

Randolph County

2024 OFFICIAL TRAVEL GUIDE



Celebrating the
50TH
ANNIVERSARY
of the North Carolina Zoo
in Asheboro, NC


Visit the Heart
of North Carolina

ARCHDALE • ASHEBORO • FRANKLINVILLE • LIBERTY • RAMSEUR
RANDLEMAN • SEAGROVE • STALEY • TRINITY



Pat Simmons
Pat Simmons

Director & CEO, North Carolina Zoo

Celebrate Big!

The North Carolina Zoo is celebrating 50 WILD years, and I am delighted to share the fun we are going to have! From Zoofari adventures, attending C'sar Elephant's 50th birthday party, and experiencing the magical Butterfly Garden – there is always something to do at the world's largest natural habitat zoo. Our social media is highlighting fascinating historical photos and facts from the Zoo's past fifty years. I hope you join us in celebrating 50 WILD YEARS by visiting, reminiscing, and making new memories in 2024.



Welcome to the Heart of North Carolina in Randolph County, an affordable, family-friendly destination!

I am honored to be serving in my 25th year on the Randolph County Tourism Board, but I am equally excited for us all to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our North Carolina Zoo! I have great memories of my elementary school class taking a field trip to the Zoo site when it was in the beginning stages of construction. There wasn't much there then but we had a picnic lunch and hiked up to the top of Purgatory Mountain. At that time, it was exciting to think of what was yet to come, and now we are so proud 50 years later of the world's largest natural habitat zoo right here in Randolph County.

I encourage you to create long lasting memories of your own through all the incredible experiences we have available right here in the Heart of North Carolina!



David Caughron
David Caughron
Chairman, Randolph County
Tourism Development Authority



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Heart of North Carolina Visitors Bureau
500 Albemarle Rd, Asheboro, NC 27203
For the latest visitor information, call
800-626-2672, 336-626-0364 or go to
HeartofNorthCarolina.com

The Heart of North Carolina Visitors Bureau is the official destination marketing organization for Randolph County Tourism Development Authority representing Archdale, Asheboro, Franklinville, Liberty, Ramseur, Randleman, Seagrove, Staley, and Trinity.



The North Carolina Zoo's first residents, a pair of Galápagos tortoises named Tort & Retort arrived in 1973. A view of the Amphitheater at the African entrance, 1974. Photos courtesy of Clay Nolen & the North Carolina Zoo.

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North Carolina Zoo

Asheboro, NC

Asheboro is home to the world's largest natural habitat zoo, the **North Carolina Zoo**, which features wild animals and plants from North America and Africa with Asia coming soon! Recognized for its natural habitats and world conservation programs, the zoo continues to grow and evolve into a top leader internationally. Join the fun at the Zoo as we celebrate 50 WILD years in 2024.

The **North Carolina Aviation Museum and Hall of Fame** and **American Classic Motorcycle Museum** entice all ages with a depiction of transportation history. Enjoy monthly entertainment at **Bicentennial Park** in the heart of downtown Asheboro during their summer concert series. See a show at the historic

Sunset Theatre located in downtown Asheboro or head out to the historic **McCrary Ballpark** and catch a wooden bat baseball game with the **Asheboro ZooKeepers**.



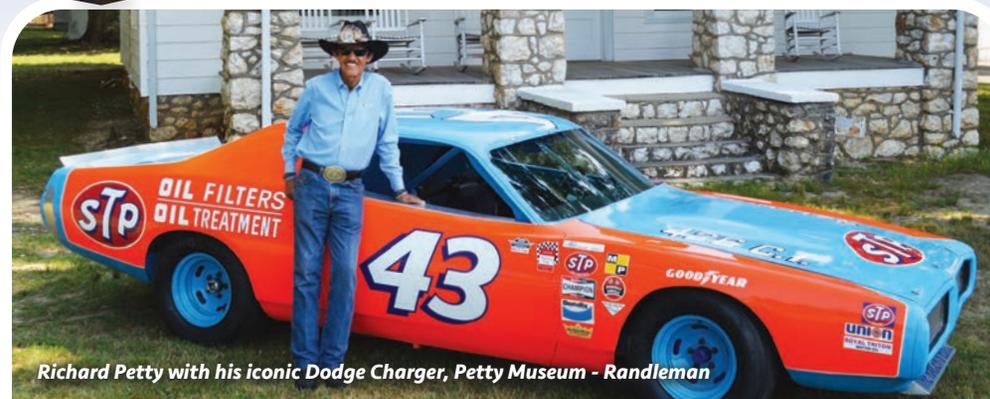
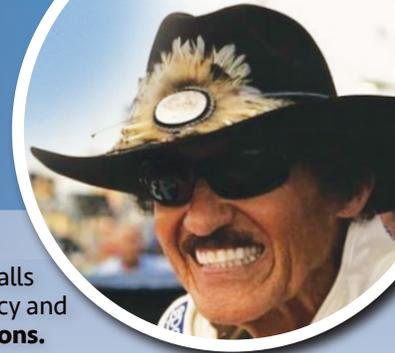
Petty Family Attractions

Randleman, NC

Legendary NASCAR driver, Richard Petty proudly calls Randleman home and shares his family's legacy and 75 years of history at **Petty Family Attractions**.

Racing history comes alive at **Caraway Speedway** each week. This short track was built in 1966 as a dirt track and now hosts drivers on their .455 mile asphalt surface in nearby Sophia.

Do not miss the inviting shops featuring local artists, collectors, and craftsmen in Downtown Randleman. Summertime fun includes the annual **NC Food Truck State Championship** and monthly concerts at **Commerce Square Park**. Find outdoor adventures all year long with prime bass fishing along 100 miles of shoreline at **Randleman Lake** or enjoy a nature hike at Randleman's **Deep River State Trail** access point.



Richard Petty with his iconic Dodge Charger, Petty Museum - Randleman



A polar bear at the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro goes for a swim!



Giraffe feeding station, North Carolina Zoo - Asheboro



Sunset Theatre - Downtown Asheboro



Caraway Speedway - Sophia



Randleman Lake - Randleman



NC Zoo Facts

The **North Carolina Zoo** in Asheboro is home to 1,700 animals of more than 200 species. It is also home to one of the largest chimpanzee troops of any zoo in America as well as the largest population of horned puffins in the USA.

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NC Zoo Facts

The **North Carolina Zoo** in Asheboro is considered to be the largest natural habitat zoo in the world. It has 2,800 acres and 57,000 plants in its care and is in the process of expanding to include a habitat for the continent of Asia.

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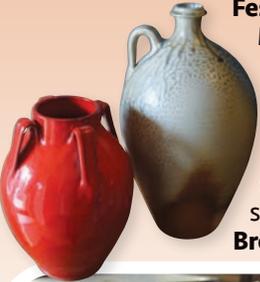
Seagrove Pottery

Seagrove, NC

Take a drive down NC Highway 705, also known as Pottery Highway to explore over 80 working potters within a 30-mile radius. Visit shops and galleries that offer year-round events including a **Potters' Pumpkin Patch Trail, Tea with Seagrove Potters, and Pottery**

Festival Weekend - held annually the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Many of the crafters come from generations of potters in the area making various pieces using clay from the state. Not only is there pottery, but the area is also home to **Seagrove Orchids** and **Carolina Bronze Sculpture Garden & Foundry**. Explore the small local shops selling homemade goods from artists across our great state, including **B3 Artisan Wares and Studio**. Be sure to grab a drink or a snack at **The General Wine & Brew, Asheboro Popcorn Co., or Seagrove Cafe**.



A collection of pottery teapots, serving pieces, & cups - Seagrove



Seagrove Cafe - Seagrove



The Triangle Studio - Seagrove

Kersey Valley Attractions

Archdale, NC

Year-round thrills await at **Kersey Valley Attractions** with their **Ziplining, Bomb Bowling, Axe Throwing, Laser Tag, and Escape Rooms**. Enjoy seasonal offerings on this 83-acre adventure park with award-winning haunts at **Spookywoods - celebrating their 40th anniversary, Maize Adventure, and Lights, Action, Santa! - Kersey Valley Christmas**.

Family fun in Archdale is at **Creekside Park & Greenway** with access to three miles of walking trails, state-of-the-art playgrounds, dog park, tennis courts, an orienteering course, and an 18-hole disc golf course. Seasonal events you will not want to miss include outdoor concerts and movies on the lawn. All ages will enjoy the finest live action bull riding at **Davis Ranch** hosting year-round qualifying events and a summertime PBR Invitational each year.

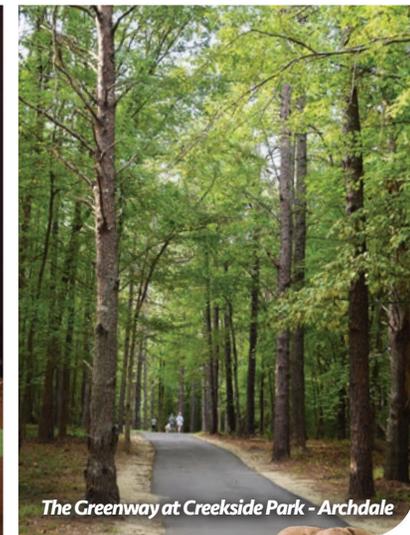
Golfers can play **Holly Ridge Golf Links** for a challenging course or take it indoors to **The Bunker Lounge**, an indoor simulated golf and sports experience while enjoying **Holly Ridge's bar & grill**.



Riders Enjoy the Kersey Valley Express at Kersey Valley Attractions - Archdale



The Bunker Lounge at Holly Ridge Golf Links - Archdale



The Greenway at Creekside Park - Archdale



NC Zoo Facts



The **North Carolina Zoo** in Asheboro has roughly 5 miles of walking trails to navigate and is one of two state-supported zoos in the United States, with the other being the Minnesota Zoo.

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NC Zoo Facts



After 49 years of its existence, the **North Carolina Zoo** in Asheboro hit a milestone of 1 million guests for a single calendar year in 2023.

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Linbrook Heritage Estate

Trinity, NC

Opened 20 years ago, **Linbrook Heritage Estate** in Trinity is one of the largest privately-owned destinations in the Southeast. Follow along the Neal family history by beginning at the original home-
stead, **The Historic Hoover House**. Next, **The Neal Agricultural and Industrial Museum** features a large collection of John Deere® Tractors on display while guided tours are offered of **Linbrook Hall**, the Estate's 36,000 sq ft home.

The **Trinity Museum/Winslow House**, ca. 1855, is located in the center of the City of Trinity. It is one of about ten antebellum era houses left in the Old Trinity College (now Duke University) area of Highway 62 in Trinity.

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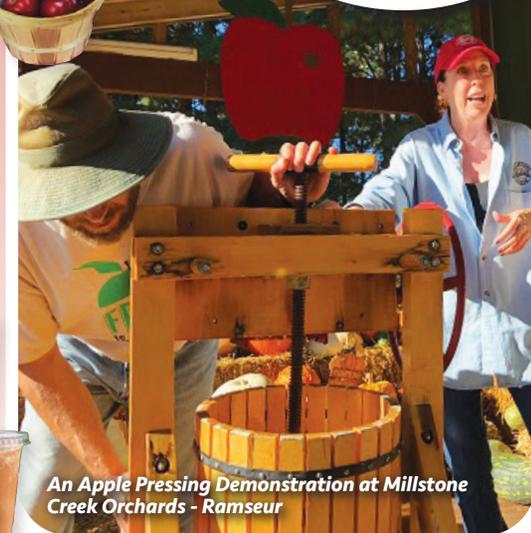
John Deere® Tractors at The Neal Agricultural and Industrial Museum - Trinity

Millstone Creek Orchards

Ramseur, NC

Create memories and form traditions at Ramseur's **Millstone Creek Orchards**, a family-owned u-pick farm experience for the past 20 years providing seasonal tours, children's garden, and the Apple Barn Country Store selling fresh local produce and jarred items. Enjoy unique shopping experiences and charming small town street

festivals in Downtown Ramseur, frequently used for photography and feature films. Discover the remains of a dam and a historic cotton mill built in 1850 at nearby **Deep River State Trail** access points.



An Apple Pressing Demonstration at Millstone Creek Orchards - Ramseur

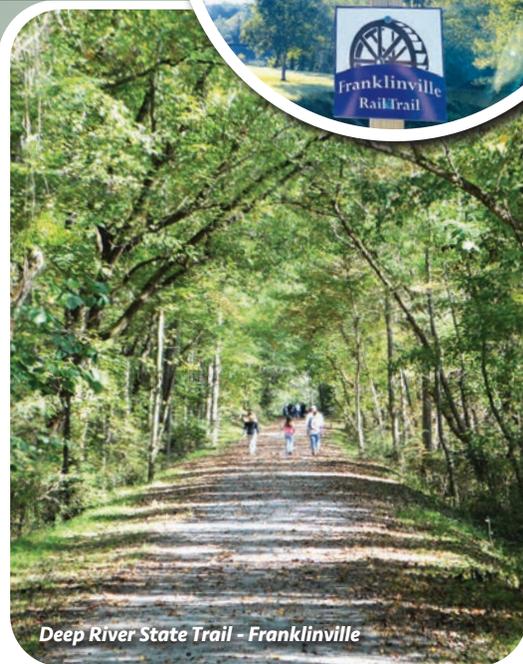


Deep River State Trail

Franklinville, NC

Combining history with recreation in Franklinville, the **Deep River State Trail** access points have riverside views perfect for seasonal walking, biking, and jogging. History buffs find **Faith Rock** of interest where in 1782, American Patriot Andrew Hunter escaped by mounting Tory Army leader Fanning's horse to ride down

the steep 75-foot rock into the river, taking the ultimate "leap of faith".



Deep River State Trail - Franklinville

The Liberty Showcase Theater

Liberty & Staley, NC

Liberty is buzzing with musical talent at the historic **Liberty Showcase Theater**, a premier venue that showcases rising stars and established national talent year-round. Held twice a year, the **Liberty Antiques Festival** brings over 400 vendors to a 100-acre farm to sell antiques and collectibles to visitors from across the country. Visitors can find seasonal family fun at **Whitaker Farms** in nearby Climax. Staley's rural land is where the oldest homestead in

Randolph County is located. **The Thomas Marley House**, built in 1816, is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.



A Live Performance by Country Legend Gene Watson at The Liberty Showcase Theater - Liberty