

Our State Geography in a Snap: Interesting Places ^[1]

Our State Geography in a Snap: Interesting Places

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"Getting ready to sail at Holden Beach North Carolina May 2007." Photo courtesy of RTPscan.

^[14]North Carolina is the nation's variety vacation land, ranking eighth in the nation for visitation. Recreational opportunities abound throughout the state. Boating, swimming, saltwater fishing, and most other water sports are enjoyed along the [North Carolina coast](#) ^[15]. The [mountains](#) ^[16] offer scenic beauty and a variety of activities, including hiking, golfing, whitewater rafting , and skiing. Horseback riding, boating, fishing and golfing are popular activities in the piedmont region. North Carolina is recognized worldwide for its more than 450 golf courses



"Hawksbill Mountain, North Carolina - December 30, 2008".

located throughout the state. *Photo courtesy of moviebuff5.* ^[17]

Recreation areas in North Carolina include the [Great Smoky Mountain National Park](#) ^[18], the [Blue Ridge Parkway](#) ^[19], [Cape Hatteras](#) ^[3] and [Cape Lookout National Forests](#) ^[20], and 36 state parks and recreation areas. Park facilities include more than 60 public campgrounds. In addition, North Carolina has more than 300 private camping facilities. The [North Carolina Zoological Park](#) ^[21], the nation's first state operated national-habitat zoo, is located in Asheboro. Other attractions include the [Carowinds](#) ^[22] theme park and the [Charlotte Motor Speedway](#) ^[23].

^[24]North Carolina is a wonderland of cultural and historic activities and sites. Symphonies, museums, summer theaters, and art and crafts festivals are found throughout North Carolina.

Some of the state's most popular cultural attractions include the [North Carolina Museum of Art](#) ^[25], the [North Carolina Museum of Natural History](#) ^[26], the [American Dance Festival](#) ^[27], ["The Lost Colony" Outdoor Drama](#) ^[28], the [North Carolina Symphony](#) ^[29] and the [North Carolina Maritime Museum in Carteret County](#) ^[30].

Historic sites include the [Wright Brothers National Memorial](#) [31], [restored Old Salem Village](#) [32], the [Carl Sandburg](#) [33] and [Thomas Wolfe](#) [34] homes, [Tryon Palace](#) [35], [Biltmore House](#) [36] and [Gardens](#) [36], [Roanoke Island](#) [37], [Cape Hatteras Lighthouse](#) [38], [Duke University Museum of Art](#) [39], and the [Woolworth's Building in Greensboro](#) [40], the location where, in 1960, four black students from [North Carolina A&T University](#) [41] seated themselves at a "whites only" counter.

Sources:

"Social Studies:: Elementary Resources:: Student Sampler:: Geography," *North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Website*. <https://www.dpi.nc.gov> [42] (accessed March 27, 2012).

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Subjects:

[Geography](#) [43]

[Places](#) [44]

Authors:

[Anonymous](#) [45]

Origin - location:

[Coastal Plain](#) [46]

[Mountains](#) [47]

[Piedmont](#) [48]

From:

[NC Department of Public Instruction](#). [49]

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Links

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/interesting-places> [2] <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/> [3] <https://www.ncpedia.org/cape-hatteras-lighthouse> [4] <https://www.ncpedia.org/currituck-beach-lighthouse> [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/lakes/lake-mattamuskeet> [6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/places/history-museum> [7] <https://www.ncpedia.org/museum-natural-sciences> [8] [https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/places-named-for-governors

:](https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/places-named-for-governors

) [9] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/places-named-for-governors> [10] <https://www.ncpedia.org/oakdale-cemetery> [11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/oak-island-lighthouse> [12] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/places/roadside-attractions> [13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/transportation-signs> [14] <https://www.flickr.com/photos/rtpscan/711904620/> [15] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/region/coastal-plain/ncatlasrevisited> [16] <https://www.ncpedia.org/our-state-geography-snap-mountain> [17] <https://www.flickr.com/photos/14098695@N02/3154899323/> [18] <https://www.nps.gov/grsm/index.htm> [19] <https://www.blueridgeparkway.org/> [20] <https://www.nps.gov/caloe/learn/nature/naturalfeaturesandecosystems.htm> [21] <https://www.ncpedia.org/north-carolina-zoological-park> [22] <https://www.carowinds.com/> [23] <https://www.charlottemotorspeedway.com/> [24] <https://www.flickr.com/photos/pdgoodman/3986091292/> [25] <https://ncartmuseum.org/> [26] <https://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/> [27] <https://americandancefestival.org/> [28] <https://www.thelostcolony.org/> [29] <https://www.ncsymphony.org/> [30] <https://www.ncpedia.org/north-carolina-maritime-museum> [31] <https://www.nps.gov/wrbr/index.htm> [32] <http://www.oldsalem.org/> [33] <https://www.nps.gov/carli/index.htm> [34] <https://historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/thomas-wolfe-memorial> [35] <https://www.tryonpalace.org/> [36] <https://www.biltmore.com/> [37] <https://www.roanokeisland.com/> [38] <https://www.nps.gov/caha/planyourvisit/lighthouseclimbs.htm> [39] <http://www.nasher.duke.edu/> [40] <https://civilrightstrail.com/attraction/international-civil-rights-center-and-museum-woolworths/> [41] <https://www.ncat.edu/> [42] <https://www.dpi.nc.gov> [43] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/geography> [44] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/places> [45] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/anonymous> [46] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/coastal-pl> [47] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/mountains> [48] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmont> [49] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/nc-department>