

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

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July 12, 2018 Below: Where the High Country Begins; Urbane and more; Two homes/Much history; Bountiful Berries; North Carolina's Napa; Oh Sweet Caramel; Award Winning Weaving; Sip and See.

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Take a Road Trip to Lenoir, NC



You'll find Lenoir, Where the High Country Begins, at the foot of North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains. The area is magnificent, with pastoral scenes of farms and wildflower fields, paths that meander beside crystal clear streams, rolling hills and scenic valleys. In the forests, the aroma of pines is accompanied by the sounds of songbirds. The mild, four-season climate provides spectacular fall foliage and the eternal delights of the occasional roaring fire for marshmallow roasting.

Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy kayaking and leisurely tubing in Wilson Creek, a "wild and scenic river," and Pisgah National Forest features world-class hiking trails. The area has long been known for its heritage of creating fine furniture, and that's still a big calling card for visitors, but there's so much more that makes Lenoir and environs worth exploring.



Artists and nature lovers gather here, farmers' markets and antique stores provide world-class entertainment, dog-friendly parks and business invite you to bring your fur babies, and coffee shops invite conversation.

It's no wonder that retirees are drawn to its many charms, including a lower cost of living and lifelong learning at the local college. (Proof positive? It's also an NC Certified Retirement County.) For many, it's the best of all of North Carolina's many attributes. Intrigued?

Insider Tips.

Photo courtesy The Cooves Mountain River Club

Where In the Carolina World are You?



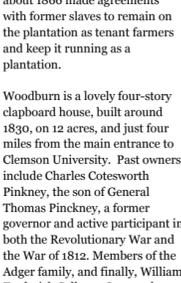
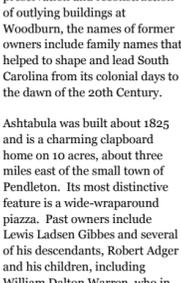
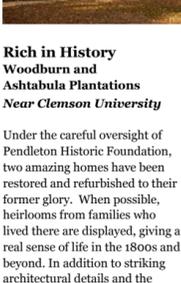
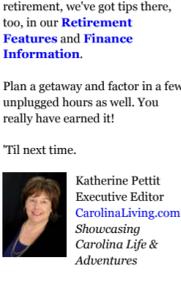
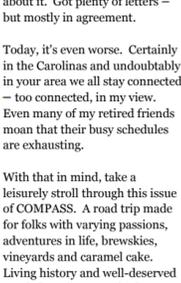
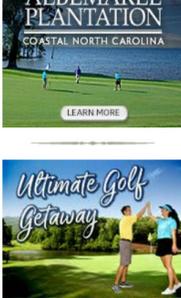
Urban Greenspace

It's one of a kind in more ways than one. This pedestrian bridge sways a bit and that's part of the adventure as you pause and take in the views - and the falls - in this southern town that's getting noticed by everyone.

This is a city renaissance in full swing, with a downtown park that showcases nature's bounty. Take a picnic or visit one of the great restaurants just steps away. It's all good here.

Where are you?

Photo courtesy SCPTP



Rich in History Woodburn and Ashtabula Plantations Near Clemson University

Under the careful oversight of Pendleton Historic Foundation, two amazing homes have been restored and refurbished to their former glory. When possible, heirlooms from families who lived there are displayed, giving a real sense of life in the 1800s and beyond. In addition to striking architectural details and the preservation and reconstruction of outlying buildings at Woodburn, the names of former owners include family names that helped to shape and lead South Carolina from its colonial days to the dawn of the 20th Century.

Ashtabula was built about 1825 and is a charming clapboard home on 10 acres, about three miles east of the small town of Pendleton. Its most-distinguishing feature is a wide-waparound piazza. Past owners include Lewis Ladsen Gibbes and several of his descendants, Robert Adger and his children, including William Dalton Warren, who in about 1866 made agreements with former slaves to remain on the plantation as tenant farmers and keep it running as a plantation.

Woodburn is a lovely four-story clapboard house, built around 1830, on 12 acres, and just four miles from the main entrance to Clemson University. Past owners include Charles Cotesworth Pinkney, the son of General Thomas Pinckney, a former governor and active participant in both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Members of the Adger family, and finally, William Frederick Calhoun Owen, who lived there until the Great Depression forced foreclosure on the property.

Ashtabula and Woodburn are open to the public on Sundays, from 2-5pm. Other times for tours may be available.

More about Ashtabula and Woodburn Plantations.

Top image: Woodburn Plantation; bottom, Ashtabula Plantation. Images courtesy Pendleton Historic Foundation.

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Where does your milk come from?

The store. And what do blueberries look like? Mushy in a jar, ready for toast.



Make sure the youngsters in your life understand farm culture and the sheer joy of picking (or milking). The Carolinas are filled with farm trails for driving and sometimes walking. Plan a trip or two. Share on Facebook.

The Farm Heritage Trail, near Asheville, NC. www.farmheritagetrail.org Living History at Kings Mountain State Park www.setrails.net/trails/trail/living-history-farm



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

NewsWorthy



Visit the Mary Jackson Gallery

Charleston, SC: World-renowned sweetgrass crafter Mary Jackson was recently elected by The American Craft Council into its College of Fellows. Jackson was one of eight recipients of the 2018 American Craft Council Awards, which honors artists who have made an outstanding contribution to the crafts in America.

On the second floor of the Gibbes, the Mary Jackson Gallery showcases the museum's growing modern art collection with traditional and non-traditional art forms to offer the full spectrum of the history of art in the Charleston region. From Jasper Johns and Milton Simpson to Mary Jackson and Carrie Mae Weems, the complete story of modern and contemporary art is told in the Mary Jackson Gallery. The Gibbes highlights Jackson as a living symbol of the Lowcountry and publicly honors her art, achievements and the centuries of tradition that informed them. Jackson's large-scale sweetgrass masterpiece, Never Again, is the largest basket of its kind and currently on display at the Gibbes.

www.gibbesmuseum.org More about Charleston. Photo courtesy Gibbes Museum of Art

"Thirty-mile views. Even longer memories"

North Carolina's newest winery, Point Lookout Vineyards, offers sweeping views of the Blue Ridge Mountains from an elevation of nearly 3,000 feet high on Point Lookout Mountain, near Hendersonville.

Owner Mike Jackson carefully planned the winery to include a 4,000-square-foot open-air pavilion that serves as both a tasting room and event space.

"This land has been in my family for three generations and I wanted to create a special place where people can enjoy great wine, beautiful scenery and special times with family and friends. In addition to weddings, we will host live music, chef's dinners and other memorable events," Mr. Jackson said.

Learn about their wines, mead, special coffee-infused red wine and more. Call 828-393-5793 or visit www.pointlookoutvineyards.com.

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