

## Nearby Sites

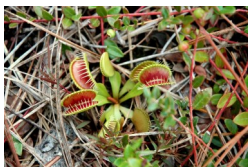
### 9. Lake Waccamaw State Park

One of the most unique bodies of water in the world also contains some of the worlds' most unique plants. Located 40 miles west of Wilmington on US Highway 74/76, Lake Waccamaw State Park is home to the native Venus flytrap, as well as pitcher plants and sundews. The best place to view the carnivorous plants is along the park's Sand Ridge Nature Trail. Free admission. Hours vary by season. Tours and nature programs available. Located at 1866 State Park Drive, Lake Waccamaw; 910-646-4748; [ncparks.gov/lake-waccamaw-state-park](http://ncparks.gov/lake-waccamaw-state-park)



### 10. Green Swamp Preserve—The Nature Conservancy

This 16,000-acre preserve in Brunswick County is a premiere location to view the Venus flytrap and other carnivorous plants. Primitive trails exist in the preserve and visitors are asked to not venture off the trails to prevent harming the fragile ecosystem. Free admission. Open year-round; daylight hours. Located 5.5 miles north of Supply on NC Highway 211; 910-762-6277; [nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/green-swamp-preserve/](http://nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/green-swamp-preserve/)



### 11. Holly Shelter Game Land

Managed by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Holly Shelter Game Land contains over 10,000 acres of longleaf pine forest and is home to insectivorous plants such as Venus flytraps, pitcher plants and sundews (plants are protected by law). The open forest canopy also provides habitat for many bird species. Walk or drive into the game land via the dirt road at the entrance gate (Lodge Road). Hunting is allowed on Game Lands during certain times of year. Hikers and birders should be aware of hunting regulations and seasons and take adequate safety precautions. Located on US 17, four miles north of Hampstead at the intersection of NC Highway 210. 910-259-5555; [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org)



*The Wilmington and Beaches Convention & Visitors Bureau will not be held responsible for the information contained herein. Inclusion in this brochure should not be construed as a recommendation, but merely as a guide.*

## Craft Beer for A Cause

A premier craft beer destination, Wilmington and its island beaches has nearly two dozen breweries. **Flytrap Brewing** (319 Walnut St., Wilmington) is a small batch brewery named after the official state carnivorous plant of North Carolina. A portion of sale proceeds help to support organizations that preserve and raise awareness of carnivorous plants. For a list of breweries, beer tours and bottle shops visit [wilmingtonandbeaches.com/restaurants/drinks/breweries](http://wilmingtonandbeaches.com/restaurants/drinks/breweries).



### New Hanover County Sites

1. Cape Fear Museum
2. Bluethenthal Wildflower Preserve—UNCW campus
3. Stanley Rehder Carnivorous Plant Garden
4. Halyburton Park
5. Airlie Gardens
6. Wrightsville Beach Scenic Tours
7. Carolina Beach State Park
8. N.C. Aquarium Fort Fisher

### Nearby Sites

9. Lake Waccamaw State Park
10. Green Swamp Preserve
11. Holly Shelter Game Land

Carolina Beach • Kure Beach • Wrightsville Beach  
**Wilmington.C.**  
River District & Island Beaches

## Venus Flytrap Trail of Wilmington, N.C. & Island Beaches



### Did you know?

**The only place in the world where you can see the Venus flytrap growing in its native environment is within a 60-to-100 mile radius of Wilmington, North Carolina and its island beaches!**



## Flytrap Facts

Charles Darwin once called the Venus flytrap “one of the most wonderful plants in the world.” It has long been glorified by Hollywood and is often portrayed as a “man-eating plant,” however, the Venus flytrap rarely grows to be more than eight inches tall. Four other carnivorous plants inhabit the Wilmington, N.C.

region: pitcher plants, sundews, butterworts, and bladderworts. These plants almost seem to defy nature by consuming animal protein. Carnivorous plants are forced to get their essential nitrogen and phosphorous from other sources including insects and tiny animals.



Wilmington, North Carolina and its island beaches offer opportunities to see the native Venus flytrap. Prime viewing time for the plants is from the end of May through August. But a word of warning: It is a felony offense to remove or poach the Venus flytrap plants from the wild and punishment is strictly enforced. Carnivorous plants are very fragile and should not be touched, no matter how tempting. The Venus flytrap expends a great deal of energy for the trap to close; unnecessary closings may cause the plant to die. So look, but please don't touch!

Sites included in this brochure provide opportunities to get up close and personal with Venus flytraps and other carnivorous plants. Public art installations also feature the rare plant, including a large floor design at the entrance of the Wilmington International Airport. There's also a sculpture of a Venus flytrap at the foot of Market Street along the Wilmington Riverwalk. Installed in 2014, the unique sculpture by Paul Hill is a top photo spot.



## Wilmington Sites

### 1. Cape Fear Museum of History & Science

An over-sized Venus flytrap model, located in the Michael Jordan Discovery Gallery, provides children with an interactive demonstration of how the flytrap works. North Carolina's oldest history museum also has thousands of artifacts that tell the story of the rich history, science, and culture of the southern North Carolina coast. Admission charge. Open Monday - Saturday 9am-5pm; Sunday 1pm-5pm (Memorial Day through Labor Day). Closed Mondays (Labor Day through Memorial Day). Free parking. Location: 814 Market Street, Wilmington; 910-798-4350; [capefearmuseum.com](http://capefearmuseum.com)



### 2. Bluethenthal Memorial Wildflower Preserve, UNCW Campus

Marked trails lead visitors through plant communities including the “Insectivorous Plant Garden.” Guided group tours may be arranged through UNCW's Dept. of Biological Sciences. Open daily daylight hours. Free admission. Location: UNCW campus, 601 South College Road, Wilmington.; 910-962-3107; [uncw.edu/physicalplant/arboretum/bluethenthal.html](http://uncw.edu/physicalplant/arboretum/bluethenthal.html)



### 3. Stanley Rehder Carnivorous Plant Garden

Located along the Gary Shell Cross-City Trail, this nature trail is part of the Piney Ridge Nature Preserve located behind Alderman Elementary School (corner of Independence Blvd. and Canterbury Road.) Follow the signs from the parking lot off Canterbury Road to the nature trail where Venus flytraps, pitcher plants, and sundews thrive. A path leads visitors to these remarkable plants. Free admission and parking. Open daylight hours. Location: 3800 Canterbury Rd., Wilmington. [coastallandtrust.org/lands/rehdergarden](http://coastallandtrust.org/lands/rehdergarden)



### 4. Halyburton Park

A plant garden is located outside Halyburton Park's nature center where visitors can see native carnivorous plants such as sundews, pitcher plants and the Venus flytrap. The park also contains a 58-acre nature preserve, a 1.5-mile biking/walking trail and a unique environmental education center. Free to public. Daily. Event center open Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm. Location: 4099 S. 17th Street, Wilmington; 910-341-0075; [halyburtonpark.com](http://halyburtonpark.com)



## Coastal Sites

### 5. Airlie Gardens

See indigenous Venus flytraps that grow along Airlie's Waterwise Trail, where you'll also find native pitcher plants, sundews, and bladderworts. Admission charge. Open daily year-round 9am-5pm with extended hours during events. Free parking. Location: 300 Airlie Road, Wilmington; 910-798-7700; [airliegardens.org](http://airliegardens.org)



### 6. Wrightsville Beach Scenic Tours

Eco-cruises and nature tours focus on the unique ecosystems of Southeastern NC. A trained naturalist guides visitors through local barrier islands, creeks, and waterways, highlighting unique features of coastal habitats and wildlife. Masonboro Island tours often afford Venus flytrap sightings. Admission charge; advance reservations required. Metered street parking. Departs from Wrightsville Beach Boat Access, 109 Causeway Drive, Wrightsville Beach. 910-200-4002; [wrightsvillebeachscenictours.com/eco-education](http://wrightsvillebeachscenictours.com/eco-education)



### 7. Carolina Beach State Park

Venus flytraps, bladderworts, butterworts, pitcher plants, and sundews are waiting to be discovered on the Flytrap Trail at Carolina Beach State Park. The easy, half-mile loop trail showcases these native plants in their natural habitats. Part of the trail is along a wooden boardwalk. Guided weekend hikes meet in the Nature Trail parking lot; check website or call for times. The park also has 5 other trails, campsites, a visitor center with Venus flytrap exhibits and an outdoor bog garden, marina and educational programs. Fees for camping and marina. Open daily 8am-sunset (extended hours in spring and summer); closed Christmas Day. Free parking. Location: 1010 State Park Road, Carolina Beach; 910-458-8206; [ncparks.gov/carolina-beach-state-park](http://ncparks.gov/carolina-beach-state-park)



### 8. N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher

Seven different carnivorous plants await visitors at the state's largest aquarium. Flytraps, pitcher plants and others thrive in the half-acre Cape Fear Conservatory, alongside freshwater fish, alligators, turtles and Asian small-clawed otters. Admission charge. Open 9am-5pm daily except major holidays. Location: 900 Loggerhead Rd., Kure Beach; 910-458-8257; [ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher](http://ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher)

