

## HISTORY COMES TO LIFE AT FORT MACON STATE PARK, NORTH CAROLINA

Many family travelers are probably itching to get outdoors and enjoy some warmer weather, so why not head to North Carolina's [Crystal Coast](#) to explore [Fort Macon State Park](#)? Visiting a state park can tell you a lot about the destination, and Fort Macon State Park is one of the most popular in North Carolina. The park offers an inside look at the destination's history, nature and beauty.

Fort Macon was once a Civil War fort for both Union and Confederate forces at different times, but, after the war, the fort eventually fell into disrepair. In 1924, Fort Macon was sold to North Carolina for a whopping \$1 and was restored and introduced into the state park system in 1934. In the 1980s, the fort received a multimillion-dollar renovation to restore the 26 casemates once used as shelter, kitchen spaces and prison cells for soldiers.

Now, visitors can wander through the fort to learn more about the rich history of the park and of North Carolina itself. Today, Fort Macon also features a protected beach; a seaside bathhouse; Elliott Coues Trail, a moderate hike through maritime forest and marsh; family-friendly picnic areas; and fishing areas with a variety of fish.

The park is free to visit and open year-round. In addition to the fort and surrounding features, Fort Macon also hosts a variety of activities like [daily guided tours](#), [Small Arms Demonstration](#), [astronomy nights](#) and [bird hikes](#).