

RALEIGH, N.C. — [**NC Beer Month**](#) makes its fifth annual run with first-time festivals, signature events and new takes on exploring the “state of Southern beer.” Here’s a preview of the April lineup from the mountains to the coast. And keep reading to learn about a tempting [**sweepstakes**](#).

As North Carolina’s craft brewery count edges up to 200, beer lovers can zoom in on refined concepts this spring. Asheville welcomes [**Ginger’s Revenge**](#), specializing in alcoholic ginger beer: no malt, no hops, no gluten. And a true original arrives in Raleigh: [**Brewery Bhavana**](#), where Southeast Asian cuisine and beer heritage from Belgium’s Wallonia Valley align in a combination taproom, dim sum restaurant and flower shop.

Go big with Sierra Nevada Brewing’s [**Burly Beers and Barleywines Festival**](#), featuring rare beers from across the country. Cover the Carolinas with the 15th annual [**Hickory Hops**](#), which stages the Carolina Championship of Beers, or the two-day [**Brewgaloo**](#) in downtown Raleigh. Go super-local with the [**Sylva Brew Hop**](#), which taps three hometown breweries in a town of 2,600. Or zero in on homebrew at the inaugural [**Mill Fest & Homebrew Competition**](#) in Beaufort.

Call it Beer Month Eve and join Kenansville’s celebration March 31. The inaugural [**Blue, Brew and Cue**](#) Festival combines craft beer with bluegrass and a whole-hog barbecue cook-off in a two-day event. If you don’t know whom the town was named for, ask a UNC Tar Heel fan or click [**here**](#).

The first [**Apple Country Cider Jam**](#) makes itself at home during NC Beer Month. Hendersonville taps Balsam Range and other regional talent for a street festival that reveals the flavors of an emerging East Coast hard cider destination. Wine leads to beer in Salisbury, where the owners of Morgan Ridge Vineyards have opened [**Morgan Ridge Railwalk Brewery & Eatery**](#). And don’t leave the birthplace of [**Cheerwine**](#) without toasting its centennial at [**Innes Street Drug**](#)’s soda fountain.

When Minor League Baseball returns April 6, ballpark pilgrims can raise a locally crafted pint at nine storied ballparks across the state. In Kinston, the Texas Rangers field the new [**Down East Wood Ducks**](#) at Grainger Stadium, where beer from Mother Earth Brewing will be poured. The westward journey continues all the way to McCormick Field (home of the [**Asheville Tourists**](#)) with stops including Winston-Salem (where fans of [**The Dash**](#) can shuttle to BB&T Ballpark from Foothills Brewing) and Durham (where the [**Durham Bulls**](#) Athletic Park boasts a resident brewery).

Elegant Airlie Gardens in Wilmington is the setting for [Cape Fear Craft & Cuisine](#), with 20 local chefs paired with 20 breweries. Farther west, paddlers can follow the curves of the Neuse River through downtown Kinston on a trip led by the founders of [Mother Earth Brewing](#), which hosts a post-excursion tasting. And in the mountains, stunning views frame 5k and 10K courses in the [Black Mountain Greenway Challenge](#), which starts and ends at Pisgah Brewing, the event's co-sponsor.

The immediate reason to check out NC Beer Month [Travel Deals](#) might be savings, but there's more to be gained. Packages in Asheville, Pittsboro/Siler City and Smithfield/Clayton also include experiences and inspiration for the trip.

And if anything beats a bargain, it's a giveaway. The Oskar Blues VIP Weekend sweepstakes includes tickets to the brewery's Burning Can festival, a two-night stay in downtown Brevard, an invitation to a brewer-only bike ride, dinners, brewery tours and tastings, and a gift basket from the Land of Waterfalls. Find the entry form at [NCBeerMonth.com](#), and watch for details about [Pint Hound Passport](#) prizes.

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