

Day Trips

CAROLINA TRAVELER

SUMMER 2021

Thrill Seekers

Adventures across the Carolinas

**WATERFALL
RAPPEL**
Saluda

GO FAST
Myrtle Beach

**PICNIC IN
THE PARK**
Corolla

CarolinaTraveler.com

Simply Corolla, NC

Far and Away, Only Closer



Find yourself here

Summer is upon us, and many wise folks are simply planning to hit the road and find their way here. It is nice to know that the legendary Corolla Wild Horses and historical sites like Whalehead, The Currituck Maritime Museum (opening this summer), and the lighthouse await you, a short drive away, in Corolla, NC.



Stocky Build. Vegetarian. Good Listener.

MEET ME
AT THE
ZOO



RIVERBANKS
ZOO & GARDEN
columbia  south carolina
www.riverbanks.org



10

IN THIS ISSUE

5 **Social Snapshots**

10 **Thrill Seekers**

LIGHT THE NIGHT

Bryson City Moonlight Zip Line

SHOOT THE RAPIDS

Chattooga River Section IV

WHITEWATER TUBING

Thrills, Spills and Giggles

MUD ON THE TIRES

UTV Adventure

DARE TO CROSS

Mile High Swinging Bridge

WATERFALL RAPPEL

Canyoneering=Maximum Thrill

NEED FOR SPEED

Stock Car Driving Experience

FOSSIL HUNT

Find Prehistoric Shark Teeth

LOOK MA, NO WINGS

The Sensation of Falling Up



17

30 **Picnic in the Park Corolla, NC**

Cover photo: Waterfall rappelling Green River Adventures



12



19



CAROLINATRAVELER

*Connect with travelers
in the Carolinas*

@CarolinaTravelr   

Day Trips
CAROLINATRAVELER

Publisher Dave Wolding
Art Director Melissa McCauley

CAROLINATRAVELER

Day Trips is published bi-monthly by Carolina Traveler, PO Box 1175, Cornelius, NC 28031. Subscriptions are \$45 per year. Single copies available for \$7.50 per issue plus applicable taxes and shipping. Day Trips is a registered trademark used with permission from Rowman & Littlefield. Our writers and editors work diligently to provide accurate information. Contents are copyright 2021 Carolina Traveler.
1-866-758-0123
dave@carolinatraveler.com



*Bird watching at Sylva Heights
Bird Park Scotland Neck, NC*



*Gem mining and chasing waterfalls
Franklin, NC*

**For more fun things
to do follow us!**

@CarolinaTravelr



*Splashing and camping at
the James Island County Park
Charleston, SC*



*Cruising the Wataui Grasslands
with friends on the Zootari tour at the
NC Zoo Asheville, NC*

ELEVATE YOUR ZOO TRIP!



North
Carolina **ZOO**
Discover us in Asheboro



TIGERWORLD

CONSERVATION THROUGH EDUCATION

NEW



ADVENTURE GOLF

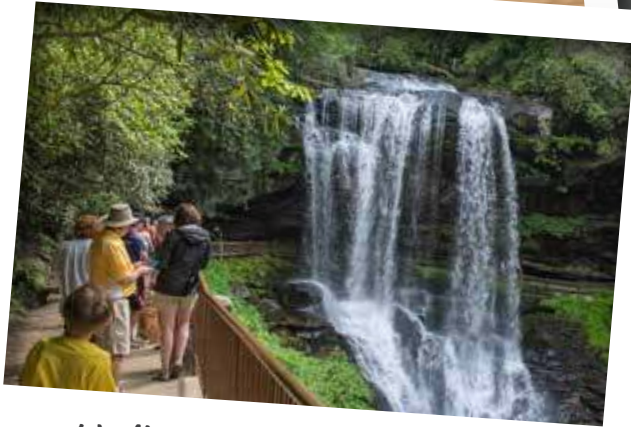


Mention Day Trips magazine and get \$1 off your Wild Adventure Golf game!

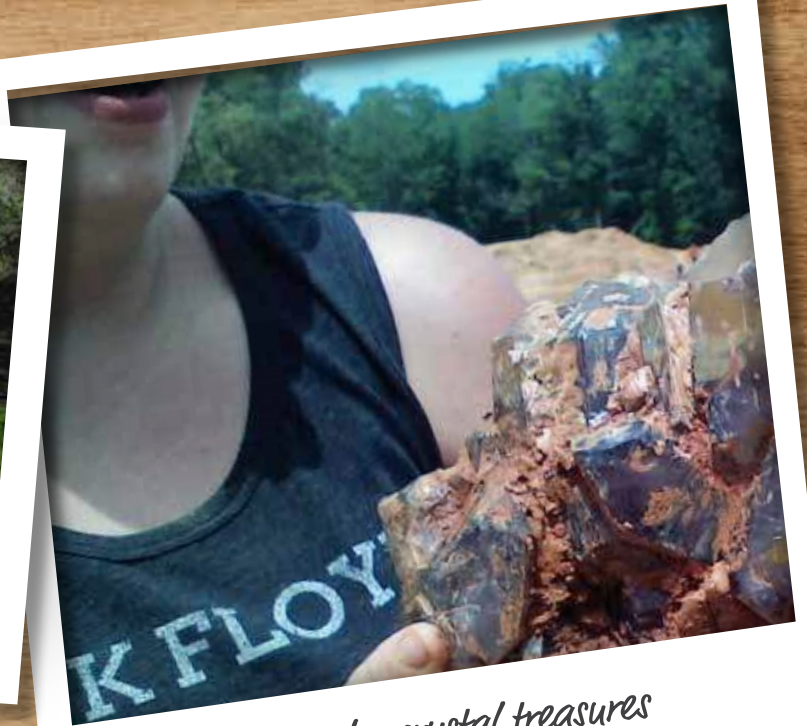


4400 Cook Road, Rockwell, NC 28138 (704) 279-6363 info@tigerworld.us





*Walking behind the waterfall
at Dry Falls Highlands, NC*



*Digging for crystal treasures
at the Diamond Hill Mine Abbeville, SC*

**For more fun things
to do follow us!**

@CarolinaTravelr



*Taking in the Black Bear Festival
Plymouth, NC*



*Celebrating World Binxurooug Day
at Animal Park at the Conservators Center
Near Burlington, NC*

LEARN MORE ABOUT ADVERTISING IN

Day Trips


CAROLINATRAVELER

Day Trips is the
“things to do” magazine

Family adventures abound on
CarolinaTraveler.com

Growing social media audience
Facebook.com/CarolinaTraveler

To learn more about advertising
options for your business,
attraction or community, contact
Dave Wolding at 866-758-0123
or Dave@carolinatraveler.com



Animal Park
at the Conservators Center


A world to explore, right next door.

Private Experiences
Build your own package

Tours, Summer Camps,
Virtual Experiences,
Family Events

Near Burlington & Mebane

Make reservations online
before visiting



WWW.ANIMALPARKNC.ORG



**VISIT US IN
HENDERSONVILLE**

Shark and Ray
feedings at 1:15 pm

OPEN THURS. - SAT. 1-4 PM



511 N. Main St.
Hendersonville, NC 28792
828-692-8386
TeamECCO.org



THRILL SEEKERS

TAKE FLIGHT

Outer Banks Hang Gliding

There's something magical about the thought of soaring with the birds, mastering the wind and floating on currents of air. You can indulge your flying dreams with hang gliding lessons in the Outer Banks. After a brief ground school in which you learn the basics about your flying wing and more importantly getting off the ground, you'll be ready for your first flight.

The instructors are careful not to over-complicate beginner lessons and they hold on to the glider (and may help it along a little) during your flights. If you can remember run until you cannot touch, push to go up and pull to go down, well then, you'll make an excellent hang gliding student!

Beginning students typically fly 5-10 feet off the ground for 10-25 yards. This is not a strenuous activity, as the instructors carry the glider back up the dune after your flight. And when it's your turn to fly, the wind will help hold up the glider.

Hang gliding lessons are offered year-round, while off peak season visitors enjoy smaller group sessions and the instructors will tell you the cool, dense winter air is ideal for flying.



Thrill O Meter

Ages: 4 and up

Where: Jockey's Ridge State Park, Nags Head, NC

When: Year-round

Cost: About \$129 per person for 5 flights

Guide: Kitty Hawk Kites

More info: CarolinaTraveler.com/thrill-seekers

Know Before You Go

You'll be out on the sand dunes, which are bright even on overcast days. So slop on some sunscreen and wear shades. Full length pants or leggings are recommended for comfort in the harness. Take water and a snack as group sessions can last 3 hours.

Try dune sledding with a boogie board, or cardboard box.



You'll get a little sandy as ground school actually involves laying on the ground.





LIGHT THE NIGHT

Bryson City Moonlight Zip Line

Suddenly it hits you, the exhilarating feeling of stepping off the high platform is amplified by the inky darkness of night. You command your legs to step forward.

Moonlight and glow sticks illuminate this exhilarating high wire mountain adventure. Yes this really is a night time zip line experience!

Guided by instructors signaling commands with glow sticks, aerial adventurers zip across a two mile course through the canopy above the smoky mountains. Your zips from mountaintop to mountaintop are the warm up for an epic ½ mile megazip that offers big sky and mountain views.

In addition to starlit skies and mountain silhouettes, between zips you are treated to the sounds of the Smoky Mountain Orchestra a nighttime feature courtesy of crickets, cicadas and other mountain wildlife. Previous zip line experience is key to enjoying the moonlight zip. Fortunately there are several zip line options in Bryson City, so you can squeeze in some daylight training runs before your moonlight adventure.



Thrill O Meter

Ages: 10 and up (100-250 pounds)

Where: Bryson City, NC

When: May-September

Cost: About \$165 per person

Guide: Nantahala Outdoor Center

More info: CarolinaTraveler.com/thrill-seekers

Know Before You Go

You'll be in the mountains so be prepared for occasional wet conditions. Dress appropriately for the weather and avoid loose fitting clothes. Wear closed toed shoes. You'll be provided a helmet, harness, gloves and glow sticks. Sessions can last 3.5 hours.



Not space aliens. These thrill seekers are geared up, lit, and ready to go!



Warm up to your moonlight zip with a few daylight runs.

**Whitewater
thrills for
ages 6
and up**



SHOOT THE RAPIDS

Chattooga River Section IV

PHOTO CREDIT: WILDWATER

Corkscrew. Crack In the Rock. Jawbone. Sock'em Dog. You're navigating by landmark nicknames while learning about eddies and hydraulics. The serene beauty of the Chattooga River gorge strikes a distinct contrast with the crashing water, boulders and sheer rock walls you're approaching. Your survival instinct is on high alert as the river grows louder. Whatever you do, don't let go of your paddle!

Legends are plenty on the Chattooga, as the river has a 40+ year history of boating. It was designated a Wild and Scenic River in 1974, an Act which among other things limits the proximity of motor vehicle traffic. And for movie buffs, a portion of the 1972 movie, *Deliverance*, was filmed in this section (can you hear the banjo music?).

Fortunately you can raft the Chattooga with well known outfitters and experienced river guides. You can even turn your day trip into an overnight adventure with a two day rafting trip that includes tent camping along the river the guides also do the cooking (the Carolina Traveler team gives this option two thumbs up!).



Thrill O Meter

Ages: 12+, check our website for rafting trips suitable for younger adventurers

Where: Near Long Creek, SC

When: March–November

Cost: About \$140 per person

Guide: Wildwater

More info: CarolinaTraveler.com/thrill-seekers

Know Before You Go

A single day trip can take 7 hours and includes lunch on the river. You'll get wet (this is cold mountain water, wet suits are available).

Wear water shoes that absolutely, positively won't fall off. Our suggested outfitter furnishes the guide, raft, helmet, paddle, PFD and lunch.



WHITEWATER TUBING

Thrills, Spills and Giggles

PHOTO CREDIT: SWAIN COUNTY/BRYSON CITY TDA

“Can we do it again?!” Prepare for an afternoon of mountain fun as you bounce and splash in a wild ride down the rushing water of the Deep Creek gorge in the Smoky Mountains National Park outside Bryson City, NC.

You won’t find any rated rapids here, nor could you easily navigate it in a kayak. You need an inner tube and, well, that’s about it.

Start your adventure by renting a tube from any of the vendors along the road to the park (rentals are not available in the park). The whitewater section is ankle to knee deep and the bottom is rocky, so the Day Trips

crew strongly recommend renting a tube with a bottom in it (handles are essential, too). Daily tube rental runs about \$7.

From the parking lot, the put in is about a mile hike with your tube along a well worn path between a camping area and the creek. The section of water along the parking lot and park entrance is calm and a little deeper for those looking for a more relaxing ride.

This is a wonderful all-ages adventure, but kids under 6 might find the rushing water intimidating. Special note for the injury prone: we did not find any soft rocks.



Thrill O Meter

Ages: 6 +

Where: Bryson City, NC

When: Go when it’s warm out

Cost: About \$7 per person – cheap!

Guide: self guided

More info: CarolinaTraveler.com/thrill-seekers

Know Before You Go

Rent a tube with a bottom in it. Wear water shoes that won’t come off, otherwise you could be chasing a shoe down the creek. Don’t ask how we know this. Bring your drinks and snacks or picnic as there aren’t dining options at the park. You may need a spritz of bug spray for the hike to the put in.

Spills are half the fun in this tubing trip



Get up close to waterfalls along the route



MUD ON THE TIRES

UTV Adventure

PHOTO CREDIT: FISCHTHAL FAMILY

Impossible climbs. Thrilling descents. Creek crossings. Varied terrain. Mountain trails. You might get a little dirty.

Everyone needs to go muddin' at least once in their lifetime and this thrilling adventure puts you in the driver's seat. You'll challenge your driving skills behind the wheel of a UTV (utility terrain vehicle). These are specialized four wheel drive vehicles with knobby tires and a suspension system designed to keep the wheels firmly planted on the ground.

Most UTV adventures include a guide who accompanies you on the trails. Aside from ensuring you don't get lost in the backcountry, the guides also serve as driving coaches for challenging terrain.

While most families will opt for 2, 3 or 4 person UTVs, high octane adventurers can try one-person ATVs available at some outfitters.



Thrill O Meter

Ages: 5+

Where: Boone, NC

When: Year-round

Cost: About \$199

More info: CarolinaTraveler.com/thrill-seekers

Know Before You Go

Adventures can last up to four hours, so bring along water and a favorite snack. You'll be wearing a helmet and possibly goggles or other eye protection. Your outfitter might include lunch in your adventure package- be sure to ask. It rains from time to time in the mountains. Mama said to let other adults have a turn at driving. Getting a little dirty is part of the fun!



DARE TO CROSS

Mile High Swinging Bridge

The path to panoramic views from Grandfather Mountain leads to a 228 foot suspension footbridge that spans an 80 foot chasm. Intentionally built to flex in the wind and with weight, you'll feel bridge move ever so slightly under your feet.

Anchored to Grandfather Mountain at a one-mile high elevation above sea level, you'll find a rugged peak and stunning views awaiting you on the other side of the bridge. Photography buffs take note on a

clear day you can see the skyscrapers of Charlotte on the horizon.

While the journey across the swinging bridge is the high point for most visitors to Grandfather Mountain, there are plenty of other distractions. Be sure to include time to visit the animals native to the Blue Ridge Mountains, like cougars, black bears, bald eagles, river otters and elk.



Thrill O Meter

Ages: 6+

Where: Linville, NC

When: Year round

Cost: About \$22 for adults, \$9 for kids

More info: CarolinaTraveler.com/thrillseekers

Know Before You Go

Summer hours for ticketing 8am-5:30pm. Expect about a 10 degree temperature drop on the mountain. A restaurant, fudge shop and restrooms can be found on site. An elevator is available for those who need assistance getting up to the bridge. The Day Trips crew did not find any soft boulders or nets to stop your fall, so remind your kiddos to be careful around the steep sides of the mountain. Pro tip: reward them with fudge for good behavior.



**You've
never
experienced
a waterfall
like this!**

WATERFALL RAPPEL

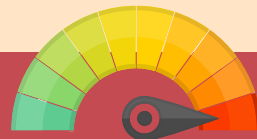
Canyoneering=Maximum Thrill

PHOTO CREDITS: GREEN RIVER ADVENTURES

For most of us, rappelling requires a hard swallow and gut check before stepping backward off a cliff. It's time to take it up a notch! Outfitters in the Green River area of North Carolina have upped the adrenaline level of rappelling by throwing in a waterfall and a 200 foot drop.

The thrill of achievement isn't the only reward in this adventure. Adventurers trek to pristine natural areas that are not frequented by crowds and the rappel offers up close views of waterfalls and the flora and fauna that call them home.

Like some of the other activities that made our 2021 Thrill Seeker list, this is a multi-sport adventure that requires up to 2 miles of hiking and active participation. Age and weight restrictions apply. Some outfitters will allow ages 12+ and accommodate friends and family who want to tag along (additional charges apply).



Thrill O Meter

Ages: 15+

Where: Saluda, NC

When: Year-round

Cost: About \$170

Outfitter: Green River Adventures

More info: CarolinaTraveler.com/thrill-seekers

Know Before You Go

Pre-book your adventure as trips currently depart at 8 am on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. You'll get wet, so bring a change of clothes for later. Outfitters rent and sell specialized footwear that offers better wet traction. Most trips include lunch, but bring your water bottle.



**Salamanders call the cliffs
of this waterfall home**



NEED FOR SPEED

Stock Car Driving Experience

PHOTO CREDIT: FREEMAN FAMILY

Satisfy your need for speed when you get behind the wheel of a real NASCAR race car. It's a smorgasbord for your senses as you take in the sound of the engines and the smell of the track. You feel the engine through the steering wheel. It doesn't get more real than this.

Drivers receive training and instruction, and meet the crew chief before getting behind the wheel. Then it's off to the track for 5 to 48 minutes of track time. The adventure really comes alive as you get real time instruction from your spotter over a 2 way radio.

You can dial back the adrenaline and still have a thrilling speed experience in the passenger seat of a stock car with a racing instructor behind the wheel. Younger thrill seekers can pile into the pace car for a speedy 3 lap trip around the oval.

NASCAR experience is available at multiple tracks, but the options vary at each track. Based on our research, the track at Myrtle Beach has the most experience options.

The cost of this adventure can add up quickly. The Day Trips team recommends watching the website(s) for these adventures as they offer sales up to 50% off. Get the links at CarolinaTraveler.com/thrill-seekers



Suit up with professional support.



Thrill O Meter

Ages: 18+ to drive

Where: Myrtle Beach, SC

When: Year-round

Cost: About \$250

More info: CarolinaTraveler.com/thrill-seekers

Know Before You Go

Your littlest speed freaks can ride a few laps in the pace car for about \$20 per person. Stock car drivers must have a driver's license, be 18+, weigh between 100 and 300 pounds, height between 5' and 6'7". The driving experience can last up to 3 hours. Your cheering section is welcome in the grandstands and infield (depending on the track).



Enjoying a little family time at the track!

FOSSIL HUNT

Find Prehistoric Shark Teeth

PHOTO CREDITS: CHARLESTON FOSSIL ADVENTURES

This thrill of the hunt adventure takes you by kayak to secluded low country shorelines and gravel beds where your hunt for the elusive megalodon tooth will yield a pocketful of fossilized shark teeth and prehistoric treasures.

While the kayak trip is limited currently to ages 10+, there are other fossil hunt adventures offered for even the youngest dino fan. Your trip guide is a paleontologist who has earned pages of rave reviews for his patient and relatable instruction, immense dino knowledge, and of course the prehistoric treasures you'll bring home.

Who doesn't love getting a little muddy and discovering ancient treasures?!



Thrill O Meter

Ages: 10+

(other options for younger paleontologists)

Where: Charleston, SC

When: Year round

Cost: About \$150 per person

Guide: Charleston Fossil Adventures

More info: CarolinaTraveler.com/thrill-seekers

Know Before You Go

The kayak adventure requires closed toe and closed heel-footwear. Sunscreen, hat, bug repellent, light colored and lightweight clothing is highly recommended. This is a rain or shine activity, so raincoats are advisable for summer pop-up storms. Bring your water and snacks.

Kayak your way to secluded river banks rich in prehistoric treasures!





LOOK MA, NO WINGS

The Sensation of Falling Up



Thrill O Meter

Ages: 3+

Where: Concord, NC

When: Year-round

Cost: About \$100 on the weekend

Outfitter: iFly

More info: CarolinaTraveler.com/thrill-seekers

Know Before You Go

You'll wear a flight suit, helmet and goggles, all provided by the outfitter. Wear comfortable clothing that will still be comfortable under a full body flight suit. Friends and family can watch and snap pictures without flying.

With your arms raised, you fall face first into hurricane force winds. The further forward you fall, the lighter you become. Until suddenly you are horizontal, levitated by the air rushing around you.

Steadied by your instructor, you practice the fundamentals of sky diving four feet off the ground. As your flying skill improves, the instructor may treat you to higher flights in the tunnel.

Moments later the instructor tilts you back to vertical and you step out of the tunnel to await your next flight. Flights are brief about 60 seconds each. The total experience including orientation lasts about 90 minutes.

OUR HERITAGE IS...

NATURAL



PEOPLE

EVENTS



INDUSTRIAL



The Carolina Heritage Fund is now accepting gifts to promote generational awareness, education and access to heritage sites and attractions in the Carolinas.

www.CarolinaHeritageFund.org

Historic Corolla Park welcomes visitors with wide open green spaces and four unique attractions. The most prominent is the 158 foot tall Currituck Beach Lighthouse. Climb the 220 steps to the top for expansive views of the sound, ocean, and northern Outer Banks. Souvenir shop and restrooms on site. \$10 to climb, buy tickets at the lighthouse. obcinc.org



Picnic in the Park

COROLLA, NC

By Dave Wolding

Currituck Maritime Museum

Discover the Outer Banks beyond the beach. Interactive exhibits tell the story of the people who lived and worked these waterways. Learn about boat building and historic boats. Adjacent to the Currituck Beach Lighthouse. visitcurrituck.com





The Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education

Stop in to catch the 30 minute video about the local ecology and find out which programs they offer during your beach trip (great for kids!). If you don't have time for a program, check out the decoy collection, real life marsh diorama, and exhibits about conservation, local heritage, and natural history. In the building between the Whalehead and lighthouse. Open Mon-Sat. Phone 252-453-0221. Facebook.com/OBCWE



The Whalehead Club

Legends, Lore and Ghost Tour! Finish your day trip with a unique visit to the Whalehead Club. Ghost tour is Wednesday evenings in the summer. \$15 per person. Suitable for ages 10+ and reservations recommended. Daily daytime ghost-free tours are \$7 (kids 0-5 free). Closed weekends. Phone 252-453-9040. www.visitcurrituck.com



Food & Snacks

Day trippers can find plenty of menu selections (tacos, pizza, hot dogs, seafood) and ice cream at the restaurants across the street from the park at the Corolla Light Town Center. Did we mention ice cream?



PO BOX 1175
CORNELIUS, NC 28078

SAVE 20%

**Find your next
adventure**
In the pages of
Day Trips Magazine



**Save 20% use code
SAVE20 at checkout
www.CarolinaTraveler.com**