

## NC Travelers Can Find Alternative Experiences During Government Shutdown

The partial federal government shutdown might force travelers to adjust their plans, but North Carolina offers a wealth of winter traveling, experiencing nature and exploring history. Here are the federal sites impacted by the government shutdown and alternatives that remain open.

**Campgrounds** Find a campground at a North Carolina State Park at [northcarolinastateparks.reserveamerica.com](http://northcarolinastateparks.reserveamerica.com). From the [reserveamerica.com](http://reserveamerica.com) homepage, you can launch a search by location to find private campgrounds as well.

**Blue Ridge Parkway** According to last update of the real-time conditions map, many sections of the Blue Ridge Parkway were closed because of weather conditions. Along sections that remain passable, federal visitor centers, comfort stations and other attractions staffed by the National Park Service are closed.

State parks along the parkway - including Stone Mountain and Mount Mitchell - are not affected by the shutdown. Chimney Rock and Grandfather Mountain, signature off-the-Parkway attractions, are open as weather permits. Check the website for information about weather-related closures.

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park** Park facilities are closed, though scenic U.S. 441 is open to traffic. Outdoor experiences in the Smokies and nearby ranges can be found through travel bureaus such as [greatsmokies.com](http://greatsmokies.com) (Bryson City), [visitsmokies.com](http://visitsmokies.com) (Haywood County), [discoverjacksonnc.com](http://discoverjacksonnc.com) (Jackson County) and [grahamcountytravel.com](http://grahamcountytravel.com) (Graham County).

**Cape Hatteras National Seashore** The seashore remains open, though off-road vehicle ramps are closed. The Cape Hatteras and Bodie Island lighthouses had closed for the season before the shutdown. Find lists of private marinas at [outerbanks.org](http://outerbanks.org) and [visitcurrituck.com](http://visitcurrituck.com) and a map of public access points maintained by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission at [ncpaws.org](http://ncpaws.org).

**Cape Lookout National Seashore** Island Ferry Service, the seashore's official concessionaire, is unaffected by the shutdown. Transportation to Shackleford Banks, home of a herd of wild ponies, and the Cape Lookout Lighthouse area is available unless the weather dictates otherwise. Note that the lighthouse had closed for the season before the shutdown.

**Appalachian Trail** All sections of the trail are accessible, though services provided by the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service are unavailable. Find details from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy at [appalachiantrail.org](http://appalachiantrail.org).

**Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail** Most sites on the hiking and driving trail are accessible unless conditions force closure.

**National Forests** Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, Pisgah's Cradle of Forestry and other facilities staffed by the U.S. Forest Service are closed, but roads through the vast mountain forestlands remain open.

In the southern mountains, hikers and mountain bikers might opt for Gorges State Park or DuPont State Recreational Forest, and outfitters can help adventurers with Nantahala Gorge excursions. In northern Pisgah Forest, state parks and natural areas - including Elk Knob, Grandfather Mountain and Mount Mitchell - are open unless weather conditions force a closure. Check websites for current information.

Uwharrie National Forest remains accessible, though facilities staffed by the U.S. Forest Service are closed at the 51,000-acre tract atop the ancient Uwharrie Mountains in central North Carolina. Morrow Mountain State Park affords land, lake and river recreation, and the North Carolina Zoo sits on the opposite side of the forest.

At coastal Croatan National Forest, facilities staffed by the U.S. Forest Service are closed, though roads remain open. As an alternative to this forest of longleaf pine, evergreen-shrub bogs and wetlands, Goose Creek State Park in Washington provides a similar backdrop and recreation options.

### National historic sites

- Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site in Flat Rock is closed. For a literary fix, Asheville is home to the Thomas Wolfe Memorial, the rambling Victorian boarding house known as Dixieland in "Look Homeward, Angel."

- Guilford Courthouse National Military Park is closed, though access is possible through the adjacent Greensboro Country Park. Moores Creek National Battlefield, whose entrance is gated, is closed. For a pre-Revolutionary War battlefield experience, the Alamance Battleground State Historic Site in Burlington interprets events from 1771.

- Fort Raleigh National Historic Site is closed, though the lovely Elizabethan Gardens remains open. In the heart of Manteo, Roanoke Island Festival Park examines the history of America's first English settlement with a representative 16th-century sailing ship, an American Indian Town, a settlement site and a museum.

- Wright Brothers National Memorial is closed, but visitors can connect with the namesake aviators' airborne adventure at Jockey's Ridge State Park. Hang gliding and kite flying are among the available activities, and Kitty Hawk Kites offers a soaring experience on a replica of the 1902 Wright Brothers glider.

**Wildlife refuges** The 11 federal wildlife refuges in North Carolina are all closed. State parks and properties within the North Carolina Coastal Reserve provide another way to experience many of the species protected on the federal sites. Here's a general geographic rundown:

The Outer Banks (Alligator River, Currituck, Mackay Island and Pea Island wildlife refuges) is home to Currituck Banks Estuarine Research Reserve, Kitty Hawk Woods and Buxton Woods.

The Central Coast (Cedar Island and Swan Quarter wildlife refuges) is home to the Rachel Carson Estuarine Reserve and Hammocks Beach State Park.

Inner coast (Mattamuskeet, Pocosin Lakes, Roanoke River and Great Dismal Swamp wildlife refuges) is home to Dismal Swamp State Park and the Emily and Richard Preyer Buckridge Coastal Reserve.

In the Piedmont, the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge is near Morrow Mountain State Park.

## Bingo at Grace Senior Center

Bingo games are held every second Tuesday of the month at Grace Senior Center at 11:30 a.m. All seniors are invited to attend for fun and fellowship. There is no cost, but you must be 55 or older to play.

For more information or to register to play call the center at 704-694-6616. Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA.

## FarmHouse Buffet

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## Tips for Cleaning the Outdoor Grill

Outdoor grilling is one of life's delights. Even basic foods seem to taste better when cooked outdoors. Whether the grill of choice is charcoal or gas, keeping your grill clean is important.

Here are some tips for peak performance all year long. Begin by checking the grill manufacturer's instructions for specific cleaning requirements.

Rust is the major enemy of charcoal grills, and the major cause of rust is failing to clean out the ashes regularly. To do this, turn off the grill, make sure it is completely cool. If there is no ash catcher underneath the bowl, use a garden trowel to scoop out the ashes. If the grill has an ash catcher, be sure to clean it too, once the ashes are removed. Carefully discard the ashes in a plastic trash bag. Otherwise, they will fly all over, covering everything, including yourself, with soot.

Clean the grate and the inside of the grill with a spray-on cleaner. Check the label to make sure the cleaning product is safe for both these surfaces, and follow the grill manufacturer's use instructions. Let the cleaner sit long enough to soften the accumulated grease and grime. Then, wipe the cleaner with paper towels. Follow by washing with a hand dishwashing detergent and water. Clean the outside of the grill, too, using a warm detergent and water solution and a non-abrasive cloth. Rinse and wipe dry.

Gas grills should be cleaned to make sure there are no leaks or blockages. Make sure the grill is turned off and completely cool. Then, inspect the burner and gas supply tubes for spider webs, grease build-up, rusted areas or anything that would slow down the gas flow. Clean these areas following the grill manufacturer's cleaning instructions.

Clean a gas grill after every use by turning the grill on high and letting it cook for 10 to 15 minutes with the lid closed. Then, loosen the residue with a brass bristle brush. Once the grill is completely cool, wipe the inside and outside surfaces with a soft cloth and warm, soapy water. Rinse and wipe dry.



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## ANSON COUNTY TAX OFFICE

### Tax Listings Must Be Filed In January 2019

**WHERE TO LIST:** Listing may be done through the mail or at the Anson County Assessor's Office, located at 101 South Greene Street, Suite 109, Wadesboro, NC 28170. Office hours are weekdays, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**WHEN TO LIST:** Listing of 2019 taxes will begin January 1, 2019. The deadline for listing is January 31, 2019. The U.S. Postal Service must postmark completed forms no later than January 31, 2019.

#### WHAT TO LIST FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2019:

- **Personal property listing:** List all unlicensed (untagged) automobiles, trucks, trailers, campers, motorcycles, all boats and motors, personal watercraft, mobile homes, and aircraft (including hot air balloons, gliders and ultra-lights).

- **Business property listing:** If you had a business operating in Anson County anytime in 2018, or if you owned a business in Anson County on January 1, 2019, you are required to file a listing. All equipment used in producing income that is owned or leased must be listed. If you did not receive listing form, please contact the Assessor's Office at 704-994-3290. If your business was sold, had a name change, address change (911) or ended in 2018, please notify in writing.

- **Individuals, Churches and Non-Profit Businesses:** Individuals, businesses or organizations that meet the requirements for tax deferral (farm programs), exclusion/exemption must file with the Anson County Assessor's Office in January.

**A 10% Penalty is applied for listings after January 31, 2019. For those discovered as unlisted or underlisted in prior years there will be penalties and interest added to their bill.**

**All property owned as of January 1, 2019 must be listed and any leased property identified.**

**REAL ESTATE LISTING:** Anson County is on a permanent real estate listing system and owners of real estate need not file an abstract in January of each year. However, if you have made any improvements or new construction that has not been previously listed, you are **Required by Law** to file a listing. If you have demolished or removed any improvements, or currently receive the elderly/disabled exemption and no longer qualify you are **Required by Law** to notify the Anson County Tax Office.

**Property tax relief for veterans, the elderly and permanently disabled must be filed with the Anson County Tax Assessor's Office between January 1, 2019 and June 1, 2019.**

**Property Tax Homestead Circuit Breaker is an annual application. For questions concerning tax listings and property tax relief call the Anson County Assessor's Office at 704-994-3290 or see additional information on our website: [www.co.anson.nc.us](http://www.co.anson.nc.us).**

## ANSON COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

101 South Greene Street, Suite 109, Wadesboro, NC 28170 • 704-994-3290