

Read about: A Carolina National Park; Eartha Kitt; Chihuly at Biltmore; No plastics, please; Golf at Myrtle Beach.

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May 1, 2018 Below: Take a hike: Catwoman; Beautiful shape; Hang your shingle here; No plastics, please; gorgeous in the garden; Hum a few bars; This side's for Spring; Pretties at Biltmore; Golf at Myrtle Beach.

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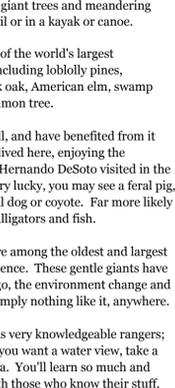
Carolina Adventures



Congaree National Park | Columbia, SC

Preserve and Protect

Don't let the word floodplain scare you. With more than 25 miles of hiking trails and 2.4 miles of boardwalk, visitors can find plenty of ways to stay dry while discovering this magnificent area, filled with bottomland hardwood forest. By its very nature, a floodplain is covered by water periodically, as rivers rise and spread, but unlike a swamp, there is plenty of dry land for much of the year.



Congaree National Park is an awesome site, with one of the tallest temperate deciduous forests in the world, which simply means they go through four seasons, changing colors and dropping leaves, and surviving the temperature changes in these latitudes. Sadly, there aren't many forests like this left, which is why it's thrilling to see giant trees and meandering creeks, from a boardwalk, hiking trail or in a kayak or canoe.

This old-growth forest contains one of the world's largest concentrations of champion trees, including loblolly pines, sweetgums, overcup oak, cherrybark oak, American elm, swamp chestnut oak, and a common persimmon tree.

Living creatures love the park as well, and have benefited from it since the earliest Native Americans lived here, enjoying the abundant fish and game. Some say Hernando DeSoto visited in the spring of 1540. Today, if you are very lucky, you may see a feral pig, bobcat, armadillo, turkey, otter, feral dog or coyote. Far more likely are sightings of turtles and snakes, alligators and fish.

WOW Factor: To see trees that are among the oldest and largest in the world is a breathtaking experience. These gentle giants have watched the generations come and go, the environment change and the world keep spinning. There is simply nothing like it, anywhere.

Hint: You'll find facilities, as well as very knowledgeable rangers; take advantage of their expertise. If you want a water view, take a guided tour from Adventure Carolina. You'll learn so much and enjoy the ride along Cedar Creek with those who know their stuff.

Visit the Harry Hampton Visitor Center. Bring your leashed dog, if you like, but leave the bikes at home. Consider buying a new book, Congaree National Park, by John E. Cely, retired wildlife biologist and naturalist who's spent 40+ years exploring the park. The photography (old and new) is stunning. Find the book at Barnes and Noble, or through ArcadiaPublishing.com.

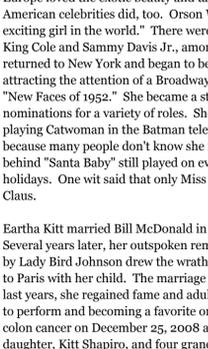
www.nps.gov/cong

78 more ways to have fun.

Photos: top, courtesy Sean Rayford for Experience Columbia SC; bottom, courtesy SCPRT

Carolina Adventures links https://www.nps.gov/cong/index.htm https://carolinaling.com/adventures

Famous Faces



Miss Kitt

Chanteuse, dancer, actor and more.

January 21, 1927 – December 25, 2008

Eartha Kitt's ties to South Carolina were biological and emotionally significant, but short-lived, relatively speaking.

Born on a cotton plantation near the tiny town of North, not far from Columbia, her background was shrouded in mystery. Her mother was 16, half black, half Cherokee Indian. Her father was unknown, although certainly white. Some said he was a son of the plantation owner, but that possibility never made it into the official story.

There was much prejudice against mixed-race children in those days, and little Eartha had a rough early childhood. Sent to live with an aunt in Harlem when she was eight, Miss Kitt discovered music and dance and never looked back. She attended Katherine Dunham School of Dance, and toured with the troupe before the age of 20.

Europe loved the exotic beauty and talent of Miss Kitt, but the most of American celebrities did, too. Orson Wells called her "the most exciting girl in the world." There were rumored dalliances with Nat King Cole and Sammy Davis Jr., among others. Eventually, she returned to New York and began to be noticed in Greenwich Village, attracting the attention of a Broadway producer who put her in "New Faces of 1952." She became a star, receiving Tony nominations for a variety of roles. She may be best remembered for playing Catwoman in the Batman television series, but that's only because many people don't know she is the famous sultry voice behind "Santa Baby" still played on every radio station during the holidays. One wit said that only Miss Kitt could try to seduce Santa Claus.

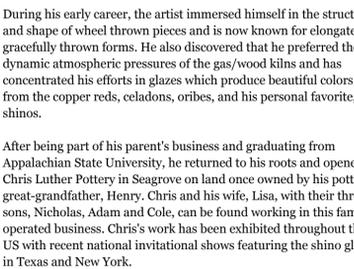
Eartha Kitt married Bill McDonald in 1960 and had a daughter. Several years later, her outspoken remarks during a luncheon given by Lady Bird Johnson drew the wrath of LBJ and again, she escaped to Paris with her child. The marriage did not survive. During her last years, she regained fame and adulation in America, continuing to perform and becoming a favorite on talk shows. Miss Kitt died of colon cancer on December 25, 2008 and is survived by her beloved daughter, Kitt Shapiro, and four grandchildren.

Visit www.earthakitt.com for books, music and memorabilia.

Discover more Carolina celebrities, artists, politicians and athletes. Famous Faces.

Famous Faces links https://www.amazon.com/cece/obidos/ASIN/B001NBzZS2/carolinaling-20 http://earthakitt.com/ https://carolinaling.com/culture/famous-carolina-faces

Carolina Creatives



A Vein Runs Through It

As a descendant of one of Seagrove, NC's founding pottery families, the Chriscoses, Basem Luther began his pottery career at a young age in his parent's basement studio. Chris had the wonderful opportunity to observe and receive training in the traditions of this area's culture through his family and two mentors, Bob Armfield of Oakland Pottery and Archie Teague, of Seagrove's Teague Pottery factory. Through their influences, the imprint of NC Art Pottery is evident in his work along with the combination of contemporary aesthetics.

During his early career, the artist immersed himself in the structure and shape of wheel thrown pieces and is now known for elongated, gracefully thrown forms. He also discovered that he preferred the dynamic atmospheric pressures of the gas/wood kilns and has concentrated his efforts in glazes which produce beautiful colors from the copper reds, celadons, oribes, and his personal favorite, the shinos.

After being part of his parent's business and graduating from Appalachian State University, he returned to his roots and opened Chris Luther Pottery in Seagrove on land once owned by his potter great-grandfather, Henry. Chris and his wife, Lisa, with their three sons, Nicholas, Adam and Cole, can be found working in this family operated business. Chris's work has been exhibited throughout the US with recent national invitational shows featuring the shino glazes in Texas and New York.

Read more.

Our artist vibe is strong. Local painters, sculptors, jewelry makers, glass artisans, potters and woodworkers. Find them.

Carolina Creatives links https://www.facebook.com/Chris-Luther-Pottery-259641696800/ https://carolinaling.com/culture

Meet Me in the Garden!



Asheville, NC – Biltmore will unveil its first art exhibition ever in its ashier gardens when Chihuly at Biltmore opens on May 17, 2018. The exhibition will feature the works of globally-renowned artist Dale Chihuly, and will run through Oct. 7, 2018.

A leader in the development of glass as a fine art, Chihuly is celebrated for large architectural installations that have captivated viewers around the U.S. and throughout the world. The Chihuly at Biltmore exhibition will feature awe-inspiring artworks in both Biltmore House and the gardens, and is included in admission.

Biltmore House and the estate's landscaped vistas are locations for these dramatic, large-scale sculptures that combine brilliant colors and striking forms set in Biltmore's century-old gardens. Chihuly-inspired accommodations below.

Tickets: www.biltmore.com/chihuly

Photo: A similar installation in Dallas showcasing Chihuly's work. Copyright © Chihuly Studio

Meet Me in the Garden! link http://www.biltmore.com/visit/plan-your-visit/buy-tickets/chihuly-at-biltmore

Great Small Cities for Business Start-ups



In advance of small Business Week, the perennial lifestyle influencer, Wallet Hub, announced its findings on where to dip your entrepreneurial toe in the water if a large metropolis isn't your thing. Sure, each is different, but some characteristics are more important than others, including lifestyle amenities and simpatico labor force.

Here are the Carolina favorites in the top 100:

- #4 Wilson, NC #13 Salisbury, NC #15 Sanford, NC #25 New Bern, NC #43 Greenville, SC #47 Mooresville, NC #59 Rock Hill, SC #63 Asheville, NC #85 Gastonia, NC #90 Myrtle Beach SC



Get the list.

Discover what makes these towns perfect for entrepreneurs, to live, history, parks and strong community support? Yes, to all. Check out Entrepreneur Resources.

Myrtle Beach, SC, image courtesy VisitMyrtleBeach.com New Bern, NC, image courtesy VisitNC.com

Great Small Cities for Business Start-ups links https://www.visitnewbern.com/retire-new-bern/ https://www.visitmyrtlebeach.com/relocation/ https://wallethub.com/edu/best-small-cities-to-start-a-business/20180/#main-findings https://carolinaling.com/financial-matters/entrepreneurial-resources

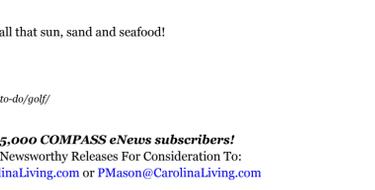
Carolina Cuisine



Asparagus Mimosa

It's one of the loveliest of spring vegetables, and although you can buy it year round, fresh is truly best. I tried to grow the green shoots once, but sadly, was successful only in growing treats for the bunnies when they came up at all.

Those without a green thumb say asparagus thrives in the Carolinas, and it does. At least in farmers' markets and roadside stands. Try this delightful Asparagus Mimosa any time. It's easy and makes a lovely presentation, especially if you sprinkle a bit of chopped roasted red pepper over the top.

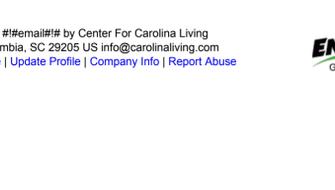


Enjoy Our Tasty Collection of Carolina Recipes:

- Breakfast | Beverages | Breadfast | Appetizers | Sides & Salads | Soup | Seafood | Meat and Poultry | Desserts

Carolina Cuisine links https://carolinaling.com/recipes https://carolinaling.com/recipes/breads https://carolinaling.com/recipes/beverages https://carolinaling.com/recipes/appetizers https://carolinaling.com/recipes/sides-salads https://carolinaling.com/recipes/soup https://carolinaling.com/recipes/seafood https://carolinaling.com/recipes/meat-and-poultry https://carolinaling.com/recipes/desserts

NewsWorthy



Want to see the remarkable Chihuly sculptures shown above? Here's how.



Chihuly Nights at Biltmore

During reservation-only Chihuly Nights at Biltmore, the artworks will be dramatically illuminated to showcase their colors and shapes. Guests will enjoy live music in the gardens; and choose from a selection of wines from an alfresco wine bar.

Chihuly Nights at Biltmore will be offered on select evenings throughout the exhibition's run. Guests may extend the evening at one of Biltmore's lodging properties – The Inn on Biltmore Estate or Village Hotel on Biltmore Estate. Both properties will offer special Chihuly-inspired stay packages.

More information may be found at www.biltmore.com/stay

Daytime admission to Chihuly at Biltmore is included in the general admission ticket price. Admission to see Chihuly Nights at Biltmore requires a separate ticket.

Tickets are now available at www.biltmore.com/chihuly.



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Visit Myrtle Beach

https://www.visitmyrtlebeach.com/things-to-do/golf/

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Compiled by Katherine O. Pettit • Designed by Ann Dolin

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