

# An ABC guide to traveling across the Tar Heel State

By **TODD HAGANS**  
Editor of *The Eagle-Record*

From the mountains to the beaches, the Old North State truly boasts some of the best vacation get-a-way spots. Here's your alphabetical list of selected county destinations you may want to visit the next time you decide to travel right at home in North Carolina.

**•ASHE COUNTY** - The farthest northwestern destination in North Carolina, Ashe County has its own arts center, farmers market and civic center and is home to Todd General Store established in 1914, the landmark attraction Ashe County Cheese Company and New River State Park. Call (800) 343-2743 or visit on-line at [www.ashechamber.com](http://www.ashechamber.com).

**•BRUNSWICK COUNTY** - The sandy shores of Ocean Isle, Holden Beach, Long Beach, Sunset Beach, Bald Head Island and Southport are popular places along the southeastern Carolina coast.

Brunswick County is home to several lighthouses including Oak Island Lighthouse, Bald Head Lighthouse and Price's Creek Lighthouse. Other places of interest are the Oak Island Nature Center, Southport Municipal Pier, the Museum of Coastal Carolina and the NC Maritime Museum of Southport. Call (800) 795-7263 or visit on-line at [www.ncbrunswick.com](http://www.ncbrunswick.com).

**•CHATHAM COUNTY** - Located southwest of the Durham-Raleigh area, Chatham County is home to B. Everett Jordan Lake, a 200-mile system of trails for bicycling, Fearrington Village shopping area in Pittsboro, the Pitt Stop Cafe and Race Shop that salutes the sport of NASCAR racing and the historic Deep River Camelback Truss Bridge. Call (800) 316-3829 or visit on-line at [visitchathamcounty.com](http://visitchathamcounty.com).

**•DUPLIN COUNTY** - Located in eastern Carolina on I-40 between Raleigh and Wilmington, Duplin County

is home to the 19th century Liberty Hall Plantation, Dr. Buckner Hill Plantation Home, Cowan Museum and the Murray House. The area is also known for its vineyards and winery, friendly atmosphere and old-time hospitality. Call (800) 755-1755 or visit on-line at [www.duplincounty.org](http://www.duplincounty.org).

**•EDGECOMBE COUNTY** - Home to the historic town of Tarboro, Edgecombe County has its share of tourist attractions including the Blount-Bridgers House, a plantation home built in 1808 that features the Hobson Pittman Memorial Art Gallery, and the Tarboro Historic District and National Recreation Trail. Call (252) 823-7241.

**•FORSYTH COUNTY** - One of the largest cities in the state, Winston-Salem and Forsyth County offer a bounty of places to visit. Tourists will enjoy Historic Bethabara Park, the first Moravian settlement, Old Salem, site of the 18th and 19th century living history

Moravian town, Reynolda Gardens, the Piedmont Opera Theatre, the Sawtooth Center for Visual Arts, the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art and Tanglewood Park in Clemmons. Call (800) 331-7018 or visit on-line at [www.visitwinstonlaem.com](http://www.visitwinstonlaem.com).

**•GRAHAM COUNTY** - Located in far western North Carolina, Graham County is home to the Joyce Kilmer National Forest, a vast area of untouched virgin forest with numerous trails, and Fontana Village, a resort built by workers during the 1941 construction of the Fontana dam. The rural area offers a full glimpse at nature's scenic beauty. Call (800) 470-3790.

**•HENDERSON COUNTY** - Located among the Blue Ridge mountains, Henderson County is home to Hendersonville, acres of apple orchards and the annual North Carolina Apple Festival held each Labor Day weekend. Other highlights of the area are the

Mineral and Lapidary Museum of Henderson County, the Western North Carolina Air Museum, the Historic Hendersonville Depot, the Flatrock Playhouse Theatre and St. John in the Wilderness Church in Flat Rock. Call (800) 828-4244 or visit on-line at [www.historichendersonville.com](http://www.historichendersonville.com).

**•IREDELL COUNTY** - Home to Statesville and Mooresville, Iredell County is located where I-40 and I-77 meet. Historic Downtown Statesville is an area of interest as well as the Iredell Museum of Arts and Heritage, Historic Downtown Mooresville and the NC Auto Racing Hall of Fame in Mooresville. Call (877) 531-1819 or visit on-line at [visitstatesville.org](http://visitstatesville.org).

**•JACKSON COUNTY** - Far western Jackson County offers horseback riding in the Great Smokies National Park, whitewater rafting down the Tuckasegee River and a ride on the scenic Great Smoky Mountain Railroad. The towns of

Sylva, Cashiers and Cullowhee give visitors a glimpse at mountain living. Places of interest include the Jackson County Historical Museum in Dillsboro, the Kudzu Community Theatre in Sylva and Western Carolina University in Cullowhee. Call (800) 962-1911 or visit on-line at [www.mountainlovers.com](http://www.mountainlovers.com).

**•LENIOR COUNTY** - Located in the central eastern area of the state, Lenior County is home to the city of Kinston and Nueseway Nature Park and Campground, CSS Ram Neuse State Historic Site and Richard Caswell Memorial, Harmony Hall, Heritage Place, and the Caswell Center Museum and Visitors Center. Call (800) 869-0032 or visit on-line at [www.visitkinston.com](http://www.visitkinston.com).

**•MITCHELL COUNTY** - Bordering Tennessee to the north, tourist spots in Spruce Pine and Mitchell County include the Old Harris School built in the 1920s

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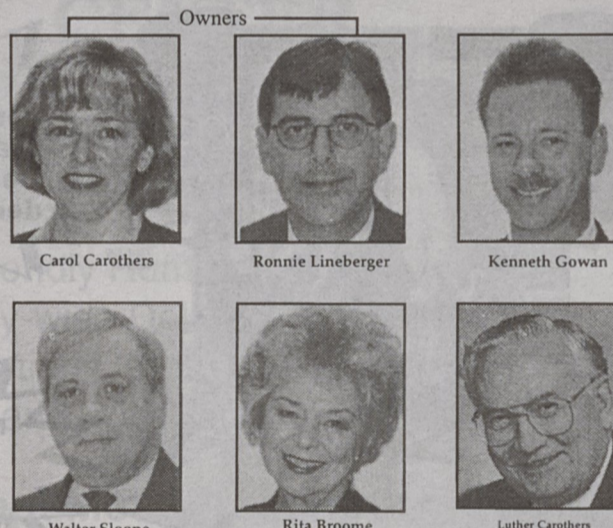
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