

Little Washington NORTH CAROLINA



Founded in 1776, **Little Washington** is a historical gem nestled in Eastern North Carolina along the Pamlico Tar River. Little Washington combines Southern charm and beautiful natural settings to create one of the “coolest small towns in America,” as selected by Budget Travel. From miles of waterway trails and the country’s very first Estuarium to local restaurants and art galleries, Little Washington has a little bit of everything.

BIG HAPPENINGS IN LITTLE WASHINGTON

NEW HISTORICAL ACCOMMODATION

Rest your head and relax at Little Washington’s newest bed and breakfast, Elmwood 1820. For centuries, the Elmwood, with its intricate detailing and traditional architecture, has been known as the “crown jewel” of downtown Little Washington. Over the years, the Elmwood has served as headquarters for the Union Army, a hospital during the Civil War, and a residence for many of the most prominent residents in Little Washington.

RIVER TOURS & MORE

Explore Little Washington’s Pamlico Tar River on a scenic river tour with one of the many cruises available. Learn about the history of the waterfront and the natural habitats of the waterways on a River Roving Educational tour. If gliding along the river sounds perfect, pack a picnic lunch and spend the afternoon on the water with Miss Bea’s Charters’ “Sun and Fun on the River” tour. For history enthusiasts, climb aboard the Schooner Jeanie B., based upon the famous schooners of the 1700s, and travel along the river to nearby Bath, N.C., where Blackbeard the Pirate once lived! Spend the evening on the water by reserving a spot on a sunset dinner cruise on the Belle of Washington, and soak in the view while enjoying a delicious meal!

WATERFRONT WEDDINGS

You have the ring, now it’s time to plan the big day. In Little Washington area, you will find everything you need for an unforgettable day, from historic venues to fabulous photographers. Brides can choose from a multitude of unique settings for the backdrop of their nuptials like the Washington Civic Center, Festival Park on the water, and the historic Turnage Theatre. While the happy couple relaxes after an eventful day, guests can spend the rest of the weekend paddling on the Pamlico River, touring the historic district, exploring the North Carolina Estuarium, or browsing the galleries and boutiques.

WORLD’S FIRST ESTUARIUM

You heard us right: Little Washington is home to the world’s first Estuarium. As one of North Carolina’s most advanced environmental centers, the North Carolina Estuarium celebrates Little Washington’s estuary system and waterways that shaped the region. Using fascinating artworks and hands-on interactive displays, visitors can learn all about the ecosystem including inhabitants like crabs, alligators and other marine life. Check out their special programs like river boat tours, battle reenactments and seasonal art exhibits.





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SAMPLE STORYLINES

Travel Without Kids

For empty nesters and couples traveling without kids, fall is the perfect time to take a much needed getaway. Kids are back in school which means couples can make memories and spend time together on a romantic getaway. Use this time alone to enjoy each other's company while taking in the sights on the waterfront, visiting the many art galleries in Little Washington, indulging in local cuisine and more. Reserve a room at a cozy bed and breakfast downtown like the Elmwood 1820 or The Pamlico House for the quintessential Little Washington experience.

Cheer on ECU Football

Because of its close proximity to Greenville, N.C., and East Carolina University (ECU), Little Washington is the ideal destination to spend the weekend of an ECU football game. At Little Washington, fans are less than 30 minutes away from the stadium and can escape the hustle and bustle of campus. Enjoy a delicious dinner the night before the game at restaurants like The Bank Bistro or Down on Main Street, a local favorite! Grab breakfast to-go before the game at Rachel K's Bakery – their freshly baked bagels, breakfast sandwiches and pastries are a perfect way to start the day. After the game, celebrate with a cold, craft beer at Grub Brothers Eatery.

Art Lovers

With galleries around every corner, art lovers flock to Little Washington to see unique local pieces and artists. Stop by any one of the eight galleries featuring multiple local and nationally known artists for a cultured afternoon. Check out Lemonade Art Gallery, a working gallery, to watch artists as they create fine jewelry, wearable silk art and more. Walk down Main Street to River Walk Gallery & Arts Center and take one of their various workshops or look at rare pieces.

Go Back in Time

There are an abundance of historical sites in Little Washington. Let your inner history buff shine during a getaway exploring historical battlegrounds and landmarks. Take a historic walking tour through downtown and see centuries-old homes while hearing about their past and ghostly stories!

You'll also see Turnage Theatre. Originally built in 1913 and still operating today, it hosts seasonal concerts and performances. Finish off your history tour on the water and see the remains of the Union Army's ship, the USS Picket, jutting out of the Tar River.

Skip the Airport and the Stress

Why spend the days leading up to your relaxing vacation stressing and meticulously planning? Take a stress-free day trip to Little Washington. Located a short drive away from the Triangle area, Eastern N.C. cities, and the Tidewater region of Virginia, Little Washington is the perfect place to detox, make memories with family and friends, and sight-see in our quaint and charming town. Relax with activities like a kayak trip on the Pamlico Tar River Estuary to watch the sunrise, a quiet stroll along the river or through downtown, or a delicious dinner on the waterfront with live music.

Outdoor Adventures

Leave the chaos of a big city and experience the outdoors in Little Washington. Whether you prefer land or sea, there are plenty of ways to get active and get some fresh air! Take advantage of the 200 miles of mapped paddle trails and head out on the water on a kayak adventure. If you're an avid fisherman, Little Washington has more public waterfront access than any other Eastern North Carolina town – perfect for you to see what you can reel in! Take your adventure on land and bike through the trails at nearby Goose Creek State Park.

Signature Events

Little Washington comes to life from April to October with a hearty event schedule. In October, get a taste of traditional, Eastern N.C.-style barbecue at the Smoke on the Water annual cook-off. Visitors of all ages will love the dragon boat races and live music as well. Take a walk through the Washington Marine Market in April, filled with nautical finds made in Little Washington. Peruse unique pieces from local vendors and purchase a one-of-a-kind souvenir before heading to the boat show on the waterfront.