

Want reasons to visit the 16 Dream Big in Small-Town NC counties? Here's a selection of starting points.

Scenic Mountains

- **Graham County:** It's home to **Fontana Dam**, the tallest dam east of the Rockies. A storied spot on the Appalachian Trail, the dam was built to support the aluminum industry at the height of World War II
- **Haywood County:** Portions of the most visited National Park Service entities, the **Blue Ridge Parkway** and **Great Smoky Mountains National Park**, create signature experiences.
- **Madison County:** Indulgence seekers come to soak in the natural mineral baths at **Hot Springs**, located where the French Broad River meets the Appalachian Trail.
- **Mitchell County:** A rich mining history creates hands-on experience at **Emerald Village**, a complex of mines and museums off the Blue Ridge Parkway.
- **Yancey County:** A magnet for artists, the destination is home to Mount Mitchell, the tallest peak in the East and the centerpiece of North Carolina's **first state park**.

Northeast Lakes & Rivers

- **Edgecombe County:** **On the Square**, owned by the Windows on the World beverage director at the time of the 9/11 terrorist attack, makes the county seat of Tarboro a dining destination a few blocks from the Tar River.
- **Halifax County:** Bird lovers find much to love at **Sylvan Heights Bird Park**, home of the world's largest collection of rare and endangered waterfowl, and the **Roanoke Canal Museum & Trail**'s, part of the **N.C. Birding Trail**.
- **Vance County:** **Kerr Lake**, a 50,000-acre reservoir, is paradise for those who love fishing, camping, boating and sailing, nature trails, bird watching and more.
- **Warren County:** Lake lovers find twin temptations at **Kerr Lake and Lake Gaston** while food lovers relish the **restaurants** in downtown Warrenton.

Inner Banks

- **Chowan County:** History aficionados are lured to the wealth of sites and well-preserved architecture in Edenton, a remarkably pretty Colonial capital on the Albemarle Sound.
- **Gates County:** With its dreamy beauty, **Merchants Millpond State Park** beguiles hikers and paddlers who come for the views of old-growth cypress trees draped in Spanish moss.
- **Hertford County:** A singular take on history and innovation lends star power to the **Brady C. Jefcoat Museum of Americana**, whose exhibits include kitchens, taxidermy, wildlife and Native American artifacts.
- **Martin County:** The Roanoke River sets the scene for history as well as fishing, paddling and other recreation while equestrian events fill the calendar at the **Senator Bob Martin Eastern Ag Center**.
- **Perquimans County:** Baseball fans celebrate hometown hero Jim "Catfish" Hunter at the Perquimans County History Museum and pay tribute at Cedarwood Cemetery, where the Hall of Famer is buried.
- **Tyrrell County:** At the intersection of the Alligator River and the Albemarle Sound, Tyrrell is known for the natural treasures at **Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge** and **Pettigrew State Park**.
- **Washington County:** Travelers connect to the area's concentration of black bears with the **NC Black Bear Discovery Center**. Washington shares **Pettigrew State Park** and an Albemarle Sound shoreline with Tyrrell, the county next door.

