

north carolina

parks for kids



Buddy Bison's Fact Bites!



- **North Carolina is the leading producer of sweet potatoes in the United States. The vegetable is a native crop to the state and in 1995, it was recognized as the Official Vegetable of the state!**
- **The state's slogan is "First in Flight". The Wright brothers brought this honor with their first launch of a mechanically propelled airplane in 1903.**
- **The *Queen Anne's Revenge*, the ship of the infamous Captain Blackbeard, sank off the coast here, along with more than 5000 other ships, in what's called the "Graveyard of the Atlantic."**



1. Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Hike to the observation platform on the top of Clingmans Dome or lean about history in the Mountain Farm Museum. Ride your bike along Cades Cove Loop then go fishing or look for salamanders!

2. Grandfather Mountain

Look out for owls and other birds of prey and see rare wildflowers. Hike over the mile high swinging bridge or tour the nature museum.

3. Pisgah National Forest

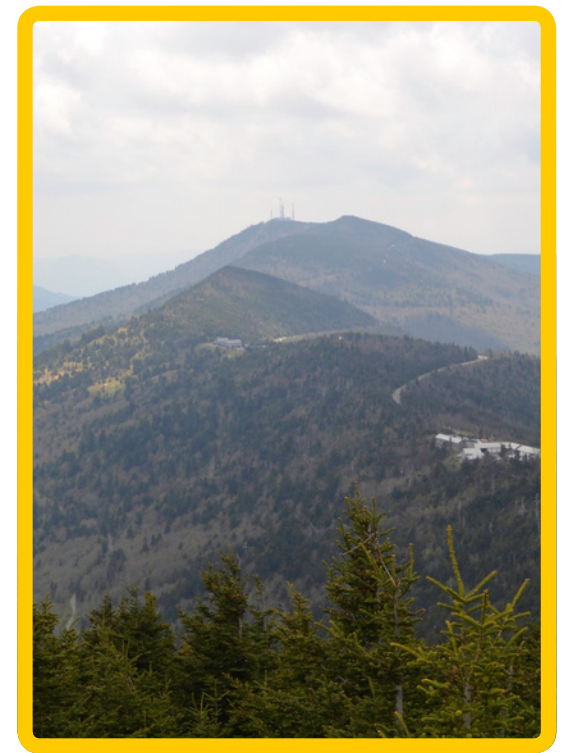
Explore the park's waterfalls, including Sliding Rock, a 60-foot natural water slide! Fish along the French Broad River and picnic. Check out the Visitor Center and learn about this "Cradle of Forestry!"

4. Hanging Rock State Park

Dip your feet in the waters at the base of the Lower Cascades Waterfall then check out the view from the Observation Tower. Play on the beach at Hanging Rock Lake or go swimming and fishing. Try out rock climbing then camp overnight!

5. Stone Mountain State Park

Hike the Cedar Rock Trail to see the Blue Ridge Mountains, go on a Stream Safari and learn about all the wildlife in the streams. Check out the Visitor Center then view Stone Mountain Falls. Go fishing and spend the night camping.



6. Hammocks Beach State Park

Kayak, canoe, or paddleboard to Bear Island. Build a sand castle or enjoy a picnic. Go fishing, take the ferry, and look for -- but don't disturb -- the loggerhead turtles!

7. Fort Macon State Park

Go to the Visitor Center to learn about local ecology then learn about the history of the fort on a guided tour. Go fishing, take a swim or enjoy a relaxing picnic.

8. Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Become a Junior Ranger! Look for shells in the sand or birds by the sea. Tour the Bodie Island lighthouse then check out the Banker horses! Camp overnight on the beach and stargaze.