team, who is currently second tier and is actively working on being promoted to the 1st tier of the league.

COLLEGIATE:

We have some talented college sports teams in the area. Big schools like ECU have a great football tradition. Free Boot Fridays before each football game downtown is a big local event.

- ECU Sports:** Baseball Football
- UNC:** Football Basketball Baseball
- Duke:** Basketball Football
- NC State:** Football

MOTORSPORTS

- NASCAR Charlotte Motor Speedway:** Obviously holds NASCAR races, in the off season you can buy a pass to drive your own car around the track (although there is a speed limit).
- Full Contact Racing Association:** *Lumberton, Dunn, and Wilmington* - Demolition Derby!
- East Carolina Motor Speedway:** *About 40 Minutes north of Greenville* - Does all sorts of racing year-round.
- Kinston Drag Strip**
- Ironclad Motocross & Extreme Dirt Track Racing**
- Pinetops 300 Trucks and Tractor Pull**

GOLF (Public courses only, Private courses excluded)

- Ironwood Golf**
- Bradford Creek:** Driving range and Public Golf Course
- Ayden Golf and Country Club**
- Farmville Golf and Country Club:** No Range
- Bill Fay Par 3 Golf Course:** *Kinston, 30 Minutes* – Calling this a golf course may be pushing it. Pasture golf is more like it. But it is certainly an experience in frustration.
- 😊 **Pinehurst Resort:** *Pinehurst, 2 hours 20 minutes* – A little far and expensive, but one of the most premier golf experiences in the world. 7 courses and a par 3 course, full 18 hole putting course.

PRIVATE TENNIS CLUBS

- Greenville Golf and Country Club**
- Bay Wood Racquet Club**

PUBLIC TENNIS COURTS

- Evans Street Courts:** Built in 2020, brand new, lights, free.
- Jaycee Park**
- River Birch Tennis Center**
- Treybrooke Apartments:** Has 2 courts with lights but you're supposed to live at Treybrooke to use.

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RACQUETBALL

- ECU main campus Rec Gym:** only set of courts in town

DISK GOLF:

- West Meadowbrook Park:** *Greenville*
- ECU North Recreational Complex:** *Greenville*
- Farmville Disk Golf Course:** *Farmville*
- Ayden District Disk Golf:** *Ayden*
- Wilson Disk Golf at Lake Wilson Reservoir:** *Wilson*
- Barnet Park Disk Golf:** *Kinston*

KAYAKING

The counties just to the north of Greenville are known for being huge kayak areas. There is no way to list all the possible trails here, so I will just list some highlights. The Albemarle Resource Conservation and Development Council manages about 15 trails just in Chowan County alone.

In Greenville:

- Tar River:** The tar river is a beautiful kayaking area, but the the river can be move very fast after a rain anywhere upstream. There are also not a lot of places for kayak access. For a good ride on a fast river you can do the 4-mile kayak trip from the Town Common Boat Access in downtown to the Port Terminal Boat Access.
- Haunted Nighttime Kayak Ride:** From in-town company Knee Deep Adventures. \$20.

Around Greenville:

- Bennetts Millpond:** *Edenton, 1 hour – 5 miles worth of trails.*
- Robeson Millpond:** *Wendell, 1 hour 15 minutes – This is a great hidden gem. It's a Wake County park that is only for kayaking. It has a very well-marked and diverse 7-mile kayaking trail.*
- 😊 **Roanoke River NWR Paddle Trails:** *Roanoke NWR, 1 hour 20 minutes – 140 miles of paddling trails with 16 camping platforms along the river. Paddling to the Devil's Gut is a very popular trail.*
- Contentnea Creek Paddling:** *Croatan NWR, 1 hour 20 minutes – Over 100 miles of trail, it is broken into eight sections. Section 4 near Croatan has the best reviews.*
- Moyock Creek and Northwest River Paddle Trail:** *Elizabeth City, 1 hour 30 minutes – 5-10 miles worth of trails, has elevated platforms along the river to camp on.*
- Milltail Paddling Trails:** *Alligator Creek NWR, 1 hour 30 minutes – Broken into four individual trails that are named for their color blazes. They range from a 1.5-mile loop to an 11-mile out and back.*
- 😊 **Bennetts Creek:** *Near Merchants Millpond, 1 hour 30 minutes – 21-mile paddle creek from Merchants Millpond State Park down south to Edenton, near Bennetts Millpond*
- Brice Creek Trail and Saltwater Adventure Trail:** *Croatan NWR, 1 hour 30 minutes – A 100-mile, seven-day, almost circumnavigation of the Croatan Forest via water*
- Merchants Millpond State Park:** *Gatesville, 1 hour 45 minutes – Rent a kayak or bring your own, 5 miles of trails and some kayak camping locations. Beautiful cypress forest to kayak through.*
- Haw River:** *Apex, 1 hour 45 minutes – Near the Jordan Lake area and hiking trails. This is a great trail with some light rapids, lots of rocks to kayak around, and it's not just a straight-line kayak.*
- Black River Preserve:** *Atkinson, 1 hour 45 minutes – The three sisters swamp option takes you through one of the oldest growth cypress forest in the world.*

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SKIING

Listed in order of best to worst

Most of the states ski resorts are bundled around the Boone, NC area. The three best are within a 35 minute drive of each other. The two lowest rated are within an hour of Asheville. All snow here is manufactured so you won't find much soft powder if your used to skiing out west. Usually open from mid-November to the end of March, Sugar and Beech are the best all-around resorts, but App Ski deserves mention for being a more challenging course and having a nice terrain park.

- ☐ 😊 **Sugar Mountain Resort:** *4 hours 40 minutes* – The largest resort in NC. This one offers the most runs, the largest area, and most diversity. It is best for beginners with some longer bunny slopes.
- ☐ **Beech Mountain Resort:** *5 hours* – The entire town of Beech Mountain is the cutest place ever. It is the highest elevation ski resort in the Eastern US. Most of the runs are easy to medium without many steep ones, but it's a very nice resort.
- ☐ 😊 **Appalachian Ski Mountain:** *4 hours 20 minutes* – This is not the biggest ski resort in NC (about half as big as Beech and Sugar) but is my favorite as it has the hardest, steepest runs in the state and has a terrain park with beginner and intermediate jumps. Not the best for beginners as the two training areas are small.
- ☐ **Cataloochee Ski Area:** *5 hours 45 minutes* – Just outside of Maggie Valley and very close to the Great Smokey Mountains National Park. The area around the resort is magical. The resort is a little smaller than Beech and Sugar and doesn't have much of a terrain park.
- ☐ **Wolf Ridge Ski Area** – *5 hours 30 minutes*
- ☐ **Elk Knob State Park:** *Boone, 4 hours 45 minutes* – Boasts the one and only cross-country ski trail in the state. It's a 2-mile loop and includes some tough uphill portions and narrow paths to navigate.

BIKING

I mostly do off-road biking (cars scare me), so this list will feature more off-road trails. I have broadened the list with some good places in ENC as well as some of the best from the rest of the state. According to the city's website, about 50% of the roads in Greenville are considered "highly suitable" for road biking. There are a ton of good country roads for biking around the city as well. Follow the route of the North Carolina Mountain to Coast Bike Ride that is held annually for great long-distance, single or multiday, riding options.

- ☐ **Bicycle Post Trail:** *Greenville* – The best off-roading near Greenville by far. Just a few minutes from the hospital, this is a very popular spot on the weekends. 8 total miles of trails and even mixes in some elevations change, something not commonly seen in ENC.
- ☐ **Greenville Greenway:** *Greenville* - A multiuse trail that runs through downtown and the east part of the city. 5 miles of total trails.
- ☐ **Clayton River Walk on the Neuse:** *Clayton, 1 hour 15 minutes* – A continuation of the Sam Branch Greenway part of the Capital Area Greenway. This runs over 40 miles along the Neuse River from Raleigh to Clayton.
- ☐ **Legend Park Mountain Bike Trails:** *Clayton, 1 hour 15 minutes* – A mountain biking trail that's not in the mountains. This park has four main trails and even has areas for technical challenges.
- ☐ **Capital Area Greenway Trail System:** *Raleigh, 1 hour 30 minutes* – Over 100 miles of biking trails throughout Wake County.
- ☐ **American Tobacco Trail:** *Raleigh, 1 hour 30 minutes* – 22.6 miles of paved trail running through Wake County.
- ☐ **Dismal Swamp State Park:** *South Mills, 1 hour 45 minutes* – Good flat and straight trails that can total over 20 miles good for biking and animal watching.
- ☐ 😊 **NC Highway 12 biking route:** *Hatteras, 3 hours 30 minutes* – Coast down the empty beaches from Hatteras Island to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Multiple lighthouses on the route. Around 35 miles, one of the best road biking trails in the state.

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- Rocky Knob Mountain Bike Park:** *Boone, 4 hours 25 minutes* – A park dedicated to mountain biking. Another reason to visit the mountains in the summer.
- 😊 **Beech Mountain Biking:** *Beech, 4 hours 45 minutes* – When the ski trails close in the summer the mountain biking trails open.
- DuPont State Forest:** *Henderson, 4 hours 45 minutes* – The forest of waterfalls also has some incredible trails that are set up for off-road biking.

5K PEAKS

North Carolina sports 181 5K mountain top peaks in the state. There are many websites that will help guide you to the ones that have trails, don't have trails, or are on private property. You can make it a personal goal to see the tops of as many as possible. The highest peak in the state is Mount Mitchell, where a state park road will bring you directly to the top without too much effort. The Black Mountain Crest Trail from Mount Mitchell State Park will bag you 6 of the 5k peaks in one grueling hike.

Here are North Carolina's 5 highest peaks for your checkbox:

- Mount Mitchell** – *6684 ft* - Peak easily reachable by car or hike in Mount Mitchell State Park.
- Mount Craig** – *6647 ft* - The peak right next to Mount Mitchell. Still in the state park. Easy trail to reach the top.
- Clingmans Dome** – *6643 ft* - Peak easily reachable by car or hike from Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- Mount Guyot** - *6621 ft* - Moderate to hard trail that is part of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- Balsam Cone** – *6600 ft* - A long and moderately difficult trail, needs to be taken from Mount Mitchell State Park

SCUBA:

North Carolina sports some of the best SCUBA locations in the United States. Off the coast is a very large, very shallow area about 10-15 miles offshore that, due to its propensity to claim ships, has been called "The Graveyard of the Atlantic." There are dozens of large shipwrecks off the coast— many WWII era ships that were either sunk for our pleasure years later or a few that were taken down by German U-boats during the war. There are also a few inland places to SCUBA too. It's easy to find places to get SCUBA certified in the coastal area and there are actually two places to get certified right in Greenville. Once you're certified, visit some of the top SCUBA locations listed below.

- 😊 **Fantasy Lake Scuba:** *Near Raleigh, 1 hour* – This SCUBA location is inshore, near Raleigh. It's a private lake just for SCUBA and a lot of interesting stuff has been sunk for you to explore. The lake gets up to 80 feet deep. They also offer inshore certification classes.
- U-352:** A German U-Boat off the coast of the outer banks; this is the most visited dive site off the coast of NC.
- W.E. Hutton:** The second most visited dive in NC; it is also one of the largest you can dive at 435 ft long. This one was sunk by a German U-Boat.

Other Adventures

North Carolina Festivals and Fairs:

- Mardi Gras:** *New Bern – March* – If you have ever been to a real Mardi Gras, this will be a bit disappointing.
- Wings Over Wayne Airshow:** *Goldsboro – April*
- Blooming of the Dogwood Tribal Powwow:** *Hollister – April*

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- 😊 **301 Yard Sale:** *All over NC – June* – About 30 minutes west of Greenville, 301 runs north and south through Wilson. This is a weekend-long yard sale that spans a few hundred miles.
- North Carolina Black Bear Festival:** *Plymouth – June*
- High Point Furniture Market Festival:** *High Point – July*
- 😊 **NC State Fair:** *Raleigh – October* - An eater's paradise. While there is a large amount of "fair food," there are still over 50 food trucks there as well.
- 😊 **Carolina Balloon Festival** – *Statesville – October*
- NC Whirligig Festival** – *Wilson – November*
- Jacksonville Winterfest** – *Jacksonville – December*
- Free Boot Fridays:** *Greenville* - Every Friday before an ECU football home game in the fall.

NC State Historic Sites

Listed in distance from Greenville

- CSS Neuse:** *Kinston, 40 minutes* – Full size replica of the South's first ironclad warship.
- Historic Bath:** *Bath, 45 minutes* – A collection of historic building in downtown bath along the waterfront. The home of Blackbeard the Pirate.
- Governor Charles B. Aycock Birthplace:** *Fremont, 55 minutes* – Indoor and outdoor museum with many of the old buildings still in place. This is the governor that super-charged North Carolina and finally brought them out of the post-civil war doldrums 50 years later.
- Tryon Palace:** *New Bern, 1 hour* - Formers governor's mansion back before the capital of the state moved to Raleigh. This place is huge and has large grounds and a museum, so it's probably a 2-3 hour experience.
- Halifax State Historic Site:** *1 hour 10 minutes*
- Historic Edenton:** *1 hour 10 minutes*
- Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site:** *1 hour 20 minutes* - There are 7 miles of hiking trails at this site.
- Somerset Place:** *1 hour 25 minutes* - This is right next to Pettigrew State Park and can be done together.
- Roanoke Island Festival Park:** *2 hours 5 minutes*
- 😊 **Battleship North Carolina:** *2 hours 10 minutes* – It's a battleship; its huge.
- Brunswick Town Fort Anderson Historic Site:** *2 hours 30 minutes*
- Fort Fischer:** *2 hours 40 minutes*

Scenic Byways

Most of the major scenic byways in the state are in the west so I will just list them. The only one in the east is below..

- Historic Albemarle Highway:** Not one highway but 27 sites spread around the whole of ENC all the way from Rocky Mount down to Ocracoke at the bottom of the outer banks. This isn't really a tour you can follow for a day trip but more like a way to find some interesting historic places out in the country around Greenville.
- Cherohala**
- Blue Ridge**
- Forest Heritage**
- Mountain Water Scenic**

Museums:

Most museums and history in this area a centered around the Civil War. A large part was fought in NC so there are many battlefields to visit and grounds to walk and forts to visit. For Eastern NC specifically, along the River Neuse the

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first Ironclad warships were made and that is still a point of pride for this area. This is not a comprehensive list. Every small town in Eastern North Carolina has 1-2 small museums in it. Most did not make the cut. These are the larger and more well-known museums in the area.

- ❑ **Greenville Museum of Art:** *Downtown Greenville* – See rotating exhibits from national and prominent Eastern North Carolina artists. Hosts events frequently, if you are socially inclined.
- ❑ **Walter I Stasavich Science and Nature Center:** *Greenville* – Located at River Park North, a small museum about the nature of the Tar River.
- ❑ **Museum of the CSS Neuse:** *Kinston, 30 minutes* – One of the first ironclads from the civil war is partially preserved in here.
- ❑ **Battle of Wyse Fork Civil War Battlefield:** *Kinston, 30 minutes* – A self-guided tour with online or CD audio. It's a driving tour to multiple sites in the area.
- ❑ **CSS Neuse II:** *Kinston, 30 minutes* – A full-size replica of an ironclad. One of two in the state (the other is floating in Plymouth).
- ❑ **Fort Branch:** *Hamilton, 35 minutes* – A Civil War site that does reenactments through the year.
- ❑ **Estuarium:** *Washington, 35 minutes* – A small aquarium and museum on the banks of the Pamlico, near the downtown Washington riverfront walk.
- ❑ **Ellis Planetarium, Health & Science Museum:** *Kinston, 40 minutes* – On the grounds of the Neuseway, this is a children's science museum.
- ❑ 😊 **Country Doctor Museum:** *Bailey, 50 minutes* – \$8 – A must-see for rural doctors like us. A sample of the museum is in the first floor of the Brody Building.
- ❑ **Tobacco Farm Life Museum:** *Kenley, 50 minutes* – An outdoor museum on the site of a former Tobacco Farm.
- ❑ **Goldsboro Bridge Battlefield:** *Goldsboro, 50 minutes* – No museum here, just a 1.5 miles trail to a nice rustic train bridge over a river and interpretive signs along the trail detailing the battle during the Civil War.
- ❑ **Governor Charles B Aycock Homestead:** *Fremont, 55 minutes* – Indoor and outdoor museum with the old building still in place. This is the governor that super-charged North Carolina and finally brought them out of the post-Civil War doldrums 50 years later.
- ❑ **Hope Plantation:** *Windsor, 55 minutes* – \$12 – Former plantation and some walking trails in the woods outback.
- ❑ **New Bern Battlefield Park:** *New Bern, 1 hour* – 1-mile historical walk at one of North Carolina's most important battles during the Civil War. There are many interpretive signs that show how the battle unfolded.
- ❑ **Aurora Fossil Museum:** *Aurora, 1 hour* – Aurora Natural History Museum focused on fossils from an old phosphate mine.
- ❑ **Tryon Palace:** *New Bern, 1 hour* – Former governor's mansion before the capital of the state moved to Raleigh. This place is huge and has large grounds and museum, so it's probably a 2-3 hour experience.
- ❑ **Edenton National Fish Hatchery:** *Edenton, 1 hour 10 minutes* – Large fish farm run by the state to help keep the local waterways stocked with both sport fish and those that are being over fished. Nice aquarium.
- ❑ **Cryptozoology and Paranormal Museum:** *Littleton, 1 hour 20 minutes* – This is a small and strange museum. It's worth a look though if you're in the area, or into that kind of thing.
- ❑ **Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site:** *Newton Grove, 1 hour 20 minutes* – 7 miles of hiking trails at this site. Also houses a large museum and the site itself is spread out in multiple sites across about 10 miles.
- ❑ **Averasboro Battlefield:** *Dunn, 1 hour 30 minutes* – Civil War Battlefield that now sports a museum and large earthworks that remain from the fighting.
- ❑ **NC Maritime Museum at Beaufort:** *Morehead City, 1 hour 45 minutes* – If you like boats, sailing, or the sea, this well put together museum is for you.
- ❑ 😊 **US Army Airborne and Special Operations Museum:** *Fayetteville, 1 hour 45 minutes* – Located just outside Fort Bragg.

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- Fort Raleigh National Historic Site:** *Manteo, 2 hours* - There is the museum and grounds to walk. There is also a relatively famous reenactment / play called *The Lost Colony Roanoke* that takes place here.
- Wright Brothers National Monument:** *Kill Devil Hills, 2 hours 20 minutes –\$10* – The monument is a large stone on a hill that offers views of the beach. A decent museum on the history of early aviation and the brothers.
- 😊 **Grave of the Atlantic Museum:** *Hatteras, 3 hours 30 minutes* – This museum is about as far as it gets at the far tail of the Outer Banks, however it is one of my favorite museums in the state.
- 😊 **NC Civil War Trail:** It's not technically a museum. But this trail features over 180 sites throughout the whole of North Carolina. Each with a nice history lesson that usually will walk you through the movement of people across the region during the way.

MAJOR DOWNTOWN RALEIGH MUSEUMS - 1:30

In any capital city, there are going to be a lot of big-time museums. Raleigh is no different.

- NC Museum of Art**
- 😊 **NC Museum of Natural Sciences**
- NC Museum of History**
- NC State Capitol**
- NC Executive Mansion**

Indoor Adventures in Greenville

- Pitt County Arboretum:** Small walkable garden on the north side of town.
- Stumpy's Hatchet House:** Throw all of your resident anger out with a hatchet.
- 😊 **Simply Natural Farm:** The farm that brings you the best ice cream in town has visitation and hosts fall and spring events to play with animals.
- ECU Rec Fields:** Running trail, soccer fields, and disk golf.
- Carolina Ice Zone:** Ice skating rink
- Sawyer's Fun Park Home of Air U:** Trampoline park
- AMF East Carolina Bowling Lanes**
- Greenville Town Common:** Start of the Greenway downtown, has a stage and hosts events.
- Dickinson Avenue:** The second main drag downtown; art, food, and walking.
- Downtown Greenville:** Evans Street is the main drag downtown, usual art and food.
- Whirligig Stage:** A performing arts venue, catch a show.
- Briley Pumpkin Patch and Corn Maze:** During the fall season, this place is a cute corn maze to walk through.
- Blue Ox Gaming:** Game store also organizes face to face gaming experiences.

Other Adventures Near Greenville

- Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park and Museum:** *Wilson* – Outdoor art gallery of the Whirligig. I'm not going to attempt to explain what they are, you just have to go.
- Kinston Downtown:** Museums, Minor League Baseball, fine restaurants, and fancy stores all in a nice downtown walking area.
- Pepsi Cola Birthplace:** Really just a plaque on the sidewalk, but it also has a gift shop now.
- ZipQuest Fayetteville:** *Fayetteville, 1 hour 40 minutes* – Zip line, hiking trails, waterfalls all in Eastern North Carolina. Cost \$50-80 depending on how much you want to do.
- Senator Bob Martin Ag Center:** Host horse shows and rodeos throughout the year.
- Lions Water Adventure:** *Kinston* – Water park

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Rush Hour Carting: *Garner, 1 hour 20 minutes* – Arcade, indoor go cart track that's made for adults.

Flea markets

Poorman's Flea market and Restaurant: *25 minutes*

East Carolina Stockyard Flea Market: *Grifton, 25 minutes* – Small flea market.

😊 **Brightleaf Flea market:** *Smithfield, 1 hour* – By far the largest in ENC.

Other Shopping:

Greenville Mall

Carolina Premium Outlets: *Smithfield, 1 hour*