



## Weekend in Southport Explore the Quiet Coast

## **Pumpkin Patch** Where to Find Gourds

**Spooky Places** In the Carolinas

CarolinaTraveler.com

### Follow the Legends

To Where the Road Ends

#### Head North and Find Yourself in Corolla

#### The Currituck Beach Lighthouse

The Lighthouse towers over the Outer Banks landscape. For a small fee, visitors can climb all 220 steps up the winding iron staircase for a wide-open view of the Sound and the Atlantic Ocean.



#### Whalehead in Historic Corolla

The Whalehead museum is a 1920s era Art Nouveau architectural masterpiece and is the

centerpiece of Historic Corolla Park. Weekly and annual events are often held here, tours of the Whalehead museum offered daily.



#### **OBX Center for Wildlife Education**

The Center for Wildlife Education houses exhibits on both natural and wildlife history and offers free educational programs.



#### The Currituck Maritime Museum

The Outer Banks was built from the bows of humble, hand-made wooden boats. The new Maritime Museum tells the stories of



Currituck's boatbuilding forefathers, their remarkable craft, and their enduring legacy.

CURRITUCK

Corolla • Carova • The Mainland

877.287.7488

VisitCurrituck.com

This fall, many wise North Carolinians are simply planning to **take a day** and find their way here. It is good to know that awe-inspiring beaches, legendary wild horses and storied historical sites await, where paved roads end, in Corolla, NC.

Find Out About Upcoming Events at CorollaEvents.com or Download the new Corolla OBX App on the App Store or Google Play.

## Stocky Build. Vegetarian. Good Listener.



ATTHE

www.riverbanks.org

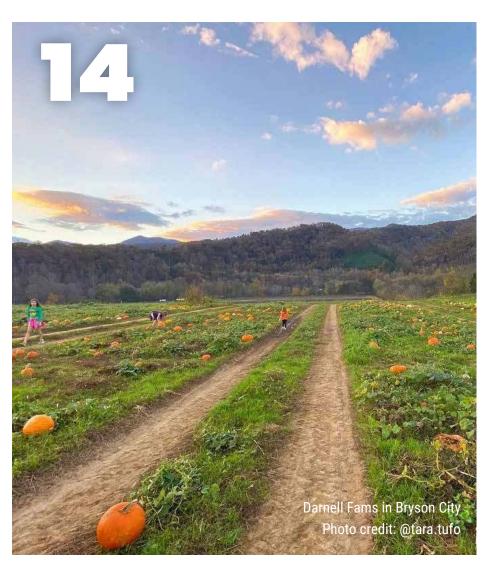


#### BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE

- **6** Social Snapshots
- **10 Weekend in Southport** Explore the Quiet Coast of SE North Carolina
- **14 Pumpkin Patch** Where to Find Giant Orange Gourds
- **15 Spooky Places** to Visit in the Carolinas
- **17 Harvest Festivals** Celebrate the Season

On The Cover: There are pumpkin patches aplenty in the Carolinas, like this one at Grandad's Apples 'N Such in Hendersonville, NC, featured in Day Trips' back-to-school issue.









## GET MORE CAROLINA!

Subscribe to Day Trips online at www.CarolinaTraveler.com/subscribe

Keep up with us on social media @CarolinaTraveIr





Publisher Dave Wolding Editor Emily Lutz Art Director Melissa McCauley

#### **CAROLINA**TRAVELER

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



Apple picking NC mountains and SC upstate

Hauq gliding lessons Jockey's Ridge State Park, Nag's Head, NC

# For more fun things to do follow us!

## @CarolinaTravelr

O

Visiting the baby flamingo Riverbanks Zoo - Columbia, SC Contemplating the climb Cape Hatteras National Seashore, NC



Private Experiences Build your own package

Tours, Summer Camps, Virtual Experiences, Family Events

Near Burlington & Mebane

Make reservations online before visiting



WWW.ANIMALPARKNC.ORG

Of the W

#### 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





Our favorite dog-triendly beaches

## For more fun things to do follow us! @CarolinaTravelr



Exploring Botany Bay Edisto Island, SC Photo Courtesy Bryson City NC -Swain County Chamber of Commerce / TDA

Thrills, spills and giggles Bryson City, NC



Exploring Cherokee heritage Oconaluttee Indian Village - Cherokee, NC





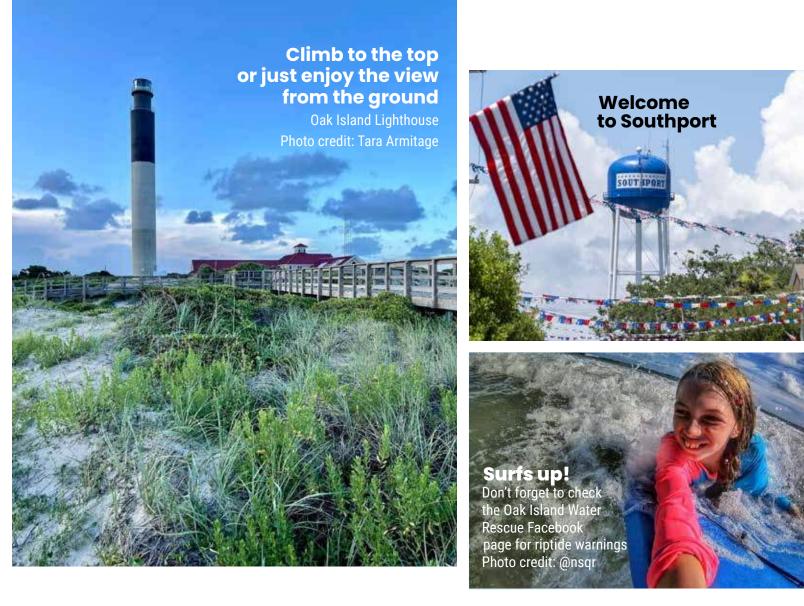
## Weekend in Southport

**Explore the Quiet Coast of SE North Carolina** 

Take a seat and enjoy the view Southport Waterfront – Photo credit: @nsq

Located in coastal NC where the river meets the sea, Southport is a quaint little place full of history and beauty. This charming little town (population 3,828) has placed a focus on preserving history. When you visit, you'll notice the restored homes and churches that line the streets. Southport is situated within a close distance to many popular beach towns of NC, making it the perfect locale for your next relaxing family weekend.

Whether you seek time in the sunshine or a peek into the past, we've got some great recommendations for you! Check out the top things to do in Southport, NC area.



#### What To Do in the Quaint Town of Southport

The charming little town of Southport offers plenty of ways to enjoy a long weekend as a family.

Spend time outdoors along the waterfront in downtown strolling along the riverwalk or plan for some relaxation and playtime at Waterfront Park. This 9-acre downtown park offers gorgeous views along with well-maintained lawns and tons of porch swings to enjoy the view.

If it's a beach day you're seeking, there are a wide array of beaches within a short distance from Southport. A quick 15-minute drive will take you to Oak Island or Caswell Beach. These beaches offer plenty of public access points and parking (free on Oak Island).

When you're seeking more of an educational experience or want to get inside on a rainy day, pay a visit to the handful of museums in town.

- Fort Johnston Southport Museum Highlighting the history of the town and its beginnings as Fort Johnston, this attraction pulls back the curtain on the 250+ year history of the fort.
- NC Maritime Museum This museum offers a look into the history of this coastal region and is housed in the officer's quarters from the grounds of Fort Johnston.
- Old Brunswick County Jail A 2-story museum restored from a 1904 jail that shows cells, jailer's chambers, and historic artifacts.



#### **Ride the Southport Ferry** to New Adventures

The Southport Ferry is an entertaining and cost-efficient way to get from place-to-place along the Southern NC coast. Hop aboard and take in the beautiful views as you get from point A to point B. The Southport Ferry can cost as little as \$7 per carload for a roundtrip ticket to either Fort Fisher, Kure Beach, or Carolina Beach. Prices can reach \$23 for various routes and times.

Be sure to check out the schedule online and take note that reservations are not allowed, so during busy seasons it's advisable to arrive early.

#### Kids will love the novelty of a car driving onto a boat Photo Credit: @DroneMEnc



#### **Ferry to Fort Fisher**

One of the most popular ferry routes is the Southport to Fort Fisher trip. The ride is a quick 35-minutes and the ocean views are gorgeous along the way.

The Fort Fisher Aquarium is a popular attraction that draws in crowds year-round. Open daily from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, it's encouraged to book tickets in advance. Admission is \$10.95 for children under the age of 13, \$11.95 for military or seniors over the age of 62, and \$12.95 for everyone else.

At the aquarium, your family can experience plenty of unique experiences such as viewing an albino alligator or taking in the playful sea otters. In fact, the furry little sea otters were recently introduced to a new home in the aquarium. The new digs were introduced to the cute creatures in December of 2020.

Other popular exhibits include the sea turtles, bald eagle, sharks, and stingrays. Plus, kids will delight in the touch pool with sea stars and horseshoe crabs.



#### Enjoy the Local Cuisine at the Restaurants in Southport

Southport offers plenty of tasty food options ranging from seafood shacks to casual sandwich shops. This quaint little town is packed with restaurants that come highly recommended. In fact, in downtown alone, there are more than 30 places to stop for a bite.

A few top recommendations include:

- Fishy Fishy Cafe A seafood joint located right on the Intracoastal Waterway. Take in the views while enjoying a bowl of chowder or basket of fried fish.
- Provision Company This waterfront spot offers tasty sandwiches and steamed seafood platters. It has been a local favorite since 1993.
- Locals Family Diner The perfect spot to kick-off your day with breakfast or a relaxed lunch. Locals is a laid-back, family-friendly hotspot.
- Joseph's Italian Bistro If you want a break from the seafood feasts, hit up Joseph's, a popular spot with Intracoastal Waterway views. Try the homemade lasagna or the veal piccata.



#### Ferry to Bald Head Island

Another popular day trip is an excursion to Bald Head Island. The ferry trip to this exquisite, remote beach town is only a 20-minute journey. Round-trip tickets for adults (12+) are \$23 while children's tickets (3-12) are \$12. Children under the age of 2 are free.

Bald Head Island offers 14 miles of stunning beaches for tanning, swimming, and sandcastle-building. Stroll around the marina, take in the boutique shops, or kayak through the creeks of Bald Head.

No matter how you choose to spend your day on Bald Head Island, make sure you don't miss Old Baldy. This beloved landmark is North Carolina's oldest lighthouse. When visiting Old Baldy, you can climb up the 108 stairs to the top to take in the stunning views.

The grounds of the lighthouse are pristine and offer picnic tables where families can stop for a quick break. Guests can also enjoy the Smith Island Museum of History which is located inside the historic lighthouse keeper's cottage. The museum offers a glimpse into the life of a lighthouse keeper and provides a history of the island. Tours of the lighthouse and museum are self-guided.

Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children ages 3-12, and free for those under age 3. Note that Old Baldy closes during the off-season. Be sure to check the Old Baldy Foundation website before visiting.

There's plenty to see and enjoy in Southport. We're confident that your family will enjoy a long-weekend trip to this beautiful little town.

#### Bring plenty of helpers to carry your haul

Family fun for all ages Hodge's Family Farm

> Can you find the perfect pumpkin? Hubb's Farm Photo credit: @blueridgemountaingirl

14 DAY TRIPS Fall 2021 Carolina Traveler.com

# **PUMPKIN PATCH**Where To Find Giant Orange Gourds

When we think of fall, it's hard not to envision brightly colored pumpkins and chilly evenings spent outdoors in the crisp air. Who doesn't love this special time of year? For many families, visiting local pumpkin patches in the Carolinas is on their fall bucket list year after year.

Here in the Carolinas, we're fortunate to have our pick of not only pumpkin patches in the fall but of several other seasonal farm-related events. Visitors of all ages have a blast enjoying hay rides, corn mazes, duck races, pumpkin painting, and more.

#### THROUGH OCT 31

#### Hodge's Family Farm 3900 Rocky River Rd. E. Charlotte, NC 28215

This Charlotte-area farm has been around for more than a century! Grab one of the wagons parked along the field on your way to the patch and spend a few hours picking out the perfect pumpkins for your home decorations. This farm is one of the largest in the region, with nearly 200 acres to its name.

Kids will love exploring not only the farm's pumpkin patch but the "hay mountain" specially designed for children to jump in. The obligatory autumn hayride is also made possible here. There are even plenty of barnyard animals to entertain the animal lovers in your family. Bring some extra cash for parking and purchasing some treats.

## THROUGH

Hubb's Farm Fall Festival 10276 N, US-421 Clinton, NC 28328

How about a 15-acre corn maze?! Situated about 70 minutes from Raleigh and Wilmington, your day trip to Hubb's Farm includes three mazes with increasing levels of difficulty and 4.5 acres of pumpkin patch. Tickets to the maze and pumpkin patch are \$19.99 and must be purchased online (buy before you drive, as the farm is limiting attendance).

Younger children will love the live duck races on the weekends, train rides, giant slides and plenty of farm animals. The truly intrepid maze runners can try the Saturday night flashlight maze and evening activities those tickets are \$14.99.



#### WEEKENDS OCT

**Pumpkin Patch** 2620 Hanscombe Pt. Rd. Johns Island, SC 29455

Legare Farms boasts over three hundred years of crops on its farms, making it a natural destination for fans of harvest season. Their pumpkin patch is open to the public only during the weekends in October, so be sure to plan your visit accordingly. While entering the farm, accessing the playground, and visiting the barnyard are all free, you'll need to purchase tickets if you want to participate in certain activities.

Kids are guaranteed to want to bring home a scarecrow-making kit (\$12) or to get in line for a ride on one of the horses (\$4). Have little ones that aren't ready for a horse ride? Sign them up for a hayride (\$3) where they can feed the cows.

#### THROUGH OCT 31

**Clinton Sease Farm** 382 Olde Farm Rd. Lexington, SC 29072

For families looking for the opportunity to not only pick up a few pumpkins but to bring home some delicious pumpkin pie, Clinton Sease Farm is likely what you've been looking for. Admission to the patch is just \$1 per person (kids under two get in for free). If you want to add a couple more activities to your evening, buy a \$14 corn maze ticket. This ticket gives visitors access to multiple corn mazes, unlimited hayrides, and free reign of the pumpkin patch.

Depending on the day you visit, you might make it in time to join a giant bubble-making session or a double-Dutch jump rope demonstration. If you plan on staying after dark, be sure to bring a flashlight with you, as it's required to participate in the corn maze.





## THROUGH

#### Patterson Farm 10390 Caldwell Rd. Mount Ulla, NC 28125

For visitors that hope to spend a full day at the pumpkin patch, plan to stop by Patterson Farm and attend their annual Weekend Fall Fun on the Farm event. Close to Charlotte, the farm offers plenty to do for visitors of all ages. The youngest members of your family are sure to make a beeline for the farm's playground, while the older ones may want to try their luck at the corn maze. Also offered are a cow barrel train ride and pumpkin patch access.

A \$15 ticket lets you take part in these activities (plus a few more), though you'll want to bring extra cash if you plan to purchase any pumpkins. Keep in mind the patch is only open on Saturdays and Sundays, closing at 6:00 PM.

#### through NOV 14

**Denver Downs Farms** 1515 Denver Rd. Anderson, SC 29625

Want a pumpkin that's a bit out of the ordinary? Visit Denver Downs Farms for varieties that aren't typically found at other locations. They sell large types like Big Moose or Atlantic Giant pumpkins. If orange isn't your favorite color, you can also peruse their assortment of multicolored ones like the World of Color variety or go for a ghoulishly pale one from their Full Moon pumpkin selection.

The farm also holds an annual "Pumpkin Princess Pageant" event for children, and artists can show off their skills through pumpkin painting.

Getting in is the easy part, but can you find your way out?



## **6 SPOOKY PLACES** to Visit in the Carolinas

With Halloween just around the corner, it's natural to get into the spooky spirit. From ghostly specters roaming graveyards to mysterious figures wandering the mountainside, the Carolinas have their fill of places with a reputation for the paranormal. Are you brave enough to check out some of these locations touted as among the scariest places on earth?



#### **Grandfather Mountain**

The next time you spend a peaceful afternoon hiking in Western North Carolina, you may find yourself with an unexpected hiking partner. A supernatural wanderer of Grandfather Mountain has been sighted several times throughout the years along the mountain's trails. Witnesses state the ghost appears as an older man with a full beard, old-fashioned clothing, and a hiking pack. Some sources state he also carries a walking stick with him. If you encounter this unearthly hiker, you can say hi, but don't expect a reply. Reports say he'll simply hike past you and continue on his journey. 2050 Blowing Rock Hwy., Linville, NC 28646

#### **Brown Mountain Lights**

It's not often that you come across a phenomenon that manages to puzzle both scientists and locals alike. Yet that's exactly the case when it comes to the Brown Mountain Lights. These mysterious orbs are frequently spotted hovering over Brown Mountain (north of Morganton, NC, on the border of Burke and Caldwell counties)on autumn nights, and no one seems to be able to explain their origin. Photographs of the apparitions are numerous, and there has been no consensus as to their official cause. Try your luck at spotting them from one of the Brown Mountain Overlooks along Highway 181. 8176 NC-181, Newland, NC 28657

#### The Carolina Inn

If you're looking to explore one of the most haunted places in North Carolina, you'll need to schedule a night at the Carolina Inn. Quickly approaching its hundred-year anniversary, the Carolina Inn is supposedly home to several ghosts. One of them is thought to be the ghost of a doctor who called the inn home for many years. His ghost isn't the typical scary one, however. Instead, it's said the doctor prefers to tease people by locking them out of rooms! *211 Pittsboro St., Chapel Hill, NC 27516* 

#### **Know Before You Go**

Many cities offer walking tours which offer a chance to hear all the local ghost stories. If you're up for a little exercise, search online to see what haunted tours might be available.

Some of the locations listed in this article are on private property, so be clear about which areas you'll need special permission to access.

Additionally, if you visit any of these haunted places at night, bring a friend and flashlights. Part of the fun of exploring sites associated with the paranormal is learning about their rich history and how they've added to local folklore. So don't be shy to ask residents about their own experiences at these locations. You're likely to hear a few personal stories of encounters with the paranormal!



#### **Unitarian Church Graveyard**

There are a plenty of spooky church cemeteries in the southeast and the Unitarian Church and its graveyard in Charleston often top that list. One of the most popular haunted places in So uth Carolina, this church is the second oldest in the Holy City. Several spirits are said to linger on the premises, the most famous of which is the Lady in White. This young woman - thought to be Anna Ravenel - is said to have been isolated from her lover by her father, who didn't approve of the man. Some people claim that her lover was in fact Edgar Allan Poe, and they believe the ghost of Anna wanders the graveyard today, searching for him. *Archdale St., Charleston, SC 29401* 

#### **Pawleys Island**

You've likely heard of poltergeists and ghouls, but have you ever heard of weather-predicting ghosts? It sounds like the basis for an unlikely folktale, but the Gray Man on Pawleys Island is said to do just that. A phantom man dressed in a gray cloak is known to make appearances on the island before hurricanes reach the area. Island residents say he was sighted before each of the five hurricanes that have hit the area over the past few centuries, and legend has it that his purpose is to help protect the locals from these storms. *Approximately 37 miles south of Myrtle Beach* 

#### **Crybaby Creek Bridge**

Don't think hauntings are limited to buildings and cemeteries. Crybaby Creek Bridge is famous among South Carolinians for being the site of several chilling occurrences. One version of the bridge's story is that a woman conceived a child out of wedlock and out of desperation, she jumped to her death from the bridge. Years later, locals still say they hear the cries of her baby and sometimes even encounter the ghostly mother, asking for her child. 2806 High Shoals Rd., Anderson, SC 29621

## Harvest Festivals Celebrate the Season

**Darnell Farms** 

Join in the fun of harvest season this year by attending one of the Carolinas' popular harvest festivals. This fall you'll have your choice of festivities. From parades to BBQ cookoffs, there are plenty of reasons to celebrate the start of autumn!

#### ост 23

#### Plow Day & Harvest Festival Darnell Farms, 2300 Governors Island Rd.

Bryson City, NC 28713

The Plow Day and Harvest Festival is hosted by Darnell Farms in Western North Carolina. It marks the end of the local harvest season and celebrates fall in just about every quintessential way possible. Need to get your pumpkin fix this year? Enter the pumpkin pie eating contest, and you'll have more than your fill. If you prefer to stay in the kitchen, pull out your secret recipe and submit a homemade pie to be judged. You can even enter canned goods if baking isn't your forte. The festival also boasts a corn maze and several craft vendors so you can get a head-start on holiday gift-buying.



#### **NC Pecan Harvest Festival**

Downtown Whiteville, NC 28472

The North Carolina Pecan Harvest Festival stands out as one of the few harvest-related events to occur in November. This two-day fest starts off with a fun fall "Queen's Luncheon" on Friday. The following day, visitors can watch the Pecan Harvest Festival's morning parade. You'll then have the chance to show off your athletic skills by participating in the 5K run/walk. If you prefer a less active day, consider stopping by the Classic Cruisers' car show and admiring the collection of vintage cars. Stick around and listen to live music from some local bands to unwind for the rest of the day.



## SC Pecan Harvest Festival

One of the largest events in the Florence area, the SC Pecan Harvest Festival draws over 50,000 people each year. The one-day event is filled with activities from start to finish. There are a variety of live music performances throughout the day and a children's stage which includes magic shows, cheerleading, and fitness classes. For those interested in a little shopping therapy, you have 250 vendors to choose from. You can start your Christmas shopping a little early or enjoy a delicious treat. The kids will also love the amusement rides, and the entire family can enjoy the culinary competitions, artist displays, and classic car show.



#### SC Oyster Festival

1616 Blanding St, Columbia, SC 29201

Because oysters are most flavorful in months that end in "R", the fall is the perfect season to celebrate this humble shellfish. With over 10,000 pounds of fresh oysters served steamed and fried, the South Carolina Oyster Festival is Columbia's largest outdoor oyster roast. So, pack up the kids, lawn chairs, an oyster knife (or purchase one there) and head to the grounds of the Robert Mills House and Hampton-Preston Mansion in Columbia, SC. Activities at the event include free children's entertainment, live music, shopping, and (of course) food, and beverages.

Cost to attend is \$6 in advance, \$10 at the gate, and children 16 & under free. Please note the ticket price does not include food and beverages.

Part of the fun of harvest festivals includes participating in some of the competitions mentioned above. Refer to each festival's official website for information about deadlines for registration.

While you're at the festival, be sure to keep young ones close by and arrange for a meetup point if you get separated. Don't forget to wear comfortable shoes, and consider bringing a backpack to carry any items you purchase to take home, such as crafts or canned goods.



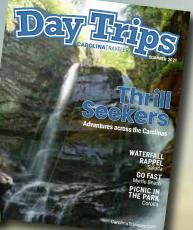


PO BOX 1175 CORNELIUS, NC 28078



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





www.CarolinaTraveler.com