



My Drift

Title: North Carolina

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Geography and Demographics

State Capital

Raleigh

State Size

Total (Land + Water): 53,819 sq miles

Land Only: 48,711 sq miles

Bordering States

Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia

Highest Point

Mount Mitchell, 6,684 feet

State Population (2024)

10,800,000

Largest Cities

Charlotte (923,000) - Raleigh (488,000)

Greensboro (304,000) - Durham (300,000)



Charlotte



Raleigh



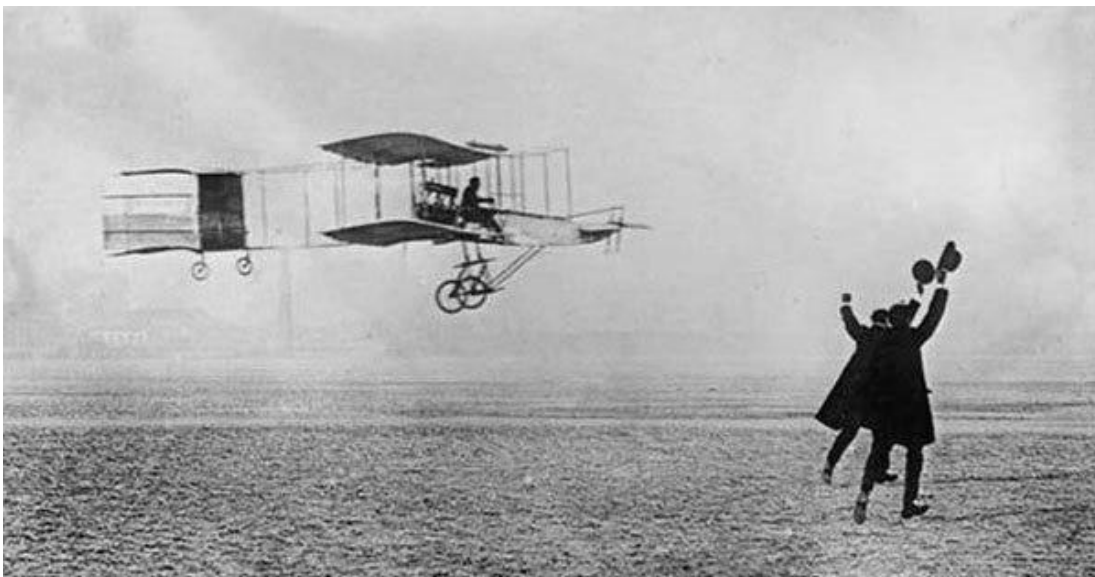
Greensboro



Durham

North Carolina is known for:

First flight by Wright Brothers



After building and testing three full-sized gliders, the Wrights' first powered airplane flew at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on December 17, 1903, making a 12-second flight, traveling 36 m (120 ft), with Orville piloting. The best flight of the day, with Wilbur at the controls, covered 255.6 m (852 ft) in 59 seconds.

Outer Banks and Cape Hatteras



Cape Hatteras is one island in the long chain of barrier islands just off the east coast of North Carolina known as the Outer Banks. The Outer Banks is about 136 miles long from the Virginia/North Carolina border. Cape Hatteras is a cape located at a pronounced bend in Hatteras Island, one of the barrier islands of North Carolina. As a temperate barrier island, the landscape has been shaped by wind, waves, and storms. There are long stretches of beach, sand dunes, marshes, and maritime forests in the area.

The Outer Banks boasts some 100 miles of the most pristine and scenic beaches on the East Coast. From soft, white sands to clear blue waters, these beaches are perfect for sunbathing, swimming, and beachcombing.

On the Outer Banks, wild horses roam freely and are most commonly found in the four-wheel-drive areas of Corolla and Carova. It is illegal to intentionally come within 50 feet of the horses, so that means no petting or feeding, but they can be appreciated from a distance on one of several wild horse tours.



Outer Banks Beaches



Outer Banks Wild Horses

Blue Ridge Mountains

The beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains cover most of Western North Carolina, including Asheville. While they extend from Georgia to Pennsylvania, the highest peaks are found here. The highest point in the Blue Ridge is Mount Mitchell which reaches 6,684 feet in elevation. Located in Mount Mitchell State Park, just about 30 miles away from downtown Asheville, Mt. Mitchell is not just the highest peak in the Blue Ridge it is also the highest summit east of the Mississippi River.

Part of the Appalachian Mountains, the Blue Ridge is known for being shrouded in a lovely bluish haze, especially when seen from a distance. This phenomenon is actually caused by trees. Oaks and other trees that thrive in the Blue Ridge release isoprene, a common hydrocarbon, to protect their leaves from heat stress and those emissions create the famous blue tint you see in these mountains.



Blue Ridge Mountains

The Blue Ridge is also famous for being one of the most beautiful wilderness areas in the United States. Here you will find thousands of miles of hiking trails and many spectacular waterfalls. You don't have to hike to enjoy the views though! The Blue Ridge Parkway, one of the most scenic drives in America, winds right through these mountains.

If you are planning a Blue Ridge getaway, Asheville is the perfect base camp for exploring these mountains any time of year. This travel guide will help you plan your trip. From outdoors activities like hiking, fly-fishing and tubing to scenic drives and fun mountain towns there is plenty to do and see and experience in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Biltmore Estate

Biltmore Estate is a historic house museum and tourist attraction in Asheville, North Carolina. Biltmore House (or Biltmore Mansion), the main residence, is a Châteauesque-style mansion built for George Washington Vanderbilt II

between 1889 and 1895 and is the largest privately owned house in the United States, at 178,926 sq ft of floor space and 135,280 sq ft living area. Still owned by George Vanderbilt's descendants, it remains one of the most prominent examples of Gilded Age mansions.



Tobacco

The leading tobacco producing states in the U.S. include North Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee. North Carolina lies in the Virginia-Carolina tobacco belt and topped the list in 2022 with a tobacco production over 270 million pounds.



Tabacco Field

College basketball

The Duke University Blue Devils (in Durham) - University of North Carolina Tar Heels (in Chapel Hill) is considered one of the most intense rivalries in all of US-sports; a poll conducted by ESPN ranked the basketball rivalry as the the #1 "Hottest Rivalry" in college basketball. The intensity of the rivalry is augmented for many reasons. One reason is the proximity of the two universities—they are located only ten miles apart along U.S. Highway 15–501 (also known as Tobacco Road) or eight miles apart in straight-line distance. In addition, Duke is a private university whereas Carolina is a public school; the vastly different funding structures and cultures between the two further contribute to the intensity of the rivalry. Another big reason for this rivalry lies in the success of their respective basketball programs; almost every year, at least one of the schools is a contender to win the national championship.



Some of the earliest roots of the modern basketball rivalry occurred in the early 1960s when Art Heyman withdrew from his commitment to play for North Carolina in order to commit to playing for Duke. After a brawl between the two universities' freshman teams during the 1959–60 season involving Heyman and North Carolina's Dieter Krause, tensions heightened further during a February 4, 1961, varsity game when a brawl occurred initiated by Heyman and North Carolina's Larry Brown, which resulted in suspensions for both players. The rivalry reached unprecedented heights in the mid-1980s under head coaches Dean Smith of North Carolina and Mike Krzyzewski of Duke, thanks to the emergence of cable channels such as ESPN and the increasing coverage of the ACC in national broadcasts by the three major networks, giving a vast national audience more opportunities to witness the two teams and their coaches.

North Carolina leads the all-time series 145–117.



the LIGHTHOUSES



of Coastal North Carolina

Yes, North Carolina is a beautiful state. From the mountains on the west to the beaches on the east, this state has a lot of things to see and do. Besides, any state that has wild horse running around free is okay in my book.

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