



## The Great Dismal Swamp

**The Great Dismal Swamp** is one of the few natural American gems remaining in the East. Once covering over one million acres, the swamp exists of approximately 125,000 acres of protected lands. The swamp shelters a wealth of history, lore, flora and fauna.

The modern day swamp retains its mystery, but we are able to explore its secrets, without the hardships endured by the pioneering spirits that sought to tame it. Home to one of the largest black bear populations on the East Coast, subtropical birds, butterflies, bobcats and white-tailed deer, it is understandably, why this land deserves our protection.

***The Dismal Swamp Welcome Center and Dismal Swamp State Park are located on US Hwy 17N, in South Mills, NC, 3 miles south of the NC/VA border.***

***Visitors can enjoy lodging in a rustic, nature filled setting at North River Campground in southern Camden, or find lodging nearby in Elizabeth City, 15 miles to the south. Camden County enjoys unique local eateries, local farm markets and history.***



## Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway

**The Dismal Swamp Canal** is an alternate route along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, connecting the Chesapeake Bay with the Albemarle Sound. The AICW provides pleasure boats with a protected inland channel between Norfolk, Virginia, all the way to Miami, Florida. The Canal is on the National Register of Historic Places as a Historic Landmark, noted as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, and has received the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Designation. The Welcome Center is home to a 150' face dock that provides a rest stop to nearly 2,000 boaters yearly.

## Underground Railroad

Come learn more about the Great Dismal Swamp's Underground Railroad history and designation as part of the **National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom**. This route was the most rugged and treacherous route for runaway slaves due to the abundant amount of insects, snakes and wild animals. Moses Grandy, a slave, born 1786 in Camden County, attempted to purchase his freedom three times before finally freeing himself and members of his family. His trustworthiness and working knowledge of the swamp led him to be an asset to the Underground Railroad. Visit the Dismal Swamp Welcome Center, Dismal Swamp State Park or the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to receive the Network To Freedom Passport Cancellation Stamp.



**Lock Master-Robert Peek** Let Robert Peek provide a guided tour on our historic waterway. Enjoy tales of mystery and history as you glide through the dark tea colored waters on this ancient waterway. This hand-dug waterway opened in the early 1800s and was home to the Lake Drummond Hotel, built on the property line dividing North Carolina and Virginia. Duels were the method of the day to settle men's differences and this venue provided a place to retreat for such deeds.

<http://www.allatsea.net/southeast/great-dismal-swamp-the-lifeof-a-lockmaster/>

## Walk on the Wild Side

The **Dismal Swamp State Park** allows visitors the opportunity to “walk” across the canal into the swamp. The State Park features nearly 20 miles of hiking/mountain biking trails and a half-mile boardwalk allowing guests a “modern” passage into the dense swamp. Visitors may bring their own equipment or rent canoes, kayaks and mountain bikes from the park. Learn more about the Dismal Swamp through regularly scheduled ranger-led programs and annual wagon rides. Come explore and celebrate 100 years of North Carolina’s state parks.



<http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/disw/main.php>



## Paddle for the Border

**Paddle for the Border**, scheduled for May 6, 2017, attracts paddlers from diverse places to enjoy a trek up the historic Dismal Swamp Canal to Virginia. Brightly colored canoes and kayaks pause on the banks, anticipating launching in the mirrored waters. The day is filled with laughter, entertainment and excitement as the adventurers make the 7.5-mile journey from one state to another. Over 350 paddlers participate each year.

<https://www.facebook.com/DismalSwampWelcomeCenter/videos>

## Dismal Day-Dismal Swamp State Park

**Dismal Day** is both a misnomer and an apt name for a special event scheduled for October 22, 2016. The day begins with a 5K Family Fun-Run followed by a wide range of activities with a nature theme. Dozens of crafters display their wares while wagon rides offer participants an up-close view of an old moonshine still and a lighter boat display. Events for children include a scavenger hunt for turtle shells, snakeskins and other items found in nature. Bounce houses, a chalk art contest, Creepy Crawly Critter Crafts, pumpkin decorating and more. Educational programming will include live wolves, raptors and alligators. Boat rides on the canal are a favorite with a taste of the past on the still mirrored waters for all to enjoy.



## Flea Markets/Antiques & Farmer’s Markets

Come browse through the unique collectibles and home décor items at The Vintage Lilley, Clow Antiques & Clocks, 2nd Tyme Around and Janet’s Crafts, Flowers & Flea Market. The Nesting Cottage boasts 7,000 square feet of beautiful antiques and vintage pieces. Fresh produce, baked goods, ice cream and flowers are also available along the highways of Camden County. Poor Boy’s Market and Williams Strawberry Farm are local staples as well as must stop attractions for beach travelers.

[WWW.CAMDENCOUNTYNC.GOV](http://WWW.CAMDENCOUNTYNC.GOV)

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[WWW.DISMALSWAMPWELCOMECENTER.COM](http://WWW.DISMALSWAMPWELCOMECENTER.COM)

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