

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW  
WHEN RELOCATING TO

# NORTH CAROLINA

VOLUME | 2

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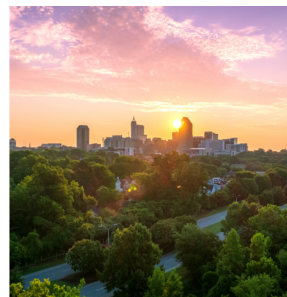
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03 | INTRODUCTION

## INTRODUCTION

From the majestic peaks of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the sun-kissed shores of the Outer Banks, the Tar Heel State beckons us all with a tapestry of possibilities, opportunities, and adventures waiting to unfold.

This guide is more than just a roadmap; it's your companion on a journey to discover the heartbeat of a state that thrums with energy, enthusiasm, and the promise of new beginnings.

Feel the excitement as you explore the historic sites where aviation took its first daring leaps at the Wright Brothers National Memorial or stand in awe of the grandeur that envelops the Biltmore Estate. Drive the scenic byways of the Blue Ridge Parkway, and immerse yourself in its breathtaking views that inspire wonder and serenity.

As you settle into your new home, embrace the culinary delights that grace every corner, from the barbecue joints to the innovative gastronomy emerging in thriving culinary scenes. Dive into the diverse communities that define North Carolina, each contributing its unique flavor to the rich tapestry of the state's cultural mosaic.

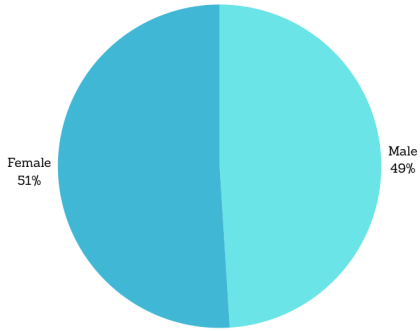
The North Carolina outdoors invites you to partake in its abundant landscape. Feel the adrenaline rush at NASCAR events, hike through ancient forests, or bask in the sun on pristine beaches—the options are as limitless as the horizons that stretch across this enchanting state.

This isn't just a guide; it's an invitation to thrive. It's an introduction to a state that pulses with the spirit of possibility, where each day brings new opportunities to forge connections, create memories, and build a life filled with moments of awe and inspiration.

So, as you turn the pages of this guide, imagine the unwritten chapters awaiting you in North Carolina. From the vibrant cities to the tranquil countryside, from the cultural hubs to the hidden gems, your journey begins now. Welcome to a place where the rhythm of life harmonizes with your aspirations, and every day holds the promise of discovery. Get ready to live, thrive, and make North Carolina your own. The adventure starts here.

## QUICK FACTS

**25**  
MIN  
AVG. WORK  
TRAVEL TIME



**68**  
4-YEAR  
COLLEGES/  
UNIVERSITIES

**5,505**  
FEET  
HIGHEST SKI SLOPE AT  
BEECH MOUNTAIN

**1903**  
WRIGHT BROS FIRST  
FLIGHT

**322**  
MILES OF  
COASTAL SHORE

**250**  
BILTMORE  
ESTATE ROOMS

**1700s**  
WHEN BLACKBEARD  
CALLED NORTH CAROLINA  
HOME



- **Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Western NC):** Straddling the border between North Carolina and Tennessee, this national park is renowned for its biodiversity, ancient mountains, and well-preserved historic buildings.
- **Cape Fear River (Wilmington):** Flowing through historic Wilmington, the Cape Fear River provides a scenic backdrop for riverfront activities, cruises, and waterfront dining.
- **Wright Brothers National Memorial (Kill Devil Hills):** Commemorating the site of the first successful powered flight by the Wright brothers in 1903, this memorial in Kill Devil Hills invites visitors to explore aviation history.
- **Outer Banks (Eastern NC):** A string of barrier islands with pristine beaches, historic sites like the Roanoke Island, and the iconic Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.



## INTRODUCTION

- **North Carolina Zoo (Asheboro):** One of the largest natural-habitat zoos in the world, the North Carolina Zoo is home to diverse species and offers immersive exhibits.
- **Charlotte Motor Speedway (Concord):** A racing mecca, the Charlotte Motor Speedway hosts NASCAR events and offers thrilling experiences like the Richard Petty Driving Experience.
- **Grandfather Mountain (Linville):** An iconic peak in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Grandfather Mountain features a mile-high swinging bridge and hiking trails with stunning vistas.
- **NC Museum of Natural Sciences (Raleigh):** Located in the state capital, this museum offers interactive exhibits, wildlife displays, and a giant globe in its SECU Daily Planet theater.
- **Battleship NORTH CAROLINA (Wilmington):** A living memorial to World War II veterans, this battleship is open for tours and provides insights into naval history.
- **The North Carolina Arboretum (Asheville):** A botanical garden near Asheville, the arboretum features beautiful gardens, educational exhibits, and hiking trails.
- **Jordan Lake State Recreation Area (Apex):** Offering a scenic reservoir for boating, fishing, and hiking, Jordan Lake is a popular recreational destination near the Triangle area.
- **Linville Caverns (Marion):** Explore underground wonders in these limestone caverns, featuring stalactites, stalagmites, and an underground stream.
- **Chimney Rock State Park (Chimney Rock):** Home to the iconic rock formation, Chimney Rock State Park provides panoramic views of Lake Lure and the surrounding mountains.

COLONIAL VAN LINES

08 | TOP CITIES

COLONIALVANLINES.COM





Welcome to the vibrant tapestry of North Carolina, where the essence of Southern charm intertwines with the dynamic energies of flourishing economies. As you explore the top cities in this diverse state, you'll uncover not just urban landscapes but a collection of communities, each with its unique character, culture, and a warm embrace that makes you feel right at home.

Step into the streets of North Carolina's cities, and you'll encounter a rich tapestry of cultures and backgrounds. The diversity that defines these urban centers is a testament to the state's welcoming spirit. From the international flavors of Charlotte to the academic diversity of the Research Triangle, every city unfolds a mosaic of experiences, celebrations, and traditions that weave into the fabric of daily life.

What sets North Carolina's cities apart is the seamless blend of Southern hospitality with an easygoing, relaxed vibe. Despite their urban settings, cities like Asheville and Wilmington exude a small-town feel. Streets lined with historic architecture, local boutiques, and friendly faces create an atmosphere that feels more like a close-knit community than a bustling metropolis. This balance between progress and preservation is where the true magic of North Carolina unfolds.



## CHARLOTTE

As the largest city in the state, Charlotte stands as a testament to Southern charm, economic dynamism, and a lifestyle that seamlessly blends urban sophistication with a relaxed, neighborly spirit.

What sets Charlotte apart is its diverse neighborhoods, each with its own personality and charm. From the historic streets of Dilworth to the trendy vibes of South End, there's a place for every taste and lifestyle. As you explore the city, you'll discover a rich cultural scene, delectable dining options, and a calendar filled with events and festivals that bring the community together.

Charlotte's strategic location in the heart of North Carolina provides easy access to both the mountains and the coast, offering a perfect balance for outdoor enthusiasts. The city's green spaces, like Freedom Park, invite residents to unwind and enjoy nature within the urban landscape.

# CHARLOTTE

## THINGS TO DO

Let's dive in, explore, and get ready for a journey where every moment is a page turned in your Charlotte story. Welcome to a city that's more than a destination—it's an experience, an adventure, and the beginning of something incredible.

- **U.S. National Whitewater Center:** Experience outdoor adventure at the U.S. National Whitewater Center, offering whitewater rafting, zip-lining, paddleboarding, and mountain biking in a stunning natural setting.
- **Freedom Park:** Escape to nature at Freedom Park, a sprawling urban park featuring walking trails, sports facilities, a lake, and beautifully landscaped gardens.
- **Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden:** Immerse yourself in the beauty of the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, showcasing themed gardens, fountains, and a tropical conservatory.
- **NASCAR Hall of Fame:** Discover the history of NASCAR at the Hall of Fame, featuring exhibits, memorabilia, and interactive displays celebrating the sport's legends.
- **Carowinds:** Enjoy thrills and entertainment at Carowinds, a popular amusement park with roller coasters, water rides, and live shows for the whole family.
- **Discovery Place Science:** Engage in hands-on learning at Discovery Place Science, a science and technology museum with interactive exhibits and educational programs.
- **Charlotte Museum of History:** Explore Charlotte's rich history at the Charlotte Museum of History, featuring exhibits on the city's development, local heritage, and cultural artifacts.

# CHARLOTTE THINGS TO DO



- **Romare Bearden Park:** Relax in the heart of Uptown Charlotte at Romare Bearden Park, offering green spaces, public art installations, and a splash pad for hot days.
- **Levine Museum of the New South:** Delve into the region's history at the Levine Museum, where exhibits explore the post-Civil War South, civil rights movements, and cultural transformations.
- **Lake Norman:** Escape to Lake Norman, a large reservoir offering opportunities for boating, fishing, waterfront dining, and lakeside recreation.
- **Bechtler Museum of Modern Art:** Appreciate modern and contemporary art at the Bechtler Museum, featuring works by iconic artists such as Picasso, Warhol, and Giacometti.
- **McGill Rose Garden:** Stroll through the McGill Rose Garden, a hidden gem boasting a vast collection of roses, perennials, and sculptures in a tranquil setting.
- **Reedy Creek Nature Center and Preserve:** Connect with nature at Reedy Creek Nature Center, offering hiking trails, wildlife observation, and educational programs in a natural preserve.
- **The Green:** Visit The Green, a public space in Uptown Charlotte hosting events, concerts, and festivals surrounded by skyscrapers and urban energy.
- **Billy Graham Library:** Explore the life and legacy of Reverend Billy Graham at the Billy Graham Library, featuring exhibits, memorabilia, and the family home.

These attractions offer a glimpse into the diverse offerings of Charlotte, providing something for everyone, whether you're an outdoor enthusiast, history buff, or thrill-seeker.



# RALEIGH

Raleigh, often referred to as the "City of Oaks," stands as the state capital and a nucleus of opportunities. What sets Raleigh apart is its seamless blend of modernity and tradition. Home to renowned universities, a burgeoning tech scene, and a spectrum of cultural delights, Raleigh unfolds as a destination where both professional aspirations and a fulfilling lifestyle find common ground.

The city's tree-lined streets and green spaces create a picturesque backdrop for a life that balances work and leisure. From the historic neighborhoods like Oakwood to the contemporary vibes of Downtown, Raleigh offers diverse living experiences, each with its unique character.

Raleigh's commitment to innovation is evident in the Research Triangle Park, a hub for technology and research that attracts professionals from around the globe. This commitment extends to a lively arts scene, diverse culinary experiences, and a calendar filled with events that bring the community together.

# RALEIGH THINGS TO DO

- **North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences:** Explore the largest natural history museum in the Southeast, featuring exhibits on dinosaurs, marine life, and interactive displays.
- **Pullen Park:** Enjoy family-friendly fun at Pullen Park, one of the oldest amusement parks in the United States, offering rides, playgrounds, and pedal boats.
- **William B. Umstead State Park:** Immerse yourself in nature at Umstead Park, offering hiking and biking trails, serene lakes, and a tranquil escape from urban life.
- **North Carolina Museum of Art:** Discover a world-class art collection at the NC Museum of Art, featuring European, American, and contemporary masterpieces.
- **JC Raulston Arboretum:** Wander through themed gardens at the JC Raulston Arboretum, showcasing a diverse collection of plants, trees, and horticultural displays.
- **PNC Arena:** Catch a concert, sporting event, or live performance at the PNC Arena, a state-of-the-art entertainment venue.
- **Historic Oakwood:** Take a stroll through Historic Oakwood, a charming neighborhood known for its well-preserved Victorian homes and historic architecture.
- **Raleigh City Market:** Explore the Raleigh City Market, a historic market area with shops, boutiques, and local businesses in a vibrant setting.
- **North Carolina Museum of History:** Dive into the state's rich history at the NC Museum of History, featuring exhibits on North Carolina's role in key historical events.
- **Dorothea Dix Park:** Enjoy expansive green spaces at Dorothea Dix Park, offering walking trails, event spaces, and panoramic views of the Raleigh skyline.
- **Marbles Kids Museum:** Engage in interactive learning and play at Marbles Kids Museum, a hands-on experience for children of all ages.
- **Raleigh City Farm:** Experience sustainable agriculture at Raleigh City Farm, a community-supported urban farm promoting local food and education.
- **Joel Lane Museum House:** Step back in time at the Joel Lane Museum House, the oldest colonial home in Raleigh, offering guided tours and historical insights.



## DURHAM

Known as the "Bull City," Durham stands as a beacon of diversity, culture, and resilience. What sets Durham apart is its rich tapestry of history, evident in its red-brick tobacco warehouses, juxtaposed against a backdrop of modernity fueled by a thriving research and tech scene.

Durham's beating heart is the iconic American Tobacco Campus, where historic structures have been transformed into vibrant spaces for dining, entertainment, and community gatherings. The city's commitment to revitalization extends to its neighborhoods, each with a distinct personality, from the historic charm of Old North Durham to the artistic vibes of the Warehouse District.

This guide is your companion as you navigate the process of moving to Durham, offering insights, tips, and a glimpse into the unique aspects that make this city special. Durham beckons you with a promise—a promise of a warm welcome, a thriving cultural scene, and a future filled with possibilities.

# DURHAM

## THINGS TO DO

Durham offers a delightful array of activities and attractions, making it a wonderful place to explore. Here's a list of things to do in and around Durham:

- **Duke University:** Explore the beautiful campus of Duke University, known for its stunning architecture, Duke Chapel, Sarah P. Duke Gardens, and the Nasher Museum of Art.
- **Sarah P. Duke Gardens:** Immerse yourself in the lush Sarah P. Duke Gardens, featuring a variety of themed gardens, walking trails, and serene water features.
- **American Tobacco Campus:** Experience the revitalized American Tobacco Campus, a historic tobacco factory turned entertainment and dining hub in downtown Durham.
- **Durham Bulls Athletic Park:** Catch a baseball game at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park, home to the Durham Bulls minor league baseball team.
- **Eno River State Park:** Enjoy outdoor activities at Eno River State Park, offering hiking trails, scenic river views, and opportunities for picnicking and birdwatching.
- **Museum of Life and Science:** Visit the Museum of Life and Science, an interactive science museum with indoor and outdoor exhibits, a butterfly conservatory, and a dinosaur trail.
- **Bennett Place Historic Site:** Step back in time at Bennett Place Historic Site, where the largest surrender of Confederate soldiers took place, marking the end of the Civil War.
- **Durham Performing Arts Center (DPAC):** Attend a live performance or Broadway show at DPAC, a state-of-the-art performing arts center in the heart of Durham.
- **Durham Central Park:** Experience community events, farmers' markets, and outdoor concerts at Durham Central Park, a vibrant green space in downtown Durham.
- **Sarah P. Duke Forest:** Discover the natural beauty of Sarah P. Duke Forest, offering miles of hiking and biking trails, diverse ecosystems, and educational programs.
- **Nasher Museum of Art:** Explore contemporary and classical art at the Nasher Museum of Art, located on the Duke University campus.
- **Stagville State Historic Site:** Delve into the history of Stagville, one of the largest plantations in North Carolina, with preserved slave quarters and historic buildings.





## APEX

As you ponder the prospect of making Apex your home, what sets this town apart becomes apparent. Apex, often celebrated as the "Peak of Good Living," lives up to its name in more ways than one. Here, the transition from past to present is gracefully orchestrated, offering residents a delightful mix of historic character and contemporary vibrancy.

Can you imagine strolling down Salem Street, where you'll see so many historic storefronts that you feel taken back in time? Apex's quaint shops, local eateries, and community events create an ambiance that feels both nostalgic and forward-looking.

Yet, Apex is more than its charming streets. Boasting top-rated schools, a thriving job market, and a commitment to green spaces, the town provides an ideal backdrop for families, professionals, and those seeking a balance between work and play.

# APEX THINGS TO DO

So, are you ready to discover a town where the pace of life feels just right, and the possibilities are as endless as the North Carolina sky? Welcome to Apex—a town that beckons you to embrace the peak of good living.

- **Historic Downtown Apex:** Explore the charming Historic Downtown Apex, known for its historic buildings, local boutiques, and a variety of dining options.
- **Apex Nature Park:** Enjoy outdoor activities at Apex Nature Park, featuring walking trails, playgrounds, sports fields, and a community center.
- **Jordan Lake State Recreation Area:** Experience the natural beauty of Jordan Lake, where you can indulge in boating, fishing, hiking, and picnicking amidst scenic landscapes.
- **Halle Cultural Arts Center:** Immerse yourself in the arts at the Halle Cultural Arts Center, offering galleries, workshops, and performances in the heart of Apex.
- **American Tobacco Trail:** Embark on a biking or hiking adventure along the American Tobacco Trail, a scenic greenway that stretches through Wake, Chatham, and Durham counties.
- **Historic Yates Mill County Park:** Visit the Historic Yates Mill, a fully restored gristmill surrounded by parkland, offering tours and educational programs.
- **White Oak Creek Greenway:** Take a leisurely stroll or bike ride along the White Oak Creek Greenway, connecting various parks and neighborhoods in the area.
- **Ritter Park:** Enjoy family-friendly amenities at Ritter Park, including playgrounds, sports fields, and open spaces for picnics and relaxation.
- **Fred G. Bond Metro Park:** Discover the expansive Fred G. Bond Metro Park, offering a variety of recreational facilities, including a boathouse, trails, and athletic fields.
- **Carolina Tiger Rescue:** Experience wildlife conservation at Carolina Tiger Rescue, a sanctuary dedicated to the rescue and protection of big cats.
- **Shepherd's Vineyard Park:** Unwind at Shepherd's Vineyard Park, featuring walking trails, a pond, and scenic spots for relaxation.
- **Raleigh Road Outdoor Theatre:** Step back in time at the Raleigh Road Outdoor Theatre, a classic drive-in theater providing a nostalgic cinematic experience.



## CONCORD

Aptly named "The All-America City," Concord stands as a testament to a community that values inclusivity, engagement, and a shared commitment to a thriving future.

Concord's allure lies in its dynamic spirit. Here, you'll find a vibrant downtown adorned with historic architecture, complemented by a burgeoning arts scene, eclectic dining options, and an array of cultural events. The city's commitment to preserving its heritage while fostering innovation sets it apart from the ordinary.

From the roar of NASCAR engines at the Charlotte Motor Speedway to the tranquility of Frank Liske Park, Concord offers a diverse range of experiences. A robust education system, a thriving job market, and a plethora of recreational opportunities make it an ideal destination for families, professionals, and those seeking a balance between work and play.

# CONCORD

## THINGS TO DO

So, are you ready to explore a city where the warmth of Southern hospitality converges with the aspirations of the future? Welcome to Concord—a city that beckons you to experience the best of both worlds.

- **Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site:** Discover the site of the first documented gold find in the United States at Reed Gold Mine, offering tours and exhibits.
- **Concord Mills:** Shop, dine, and be entertained at Concord Mills, one of the largest shopping and entertainment complexes in the region.
- **Rocky River Vineyards:** Explore Rocky River Vineyards, a picturesque winery with tastings, events, and serene views of the vineyards.
- **The Club at Irish Creek:** Tee off at The Club at Irish Creek, a golf course designed by Davis Love III, offering a challenging and scenic golf experience.
- **Pfeiffer University's Misenheimer Campus:** Visit the Misenheimer Campus of Pfeiffer University, known for its beautiful grounds and collegiate atmosphere.
- **Memorial Gardens:** Pay homage to veterans at Memorial Gardens, a peaceful park featuring memorials and beautiful landscaping.
- **Dorton Park:** Enjoy outdoor recreation at Dorton Park, offering sports fields, playgrounds, walking trails, and a splash pad.
- **Village Park:** Attend events and relax in the green spaces of Village Park, home to the annual "Taste of Concord" and other community gatherings.
- **Rock Hill Church Road Park:** Experience nature at Rock Hill Church Road Park, featuring trails, a disc golf course, and open spaces for leisure.
- **Buffalo Creek Preserve:** Hike the trails of Buffalo Creek Preserve, a nature preserve with diverse ecosystems and opportunities for birdwatching.
- **Fieldstone Farm:** Visit Fieldstone Farm, a family-friendly farm with activities like pumpkin picking, hayrides, and a corn maze in the fall.
- **Highland Creek Golf Club:** Play a round of golf at Highland Creek Golf Club, a well-maintained course surrounded by natural beauty.
- **Robinson Church Road Park:** Enjoy sports fields, a playground, and walking trails at Robinson Church Road Park, suitable for outdoor recreation.
- **The Dale Trail:** Explore The Dale Trail, a scenic route passing through rural landscapes, farms, and historic sites.

## WAKE FOREST

This vibrant community beckons with open arms, offering a unique blend of history, hospitality, and modernity. Wake Forest is more than just a destination; it's a canvas upon which you can paint your dreams.

With tree-lined streets, a rich cultural tapestry, and exceptional educational opportunities, this city stands as a testament to the perfect fusion of Southern charm and contemporary living. Dive into the heart of Wake Forest, where each corner tells a story, each park invites exploration, and each neighbor becomes a friend.

Your journey to Wake Forest is not just a move; it's a leap into a thriving community ready to welcome you with warmth and excitement. Let the story of your new beginnings unfold in the heart of Wake Forest!

# WAKE FOREST THINGS TO DO

- **Joyner Park:** Enjoy the tranquility of Joyner Park, a vast green space with walking trails, a pecan grove, and a beautiful lake.
- **Historic Downtown Wake Forest:** Immerse yourself in the charm of Historic Downtown Wake Forest, featuring historic buildings, unique shops, and cozy cafes.
- **E. Carroll Joyner Park Amphitheater:** Experience live performances and cultural events at the E. Carroll Joyner Park Amphitheater, set against the scenic backdrop of the park.
- **Falls Lake State Recreation Area:** Explore outdoor activities at Falls Lake State Recreation Area, offering boating, fishing, hiking trails, and camping by the lake.
- **Wake Forest Renaissance Centre:** Attend cultural events, concerts, and art exhibitions at the Wake Forest Renaissance Centre, promoting arts and entertainment.
- **Smith Creek Soccer Center:** Engage in sports and recreational activities at the Smith Creek Soccer Center, featuring soccer fields and community events.
- **Blue Jay Point County Park:** Discover the natural beauty of Blue Jay Point County Park, offering hiking trails, wildlife observation, and environmental education programs.
- **Historic Oak View County Park:** Step back in time at Historic Oak View County Park, featuring a restored 1855 farmhouse, a cotton gin, and expansive grounds.
- **Wake Forest Historical Museum:** Learn about the history of Wake Forest at the Wake Forest Historical Museum, showcasing artifacts and exhibits.
- **Smith Creek Greenway:** Enjoy a scenic walk or bike ride along the Smith Creek Greenway, a picturesque trail connecting various parts of the city.
- **Purnell Swett Park:** Unwind in the green spaces of Purnell Swett Park, offering playgrounds, picnic areas, and walking paths.
- **Rolling View Recreation Area:** Embrace the outdoors at Rolling View Recreation Area, part of Falls Lake State Recreation Area, with camping, fishing, and boating options.
- **Wake Forest College Birthplace:** Visit the Wake Forest College Birthplace, a historic site commemorating the birthplace of Wake Forest University.
- **Allen Park:** Enjoy family-friendly activities at Allen Park, featuring sports fields, playgrounds, and open spaces.



## HUNTSVILLE

Huntersville stands as a testament to the warmth and hospitality the South is renowned for. Here, the pace of life is just right—neither too hurried nor too slow. As you stroll through the streets, you'll find a community that cherishes its past while eagerly embracing the promise of the future.

For those seeking a nurturing environment for their families, Huntersville shines. Top-notch schools, family-friendly parks, and a host of activities designed for all ages create an ideal setting for new beginnings.

Delve into the cultural offerings that make Huntersville unique. From local art exhibitions to community events and festivals, there's always something happening. The town's rich history is celebrated through its preserved landmarks and historic sites, offering a glimpse into the past while moving forward into a bright future.

As your moving experts, we're here to guide you through the process of making Huntersville not just a destination but a place you're proud to call home. Let's embark on this journey together, where each day unfolds like a Southern story—a story waiting for you to become a part of it.

# HUNTERSVILLE

## THINGS TO DO

Whether you're interested in outdoor adventures, family-friendly activities, or cultural experiences, Huntersville and its surroundings offer a range of attractions to explore.

- **Latta Plantation Nature Preserve:** Explore the natural beauty of Latta Plantation Nature Preserve, featuring hiking trails, wildlife observation, and educational programs.
- **Historic Rural Hill Farm:** Step into history at the Historic Rural Hill Farm, known for its historic farmstead, events, and scenic landscapes.
- **Birkdale Village:** Shop, dine, and stroll at Birkdale Village, an outdoor shopping and entertainment complex with a charming Main Street vibe.
- **Carolina Raptor Center:** Encounter a variety of birds of prey at the Carolina Raptor Center, dedicated to the conservation of these magnificent creatures.
- **Discovery Place Kids - Huntersville:** Delight in interactive and educational exhibits for children at Discovery Place Kids, offering hands-on learning experiences.
- **Lake Norman:** Enjoy recreational activities on Lake Norman, North Carolina's largest man-made lake, offering boating, fishing, and lakeside parks.
- **Ramsey Creek Park:** Relax by the shores of Lake Norman at Ramsey Creek Park, featuring a sandy beach, picnic areas, and walking trails.
- **Blythe Landing:** Another lakeside gem, Blythe Landing offers boat launches, fishing docks, and a scenic setting for outdoor activities.
- **The Green at Prosperity Village:** Attend community events, concerts, and markets at The Green at Prosperity Village, a vibrant outdoor venue.
- **Huntersville Family Fitness & Aquatics:** Stay active at the Huntersville Family Fitness & Aquatics center, featuring fitness facilities and aquatic programs.
- **Jetton Park:** Enjoy the peaceful surroundings of Jetton Park, offering walking trails, a gazebo, and beautiful views of Lake Norman.
- **Holbrook Park:** Unwind in Holbrook Park, a community park with sports fields, playgrounds, and green spaces for recreation.
- **Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge:** Discover the natural habitats and diverse wildlife at Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge, a haven for nature enthusiasts.
- **Huntersville Growers' Market:** Experience local flavors and artisan goods at the Huntersville Growers' Market, a seasonal farmers' market.





## WILMINGTON

As seasoned guides in the realm of relocation, we are thrilled to introduce you to the enchanting city of Wilmington, nestled along the picturesque coast of North Carolina. Wilmington's greatest allure lies in its coastal splendor. Majestic waterways weave through the city, inviting residents to embrace a lifestyle infused with the gentle rhythm of the Atlantic.

Wilmington thrives as a cultural hub, where the arts, history, and community converge. Art galleries, theaters, and museums pepper the cityscape, offering residents a vibrant array of cultural experiences. Festivals, live performances, and community events create an atmosphere that fosters creativity and connection.

As your companions in the journey to Wilmington, we invite you to not just move but to immerse yourself in a community that captures the essence of coastal living. Wilmington welcomes you with open arms, ready to unfold a new chapter filled with coastal breezes, historic charm, and a community spirit that makes every day an adventure worth savoring.

# WILMINGTON

## THINGS TO DO

Wilmington's charm lies in its ability to seamlessly blend history, culture, and natural beauty. Whether you're interested in maritime history, outdoor adventures, or cultural exploration, Wilmington has something for everyone.

- **Historic Downtown Wilmington:** Take a stroll through the historic district, featuring cobblestone streets, preserved antebellum homes, and vibrant storefronts.
- **Riverwalk:** Enjoy the scenic Cape Fear River along the Riverwalk, lined with shops, restaurants, and views of passing boats.
- **Battleship North Carolina:** Explore the WWII battleship that now serves as a museum, offering a glimpse into naval history.
- **Airlie Gardens:** Immerse yourself in the beauty of Airlie Gardens, featuring 67 acres of formal gardens, walking trails, and historic structures.
- **Wrightsville Beach:** Relax on the sandy shores of Wrightsville Beach, known for its pristine beaches and water activities.
- **Fort Fisher State Recreation Area:** Discover the natural beauty of Fort Fisher, with undeveloped beaches, salt marshes, and the historic Fort Fisher Civil War site.
- **Cape Fear Museum of History and Science:** Delve into the region's history at the Cape Fear Museum, showcasing exhibits on science, history, and culture.
- **Bellamy Mansion Museum:** Tour the historic Bellamy Mansion, an antebellum townhouse offering insights into Wilmington's past.
- **North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher:** Explore marine life and ecosystems at the North Carolina Aquarium, featuring interactive exhibits and touch tanks.
- **Masonboro Island Reserve:** Embark on a boat trip to Masonboro Island, an undeveloped barrier island with pristine beaches and coastal habitats.
- **Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts:**
  - Enjoy live performances at Thalian Hall, a historic theater hosting plays, concerts, and cultural events.
- **Poplar Grove Plantation:** Visit Poplar Grove Plantation, a historic site with a manor house, gardens, and exhibits on plantation life.
- **Carolina Beach State Park:** Hike and explore the diverse ecosystems of Carolina Beach State Park, known for its carnivorous plant habitat.
- **EUE/Screen Gems Studios:** Take a studio tour at EUE/Screen Gems Studios, a working film and television production facility.
- **Cameron Art Museum:** Appreciate contemporary and historic art at the Cameron Art Museum, featuring rotating exhibits and educational programs.



## GREENVILLE

At the core of Greenville's identity is the esteemed East Carolina University (ECU). Boasting a picturesque campus and a commitment to academic excellence, ECU infuses the city with youthful energy and a diverse array of cultural and educational events. Whether you're attending a thought-provoking lecture, cheering at a spirited game, or exploring the innovative research taking place, ECU is an integral part of Greenville's fabric.

Uptown Greenville is the heartbeat of the city—a bustling hub of activity, entertainment, and community spirit. Lined with charming boutiques, diverse eateries, and vibrant nightlife, Uptown offers an inviting atmosphere for residents and visitors alike.

For families, Greenville offers excellent educational opportunities, both in public and private institutions. The city is committed to providing a nurturing environment for students, ensuring that education becomes a cornerstone of growth and development.

# GREENVILLE THINGS TO DO

Greenville's mix of cultural offerings, outdoor spaces, and recreational activities ensures that there's always something to explore and enjoy in this vibrant North Carolina city.

- **East Carolina University (ECU) Campus:** Take a stroll through the ECU campus, known for its vibrant student life, events, and cultural activities.
- **River Park North:** Enjoy the outdoors at River Park North, featuring hiking trails, fishing ponds, and nature exhibits.
- **Greenville Town Common:** Relax in the heart of downtown at the Town Common, a scenic park with walking paths, gardens, and event spaces.
- **Greenville Museum of Art:** Explore local and regional art at the Greenville Museum of Art, showcasing a diverse collection of paintings, sculptures, and more.
- **Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge:** Immerse yourself in the local arts scene at this gallery, featuring exhibitions, workshops, and community events.
- **Uptown Greenville:** Experience the lively atmosphere of Uptown Greenville, known for its restaurants, shops, and entertainment options.
- **Greenville-Pitt County Convention & Visitors Bureau:** Gather information about local attractions, events, and activities at the Visitors Bureau to plan your stay.
- **Tar River Trail:** Enjoy a scenic walk or bike ride along the Tar River Trail, a multi-use path connecting various parks and neighborhoods.
- **Greenville Tar River Boat Tours:** Take a boat tour along the Tar River to appreciate the natural beauty and learn about the area's history.
- **Goose Creek State Park:** Head to Goose Creek State Park for outdoor adventures, including hiking, fishing, and birdwatching along the Pamlico River.
- **East Carolina Village of Yesteryear:** Step back in time at the East Carolina Village of Yesteryear, a living history museum depicting rural life in the 19th century.
- **Trollingwood Taproom & Brewery:** Experience the local craft beer scene at Trollingwood Taproom & Brewery, known for its variety of brews.
- **Rock Springs Center:** Attend events and conferences at Rock Springs Center, a premier venue with beautiful gardens and event spaces.
- **Greenville Fun Park:** Have family-friendly fun at Greenville Fun Park, featuring go-karts, mini-golf, batting cages, and an arcade.

29 | COST OF LIVING



Let's delve into a crucial aspect that often shapes our decisions: the cost of living. North Carolina, with its diverse landscapes and welcoming communities, has long been praised not just for its cultural richness but also for the affordability it extends to its residents.

As of 2023, the average cost of living in North Carolina stands at \$43,959 per year, according to data from MERIC. This places the state comfortably within the national spectrum, securing the 24th spot for the lowest cost of living in the United States.

Managing your household is made more affordable in North Carolina, with average monthly utility costs standing at \$371. This includes expenses for electricity, heating, cooling, water, and garbage, aligning with national averages.

As we unravel the cost dynamics of North Carolina, it becomes evident that this state not only beckons with its cultural richness and natural beauty but also with its affordability. The charm of North Carolina extends beyond its landscapes; it resides in the opportunity it presents for a fulfilling life without sacrificing financial well-being.

So, why wait? Take the leap and make North Carolina your new home. Embrace a lifestyle that harmonizes with your aspirations, and let the Tar Heel State welcome you with open arms. Discover the perfect blend of culture, community, and cost-effectiveness—your North Carolina adventure awaits!

Categories for Cost of Living	Avg. Costs
Rent (Monthly)	\$892-\$1,844
Utilities (Monthly)	\$371
Groceries (Monthly)	\$302.50
Healthcare (Annually)	\$7,179
Transportation (Annually)	\$1,477-\$15,530
State Tax Rate	5.25%
Childcare (Monthly)	\$732-\$1,170

**\$380**

Exclusive Tour of the  
Biltmore Estate in Asheville

**\$10**

Adult Day Pass Tour for  
the Wright Brothers  
National Memorial

**\$29**

NASCAR Hall of Fame  
Day Ticket

**\$33**

Spooky Wilmington  
Ghosts Tour

32 | JOB MARKET



## JOB MARKET



In the heart of the Southeast, North Carolina beckons with not just its scenic landscapes but also a burgeoning job market that promises opportunities aplenty. As we guide you through the intricacies of relocating to the Tar Heel State, let's unveil the exciting landscape of career prospects awaiting you.

As of August 2023, North Carolina's job market is not just recovering; it's thriving. The state's unemployment rate has impressively dropped to 3.3%, showcasing resilience and adaptability. This rate is notably lower than the national average of 3.8%, positioning North Carolina as a beacon for employment opportunities.

The job market landscape is vibrant, with 55 available workers for every 100 open jobs. This statistic underscores the state's commitment to fostering an environment where talent meets opportunity. North Carolina's businesses are actively seeking skilled individuals to contribute to their growth and success.

So, whether you're looking to climb the corporate ladder, explore entrepreneurial ventures, or engage in the dynamic tech and innovation sectors, North Carolina is poised to welcome you with open arms. Join the ranks of those shaping their professional destinies against the backdrop of North Carolina's vibrant and evolving job market. Your career journey in the Tar Heel State awaits—seize the moment!

# RESOURCES FOR YOU

When researching the North Carolina job market, it's essential to have a variety of resources at your disposal.

Here's a list of valuable resources to aid your research:

- **North Carolina Works:** The official job search portal for the state, offering a comprehensive database of job listings and resources for job seekers.
- **North Carolina Government Jobs:** The official job site for state government positions in North Carolina.
- **NC Tech Association Job Board:** Ideal for those looking for opportunities in the technology sector.
- **NC Biotech Center Job Board:** Focused on job opportunities in the life sciences and biotechnology sector.
- **NC Healthcare Jobs:** Dedicated to healthcare and medical-related job opportunities in North Carolina.
- **North Carolina Diversity Jobs:** Specifically designed for diverse candidates, offering a range of job opportunities.
- **Remote OK:** If you're interested in remote work opportunities, this platform curates job listings for remote positions.
- **North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Job Board:** Focused on job opportunities within county governments.
- **North Carolina Nonprofit Jobs:** Ideal for those seeking opportunities in the nonprofit sector.



35 | EDUCATION



Welcome to North Carolina, a state that not only boasts stunning landscapes and vibrant communities but also offers a diverse and dynamic education system. As you embark on your journey to this southeastern gem, you'll find an array of educational opportunities that cater to various learning styles and preferences.

North Carolina is home to a robust K-12 education system, with a commitment to providing students with a well-rounded education. Public schools across the state follow rigorous academic standards, fostering a learning environment that encourages curiosity and critical thinking. The state's dedication to educational excellence is evident in numerous scholastic achievements, and several North Carolina schools have received national recognition for their outstanding programs.

## EDUCATION

North Carolina's education system is at the forefront of innovation and research, providing students with opportunities to engage in cutting-edge projects and collaborate with industry leaders. The state is a hub for technology, science, and healthcare advancements, with universities and research institutions actively contributing to breakthroughs that shape the future.

Beyond traditional education pathways, North Carolina offers specialized programs that cater to unique learning needs. Magnet schools, charter schools, and vocational education initiatives provide students with alternative approaches to education, allowing them to explore specific interests and develop valuable skills for the future.

North Carolina takes pride in its schools and educators, and many have received accolades for their outstanding contributions to education. National Blue Ribbon Schools, recognized for their academic excellence and positive learning environments, can be found throughout the state. The U.S. Department of Education has released its list of 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools with eight North Carolina public schools receiving the award.

Additionally, North Carolina celebrates educators who go above and beyond through programs that highlight their dedication to student success.

As you consider making North Carolina your new home, rest assured that the state's education system is designed to nurture growth, curiosity, and academic achievement. Whether you're looking for top-notch primary and secondary schools or seeking opportunities for higher learning and research, North Carolina has a place for every aspiring student. Welcome to a state where educational excellence meets unparalleled opportunities for personal and academic growth.



- **Smart Start North Carolina:**
  - Overview: Smart Start is a statewide initiative that focuses on early childhood development. It provides resources and support for parents, childcare providers, and communities to ensure children enter school healthy and ready to succeed.
- **North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE):**
  - Overview: The DCDEE oversees early childhood education and childcare services. Parents can find information on child care assistance programs, quality ratings for childcare providers, and educational resources.
- **North Carolina Department of Public Instruction - Parent Resources:**
  - Overview: The Department of Public Instruction provides resources for parents, including information on school choice, educational standards, and tools to support learning at home.
- **North Carolina Health and Human Services - Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP):**
  - Overview: CHIP provides health coverage for eligible children, ensuring they have access to necessary medical services. Eligibility is based on family income.
- **North Carolina Parenting Education Network (NCPEN):**
  - Overview: NCPEN offers parenting education resources and programs to help parents build strong and healthy relationships with their children.
- **North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services - Child Support Services:**
  - Overview: The Child Support Services program assists parents in establishing and enforcing child support orders, ensuring financial support for children.
- **North Carolina WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program:**
  - Overview: WIC provides nutrition education, healthy food, and support for pregnant women, new mothers, and young children.
- **North Carolina Partnership for Children - Reach Out and Read:**
  - Overview: This program promotes early literacy by integrating books and reading into pediatric care. It encourages parents to read aloud to their children from an early age.
- **North Carolina Early Intervention Services:**
  - Overview: Early Intervention Services support families with children under three years old who have developmental delays or disabilities.
- **North Carolina Head Start Collaboration Office:**
  - Overview: Head Start provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families.

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39 | LIVING IN NC

COLONIALVANLINES.COM

## LIVING



Welcome to the vibrant and diverse state of North Carolina, where the tapestry of life is woven with a rich blend of community events, festivals, and family entertainment. Moving here opens the door to a world of unique experiences, offering not just a place to reside but a community to embrace and opportunities to create lasting memories.

North Carolina thrives on its sense of community, and this is evident in the myriad of events and festivals that bring people together throughout the year. From the lively street festivals celebrating local arts and cultures to the spirited parades that fill the air with joy, you'll find an abundance of opportunities to connect with neighbors and make new friends. Whether it's the historic charm of small-town festivals or the excitement of larger city events, North Carolina welcomes you to join in the celebration.

For families, North Carolina is a playground of family-friendly entertainment. Amusement parks, zoos, and aquariums offer fun-filled days for children of all ages. Explore interactive science museums, discover the wonders of nature in botanical gardens, and embark on educational adventures in the many family-oriented attractions across the state.



# TIPS FOR HOME HUNTING

- **Start Early:** Begin your apartment search well in advance of your planned move-in date. This gives you more options and time to find the right place.
- **Determine Your Budget:** Understand your budget, factoring in rent, utilities, and other living expenses. Keep in mind that the cost of living in California can be higher than in many other states.
- **Research Neighborhoods:** California has a diverse range of neighborhoods. Research and visit different areas to find the one that aligns with your lifestyle and preferences.
- **Use Online Resources:** Utilize online platforms like Zillow, Apartments.com, or Craigslist to search for available apartments. Many property management companies list their rentals online.
- **Consider a Real Estate Agent:** In competitive markets, a real estate agent specializing in rentals can be a valuable resource. They often have access to listings before they're widely advertised.
- **Be Prepared with Documentation:** Have your rental history, references, proof of employment, and a credit report ready. Landlords often require this information as part of the application process.
- **Attend Open Houses:** Attend open houses or schedule viewings to get a feel for the property. This also gives you the opportunity to ask questions about the lease terms and the neighborhood.
- **Network:** Utilize your network. Friends, colleagues, or local community groups might know of available apartments or have tips about the best areas to live.
- **Understand Lease Terms:** Carefully read and understand the terms of the lease before signing. Pay attention to details like lease duration, renewal options, and any restrictions.
- **Consider Roommates:** If applicable, consider sharing an apartment with roommates. This can help with costs and broaden your options.
- **Be Flexible:** Flexibility in terms of move-in dates or being open to different neighborhoods can increase your chances of finding a suitable apartment.
- **Visit the Area:** If possible, spend time in the neighborhood to get a sense of the local amenities, transportation options, and overall atmosphere.

As you embark on this exciting chapter in North Carolina, be prepared to be captivated by the warmth of the community, the diversity of experiences, and the endless possibilities for creating cherished memories. North Carolina welcomes you with open arms, inviting you to not just live here but to fully embrace the extraordinary life that awaits.

42 | VACATION

Embarking on the journey to your new home in North Carolina is not just a relocation; it's an invitation to discover a state that unfolds like a well-loved book, revealing exciting chapters waiting to be explored. And what better way to dive into this adventure than by planning a vacation within the diverse landscapes of North Carolina?

### **Crafting Your Itinerary**

As you begin the journey of planning your vacation, consider the multitude of experiences North Carolina has to offer. Are you drawn to the allure of the mountains, where hiking trails lead to breathtaking vistas and charming mountain towns beckon with local hospitality? Or does the call of the ocean and the soothing sound of waves inspire your coastal escape? Perhaps the dynamic cultural scene and culinary delights of the cities are more your speed. North Carolina invites you to tailor your itinerary to match your interests and passions.

### **Culinary Delights**

One cannot plan a vacation in North Carolina without indulging in its culinary treasures. From renowned barbecue joints to upscale eateries showcasing local flavors, the state's diverse food scene is a journey in itself. Consider including stops at farmers' markets, food festivals, and iconic diners to truly savor the flavors that define North Carolina.

Planning a vacation in North Carolina is not just about the destinations; it's about crafting an experience that resonates with you. So, as you prepare for your journey, let the excitement build, and get ready to explore the wonders that await in the Tar Heel State. Your North Carolina adventure begins with the thrill of anticipation and the promise of extraordinary moments.



# ASHEVILLE 2-DAY TRIP

## Day 1

### Morning: Breakfast at Biscuit Head

Start your day with a hearty Southern breakfast at Biscuit Head. Indulge in their famous cathead biscuits with various toppings, along with creative gravies and jams.

### Late Morning: Biltmore Estate

Head to the iconic Biltmore Estate, a marvel of architecture and history. Explore the magnificent mansion, stroll through the gardens, and absorb the grandeur of America's largest privately-owned home.

### Lunch: Corner Kitchen

After your Biltmore adventure, savor a delightful lunch at Corner Kitchen in Biltmore Village. This historic restaurant offers a farm-to-table menu in a charming setting.

### Afternoon: Downtown Asheville Exploration

Take a leisurely stroll through downtown Asheville. Explore unique shops, art galleries, and street performances. Don't miss the vibrant energy of Pack Square Park.

### Dinner: Tupelo Honey

For dinner, experience Southern comfort food with a modern twist at Tupelo Honey. Enjoy dishes made from scratch using locally-sourced ingredients.



# ASHEVILLE 2-DAY TRIP

## Day 2

### **Morning: Early Breakfast at Early Girl Eatery**

Kick off your day with a delicious farm-to-table breakfast at Early Girl Eatery, known for its Southern-inspired dishes.

### **Late Morning: Blue Ridge Parkway**

Embark on a scenic drive along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Marvel at breathtaking mountain views, and consider a short hike or visit the Folk Art Center (Milepost 382).

### **Lunch: The Grey Eagle Taqueria**

Satisfy your appetite with a relaxed lunch at The Grey Eagle Taqueria. Indulge in tasty tacos and enjoy the laid-back atmosphere.

### **Afternoon: River Arts District**

Explore Asheville's artistic side in the River Arts District. Wander through galleries, studios, and murals. Engage with local artists and witness the city's vibrant creativity.

### **Dinner: Curate**

End your trip on a high note with dinner at Curate, a renowned Spanish tapas restaurant. Experience an array of flavorful dishes in a lively and intimate atmosphere.

Asheville, with its blend of culture, nature, and culinary delights, offers a perfect getaway for a two-day adventure. Adjust the itinerary based on personal preferences and enjoy the diverse experiences this charming city has to offer.

# WILMINGTON 2-DAY TRIP

## Day 1

### **Morning: Breakfast at The Basics**

Begin your day with a delicious Southern breakfast at The Basics. Indulge in their signature dishes, such as shrimp and grits or sweet potato pancakes.

### **Late Morning: Historic Downtown Walking Tour**

Explore the rich history of Wilmington by taking a self-guided walking tour of the historic downtown area. Admire the well-preserved antebellum architecture, visit the Bellamy Mansion, and stroll along the picturesque Riverwalk.

### **Lunch: Front Street Brewery**

Enjoy a leisurely lunch at Front Street Brewery, housed in a historic building. Savor handcrafted beers and a diverse menu with options ranging from pub fare to inventive dishes.



### **Afternoon: USS North Carolina Battleship**

Step back in time with a visit to the USS North Carolina Battleship. Tour this World War II battleship and learn about its fascinating history and contributions during the war.

### **Dinner: Elijah's Restaurant**

Dine at Elijah's Restaurant, located on the Riverwalk. Feast on fresh seafood and enjoy the waterfront views as the sun sets over the Cape Fear River.

# WILMINGTON 2-DAY TRIP

## Day 2

### **Morning: Breakfast at Dixie Grill**

Fuel up for the day with a Southern-inspired breakfast at Dixie Grill, known for its friendly atmosphere and hearty dishes.

### **Late Morning: Airlie Gardens**

Discover the beauty of Airlie Gardens, a stunning 67-acre garden with historic roots. Stroll through azalea-filled pathways, visit the iconic Airlie Oak, and explore freshwater lakes.

### **Lunch: The George on the Riverwalk**

Head to The George on the Riverwalk for a delightful lunch with views of the Cape Fear River. Enjoy their diverse menu featuring fresh, local ingredients.



### **Afternoon: Beach Time at Wrightsville Beach**

Spend the afternoon relaxing at Wrightsville Beach, just a short drive from Wilmington. Soak up the sun, take a dip in the Atlantic Ocean, or enjoy water activities.

### **Dinner: Dockside Restaurant**

Wrap up your trip with a seafood dinner at Dockside Restaurant, located on the Intracoastal Waterway. Relish the maritime atmosphere and a menu filled with coastal flavors.



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