

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

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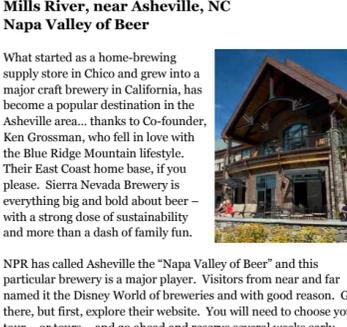


January 25, 2018 Below: Pour a pint for me; Save the males; A tisket, a tasket; Three Billboards; Little Uno, happy at last; Name dropping; Easygoing winter; What an Appetizer; Discover Albemarle Plantation; Explore Haig Point.

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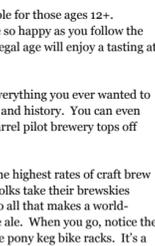


Adventure: Sierra Nevada Brewery



Mills River, near Asheville, NC Napa Valley of Beer

What started as a home-brewing supply store in Chico and grew into a major craft brewery in California, has become a popular destination in the Asheville area... thanks to Co-founder, Ken Grossman, who falls in love with the Blue Ridge Mountain lifestyle. Their East Coast home base, if you please, Sierra Nevada Brewery is everything big and bold about beer – with a strong dose of sustainability and more than a dash of family fun.



NPR has called Asheville the "Napa Valley of Beer" and this particular brewery is a major player. Visitors from near and far named it the Disney World of breweries and with good reason. Go there, but first, explore their website. You will need to choose your tour – or tours – and go ahead and reserve several weeks early. They're that popular. Here are a few of our favorites.

The IPA Tour is for those ages 21+. Visitors will learn about the process and why these folks do what they do best. You'll come away with beer knowledge that will impress your pals.

The Brewhouse Tour is free and available for those ages 12+. Reservations are required, but you'll be so happy as you follow the process from hops to brews. Those of legal age will enjoy a tasting at the end of the tour.

The Beer Geek Tour is three hours of everything you ever wanted to know about craft beer – its ingredients and history. You can even sample beer from the tanks. The 20-barrel pilot brewery tops off your tour.

WOW Factor: Asheville has one of the highest rates of craft brew consumption in the Southeast. These folks take their brewsquis quite seriously, from taste, to quality, to all that makes a world-famous beer, such as their flagship pale ale. When you go, notice the details, including the old kettles and the pony keg bike racks. It's a pretty place, with great, fresh cuisine to go along with their masterpieces. Plan to stay for a meal – the Taproom and Restaurant offers chef-driven farm-to-table delights (that pair beautifully with their beer, of course).

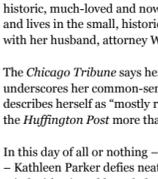
Hint: Try to go when there's live music at the Amphitheater. Don't rush it. Tour the beer garden and relax on the sunny porch. There are short tours and self-guided tours for busy, independent folks. In the gift shop, check out the Tropical Torpedo flamingo koozie – a perfect gift for yourself and your friends who were foolish enough to stay home.

www.sierranevada.com

Photo: [Sierra Nevada Brewery | Asheville, NC](#) | [Photography: VisitNC.com](#)

Adventure: [Sierra Nevada Brewery link:](#)
<https://www.sierranevada.com/>
<https://carolinainliving.com/adventures>

Famous Faces



Kathleen Parker

Nationally Syndicated Columnist

Her southern roots run deep and she doesn't try to hide them. Although Ms. Parker was born and raised in Winter Haven Florida, her mother (who died when she was three) was from Barnwell County, in South Carolina from a family that dates back to the late 1600s in residing there. She spent some summers in Columbia, SC, with her mother's family, got her start when she was hired to write for the historic, much-loved and now-defunct *Charleston Evening Post*, and lives in the small, historic, horse-loving town of Camden, SC with her husband, attorney Woody Cleveland. They have three sons.

The *Chicago Tribune* says her "clear, descriptive, lively writing underscores her common-sense approach to life's challenges." She describes herself as "mostly right of center" yet has been quoted in the *Huffington Post* more than once.

In this day of all or nothing – especially in this day of all or nothing – Kathleen Parker defies neat little pigeonholing. She speaks her mind with wit and knowledge, taking aim at those who, in her view of the sorry state of affairs in our politically polarized country, deserve a calling out, or at least a heads-up.

She holds a master's degree in Spanish from Florida State University, and traveled and studied abroad. In 1987, she began her column for the *Orlando Sentinel*. In 1993, she won the H.L. Menchen Writing Award. Later, she joined the *Washington Post* Writers Group. *The Week* magazine named her as one of the country's top five columnists in 2004 and 2005. In 2010, she received the Pulitzer Prize for her political commentary.

She serves as writer in residence at the Buckley School of Public Speaking, is on *USA Today's* Board of Contributors, and is syndicated in more than 400 publications. Ms. Parker is author of *Save the Males: Why Men Matter, Why Women Should Care*. And she's funny. In her own words, "My ambitious goal is to try to inject a little sanity into a world gone barking mad."

Famous Faces link:
<https://carolinainliving.com/culture/famous-carolina-faces>

Carolina Creatives



Sweetgrass Basket Artists

Do not confuse these coiled, tightly fashioned baskets with inexpensive lightweight, often machine-made in China. Handmade sweetgrass baskets, found along coastal South Carolina and down to Savannah, have a rich heritage that can be traced back to the West African enslaved people who brought their skills with them.



In the late 1600s, baskets were made for use in the rice harvest. Later, they were adapted for use in homes, for bread, sewing, fruit displays and other uses.

Today, an estimated 500 artists or fewer create sweetgrass baskets, but the craft continues to be passed down from generation to generation. Barbara Dengler and Corey Alston are two who sell their baskets to the visitors who search out the real thing. Marilyn Dingle's handwoven classics are revered in the region. There are a number of artists in the City

Market in Charleston, at the four corners of Charleston, and along Highway 17 north from the Charleston toward Georgetown. Examples are on display at museums including the Smithsonian.

These beauties are created from sweetgrass, bulrush, longleaf pine needles and palm fronds. Split oak or other materials are occasionally used. Expect to pay anywhere from \$40 to several thousand dollars, depending on the intricacy of the design and the size of the piece. (Loops woven into the pieces cost more.) Collectors search for them at estate auctions and resale shops, but buyer beware.

If it's pretty, but lightweight, and is selling for very little, it's probably not the real thing. An authentic basket takes many hours to create. Even a simple, small piece requires eight hours or more. Each is unique and many artists "let the grasses speak" as they wind the coils and imagine their design.

Google Sweetgrass baskets and you'll find artists, history and a wealth of information.

Photos: top, [ExploreCharleston.com](#); bottom, [SCPRT](#)

Carolina Creatives link:
<https://carolinainliving.com/culture>

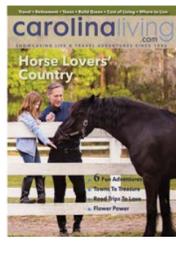
Our Famous Faces!



You'll be surprised at how many movers and shakers have connections to the Carolinas: Actors, Artists, Sports Giants, Writers, Journalists, Presidents and more. James Taylor, Andie MacDowell, Maya Angelou, Dizzy Gillespie, Chubby Checker and so many more. [Check 'em out.](#)

Our Famous Faces link:
<https://carolinainliving.com/culture/famous-carolina-faces>

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70 this past weekend!

You've just gotta love winter in the South. Movies, good books, roaring fires, long walks, year-round golf, Lowcountry stews. Today, shorts and sandals, and later, wine on the deck. And on that occasional dusting of white: when it happens, we all stay home from work and school and play. Do share your favorite ways to embrace the (relatively mild) chill in the air. And please, like us on Facebook.

Facebook link:
<https://www.facebook.com/Carolina-Living-331011591422/>



- Let's Take a Road Trip
- Carolina Famous Faces
- Insider Info
- Adventures

Visit "Three Billboards" Locations



Highlights include Picturesque towns in North Carolina

The title says Ebbing, Missouri, but the heart of Martin McDonagh's award-winning film, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" lies in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Film travelers can discover the timeless towns where the action was staged in a new trip planner posted by Visit North Carolina.

McDonagh cast Sylva, Dillsboro, Maggie Valley and Black Mountain as the fictional tale town for "Three Billboards" which stars Frances McDormand as a mother who badgers the local police department for failing to solve her daughter's murder. Since opening in November, "Three Billboards" has amassed a long list of awards and nominations from critics and the film industry.

The trip planner from Visit North Carolina directs film fans to sites including the consignment/gift shop Sassy Frass in Sylva, which stood in for the Ebbing Police Department; Country Traditions, a Dillsboro food and beverage shop that doubled as the workplace for McDormand's character; J. Arthur's Restaurant in Maggie Valley; Town Pump Tavern in Black Mountain as Ebbing's local bar; and the location of the billboards during the shoot. It also leads to Asheville, where Woody Harrelson (who played Police Chief Willoughby) spent time.

[Details.](#)

About *Visit North Carolina*:
Visit North Carolina is part of the Economic Development partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC). www.visitnc.com

Photo: Sylva, NC; courtesy VisitNC.com

Visit "Three Billboards" Locations link:
<https://www.visitnc.com/trip-idea/explore-authentic-locations-from-three-billboards-outside-ebbing-missouri>

Carolina Cuisine



We love you, Hank's

Hank's Seafood Restaurant has won more awards than white in Charleston, a town that wins awards for its food on a daily basis.

We asked them to share a favorite recipe and received a beauty. Try [Seared Rare Tuna](#) (with Fried Green Tomatoes, Arugula, Crispy Pork Rinds with Blue Cheese and BBQ Red Pepper Vinaigrette). It's a mouthful in more ways than one, but you'll be oh-so-happy you found it.

Plan a visit to Hank's when you're in Charleston and arrive hungry, with a friend (or four) so you can share the love that comes to your table. You're welcome.

Carolina Cuisine link:
<https://carolinainliving.com/recipes/seafood/seared-rare-tuna>

NewsWorthy



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

Coasting at a Higher Level Discover Albemarle Plantation

The residents at Albemarle near lovely Hertford in northeast NC, and their Property Owner-owned real estate firm have some special programs that let you 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/

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