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INTRODUCTION

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has designated 45 Scenic Byways to give visitors and residents a chance to experience a bit of North Carolina history, geography and culture while raising awareness for the protection and preservation of these treasures. Routes are carefully selected to embody the diverse beauty and culture of the Tar Heel State and provide travelers with a safe and interesting alternate route.

These byways are intended as an option to the faster-paced traffic and commercial areas found along our major highways and interstates. Following the byways, you will see some of the most breathtaking scenery from the Blue Ridge Mountains to fertile plains and the crystal blue coastline.

The routes are clearly marked with highway signs and the Scenic Byways logo (shown below). Please follow the maps and route descriptions carefully. A North Carolina Transportation Map is recommended for use in conjunction with the maps in this booklet.

Portions of some routes are not suitable for recreational vehicles because of vehicle weight limits and curvy roads. These byways have been identified in the descriptions at the end of the text with a symbol. Alternative routes are given when possible. Also, a few routes may be briefly interrupted by commercial or municipal areas. In such cases where the scenic byway temporarily ends, directions are given where to resume the route.

Approximate travel times and mileage also are included for each byway to help motorists plan their travels accordingly. These times are intended as a general guide. Please allow extra time to visit some of the specific sites.

North Carolina Scenic Byways are selected based on natural, cultural and historic features along the route. They vary in length from three to 173 miles and in character from curvy mountain roads to ferry rides across coastal sounds. You will see little or no development along the routes which detracts from the natural character and quality of the byway.

If you follow the byways in reverse order from the descriptions given, please keep in mind that the directions will reverse.

Enjoy your journey as you explore along these roads less traveled.

Visit our web site at
www.dot.state.nc.us/scenicbyways
LEGEND

Scenic Byway directional sign

- Scenic Byway Route
- Mountain
- Lighthouse
- Points of Interest
- Cities/Towns
- U.S. Route
- N.C. Route
- Interstate Route
- State Secondary Road (S.R.)
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Railroad
- River
- North Arrow
- May present problems for large or recreational vehicles
- Ferry along route
- Historic Site (Open to the public)*
- State Parks and Recreation Areas*
- North Carolina Rest Area
- North Carolina Welcome Center
- North Carolina Visitor Center

* Historic Sites and State Parks are noted on the byway maps and referenced in the back of the book. Please contact them directly to find out their exact location or to receive visitor information.
Adopt-A-Highway

Since its inception, the Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) program has grown to be one of the largest anti-litter organizations in the nation. More than 6,000 volunteer groups have adopted about 13,000 miles of state-maintained roads. These volunteers are committed to keeping the state's roadways clean, scenic and environmentally sound. To become an Adopt-A-Highway volunteer, call the NCDOT Office of Beautification Programs at 1-800-331-5864. For more information, visit our web site at www.dot.state.nc.us/adopt-a-highway.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation

North Carolina has an extensive system of mapped and signed bicycle routes designated along lightly-traveled, scenic country roads. The system of cross-state, regional and local routes totals more than 3,000 miles of “Bicycling Highways.” Designed to provide alternatives to the busy major roads, these routes connect the state’s towns and cities as well as parks, recreational areas and other points of interest. Routes are signed to alert motorists to the potential presence of bicyclists. For maps and/or more information, contact the NCDOT Office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation, P.O. Box 25201, Raleigh, NC 27611, (919) 733-2804, Fax (919) 715-4422. Visit our web site at www.dot.state.nc.us/transit/biped.

Bridge Recycling Program

In 1978 NCDOT established a program for the preservation of the state's historic metal truss bridges. The Historic Bridge Preservation Program is a pro-active initiative designed to develop preservation strategies and offer alternatives to demolition for metal truss bridges. Among the strategies employed are donations of bridges with protective covenants to new owners, cost assistance with disassembly and relocation, or disassembly and storage of the bridges. NCDOT advertises for recipients both in and out of state and maintains a directory of individuals and organizations interested in obtaining a bridge.
bridge. For further information on this program contact our Project Development and Environmental Analysis at (919) 733-3141.

For more information visit our web site at www.doh.dot.state.nc.us/planning/pe/bridge

The Environment & Recycling

The NCDOT is committed to helping protect and preserve North Carolina's environment. In highway construction projects, the department protects rivers, streams and wetlands and builds passageways so wildlife can cross under freeways.

Through the department's recycling program, the NCDOT explores many innovative uses for recycled products. Metal from scrap cars is used in retaining walls and bridges. Beads from recycled glass are mixed with paint to make reflective pavement markings and signs easier to see. Recycled scrap tires are used to build highways. Erosion control methods also are being used in construction and maintenance to protect the environment.

Rail

Taking the train is not only a great alternative form of transportation – it's a lot of fun! Climb aboard to visit relatives and friends, see museums, attend sporting events, go shopping – or visit the N.C. State Fair. The train also is ideal for business travelers who want extra time to work or relax while traveling. Six passenger trains provide daily service to 17 North Carolina cities and towns.

North Carolina's state-owned train, the Piedmont, provides daily round-trip service from Raleigh to Charlotte. The Carolinian provides daily round-trip service from Charlotte to Raleigh with continuing service to Washington, D.C. and New York City. Both trains are jointly operated by the NCDOT and Amtrak.

Four daily, long-distance passenger trains – the Crescent, Silver Meteor, Silver Star and Silver Palm – travel through the state providing service to destinations throughout the United States. For ticket, schedule and reservation information, call 1-800-USA-RAIL (872-7245). Visit our web site at www.bytrain.org.

Wildflowers

The wildflowers you see blooming along our highways are the work of the NCDOT's Wildflower Program. Several times each year the Roadside Environmental Unit seeds and maintains flower beds across the state. The program is supported by personalized license plate funds and by citizens' donations.

These colorful flowers, ranging from Cosmos to Queen Anne's Lace, can be identified in the Wildflowers On North Carolina Roadsides booklet. Anyone who receives the booklet can help pay for its cost by making a donation to the Wildflower Program. Funds donated in excess of the costs will be used to plant more wildflowers along our roadsides. For more information or to receive a brochure on promotional items, write to NCDOT Roadside Environmental Unit, 1540 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1540. Visit our web site at www.dot.state.nc.us/wildflowers
The Blue Ridge Parkway is often referred to as the original “scenic byway.” The 252 parkway miles in North Carolina are recognized as an “All American Road” by the Federal Highway Administration. It provides spectacular mountain and valley vistas, quiet pastoral scenes, sparkling waterfalls and colorful flowers and foliage displays.

Construction on the parkway began in 1935 under President Roosevelt’s New Deal Program. Fifty two years later, the last mile was completed around Grandfather Mountain in 1987 during President Reagan’s administration. An effort of 52 years, nine presidents and $130-million dollars resulted in the 469 miles that connect the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia to the Great Smoky National Park in North Carolina.

The favorite pastime of Parkway visitors is enjoying the “leisurely drive and scenic views” that provide an escape from the growing pressures of their everyday lives. The Blue Ridge Parkway provides cultural, natural and historic experiences as well as recreational opportunities along its internationally recognized drive that blends landscape architecture and engineering while protecting and proclaiming the mountain culture.

Also, visitors can enjoy activities such as camping, picnicking, hiking, boating, fishing and sightseeing. There are five...
campgrounds for overnight visitors as well as 72 trails and 25 tunnels for exploring. For interested hikers - the highest elevation point of the byway is Richland-Balsam Gap, N.C. which is more than 6,000 feet above sea level.

If you would like to receive further information on the Blue Ridge Parkway you can contact them directly at:

199 Hemphill Knob Road
Asheville, NC 28803
(828) 271-4779

or

Visit their Web Page at http://www.nps.gov/blri

to find out more about the nation's other All American Roads and National Scenic Byways, visit their web site at http://www.byways.org/
1. Alligator River Route
2. Appalachian Medley
3. Birkhead Wilderness Route
4. Black Mountain Rag
5. Brunswick Town Road
6. Cherohala Skyway
7. Colonial Heritage Byway
8. Crowders Mountain Drive
9. Devil’s Stompin’ Ground Road
10. Drovers Road
11. Edenton-Windsor Loop
12. Flint Hill Ramble
13. Football Road
14. Forest Heritage Scenic Byway
15. French Broad Overview
16. Grassy Island Byway
17. Green Swamp Byway
18. Hanging Rock Scenic Byway
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21. Indian Lakes Scenic Byway
22. Lafayette’s Tour
23. Little Parkway
24. Meteor Lakes Byway
25. Millbridge Scenic Byway
26. Mission Crossing
27. Nantahala Byway
28. New River Valley Byway
29. North Durham Country Byway
30. Outer Banks Scenic Byway
31. Pacolet River Byway
32. Pamlico Scenic Byway
33. Pee Dee Valley Drive
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35. Pottery Road
36. Roanoke Voyages Corridor
37. Rolling Kansas Byway
38. Sandhills Scenic Drive
39. Sherman’s Run
40. South Mountain Scenery
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43. Uwharrie Scenic Road
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MOUNTAIN REGION

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Follow the winding Waterfall Byway west along U.S. 64 beginning at the intersection with N.C. 215, north of Rosman in Transylvania County. This byway earns its name from the 200 waterfalls that surround the route. In fact, the county, in which the route begins, is known as the ‘Land of Waterfalls’ for the many waterfalls and trout streams in the area.

Cross the French Broad River, whose Cherokee name means “racing waters,” near Rosman at the beginning of the route. It is about seven miles to the curve where U.S. 64 crosses the Toxaway River at Toxaway Falls (pictured here) on the left and Lake Toxaway to the right. Do not park on the shoulder of the road; it is unsafe for both motorists and pedestrians. Local merchants have provided some parking so that you may view the falls. From Toxaway it is about three miles into the Sapphire Valley resort area. Pass by Lakes Fairfield and Sapphire, both privately owned, before crossing the Horse Pasture River, located about 1.5 miles east of Cashiers.

The town of Cashiers, located at the intersection with N.C. 107, is about 10 miles from Toxaway Falls. Cashiers (pronounced “Cash-ers” by locals) is one of the oldest resort communities settled by Low Country South Carolinians who wanted to get away from the coastal summer heat and humidity. South Carolina Governor and Confederate General Wade Hampton’s summer home, “High Hampton,” was located south of Cashiers and is still a favored resort area. The headwaters of the Chattooga River are within the town’s limits to the west.

From Cashiers it is four miles to Cowee Gap. From the gap, at the headwaters of the Cullasaja River, it is eight winding miles to the town of Highlands, the highest incorporated community on the east coast. Follow U.S. 64 through this old resort town.

Founded in 1875, Highlands was located here because it lies at the intersection of lines formed from Chicago to Savannah and from Baltimore to New York.
Orleans. Highlands was designed by Charles Hutchins and Samuel T. Kelsey of Kansas, who also designed the resort community of Linville.

Cross Lake Sequayah on the outskirts of Highlands. Two miles west of Highlands pass by the 120-foot drop of Bridal Veil Falls. The water from this fall flows into the Cullasaja River to the south. Use the provided parking area (just west of the falls) to enjoy its beauty from either side or underneath where the old highway ran.

Dry Falls, located about one mile west of Bridal Veil, is on the left. This fall, on the Cullasaja River, is so named because you can walk underneath the roaring water and not get wet. The U.S. Forest Service has developed a parking area for visitors to explore and enjoy this waterfall.

Enter the Cullasaja Gorge six miles west of Dry Falls. The gorge is formed by the Cullasaja River as it flows west into the Little Tennessee River. Note that the United States Forest Service has designated a portion of this route as the Mountain Waters Scenic Byway. About four miles from Dry Falls are the Cullasaja Falls. Located on the left heading west, this impressive cascade drops 310 feet in one-half mile. The drop may be difficult to see, so look carefully behind the trees far below. While in the Cullasaja Gorge you will be able to catch glimpses of the Cullasaja River below as it winds its way west. Also, enjoy the views of the Smoky Mountains and the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests while looking for falcons in the trees along the gorge’s cliffs. From the Cullasaja Falls, it is another two miles to the community of Gneiss, named for the metamorphic rock that abounds in this area.

From Gneiss it is about five miles to the community of Cullasaja where the gorge ends. From there it is another 2.5 miles to the U.S. 23/441 interchange with U.S. 64 in Franklin. Franklin is best known for the treaty council held here between Sir Alexander Cuming and the Cherokee Indians in 1730. In 1761 the Cherokee were defeated by a force of whites,
Chickasaws and Creeks. A mound in town marks the site of an early Indian village, Nikwasi.

Follow U.S. 23/441 South and U.S. 64 about 7.5 miles on the divided highway to the community of Cartoogechaye (pronounced “Car-too-gi-chay”). The mountains nearby are part of the Nantahala Mountain range in the Nantahala National Forest. Approximately four miles west, cross Winding Stair Gap, one of the early western passages along the Appalachian Trail. From here it is another two miles to the community of Rainbow Springs. It is 1.7 miles to Black Gap on the Clay and Macon county line.

While driving the 10 miles along the ridge crests of the Chunky Gal Mountains, enjoy the occasional scenic overlooks. Indian lore has it that a chunky maiden from nearby ran away to get married without her father’s permission. The dismayed thinner maidens of her tribe gave her the name ‘Chunky Gal.’

From the community of Shooting Creek it is about 8.5 miles to the town of Hayesville. About four miles east of Hayesville pass by Lake Chatuga, known as the “Crown Jewel” of the Tennessee Valley Authority lakes. The water is part of the Hiawasee River. Now the Clay County seat, Hayesville was named in 1891 for the county’s founder. Located in town is the site of Fort Hembree, one of the gathering places for the Cherokee who were forced to leave this part of the country for Oklahoma on what is known as the “Trail of Tears.”

About seven miles west of Hayesville, turn left onto Settawig Rd. (S.R. 1135) and follow it for 2.5 miles towards Brasstown. While in Brasstown visit the John C. Campbell Folk School, where craftsmen learn trades such as pottery, weaving and blacksmithing. From Settawig Rd. turn right onto Phillips Rd. (S.R. 1100) for one tenth of a mile to Brasstown Rd. (S.R. 1134). Turn left and follow Brasstown Rd. for three-tenths of a mile then turn right onto Cheringhelli Rd. (S.R. 1558). Follow Cheringhelli Rd. for 6.5 miles where the route ends in Murphy at the intersection with US 19/129 Bypass.

Murphy is the site of Fort Butler, a frontier fort in the early 1800s and a temporary stockade for the Cherokee who were on the “Trail of Tears.” Located at the junction of the Hiawasee and Valley Rivers, the town also was an early trading post. It is the southern terminus of the Great Smoky Mountains Railway (GSMR).

Because of winding mountain roads, travel time may be slow along the route. Travel time also may vary with the season. Other scenic byways near this route are the Nantahala Byway which begins north of Murphy in Marble and the Forest Heritage Scenic Byway which ties in with the beginning of this route.

Length: 98 miles
Driving Time: 3.5 hours
Counties: Cherokee, Clay, Jackson, Macon, Transylvania
Begin the byway in Marble as the four lanes of U.S. 19/74/129 take motorists through eight miles of farming valley to Andrews. The community of Marble, founded in 1911, was so named because it is near the state's largest marble deposit. This marble, in addition to other mineral resources found in this area, is of such high quality that it was used extensively at Arlington National Cemetery. The valley has very rich soil which helps the crops on either side of the road. The soil was deposited by the Valley River which flows on the eastern side of the valley towards the Hiawasee River in Murphy.

At Andrews, named for the man who developed the Western North Carolina Railroad, turn right onto U.S. 19 Business and drive through this turn-of-the-century mountain town. Meet back with U.S. 19/129 on the north side of town where the road becomes two lanes.

From Andrews it is approximately seven miles to the community of Topton. The Indian Lakes Scenic Byway intersects at this point and runs north on U.S. 129. For the next 20 miles you will be passing through the Nantahala Gorge. First cross the Nantahala River. At the Clay and Macon County Line look for the 360-foot Camp Branch Falls just before entering the community of Nantahala, founded in 1882. This is where the gorge's true nature begins. Notice that the U.S. Forest Service Scenic Byway 'Mountain Waters' merges with our byway just prior to Nantahala. The Nantahala Gorge was called the “Land of the Midday Sun.” From this phrase, the Cherokee Indians derived the name “Nantahala” because of its depth and steep walls. It is a world-class white-water rafting spot.

During the warmer months many rafting companies provide tours, while kayaking and canoeing enthusiasts enjoy it well into the winter. Occasionally, you will see slalom gates for races which are held on the river. For those who prefer a less energetic ride, the main boat drop point near the southern end of the gorge provides the calmest water.

The route occasionally provides a glimpse of the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad (GSM R) which snakes through the gorge following U.S. 19/74. Visitors are encouraged to take a ride and enjoy the scenery at a different pace. The railroad operates from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and reservations are recommended.
It is seven miles from Nantahala to the community of Wesser, named for a hunter who lived here. At Wesser, the Nantahala River and the road are no longer parallel. Two miles north of Wesser on U.S. 19/74, cross the Little Tennessee River.

From the community of Lauada, one mile north of the Little Tennessee, continue for four miles on the divided highway portion of U.S. 19/74 to the second Bryson City exit. Bryson City, the Swain County seat founded in 1887, sits in a bowl formed by the Tuckasegee River and the Cowee Mountain Range (see inset). Exit and turn left onto Spring Street and follow for approximately one-half mile on four lanes to the stoplight at Main Street (U.S. 19 Business). Turn left onto Main and go one-tenth of a mile to the stoplight at Slope Street (S.R. 1323). Turn right at the
light onto Slope Street. Cross the Tuckasegee River and turn right on Gibson Avenue (S.R. 1321). Turn right again onto Everett Street (S.R. 1364) at the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad station. Information on train excursions may be obtained here.

In Bryson City, notice the monuments for Tsali, a Cherokee warrior who was executed in 1838 for resisting the removal of his Cherokee people from the Southern Appalachian Region, and Yonaguska, Chief of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee who lived here in 1839.

Turn left at the Swain County Courthouse back onto Main Street (also U.S. 19 Business). Follow U.S. 19 Business about two miles and turn right onto Hyatt Creek Road (S.R. 1168). For the next three miles follow Hyatt Creek Road as it parallels the Tuckasegee River just above its banks.

The road passes through portions of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation’s reservation. The Qualla Reservation got its name from the Cherokee word meaning “old woman” for an old Indian woman who lived on these lands. Established in 1838 with more than 63,000 acres, it is the largest Indian reservation east of the Mississippi.

Turn right onto U.S. 19 Business after crossing the river. Continue on U.S. 19 for seven-tenths of a mile. Turn right onto Old U.S. 19 (S.R. 1195), cross the Oconaluftee River just above its junction with the Tuckasegee. Follow S.R. 1195 for 1.8 miles to the Jackson County line where it becomes Old U.S. 19 (S.R. 1531). The route ends nearly one mile later at Whittier where S.R. 1531 meets with U.S. 74.

Length: 43 miles
Driving Time: 1.5 hours
Counties: Cherokee, Graham, Jackson, Swain
This National Scenic Byway is often compared to the Blue Ridge Parkway because of its scenic attractions and the road’s natural topography. The skyway is a connector between the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee and the Nantahala National Forest in North Carolina (therefore, the name Cherohala).

Native Americans first occupied Graham County before the progression of settlers reached into this territory in the early 1830s. The homesteaders followed Indian paths and game trails into this unbroken land. In 1836, President Andrew Jackson ordered the removal of the Cherokees from this mountain region.

You can access the route by driving 12 miles west out of Robbinsville along N.C. 143 in Graham County. A scenic overlook marks the start of the scenic byway. Stop and catch the tranquil view or read about the development of this route and recreational opportunities highlighted on the information kiosk. At this juncture you can visit Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest as well – dedicated on July 30, 1936 to the late great author of the poem “Trees.” This virginal forest, one of the finest stands of its type in America, includes poplar, hemlock and oak. Some tulip-poplars have grown in excess of 100 feet high and 20 feet in circumference. More than a hundred species of trees can be seen here while hiking over 60 miles of trails.

Contact the U.S. Forest Service or the Cheoah Ranger Station for further information on the forests, the adjoining Slickrock Wilderness Area and Lake Santeetlah (see photo).

The byway begins at Santeetlah Gap and ascends along Cedar Top Mountain. This peak, along with Little Huckleberry Knob, Hooper’s Bald, Laurel Top, and John’s Knob, forms the backbone to the byway. The route will eventually weave westward up and through these Southern Appalachian Mountains. They are considered to be the oldest in the world, formed over 200 million years ago! There are many pull-offs, trail access points and overlooks along the drive. The road, due to its design and low traffic speeds, allows for
bicycle and pedestrian traffic. It is a great experience to walk or ride the skyway, but please be careful.

Many hardwood and coniferous trees abound throughout these mountains, thanks to the U.S. Forest Service. Following the Civil War large lumber companies moved in and systematically cleared large swaths of forest. In 1911 the Federal Government authorized and began the acquisition of these lands for their protection. Remnants of this clearing and upland open grazing are the ‘balds’. These bare grassy, rocky and partially barren knobs mark some of the highest points along the route. Hooper’s Bald (elev. 5429’) is the highest spot along the Cherohala in Tennessee and North Carolina. It was once the location of a private hunting preserve, stocked with buffalo, wild boar, elk, muledeer, bear, wild turkeys and pheasants. The gameland preserve failed but a remnant of its history is the presence of wild boars in this region. It is about 5 1/2 miles from Hooper’s Bald to the pull-off at Beech Gap. You may stop and turn around at this point or cross over into Tennessee and travel along their National Scenic Byway – T.N. Route 165.

Length: 20 miles
Driving Time: 45 minutes
County: Graham

Note: Tractor-trailer trucks are prohibited on this road and the route may also present problems for larger or recreational vehicles.
INDIAN LAKES
SCENIC BYWAY

This route takes its name from the many lakes along the route with Indian names. Begin the byway in Almond, incorporated in 1905 and located just north of the Nantahala Gorge. Cross the Nantahala River and take N.C. 28 north to Fontana Village. On the 23-mile trek from Almond to Fontana Village, take advantage of the many overlooks with parking for roadside picnics to enjoy the scenery. Cross through Calf Pen Gap and the Stecoah Panther Divide from Swain County into Graham County. The numerous creeks all feed into the Little Tennessee River to the north. The Little Tennessee was discovered in 1540 by the Spanish Conquistador, Hernando DeSoto, as the first tributary to the Mississippi River. The community of Stecoah carries an Indian name thought to mean “lean” or “no game at this site.”

Along the way, watch for large pipes shooting up the mountain sides. These surge pipes take water overflow up the mountain for storage when overflow gates are closed in the hydroelectric dams seen along the route. When water levels are low, the water is released and flows down the mountains through the pipes to turn the turbines in generator houses next to the dams.

There have been two other Fontana Villages near the existing site. The first was built as a logging camp in the 1800s and is now under the lake's waters. The second was built for copper miners at the turn of the century. The third, built for the 6,000 workers who constructed the Fontana Dam (pictured here), is now a resort community. The dam, located about two miles from the village, was built by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in response to the federal government's need “for aid in the development of atomic power.” When the dam was completed in 1945 it was the fourth highest hydroelectric dam in the world and is the highest in the eastern United States. Fontana Lake is the largest of the TVA lakes with its impoundment of the Little Tennessee River covering 10,530 acres when full.

Beware of sharp, hairpin turns as you leave Fontana Village for Tapoco, located near the intersection of N.C. 28 and U.S. 129. Tapoco is not an Indian name, but the nickname for the TAllasses POWER COMPANY (Tallassee is a nearby town in
Tennessee). It was established in 1930 and housed the builders of the Cheoah dam, located two miles further along this route. Cheoah is derived from the Cherokee word for “otter.”

The Cheoah Dam, built of hand-cut stone and covered with a layer of concrete, began in 1917 by the Aluminum Company of America. At the time of its construction it was the highest overflow dam in the world and had the world’s largest turbines. The waters of the Little Tennessee River and the Cheoah River meet at this dam. Just past the lake and dam is a very large pipe crossing over the road. This pipe is part of an aqueduct which connects Cheoah Lake to Santeetlah Lake.

Continue south along U.S. 129 while noticing the Cheoah River which parallels the route. This stream would be flowing much fuller if the hydroelectric dams were not nearby. From Cheoah Dam it is 16 miles to the Graham County seat of Robbinsville, founded in 1843.

Along the way look for the Santeetlah Dam at Lake Santeetlah to the right. Santeetlah comes from an Indian word meaning “blue waters.” To the west notice the mountain peaks in the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest. This 3,849 acre forest was dedicated to the poet in 1936 and is hallowed with virgin stands of oak, yellow-poplar, basswood and sycamore.

Because of the mountain ranges surrounding this area, Graham County is one of the most isolated areas in the eastern United States. The grave of Junaluska, a Cherokee chief and warrior who saved Andrew Jackson’s life at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in the 1812 Creek War, is located in Robbinsville.

Just after Robbinsville, cross the Tulula Creek (Cherokee for “cry of the frog”) which joins with the Sweetwater Creek to form the Cheoah River. Continue along U.S. 129 for approximately 12 miles to the intersection with U.S. 19/74. The route ends just south of the Nantahala Gorge at Topton, located at the top of the Red Marble Gap.

The Indian Lakes Scenic Byway connects with the Nantahala Byway at both ends.

Length: 60 miles
Driving Time: Two hours
Counties: Swain, Graham, Cherokee

Note: The route is difficult for recreational vehicles and buses.
WHITENATER WAY

This byway provides the opportunity to access some of the most beautiful waterfalls in this region of the country. The route gets its name from Whitewater Falls (pictured here), which is the highest waterfall (411’) east of the Rockies.

Begin the byway at the intersection of U.S. 64 and N.C. 281 in the village of Sapphire. This quaint mountain town is named for the intense blue sky and water, as well as for the gems found in this area. Follow N.C. 281 South for two miles before reaching the access area for Horse Pasture River and Falls. The trails here lead you along the river to see a series of falls. In succession they are: Horse Pasture, Drift (a popular place to slide on the rocks – be careful!), Rainbow (150’ tall with a back spray of mist when illuminated by the sun casts a rainbow), Stairway (seven steps averaging 10’ each), and Windy (an ominous place of swirling spray). As you proceed down the trail, footing becomes more treacherous. Take your time and enjoy your surroundings. A rare and beautiful plant called Shortia is also found here and nowhere else other than Japan. It grows from a slender single stem and blooms white or pink in late March or early April.

As you continue along the byway, you will pass through the Nantahala National Forest. Congress first established this forest in 1911, and now there are nearly 1.4 million acres of western North Carolina within its borders. At a glance, you see stands of hemlock and spruce. In the spring, native azaleas, rhododendron and mountain laurel light up the understories of these trees. Some privately-owned land is adjacent to the route where a mix of homes, farms, and craft shops dot this portion of byway.

About 8.5 miles from Sapphire, you see the entrance to Whitewater Falls Scenic Area. Follow the signs to the trailhead parking lot. From here, it is a five-minute stroll to the falls overlook. Additional trails lead further along the falls and river or deeper into the gorge.
Once back on the main road, it is less than a mile to South Carolina. You may want to back track along the byway and spend additional time exploring the falls, Sapphire or the resort town of Toxaway Falls (just northeast of Sapphire along U.S. 64).

**Length:** 9 miles  
**Driving Time:** 20 minutes  
**Counties:** Transylvania, Jackson

*Note: The route is difficult for recreational vehicles and buses.*
Enjoy mountain scenery while traveling north along U.S. 276 from the intersection with N.C. 280 and U.S. 64 near Brevard. Established in 1861, Brevard was named for Ephriam Brevard who drafted the Mecklenburg Resolves of 1775. At the beginning of this route is a pair of stone pillars built to honor Transylvania County residents who served in World War I. They mark the entrance to the Pisgah National Forest. The Forest was established in 1916 and consists of more than one million acres. About two miles from the pillars is a Forest Service Information Center with more information on the National Forests in this region.

West of the information center is the Pisgah Forest National Fish Hatchery which raises trout to be released into mountain streams. Three-tenths of a mile further along U.S. 276 notice the breathtaking 85-foot tall Looking Glass Falls on the right. A pull-off is provided so you may safely enjoy the falls. The falls are named for the mountain above to the left, known as Looking Glass Rock. Its monolithic granite face gleams like a mirror from the water seeping out of the mountain across the stone.

About 2.5 miles north, pass Sliding Rock Falls. In the summer many visitors enjoy a cool slide down the rock into a pool below under the supervision of life guards. A bath house provides a place to change clothes. The Cradle of Forestry (pictured here) is on the right about three miles from Sliding Rock. It is the birthplace of scientific forestry and forestry education by Dr. Carl A. Schenck in 1898. Dr. Schenck was George Vanderbilt’s forest supervisor for 100,000 acres of the Biltmore Forest. Dr. Schenck founded the first forestry school in the United States at Biltmore, near Asheville.

Another two-tenths of a mile further on the right is the entrance to the Pink Beds, an upland bog with a dense growth of pink blooming rhododendrons and laurels.

About four miles from the Pink Beds, arrive at the first of two Blue Ridge Parkway crossings. The first crossing is at Wagon Road Gap. The gap was named for the vehicles that crossed the mountain on the trail from Brevard towards the Pigeon
River Gorge and Tennessee. To the left is the Shining Rock Wilderness. Accessible only by foot trails, this primitive area is a unique natural resource. From here, follow the upper reaches of the East Fork of the Pigeon River through rural mountain villages and farm lands for 14 miles to the community of Bethel.

The nearby community of Woodrow, just north of Bethel, was named for our 28th president Woodrow Wilson. Turn left at the stoplight onto N.C. 215. Follow the West Fork of the Pigeon River for 18 miles until you reach the second crossing of the Blue Ridge Parkway at Beech Gap. Along this portion of N.C. 215, pass by more mountain farms and numerous streams and falls. Six miles from Woodrow, pass a local reservoir, Lake Logan. The community of Sunburst, located along the shores of the lake, gets its name from the swiftness of the sun as it rises over Cold Mountain to announce the morning.

About 8.5 miles from the Blue Ridge Parkway arrive in the Balsam Grove community near Balsam Lake which feeds into the French Broad River. The river was named for the French who inhabited the territory during the 18th century. For the last eight miles, the road parallels the North Fork of the French Broad River. The route ends at the intersection of N.C. 215 with U.S. 64 near Rosman.

Continue your scenic journey by following the Waterfall Byway west along U.S. 64 from this point or turn left and follow the U.S. Forest Service scenic byway north to Brevard.

- Length: 65 miles
- Driving Time: Two hours
- Counties: Haywood, Transylvania, Jackson

Note: The route is difficult for recreational vehicles and buses.
This byway will engage your senses and recall the past. It has been appropriately named Mountain Medley for the rich history of the local music and the rise and fall of these beautiful hills—a melody of greatest proportions.

A point to access this byway is Exit 24 on I-40 near Lake Junaluska or Waynesville. Begin the route by traveling north along N.C. 209. After 1.3 miles you will cross the path of the Pigeon River. The river received its name because of the large flock of fowl that once lived along its banks. Within two miles after crossing the river you pass through Crabtree (elev. 2659’). Travel another 1/2 mile and the route from this point north is closely bound by the Pisgah National Forest. This forest extends throughout 12 counties and more than one million acres in North Carolina. Also, it is the birthplace of the scientific study of American forestry. Contact the U.S. Forest Service for further information (see the “For More Information” section in the back of this book).

The byway extends five miles north before veering right near Fines Creek. Named for a scout who was buried in its icy waters (his brother, awaiting the spring thaw, placed him there to preserve the body ... but later was nowhere to be found). Less than four miles you will enter Betsey's Gap (elev. 5895’) and then into Madison County. Hebo Mountain is south and Pug Knob is north.

With Luck comes Trust! The byway from this point north is escorted by Spring Creek. Luck, North Carolina is less than five miles up the road. Trust, a small community with a general store and cafe, is a mile and a half past Luck. Guests are welcome to stop in St. Jude's Chapel of Hope, also at Trust. Following N.C. 209, the surrounding landscape opens into a picturesque valley. You will soon see Max Patch Mountain on your left. The Appalachian Trail hikes across
the top of this mountain bald (elev. 4629’). Travel a little over four miles and you have the option of stopping at the Rocky Bluff Recreation Area. Stop and use the picnic facilities, bathrooms, campsites, or hiking trails.

Hot Springs is 3.3 miles beyond the recreation area. Two scouts, Henry Reynolds and Thomas Morgan first discovered the springs here in 1778. Originally known as Warm Springs (changed to Hot Springs in 1886), it was
a main stop for drovers that led cattle, hogs and horses to markets in South Carolina and Georgia. During this time, this area had a reputation of debauchery, drunkenness, murder and prostitution. A toll road with regular stagecoach traffic and private carriages slowly changed the character of these towns. The drover’s stands were converted to better accommodate a higher clientele seeking the healing waters of the springs. The history of this area also includes the first golf course in the southeast, the imprisonment of German merchants during World War I and the presence of the Appalachian Trail (see photo above). Stop and enjoy Hot Springs or take a side trip on Paint Rock Road, which leads to the area’s best known landmark – a sheer rock cliff, which had appearances of painted humans and wild animals to early settlers.

Turn onto U.S. 25/70 and travel three miles outside of Hot Springs where the Appalachian Trail crosses the road by way of an overhead bridge. Follow U.S. 25/70 to Walnut, which was originally called Jewell Hill before it was incorporated in 1905. The byway ends here but you may continue south on your journey to Marshall. Here you can pick-up N.C. 251 and our French Broad Overview scenic byway.

Length: 45 miles
Driving Time: 1.5 hours
Counties: Haywood and Madison
The byway begins in Weaverville, first settled in the 1700s. The small town was called Pine Cabin until it was incorporated in 1850. It also is the site of the Vance Birthplace State Historic Site. Zebulon B. Vance was governor of North Carolina from 1862-1865 and a United States Senator. The historic site is unusual in its presentation of early mountain settler life.

Begin the route by exiting U.S. 19/23 at Weaverville and traveling U.S. 25/70 Bypass towards Marshall. Turn left at the first stoplight onto Monticello Road (S.R. 1727). Follow Monticello Road for about three miles through a rural residential area until it ends at N.C. 251. Notice the French Broad River ahead as it makes its way west. The river was named for the French who inhabited the territory during the 18th century. Turn right onto N.C. 251 near the community of Alexander. Established in 1828, Alexander was named for the owner of a local stagecoach tavern.

This road, like many others in river valleys, was built following old Indian trading paths that led to trading posts and villages in the Tennessee and Ohio River valleys. Note the palisades, or sheer rock walls, that line the right side of the road. During the years, the wide river cut away at the rock valley walls. Migrating animals and native American Indians used this passage to cross through the east's tallest mountains. When settlers of European descent arrived, they too followed the river valleys and paths set by the natives before them and widened the paths into roads. With the arrival of trains, river valleys again provided the path of least resistance.

While following the French Broad you will catch glimpses of a railroad on the other side of the river. Near Marshall the tracks will cross the river and parallel it on the same side as the road.

Continue following N.C. 251 after it meets with U.S. 25/70 Business into Marshall. Established in 1852 and named for Chief Justice John Marshall, it is the seat of Madison County. For the best view of the courthouse (shown here), turn left.
at the stop light, cross the river, turn around in the school parking lot to your right and come back across the river to see this community perched upon the banks of the river.

Turn left at the stoplight in front of the courthouse to continue on the final portion of this trip. Follow U.S. 25/70 Business as it winds up the hill past a beautifully laid stone wall and finally meets with U.S. 25/70 Bypass one mile from the courthouse in Marshall. The route ends here.

During summer months, the French Broad River is a popular site for white-water rafting and canoeing.

Length: 17 miles
Driving Time: 25 minutes
Counties: Madison
Buncombe
The community of Flat Rock derived its name from a large expanse of granite used long ago as a meeting and ceremonial site by the Cherokee. The historic village has also been the haven for affluent Charlestonians, Europeans, and prominent plantation owners. Evidence of their residence can be seen in the many beautiful historic homes, and a lineage of southern aristocracy is in the family plots at St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church.

The scenic byway route consists of two roads intersecting as a “T”. The main road running north and south along the byway and through Flat Rock, is US 25. The intersecting road is Little River Road (S.R. 1123) and it continues west for four miles from US 25.

You access the route by exiting from I-26 and follow US 64 west into the town of Hendersonville (established in 1841 as the Henderson County seat). In Hendersonville, turn left onto US 25 and follow it south for 2+ miles. The byway begins at the intersection of Highland Lake Road (S.R. 1783). Immediately on your right, you will see the St. John in the Wilderness gothic revival church (pictured here). Built in 1836, it is considered the oldest Episcopal Church in western North Carolina. A broad spectrum of people have worshiped here...from the wealthy and politically influential landowners to encumbered slaves. Both rest in the adjoining graveyard. One-half mile up the road on the right is “the great flat rock.” It was frequently used as a landmark and meeting place for pioneers and merchants. It is now a meeting place for those interested in the events at the Flat Rock Playhouse. Known as the “State Theater of North Carolina,” the Playhouse is considered to have one of the best ‘summer series’ productions in the country.

At this point, the byway reaches the “T” intersection. You may follow Little River Road to the right (see description below) or continue along US 25. Following US 25 just beyond the Playhouse entrance, the Old Flat Rock Post Office (established in 1839) is on the left. Next on your left is Blue Ridge Road (S.R. 1812). It leads to the community of East Flat Rock, home to the area’s first railroad station. Further along US 25 is the Woodfield Inn (formerly known as the Farmer Hotel). Built in 1852 it has been a mecca for...
Coastal South Carolinians for over 100 years. A distant view of Glassy Mountain and a close-up of McAlpin Mountain follow. Kenmure Golf Course will be on your right. Across from Kenmure is “Argyle”- built in 1830 as the summer home of Judge Mitchell King. King was one of the founding fathers of St. John in the Wilderness Church and the town of Hendersonville. This portion of the byway ends at Pinnacle Mountain Road (S.R. 1114).

Turning on Little River Road you will pass another entrance to the Flat Rock Playhouse. On the left is “Connemara,” the Carl Sandburg National Memorial Site. Home to the renowned author for 22 years, “Connemara” was built in 1839 by Christopher G. Memminger (the first Secretary to the Confederate Treasury). From the road you can see the forested slopes of Glassy Mountain. Just beyond the entrance to the memorial site is Saluda Cottage. Count Joseph Marie Gabriel St. Zavier de Choiseul built the home in 1836. The French Consol to Charleston and Savannah, the Count was drawn to the area’s natural beauty and social landscape. The route continues through a winding pattern of woodland and fields. At 1.3 miles, you can see the awesome Sally Caps Rock which scales three-quarters up the side of Glassy Mountain. Many historic homes and beautiful areas extend beyond the reaches of this byway... take time to explore the area and gain a view of the past. This section of byway ends at Kanuga Road (S.R. 1127). Turn right and head north on Kanuga Road to return to Hendersonville.

Length: 7.3 miles
Driving Time: 15 minutes
Counties: Henderson
This route passes through Hickory Nut Gap, one of only two gaps in the Blue Ridge Mountains which early eastern settlers took to reach the beautiful Asheville plateaus. Many farmers drove flocks of their market-bound livestock through this gap, hence the byway’s name.

Imagine back 100 years ago, to see the undaunted beauty of this area. The route is now quite different. Its beauty still abounds and the paths blazed a century ago are also the avenues of choice today. The route U.S. 74A works its way down from Asheville and the Blue Ridge Parkway. The byway begins just south of the community of Fairview. As you travel south/southeast, notice the tall peak to your left – the Little Pisgah Mountain (elev. 4,412’) once known to the Cherokee Indians as Konnatoga.

This forewarns the climb up and through Hickory Nut Gap. Long ago this gap was known as Sherrill’s Gap – named after a historic inn and tavern owned by Bedford Sherrill. This inn, open between 1834 and 1909, was a well-known comfort stop for weary travelers, settlers, drovers and Civil War soldiers. This National Register Historic Site (pictured here) still stands but is now maintained as a private residence. You may catch a glimpse of it as you drive the wide curves between Ferguson Mountain and Tater Knob. The hillsides are covered in stands of mature trees. In the spring and early summer you are treated to the symphony of flowering trillium and mountain laurel.

Descending from the gap you drive into Hickory Nut Gorge. Bearwallow Mountain is conspicuously to your right. Hickory Nut Creek (also known as the Rocky Broad) parallels your drive and a chain of blue ridges. At five miles from the beginning of the byway, you find the quaint village of Gerton. This community was first known as Pump. As the story goes, the town’s original name came from the frequent practice of thirsty patrons leaving money by a local water pump and upon their return they would find a jar of clear potent liquid – unique to these hills.
The drive through here offers several craft shops, stores, campgrounds and some roadside stands. Sorry, the infamous pump is gone.

The high steep sides of the gorge are covered in a cascade of rocks, trees and rhododendron. In spring, you may see a tree with deep lavender blooms scattered along this drive. The Paulownia Tree, also known as the Empress Tree was originally brought here by George Vanderbilt. Since first introduced, the seeds of this tree have been spread throughout this area by birds. The byway ends at Bat Cave where it intersects with N.C. 9 and the Black Mountain Rag scenic byway. The following pages contain further details of this area.

- **Length:** 10 miles
- **Driving Time:** 20 minutes
- **Counties:** Buncombe and Henderson

**Note:** Tractor-trailer trucks are prohibited on this road and the route may also present problems for large or recreational vehicles.
This route earns its name from an old fiddle tune named for the Black Mountains. A “rag” is a type of musical score with multiple twists and curves up and down scales. The roads along this route also have multiple twists and turns.

Take Exit 64 on I-40 at Black Mountain, a resort community named for the mountain range below which it stands. The Black Mountains were named because of the dark green foliage of the Lauada Firs covering the mountain sides.

Mount Mitchell is the highest mountain east of the Mississippi River. Mount Mitchell State Park may be reached from the nearby Blue Ridge Parkway.

Follow N.C. 9 to Bat Cave which was named for a nearby cave inhabited by bats and other rare mammals. Although the stretch is only 16 miles, sharp curves may provide problems for recreational vehicles. Motorists driving recreational vehicles or buses may want to consider following U.S. 74 from Asheville or Rutherfordton as alternate routes to the Lake Lure and Bat Cave area. Venture along the sharp curves and hairpin turns of N.C. 9 to Bat Cave while enjoying rural mountain scenery.

The river flowing to the right of N.C. 9 is the Broad River, sometimes called the Rocky Broad. It is joined by Hickory Nut Creek near the intersection of U.S. 64, U.S. 74 and N.C. 9 at Bat Cave before it flows into Lake Lure. Turn left and follow N.C. 9/ U.S. 64 east to Lake Lure. Be sure to watch for the Chimney Rock (pictured here), high up to the right along the three-mile span between the communities of Bat Cave and Chimney Rock. Motorists may want to take a side trip up Chimney Rock Scenic Road to visit the unique rock formation which overlooks Hickory Nut Gorge and Lake Lure.

Chimney Rock is a weathered granite monolith that rises from Chimney Rock Mountain. A privately operated site, visitors may want to check on admission fees and operating hours.

Falling 404 feet into the Broad River, Hickory Nut Falls adds to the beautiful mountain scenery. The Hickory Nut Gorge area has long been a favored place for the movie industry – even as early as 1915. Movies such as Fire Starter, Last of the
Mohicans and a Breed Apart were filmed here.

The nearby Hickory Nut Gap is where early settlers crossed the high mountains to reach the Asheville plateau. Explorer Hernando DeSoto is said to have passed through here around 1540.

The resort community of Lake Lure was established in 1927. Notice the historic resort hotel to the right before crossing Pool Creek as you follow N.C. 9 to the intersection where N.C. 9 and U.S. 64/74 split. Pool Creek has a special feature that some may wish to see. The bottomless pools were formed by the erosion of ancient rock. This is a privately operated site and there is an admission fee.

Backtrack about eight miles to Bat Cave along the winding edge of Lake Lure, now on the right. Turn left and follow U.S. 64 towards Hendersonville.

Along the six-mile route to Edneyville, enjoy the beautiful masses of mountain laurel and some of North Carolina's finest apple orchards. This area was settled around 1830. The route ends at Mills Gap Road (S.R. 1586), named for the first European settler of Henderson County who crossed through this gap in the Revolutionary War period. Nearby is the resort community and Henderson County seat, Hendersonville. To visit poet and author Carl Sandburg's home, continue to Flat Rock, just south of Hendersonville.

Length: 31 miles
Driving Time: 45 minutes
Counties: Buncombe, Rutherford, Henderson

Note: The route is difficult for recreational vehicles and buses.
The Pacolet River Byway begins at the South Carolina state line and traces U.S. 176 through the Tryon Thermal Belt, an unusual microclimate area ordinarily free of dew and frost. This valley road crosses the Pacolet River several times and parallels the Saluda Grade, the steepest mainline railroad grade in the United States. Old railroad depots, log cabins, an old vaudeville/movie theater and several other historic buildings can be seen in the towns of Saluda and Tryon. (Saluda Station is pictured here). Pearson's Falls Natural Heritage Site, near Saluda, is a 259-acre botanical wonderland where you may hike, bird watch or picnic. The byway ends where U.S. 176 crosses High Bridge at the Henderson County border. You may travel on from here to Hendersonville or Flat Rock (location of the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site and Flat Rock Playhouse).

Length: 10 miles
Driving Time: 20 minutes
Counties: Polk
For a transitional drive from the Piedmont to the mountains, take N.C. 226 from the community of Metcalf (about 3.5 miles northwest of Shelby) to Marion. The city of Shelby was named for Isaac Shelby, a Revolutionary War Commander. Cleveland County was formed in 1841 and named for Benjamin Cleaveland, a hero of the Battle at Kings Mountain.

Around the community of Polkville, located in the First Broad River valley, look for glimpses of the South Mountains ahead to the right. Along the way, enjoy the upper piedmont farmlands and spectacular views of the mountains. Corn and apples are some of the crops that may be seen from the road. This part of the route is in Rutherford County. Formed in 1779, the county was named for Griffith Rutherford, a member of the Provincial Congress and a Revolutionary War general. As you pass into Rutherford County, Cherry Mountain lies to the southwest. After the Civil War, liquor and ‘cherry bounce’ (produced from local cherry trees) were brewed here.

The South Mountains are an isolated range located in Burke, Rutherford and Cleveland counties. The Cherokee Indians called them the “Oakanoahs.” South Mountains State Park and the South Mountain Wildlife Management Area may provide an interesting side trip. The park (pictured here) is 16 miles south of Morganton off of Old N.C. 18 (S.R. 1924). Both are located in Burke County.

Pass through the Dysartsville community, named for the family who settled this area.

While driving the last ten miles towards Marion, you will begin to catch glimpses of North Carolina’s Appalachian Mountains. The route ends at the intersection with S.R. 1819, one-tenth mile before I-40 and south of the city of Marion.

Marion was named for South Carolina’s Francis Marion - farmer and Revolutionary War general. McDowell County, formed in 1842, was named for Joseph McDowell who fought at Kings Mountain and was a member of Congress.

Another beautiful (and close) scenic
byway is the Black Mountain Rag which begins on N.C. 9 just south of Exit 64 on I-40.

DIRECTIONS TO SOUTH MOUNTAIN STATE PARK: Take exit 104 off I-40. Go north on Enola Road (S. R. 1922) for 1/2 mile. Turn right onto Old NC 18, follow this road south, back over I-40, and toward South Mountain Park. Follow signs from there. (12-15 miles off I-40)
From Elk Park and Cranberry to Vilas, travel along N.C. 194 through North Carolina’s ski country and the northern range of the Roan Mountains in Pisgah National Forest.

First called Cranberry Forge for the iron mines believed to have been worked by Indians, this community was founded in 1850 and named for the abundant native cranberries. The mines once supplied iron to the confederacy and are still being worked today.

Elk Park, founded in 1885, is named for the elk that formerly roamed the region. It is located on the Elk River whose headwaters are in Banner Elk. Follow the Elk River valley to Banner Elk from the community of Heaton.

Banner Elk, home of Lees-McRae College, was named for the Banner family who were early settlers on the Elk River. Above Banner Elk is Beech Mountain whose pinnacle rises to 5,506 feet and is one of the region’s better known resorts. After Banner Elk, also known as Shawnee, pass through the community of Balm before passing through Bowers Gap on the Avery and Watauga County line. The creek paralleling the road is called Craborchard Creek. Follow the creek to its junction with the Watauga River near Valle Crucis.

Shortly after passing through the community of Matney, begin the descent into the Watauga River Valley. Watauga is derived from the Indian word for “beautiful water.” On the left is the mission from which this route got its name. To the right is Dutch Creek, which meets with Craborchard Creek below.

The mission played an important part in the history of Valle Crucis. In 1842 Bishop Stillman Ives purchased 3,000 acres and began a divinity school that became the first Anglican monastic order since the Reformation. In 1852 the divinity school and monastery were forced to disband. By 1895, Bishop Joseph Blount Cheshire revived the Episcopal church’s work by opening a mission school which remained open until World War II. The mission is now operated by the Episcopal Diocese of

MISSION CROSSING

Shannon Hendrickson
Western North Carolina as a camp and conference center.

Valle Crucis, settled in 1780 by Samuel Hix, means “Valley of the Cross” and is named for the creeks that converge with the Watauga River in the form of a cross. Before leaving the valley, be sure to see the Mast Farm Inn. The farm, begun in 1812, is one of the best preserved 19th century farms in western North Carolina and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Stop at the Mast General Store (shown here) in Valle Crucis to see an authentic general store that opened in 1882. (Take a right on Broadside Road to see the Mast Farm Inn and General Store Annex.)

While climbing out of the valley, notice the unusual barn on the right. The Baird Barn, built in the late 19th or early 20th century, is an excellent example of a transverse crib barn. Be cautious of these winding mountain roads which can be particularly dangerous in bad weather. The route ends in the community of Vilas at the intersection of N.C. 194 with U.S. 321/421 north of Boone.

Length: 17 miles
Driving Time: 45 minutes
Counties: Avery, Watauga

Note: Recreational vehicles and buses are not recommended for this route because of the narrow and curvy roads.
Also known as the Little Parkway or the Yonahlossee Trail, U.S. 221 connects the resort towns of Blowing Rock and Linville. Built in 1889 by man and mule as a toll road, the Little Parkway winds along the face of Grandfather Mountain. It was one of many privately owned and maintained roads in the state and served as the link between Blowing Rock and Linville before the completion of the Blue Ridge Parkway in 1987. Work on the 470-mile Blue Ridge Parkway began in 1935 in North Carolina. The route follows the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains from the Shenandoahs in Virginia to the Smokies in North Carolina.

Begin the Little Parkway byway at the intersection of U.S. 221 and N.C. 105 in Linville. Linville, established in 1883 and designed by Samuel T. Kelsey of Kansas, is located on the Linville River. South of Linville are the Linville Falls and the Linville Gorge. All were named for William and John Linville who were killed below the falls by Indians in 1766. The upper and lower falls, accessed from the Blue Ridge Parkway, are 12 feet and 90 feet high respectively. One of the largest in the country, Linville Gorge is located in one of the wildest uninhabited areas in the eastern United States. Majestic Grandfather Mountain is between the two towns. It was named because the mountain, when viewed from a distance, looks like an old man's profile against the sky. Tanawha, as the Indians called it, is the highest point in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Because of its height, Grandfather provides habitat for special mountain plant species.

The Linn Cove Viaduct, the final link in the Blue Ridge Parkway, may be seen above on the face of Grandfather Mountain. The viaduct is about five miles north of Linville and is the world's only bridge built from the top down (meaning no heavy equipment was put on the face of the mountain to protect the mountain ecology). For more detailed information about the construction process, visit the information center just off the viaduct on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

While traveling to Blowing Rock watch for the signs marking the Eastern
Continental Divide. Also, notice the residential areas along the edges of the Pisgah National Forest through which this road passes. On the left near Blowing Rock, look for a large colonial revival house with huge columns on the front. Westglow, as this house is named, was built by the artist Elliott Daingerfield as his summer residence. One of North Carolina's most renowned artists, Daingerfield has work at the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the National Gallery in Washington. But to see one of his best pieces, continue into Blowing Rock to view the "Madonna of the Hills" hanging in St. Mary's-of-the-Hills Episcopal Church.

One and one half miles farther, look for the back entrance to the Moses H. Cone Memorial Park. (However, visitors must enter through the main gate on the Blue Ridge Parkway). The 3,516-acre park is named for the textile manufacturer whose estate makes up the park. Flat Top Manor, named for the mountain under which it stands, is now a museum and craft center (pictured here). Tiffany windows are among the many unusual aspects of this house. Take advantage of the great picnic and hiking areas, as well as breathtakingly beautiful views of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

One-half mile from the rear entrance to the park is the town of Blowing Rock. Settled in 1870, the town was named for the nearby cliff rising above the Johns River Valley from which air currents rise to allow light objects to be blown back to the sender. This resort community, the only incorporated town on the Blue Ridge Parkway, has seasonal festivals in the park. The byway ends at the stoplight at U.S. 321 Business.

Length: 18 miles
Driving Time: 45 minutes
Counties: Avery, Caldwell, Watauga

Note: The route is difficult for recreational vehicles and buses.
See some of the most beautiful mountain scenery and the largest concentration of Christmas tree farms in the state while traveling north from Boone to Laurel Springs through the Stone Mountains in the New River Valley. These mountains form a common boundary with North Carolina and Tennessee.

The route begins at the intersection of N.C. 194 and U.S. 421/221 in Boone. The town is named for Daniel Boone who camped in this area, and is home to Appalachian State University and is the Watauga County seat.

This road winds as it crosses mountains and passes over rivers and streams through the New River Valley. The New River is North America’s oldest and the only large north-flowing river in the United States. It is estimated that only the Nile River is older. The North Fork, which rises in northern Watauga County, and the South Fork, which rises near Boone, flow to Ashe County where they join to form the New River.

Follow N.C. 194 over what had been called the “Old Buffalo Trail” for the migration path of buffalo herds. The area between Boone and Todd is the site of the only Revolutionary War military engagement in Watauga County. Todd lies at the junction of Big Elk Creek and the South Fork of the New River. Settled in the mid 1800s, it was a bustling logging community until the mid 1930s. Be sure to look for the Todd General Store to the right while passing through town.

The route temporarily ends at the intersection of U.S. 221 and N.C. 194 in Baldwin. Continue toward West Jefferson and Jefferson on U.S. 221 North. Cheese lovers will want to visit the cheese factory in downtown West Jefferson. It is the only cheese factory in the state and is located one-half block southeast of Main Street on Fourth Street. Tours are available during business hours. Settled in 1803, Jefferson was named for then president Thomas Jefferson.

The scenic byway resumes at the N.C. 16/88 intersection to the east of the Jefferson city limits. Follow N.C. 88 to Laurel Springs passing through a popular canoeing and white-water rafting area.
Travel through the community of Ore Knob, chartered in 1875 and named for the booming copper ore mine. The scenic byway ends at the intersection of N.C. 18 and 88 in Laurel Springs about 2.5 miles from the Blue Ridge Parkway. Laurel Springs was settled in 1859 and named for the nearby spring flowing from laurel covered rocks.

Nearby attractions include the Blue Ridge Parkway, Mt. Jefferson State Park, New River State Park and Doughton Park.

Doughton Park, the largest recreational area along the parkway, was named in honor of North Carolina Congressman Robert L. Doughton who worked to establish the Blue Ridge Parkway. Brinegars Cabin, built in 1880, is located within the park and is accessible from the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Length: 35 miles
Driving Time: 1.25 hours
Counties: Watauga, Ashe
From the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir in Goshen, follow N.C. 268 (beginning at S.R. 1178) to the intersection with U.S. 321 near Patterson.

The Kerr Scott Reservoir was formed in 1962 for flood control and recreation and named for the North Carolina governor of the same name. Pastures and farmland can be seen along this rural route that follows the Yadkin River from the mountains through the foothills. The Yadkin River rises in Watauga County near Blowing Rock to the west. It eventually becomes a part of the Pee Dee River bordering Montgomery County.

Wilkesboro and Wilkes County were named for John Wilkes, an English political leader who supported American rights in the Revolutionary War era. The county was formed in 1778 and nearby Wilkesboro was laid out in 1801.

In southwest Wilkes County near the town of Ferguson is the grave of Thomas C. Dula. He perhaps is best remembered in the folk song “Tom Dooley,” and was hung in Statesville for the murder of Laura Foster in 1868. His tombstone is pictured below.

Patterson, founded in 1851 with a textile-based economy, was named for Samuel F. Patterson, a prominent state official. The Morgan School at Patterson Reserve is named in honor of Samuel Legerwood Patterson and located on the plantation lands he gave to the school.

The upper Yadkin River in Caldwell County is known as “Happy Valley,” and was the site of prominent early settlers’ residences. South of Patterson is Fort Defiance, the restored 1790 house of General William Lenoir, a Revolutionary leader and hero at the Battle of Kings Mountain. The house stands on the site of a frontier fort that had the same name. It is open for tours the first and third Sundays of the month from April through November.

The route ends at the intersection of N.C. 268 and U.S. 321 north of Lenoir, at the edge of the Pisgah National Forest.

Now the Caldwell County seat, Lenoir was
named for William Lenoir, a general in the Revolutionary War. A few miles to the north is the resort community of Blowing Rock. (See Little Parkway for more information on Blowing Rock.)

**Length:** 22 miles  
**Driving Time:** 45 minutes  
**Counties:** Wilkes, Caldwell
PIEDMONT REGION

ROUTES
Hanging Rock Scenic Byway 52
Colonial Heritage Byway 54
Football Road 56
Crowders Mountain Drive 58
Millbridge Scenic Byway 60
Uwharrie Scenic Road 62
Rolling Kansas Byway 64
Pee Dee Valley Drive 66
Grassy Island Crossing 68
Sandhills Scenic Drive 70
Birkhead Wilderness Route 72
Flint Hill Ramble 74
Indian Heritage Trail 76
Pottery Road 78
Devil’s Stompin’ Ground Road 80
North Durham County Byway 82
From U.S. 52 follow N.C. 65 North from Winston-Salem. Drive towards Rural Hall through an area settled by Germans after the Revolutionary War. At the intersection of N.C. 65 and 66, turn left and follow N.C. 66 North to Mt. Olive. The byway begins where Denny Road (S.R. 2000) intersects N.C. 66.

Follow N.C. 66 for about 4.5 miles to the community of Gap, where the road forks. On the way, pass through the community of Mt. Olive, named for a local church (not to be confused with Mount Olive in Wayne County).

Follow the right fork, Moore’s Springs Road (S.R. 1001), just northwest of Hanging Rock State Park. For an interesting side trip, travel into the 6,192-acre park or to the lookout tower for a wonderful panoramic view of the area. The park is named for an unusual natural quartzite outcrop which is a part of the ancient Sauratown Mountains.

Geologists will be interested in deposits of itacolumite, a flexible sandstone found only here and in Brazil. Also in the park are the Cascade Falls which have a double drop of 200 feet in the upper cascade and 60 feet in the lower cascade (pictured here). The falls were discovered by Lewis David Von Schweinitz, a Moravian mycologist and botanist. Look for Tory’s Den, a cave below the Moores Knob bank, said to have been occupied by Tories (colonists loyal to the king) during the Revolutionary War.

Continue on S.R. 1001 past Moores Springs to N.C. 89 West. Turn right to venture into Danbury (listed in the National Register of Historic Places) for a peek at an upper piedmont/mountain town. Founded in 1849, Danbury is located on the Dan River at the foot of the Sauratown Mountains. It was named for North Carolina Governor Alexander Martin’s plantation which was in nearby Rockingham County. The community originally was an Indian village which became a trading post called Crawford. Before the Civil War a major iron foundry was located here. North Carolina’s tribute block in the Washington Monument came...
from a quarry near here.

Return to the byway following N.C. 89 West through the Sauratown Mountains. Named for the Saura Indians who once inhabited the area, these mountains are some of the oldest mountains in North America. The route ends at McBride Road (S.R. 1742) in the Shelton Town community east of Mount Airy. Mount Airy is home of Andy Griffith’s fictional Mayberry.

A sheet granite quarry is located on the northeast side of town. This granite was used in the Wright Memorial monument in Kill Devil Hills on the Outer Banks.

Nearby attractions include Pilot Mountain State Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Pilot Mountain is an isolated peak, a quartzite monadnock remnant from the erosion of the Sauratown Mountains. It was once called “Mt. Ararat,” from which the Ararat River flows. The closest access to the Blue Ridge Parkway is about 15 miles north of Mount Airy at Fancy Gap, Virginia.
This route provides an impressive tour of 18th and 19th century history in North Carolina. Begin the byway in Monticello in Guilford County by following N.C. 150 East to Williamsburg. Continue on N.C. 150 toward Locust Hill. About 1.5 miles past Locust Hill, turn right onto U.S. 158. Follow U.S. 158 East for about five miles until it meets with the Yanceyville town limits. Established in 1791 as the Caswell Court House, the name was changed in 1833 to honor then N.C. legislator Bartlett Yancey.

In the town of Yanceyville, turn right onto Main Street (S.R. 1163). Continue on Main Street until it intersects with N.C. 62. Turn left onto N.C. 62 to continue on the byway.

While traveling north on N.C. 62, look for many older houses and barns dating back to the 1800s. Drive slowly through Milton to notice the architecture and buildings of the 19th century. Prior to the Civil War, this town was a booming community with two newspapers and a branch of the state bank.

Turn right at the traffic light in Milton following N.C. 57 south towards Semora. At Semora turn right, follow N.C. 119 south for almost four miles before turning right again onto Stephentown Road (S.R. 1564). Watch carefully for the right turn that appears quickly as the road rises and curves to the left.

Follow S.R. 1564 for six miles before turning right onto U.S. 158 for almost two miles. At the intersection with N.C. 86 turn left and travel south for almost 24 miles. This stretch provides a glimpse of Piedmont dairy farms and rural life. Look for a white brick building to the right while passing through Hightowers and a red brick building to the left in Prospect Hill. These two-story buildings are examples of general stores of the mid 1800s and still are being used today.

Just north of Hillsborough, turn left onto Governor Burke Drive (S.R. 1619). Stop and look carefully before crossing the tricky intersection at N.C. 57 where the road number changes to S.R. 1556 (which is unpaved).

Governor Thomas Burke, North Carolina’s third governor elected by the General Assembly, served from 1781-1782. His grave is on the left in a tree grove about three-fourths of a mile from N.C. 57.

When the road ends, turn right on Miller Road (S.R. 1555) and go 1.5 miles through the residential area to U.S. 70 Bypass. Continue straight across U.S. 70 then turn right on St. Mary’s Road (S.R. 1002) which becomes East King Street (S.R. 1150). Settled in 1754, Hillsborough (courthouse pictured above) was once North Carolina’s
summer capitol. Public tours of the historic district begin at the visitor's center located on the corner of King and Cameron Streets.

Continue the byway, driving three blocks on East King Street, then turn left on Churton Street (N.C. 86/U.S. 70 Business East) at the stop light. Cross the Eno River, then turn left at the first light and follow U.S. 70 Business for three miles until it meets U.S. 70 Bypass. Continue along U.S. 70 to the first traffic light and turn right onto N.C. 751 where the scenic route resumes.

Follow this road for approximately three miles through Duke Forest, an educational/training forest for Duke University students, to U.S. 15/501 in Durham. The city of Durham was first established as a railroad stop on donated land from Dr. Bartlett Snipes Durham.

Nearby attractions include the Eno River State Park, Falls Lake Recreational Area and Bennett Place State Historic Site. Confederate General Joseph Johnston surrendered to General William Sherman at Bennett Place, ending the Civil War in the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida.

Length: 92 miles
Driving Time: 2.5 hours
Counties: Durham, Caswell, Guilford, Orange, Rockingham

Note: Recreational vehicles may have difficulty traveling on the unpaved roads.
From the edge of Carrboro at the N.C. 54 intersection in Orange County, begin the byway by following Jones Ferry Road (S.R. 1005), for nearly one mile to the second light. Veer right after crossing the lake and continue on S.R. 1005 (now Old Greensboro Road) for about eight miles through Orange County before crossing over the Haw River. This river rises in Forsyth County and flows 130 miles before merging with Deep River to form the Cape Fear River. The river marks the county line and S.R. 1005 changes to Greensboro/Chapel Hill Rd. in Alamance County. It is another eight miles to Snow Camp (pictured here).

Originally a Quaker community, Snow Camp was settled in 1749. The local outdoor drama, “The Sword of Peace” portrays the plight of the Quakers in this area during the Revolutionary War. Turn left onto Snow Camp Road (S.R. 1004) and then right onto Sylvan School Road (S.R. 2360). One-third of a mile later, turn right onto Drama Road (S.R. 2407). Turn right again, onto Sylvan School Road (S.R. 2369) before getting back onto S.R. 1005. Continue along S.R. 1005 for about seven more miles. Note the road changes names again to Alamance Church Road as it crosses into Guilford County.

For those who attend games at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, this route used to be known as “football road.” Along this route, travelers may see dairy farms, creeks, ponds and bicyclists. Most of the route also is a designated bicycle route for recreational riders.

History buffs may want to take a quick side trip to Alamance Battleground State Historic Site about 4.5 miles east of the intersection of S.R. 1005 and N.C. 62, between Snow Camp and Greensboro. Alamance Battleground is the 1771 site where the North Carolina militia, led by Governor William Tryon, defeated the
Regulators. (Regulators were North Carolinians who wanted to see the government regulated to prevent further extortion and corruption.)

The route ends at the junction of S.R. 1005 and Blakeshire Road (S.R. 3334). To get to the U.S. 421 and I-85 interchange (exit 126), continue on S.R. 1005 for about eight more miles.
This short scenic drive takes motorists by Crowders and Kings Mountain in Gaston and Cleveland Counties. At Exit 10 on I-85, follow U.S. 29/74 to the Mountain View, exit on Sparrow Springs Road (S.R. 1125) where the route begins. Follow Sparrow Springs Road and then Pinnacle Road as they wind around the base of Crowders and Kings Mountain. Crowders Mountain, named for a local settler, is one of the peaks in the Kings Mountain range. The mountain range is about three-miles long, extending from the southern end of Gaston and Cleveland counties in North Carolina into York County, South Carolina. The highest peak, called the Pinnacle, marks the northern end of the range. Its weathered granite cap, a monadnock, stands above the other peaks as a king stands above his people.

Continue on S.R. 1125 as it veers right into the area around Crowder's Mountain State Park. The park is a showcase of the local mountains which are remnants of ancient Appalachians. Outdoor enthusiasts may go hiking or rock-climbing in the park. Stay on the byway by turning right onto Sparrow Springs Road (S.R. 1125) for two miles, then right again onto Pinnacle Road (S.R. 1104).

The first mile is gravel.

Formed in 1841, Cleveland County was named for Benjamin Cleaveland, a hero at the Battle of Kings Mountain. The valley is known as Sherrars Gap and separates the Pinnacle from the rest of the Kings Mountain Range.

Located just south of Crowders Mountain State Park, Kings Mountain National Military Park in South Carolina is the site of the decisive defeat of the British in 1780. Many places in North Carolina are named for the state's heroes who fought in this battle.

Pinnacle Road (S.R. 1104) changes to
Lake Montonia Road (S.R. 2292) at the Cleveland and Gaston County line. Follow this road for about one mile where it intersects with N.C. 161. Take N.C. 161 north for one-half mile to exit eight on I-85 where the route ends. Or, continue into South Carolina to the Kings Mountain National Military Park by turning left onto N.C. 161 and driving the four miles to the park's access road.
The Mill Bridge Scenic Byway begins south of historic Salisbury on Sherrills Ford Road (S.R. 1526) from its intersection with N.C. 150 in Rowan County. The 7.5-mile stretch of Sherrills Ford Road passes the Piedmont Agricultural Research Station, a test farming facility operated by N.C. State University and an excellent example of North Carolina farmland. Turn left onto White Road (S.R. 1737) and pass over a one-lane bridge and through the community of Mill Bridge (named for the flour mill built by Dr. Samuel Kerr). This Scotch-Irish settlement features Thyatira Church, one of North Carolina’s oldest Presbyterian churches. At 3.2 miles turn right onto N.C. 150. At this point, you may choose to visit the Kerr Mill (pictured above) at Sloan Park, a 0.7 mile side trip down Sloan Road (S.R. 1768). The park and restored 1823 mill (with working waterwheel) are a great place to relax and take a break from the road.

Visitors may also enjoy a side trip to the Lazy Five Ranch, just six miles farther along N.C. 150. The Lazy Five is a privately operated, drive-through animal park on 185 rolling acres. Nearly 450 exotic animals from the world over (including zebras, ostriches, antelope, bison and reindeer) can be seen from your car along the 3.5-mile drive.

To continue on the byway from N.C. 150 take a quick left onto Mill Bridge Road (S.R. 1350). The Mill Bridge Scenic Byway extends another three miles through peaceful rural farmland.
before ending at the intersection with Brown Road (S.R. 1211). This road is also home to several “pick-your-own” fruit and vegetable farms.

Length: 14 miles
Drive Time: 25 minutes
County: Rowan
From the intersection of U.S. 64/N.C. 49 in Asheboro, follow N.C. 49 through the geologic area known as the “Carolina Slate Belt” southwest toward Concord. Many buildings and fences seen throughout these rolling hills were constructed from this metamorphic rock.

Travel through the Uwharrie National Forest and view the Uwharrie Mountains, formed several hundred million years ago by volcanoes. Crops such as corn and winter wheat can be found along the way.

Pass over Tuckertown Lake, built by Carolina Aluminum Company for hydroelectricity and recreation in 1917. It also is known as Narrows Reservoir because it is formed by a narrow pass (now under the lake's waters) between the Uwharrie Mountains at the Narrows of the Yadkin. The Pee Dee Valley Drive byway begins nearby at the southern point of Badin Lake in the community of Badin.

The Uwharrie Mountains are isolated peaks that survived erosion and weathering over the centuries. The origin of the name “Uwharrie” is believed to be a Native-American term possibly meaning rocky soil. The Uwharrie National Forest was purchased by the federal government in 1934 and designated as a national forest in 1961. It now covers more than 200,000 acres in three counties. The Uwharrie River flows into the Yadkin near Morrow Mountain State Park, to form the Pee Dee River.

Motorists might be interested in making a side trip to Reed Gold Mine (pictured above), site of the first authenticated discovery of gold in the United States. Gold was found on the Reed family farm in 1799. This find helped North Carolina lead the country in gold production until the California gold rush in 1848. The Gold Mine is located about eight miles south of Mt. Pleasant.

To get there from N.C. 49 follow S.R. 1006 (Mt. Pleasant Rd.) South from N.C.
49. Turn left onto N.C. 200 and one mile later turn right onto S.R. 1100 (Reed Mine Rd.).

Another possible side trip would be to Denton Farm Park in Davidson County. The park is home to an impressive collection of restored buildings, including country stores, a church, post office and grist mill, and home to the annual Thrashers Convention. To get from N.C. 49 turn on S.R. 2521 (Cranford Rd.) North. Denton Farm Park is 0.7 miles on the left.

Six miles past Mt. Pleasant, notice the old buffalo ranch to the right, it may be raising ostriches or llamas. A few miles further look for large outcroppings of slate and shale on either side of the road past the Stonewall Jackson School in Concord on Old Charlotte Road (S.R. 1157). This intersection marks the end of the route.

Continue the tour by driving into Concord or follow N.C. 49 for 20 miles into Charlotte, “The Queen City.”
This byway passes through an area known as Rolling Kansas, so nicknamed because of its hilly terrain and turn of the century farms and windmills. Begin on Bear Creek Church Road (S.R. 1428) where it enters Stanly County from Cabarrus County. Nearby is Bethel Bear Creek United Church of Christ and its graveyard, which has tombstones dating back to the 1820’s and is among the oldest cemeteries in the county. Continue along Bear Creek Church Road across a one-lane bridge and into Rolling Kansas. At 3.3 miles take a left onto Millingport Road (S.R. 1134) and head six miles along this waverimg countryside road with panoramic views of the western piedmont. The byway ends in the town of Richfield at the intersection with U.S. 52.

Length: 9 miles
Drive Time: 20 minutes
County: Stanly
Follow N.C. 740 to the town of Badin in Stanly County, turning onto Nantahala Street (S.R. 1714). One-tenth mile later, turn right onto Henderson Street (S.R. 1720). The byway begins beside the old elementary school on Henderson Street. While traveling due south, the road number remains the same, but the name changes to Valley Drive at the intersection just past the elementary school. Follow Valley Drive (S.R. 1720) for 5.5 miles south towards the intersection of N.C. 24/27/73.

Badin (seen in photo above) was established in 1913 by French industrialist Adrian Badin, as a company town for the aluminum reduction plant he operated nearby. This plant is now owned by the Aluminum Corporation of America. The town of Badin is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is noted for its unique French-inspired townhouses (called quadreplexes), which are among the earliest examples of townhouse architecture in North Carolina.

Pee Dee Valley Drive follows through the valley of the Pee Dee River located several miles to the east. This river, formed at the junction of the Yadkin and Uwharrie rivers, flows into and through South Carolina where it empties into the Atlantic Ocean. Sometimes called the Great Pee Dee River, the name originates from the Catawba Indian word for smart, capable or expert.

A quick side trip along Morrow Mountain Road (S.R. 1798) (about 1.5 miles) will take motorists into Morrow Mountain State Park. From the upper parking lot, visitors can capture the panoramic view of Badin Lake to the north and Lake Tillery to the south. Badin Lake was built by the Carolina Aluminum Company for hydroelectric power and recreation in 1917.

Morrow Mountain State Park was established in 1935 on land given to the state by James McKnight Morrow. The park has more than 30 miles of hiking and equestrian trails open to the public. Visit the restored residence of Dr. Francis Joseph Kron who had a medical practice here in the early 1800s. Until that time the mountain had been called Naked Mountain because a tornado stripped the mountain bare. There are three
peaks–Sugarloaf Mountain, Mill Mountain and Tater Top Mountain—all of which are less than 1,050 feet high and part of the Uwharrie Mountain Range. These mountains were created in a prehistoric collision between the African and North American continents. They are considered to be the oldest mountains on this continent.

After visiting the park, continue along Valley Drive to the intersection with N.C. 24/27/73 and turn left. Take this road (part of the Sandhills Scenic Drive) for about two miles before turning right onto Indian Mound Road (S.R. 1740). Follow Indian Mound Road (not to be confused with Town Creek Indian Mound) for about six miles along Lake Tillery to the town of Norwood. (See Indian Heritage Trail for more information about Town Creek Indian Mound.)

The byway ends at U.S. 52 in Norwood. Founded in 1826, Norwood was named for its first postmaster. It overlooks Lake Tillery which has sometimes been called Lake Norwood.

To visit the Town Creek Indian Mound follow N.C. 731 from Norwood east through Mount Gilead. The historic site is about 6.5 miles east of Mount Gilead on Indian Mound Rd (S.R. 1542).

Length: 14 miles
Drive Time: 30 minutes
County: Stanly
Named for the Grassy Islands, a group of earthen masses in the Pee Dee River north of Blewett Falls Lake. The byway begins on Pinkston River Road (S.R. 1627) in Anson County at the crossover with U.S. 52. Head south through the pines, hardwoods, swamps and farms along the banks of the Pee Dee River until the 4.8-mile mark, at which you’ll take a left onto Grassy Island Road (S.R. 1634).

Visitors may choose to visit the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge located on Grassy Island Road and operated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The Pee Dee Refuge, the only inland wildlife refuge in North Carolina, features a self-guided auto or hiking trail along a migratory bird habitat. A waterfowl observation blind allows for up-close viewing of bird species native to or passing through the region. The refuge office and visitor center are located on U.S. 52, three miles south of Ansonville. A trail will lead you to the observation/photo blind. Further along Grassy Island Road turn left onto N.C. 109 (after 4.6 miles). One mile more and you’ll cross the Pee Dee River, formed by the junction of the Yadkin and Uwharrie Rivers in Montgomery County. Flowing south along the Anson County line and into South Carolina, the Pee Dee empties into the intercoastal Winyah Bay.

On the opposite side of the river, two-and-a-half miles into Richmond County, turn right onto another Grassy Island Road (S.R. 1148). This 13-mile stretch of road features the geological transition between the lowland piedmont region to the Uwharrie Mountain expanse. Blewett Falls Lake, operated by Carolina Power and Light, lies to the south and west. There are
boat ramps and fishing access points on the lake. The byway ends northwest of Rockingham at the intersection with Holly Grove Church Road (S.R. 1146).

Length: 26 miles
Drive Time: 40 minutes
Counties: Anson, Richmond
The sandhills of North Carolina are a series of low rolling hills located between the Cape Fear and Pee Dee Rivers. Settled by Scottish highlanders about 1740, the area was named for the coarse sandy soil. The Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve in Southern Pines houses the last remaining cluster of ancient longleaf pines which covered the sandhills until they were all logged by 1895. The pines are a showcase for this hardwood swamp forest which also contains rare plants and animals. The forests have regenerated with the faster growing shortleaf pine.

From Carthage in Moore County, follow N.C. 24/27 West to Albemarle. Along the way, enjoy views of fertile farmlands and rolling hills while passing between the state's pottery center to the north and golf resort communities to the south. Carthage, located in an area settled by Scots from the Cape Fear region in the mid-18th century, was founded in 1796.

Cross Killets Creek, 1.5 miles outside of Carthage. Killets Creek is named for an early settler who lived west of town. Almost immediately cross McLendons Creek then continue for another seven miles to the community of Garners Store where the Pottery Road Scenic Byway crosses on N.C. 705. From Garners Store it is about 14 miles to the town of Biscoe. Incorporated in 1901, Biscoe was known as Filo until the name was changed in 1895 to honor a local businessman. From Biscoe it is about four miles to the Little River bridge. The Little River flows south to the Pee Dee River. From the bridge it is another three miles into the town of Troy.

Troy is the Montgomery County seat and was designed in 1843. It is believed that the town was named for either Robert Troy, a member of the House of Commons, or John B. Troy, an educator and member of the General Assembly. Troy is located on the eastern edge of the Uwharrie National Forest, purchased by the federal government in 1934 and established as a National Forest in 1961. The forest covers more than 200,000 acres in three counties.

Leave Troy on N.C. 24/27 and travel through the Uwharrie National Forest for...
the next 11 miles, to the junction with N.C. 73. As you approach the Pee Dee River, peaks of the Uwharrie Mountains are visible on either side. Horse Trough to the north and Shelter Mountain to the south are isolated peaks that have withstood erosion and weathering over thousands of years. (See Uwharrie Scenic Road on page 60.)

Also on N.C. 24/27, about eight miles past Troy, you will pass the head for the 20-mile Uwharrie Trail. The Uwharrie Trail is a National Recreational Trail that follows a north-south route and passes over the steep Uwharrie ridges. It is the longest hiking trail between the N.C. mountains and the coast.

To the left is Lake Tillery (pictured on previous page), a hydroelectric supply and recreational resource. While crossing the river, notice that Stony Mountain frames the path of the Pee Dee’s west shore. About one mile after crossing the river, this byway joins with the Pee Dee Valley Byway between Indian Mound Road (S.R. 1740) and Stony Gap Road (S.R. 1720). From Stony Gap Road it is another 1.2 miles to the intersection of N.C. 24/27/73 at Sweet Home Church Road (S.R. 1731) where the route ends near the Albemarle city limits.

Albemarle was named for George Monck, Duke of Albemarle, a Lords Proprietor of Carolina in 1663.

For a quick side trip (about 15 miles), take N.C. 109 or N.C. 73 south to Mount Gilead then travel on N.C. 731 East and turn right on Indian Mound Road (S.R. 1542) which goes by Town Creek Indian Mound State Historic Site. The site contains a museum and a restored Indian mound that dates back to the early 16th century. The mound was a religious and ceremonial center for Indians of the Pee Dee River Valley and overlooked the Town Creek and the Little River.
This scenic route features the Uwharrie Mountains, considered by some experts to be the oldest mountains on our continent. This byway is named after the Birkhead Mountains Wilderness, a remote section of the Uwharrie National Forest covering 4,800 acres in southern Randolph County. This rugged area offers fewer visitor amenities than other sections of the Uwharrie Forest.

The Birkhead Wilderness Route begins along the northern reaches of this mountain range at the intersection of High Pines Church Road (S.R. 1143) and Hopewell Friends Road (S.R. 1142). As you travel south along High Pines Church Road, this long winding valley road is bordered on both sides by the National Forest. After driving 9.4 miles you will reach the crossroads community of Lassiter Mill. Several hiking trails can be accessed within the vicinity of Lassiter Mill. The Birkhead Mountain, Robbins Branch and Hannah’s Creek trails wind through 10 miles of the wilderness area. Evidence of pioneer settlement – old homesteads, crumbling chimneys and gold mining activity – can still be seen here.

To reach the trailhead of Robbins Branch Trail (within the Birkhead Mountain Wilderness) turn right onto Lassiter Mill Road (S.R. 1107). Parking and trailhead are on the right, about two miles north of the crossroads. Follow
High Pines Church Road for another four-and-a-half miles to continue along the byway until the route ends at New Hope Church Road (S.R. 1181).

**Length:** 14 miles  
**Drive Time:** 25 minutes  
(Allow additional time to stop and see the attractions)  
**County:** Randolph
FLINT HILL RAMBLE

This remote, yet very beautiful, scenic byway begins on Flint Hill Road (S.R. 1306), just northeast of the community of Uwharrie in Montgomery County. To access this route, begin on N.C. 109 in Uwharrie and travel north before turning right on Ophir Road (S.R. 1303). Travel five miles along this road before reaching the Ophir community. This town was settled in the mid-1800s during the gold boom in this area. Also, Ophir is the name of the biblical area where gold was produced for King Solomon’s Temple. Once in Ophir, turn right onto Flint Hill Road. This road transports you from the central piedmont to feeling as if you are riding along a Smoky Mountain Road. At 2.1 miles there is a shady parking area and trailhead for the Uwharrie National Recreational Trail. This is the northern end for the 20-mile trail that begins on N.C. 24/27 (the Sandhills Scenic Drive). A short hike up the trail reveals a striking view of the surrounding Uwharrie Mountains.

Continue along Flint Hill Road another 0.2 miles where there is a small, turn-off on the left. A quick stroll from the car will lead you to what is locally known as “Jumping off Rock” (pictured here). This rocky bluff overlooks a cascading stream and the surrounding Uwharrie National Forest. Actually, jumping off “Jumping off Rock” is strongly discouraged. The Flint Hill Ramble ends where the road intersects with Lovejoy Road (S.R. 1310). Turning right onto Lovejoy Road will lead back to N.C. 109 and the town of Troy.

Length: 5 miles
Drive Time: 10 minutes
County: Montgomery
Enter the town of Ellerbe in Richmond County from the east on Millstone Road (S.R. 1452) to begin the Indian Heritage Trail. The area that was once known as the “Fair Grounds,” received its present name, Ellerbe, after W. T. Ellerbe developed the nearby recreational and health facility, Ellerbe Springs.

In Ellerbe, turn right (north) onto Church Street (U.S. 220) to follow the byway. Visit the Rankin Museum of American Heritage by continuing straight across the intersection. It is two blocks down on the left. This artifact museum has one of the state’s most extensive Native American collections.

Head out of town through North Carolina’s prime peach-growing region, complete with several roadside fruit and vegetable stands (in season). At 1.2 miles, take a left onto N.C. 73. An NCDOT rest area sits on the right and picnic tables are available.

Historic Ellerbe Springs Inn and Restaurant, home of a once-famous mineral springs resort and spa, is located one half-mile on U.S. 220. Continue 11.4 miles on N.C. 73 through the piedmont heartland and pass by the farm of one-time professional wrestler and legend, Andre the Giant. Make a right onto Indian Mound Road (S.R. 1160) and cross into Montgomery County where the route number changes to S.R. 1542. At 1.5 miles on the right is Town Creek Indian Mound (pictured above), the oldest North Carolina State Historic Site. This archeological site was an important ceremonial center for the Creek Indians of the Pee Dee culture, some 300-400 years ago. Visitors can tour the reconstructed temples and see exhibits. The byway ends where Indian Mound Road intersects with N.C. 731, just east of Mt. Gilead.

Length: 18 miles
Drive Time: 35 minutes
Counties: Richmond, Montgomery
The Pottery Road Scenic Byway begins near the resort community of Pinehurst. The village was established in 1895 and named because of its location in a pine forest. This byway travels through, what is considered by some, North Carolina's pottery center. In the 18th century, seven families from Staffordshire, England (England's pottery center) settled within a five-mile radius of each other near the northwest corner of Moore County. Here, their descendants continue to make traditional pottery forms in addition to more modern forms. There are close to 80 potteries within the vicinity of this route and 14 actually on the route.

From the village of Pinehurst follow N.C. 211 for about 11.5 miles northwest to the intersection with N.C. 705. Nearby Eagle Springs, established in 1890, was named for a mineral spring owned by the Eagle family. Turn right onto N.C. 705 and note the old cedar trees which line the first part of the route where the byway begins. Some people call this portion of the road “cedar lane.” Follow N.C. 705 for nine miles to the intersection with N.C. 24/27 at Garners Store community. From here it is about three miles to the town of Robbins.

Known early as Mechanicks Hill, Mechanicsville, Elise and Hemp, Robbins was settled before 1828. The earlier names came from a mechanic and gunsmith who lived here. Located on the old plank road (built between 1849 and 1854) from Fayetteville to Salem, Robbins was named in 1943 for the owner of a local textile mill. The town also is near the site of what was one of the world's largest talc mines. About three miles from Robbins is the junction with the Devil's Stompin' Ground Scenic Byway at N. Howard Mill Road (S.R. 1003).

From Robbins continue on N.C. 705, following the old plank road for 7.3 miles, to the community of Westmore. It was near here that the first potters settled. Located 2.5 miles east of Westmore on Busbee Rd. (S.R. 1419) is Jugtown, a community established in 1920 by Raleigh artist Jacques Busbee from where he made and distributed his pottery nationally.

From Westmore it is 5.6 miles to the community of Whynot, named because
residents could not decide on a name for the post office – Why not this? Why not that? Whynot! Whynot is about one-half mile from the town of Seagrove, incorporated in 1913 and named for a local railroad official. For further information on local potteries, stop at the North Carolina Pottery Center located on N.C. 705 in Seagrove.

Pottery Road ends in Seagrove, about 5.5 miles south (by way of U.S. 220 and N.C. 159) of the North Carolina Zoological Park and Gardens in Asheboro. Other attractions near the route include Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve in Southern Pines. The preserve houses the last remaining stand of ancient longleaf pines which covered the sandhills until they were all logged by 1895. It is a showcase for this hardwood swamp forest with its unique plants and animals, some of which are endangered species.
This route extends from the courthouse in Pittsboro in Chatham County through farmlands and forests of the lower Piedmont across N.C. 22 and ends at N.C. 705 north of Robbins in Moore County.

From the Pittsboro Courthouse follow U.S. 64 West and turn left at the traffic light onto N.C. 902. Travel by Round Top Mountain across Rocky River and through an area known as “Devil's Stompin' Grounds.”

The legend behind the name begins with a tale of a worn, circular path in a local clearing. The path, the old-timers say, is worn from the devils pacing and plotting new forms of evil to afflict the good in the world. Ask a local resident for specific directions to the “Stompin Ground.”

Also at this point the byway passes 10 miles north of the House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site (or Alston House). Built in the 1770s, the house was the site of a Revolutionary War skirmish between the Whigs and the Tories.

Continue across N.C. 22 as N.C. 902 becomes Jerry Frye Road (S.R. 1164), one mile after crossing into Randolph County. Turn left on Howard Mill Road (S.R. 2877) and continue for two miles before passing into Moore County. The road number changes to S.R. 1456 at the county line. The route ends three miles later at the junction with N.C. 705. The Pottery Road Scenic Byway crosses at the same point.

Length: 34 miles
Drive Time: 40 minutes
Counties: Chatham, Randolph, Moore
While Durham is famous as the home of Research Triangle Park, Duke and North Carolina Central Universities, Durham is also known for its beautiful countryside, waterways and historic plantation farmlands.

Explore North Durham’s scenic byway and glimpse into Durham’s history and its forests, lakes and rivers. One way to access the route is off I-85 (exit 182) and travel north on Red Mill Road (S.R. 1632) for 4.5 miles. To continue on Red Mill Road you must briefly follow Teknika Parkway by turning right and then at the first stop sign turn left back onto Red Mill Road. You will soon intersect with Old Hwy. 75 (SR 1004) – turn right and the byway begins here near the historic plantations of Fairntosh and Stagville. Today, a variety of preservation and African-American history studies are conducted at Stagville (the N.C. State Historic Site pictured here), once among the largest plantation holdings in the south.

You travel along Old Hwy. 75 for 1.5 miles before turning left onto Stagville Road (S.R. 1615). After passing the planned Horton Grove Commercial Center and traveling almost four miles, you arrive in the town of Bahama. The byway turns right at this point to follow Bahama Road, but turn left to investigate the village, the old-time hardware store or country store. Bahama’s name originates from the first two letters of three prominent families- Ball, Harris and Mangum. Bahama road will lead you by the tranquil waters of Lake Michie (pronounced mick-e) and its recreational facilities including boating, hiking and picnicking. On the right hand side, after 3.2 miles, is Mount Tabor United Methodist Church – the final resting place of Governor William B. Umstead. After 2.6 more miles, turn left onto Red Mountain Road (S.R. 1471).
You may choose to take an alternate route, which leads you through Hill Demonstration Forest. The forest was developed from lands donated to N.C. State University by George Watts Hill. Begun in 1929, the 2,400-acre forest straddles the Flat River and includes a one-lane bridge with views of the river.
You may see a wide range of birds and rare plant species. More than 200 species of birds live here, including egrets, herons, ibis and osprey. After going 3.7 miles on Bahama Rd. turn left onto Hampton Road (S.R. 1603) and then after 1.6 miles turn left onto the second Wilkins Road (S.R. 1613). A quick right, soon thereafter, will put you onto State Forest Road (S.R. 1614) and into Hill Forest. Be careful of water on the road and the one lane bridge (weight limit 17 tons) a few miles ahead. State Forest Road leads to Moores Mill Road and back onto the byway.

Red Mountain Road is a left turn off Bahama Road and a 4.6-mile segment of rural life. You’ll pass the Flat River, offering kayaking, fishing and hiking. Turn left onto Moores Mill Road and follow the rolling hills to U.S. 501. After turning left onto U.S. 501 you catch a glimpse of Quail Roost, which was organized as a hunt club in 1875 by influential Durhamites. It became one of the nation’s leading stables and dairy farms. It is now a training stable and home for Duke’s equestrian team and the Rougemont Red Mountain Hounds Hunt Club. After 1.4 miles, turn right onto South Lowell Road. The five-mile drive weaves in and out of this rolling terrain with frequent views of farms. The byway ends at the intersection of Guess Road and South Lowell.

To experience the last portion of the scenic byway, turn left onto Guess Road (S.R. 1003) and drive 1.3 miles. The Great Indian Trading Path ran through this area along what is present day Snow Hill, St. Mary’s and Mason’s roads. It was a famous piedmont fur and deerskin trading route that began in 1670, used by European explorers, hunters and settlers. Turn left onto Mason Road, follow this road to U.S. 501, turn left and after only 0.3 of a mile turn right onto Orange Factory Road (S.R. 1628). The byway resumes here and continues three miles past Little River Lake and the entrance to Treyburn (country club and living community) before ending at the intersection with Stagville Road.

Length: 27 miles
Drive Time: 45 minutes
County: Durham
COASTAL PLAIN

ROUTES
Blue-Gray Scenic Byway 88
Meteor Lakes Byway 92
Green Swamp Byway 94
Brunswick Town Road 96
Lafayette’s Tour 98
Tar Heel Trace 103
Edenton-Windsor Loop 105
Perquimans Crossing 108
Pamlico Scenic Byway 110
Alligator River Route 114
Roanoke Voyages Corridor 117
Outer Banks Scenic Byway 119
The naming and destination of this route signifies the great impacts this region had in the Civil War.

Begin the byway near Smithfield in Johnston County from the U.S. 701/I-95 interchange at exit 90. Immediately off the exit and U.S. 701, turn onto Devil's Racetrack Road (S.R. 1009). Known locally as the “Devil's Racetrack,” the road parallels the Neuse River and Hannah's Creek. Legends say that people could see and hear the footsteps of a horse as the devil rode through the area, but no one ever saw the horse or its rider. Follow the course of the Neuse River to your left and Hannah's Creek to your right for the next 8.5 miles where you will cross Hannah Creek.

This road also travels over Civil War battle sites, noted on the historic markers along both sides of the road. About one mile after crossing Hannah's Creek, cross over Mill Creek. Here, General Johnston's troops were prevented from attacking General Sherman's troops from the rear because of a flood. The Confederates were able to escape after their defeat.

In the community of Bentonville, one-half mile further, Confederate forces kept naval stores of tar, pitch and turpentine. These stores were burned by Confederates on their retreat from the Bentonville Battlefield.

It is 1.4 miles from the community of Bentonville and where the byway and S.R. 1009 veer left. It is an additional 1.1 miles to Harper House Road (S.R. 1008). You will turn right and follow the road for a distance of 2.9 miles to reach Bentonville Battleground Historic Site. This 1865 Civil War battle slowed General Sherman's march and was the bloodiest ever fought on North Carolina soil. Visitors may see re-enactments (shown above) of this historic battle each March. Along both sides of the road are reminders of this battle. The Harper House was used as a Union field hospital and is included in the site's tour.

After visiting the battlefield, backtrack
three miles on Harper House Road (S.R. 1008) before turning on the third route to the right, St. Johns Church Road (S.R. 1196). Follow this road for three miles (which becomes Bentonville Rd./S.R. 1205 at the Wayne County line) to the stop sign. Turn left and travel north on U.S. 13 which parallels Falling Creek to the south. Turn right four miles later onto Grantham School Road (S.R. 1006) in Grantham. Grantham, located between Falling Creek and the Neuse River, was settled in the 18th century.

Follow Grantham School Road for three miles then turn left at the intersection with Oberry Road (S.R. 1120). Follow this road for 7.4 miles before crossing U.S. 117. Continue into the community of Dudley, settled in 1837 and named for North Carolina Governor E. B. Dudley. The road name changes to Sleepy Creek Road (S.R. 1120). At this point you are about 10 miles south of Goldsboro.

About 2.5 miles east of Dudley, turn right onto Eagles Nest Road (S.R. 1933) and follow it for about three miles. Cross over Sleepy Creek one-half mile after turning on Eagles Nest Road. The Saponi Indians thought the waters had medicinal qualities and would drink it and fall asleep on the banks of the creek. Turn left from Eagles Nest Road and follow Indian Springs Road (S.R. 1744) for 3.8 miles to N.C. 111. The rich farmlands are all part of the Neuse River Basin. The soils are the result of thousands of years of flooding and the changing pattern of the river and creeks that feed the soil. At N.C. 111 the byway diverts north for one-half mile on N.C. 111 to the Cliffs of the Neuse State Park.

The cliffs, rising 90 feet from the Neuse River, were formed when a fault shifted. Erosion over thousands of years exposed the multi-colored sedimentary layers in a formation that makes it possible for laurel and other mountain plants to grow here. Nature trails and a museum are available to park visitors. Return along N.C. 111 to Indian Springs Road (S.R. 1744) to continue on the trip.

Turn left on N.C. 55 then 0.4 miles later turn left again on Spring Street (S.R. 1739). This well-groomed dirt road takes motorists by the Seven Springs Hotel, above the Neuse River. Now a privately-owned residence, this hotel was named for the surrounding mineral springs and was once the site of a Victorian resort that operated between 1881 and 1944. Turn left onto Main Street (S.R. 1731) and venture to the Neuse River where the Confederate ironclad C.S.S. Neuse was built. This also was the site of an early Civil War skirmish, the Battle of Whitehall, where Union troops damaged the C.S.S. Neuse. Seven Springs was originally called Whitehall for the plantation house built in 1741 by William Whitefield, a prominent pre-Revolutionary War settler.

Turn right on Main Street (S.R. 1731) in
Seven Springs, climb the short hill and turn left onto N.C. 55. Follow this route for 4.7 miles crossing into Lenoir County. At the community of Strabane, named for an early Irish settler, turn right past the mill onto Smith Grady Road (S.R. 1152) and follow it for 3.5 miles. As the road makes an elbow turn to the left, stay right on Old Pink Hill Road (S.R. 1111). Look to the right for the 180-acre Tulls Mill Pond, formed in 1875 at the head of Southwest Creek.

At the intersection of Old Pink Hill (S.R. 1111) and Deep Run (S.R. 1143) roads, turn left toward the farming community of Deep Run. Deep Run was established in the 1880's when a turpentine distillery was opened. It was originally called Red Town because all the houses were painted red. Deep Run is nine miles south of the town of Kinston where the C.S.S. Neuse is housed.

Continue straight for two miles from Deep Run on John Green Smith Road (S.R. 1141). Turn right onto Big Oak Road (S.R. 1138). One-half mile later turn left on Waller Road (S.R. 1137). Stop at U.S. 258 one mile later and cross the road diagonally, continuing on Lightwood Knot Road (S.R. 1925) for nearly five miles. The land between Deep Run and this point is part of the upland swamps of the Bearwell Pocosin on the south side of the road. Possibly named for Thomas Burwell, who lived in the area about 1750, the Bearwell Pocosin empties into the Trent River south of here. Turn left at Vine Swamp Road (S.R. 1922). Make a right on N.C. 58, one-third mile later. From the Lenoir
and Jones County line it is nine miles to the Trent River and another three miles into Trenton along N.C. 58.

Trenton was established as Trent Courthouse in 1779 and was named for the river which was named for the Trent River in England. By 1784 the name Trenton was adopted. The route ends near the mill and pond on the south end of town at S.R. 1165.

Nearby places of interest include New Bern and the beaches of the Crystal Coast. New Bern, the colonial and state capital from 1746 - 1792, is 25 miles northeast of Trenton. About 35 miles southwest of Trenton is Bogue Sound and beach recreation areas. This route is an interesting alternative to U.S. 70 to Emerald Isle, Atlantic Beach and Beaufort.

Length: 82 miles
Drive Time: Two hours
Counties: Jones, Lenoir, Johnston, Wayne
Travel N.C. 242 North in Elizabethtown from the intersection with N.C. 53 near U.S. 701, in Bladen County. Elizabethtown, settled in 1773, was possibly named for Queen Elizabeth I. The town was the site of the 1781 Revolutionary War Battle of Elizabethtown where Whigs broke Tory power by driving them into a deep ravine on the banks of the Cape Fear River. (Tories were colonials devoted to England.) The ravine is known now as the Tory Hole.

Bladen County was named for Martin Bladen, Commissioner of Trade and Plantations from 1717 to 1746.

Cross the Cape Fear River just outside the Elizabethtown city limits and enter the Bladen Lakes State Forest. About four miles north of the Cape Fear is Jones Lake, the closest of the meteor lakes to N.C. 242. Jones Lake State Park and the nearby Singletary Lake Group provide camping and recreation sites. Originally named Woodward for a local Justice of the Peace in 1734, the name of the lake was changed later to Jones in honor of a prominent local landowner. The park was created in 1939 with more than 2,000 acres of land.

Jones Lake along with White Lake, Singletary Lake and Lake Waccamaw are all described as being Carolina Bays. These are oval depressions believed to have been formed by ancient meteor showers. These depressions may include lakes, swamps, pocosins, savannas and peat beds. The depressions gathered water and decomposed organic material over the years to eventually create the fertile farmlands seen along this route. These lakes, with the exception of Lake Waccamaw, are located in the Bladen Lakes State Forest and serve as popular recreational areas.

From Jones Lake pass through the Turnbull Creek Valley. The fields to the right are part of the Big Colly and Cypress Creek Bays. On the three-mile drive through Cumberland County, notice the Big White Pocosin to the left. At the Cumberland and Sampson County line cross over the South River.

Five miles north of the county line is the community of Roseboro. It originally was established in 1839 as Owensville. In 1891, the name was changed to honor George Rose, Chief Counsel for the Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley Railroad. Just north of Roseboro, cross the Little Coharie Creek. From Roseboro it is three miles to the town.
of Salemburg. Salemburg was founded in 1874 and named for the Salem Academy located in the town. The school was the forerunner of the North Carolina Justice Academy where state law enforcement officers obtain advanced education. As you pass through Salemburg, look for the mural depicting the heritage of the area (see photo on opposite page).

Cumberland County, founded in 1754, was named for the Duke of Cumberland - the second son of George II - who was successful at the Battle of Culloden. Ironically, the area was settled by Scottish Highlanders, the people defeated by the Duke of Cumberland.

The route ends at the junction with U.S. 421 about four miles south of Spivey's Corner in Sampson County. Sampson County was named for John Sampson, a member of the House of Commons under North Carolina's royal governors. Located at the headwaters of the Little Coharie Creek, Spivey's Corner is well-known as the site of the annual Hollering Contest. From Spivey's Corner it is 7.5 miles to the U.S. 13 and I-40 interchange at Newton Grove.

Length: 39 miles
Drive Time: 45 minutes
Counties: Bladen, Cumberland, Sampson
GREEN SWAMP BYWAY

Beginning one-half mile north of Supply in Brunswick County, travel through the Green Swamp on N.C. 211. The swamp, with more than 140 square miles, has been described as a peat and muck timberland because it has little surface water and extensive tree farms. More than 170,000 acres of this land was granted by the State of North Carolina in 1795 to three businessmen for cutting lumber and peat. The Green Swamp was so vast that a community located on the edge of the swamp was called Crusoe Island because of its isolation. Political refugees from French Haiti settled at Crusoe Island in 1806. The swamp lands are now owned by several large pulp and paper companies.

Two miles north of Supply cross the Royal Oak Swamp which is fed by the Green Swamp and flows into the Lockwoods Folly River. Continuing north from the intersection of N.C. 211 with Little Macedonia Road (S.R. 1343 and 1448), drive through the Green Swamp for the next 12.7 miles. Cross over the Clear Branch at the Brunswick and Columbus County line. From here travel another 10 miles through the swamp to Bolton. At the county line it is about 15 miles southwest to Crusoe Island. The route passes near Lake Waccamaw State Park (pictured here) close to Bolton in Columbus County. Lake Waccamaw, like other nearby lakes, was formed by ancient meteor showers. (See Meteor Lakes Scenic Byway on previous pages.) The Green Swamp drains into the lake which was named around 1733 for a local Indian tribe. Columbus County was named for Christopher Columbus.

The town of Bolton, settled in 1889, was named for a lumber company which operated there. Farther north on N.C. 211 you will pass through the Friar Swamp that feeds into Lake Waccamaw. Continue through the pine forests, planted for pulp and paper, towards Bladenboro. About three miles north of the county line, the road turns and parallels the CSX railroad line.
From here it is 12 miles to the town of Clarkton. Pass through Clarkton, a community incorporated in 1901, which had been called Brown Marsh Station and Dalton. The byway ends at the intersection with N.C. 242 east of Bladenboro, eight miles northwest of Clarkton. Bladenboro, founded in 1903, was named for the county.
From N.C. 133, between Wilmington and Southport, follow Plantation Road (S.R. 1529) towards the Brunswick Town State Historic Site. Old River Road, or N.C. 133, crosses Allen Creek just north of Plantation Road. Once known as Lilliput Creek for the plantation at its headwaters, Allen Creek flows into the Cape Fear River at Orton Point after passing through the Orton Plantation. Lilliput Plantation was owned by Eleazar Allen who named this plantation, granted to him in 1725, for Jonathan Swift’s imaginary country in Gulliver’s Travels.

Orton Plantation overlooks the Cape Fear River on Orton Point and was first built about 1725 by Roger Moore. It was later owned by Royal Governor Benjamin Smith who is buried nearby at St. Phillips Anglican Church. Admission is required for tours of the privately-owned plantation (shown above).

Continue on Plantation Road passing Orton Pond, an artificial pond constructed in 1810. Watch for alligators sunbathing on the road near the pond (it has been known to happen).

Turn left onto Tryon Palace Road (S.R. 1533) and follow it to the Brunswick Town State Historic Site where the byway ends. Settled in 1725, the town was named for King George I, Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg. In addition to being one of North Carolina’s primary colonial ports, it was home to governors Dobbs and Smith and was the county seat from 1764 to 1779. St Philips Anglican Church was built here in 1751. Its ruins are surrounded by Civil War bunkers for Fort Anderson, also known as Fort St. Philip.

Brunswick Town, in ruins since 1830, has had a long history—from attacks by the Spanish in 1748, to Revolutionary and Civil War battles. Resistance to the Stamp Act occurred in 1765 at the house called Russelborough (the ruins of which are located immediately north of the Brunswick Town Site).

Fort Anderson was built here during the Civil War to help protect the port of Wilmington. It was evacuated in 1865 after a devastating Union attack that led to the fall of Wilmington. Another Civil War battery, Fort Lamb, was located just south on Price Creek.
For additional scenic and historic travels, continue south on N.C. 133 to the town of Southport, so named because it is the state’s southernmost port. Southport, located at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, was constructed in 1748 as part of Fort Johnston, named for Royal Governor Gabriel Johnston. The fort was burned in 1775, rebuilt about 1800 and used by the Confederate Army. Only the officers’ quarters remain.

The Cape Fear River is formed by the Deep and Haw rivers in the Piedmont region of the state. It was discovered in 1524 by the Italian Verrazzano. The river has had several different names but “Cape Fear” became the final designation because the southern tip of Smith Island (now Bald Head Island), at the mouth of the river, was the site of many narrow escapes from navigational mishaps.

A toll ferry runs from Southport across the Cape Fear River to nearby Fort Fisher. Now a state historic site, Fort Fisher protected the Cape Fear River during the Civil War and was the site of the largest land and sea assault by U.S. forces prior to D-Day in World War II. A museum, as well as one of the three North Carolina Aquariums, are located at Fort Fisher State Recreation Area.

Length: Three miles
Drive Time: Ten minutes
County: Brunswick
LA FAYETTE’S TOUR

This byway takes motorists through several of the communities that General Lafayette visited on his 1825 tour of this country.

To begin the byway through one of North Carolina’s richest historical areas, exit off U.S. 1 Bypass, outside of Henderson in Vance County, onto Warrenton Road (S.R. 1001). Along the way, notice that North Carolina’s early development was not bound by political boundaries as explorers and settlers from Virginia and North Carolina crossed the present state line to share culture and trade.

In many cases, this part of North Carolina and the southern part of Virginia, are identical in economy, architecture and regional dialect.

It is 11 miles from the U.S. 1 interchange to Warrenton. Although the secondary road number remains 1001, the road name changes to Dr. King Boulevard at the Warren County line. At the intersection of Dr. King Blvd. and Main Street (U.S. 401) turn left.

Warrenton, named for Joseph Warren, a soldier killed in the Battle of Bunker Hill, is the Warren County seat. Enjoy views of historic antebellum houses while driving through the town or enjoy a pleasant stroll on the courthouse grounds. General Lafayette stayed at a plantation south of town between his speeches in Halifax and Raleigh.

Warrenton was home to many famous people including journalist Horace Greeley, the Bragg brothers—politicians and soldiers and John A. Hyman, North Carolina’s first black congressman. One block later, turn right at the courthouse onto Macon Street (N.C. 58/43). Remain on N.C. 43 when the routes split about four miles later at the community of Liberia. Follow N.C. 43 for about 11 miles across rolling hills to Essex. Incorporated in 1891, Essex was the center of a free negro settlement prior to the Civil War. Descendants of some of the original families still live here.

Make a sharp left turn onto N.C. 561 East from N.C. 43. Follow this route for seven miles to the community of Brinkleyville. To reach Medoc Mountain State Park, turn right onto N.C. 4/48 and follow the signs. Medoc Mountain, a high
hill on the Little Fishing Creek, was named for the vineyard established there in the late 1800’s by Sidney Weller. He introduced to America a system of grape culture and named his vineyard after the wine-producing area of Medoc, France. Medoc Mountain is an elongated ridge, the ancient granite core of a mountain range formed in the Paleozoic era. The state park offers camping and hiking areas.

Continue along N.C. 561 East for nine miles, crossing I-95 near the community of Beaverdam located on the Beaverdam Swamp. From Beaverdam, settled in 1770, it is 7.5 miles to the stop sign at U.S. 301 Business. Turn left to venture into Halifax one-half mile north.

Now a state historic site, Halifax was at one time a colonial seat of the State Assembly. Laid out in 1757, Halifax was named for George Montagu, the Second Earl of Halifax, who helped expand colonial commerce in his position as the President of the Board of Trade and Plantations. Lafayette spoke here on February 27, 1825. The Resolves of Halifax were signed here in 1776 as one of the first actions taken by a colony for independence. Several historic buildings (see photo on page 96) are part of the tour in Halifax. One of these homes is pictured to the left.

After touring Halifax, backtrack south on U.S. 301/N.C. 903/125 for about three miles and turn left onto N.C. 125/903. About 4.5 miles from this intersection is the community of Crowells Crossroads, settled by Edward and Joseph Crowell in 1730. Stories say that these men, relatives of Oliver Cromwell, escaped during the English Reformation by dropping the ‘m’ from their name.

Follow N.C. 125/903 southeast to Scotland Neck for another 10 miles. Scotland Neck is in an area first settled by Scottsmen in 1722. From the intersection of N.C. 125/903 and U.S. 258 in
downtown Scotland Neck turn left. Follow U.S. 258 North for six miles to the Roanoke River. The C.S.S. Ram Albemarle was built near here and outfitted in Halifax with machinery and guns. As an early trade route, the Roanoke River valley is home to many colonial plantations.

Stay on U.S. 258/N.C. 561 over the Roanoke River 6.5 miles to Rich Square; settled by Virginia Quakers in 1750 and named for its fertile soil.

Continue on N.C. 561 for 10.4 miles to St. John passing through Eagletown, an early Quaker settlement. St. John was settled around 1722 and was known as Douglas Ordinary for a tavern there. At the large white church at the intersection, turn left onto Menola St. John Road (S.R. 1141) then right 1.5 miles later onto Flea Hill Road (S.R. 1142) after crossing the Cutawhiskie Swamp. The Cutawhiskie Swamp and the Potecasi Creek, located three miles further north, flow into the Chowan River basin to the east. Turn right 2.8 miles later onto Woodland Road (S.R. 1160) which becomes Benthall Bridge Road (S.R. 1160) about one mile further north after you cross Potecasi Creek. Continue four miles north into Murfreesboro.

Settled in the early 1700s, Murfreesboro was first known as Murfrees Landing in 1707 for the family who owned the land on which the town was built. The nearby landing on the Meherrin River was called Murfrees Ferry in 1770 and by 1787 was called Murfreesboro. Murfreesboro has a notable historic district to the north of Main Street. General Lafayette, for whom Fayetteville is named, stayed in Murfreesboro on February 26, 1825. Famous former citizens include Dr. Walter Reed, head of the U.S. Yellow Fever Commission in Cuba who discovered a cure for the disease; Richard J. Gatling, who invented the Gatling gun and agricultural tools and John W. Wheeler, minister to Nicaragua and State Treasurer in the mid-nineteenth century.

Turn right on Main Street and follow it to the U.S. 258/N.C. 11 stoplight. Follow U.S. 258 North across the Meherrin River for 2.7 miles to Barrets Crossroads. Turn left onto Statesville Road (S.R. 1310). About four miles later turn right onto Foushee Railey Road (S.R. 1315) and right again two miles later onto Buckhorn Church Road (S.R. 1316) at Britts Store community. Follow Buckhorn Church Road for two miles into the community of
Como. Named for Lake Como, Italy, the town was established in 1883. Turn right onto U.S. 258. Look closely for old plantation houses while traveling south along this short stretch.

Take a left turn onto Parker Ferry Road (S.R. 1306) to travel one mile south through Union Camp Paper Company's pulp forest to the Parkers Island Cable Ferry (pictured on page 100).

**NOTE:** Recreational vehicles are too large for the ferry and should continue south along U.S. 258 to U.S. 158 and follow U.S. 158 to Winton.

Take the Parkers Island Cable Ferry, which has operated across the Meherrin River near its junction with the Chowan River since the early 1900s. Across the river the unpaved road picks up as Parkers Fishery Road (S.R. 1175) for another 1.5 miles before the intersection with U.S. 158.

At the junction with U.S. 158, turn left. One mile later then left again onto U.S. 13/158 crossing the Chowan River at Winton. Built on the land of Benjamin Wynns in 1766, Winton was burned to the
ground in 1862 by Union forces. Chowan Academy, one of the earliest schools for negroes, was founded in 1886 by C. S. Brown in Winton. 

The Chowan River, named for the Chowanoc Indians, was explored around 1585 by Ralph Lane and in 1622 by explorers from Jamestown. It was a major trade access route for residents of the northeastern corner of the state.

Travel into Gates County for three miles then turn right to follow N.C. 137 East to Gatesville. Settled in the 1700s, Gatesville, was first called Bennetts Creek Landing when it became the county seat in 1779.

From Gatesville, follow N.C. 37 South for three miles before turning left onto Mill Pond Road (S.R. 1400). Follow this road north to Merchants Millpond State Park. If you stop at the park in warm weather, wear lots of insect repellent – mosquitoes are abundant. Veer to the right on Pond Road (S.R. 1403) to Easons Crossroads Community.

Turn right onto U.S. 158 following the Lasiter Swamp that feeds Merchants Millpond into the Great Dismal Swamp. Thought to be more than 9,000 years old, the Great Dismal Swamp has decreased in size since the arrival of Europeans because of drainage and logging. This forested wetland was shown on maps as early as 1647 and is made of a 210,000-acre area of marsh, lake and cypress swamp. It was first called the Dismal Swamp in 1715. In 1763, George Washington surveyed this area for a canal to drain part of the swamp for lumbering.

The route ends 16 miles later in Lynch's Corner in Pasquotank County at the intersection of Lynches Corner Road (S.R. 1356) and U.S. 158, four miles west of Morgans Corner and U.S. 17. A Civil War battle was held at the Great Dismal Swamp Canal locks near South Mills when Confederate forces were prevented from blowing up the locks to keep Union supplies from coming down the canal.

From Morgans Corner it is an easy drive to the North Carolina Outer Banks or to Portsmouth, Virginia.

For more information about this area and the Outer Banks, visit the N.C. Welcome Center on U.S. 17, just three miles south of the Virginia border.

Length: 173 miles
Driving Time: Four hours

Note: Recreational vehicles are not permitted on the cable ferry and will need to follow an alternate route.
The route takes its name from the pine tar industry that once thrived in this portion of the state. “Tar Heel” is the nickname given to the state’s residents by British General Cornwallis’ troops after they emerged from the nearby Tar River with tar stuck to their boots. Another story says the ground alongside many of the state’s river fronts was covered with tar that spilled from rafts bringing the product to market.

Pine trees are found in great quantities all over North Carolina, in particular the eastern region. Early residents found that it was simple to cut these trees and pile the light or fat wood into piles and cover them with soil after setting them on fire. The piles, called tar kilns, were then left to smolder causing the pine resin to run out as a dark tar. Tar was used extensively in the shipping industry. The tar was distilled into turpentine and was used to waterproof rope and wood in the form of either pitch or tar. This area also is known for its tobacco farms.

From the N.C. 42 and U.S. 301 interchange east of Wilson in Wilson County, follow this scenic byway across the coastal plain to Williamston through North Carolina’s tar producing counties. Hickory Grove, established in 1803, and Toisnot Depot, founded in 1840 when a rail line was built, were merged in 1849 to form the town of Wilson. The new town was named for Louis D. Wilson, a resident who was killed during the war with Mexico. This byway begins in the midst of the Toisnot Swamp, some of which has been filled for development. From the beginning of the route it is nine miles to the Wilson and Edgecombe County line. Pass through the communities of Wilbanks and Bridgesville, both of which were established at the turn of the century. Three-tenths of a mile from the county line turn right onto N.C. 124.

Follow N.C. 124 for 3.5 miles to the town of Macclesfield. Incorporated in 1901, Macclesfield was named for the town in England from which the ancestors of the town’s founder had come. Cross Bynum Mill Creek as you leave town and continue east for 5.5 miles crossing U.S. 258 before reaching the intersection of N.C. 124 with N.C. 42.

Turn right onto N.C. 42. Follow it for two miles to Old Sparta, established in 1830 and incorporated in 1876. Cross the
Tar River immediately after passing through Old Sparta. Stories have it that the river was named for the tar that was produced in the counties through which it flowed while others suggest that the river’s name is from an Indian word.

Continue on N.C. 42 for almost six miles passing through vast farms to the town of Conetoe. Conetoe, (pronounced Cuh-knee-ta), was incorporated in 1887 and named for the nearby Conetoe Creek. Continue on N.C. 42, across U.S. 64, for about eight miles to the Martin and Edgecombe County line. Again you will pass through vast fields, most of which produce soybeans and peanuts.

Continue for almost 2.5 miles to the N.C. 42/142 intersection with N.C. 11. Go straight at the stop sign and follow N.C. 142 for 2.5 miles to the community of Hassell. Hassell, settled in 1878, was known as Dogville Crossroads until 1903. Continue on N.C. 142 through Hassell for another 3.5 miles to the intersection of N.C. 142 with N.C. 125. From Hassell to Williamston the road crosses land drained by the Conoho Creek, a tributary to the Roanoke River located to the north.

Turn right at the stop sign onto N.C. 125 and continue for nine miles to the Williamston city limits in Martin County where the route ends. Notice the numerous peanut sheds and silos along this portion of the route. Peanuts are the region’s main crop.

Williamston, named in honor of Colonel William Williams who fought in the Revolutionary War, is located on the Roanoke River. Settled in 1779, the town originally was called Skewarky for the plantation lands owned by Thomas Hunter on which it was built. Follow N.C. 125 through town to the U.S. 64/17 intersection.

It is 14 miles to Windsor on U.S. 17 where the Edenton-Windsor Loop begins or 23 miles to Washington and the Pamlico Scenic Byway.

Length: 53 miles
Driving Time: One hour
Counties: Wilson, Edgecombe, Martin
This route is a figure-eight loop that begins and ends in Edenton in Chowan County. From the intersection of North Broad Street (N.C. 32) and West Queen Street (U.S. 17 Business), follow West Queen Street across Pembroke Creek, one of the two creeks that forms Edenton Bay. Turn left at the intersection of U.S. 17 and U.S. 17 Business. It is about one mile to the Chowan River. Named around 1657 for a local tribe of Algonquin Indians, the Chowan River is about two miles wide at this point.

While crossing the bridge on a clear day, notice the railroad trestle drawbridge to the left. Just after the bridge pass through the Edenhouse community. It was the site of the home of Governors Charles Eden and Gabriel Johnston built about 1671. If the water is low enough you may notice regularly placed poles in the water near the shoreline. These were used in the early seine fishing industry. After crossing the bridge, continue for 5.3 miles to the intersection with N.C. 45 and turn left.

Turn right three miles later and follow Sans Souci/ Woodard Road (S.R. 1500) to N.C. 308. Sans Souci is from the French for “without care or worry” and was the name of a plantation located nearby. It is just over four miles to the N.C. 308 intersection. Continue on Sans Souci for almost two miles. Automobiles may cross the Cashie River on the Sans Souci Cable Ferry. NOTE: Because the cable ferry cannot accommodate larger vehicles, recreational vehicles should not follow this leg of the route. Instead, backtrack to N.C. 308, turn left and go to Windsor. The community of Sans Souci is just across the river. Here the road is unpaved for the next two miles. As Sans Souci/ Woodard Road turns, it parallels the course of the Cashie River, one of only a few rivers with its complete course in one county. From the end of the gravel road it is 1.7 miles to the community of Woodard, for which this part of the road is sometimes named. From Woodard it is about seven miles to the U.S. 13/17 intersection.

Turn right onto U.S. 13/17 and follow it for almost 1.5 miles. Bear right at the intersection and follow U.S. 13 Business (South Granville Street) into Windsor (see map).

Named for Windsor Castle in England, Windsor was settled in 1722 and is the
Bertie County seat. It was the site of Grays Landing, an early trading point at the estate of William Gray. Prior to the Civil War, Windsor was a major port of entry and business center on the road to Halifax. The main streets in town are King, York and Queen with the cross streets being named for the Lords Proprietors.

Northwest of town is Hope Plantation, the home of Governor David Stone. Built about 1800, it is an impressive example of federal architecture. Admission is charged to this privately-owned National Register Historic site.

South Granville Street becomes Granville Street at the U.S. 13 Business intersection with N.C. 308. Continue straight and then turn right onto King Street (N.C. 308). Enjoy views of some of North Carolina's finest residential architecture of the 19th and early 20th centuries. It is three-tenths of a mile until King Street crosses the Cashie River. For the next 1.5 miles N.C. 308 and U.S. 17 share the road. Follow N.C. 308 by turning right off of U.S. 17. The next 11 miles again parallel the Cashie River.

At the stop sign turn right and follow N.C. 45/308 across the Three Rivers bridge. Located at the mouth of Bachelor Bay, the Cashie, Middle and Roanoke rivers meet in the beautiful flowing delta below. Batchelor Bay forms the head of the Albemarle Sound and was the site of a Civil War Battle that the Confederates won in 1864.

Continue on N.C. 308 by turning left at the light. Follow this road for about seven miles, past Mackeys (known locally as Mackeys Ferry), originally the south terminal of the Albemarle Sound ferry which once operated where the railroad now crosses the sound. The earliest recorded ferry was known as T. Bells ferry in 1733. Settled in 1765, Mackeys was named for Colonel William Mackey, a local land owner who bought the ferry from Bell in 1735.

Turn left onto U.S. 64 East and follow for five miles until N.C. 32 turns left. A local landmark on U.S. 64 near Skinnersville is Rehoboth Church, built by slaves in 1853. This chapel is built on the site of an earlier colonial Anglican church. It also is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Follow N.C. 32 across the Albemarle Sound Bridge, opened in 1989. At more than three miles long, it is the longest bridge over water in the state. The Albemarle Sound was explored by Europeans as early as 1586 when it was called the Sea of Roanoke. Named for George Monck, Duke of Albemarle, most of North Carolina's earliest settlements may be found along its shores.

One mile after crossing the bridge turn left onto Soundside Road (S.R. 1114). This six-mile road follows a road built by early settlers who followed old Indian trails along the shores of the sound. Called Soundside Road for more than 200 years, early plantations were found along its path. Follow Soundside Road until it intersects with N.C. 32.

Turn left onto N.C. 32. One mile later cross Queen Anne Creek, one of the two creeks that forms Edenton Bay. Enter the town of Edenton, North Carolina's first provincial capital, one mile after crossing the creek on East Church Street.
Edenton, settled around 1685, was laid out in 1712 and incorporated in 1722. It was named for provincial Governor Charles Eden. In town you will see numerous historical markers identifying the town’s Revolutionary leaders and signers of the Declaration of Independence. Edenton was one of the most prosperous ports on the trade route in the 18th and 19th centuries. The pirate Blackbeard made frequent stops here. Some of North Carolina’s best public and private architecture also may be seen here. Included is the Cupola House (pictured on page 103), built in 1757 and considered the south’s finest example of Jacobean architecture.

Boston is not the only city of the Revolutionary War era to host a “Tea Party.” Penelope Barker and several other ladies of the town held their own in 1774. To learn more about the history of the area, visit the James Iredell State Historic Site. Tours for this and other historic buildings begin at the Barker House on the waterfront in Historic Edenton.

The loop tour ends where it began at the intersection of North Broad Street (N.C. 32) and West Queen Street (U.S. 17 Business).

Length: 87 miles
Driving Time: Two hours
Counties: Bertie, Chowan, Washington

Note: Recreational vehicles are not permitted on the cable ferry and will need to follow an alternate route.

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Fourteen miles southwest of Elizabeth City and 13 miles northeast of Edenton is the town of Hertford on U.S. 17. Travel south along U.S. 17 Business/N.C. 37 by the community of Winfall to the intersection where N.C. 37 turns north. The water that you just crossed is called Mill Creek. It was originally known as Vosses Creek and was named for the family who owned the land before 1700. By the end of the 19th century it was called Brights Mill Creek for the local mill owner.

Continue south following U.S. 17 Business around the head of the Perquimans River through Hertford. The Perquimans River empties into the Albemarle Sound about 10 miles southeast after crossing the length of the county that bears its name. The river's name comes from an Algonquian name, "Pequaimings." As you snake across the Perquimans River on this unique truss bridge, look for the new U.S. 17 bridge spanning the Perquimans River to your left.

Settled in the early 1700s, Hertford was named for the Marquis of Hertford when it was incorporated in 1758. First called Phelps Point for the owner of the town's site, it was an early port of entry about 1701. The county courthouse holds records from the late 1600s and includes the Durant Deed, the oldest deed on record in North Carolina, dated March 1, 1661. Residences of early political leaders may be found near town.

Continue straight on Church Street (S.R. 1336) across Raccoon Creek. This creek was known during colonial times as Castleton Creek named after an early land owner, George Castleton. The water it...
carries from Bear Swamp in the south meets the Perquimans River to your left as you cross the bridge one-half mile before the route ends at the U.S. 17 Bypass intersection.

To see one of the oldest houses in North Carolina, continue along S.R. 1336 for about 1.5 miles. The Newbold-White House (pictured left) was built about 1730. Constructed on land granted to Joseph Scott in 1684, it is now a local historic site with tours available.

Length: Three miles
Driving Time: 10 minutes
County: Perquimans
From the Washington waterfront, this scenic byway follows the Pamlico River to the Pamlico Sound and to the junction with Croatan Sound. The Pamlico River begins at the Beaufort County line at the junction of the Tar River and Tranters Creek, west of Washington. Pamlico was the name of an Indian tribe who once lived in the area. The river, first explored by Europeans in 1584, extends for 33 miles from Washington to the sound. The Pamlico Sound is 80 miles long and 15 to 30 miles wide. It covers more than 1,800 square miles and has a maximum depth of 21 feet. The sound drains water through the Ocracoke and Oregon inlets from the Albemarle Sound and the Neuse and Pamlico rivers to the Atlantic Ocean.

The town of Washington, located at the head of the Pamlico River, was originally called Forks of the Tar River. In 1776, the town founder changed the name to Washington to honor his friend George Washington. Washington, therefore, has the distinction of being the first town in the United States so named. As the Beaufort County seat, Washington has a unique 18th century plan though few of the original buildings still exist because of fires during the Civil War.

From the intersection of U.S. 17 and Main Street in Washington, begin the byway by following the waterfront east on Main Street to Stewart Parkway. Turn right on Stewart Parkway as it curves around waterfront warehouses and becomes Water Street. Turn left onto Harvey Street and right back onto Main Street. Pass by the municipal park on the Pamlico River while continuing east. It is 1.4 miles from the U.S.17 stoplight to N.C. 32 on the eastern edge of Washington Park.

Follow N.C. 32 for 5.6 miles to the Broad Creek Bridge and intersection with (Harvey Road) S.R. 1331. Turn right and continue across farm lands for another four miles to the intersection of S.R. 1331 with N.C. 92 and U.S. 264 at the community of Jessema. Follow N.C. 92 for nearly six miles to the town of Bath.

Settled in 1690 and incorporated in 1705, Bath is the oldest incorporated town in North Carolina. Virginians and French Protestants settled the area around Bath.
when the town was called the Town of Pamlico (an early version of Pamlico). Located on what was called Town Creek and now Bath Creek, Bath is the home of the oldest church in North Carolina, St. Thomas Church, built in 1734 (pictured at the left). Royal Governor Charles Eden had a provincial capital at Bath while Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard, made his home on nearby Plum Point. Bath is now a state historic site with several restored buildings open to the public. Take a walking tour of the town to truly appreciate the flavor of this 18th century town.

After touring Bath, cross Back Creek and continue along N.C. 92 for about five miles to the intersection with N.C. 306 where it becomes N.C. 99. From here the road turns north to skirt Jackson Swamp to the northwest and the Pungo River to the east. Follow N.C. 99 for seven miles to the bridge at Pungo Creek. The creek and the river both derive their names from Machapunga, an Indian name given them as early as 1733. From here it is 3.5 miles to the Pantego Creek and Belhaven town limits.

At the traffic light in Belhaven, turn right to follow U.S. 264 Business through town. Located on the site of an Indian village called Aquascogoc, Belhaven, settled in 1890 and incorporated in 1899, derives its name from the French words ‘belle’ and ‘haven’—meaning beautiful harbor. The town is a major stopping point for boats traveling the Intracoastal Waterway. Join U.S. 264 and continue east for about 5.5 miles to the Pungo River Bridge at the community of Leechville.

Continue for another 4.5 miles to the Intracoastal Waterway bridge which presents an impressive view of the waterway for miles to the northeast.

Continue along U.S. 264/N.C. 45 for four miles to Scranton, named for a lumber mill owner who came from Scranton, Pennsylvania. Just past Scranton enjoy an unusual stretch of road where drainage canals and trees on either side form a unique and protective seven-mile tunnel with views of vast fields and tree farms on either side. While passing through the community of Rose Bay, travel parallel to the Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuge which covers the Pamlico Sound coast around the Swan Quarter area.

Turn right, 2.5 miles after Rose Bay, onto N.C. 45 and follow it into the town of Swan Quarter. Settled before 1836, it is the Hyde County seat and a fishing community. Continue through town on N.C. 45 to reach the Swan Quarter/Ocracoke Ferry and the Outer Banks Scenic Byway. Or, continue this route leaving town by way of Main St. (S.R. 1129) which leads back to U.S. 264 just east of Swan Quarter. The farms on either side of the road are on lands reclaimed by draining the surrounding swamps. This is now illegal, because the swamps are an important part of the natural cycles to clean water for both humans and the animals that are part of the food chain.

Continue east on U.S. 264, but be cautious of the elbow curves at Swindell Fork about one mile from S.R. 1129 and another two miles further. At the second
curve the road begins to follow the southern shoreline of Lake Mattamuskeet, a natural freshwater lake of about 30,000 acres discovered in 1585. Its name is derived from the Indian word for “moving swamp” or “shallow lake” (and appropriately so since it is only five feet deep). Near the community of Lake Comfort is the intersection of U.S. 264 with N.C. 94 where the Alligator River Route begins.

From the intersection of N.C. 94 and U.S. 264 it is 8.5 miles to Lake Landing. This area marks the state’s largest rural historic district. Watch closely for older buildings all along this stretch. Look carefully to the right for the octagonal house, also known as the Ink Bottle House. In addition to the historical aspects of this section, observe the vast farmlands that attract numerous hunting clubs. Between the communities of New Holland and Lake Landing you will be able to see Lake Mattamuskeet to the left. The community of New Holland, settled in 1910, was named for the development company that tried to drain Lake Mattamuskeet. Lake Landing was site of the Hyde County courthouse from 1820 to 1836.

Watch for another sharp curve near the community of Amity on U.S. 264, about four miles east of Lake Landing at the intersection of U.S. 264 and S.R. 1311. From here the road turns away from the lake’s shore. It is one mile to the village of Engelhard. Located on Far Creek between Lake Mattamuskeet and the Pamlico Sound, Engelhard was first named Far Creek Landing. In 1874, Engelhard was given its current name in honor of the publisher of the Wilmington newspaper.

Need a restroom, food or fuel? Engelhard is the last stop until Manns Harbor, about 40 miles away.

As you leave Engelhard, look to the east to see the Pamlico Sound. Continue on U.S. 264 through the wetlands and maritime forests of the Alligator River National Wildlife refuge. From the Far Creek bridge it is 11.5 miles to the Dare and Hyde County line.

From the county line it is 13 miles to
Stumpy Point Bay and the fishing village of Stumpy Point. Founded in 1733, the village is about two miles from U.S. 64. The bay was originally a lake, but now opens into the Pamlico Sound. A major portion of the commercial fishing fleet that comes through Oregon Inlet is based here (the rest are based in Wanchese on Roanoke Island). The U.S. 64 intersection with U.S. 264 is another 13 miles from Stumpy Point.

Note the nearby U.S. Army and Navy bombing ranges along U.S. 264. Also, be sure to watch for the almost extinct red wolves along the last portion of the route while traveling through the Alligator River Wildlife Refuge. The yellow flashing light at the intersection of U.S. 64/264 marks the end of this scenic byway.

For more historical and recreational attractions, visit Roanoke Island and the Outer Banks.
From the community of New Holland in Hyde County on the south shore of Lake Mattamuskeet, follow N.C. 94 North to Columbia through wetlands, swamps and farmlands. Lake Mattamuskeet, a natural freshwater lake of about 30,000 acres, was discovered in 1585 and is the largest natural lake in N.C. Its name derives from the Indian word for "moving swamp" or "shallow lake" (and appropriately so since it has a maximum depth of five feet). Many attempts were made over the years to drain it for farming purposes. However, since it is three feet below sea level these attempts failed. The old pumping plant (pictured here) is now used as an observation tower to view wildlife. The nearly six-mile-long causeway that crosses Lake Mattamuskeet provides an opportunity to see unusual and rare migratory birds throughout the year. Located on the Atlantic flyway, the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge provides waterfowl a safe haven in this sanctuary.

Pass through the community of Fairfield located on the north shore of Lake Mattamuskeet. Incorporated in 1885, it was named for the "fair fields" of reclaimed swampland located nearby. For a good view of the Intracoastal Waterway, look to both sides of the road while driving over the drawbridge five miles north of Fairfield. The Intracoastal Waterway follows the length of the eastern seaboard. The earliest parts were begun as early as 1856 with the entire length connected by the 1940's.

Just north of the Intracoastal Waterway you will cross the Alligator River near its headwaters. The river marks the Hyde and Tyrrell County line. About seven miles west is Alligator Lake also known locally as New Lake. Named around 1624, the lake covers 3.5 square miles and drains surrounding swamplands. The Alligator River and N.C. 94 follow a parallel path for the next nine miles. The road crosses West Fork of the Alligator River about one mile south of the road to the community of Gum Neck (S.R. 1321).

Seven-and-one-half miles north of the
Gum Neck intersection is the road to Frying Pan Landing (S.R. 1307). The community, named for the unusually shaped bay off the Alligator River, is located six miles east. The flat lands that you are driving through are all part of the Hollow Ground Swamp. Some of them were claimed through a process called “swamp busting” to create farmlands. In this now-prohibited process, farmers drained the swamps by constructing canals and installing drainage ways to direct the water away from the rich swamp soils.

Seven miles north of Frying Pan Landing is Columbia. Columbia, founded in the early 1700s as a trading post on the Scuppernong River, is the Tyrrell County seat. At the traffic light in Columbia at U.S. 64 and N.C. 94, continue straight. At the next block turn right onto U.S. 64 Business and drive through downtown. Turn left onto U.S. 64 and continue east through the Big Savannah.

The Big Savannah, a straight marsh or slough, covers the area from Columbia to the community of Alligator, a distance of 8.2 miles. The canal that follows the road was dug to provide drainage for U.S. 64. Though you cannot see Alligator Creek from the road, it flows east as it parallels the road to the north. From the community of Alligator it is five miles to the Alligator River. To your distant left is the mouth of the river where it enters the Albemarle Sound. The 2.7-mile-long bridge has an active swing section for boats following the Intracoastal Waterway, so be prepared to stop.

Once across the Alligator River you will enter into Dare County and the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. The wildlife refuge was established to protect a unique pocosin habitat and restore wetlands for native and endangered species. Look carefully for wildlife in and near the drainage canal alongside the road. The community of East Lake is a mile from the bridge. From here it is 13 miles to the intersection of U.S. 64 with U.S. 264 at the flashing light. Turn left and follow U.S. 64/264 for 1.5 miles to the stop sign.

Turn left again and drive through the fishing village of Mann’s Harbor. Mann’s Harbor, named for a German fishing captain who sheltered here during a storm, was settled in the 19th century. Note the tiny white frame post office building on the right as you travel through the community before crossing the Croatan Sound to Roanoke Island.

The Croatan Sound, named for an Indian tribe, connects the Albemarle and Pamlico sounds by way of the 2.7-mile-long bridge. Roanoke Island was the site of the first English settlement in the United States. Travel for one mile from the bridge to the Fort Raleigh National Monument and Elizabethan Gardens where the route ends (S.R. 1161/1186). This national historic site is the approximate location of a settlement, sponsored in part by Sir Walter Raleigh for Queen Elizabeth I, from 1584 to 1587 when it disappeared.

During the summer months, visitors may see productions of the “Lost Colony,” the outdoor drama about Sir Walter Raleigh and the first American settlement.
History buffs also may want to visit the Elizabeth II State Historic Site in Manteo in Dare County.

Representative of the type of ship used during the 1585 voyage to Roanoke, the Elizabeth II is a living museum about life in the 16th century and is located on Shallowbag Bay. For those interested in marine life, visit the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island beside the airport.

Other points of interest and recreation may be found on the Outer Banks islands to the east, including the Wright Brothers Monument and Jockeys Ridge, the largest active sand dune on the east coast. If you would like to travel along other scenic byways, the Outer Banks Scenic Byway runs along N.C. 12 to Beaufort or backtrack on U.S. 264 to drive the Pamlico Scenic Byway to Washington.

Length: 71 miles
Driving Time: 1.5 hours
Counties: Hyde, Tyrrell, Dare
This byway follows U.S. 64 across Roanoke Island extending from the Croatan Sound Bridge to the Roanoke Sound Bridge in Dare County. The route also carries you across monuments of time and history. The island, named after an early Indian village, was the site of the first English settlement in North America. This attempt proved disastrous when returning colonists to the island found that the English had vanished. The “Lost Colony” is still a mystery today, but you can experience this historic unsolved tale by attending the longest running outdoor drama (of the same name). The theater is located within Fort Raleigh historic site along with the enchanting Elizabethan Gardens.

The island also offers the quaint villages of Manteo and Wanchese, named for two friendly Roanoke Indians carried back to England and enlisted by Sir Walter Raleigh to gain support for further travel to the new world. Manteo has a beautiful waterfront and various visitor accommodations. Cross over the bridge at the waterfront and visit the Roanoke Island Festival Park, home of the Elizabeth II (pictured above). Or travel to Wanchese, a quaint fishing village where the best the sea has to offer is available.

Other attractions on the island include a multi-use trail, the North Carolina Aquarium, wildlife boating and fishing areas. Stay here and explore or continue your trip to the Outer Banks.

Length: 9 miles
Drive Time: 15 minutes
(allow additional time to stop and see the attractions)
County: Dare
From Whalebone Junction, follow N.C. 12 South across the Outer Banks to U.S. 70 at Beaufort. Whalebone Junction, named for the skeleton of a whale that beached nearby in 1927, has been a major commercial intersection since 1930. The junction is at the end of Currituck Banks, the northernmost barrier island in North Carolina.

Barrier islands in North Carolina extend from the Virginia line south to Cape Lookout and are separated from the mainland by broad shallow sounds (Currituck, Albemarle, Roanoke, Pamlico, Core and Bogue) by as little as three miles to as many as 40. Pamlico Sound is the largest on the east coast of the United States covering more than 1,800 square miles. It will be visible to the west at many places along this route. Travelers will cross its waters when taking either of the toll ferries from Ocracoke Island.

There are currently nine major islands or banks in this system that protect the mainland coast from the onslaught of winds and water from the Atlantic Ocean. From north to south, the barrier islands include: Currituck Banks, Bodie Island, Pea Island, Hatteras Island, Ocracoke Island, Portsmouth Island, Core Banks, Shackleford Banks and Bogue Banks.

Wind and water shift the sands of these islands, making them transient not only in location but in name. Whalebone Junction, for example, is located near the site of New Inlet which opened in the 1720s and closed periodically until its last closing in the 1930s.

Begin the byway at the stoplight at U.S. 64/264/158 and N.C. 12 and follow N.C. 12 south through the entrance into the Cape Hatteras National Seashore on Bodie (pronounced “body”) Island.

Drive past the Bodie Island Lighthouse. Built in 1872 to replace the original destroyed in the Civil War, its 150-foot black and white banded stripe can be seen for miles. A swimming beach and recreation center is located nearby at Coquina Beach.
Eleven miles south of Whalebone Junction cross over Oregon Inlet to Pea Island. Oregon Inlet opened in 1846 during a hurricane and was crossed mainly by boat until 1963 when the Bonner Bridge was opened.

Pea Island is entirely a National Wildlife Refuge and Migratory Waterfowl Refuge. The small wooden structures with stairs facing the natural freshwater ponds are wildlife observation stands. At the southernmost end of the island is the Chicamacomico Coast Guard Station, which operated from 1874 to 1954. (The station is now open for tours). Pea Island is sometimes called Chicamacomico Banks, which comes from the Algonquian word for “sinking down sand.”

Arrive on Hatteras Island after leaving Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. Continue along N.C. 12 toward Cape Hatteras, the most eastern point in North Carolina, through the communities of Rodanthe, Waves and Salvo. From Salvo it is 12 miles to the community of Avon, established in 1873 as Kinnakeet. From there it is another six miles to the community of Buxton, known as “The Cape” until it was incorporated in 1882 as Buxton. Just before arriving at Buxton you will pass the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is the tallest lighthouse in the United States at 208 feet. Built in 1873 its black and white candy-striped tower is seen for miles. The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1936 and replaced...
with a more powerful beam to warn ships away from the nearby shoals. The turbulent waters caused many ships to wreck off the Diamond Shoals and was thus named “the graveyard of the Atlantic.”

From Buxton it is five miles to the community of Frisco, settled in 1795. From there it is another six miles to the village of Hatteras. Throughout these small villages reside “hoigh toiders,” people who have retained an Elizabethan dialect from their isolated residence on these islands.

Continue on the byway by crossing Hatteras Inlet to Ocracoke Island on the free ferry. Crossing time is about 35 minutes. The present Hatteras Inlet opened in 1846.

Notice the wild horses while following N.C. 12 for 13 miles across Ocracoke Island to the village of Ocracoke. The animals are Bankers Ponies, descendants of horses brought by early explorers on ships wrecked in the Atlantic. A herd also is maintained on the islands south of Beaufort.

Ocracoke was first called Wococon in the 1500s (when it was an Indian village) and has since gone through a series of names derived from the Algonquian for “enclosed place.” One of the oldest operating lighthouses on the Atlantic is located on Silver Lake, a tidal basin and harbor in the village of Ocracoke. The 76-foot tall Ocracoke Island Lighthouse (pictured on page 117) was built in 1823 and is the only operational lighthouse within a town. The Ocracoke Inlet, once North Carolina’s primary trade inlet, was the site of the death of the notorious pirate, Blackbeard, who was killed on November 22, 1718.

From Ocracoke Inlet, take one of two toll-ferry routes. Ride the Cedar Island ferry to Carteret County and continue the Outer Banks Scenic Byway. Or, travel the Alligator River or Pamlico Scenic Byways by taking the ferry to Swan Quarter.

**NOTE:** Both ferries have tolls and recommend reservations due to tight time schedules. Call 1-800-BY FERRY to confirm schedules and fees. Crossing time to Swan Quarter is about 2.5 hours. Crossing time to Cedar Island is about 2.25 hours.

While departing for Cedar Island, look to the east (left). The island with a few buildings is Portsmouth Island. Settled in the 1700s and incorporated in 1753, Portsmouth was one of North Carolina’s busiest ports of entry and a resort before the Civil War. It was known at one time as the “shipping capital of the Outer Banks.” The town was named for Portsmouth,
England. The buildings on the island are the few remaining houses and church of the townspeople, the last of whom left in 1971. The Cape Lookout National Seashore manages the island and allows a limited number of day visitors (accommodated by private ferry) to explore the island. Portsmouth Island is a National Register Historic District.

The ferry docks at the northern end of Carteret County on Cedar Island. From Cedar Island, continue south on N.C. 12 through the Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge, home to waterfowl on their winter migration. Enjoy spectacular views of salt marshes and other small fishing villages. N.C. 12 becomes U.S. 70 about 12 miles south of the ferry terminal. The water to the left is the Core Sound, named for the Coree Indians who once lived in this area.

Along this route you may be able to see the Cape Lookout Lighthouse from the community of Davis. Built in 1859, the Cape Lookout Lighthouse is distinct with its black and white diamond pattern covering the 160-foot tower. About 14 miles from the intersection of N.C. 12 with U.S. 70 the road turns to the west at the community of Smyrna. From Smyrna it is another five miles to the crossing of the North River.

From the North River, it is an additional five miles to the Beaufort city limits where the route ends.

Beaufort (pictured here) was designed in 1715 and settled soon thereafter. It was incorporated in 1723 and named for Henry Somerset, Duke of Beaufort, a Lords Proprietor. The town is located on the site of an earlier Indian village. A walk through historic Beaufort and along the waterfront provides a great place to stretch and enjoy a historic coastal community. From whaling to salt works, with military battles in between, Beaufort offers a lot to the history of North Carolina.

NOTE: In warmer weather this is a well-traveled road. Plan for extra time to make the ferry connections and to accommodate bicyclists and beach goers. Also, park only in designated places. Sand is more difficult to get out of than ice and snow.

Length: 111 driving miles
Driving Time: 5.5 hours
(Including 3.5 hours on two ferries)
Counties: Dare, Hyde, Carteret
Carolina Beach
Spot the Venus Flytrap and other species of insect-eating plants. Wind your way through a variety of habitats along intriguing trails and stop to identify more than 30 species of coastal trees, shrubs and flowering plants. Our full-service marina will enhance your enjoyment of the Cape Fear River and adjoining waterway where excellent fishing and boating await the sports enthusiast.

Location: 10 miles south of Wilmington off U.S. 421
Address: PO Box 475, Carolina Beach, NC 28428
☎ 910/458-8206
☎ Marina: 910/458-7770

Crowders Mountain
Climb rugged peaks rising 800 feet above the surrounding countryside and watch raptors soar in the wind currents. Rocky ledges and outcrops are the perfect seats from which to view the panorama below. Travel trails on foot for a closer look at this highland environment.

Location: 6 miles west of Gastonia off U.S. 29/74 on S.R. 1125
Address: 522 Park Office Lane, Kings Mountain, NC 28086
☎ 704/853-5373

Cliffs of the Neuse
Witness the effects of the forces of erosion which have carved and chiseled cliffs in the west bank of the Neuse River. Here ancient mountain communities meet coastal ones and mountain galax grows on rich slopes overlooking coastal trees draped in Spanish moss. The river and its banks are a haven for fishing and canoeing. Creative dioramas and audio visuals in the museum depict the geology and natural history of the region.

Location: 14 miles SE of Goldsboro on N.C. 111
Address: 345-A Park Entrance Road, Seven Springs, NC 28578
☎ 919/778-6234
Eno River
Test your skills in a raft or canoe. Spring and fall months often bring swirling rapids to the Eno. Try your luck fishing along the river banks or stroll across the swinging bridge for a hike through the woods. Backpack primitive camping offers refuge from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Location: 3 miles NW of Durham off S.R. 1569
Address: 6101 Cole Mill Road, Durham, NC 27705
☎ 919/383-1686

Falls Lake State Recreation Area
For fun in the sun or just a place to get away from it all, escape to Falls Lake and leave behind the pressures of urban life. Moments away from the hustle and bustle of the Research Triangle, this 12,000-acre lake and 26,000 acres of woodlands offer a variety of activities. Come for the day and bring along your fishing gear and picnic basket. Put your boat in the water. Take a dip in one of the designated swimming areas. Or spend a few days in the family or group campgrounds. B.W. Wells, U.S. 50, Holly Point, Rollingview, Beaverdam, Sanding Beach and Shinleaf as well as the privately-operated Rollingview Marina will fill the bill no matter what your fancy.

Location: 10 miles north of Raleigh on N.C. 50
Address: 13304 Creedmoor Road, Wake Forest, NC 27587
☎ 919/676-1027
☎ Rollingview 919/596-2194 919/833-8584

Fort Fisher State Recreation Area
Spend the day away from the crowds on a four-mile stretch of undeveloped beach where shell-seekers still find treasures and nesting loggerhead sea turtles still find seclusion. Watch pelicans and other colonial nesting birds swirl and turn with the wind and waves. Licensed four-wheel drive vehicles may travel on the beach in designated areas for access to excellent surf fishing.

Location: 5 miles south of Carolina Beach off U.S. 421
Address: PO Box 475 Carolina Beach, NC 28428
☎ 919/458-8206

Fort Macon
Enjoy all of the sun, sand, sea and history you can soak up in a day. Even Blackbeard the Pirate used to drop by once upon a time. After a day of beach combing, cool off on a tour of the restored fort that stood guard over Beaufort Harbor during the Civil War.

Location: 2 miles east of Atlantic Beach on S.R. 1190
Address: PO Box 127, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512
☎ 919/726-3775
Goose Creek
Canoe the unhurried creeks or cast your line into the Pamlico River. Stately live oaks draped with Spanish moss form the perfect backdrop for outdoor relaxation. Experience the mysterious wonders of marsh and swamp from wooded trails and two observation decks.

Location: 10 miles east of Washington, off S.R. 1334
Address: 2190 Camp Leach Road, Washington, NC 27889
☎ 919/923-2191

Hanging Rock
Visit the “mountains away from the mountains” and choose your accommodations from cabins to campsites. Sparkling mountain streams, waterfalls and cascades travel over rugged terrain. Encounter more than 300 species of mountain plants along miles of nature and hiking trails. The observation tower atop Moore’s Knob offers rewarding panoramic views.

Location: 5 miles west of Danbury, off S.R. 1101
Address: PO Box 278, Danbury, NC 27016
☎ 910/593-8480

Jockey’s Ridge
Go fly a kite on the highest sand dune on the east coast. Orville and Wilbur Wright were the first to take advantage of the area’s prevailing winds, ranging from 10 to 15 miles per hour. The ridge, a favorite spot for playing in the sand, offers an exhilarating view of coastal North Carolina. Fascinating facts about this magnificent pile of sand can be learned at the museum.

Location: U.S. 158 Bypass in Nags Head
Address: PO Box 592, Nags Head, NC 27959
☎ 919/441-7132

Jones Lake
Picnic under a canopy of old cypress trees or go for a dip in the cool, tea-colored lake. Jones Lake is one of the few remaining Carolina bay lakes, the origin of which has long been a subject of speculation and debate. Enjoy the lake while rowing or fishing, or stay for a while in the family campground.

Location: 4 miles north of Elizabethtown on N.C. 242
Address: 113 Jones Lake Rd., Elizabethtown, NC 28337
☎ 910/588-4550
Kerr Lake State Recreation Area
Set sail for Kerr Lake. 1,000 family campsites in seven recreation areas are home away from home to boaters, skiers and fishermen. Of course, there's plenty of reason to come just for the day. Special events held throughout the year include a spring art show, amateur striped bass fishing tournament and the Governor's Cup Invitational Regatta. Tucked along the shoreline are some of the best fishing holes in North Carolina. Picnic spots are plentiful. Two commercial marinas offer full service for boaters and campers, including cabins. Meet your friends at Bullocksville, County Line, Henderson Point, Hibernia, Kimball Point, Nutbush Bridge and Satterwhite Point.

Office Location: 11 miles north of Henderson off I-85 to S.R. 1319
Address: 269 Glass House Rd.
Henderson, NC 27536
☎ 919/438-7791
Marinas:
☎ Satterwhite 919/438-4441
☎ Steele Creek 919/492-1426

Medoc Mountain
Canoe the creeks or hike the trails to appreciate the beauty of this unusual mixture of plant and animal life. Not really a mountain, but a granite ridge, Medoc Mountain is the remains of an ancient mountain range formed by volcanic action. A rewarding experience in any season, but especially in the spring when the bluffs and ravines are covered with the blossoms of mountain laurel.

Location: 15 miles SW of Roanoke Rapids off N.C. 561
Address: PO Box 400,
Hollister, NC 27844
☎ 919/445-2280

Lake Waccamaw
Discover one-of-a-kind aquatic animals found nowhere else on earth. The lake is home to the Lake Waccamaw killifish and a number of other unique fish mollusks. Spend an evening in the primitive campground or enjoy a picnic under stately trees hung with Spanish moss.

Location: 6 miles south of Lake Waccamaw off US 74/76
Address: 1866 State Park Drive,
Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450
☎ 910/646-4748

Merchants Millpond
Discover one of the state's rarest ecological communities. Massive cypress and gum trees covered with Spanish moss form a canopy for the dark, acid waters of the millpond - wilderness sanctuary for wetland wildlife. Paddle quietly through the pond and creek and encounter beavers, otters and owls.

Location: 6 miles NE of Gatesville on S.R. 1403
Address: Rte. 1, Box 141A,
Gatesville, NC 27938
☎ 919/357-1191
Morrow Mountain
View the skeletal remains of a once-mighty range of peaks. Located along the Pee Dee River and Lake Tillery. Morrow Mountain features miles of mountain trails to wander on foot or horseback. Visit the historic Kron House, residence, greenhouse and hospital of an early 19th century physician. Stay for a while in a cabin or a campsite and enjoy a dip in the pool or a boat ride on the lake.

Location: 5 miles east of Albemarle off N.C. 24/27/73/740 on Morrow Mtn. Rd.

Address: 49104 Morrow Mountain Rd., Albemarle, NC 28001
☎ 704/982-4402

Mount Jefferson
Broaden your horizons with scenic vistas and colorful displays of mountain flora. You can see forever on a clear day. Stroll the short nature trail through the magnificent forest, a National Natural Landmark.

Location: 1.5 miles south of Jefferson on U.S. 221

Address: PO Box 48, Jefferson, NC 28640
☎ 910/246-9653

Mount Mitchell
Explore miles of hiking trails and reward yourself with breathtaking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Ascend the highest peak east of the Mississippi, riding to 6,684 feet and watch the world take on a new perspective from the observation tower. Visit the museum and learn about the natural and cultural history of North Carolina’s first state park. The famished hiker or the hungry tourist can enjoy a relaxing meal in the restaurant.

Location: 30 miles NE of Asheville off the Blue Ridge Parkway on N.C. 128

Address: Rte. 5, Box 700, Burnsville, NC 28714
☎ 704/675-4611
Restaurant ☎ 704/675-9907

New River
Canoe more than 26 miles of the national wild and scenic south fork of the New River, one of the oldest rivers in the world. Embark upon this gentle river from any of four access points for fishing, picnicking and inspiring mountain scenery.

Location: 8 miles SE of Jefferson off N.C. 88 on S.R. 1588

Address: PO Box 48, Jefferson, NC 28640
☎ 910/982-2587
**Pettigrew**
Reel ‘em in at this 16,000-acre angler’s paradise, teeming with largemouth bass, yellow perch and various panfish. Lake and wind conditions make Lake Phelps ideal for shallow-draft sailboats, canoeing and windsurfing. View displays of prehistoric Indian culture and take a journey back in time, or visit Somerset place - a state historic site.

- **Location**: 9 miles south of Creswell off U.S. 64 on S.R. 1166
- **Address**: 2252 Lake Shore Drive, Creswell, NC 27928  
  ☏ 919/797-4475

**South Mountains**
Hike the rugged trail to High Shoals Falls and enjoy the crystal clear waters as they plunge 80 feet into a large pool. For a true wilderness experience, backpack through the woodlands for primitive camping or fish for trout in 12 miles of sparkling mountain streams.

- **Location**: 18 miles south of Morganton on S.R. 1904
- **Address**: Rte 1, Box 206, Connelly Springs, NC 28612  
  ☏ 704/443-4772

**Pilot Mountain**
Imagine a majestic pinnacle rising from out of nowhere, 1,400 feet above the surrounding countryside. Experienced climbers may climb Little Pinnacle Wall while others explore the adjoining woodland corridor on foot or horseback for a memorable view.

- **Location**: 24 miles north of Winston-Salem off U.S. 52
- **Address**: Rte. 3, Box 21, Pinnacle, NC 27043  
  ☏ 910/325-2355

**Singletary Lake**
For canoeing, swimming and nature walks, bring the group to an area designed for organized camping. Two group camps contain mess halls, kitchens, campers' cabins and wash houses. Our rangers will conduct special nature programs for your group and explain the unique phenomenon of the Carolina bays.

- **Location**: 12 miles SE of Elizabethtown on N.C. 53
- **Address**: 6707 NC 53 Hwy. E, Kelly, NC 28448  
  ☏ 910/669-2928

**Theodore Roosevelt Natural Area**
It's for the birds, crabs and the snails. Plus the sea oats, the salt grass and the marshes. Donated to the state by the family of the 26th President, this nature preserve attracts naturalists and photographers. The N.C. Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores interprets the coastal environment with exhibits and multimedia programs.

- **Location**: 7 miles west of Atlantic Beach on S.R. 1201
- **Address**: PO Box 127, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512  
  ☏ 919/726-3775

**Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve**
Imagine the trees of Weymouth, England as you view the longleaf pines. Listen for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, a permanent resident of the Sandhills. Tour the nature center museum where the unique features of the Sandhills region are studied, interpreted and protected.

- **Location**: 2 miles south of Southern Pines off U.S. 1 on S.R. 2074
- **Address**: 1024 N. Fort Bragg Road, Southern Pines, NC 28387  
  ☏ 910/692-2167
1. **John C. Campbell Folk School (NR)**
   (Also located in Clay County)
   One Folk School Road,
   Brasstown, NC 28902
   M-S 8-5 & Sun. 1-5 (Craft Shop) Free.
   ☏ (704) 837-2775
   Folk School, established in 1925 and modeled upon Danish tradition of Folk Schools.

2. **Cherokee County Historical Museum (NR)**
   205 Peachtree St., Murphy, NC 28906
   M-F 9-5 Free.
   ☏ (704) 837-6792
   The museum reflects Cherokee Indian life before and during displacement. It also depicts the early white settlers of the county.

3. **Harshaw Chapel (Old Methodist Church) *(NR)*
   806 Valley River Ave., Murphy, NC 28906
   By appointment. Free.
   ☏ (704) 837-2877
   Handsome brick church with strong Greek Revival influences. There is some original furniture and an old cemetery.

4. **The Pendergrass Building *(NR)*
   6 Main St., Franklin, NC 28734
   M-F 10-4 and Sat 10-12 (April-Oct) Free.
   ☏ (704) 524-9758
   Originally a retail store building, now a museum displaying local historic and cultural artifacts and photographs.

5. **Brevard Chamber of Commerce Building**
   35 W. Main St., Brevard, NC 28712
   M-F 9-5 Free.
   ☏ (800) 648-4523
   A 1900 structure located in the center of town and used as an information center.

6. **Allison-Deaver House *(NR)*
   Call for admission information; donations accepted.
   ☏ (704) 884-5137
   Claimed to be the oldest extant frame house west of Blue Ridge in North Carolina. It will be opened as a house museum and heritage education center.
Gov. Zebulon Vance Birthplace
911 Reems Creek Rd.,
Weaverville, NC 28787
(April-Oct) M-Sat 9-5 and Sun 1-5
(Nov-March) Tu-Sat 10-4 and Sun 1-4.
Free.
ioctl (704) 645-6706
A reconstructed 1830’s mountain farmstead
with a log house and six outbuildings,
birthplace of the state’s Civil War governor and
later U.S. Senator.

Biltmore Estate *(NR)
One North Pack Square,
Asheville, NC 28801
M-F 9-5 (Closed Christmas,
Thanksgiving and New Year's Day)
Call for admission information.
ioctl (828) 274-5616
A 250-room French Chateau which contains
original artwork and furnishings surrounded by
75 acres of elaborate gardens and
landscaping.

Biltmore Village Historic Museum *(NR)
7 Biltmore Plaza, Asheville, NC 28803
M-S 1-4 Free.
ioctl (704) 274-9707
A museum of Biltmore Village, a local historic
district containing three Richard Morris Hunt
buildings.

Estes-Winn Memorial Automobile Museum *(NR)
111 Grovewood Rd.,
Asheville, NC 28804
(April-Dec) M-Sat 10-5; Sun 1-5;
(Jan-Mar) Fri & Sat 10-5. Free.
ioctl (704) 253-7651
An English cottage style building, one of the
former buildings of the Biltmore Industries
handweaving plant, housing a collection of
automobiles dating 1913-1957.

North Carolina Homespun Museum *(NR)
Same as Estes-Winn Memorial Museum.
A 1919 English cottage-style building exhibits
feature the history of the Biltmore Industries
handweaving operation in film, pictures and
artifacts.

Thomas Wolfe Memorial (NR)
52 N. Market St., Asheville, NC 28801
(April-Oct) M-Sat 9-5 and Sun 1-5
(Nov-March) Tu-Sat 10-4 and Sun 1-4
Admission $1 Adults, 50¢ children.
ioctl (704) 253-8304
Boyhood home of author Thomas Wolfe. A
Queen Anne style dwelling which provided the
setting for “Look Homeward Angel”.

Smith-McDowell House Museum *(NR)
283 Victoria Rd., Asheville, NC 28801
(April-Dec) Tu-F 10-4, Sun 1-4
(Jan-Mar) Tu-Sat 10-4
Admission $3.50 for adults,
$2.00 for children ages 7-15.
ioctl (704) 253-9231
Tours, programs and exhibits are featured in
this 1840’s brick plantation home.

The Old Depot *(NR)
207 Sutton Ave.,
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(April-Dec) Tu-Sat 10-5; Gift Shop
Free.
ioctl (704) 669-6583
A small town train station built about 1893.

* Handicap Accessible
(NR) National Register of Historic Places
◆ State Historic Site
**15 Carson House (NR)**  
US. Hwy 70W., Old Fort, NC  28762  
(Mailing Address only)  
Tu-Sat 10-5 and Sun 2-5  
Admission $3 adults  
$1.50 children from ages 12-17.  
☎ (704) 724-4640  
The 19th century plantation house is now a repository for pioneer artifacts and furnishings.

**16 Mountain Gateway Museum**  
Catawba/Water Streets,  
Old Fort, NC  28762  
T-Sat 9-5, Sun 2-5 and Mon 12-5   Free.  
☎ (704) 668-9259  
A museum of western North Carolina frontier life with two restored early log houses.

**17 Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site**  
Across from Flat Rock Playhouse. Through the week, 9-5, except Christmas. A fee of $3 for house tour, children 16 & under, free.  
☎ (704) 693-4178.  
The home of Carl Sandburg during his later years. The house is built in low-country plantation style. Books and memorabilia.

**18 Cleveland County Historical Museum *(NR)***  
Courtsquare, Shelby, NC  28150  
Tu-F 9-4  Free.  
☎ (704) 482-8186  
A Classical Revival courthouse housing historical artifacts pertaining to local history.

**19 Historic Webbly *(NR)***  
403 S. Washington St.,  
Shelby, NC  28150  
Now a Bed & Breakfast. Seven days a week. Free.  
☎ (704) 487-0616  
Built in 1852 in Italianate style by Augustus Burton, this home has been visited by every N.C. Governor at least once.

**20 Kouris Warehouse ***  
200 W. Warren, Shelby, NC  28150  
Tu-Sat 8-6  Free.  
A Colonial Revival brick warehouse housing the Shelby Farmers Market.

**21 The Former Post Office of Shelby *(NR)***  
111 S. Washington St.  
Shelby, NC  28150  
Cleveland County Arts Council showing local and regional art.  
M-F 10-4  Free.  
☎ (704) 484-2787  
A Colonial Revival post office built in 1916 which has been converted into an arts center.

**22 Well House *(NR)***  
Courtsquare, Shelby, NC  28151  
MWF 10-5  Free.  
☎ (704) 481-1842  
Formerly an open, brick-arched well house. It now houses the Historic Shelby Foundation.

**23 Shelby City Hall *(NR)***  
300 S. Washington St.,  
Shelby, NC  28150  
M-F 8-5  Free.  
☎ (704) 484-6801  
A Georgian Revival brick building constructed in 1939 used as city hall and firehouse.
The Appalachian Cultural Museum *
University Hall, Appalachian State University, Boone
Tu-Sat 10-5 and Sun 1-5
Admission $2 adults, $1.75 seniors and $1 children (Free on Tuesdays).
☎ (704) 262-2117
The museum, housed in the contemporary University Hall, offers exhibits on the development of culture in the Blue Ridge region.

Flat Top Manor, Moses H. Cone Memorial Park
Blue Ridge Parkway, Blowing Rock, NC
May-Oct M-F 9-5  Free.
☎ (704) 295-3782 (Craft Center)
Mountain retreat of Greensboro industrialist, Moses Cone. Now a craft center.

Hickory Ridge Homestead *
Horn in the West Drive, Boone, NC  28607
(May-Oct) Sat 9-4 and Sun 1-4
Summers daily 1-8:30 except Mondays.
Admission $2 adults and $1 children.
☎ (704) 264-2120
This late 18th century log house is representative of the period and has exhibits with local emphasis. Site for the outdoor drama, “Horn in the West.”

Mast General Store *(NR)
Hwy. 194, Valle Crucis, NC  28691
M-Sat 6:30 am-6:30 pm Sun 1-6  Free.
☎ (704) 963-6511
Well preserved late 19th century general store set in picturesque valley. Built in 1883 and still in operation.

Chapel of Rest
Hwy. 268, Lenoir, NC  28645
Open daily. Free. Donations accepted.
☎ (704) 754-5065
Constructe in 1887, and rebuilt 1918. A beautiful country chapel and cemetery with special church services and Sunday afternoon concerts.

Historic Robert Cleveland Log House
203 N. Bridge St., Wilkesboro, NC  28697
M-F 10-5
Open Sat 9-2 during the summer.
Contributions accepted.
☎ (910) 667-3712.
This log dwelling was built in 1779 by Robert Cleveland and features period furnishings.
Fort Defiance (NR)
N.C. 268 Between Lenoir and Wilkesboro,
P.O. Box 686
Lenior, NC 28645
1st and 3rd Sundays 2-5 (April-Oct),
Summer Fri & Sat 10-5, Sun 1:30-5
and arranged tours.
ivr (704) 758-1671
1792 home of Revolutionary War General
William Lenoir featuring original furnishings.

Old Wilkes Jail Museum (NR)
203 N. Bridge St.,
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
M-F 9-4
Open on Sat 9-2 during the summer.
Contributions accepted.
ivr (910) 667-3712
Built by Mr. Shipwash (also the first escapee), it
contains furnished living quarters and the jail
cell where Tom Duly was incarcerated.

Andy Griffith Playhouse *
218 Rockford St.,
Mt. Airy, NC 27030
M-F 8-5 Free.
ivr (910) 786-7998
A renovated theater and arts center named for
North Carolina’s most famous actor.

The Gertrude Smith
House *(NR)
708 N. Main St., Mt. Airy, NC 27030
By appointment. Free.
ivr (910) 786-6856
A 1903 Victorian home with period
furnishings.

Horne Creek Living
Historical Farm ♦
320 Hauser Rd., Pinnacle, NC 27043
Tu-Sat 9-5 and Sun 1-5 Free.
ivr (910) 325-2298
A hands-on display of turn-of-the century farm
life in the piedmont area of NC.

The Robert Smith
House *(NR)
615 N. Main St., Mt. Airy, NC 27030
M-S 10-5 Sun 11:30-4:30 Free.
ivr (910) 786-6856
1910 Colonial Revival home housing the Mt.
Airy Visitors Center.

The Alexander Dickson
House *(NR)
E. King St., Hillsborough, NC 27278
Sat. 10-4 and Sun 2-5. Free.
ivr (910) 732-8156
Late 18th century piedmont farmhouse. The
small office to the rear was used by Gen.
Joseph E. Johnston at the time of his surrender
to Sherman.

Ayr Mount (NR)
376 St. Mary’s Road,
Hillsborough, NC 27278
Sun, T, Th-2 pm Guided Tour.
Admission $5.
ivr (919) 732-6886
Beautifully restored 1817 brick plantation
house with excellent decorative arts collection
and pastoral setting.
Bennett Place State Historic Site *(NR)  
4409 Bennett Memorial Rd.,
Durham, NC  27705  
(Nov-March) T-Sat 10-4 and Sun 1-4  
(April-Oct) M-Sat 9-5 and Sun 1-5  Free.  
☎ (919) 383-4345  
Reconstructed farmhouse where Generals Johnston and Sherman met to sign the largest surrender of the Civil War.

Blandwood (NR)  
447 W. Washington St.,
Greensboro, NC  27401  
T-Sat 11-2 and Sun 2-5  
Admission varies.  
☎ (910) 272-5003  
Former house of N.C. Gov. John M. Morehead. The addition designed in 1844 by A.J. Davis is the oldest remaining example of Italian Villa architecture in the U.S.

Chinqua-Penn Plantation (NR)  
2138 Wentworth St.,
Reidsville, NC  27320  
T-S 9-5, Sun 12-5  Adults $10  
☎ (910) 349-4576  
A 1920’s country manor filled with eclectic art treasures on 23 acres with formal gardens.

Duke Homestead State Historic Site and Tobacco Museum *(NR)  
2828 Duke Homestead Rd.,
Durham, NC  27705  
(Nov-March) T-Sat 10-4 and Sun 1-4  
(April-Oct) M-Sat 9-5 and Sun 1-5  Free.  
☎ (919) 477-5498  
An 1852 vernacular piedmont farmhouse with outbuildings and a museum.

Duke University Chapel*  
Campus, Durham, NC  27708-0974  
(May-Aug.) 8-8 (Sept-April) 8am-10pm  Free.  
☎ (919) 684-2572  
Beautiful Gothic church on main Duke campus, worship services and tours.

William Fields House *(NR)  
447 Arlington St.,
Greensboro, NC  27406  
M-F 9-5.  Free.  
☎ (910) 272-6617  
A Gothic Revival dwelling featuring steep gabled roof and arched former windows.

Greensboro Historical Museum *(NR)  
130 Summit Ave.,
Greensboro, NC  27401  
Tu-Sat 10-5 and Sun 2-5 Closed on holidays.  
Free.  
☎ (910) 373-2043  
Museum complex contains buildings dating as early as 1892. It includes a renovated church, two historic houses and local history exhibits.

Hayti Heritage Center *(NR)  
804 Old Fayetteville St.,
Durham, NC  27701  
M-F 9-5 and Sat 10-2:30  Free.  
☎ (919) 683-1709  
Constructed in the Hayti community in 1891, the old St. Joseph’s A.M.E. Church, one of Durham’s oldest ecclesiastical structures, houses a heritage center which promotes the understanding of the African-American experience.
Historic Stagville Center*(NR)  
5825 Old Oxford Hwy.,  
Bahama, NC  27503  
M-F 9-4  Free.  
☎ (919) 620-0120  
Plantation seat of the Bennehan and Cameron families featuring a late 18th century dwelling, rare four-room slave houses and a massive timber frame barn.

Hugh Mangum Museum of Photography/McCown-Mangum House (NR)  
5101 N. Roxboro Rd.,  
Durham, NC  27704  
(March-Dec) Sat and Sun 1-5  Free.  
☎ (919) 471-1623  
Modified Greek Revival dwelling restored to its late 1890’s appearance contains the works of Hugh Mangum, a 20th century photographer, as well as contemporary exhibits.

Orange Co. Historical Museum (NR)  
201 N. Churton St.,  
Hillsborough, NC  27278  
Tu-Sun 1:30-4:30  Free.  
☎ (919) 732-2201  
Museum houses a fine collection of prehistoric to Civil War period household goods.

Alamance Battleground* (NR)  
5803 South NC 62,  
Burlington, NC  27215  
(April-Oct) M-Sat. 9-5 and Sun 1-5  (Nov-March) Tu-Sat 10-4 and Sun 1-4  Free.  
☎ (910) 227-4785  
Site of the 1771 battle between the forces of Regulators and Royal Gov. William Tryon. On the site is an 18th century log house which belonged to John Allen, containing some original furniture and period artifacts.

Snow Camp Historic Site*  
Drama Rd., Snow Camp, NC  27349  
(June-Aug.) 6-8pm  Free.  
Drama begins at 8:30pm  
☎ (910) 376-6948  
A replica of a historic Quaker community featuring log houses and Quaker meeting houses with some period furnishings and artifacts.

Eastern Cabarrus Historical Society Museum * (NR)  
Main St., Mt. Pleasant, NC  28124  
Times vary.  Free.  
☎ (704) 436-6612  
An 1855 Greek Revival boy’s school displaying memorabilia and artifacts.

Historic Cabarrus County Courthouse *(NR)  
65 Union St., Concord, NC  28026-0966  
M-F 9-12  Free.  
☎ (704) 786-8515  
Built in 1876, the building contains a museum displaying artifacts from the Revolutionary through the Vietnam Wars.

Josephus W. Hall House (NR)  
226 S. Jackson St.,  
Salisbury, NC  28144-0103  
Sat and Sun 1-4. Tours can be arranged. Admission $3 adult and $2 child.  
☎ (704) 636-0103  
Large 1820 antebellum home. Tours given by guides in 1860’s period costumes.

Archibald Henderson Law Office (NR)  
201 W. Fisher St., Salisbury, NC  28144  
By appointment.  
Admission Varies.  
☎ (704) 638-5207  
An 1825 Federal-style law office.
Memorial Garden
36 Spring St., Concord, NC  28025
M-Sat 9-5 and Sun 1-5:30 (Spring, Summer and Fall)
M-Sat 9-4 and Sun 1-5 (Winter)  Free.
☎ (704) 786-8009
A former graveyard for First Presbyterian Church founded in 1804. It was established as a memorial garden in 1930 and has floral displays throughout the botanical garden.

Reed Gold Mine *(NR) 
9621 Reed Mine Rd., Stanfield, NC  28163
M-Sat 9-5 and Sun 1-5 (Summer)
Tu-Sat 10-4 and Sun 1-4 (Winter)
Tour is free, panning $2.
☎ (704) 786-8337
Site of the first documented gold find in the U.S. Tours of the mine, stamp mill and panning operation.

Rowan Museum/Utzman-Chambers House (NR)
116 S. Jackson St., Salisbury, NC  28144
Th-Sun 1-4
Admission $3 adults.
☎ (704) 633-5946
An 1814 townhouse featuring two period rooms and six other rooms with historical collections—costumes, military, toys and china. Also a 19th century formal garden.

Snuggs House and Marks House *(NR)
245 E. Main St., Albemarle, NC  28001
T-F 9-5  Free.
☎ (704) 983-7316
The Snuggs House is an 1870’s two-story farmhouse with a museum. The Marks house is a completely restored and furnished mid-19th century dwelling.

NC Transportation Museum at Historic Spencer Shops *(NR) *
411 S. Salisbury Ave., Spencer, NC  28159
M-Sat 9-6 and Sun 12-5.  Free.
☎ (704) 636-2889
The museum interprets the development of transportation in N.C. at the site of the old steam repair facility for Southern Railway.

“Old Stone House” (NR) or Michael Braun House
2077 Robin Rd., Salisbury, NC  28144
(April-Nov) Sat and Sun 1-4
Admission $3 adults.
☎ (704) 278-3000
A large 1766 stone house built by Michael Braun, an early German immigrant. Only pre-revolutionary dwelling in Rowan County.

Malcolm Blue Farmstead and Museum *(NR)
Bethesda Rd., Aberdeen, NC  28315
By appointment only.  Free.
Mid-19th century farmhouse, grist mill and windmill, and a museum featuring Scottish heritage, agricultural and local history.

Joel McLendon Cabin/James Bryant House (NR)
3361 Mt. Carmel Rd., Carthage, NC  28388
Sun 2-5 and by appointment.  Free.
☎ (910) 947-3995
Furnished early 19th century farmhouse and late 18th century log building.
Shaw House Properties (NR)
Corner of Morganton and Broad St., Southern Pines, NC  28378
☎ (910) 692-8120
Three houses representing life in the early years of the Sandhills from 1700’s to 1840’s. Now used for business offices.

Town Creek Indian Mound *(NR) ♦
509 Town Creek Mound Rd., Mt. Gilead, NC  27306
(April-Oct) M-Sat 9-5 and Sun 1-5
(Nov-March) T-Sat 10-4 and Sun 1-4  Free.
☎ (910) 439-6802
Reconstructed 13th century Indian ceremonial center.

Ellerbe Springs Inn *(NR)
Hwy 220, North Ellerbe, NC  28379
M-S 7am-9pm  Free.
☎ (910) 652-5600
Victorian inn built by H. E. Bonitz of Wilmington.

Rankin Museum of American Heritage *
131 Church St., Ellerbe, NC  28338
Tu-F 10-4 and Sat-Sun 2-5
Admission $2 adults and $1 students and children.
☎ (910) 652-6378
A 5,000 sq. ft. building housing Indian artifacts, an African exhibit and related artifacts.

Chatham County Historical Museum *(NR)
Courthouse Square, Pittsboro, NC  27312
Fridays, 10-2 and by appointment. Free.
☎ (919) 542-3603
Built in 1881 by T. B. Womack, this courthouse dominates downtown Pittsboro.

House in the Horseshoe (NR) ♦
324 Alston House Rd., Sanford, NC  27330
(5 miles from Carboro on SR 1644)
(April-Oct) M-Sat. 9-5 and Sun 1-5
(Nov-March) Tu-Sat 10-4 and Sun 1-4 Free.
☎ (910) 947-2051
Plantation house dating to 1770, containing period antiques and surrounded by a lovely garden in the spring and summer.

Charles B. Aycock Birthplace (NR) ♦
264 Gov. Aycock Rd., Freemont, NC  27830
(April-Sept.) 9-5 M-Sat and 1-5 Sun
(Nov-March) 10-4 Tu-Sat and 1-4 Sun  Free.
☎ (919) 242-5581
The 1846 coastal cottage is the birthplace of the former governor. An 1893 one-room schoolhouse is also on the site.

Bentonville Battleground (NR) ♦
PO Box 27, Newton Grove, NC  28366
(April-Oct) M-Sat. 9-5 and Sun 1-5
(Nov-March) Tu-Sat 10-4 and Sun 1-4  Free.
☎ (910) 594-0789
Site of one of the last great Civil War battles. Also site of the Harper House which was used as an improvised hospital after the battle.
Caswell-Neuse State Historic Site
US 70 Business, Kinston, NC 28501
(April-Oct) M-Sat. 9-5 and Sun. 1-5
(Nov-March) Tu-Sat 10-4 and Sun 1-4 Free. ☏️ (919) 522-2091
An 1862 ironclad-ramming Confederate vessel sunk during the Civil War and pulled from the Neuse River in 1963.

Community Council for the Arts *(NR)
400 N. Queen St., Kinston, NC 28501
T-F 10-6 and Sat 10-5 Free. ☏️ (919) 527-2517
Community Council for the Arts features six galleries, shopping and artist studios in a historic downtown commercial building.

Harmony Hall *(NR)
100 S. King St., Kinston, NC 28501
Tu, W, Th 9-12 M, W, F 10-1
Admission is free (donations requested). ☏️ (919) 522-0421
The house contains 18th and 19th century period furnishings.

Wayne County Museum *
116 N. William St., Goldsboro, NC
Call for hours. ☏️ (919) 734-5023
Neo-classical museum housing local art.

Old Waynesborough Park *
U.S. 117 S Bypass, Goldsboro, NC 27530
Sat and Sun 1-4 Free.
Park constructed on the site of the original county seat, Waynesborough, to preserve the tradition, history, structures and artifacts of pre-1875 Wayne County.

Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum *(NR)
Flemington Dr., Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450
T-F 1-5, Sun 3-5
Sat 3-5 during July and August. Free. ☏️ (910) 646-1992

Brunswick Town (NR)
N.C. 133 adjacent to Orton Plantation
8884 St. Phillips Rd. SE, Winnabow, NC 28479
(April-Oct) M-Sat 9-5 and Sun 1-5
(Nov-March) Tu-Sat 10-4 and Sun 1-4 Free. ☏️ (910) 371-6613
Archaeological remains of a major pre-Revolutionary port along the Cape Fear River, including the ruins of St. Phillip's Church.

Museum of the Albemarle *
1116 U.S. 17 S., Elizabeth City, NC 27909-9806
T-Sat 9-5 and Sun 2-5 Free. ☏️ (919) 335-1453
Museum housing exhibits and artifacts dating back to the earliest settlements in N.C.

Cherry Hill (NR)
N.C. 58 at Inez, Rt. 3, Box 98, Warrenton, NC 27589
Please make an appointment. Free. ☏️ (919) 257-4432
1858 Italianate plantation house attributed to builder John Waddell. Site of concert series and other cultural activities in spring and fall.
Jacob Holt House *(NR)
Bragg St., Warrenton, NC  27589
Currently not open.  Free.
1857 Italianate residence of Warren County builder, Jacob Holt, who is credited with building many plantation homes in the area.

Old Gates County Courthouse *(NR)
Court St., Gatesville, NC  27938
M, T, Th, F 10:30-6; W 1-8:30; Sat 9:30-12:30
Free.
☎ (919) 357-0110
A rare example of a Federal-style seat of local government, now serving as a county library with exhibits.

BB&T (Arts Council of Wilson) *(NR)
124 E. Nash, Wilson, NC  27893
M-F 8:30-5 Free.
☎ (919) 291-4329
A 1903 Neo-Classical bank building now converted into arts center.

Asa Biggs House (NR)
100 E. Church St., Williamston, NC  27892
☎ (919) 792-6605
Early 19th century house with Greek Revival additions.

Fort Branch - Confederate Earthen Fort *(NR)
Fort Branch Rd., Hamilton, NC  27840
Sat and Sun 1-5 (April-Nov)  Free.
☎ 1-800-776-8566
Confederate fort with museum, original cannons, local Indian and colonial artifacts and an annual battle reenactment in November.

Blount-Bridgers House/Hobson Pittman Memorial Gallery *(NR)
130 Bridgers St., Tarboro, NC  27886
(March-Dec) M-F 10-4 Sat and Sun 2-4
(Jan-Feb) Sun 2-4  $2 donation.
☎ (919) 823-4159
1808 plantation home of Thomas Blount. Historic period rooms on the first floor and permanent collection of N.C. artist, Hobson Pittman on the second floor.

Old Martin County Courthouse (NR)
East Main St., Williamston, NC  27892
By appointment. Restoration in progress.
☎ (919) 792-3562
Built in 1885, an unusual example of late 19th century architecture, combining Italianate, Medieval and Victorian elements in a castle-like structure.

St. Martin's Church *(NR)
Front St., Hamilton, NC  27840
By appointment and on Christmas Eve.  Free.
Built in 1874, this Gothic Revival church contains unique English stained glass windows.
Williamston Historic Commercial District
National Register of Historic Places. Includes parts of a seven-block downtown area bounded by Main, Watts, Church and Haughton streets. Treat yourself to a vanilla coke at Clark's Drugstore or try some great country cooking at R & C Restaurant. Eat and shop downtown!

Edna Boykin Cultural Center
108 W. Nash St., Wilson, NC 27894-0637
(919) 291-4329
Reopening in 1998 as a 650-seat proscenium theatre with an exhibition gallery in its lobby, the EBCC becomes Wilson's home for the performing arts.

Historic Edenton Tour (NR)
108 N. Broad St., Edenton, NC 27932
(Tu-Sat 10-4 and Sun 1-5)
Tours are at set times.
Tour charge $5 adults, $2.50 K-12.
(919) 482-2637
Tour starts at 1892 Ziegler House (Visitors Center), goes to 1767 Chowan County Courthouse; 1757 Cupola House, finest Jacobean-style house south of Connecticut; the James Iredell House, home of a prominent 18th century North Carolinian; the Penelope Barker House; and St. Paul's Church (Episcopal), the second oldest church in the state.

Hope Plantation (NR)
Governor's Lane, Four miles north of Windsor on NC 308
(Jan-Dec), M-Sat 10-5 and Sun 2-5
Admission for adults $6.50 and students $2
(919) 794-3140
Mansion built circa 1803. King-Bazemore and Samuel Cox homes also on grounds. View Agrarian Society and rural domestic plantation life.

Port o’Plymouth Roanoke Museum *(NR)
302 E. Water St., Plymouth, NC 27962
T-Sat 8-5
Admission $1 adults, $.50 students
(919) 793-1377
Historic train depot is now a museum housing exhibits about the Battle of Plymouth and Washington County.

Newbold-White House *(NR)
Harvey Point Rd., Hertford, NC 27944
M-Sat 10-4:30 (March 1 -Thanksgiving)
Admission $1 adults and $.50 students.
(919) 426-7567
North Carolina's oldest brick house, featuring leaded casement windows, Flemish bond brickwork and period furnishings.

Atlantic Coastline Railroad Station & Warehouse*(NR)
108 Gladden St., Washington, NC 27889
M-F 9-5 Free.
(919) 946-2504
The first stop on Washington's historic walking tour. Built in 1906, it features bimonthly art exhibits.

Historic Bath State Historic Site *(NR)
Carteret St., Bath, NC 27808
(April-Oct) M-Sat 9-5 and Sun 1-5
(Nov-March) Tu-Sat 10-4 and Sun 1-4
Admission varies.
(919) 923-3971
Belhaven Memorial Museum*
East Main St., Belhaven, NC  27810
M-Sun 1-5.  Free.
☎ (919) 943-3055
An early 20th century structure which houses a collection of “everything” – like browsing through your grandmother’s attic.

Chicamacomico Lifesaving Station (NR)
N.C. 12, Rodanthe, NC  27968
(May-Oct) Tu, Th and Sat 11-5
Year-round by appointment. Free.
☎ (919) 987-2401
1911 lifesaving station is a museum of the lifesaving service. Several buildings date to 1874.

Roanoke Island Festival Park
Home of the Elizabeth II *
N.C. Hwy 400, opposite Manteo waterfront
Manteo, NC  27954
Hours vary with seasons. Please call for details. Small admission fee.
☎ (919) 475-1500
A full-scale reproduction of a sailing vessel typical of those that brought the first colonists to America.

Octagon House Restoration (NR)
U.S. 264, Engelhard, NC  27824
F, Sat and Sun 1-5.  Free.
☎ (919) 925-5201
One of the few octagonal houses in North Carolina – it serves as home to the Chamber of Commerce and has a local museum.

Somerset Place (NR) ♦
Rt. 1, Box 337, Creswell, NC  27928
(on Lake Phelps in Pettigrew State Park)
(April-Oct) M-Sat 9-5 and Sun 1-5
(Nov-March) Tu-Sat 10-4 and Sun 1-4  Free.
☎ (919) 797-4560
Collins family rice plantation, including 1830 home built for Josiah Collins III. One of the largest antebellum plantations in North Carolina at 1,400 cultivated acres. It is located on the grounds of Pettigrew State Park.
Beaufort Historic Site (NR)
100 Block of Turner St.,
Beaufort, NC  28516-0363
Open seven days a week.
No tours on Sunday.
Admission is $5.
(919) 728-5225
A tour of authentically restored and furnished houses and public buildings of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Frisco Native American Museum and Natural History Center (NR)
N.C. 12, Frisco, NC  27936
T-Sun 11-5.  Free.
(919) 995-4440
Native American artifacts, historical and educational exhibits and self-guided trails through woods.

St. John in the Wilderness Church (NR)
N.C. Hwy 25 S.
Flat Rock, NC 28731
Admission Free.
(828) 693-9783
Est. 1836. First Episcopal Church in Western N.C. many well-known members of Southern Aristocracy have family plots in the church yard.

Churches of the Frescoes-Holy Trinity Church
Glendale Springs, NC 28629
Admission Free.
(336) 982-3076
Features the Fresco of the Lord’s Supper by Ben Long, a North Carolina native. Holy Trinity dates to the early 1900’s. Other works include Jeffrey Mims’ Fresco of Christ’s Departure.

Churches of the Frescoes-St. Mary’s
N.C. Hwy 194
West Jefferson, NC 28694
Admission Free.
(336) 982-3076
Created by native North Carolinian, Ben Long. Mary, Great with Child, John the Baptist and The Mystery of Faith grace the sanctuary. Creations by Long’s students also line the walls of this early 20th-century church.
FOR MORE INFORMATION

N.C. Scenic Byways Program:
NCDOT – Scenic Byways
P.O. Box 25201, Raleigh, NC 27611

Travel Information: Attractions, Special Events Calendar, Welcome Centers, etc. :
N.C. Travel & Tourism Division
N.C. Department of Commerce
430 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh, NC 27611
(919) 733-4171 OR 1-800-VISIT NC
www.visitnc.com

N.C. Historic Sites:
Division of Archives & History
N.C. Department of Cultural Resources
532 N. Wilmington St., Raleigh, NC 27604-1147
(919) 733-7862
www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hs

N.C. Ferry Rates & Schedules:
Ferry Division
N.C. Department of Transportation
113 Arendell St., Morehead City, NC 28557
1-800-BY FERRY
www.ncferry.org

Blue Ridge Parkway:
Superintendent, 199 Hemphill Knob Rd.,
Asheville, NC 28803
(828)271-4779
www.nps.gov/blri

N.C. State Parks:
Division of Parks & Recreation
N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources
512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh, NC 27611
(919) 733-4181
http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/ncparks

National Forests in N.C. :
U.S. Forest Service
160A Zillicoa St., Asheville, NC 28802
(828)257-4200
www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc

For Information on Accommodations:
N.C. Bed & Breakfast Association
509 Pollock St., New Bern, NC 28560
1-800-849-5392

N.C. Campground Owners Association
1002 Vandora Springs Rd.
Garner, NC 27529
(919) 779-5709

Call the N.C. Travel & Tourism Division for local Convention and Visitor Bureaus.

For Emergencies:
N.C. Highway Patrol
1-800-662-7956
Cellular phones: call *47 (toll free)
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Sakowski, Carolyn. Touring the Western North Carolina Backroads. John F. Blair, Publisher.


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