

The Best State Parks In North Carolina For Every Adventure

By [Judy Garrison](#) | Published on March 15, 2023



From the mountains to the sea, North Carolina [state parks](#) bless nature lovers with everything from mountain cliffs to sand dunes. Here, scenic variety satisfies even the most seasoned travelers. Whether you've got your sights set on mountaintop hikes or you're hoping to [cool off by the water](#), there's an ideal place for everyone among the state's 41 total parks. Grab your hiking shoes, load up on sunscreen, and get ready for an adventure. Here are the best state parks in the Tar Heel State.

Fort Macon State Park



Built in the early 1800s, the pre-Civil War fort transports visitors to the nineteenth-century. Seized by Confederate troops at the outbreak of the Civil War, the immaculately restored fort is the centerpiece of Fort Macon State Park. The park is situated along a skinny barrier island with trails through dunes, forests, and marshes. Take in the history then take a dip along the lovely Crystal Coast beach.