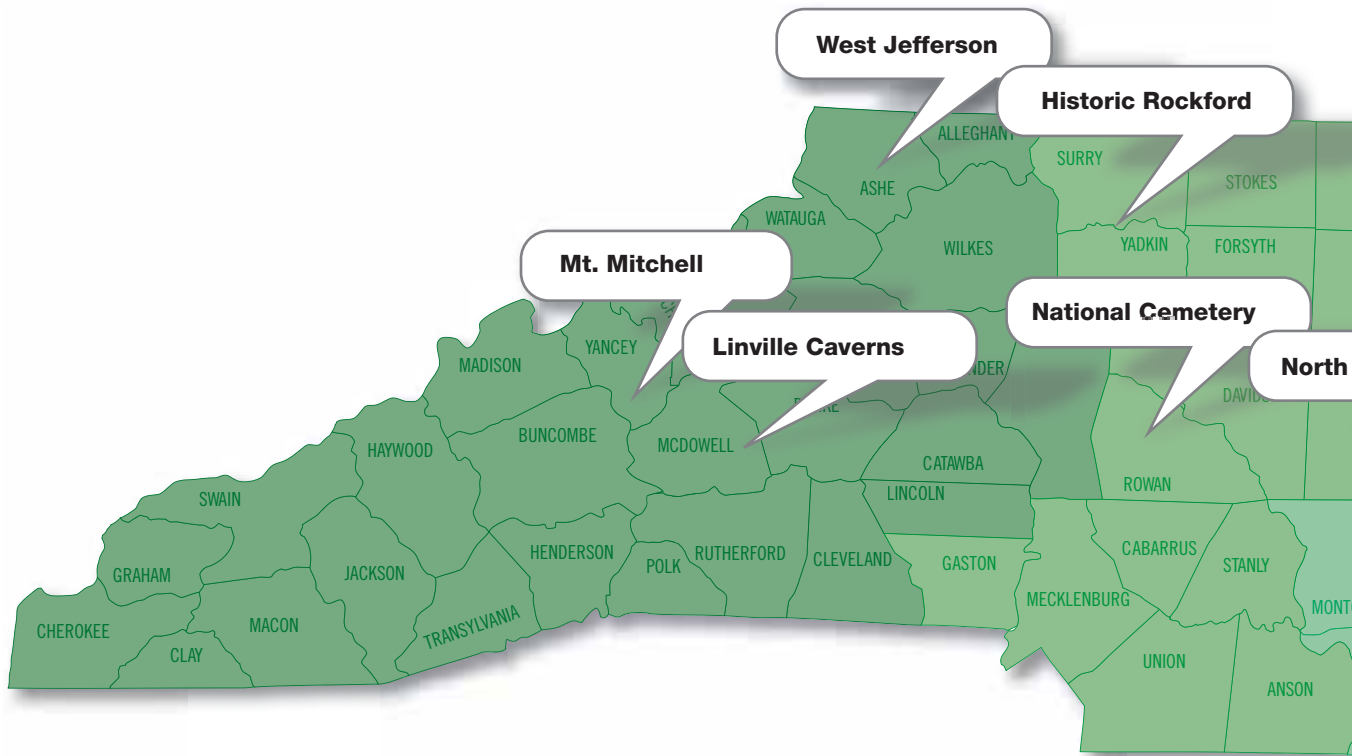




2010 Touchstone Energy 
Travel Guide

15 Carolina Country Adventures Ahead



2010 Touchstone Energy Travel Guide

From one end to the other, North Carolina is about as diverse as any state in the nation. We've got hard gemstones in the west, soft crabs on the coast and red clay in the middle. The tobacco we grow in the mountains is different than what we grow in the east. What we live in, how we drive, what we eat and how we talk varies from one region to another.

Our annual Touchstone Energy Travel Guide encourages you to experience this variety firsthand.

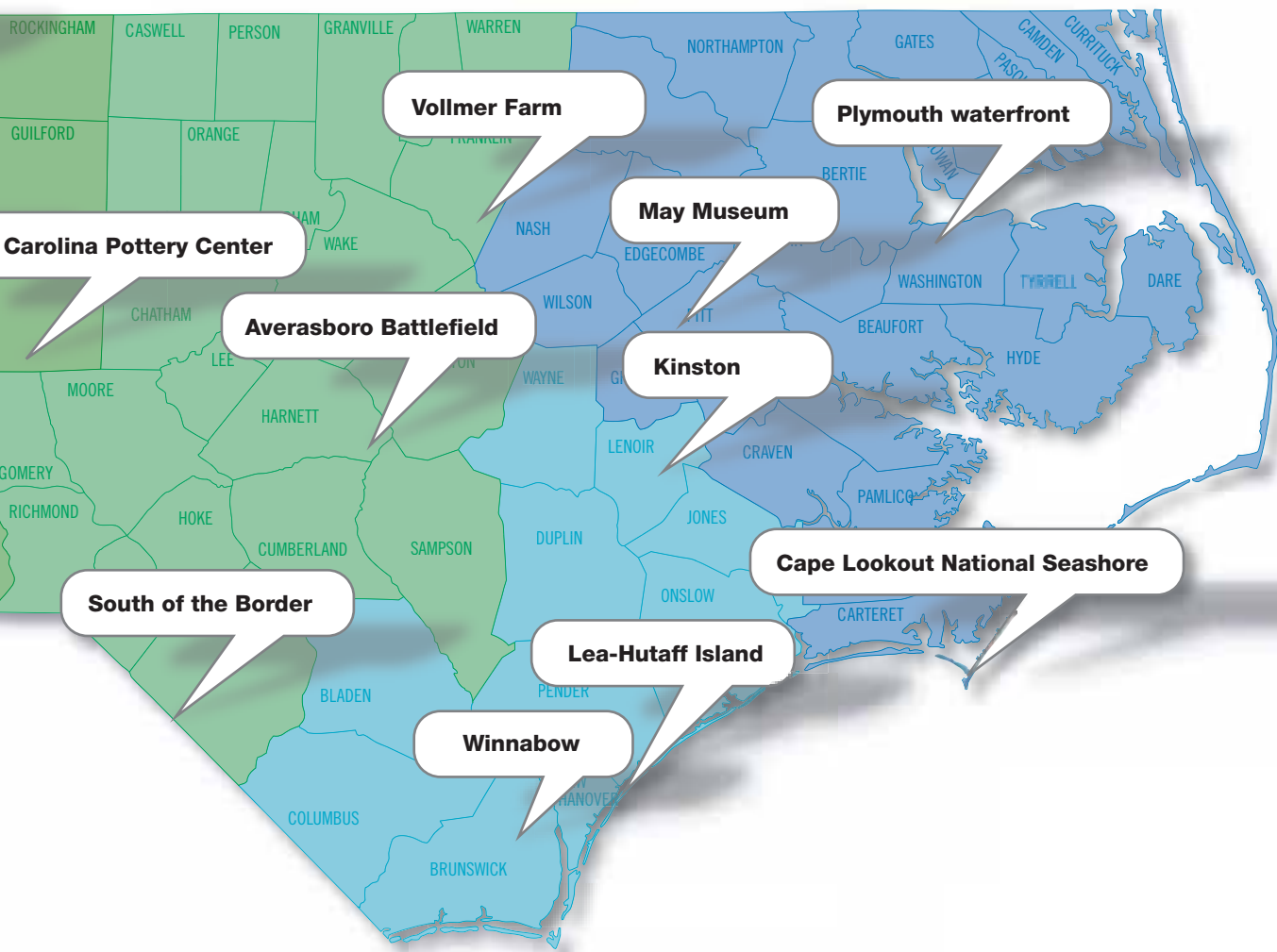
This year we've updated the primary sources of general information about each of five regions and accompany them with a set of Carolina Country Adventures. Among the three adventures for each region are some well-known standbys and some not so familiar, some historical, some recreational, some just plain fun.

As you make your way through this guide and through the countryside, you can be assured that a Touchstone Energy cooperative is nearby.

Thanks to everyone who helped us compile this guide, and to our sponsors: the cooperatives and the advertisers on pages 40 to 43.



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
of North Carolina
The power of human connections®



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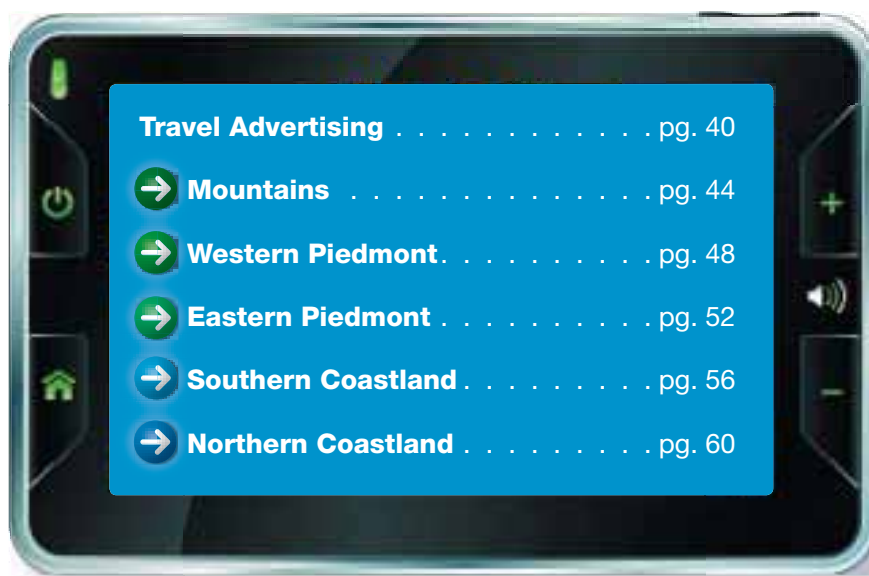
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This supplement to Carolina Country is brought to you by North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives, serving nearly 2 million people in 93 North Carolina counties. We bring the power of human connections to all regions of North Carolina. Touchstone Energy cooperatives nationwide are committed to integrity, accountability, innovation and community involvement.

Vollmer Farm

Franklin County

By Tara Verna



Vollmer Farms allows school groups to practice milking "Bessie." Right, everyone dives into the "sand box" overflowing with more than 100 bushels of corn.



→ Exhausted, dirty, fingers (and mouths!) sticky with berry juice and homemade ice cream, that's how most kids—and adults—leave Vollmer Farm.

Located in Bunn, this fifth generation family farm offers up organic produce, including pick-your-own strawberries April–June, and blueberries, June–July.

Come fall, pull a pumpkin right out of the patch, then take a hay ride to "The Back Forty" for 40 acres of fun: the tot rocket zip line, a 40-foot underground slide, a cow train, a corn maze and a "sand box" overflowing with more than 100 bushels of corn. The Back Forty's 2,500-square-foot, pumpkin-colored jumping pillow sends kids flying sky-high. And just like any farm worth its salt, you'll find a menagerie of farm animals, including chickens, dogs and a cow.

"Who wouldn't love jumping on the giant pumpkin pillow or riding in the cow train?" said Renee Koliander of Wake Forest. "And yes, the adults rode, too! We spent five hours playing, jumping, sliding and even climbing in the 'sand box' of dried corn. We loved it and can't wait to go back."

Bring your trip to a sweet close with a scoop of homemade ice cream from Aunt Mary's Market. Extend your visit and breakfast first at The Farmer's Table in Bunn for some blueberry pancakes and other hearty fare on Sunday mornings.

Join Vollmer Farm

In addition to the pick-your-own crops and the Back Forty, Vollmer Farm offers a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm. Join the CSA for a set price and then receive a weekly share of mostly organic fruits and vegetables throughout the growing season (April–August). The farm also caters to school groups by offering a spring tour and three themed fall tours (bee observatory, chicken coop and butter making). And if you'd like

to experience working on a farm, high school sophomores and older can sign up to be a "farm hand." Deadline for fall season is September 1.

Born and raised on the farm, John Vollmer helped his father raise tobacco back in the 70s and 80s until it became apparent that the outlook for tobacco farming was bleak. To sustain the farm for future generations, the family decided to diversify into pumpkins, strawberries and organics, adding blueberries to their line-up in 2010.

Vollmer Farm opens its fields for strawberry picking in April. Get a 5-pound bucket of luscious organic strawberries for \$12. The Back Forty opens to the public on weekends at the end of September through November 1. Admission is \$15 for ages 2 and up. Hours vary according to the season so call or look online before you go. 📍

Vollmer Farm677 NC Hwy 98E
Bunn, NC 27508

(919) 496-3076

www.vollmerfarm.com

LAT: 35.917

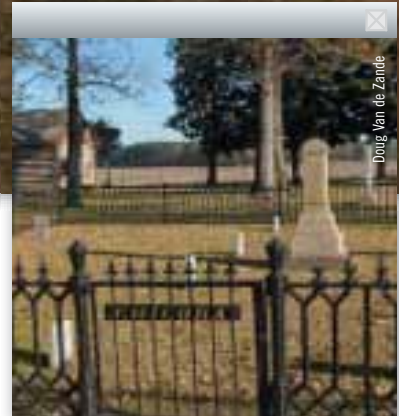
LONG: -81.938



Averasboro Battlefield Museum

Cumberland County

By Linda Van de Zande



The Oak Grove house is being restored. A marker indicates the Confederate first line of defense. Chicora Cemetery is the burial site for 56 fallen Confederates.

➔ Pause in the still air of the Averasboro Battlefield Museum and drift back to the evening of March 14, 1865. Imagine the families in the homes still standing here—Lebanon, Oak Grove, the William T. Smith Plantation—when they hosted rebel soldiers preparing for battle. Picture the excitement of the girls to have these handsome young men in their homes, the music of the dances, the chatter over meals, the Smith men congratulating the proud soldiers. Then think how the families felt when Union soldiers pushed through and fighting broke out. They took in wounded soldiers and their homes became makeshift hospitals where they cared for their own boys in grey as well as the hurt and ravaged Yankee boys.

Averasboro Battlefield Museum tells the story of all this and more. See an actual quilt, water stains and all, which was used in neighboring Sampson County to hide valuables. The family wrapped its heirlooms in this quilt and hid them in the stump of a tree. Silverware, furniture and clothing, all paint the picture of the life before, during and after the Battle of Averasboro. In the museum here,

you'll find a large model of the battle, complete with houses and fields.

Averasboro was a two-day battle designed to delay Sherman's troops while the Confederacy put men in place for the bigger siege in Bentonville a few miles to the north. The men fought hard on March 15 from 6 a.m. to dusk, and again the next day, and held their ground. On the evening of March 16, the Confederates began their planned retreat, and the Union troops advanced to Bentonville where they ultimately prevailed in the last Civil War battle held on North Carolina soil.

Smith family places

Up the road from the battlefield is Chicora Cemetery, which was used by the Daughters of the Confederacy to bury the bodies of the Confederate men who fought here. Fifty six soldiers are buried there, only two whose names are known.

Further down the road, the John Smith house called Oak Grove still stands, across the road from where it was built, and is being restored for private use. Further down NC 82 on Ross West Road, the N.C. Department of Transportation has provided funds which will help turn the William T.

Averasboro Battlefield and Museum

3300 Hwy 82
Dunn, NC 28334

(910) 891-5019

www.averasboro.com


LAT: 35.263

LONG: -78.673



Smith Plantation into a transportation museum.

Heading back toward Dunn, just past Arrowhead Road, is Lebanon, the private home of a Smith family member whose heritage goes back to John Smith, the original owner of the vast plantation. This home also was used as a field hospital for the Confederates during the war and has been owned and inhabited by the Smith family since it was given by John Smith as a wedding gift in 1822. Lebanon is not open to tourists.

The Averasboro Battlefield Commission sponsors many events throughout the year. Watch the Web site for postings. 

South of the Border

I-95's North Carolina border

By Michael E.C. Gery



The Border's 97-foot Pedro and 200-foot tower.



➔ Although this famous tourist attraction is based in Hamer, Dillon County, S.C., its 400-some acres spread into North Carolina and its name refers to south of the border. Also, it was established 60 years ago when Alan Schafer put up an 18-by-36-foot "depot" to sell beer to people from North Carolina's Robeson County and other localities where selling beer was illegal. Motorists along US 301 stopped here, too, so Schafer added a 10-seat grill then 20 motel rooms in 1954.

Although it shows its age, "The Border" today jams with 300 motel rooms (some with a carport), six restaurants, two gas stations, two Golf of Mexico courses, a car wash, Silver Slipper flea market and internet café, fireworks and ammo shop, swimming pools, El Toro arcade ("peso little"), Pedroland amusement park, an RV

park/campground, Porky's Truck Stop, Myrtle Beach and Orlando ticket booths, a U.S. Post Office, Concrete Bazaar, a "convention center," the Carolina & Upper Mexico Railroad, a 200-foot tower topped with a giant sombrero, a 97-foot-high 77-ton Pedro mascot, and a Pleasure Dome complete with wedding chapel, hot tub and "heir-conditioned" honeymoon suite (\$99). Farther down the highway are the Fantasy Girls, Dr. Tom's leather, and some kind of spa. In between, the South of the Border Motor Sales operation has closed.

Who would have thought?

The Schafer family began selling things here in the 1870s and went into the beer business right after Prohibition ended in 1933 when Sam Schafer hauled a pickup truckload of beer from Baltimore and sold it for 75 cents a bottle. By 2000, Schafer Distributing Co. was selling beer to more than half of South Carolina's counties.

When Interstate 95 was in the planning stages in the late 1950s, Schafers went to Washington to make sure it ran by here, then bought up as much land as they could. The third genera-

tion since Alan is running the place now. "Who would ever have thought Pee Dee swampland would become a multi-million dollar a year business!" they say. Many of the 7 million visitors each year are lured in by the 175 billboards ("You never sausage a place!") along I-95 and other highways that lead here. (The signs are made next door at Pedro's Ace-Hi Advertising.)

Why "Pedro"? The story is that two of the first motel bellhops were Mexican immigrants who were called Pedro and Pancho, until most everyone called them both Pedro.

The Mexico Shop is a massive collection of bins containing millions of souvenirs and almost as many hats. Kids and grownups both seem to like posing for photos next to one or all of the super-sized Pedros and animal figures on the grounds: a hot dog, gorilla, cattle, flamingos, an elephant.

It's open 24 hours, every day of the year. You could spend your vacation here rather than continuing on to Myrtle Beach or Orlando. 📍

South of the Border

I-95 at US 301/501
Dillon, SC 29547

(843) 774-2411

www.thesouthoftheborder.com

LAT: 34.499

LONG: -79.309



NC Division of Tourism - Bill Russ



→ Eastern Piedmont Travel Resources

Angier Chamber

(919) 639-2500
www.angierchamber.org

Apex Chamber

(800) 345-4504/(919) 362-6456
www.apexchamber.com

Benson Chamber

(919) 894-3825
www.benson-chamber.com
www.bensonmuledays.com

Burlington/Alamance CVB

(800) 637-3804/(336) 570-1444
www.visitalamance.com

Capital Area Visitor Center

(866) 724-8687/(919) 807-7950
www.nccapvisit.org

Cary Chamber

(800) 919-CARY/(919) 467-1016
www.carychamber.com

Town of Cary

(919) 469-4000
www.townofcary.org

Caswell County Chamber

(336) 694-6106
www.caswellchamber.com

Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau

(888) 968-2060
www.chocvb.org

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber

(919) 967-7075
www.carolinachamber.org

Clayton Chamber

(919) 553-6352
www.claytonchamber.com

Dunn Area Tourism Authority

(910) 892-3282
www.dunn tourism.org

Durham CVB

(800) 446-8604/(919) 687-0288
www.durham-nc.com

Greater Durham Chamber

(919) 328-8700
www.durhamchamber.org

Erwin Area Chamber

(910) 897-7300
www.erwinchamber.org

Fayetteville Area CVB

(800) 255-8217/(910) 483-5311
www.visitfayettevillenc.com

Franklin County

(919) 496-3056
www.franklin-chamber.org

Fuquay-Varina Area

(919) 552-4947
www.fuquay-varina.com

Garner Chamber

(919) 772-6440
www.garnerchamber.com

Garner

(919) 772-6440
www.ci.garner.nc.us

Granville County Chamber

(919) 693-6125/(919) 528-4994
www.granville-chamber.com

Hillsborough/Orange County Chamber

(919) 732-8156
www.hillsboroughchamber.com

Historic Hillsborough/Orange County Visitors Center

(919) 732-7741
www.historichillsborough.org

Holly Springs Chamber

(919) 567-1796
www.hollyspringschamber.org

Town of Holly Springs

(919) 552-6221
www.hollyspringsnc.us

Hope Mills Area Chamber

(910) 423-4314
www.hopemillschamber.com

Johnston County Visitors Bureau

(800) 441-7829/(919) 989-8687
www.johnstoncountync.org

Knightdale Chamber

(919) 266-4603
www.knightdalechamber.org
www.knightdalenc.gov

Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber

(910) 276-7420
www.laurinburgchamber.com

Lillington Area

(910) 893-3751
www.lillingtonnc.com
www.lillingtonchamber.org

Lumberton Visitors Bureau

(800) 359-6971/(910) 739-9999
www.lumberton-nc.com

Montgomery County

(910) 572-4300
www.montgomery-county.com

Morrisville Chamber

(919) 463-7150
www.morrisvillenc.com

Pembroke

(910) 521-9758
www.pembrokekenc.com

Person County Tourism

(336) 597-2689
www.visitroxboronc.com

Pinehurst, Southern Pines and Aberdeen Area CVB

(800) 346-5362
www.homeofgolf.com

Pittsboro-Siler CVB

(919) 542-8296
www.visitpittsboro.com

Raeford-Hoke Chamber

(910) 875-5929
www.hoke-raeford.com

Greater Raleigh Chamber

(919) 664-7000
www.raleighchamber.org

Greater Raleigh CVB

(800) 849-8499/(919) 834-5900
www.visitraleigh.com

Red Springs

(910) 843-5241
www.redsprings.org

Richmond County Chamber, Rockingham

(910) 895-9058
www.richmondcountychamber.com

Richmond County Tourism Development Authority

(800) 858-1688/(910) 895-9057
www.visitrichmondcounty.com

Rolesville Town Hall

(919) 556-3506
www.ci.rolesville.nc.us

Roxboro Area Chamber

(336) 599-8333
www.roxboronc.com

Saint Pauls Chamber

(910) 865-5164/(910) 865-3890
www.stpaulsnc.gov

Moore County Chamber

(910) 692-3926
www.moorecountychamber.com

Sanford Area Chamber

(919) 775-7341
www.sanford-nc.com

Smithfield-Selma Area Chamber

(919) 934-9166
www.smithfieldselma.com

Greater Spring Lake Chamber

(910) 497-8821
www.springlakenc.org

Vance County Tourism Department

(Henderson)
(866) 438-4565/(252) 438-2222
www.kerrlake-nc.com

Wake Forest Area

(919) 556-1519
www.wakeforestchamber.org

Warren County EDC

(252) 257-2657
www.warren-chamber.org

Wendell Chamber

(919) 365-6318
www.wendellchamber.com

Zebulon

(919) 269-6320
www.zebulonchamber.org