

Museums, Aquariums and Zoo

N.C. Museum of Art

Location: 2100 Blue Ridge Rd., Raleigh NC

Open: Tuesday - Thursday, Saturday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Phone: 919-839-6262

Website: www.ncartmuseum.org

Cost: Free. There is a charge for certain special exhibitions, tours for private groups and programs.

One of the South's premier art museums, the N.C. Museums of Art's collection includes major holdings in European painting from the Renaissance to the 19th century, Egyptian funerary art, sculpture and vase painting from ancient Greece and Rome, American art from a range of periods and international contemporary art. It is surrounded by the nation's largest art museum park, offering visitors the chance to experience art in a unique outdoor setting.

Physical

- Free ADA-compliant parking is available.
- Curb cuts are located at all entrances to the Museum.
- Motorized and regular wheelchairs of standard size as well as rollators are available free of charge and may be checked out at the Information Desk in West or East Building.
- Elevators are available to all floors of East Building. West Building is a single story.
- Accessible restrooms are available in West Building and on the top three levels of East Building.
- Family restrooms are available in the Education Lobby of East Building. Please ask a guard for assistance to access the family restrooms in West Building.
- Museum entrances have automatic doors.
- Service animals are welcome.
- Although the Museum Park includes some paved trails, wheelchairs are not recommended because of steep grades in the natural landscape.

Hearing

- Assistive listening devices are available from audiovisual staff in the SECU Auditorium and available for docent-guided tours at the Information Desk in West Building.
- School and public docent-led tours including American Sign Language (ASL) are available upon request with at least four weeks' notice. Contact [Jen Coon](#), (919) 664-6820.
- A written transcript of the Cell Phone Tour is available at the Information Desk in West Building.
- The SECU Auditorium features a hearing loop to provide improved accessibility for visitors with telecoils.

Vision

- Braille is on all museum directional signs and elevators.
- Large-print label text is available at the entrance to special exhibitions.
- Audio description is provided for select outdoor films by Arts Access Inc.
- Docent-led tactile tours are available for visitors with vision loss. Please request these tours at least four weeks in advance. Contact [Beth Shaw McGuire](#), (919) 664-6778.

- Large-print labels for selected works in the permanent collection are available at West Building Information Desk.

Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA)

Location: 750 Marguerite Dr., Winston-Salem, NC

Open: Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thursday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Mondays and major holidays

Phone: 336-725-1904

Website: www.secca.org

Cost: Free.

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art was founded in 1956 by Winston-Salem industrialist James G. Hones with the mission of showcasing the work of contemporary southern artists. It continues that tradition today with an added focus on exhibiting the work of the country's major contemporary artists, and employing dynamic and innovative approaches and tools to connect students with contemporary art for discovery.

Physical:

- Two marked accessible parking spaces in front of the original front door and more in the main parking lot.
- Museum is wheelchair-accessible
- Smooth stone and brick paths at least 4 feet wide with slopes and areas of rest. The interior has marble floors with a gently sloped ramp connecting the old house to the modern building. Leather benches provide areas of rest.
- The entrance is level. Doorbell for visitors who cannot open the door.
- One accessible family restroom. Sink faucets have timed release push-button handles.

Hearing:

- An assistive listening system is available.

Vision:

- Restroom signs have Braille.

The N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences - Raleigh

Location: 11 W. Jones St., Raleigh NC

Open: Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday noon - 5 p.m. Please see web site for holiday closings.

Phone: 919-733-7450; Curator of Special Populations: 919-707-9887

Website: www.naturalsciences.org

Cost: Free. However, some special exhibits require a fee.

North Carolina's most-visited museum, the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences is also the largest museum of its kind in the South, and one of the nation's most respected museums that explores the natural world. The cutting-edge Nature Research Center uses state-of-the-art laboratories, research opportunities, interactive exhibits and live presentations given by top scientists to make science a

tangible and enjoyable experience to help visitors understand the practical applications of science in their daily lives.

Physical

- Marked accessible parking is available on streets and in designated lots.
- Wheelchairs are available from the front desk.
- Elevators are available in both the main building and the Nature Research Center.
- Accessible restrooms are located on each floor.
- Ramps are available to enter both the main building and the Nature Research Center and both entrances have touch-activated doors.

Hearing

- The NC NatSci Museum app for Apple devices provides a multimedia guide of all museum exhibits as well as a navigable map that allow visitors with vision loss or blindness, those who are hard of hearing or deaf, those with learning disabilities, as well as the general public, an enhanced Museum visit. [Museum Guide iOS app on iTunes](#)
- Apple iPod touch devices are available to borrow from the Museum Store to use the NC NatSci app for those that do not have their own device.
- Assistive Listening Devices are available for visitors with hearing loss attending live presentations in the WRAL 3D Theater and events in the Environmental Conference Center.

Vision

- The NC NatSci Museum app for Apple devices provides a multimedia guide of all museum exhibits as well as a navigable map that allow visitors with vision loss or blindness, those who are hard of hearing or deaf, those with learning disabilities, as well as the general public, an enhanced Museum visit. [Museum Guide iOS app on iTunes](#)
- Guided and tactile tours are available for small groups of visitors with disabilities in downtown Raleigh facilities. Pre-registration required.
- A Tactile Kit for visitors with vision loss can be reserved by visitors prior to their visit by contacting the Accessibility & Inclusion Coordinator.
- Bluetooth iBeacon technology is available for independent wayfinding and navigation of the Nature Research Center for visitors with vision loss or blindness. Download [Blindsquare's full version](#), or a free [Museum-only version \(Blindsquare Event\)](#).

The N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences - Whiteville

Location: 415 South Madison St., Whiteville, NC

Open: Tuesday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed major holidays.

Phone: 910-914-4185

Website: www.naturalsciences.org/whiteville

Cost: Free.

The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences at Whiteville is a dynamic indoor-outdoor nature and science learning center featuring and Investigate Lab, Naturalist Center and an outdoor Nature PlaySpace.

Physical

- Two accessible parking spaces.
- The museum entrance has a ramp for wheelchair access.
- Accessible restrooms are available.
- Wheelchairs are available.

Hearing

- Some touch-screen displays have captions.

Vision

- Specimens in the Naturalist Center and discovery boxes in the Discovery Forest provide a tactile experience.

N.C. Museum of History

Location: 5 East Edenton St., Raleigh NC

Open: Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday noon - 5 p.m.

Phone: 919-807-7900

Website: www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

Cost: Free. However, some special exhibits require a fee.

With a collection of more than more than 350,000 artifacts that tell the story of North Carolina's diverse people and places and a signature exhibit that covers more than 14,000 years of history, the North Carolina Museum of History encourages you to discover the Tar Heel State's past and to reflect on your life and place in history.

Physical

- Accessible parking is available in the surface parking lot located in the block east of the museum (enter at booths off Jones Street or Edenton Street. Metered street parking available. Parking is free on weekends.
- Ramp access is available on the Edenton St. side of the museum, providing access to the museum's main entrance. A second accessible entrance from Jones St. provides access to classroom/restaurant level and elevators to the museum lobby.
- Elevators are available on all levels.
- Ramp access entrances have touch-activated doors.
- Courtesy wheelchairs are available at the information desk.

- Accessible restrooms are located on the lobby floor and restaurant/classroom level.
- Wheelchair-accessible spaces are located at the rear of the Daniels Auditorium.
- Service animals are welcome.

Hearing

- The museum provides assisted listening devices for programs in Daniels Auditorium. Ask the AV technician in the booth.
- Most videos in exhibits have a button to press to display captions. Sign language interpreters are available with two weeks' notice.

Vision

- Large-print brochures are available.
- The signs next to the statues outside the museum and the restroom signs have Braille.

Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum

Location: 5900 Museum Dr., Hatteras, NC

Open: April - mid-October: Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Mid-October - March: Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Phone: 252-986-2995

Website: www.ncmaritimemuseum.org

Cost: Free.

The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum is a public, non-profit, educational institution dedicated to the preservation, advancement and presentation of the maritime history and shipwrecks of the North Carolina Outer Banks from the earliest periods of exploration and colonization to the present day, with emphasis on the periods from 1524 to 1945.

Physical

- Five accessible parking spaces.
- The museum entrance has a ramp for wheelchair access.
- Accessible restrooms are available.
- Wheelchairs are available for visitors.

Hearing

- The museum has text boards and written text for some videos.

Vision

- Interior doors have Braille signage.

North Carolina Maritime Museum at Beaufort

Location: 315 Front St., Beaufort, NC

Open: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Phone: 252-728-7317

Website: www.ncmaritimemuseum.org

Cost: Free.

The North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort reflects coastal life and interprets lighthouses and lifesaving stations, the seafood industry, motorboats, and more. Studies in marine life, science, and ecology are available for all ages. The Beaufort museum is the repository for artifacts from Blackbeard's wrecked flagship, "Queen Anne's Revenge," among them cannons, grenades, belt buckles and beads. The Harvey W. Smith Watercraft Center teaches boatbuilding for all ages.

Physical

- One accessible parking space.
- The museum entrance has a ramp for wheelchair access.
- Accessible restrooms are available.
- Wheelchairs are available for visitors.

Hearing

- All exhibits have text panels or labels that provide information.
- The museum will provide a sign language interpreter with advance notice.

Vision

- 3-D Touch Me exhibits.
- Braille exhibit guides are available.
- Large-print text on exhibit signs.

Museum of the Cape Fear

Location: 801 Arsenal Ave., Fayetteville, NC

Open: Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 1 p.m. - 5p.m. Closed Monday.

Phone: 910-486-1330

Website: <https://museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov/>

Cost: Free.

From an early influx of Scottish settlers to the dominance of military bases today, North Carolina's southeastern region is place with many stories to tell. Fayetteville's [Museum of the Cape Fear](#) mirrors that diversity and offers you the chance to explore many facets of our state's history. Without ever leaving the museum's grounds you step insides the 1897 home of a prosperous Cumberland County businessman, explore the ruins of the Civil War-era Fayetteville Arsenal and experience exhibits covering the region's American Indian roots and eventual industrial development.

Physical:

- One marked accessible parking space.
- Brick and concrete sidewalks at least 4 feet wide with areas of rest. The terrain at Asenal Park contains small slopes.
- Both the museum and Poe House entrances are wheelchair-accessible.
- One accessible restroom for each gender.
- The museum has an elevator.
- Touch boxes and interactive exhibits are wheelchair-accessible.
- Visitors unable to access the second floor of the Poe House are given a pictorial book with a brief description of what visitors see and hear on the tour.

Hearing:

- Videos shown in the museum have captions.

Vision:

- Music audio is provided in some galleries.
- Touch items can be found throughout the museum.

Museum of the Albemarle

Location: 501 S. Water St., Elizabeth City, NC

Open: Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday and state holidays

Phone: 252-335-1453

Website: www.museumofthealbemarle.com

Cost: Free.

From the American Indians, watermen, farmers, craftsmen that dominated the northeastern North Carolina of yesteryear to the vibrant Coast Guard culture of Elizabeth City today, discover the 10,000 years of local history at the Museum of the Albemarle. At this unique history museum, artifacts, illustrations and hands-on activities give life to the culture of region defined by its closeness to one of the world's largest freshwater sounds. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of an 1800s smokehouse, help your kids discover what life was like long ago and see the watercraft that connected a people to their place all under one roof.

Physical:

- Marked accessible parking spaces available
- Concrete paths at least 4 feet wide with curb cuts.
- Carpeted floors inside the museum.
- Museum entrance has a ramp.
- Six accessible restrooms.
- The museum has an elevator.
- The museum is wheelchair-accessible.

Additional:

- Nursing room is available upon request.

Mountain Gateway Museum

Location: 24 Water St., Old Fort, NC

Open: Monday, noon-5 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 2-5 p.m.

Phone: 828-668-9259

Website: www.mountaingatewaymuseum.org

Cost: Free.

The Mountain Gateway Museum is a pioneer lifestyle museum. The primary structure is a stone Works Progress Administration building. The site is 3.5 acres with two 19th century cabins, an amphitheater, a gazebo and Mill Creek flowing through the grounds.

Physical:

- One marked accessible parking space.
- Three concrete paths at least 4 feet wide with slopes and areas of rest. The grounds between the buildings have grass with a park-like atmosphere.
- The entrance has a ramp.
- One accessible restroom for each gender.
- Not all areas of the museum are accessible to visitors with mobility disabilities, but most visitors do not have great difficulty moving about in a wheelchair.

The North Carolina Zoo

Location: 4401 Zoo Parkway, Asheboro, NC

Open: Daily March - October 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; November - February 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Christmas Day.

Phone: 800-488-0444

Website: www.nczoo.org

Cost: Admission fee. Reduced fee for seniors and children under 12 years old.

Located in the picturesque Uwharrie Mountains, the North Carolina Zoo is recognized as one of the world's finest natural habitat animal parks and is the first American zoo designed entirely around the "natural habitat" philosophy – presenting animals and plants in exhibits that closely resemble their wild environments. The zoo's African and American exhibit regions span more than 500 acres, ranking it among the nation's largest walk-through zoos.

Physical

- 51 accessible parking spaces are available.
- Both entrances are on a level walking surface and have accessible drop-off points for visitors who are mobility-impaired.
- Zoo paths are asphalt and concrete at least 4 feet wide with some slopes. Signs point out areas with gentle slopes. Benches provide areas of rest.

- A Zoo-wide transportation system is available to help visitors navigate to three strategic locations inside the park to begin their walk to the habitats. Please note that habitats are not viewable from the trams or buses.
- Rental wheelchairs are available at both park entrances.
- Coolers, food or beverages used for medical purposes can be checked at either entrance, tagged and brought inside the Zoo.
- Trained service animals are welcome.
- Accessible restrooms are available.
- The Carousel ride at Junction Plaza is ADA compliant and includes a swan bench seat that accommodates wheelchairs. The 4-D Theater is also ADA accessible.

Hearing

- The zoo has ample directional and exhibit information signs and provides a park map upon entry.

Vision

- Restroom signs have Braille.
- The Smart Cart has objects that provide tactile stimulation.
- The “Why Bear Why?” book has an audio feature.