

Free and available online, as a pdf, or you can call for a print version

For travelers who gravitate to the genuine, “The Official 2024 North Carolina Travel Guide” greets readers with 112 pages of inspiration for trips across 500 miles of scenic wonder, rich culture and tempting cuisine. The guide includes signposts for all 100 North Carolina counties in a mix that ranges from headline attractions to everyday magic.

“The 2024 Guide embodies the ‘For Real, Visit NC’ brand,” said Wit Tuttell, executive director of Visit North Carolina. “Travel is less about checkmarks on a bucket list than connections to authentic places and people. It’s about the freedom to explore, experience and discover. Our state motto — *esse quam videri* — translates as ‘to be, rather than to seem,’ and there’s no better place than North Carolina for travelers to live in the moment and leave enriched.”

“The Official 2024 North Carolina Travel Guide” is free. The print edition is available at the state’s nine Welcome Centers or by calling 800-847-4862 (800-VISITNC). Readers can also link to [VisitNC.com/travel-guides](http://VisitNC.com/travel-guides) to request a copy, access the digital edition or download a PDF version.

The Guide makes a strong impression from the start with a cover photo of a wakeboarder at Lake Lure to highlight the mountain region. Flip open to see double-page images representing the state’s other main regions: the Piedmont (with the famous No. 2 golf course at Pinehurst Resort) and the coast (with the Beaufort waterfront across from Cape Lookout National Seashore). Visual appeal across the state comes through in more than 160 images and illustrations depicting natural landmarks, attractions and destination scenes. A detachable map with color-coded regions helps travelers plot the possibilities.

“The Guide showcases well-loved places while adding fresh perspectives and dynamic elements that enhance the travel experience,” Tuttell said. “Among my favorite articles are those that let you hear the voices that welcome you in person. ‘Where the Locals Go,’ for instance, is an insider’s guide to the charms of Sylva, New Bern, Shelby and Salisbury. And ‘This is Our Story’ focuses on the state’s earliest residents from the perspective of an indigenous writer.”

Other editorial highlights include “Traveling Light,” a feature on eco-conscious adventures that blends inspirational photography and illustrations; “City Stars,” a quick-hits overview of seven urban destinations; and “Golf Getaways,” a roundup that directs attention to outdoor activities beyond the greens. Throughout the guide, callouts with QR codes connect readers to the Outdoor NC sustainability principles while “Accessible Fun for All” and “Paw of Approval” entries direct users to related points of interest.

In all, “The Official 2024 North Carolina Travel Guide” features more than 150 towns and cities and highlights nearly 350 attractions, restaurants, lodging properties and events. Users will find statewide travel information as well as listings for state agencies and local tourism centers. Attentive readers will discover a potential payoff with an invitation to complete a survey for a chance to win \$10,000 as they contribute feedback to help shape the 2025 edition.

“People are naturally drawn to North Carolina for its scenic beauty and signature attractions,” Tuttell said. “The Guide takes travelers beyond those hallmarks to rewarding discoveries and enriching experiences that transform a visit into a trip of a lifetime.”

For more information to inspire a trip, stop by [VisitNC.com](http://VisitNC.com).

**About Visit North Carolina** Visit North Carolina is part of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC), a private nonprofit corporation that serves as North Carolina’s economic development organization. The EDPNC focuses on business and job recruitment, existing industry support, international trade, tourism and film marketing.

As the official destination organization for the state, Visit North Carolina’s mission is to unify and lead the state in positioning North Carolina as a preferred destination for leisure travel, group tours, meetings and conventions, sports events and film production, maximizing economic vitality statewide. North Carolina welcomes approximately 43 million visitors annually whose spend more than \$33 billion in the state. The tourism industry employs more than 216,000 jobs throughout the state and generates nearly \$2.5 billion in state and local tax revenues. For more information about Visit North Carolina, go to [VisitNC.com](http://VisitNC.com).

## State Wildlife Agency Reports Increase in Serious and Fatal Firearm-Related Hunting Incidents

### State Wildlife Enforcement Reminds Hunters to Keep Safety Top of Mind

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) Law Enforcement Division is experiencing an increase in firearm-related hunting incidents this year involving serious injury and fatalities. NCWRC reminds hunters to practice firearm safety when hunting or using firearms.

Wildlife Law Enforcement reports there have been five fatalities involving hunting with a firearm this hunting season, more than the past three seasons combined, which had one fatality between 2020-2022. Fourteen hunting-related incidents have occurred thus far in 2023, with 11 of them involving a firearm.

“The current data for this season indicates that 50% of hunting incidents involving a firearm resulted in a fatality,” said Capt. Branden Jones of NCWRC’s Law Enforcement Division.

North Carolina ranks seventh in the nation for licensed hunters at 603,995, according to the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA). Many firearm injuries occur when hunters fail to properly identify their target and mistake another hunter for game, or carelessly handle a firearm resulting in self-inflicted injuries.

Hunting incidents can be reduced through safe firearm handling. NCWRC offers the following important rules of firearm safety: 1) Positively identify target before pulling the trigger; 2) Always point a firearm in a safe direction; 3) Treat every firearm as if it were loaded and never assume it’s unloaded; 4) Use binoculars, rather than a rifle scope, to identify the target; 5) Keep finger out of the trigger guard and off the trigger until ready to shoot; 6) Be sure of the target and that there are no houses, vehicles, powerlines, livestock or people in front of or behind it; 7) Avoid the use of alcohol and drugs as they may affect judgement when hunting; 8) Comply with blaze orange laws as required.

“Let someone know your whereabouts and approximate return time,” says Capt. Jones. “We want everyone participating in hunting activities to keep safety as their number one priority and continue to make memories for many years to come.”

In efforts to reduce hunting-related incidents, NCWRC offers basic hunter education certification courses, both in-person and online.

“Through increased education, access to shooting ranges, and advanced educational opportunities, students and hunters become more skilled and proficient in the use of hunting equipment,” said NCWRC Engagement and Education Manager, Carissa Daniels. “They also help hunters become more knowledgeable and aware of measures they can incorporate for a safer hunting experience.”

For more hunting information visit these NCWRC’s webpages for the 2023-24 Inland Fishing, Hunting & Trapping Regulations Digest ([ncwildlife.org/Licensing/Regulations](http://ncwildlife.org/Licensing/Regulations)), hunter education ([ncwildlife.org/Hunting/Before-The-Hunt/Hunter-Education-Courses](http://ncwildlife.org/Hunting/Before-The-Hunt/Hunter-Education-Courses)), hunting webinars for new hunters ([ncwildlife.org/Learning/Courses-Seminars-Workshops/Getting-Started-Outdoors](http://ncwildlife.org/Learning/Courses-Seminars-Workshops/Getting-Started-Outdoors)), and Chronic Wasting Disease: ([ncwildlife.org/Hunting/Chronic-Wasting-Disease](http://ncwildlife.org/Hunting/Chronic-Wasting-Disease)).

## Be Alert for Medicare and Health Insurance Scams

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey sounded the alarm to North Carolina Medicare and health insurance consumers as the end of the open enrollment period nears for both Medicare and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) programs.

“We are getting numerous complaints from ACA consumers across the state who believe their plan was changed without their authorization,” Commissioner Causey said. “As for Medicare beneficiaries, we are getting reports that they have been billed for equipment and supplies they never ordered.”

According to complaints by consumers who bought health insurance on the federal marketplace (ACA), they did not know that their plan was changed until they visited a medical provider and discovered they didn’t have the coverage they thought they had.

The Department’s Consumer Services Division and Agent Services Division found out, in some instances, unscrupulous agents would re-enroll their clients into a new plan to collect the commission all the while changing their mailing address, email and phone number so they would not be alerted to this fraudulent behavior by being contacted by the new company. This may also affect their taxes as they would receive a 1095A tax statement on the new plan for the premium tax credit.

Another avenue for unauthorized activity occurs when consumers mistakenly click on an ad on social media. When they do so, agents or agencies connected to the ads enroll the consumer in a plan and collect a fee.

The Department of Insurance has limited jurisdiction over these federal insurance plans. However, we can help consumers get their original plan reinstated without a break in coverage by working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and U.S. Sen. Ted Budd’s office.

The Department has received nearly 9,500 Medicare fraud complaints so far this year. Most of the complaints involved consumers being billed for supplies and equipment they did not order or need. Some complaints involve beneficiaries being charged twice for a service they needed only once.

Our Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) and Seniors Medicare Patrol have worked with CMS to combat this problem.

Commissioner Causey reminds consumers to never give out their Medicare number or Social Security number to anyone except your doctor or people you know should have it. Also, don’t accept offers of money or gifts for free medical care, don’t allow anyone except your doctor or other Medicare providers to review your medical records or recommend service. Finally, don’t join a Medicare health or drug plan over the phone unless you call them. For questions, please call 855-408-1212 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

## JANUARY 7

**First Service at New Church Building With Official Entering Into the Sanctuary** at House of Prayer Missionary Baptist Church, 600 Camden Rd in Wadesboro, 3pm. All are welcome!

### ONGOING

#### Prayer Line

Each Wednesday, Reaching the Lost Church of God from 7-8pm. Call 704-695-1842. Someone will be available to assist you and pray with you

#### Sunday Youth Day

Every 5th Sunday at Cedar Creek MBC

#### Bible Study

Every Tuesday night at 7pm at Garris Grove MBC

## Events

### JANUARY 16

#### Board of Commissioners Meet

6pm in Board Room, Suite 209, in Government Center, 101 S Greene St in uptown Wadesboro. Meetings are available online at [youtube.com](http://youtube.com), search for Anson Commissioners. To appear, sign up prior to meeting. Info 704-994-3201.

### ONGOING EVENTS

#### Free Food

**Distribution** at Feed My Lambs every Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 1-4pm. Located at 2290 Hwy 74 West, Wadesboro. 704-695-1820

#### Writers’ Club Meets

Fourth Sunday each month at First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro, 3pm (except July & Dec). Open to public, new members of all ages invited. Info 704-694-5211 or [sandybruney@gmail.com](mailto:sandybruney@gmail.com)

#### Lions Club Welcomes

**New Members** The Wadesboro Lions Club meets at Papa Joes Restaurant the 2nd & 4th Thursday each month at 6:30pm For more info or to purchase a broom please call Jim Chandler 910-571-1448

#### Popcorn & a Movie

4th Thursday each month, 1-3pm at Grace Senior Center, 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

#### Compassionate

**Friends Meet** on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm, at the Training Room at First Baptist Church, Lee Avenue in Wadesboro. Bereaved parents, family and friends who have lost a child of any age are invited. Info 704-694-2425

#### Direct and Counter Cyclical Program Sign-ups

Call the Farm Service Agency Office at 704-694-3516 ext. 2 to complete eligibility forms

#### Senior Box

**Program** at Feed My Lambs starts the third Tuesday each month for seniors only. Located at 2290 Hwy 74 West, Wadesboro. 704-695-1820

#### Food Pantry

Free food every Wed, 9-11am at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Ctr. 704-826-8182

#### Book Club

1st Thursday each month, 10am-12 noon at Grace Senior Center, 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

#### Craft & Workshops

3rd Thursday each month, 12-2pm at Grace Senior Center, 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

#### Chair (seated) Exercise

Every Tuesday & Thursday, 10-11am at Grace Senior Center, 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** Regular meetings on Mondays at 7:30pm and Wednesdays at 12 noon. AA welcomes all who are seeking help, as well those wanting to help another person. The AA building is located at 2177 Country Club Rd. in Wadesboro, across from the Anson EMS building.

#### Learning Center Hours

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center, Mon-Fri, 10:30-5:30pm. Computer lab (children & adults), copy service, fax service & resource library. All available to the public for a small fee.

#### After School Program

**Kid Cafe** Mon-Fri from 2:30-5:30p.m. at the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center, 704-826-8737

#### Free Food Distributed by Anson Crisis Ministries

Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 8am-1pm. It is located at 117 North Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro. Telephone is 704-694-2445.

#### Bridge Club

2nd Thursday each month, 1-3pm at Grace Senior Center, 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

## Henry’s Body Shop

704-848-4989

4225 Stanbackferry  
Ice Plant Rd • Lilesville  
Owner: Robbie Henry

## WE SELL APPLIANCE PARTS

## MARTIN FURNITURE FACTORY OUTLET

High Quality - Low Prices

1367 Highway 74 West  
Wadesboro • 704-694-3185

THE CHURCH CALENDAR IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THESE SPONSORS

**C&M AUTO SUPPLY**  
Auto Plus  
Your locally owned Auto Parts Store  
Hwy 74, Wadesboro • 704-694-5167

**Williamson Wrecker Service**  
Since 1972  
704-694-4545

**Badcock HOME OF FURNITURE & more**  
Hwy. 52, South • P.O. Box 856  
Wadesboro, NC 28170  
Ph: 704-694-4178  
www.badcock.com

**PIEDMONT FLOORING**  
All Major Brands of Floor Covering  
Serta & Orderest Bedding  
214 West Main Street in Marshville  
704-624-2211  
MAYTAG • FRIGIDAIRE • CROSLEY

**Papa Joe’s PIZZA**  
Anson Station Shopping Center  
Wadesboro • 704-694-6666

**UWHARRIE BANK**  
704-694-2122  
Member FDIC

**From Your Friends At PARSONS DRUG**  
Serving Anson County for over 100 years  
“On The Square”  
Wadesboro • 704-694-2218

**Glenn Trexler & Sons Logging, Inc.**  
“Freedom of Worship is a Precious Commodity”  
WADESBORO

**H. W. Little & Company**  
Hardware & More!  
Uptown Wadesboro  
704-694-2214

**Henry’s Body Shop**  
704-848-4989  
4225 Stanbackferry  
Ice Plant Rd • Lilesville  
Owner: Robbie Henry

**ADVERTISE HERE! Call The Express to find out how...704-694-2480**