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Learn about the best North Carolina and South Carolina adventures, destinations, attractions and communities. Visit and explore!

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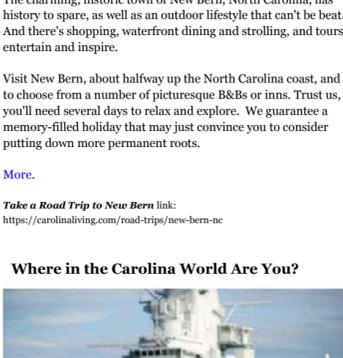


February 8, 2018 Below: History on the waterfront; Military salute; Winter threads of gold; the Holy City's great party; Magnificent mansion; Shop til you drop; Make it in 3-D; Coffee and chocolate; Albemarle; Haig Point.

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Take a Road Trip to New Bern



The charming, historic town of New Bern, North Carolina, has history to spare, as well as an outdoor lifestyle that can't be beat. And there's shopping, waterfront dining and strolling, and tours to entertain and inspire.

Visit New Bern, about halfway up the North Carolina coast, and plan to choose from a number of picturesque B&Bs or inns. Trust us, you'll need several days to relax and explore. We guarantee a memory-filled holiday that may just convince you to consider putting down more permanent roots.

[More.](#)

Take a Road Trip to New Bern link:
<https://carolinalive.com/road-trips/new-bern-nc>



Where in the Carolina World Are You?



This magnificent heroine was born in Virginia and served our country honorably from 1943 until 1970, earning a number of battle stars for her work during the Second World War, as well as off the coast of Vietnam. She also was the ship that recovered the Apollo 8 astronauts after they splashed down in 1968, but that's another story.

Today, families come from everywhere to go above and below decks. Permanently moored across from one of America's favorite cities, this beauty entertains and educates throughout the year.

[Where are you?](#)

Photo courtesy SCPRT

Where in the Carolina World Are You? link:
<https://carolinalive.com/traveling/where-are-you/battleship-tour>



Carolina Grown



Golden Threadleaf Sawara Cypress

A Touch of Gold in the Winter Landscape

Written by Robert F. Polomski, Ph.D

I've made it clear in this column that winter is my least favorite season. I always seek winter-blooming flowers to raise my spirits. However, before the yellow-flowered daffodils bloom to give me hope that spring is coming, I rely on the soft-textured floppy drooping gold threadlike leaves of golden threadleaf sawara cypress (*Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Filifera Aurea'*).

Like the golden locks of Rapunzel's long hair, golden threadleaf sawara cypress draws attention in the winter landscape. Golden threadleaf sawara cypress can reach a height of 18 to 20 ft. and maintain its attractive broad, conical shape. If you prefer smaller versions, consider 'Golden Mop' and 'Filifera Aurea Nana,' 'Lemon Yellow,' and 'Paul's Gold,' which produce equally gorgeous foliage, but in smaller packages.

To maintain its golden color, site golden threadleaf sawara cypress in full sun. Golden threadleaf sawara cypress is not finicky about soil: expect performances in heavy clay, sandy and moist loamy soils. Avoid "hog wallows" or poorly drained areas in your landscape. When it receives too much shade, the golden color recedes and gives rise to green. Use golden threadleaf sawara cypress as a stand-alone focal point or accent in the landscape. It partners well with other shrubs or small trees and punctuates evergreen screens with pops of gold.

Some garden design critics consider golden threadleaf sawara cypress to be gaudy or visually offensive. I disagree. I find this brilliant, year-round eye-catching look appealing. For me, happiness resides in the tightly woven gold threads of golden threadleaf sawara cypress.

[Best of Carolina Grown Beauties](#)

Learn more about Carolina gardening from Dr. Polomski's new book, *Carolinas Month by Month Gardening*.

Available wherever books are sold.

Photo by Robert F. Polomski, Ph.D

Carolina Grown link:
<https://carolinalive.com/lifestyle/garden-carolina-grown>

Put your Party On.



Charleston Wine + Food festival February 28-March 4, 2018

From the culinary village to the entertainment, wine and food events and entertainment, this is a festival for adults only (leave the kiddies and furry friends at home). With more than 400 chefs, wine, beer and booze specialists, artists, farmers and culinary experts, this is a big deal, in one of the world's favorite destinations. Held the first full weekend in March each year, 2018 marks lucky 13 and you will love spending a long weekend in the midst of it all.

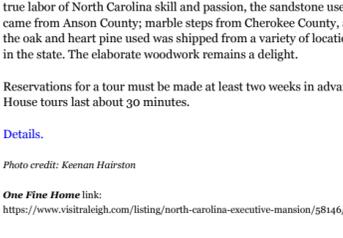
Cooking classes and wine events are always popular!

Check out the website for parking and all the particulars. Reserve a hotel room today, if possible. And for ease in getting around, use Uber, or perhaps Charleston's new bike share program [Holy Spokes](#). What fun this is!

charlestonwineandfood.com

Photos by Adam Chandler, courtesy of Charleston Wine + Food

One Fine Home



North Carolina Executive Mansion

It's a beautiful Victorian mansion, but you can't simply walk in for a tour. Built in 1891 and used by North Carolina's Governors since then, it was called "the most beautiful governor's residence interior in America" by FDR, who visited many such mansions throughout the country.

Inmates were used to help with the construction and the bricks were made in Wake County, NC. Look for names inscribed with the names of men who made them, still visible on many of the bricks. A true labor of North Carolina skill and passion, the sandstone used came from Anson County; marble steps from Cherokee County, and the oak and heart pine used was shipped from a variety of locations in the state. The elaborate woodwork remains a delight.

Reservations for a tour must be made at least two weeks in advance. House tours last about 30 minutes.

[Details.](#)

Photo credit: Keenan Hairston

One Fine Home link:
<https://www.visitraleigh.com/listing/north-carolina-executive-mansion/58146/>

Science Geeks Grow Here



Port Discover, Elizabeth City, NC

Children of all ages will love Port Discover. Little ones receive hands-on help where introduced to science fun. Teens 12 and older will adore the 3-D printer and the tech café. And parents and grandparents will appreciate a bit of education slipped into vacation fun. Check it out for special events and year round good times. Free admittance; donations are accepted.

[Port Discover](#)

Science Geeks Grow Here link:
<https://visitelizabethcity.com/things-to-do/port-discover/>

Carolina Cuisine



Coffee and Chocolate

Everyone loves chocolate. Many of us also love coffee, as much for the taste as the kick of caffeine. At The Willcox in Aiken, the chef has combined the flavors into a glorious dessert that's worth that extra effort to create it. No, I haven't tackled it yet, but on a crisp Saturday afternoon, I'm thinking it's just the thing for a romantic tryst around Valentine's Day, or to impress my book club beyond all reason.

Try [Chocolate Coffee Mousse Cake](#) with someone you love, or someone you'd like to get to know a whole lot better!

Carolina Cuisine link:
<https://carolinalive.com/recipes/desserts/chocolate-coffee-mousse>

NewsWorthy



Coasting at a Higher Level Discover Albemarle Plantation

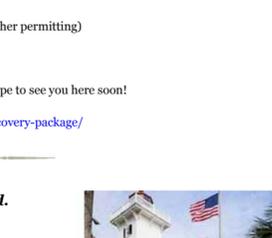
The residents at Albemarle near lovely Herford in northeast NC, and their Property Owner-owned real estate firm have some special joy to enjoy a taste of Albemarle Plantation easily and cost-effectively.

"Discover Albemarle" packages are available exclusively through AP Realty Company, and include:

- 3-day/2-night Stay
- Complimentary Golf
- Sightseeing Boat Tour of Albemarle Plantation (weather permitting)
- Full Use of Amenities
- Guided Tour of Property

The drive here is easy -- so too is the decision. We hope to see you here soon!

More info. albemarleplantation.com/real-estate/discovery-package/



A Weekend Away on Daufuskie Island. Discover Haig Point

There's something amazing about island living. Experience the lifestyle and community of Haig Point for a three-day, two-night weekend in private, unspoiled surroundings on Daufuskie Island next to Hilton Head that includes accommodations and great amenities.

Weekend includes

- One round of golf for two people on the Rees Jones course
- One breakfast for two at the Clubhouse
- One lunch for two at the Clubhouse
- One dinner for two at the Calibogue Club
- Complimentary pass for ferries and water taxis
- Complimentary parking at Embarkation Center
- A personal tour of Haig Point.

[Details: haigpoint.com/lifestyle/discovery](http://haigpoint.com/lifestyle/discovery)



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