Wilmington, N.C. — The Wilmington and Beaches Convention and Visitors Bureau is pleased to announce that the Wilmington Riverwalk was voted as the <u>#2 Best Riverwalk</u>, according to the <u>10Best Readers' Choice travel award contest</u> sponsored by USA TODAY.

The Wilmington Riverwalk's #2 ranking among USA TODAY's 10Best — Best Riverwalk is a welcome addition to the destination's growing list of accolades. This prestigious travel award, voted on by readers of USA TODAY, shines a spotlight on Wilmington's pedestrian-friendly 1.75-mile Riverwalk with more than 200 shops, restaurants, attractions, theatres, tours, and cruises — all within easy walking distance.

"Wilmington, North Carolina is a destination on the rise, and this recognition as one of the nation's Best Riverwalks is quite timely as we celebrate the completion of River Place and look forward to more grand openings later this year for the Aloft Wilmington at Coastline Center and North Waterfront Park, with its open-air world-class concert venue managed by Live Nation," states Kim Hufham, president/CEO of the New Hanover County Tourism Development Authority. "These new amenities along the northern riverfront further enhance and complement the vibrant Wilmington Riverwalk."

This is not the first win for Wilmington's riverfront. In 2014, Wilmington, North Carolina was voted as the #1 Best American Riverfront by USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Awards.

"The City of Wilmington's investment in the Riverwalk has transformed it into one of our destination's key attractors," states Hufham. "Visitors and residents of Wilmington and its island beaches know that our Riverwalk is a special place for recreation, dining, shopping, entertainment, and natural beauty. While we had high hopes to again win the number one spot in a USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice contest, it is quite an honor to be voted as number two among so many outstanding riverwalks across the U.S."

Nominees for all categories of USA TODAY 10Best awards are chosen by a panel of relevant experts which include a combination of editors from USA TODAY; editors from 10Best.com; relevant expert contributors; and sources for both these media and other Gannett properties. The nomination panel for each award category is displayed on its associated contest page. All voting is digital and the 10Best Readers' Choice Award contest is accessible on the 10Best.com website. For a full list of Best Riverwalk nominees and their final rankings, visit <a href="www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-riverwalk">www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-riverwalk</a>.

## **About Wilmington and Beaches Convention & Visitors Bureau:**

The New Hanover County Tourism Development Authority (TDA), d/b/a Wilmington and Beaches Convention & Visitors Bureau, markets and develops the county and its communities' leisure and group travel experiences for economic growth and quality of place. For visitor information about Wilmington and its island beaches and to request a free 2021 Official Visitors Guide, visit WilmingtonAndBeaches.com.

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