



72 hours in the

SOUTHEAST



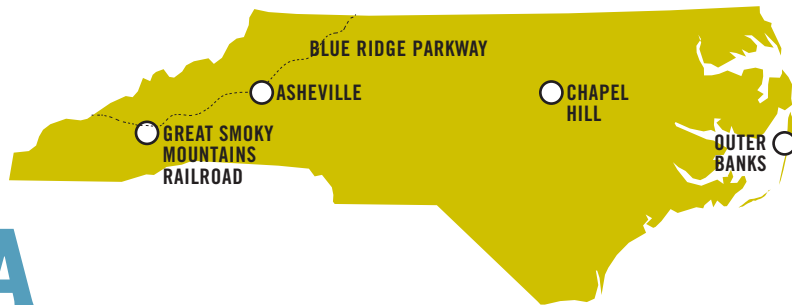
From *fabulous wineries* and boutique breweries to *captivating fall foliage* and scenic drives, the Southeast USA is one of autumn's *hottest destinations*.



Read on
for expert travel advice on three-day itineraries packed with outdoor spaces, culinary hot spots, cultural happenings, and day trips.



72 hours in NORTH CAROLINA



Follow North Carolina's brilliant autumn leaves from the highest peaks east of the Mississippi to 300 miles of barrier islands. Leading travel expert and author Jim Strong gets in the driver's seat to head to the mountains—and to the beach—with two great itineraries for 72 hours in North Carolina.



Jim Strong maps out the best of western North Carolina this fall

FRIDAY • Reserve a room at the Inn on Biltmore Estate with a French door balcony overlooking rolling countryside. Settle in for lunch at the Stable Café, where 19th-century horse stalls are re-imagined as cozy dining nooks.

• After a romp at the Land Rover Experience Driving School, sample signature wines from N.C. (ranked 7th in wine production in the U.S.) before dinner at fig bistro in Historic Biltmore Village.

SATURDAY • Rise and shine with a hot-air balloon ride over stunning fall foliage stretching from Asheville into Pisgah National Forest.

• Travel to charming downtown Brevard, N.C. Hike, bike, or

climb through Transylvania County's "Land of Waterfalls" trails after lunch at Brown Trout Mountain Grille in Lake Toxaway.

• Cruise "America's Favorite Drive" and soak up vibrant fall color along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Don't miss dramatic views at Pisgah Inn (milepost 409) and Graveyard Fields Trails (milepost 418).

SUNDAY • Start your day with a Smoky Mountain Fly Fishing private lesson in Cherokee, N.C. Follow it with an adrenaline-rushing zip-line ride over Bryson City's century-old forests with Nantahala Gorge Canopy Tours.

• Commemorate your trip to Cherokee lands with unique handmade crafts from Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual, Inc.

expert tip:
 "Fall foliage moves from the west to the east, and one of the best ways to see it is on the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad."
 —Travel expert Jim Strong (strongtravel.com)



Cape Hatteras Lighthouse

• Stroll through the village and pop into McIntyre Books for a selection to enjoy in one of Fearington's romantic gardens. Enjoy an elegant dinner at the Inn or venture into Chapel Hill for some Tar Heel barbecue traditions at Alan & Son or The Pit.

SATURDAY • Begin your trek to the coast with a stop at the state's capital of Raleigh and see the newly expanded North Carolina Museum of Art, featuring a Rodin gallery.

• Drive to the Outer Banks for a stay at The Sanderling in Duck, N.C., off the coastline on the 300-mile stretch of barrier islands.

• Tour nearby attractions such as the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Manteo, honoring the "first in flight" duo; the 175-foot-tall Currituck Beach Lighthouse, with breathtaking views of what seafaring lore calls the "graveyard of the Atlantic"; and the enchanting Corolla Wild Horse Tours.

SUNDAY • Enjoy your morning north of Duck kayaking through secluded water trails and the Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary's pristine marsh in view of the Currituck Sound.

• Then drive to Nags Head to the famous Cape Hatteras Lighthouse—the tallest lighthouse in the country—before catching a windsurfing or kiteboarding lesson at OceanAir Sports up the road in Avon.



Daily must-dos for sampling regional color from expert Jim Strong

FRIDAY • Pamper yourself with a stay at The Fearington House Country Inn, just 30 miles from the Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Enjoy country-chic touches of antiques and fresh-cut flowers.



Autumn colors at Newfound Gap in the Great Smoky Mountains

GO TO VISITNC.COM FOR DETAILS ON ALL OF THESE STOPS, OR CHOOSE FROM DOZENS MORE ADVENTURE-PACKED ITINERARIES.