

Great Outdoor Provision Company's

Great hiking spots near Charlotte

1 Hour Away or Less:

1. **Latta Plantation Nature Preserve** (704) 875-1391 About 10 miles of trails available, all are easy to moderate in difficulty. Land is gently rolling, and some of the trails have lake views. Traveling North on I-77 from Charlotte: Exit 16B, Sunset Road West, to Beatties Ford Road. Turn right and proceed north for 4.8 miles until you reach Sample Road. Turn left onto Sample Road and continue 1 mile to the preserve entrance. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)
2. **McDowell Nature Preserve** (704) 588-5224 About 7 miles of trails available, all are easy to moderate in difficulty. Land is gently rolling, and some of the trails have lake views. Campground available. Traveling South on I-77 from Charlotte: Near the NC/SC border, take Exit 90 onto Carowinds Boulevard. Go west approximately 3 miles to Highway 49 (York Road). Turn left on Highway 49 and travel 4 miles. The nature preserve entrance is on the right. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure; North Carolina Hiking Trails*)
3. **Reedy Creek Nature Preserve** (704) 598-8875 About 10 miles of trails available, all are easy to moderate in difficulty. Land is gently rolling. Traveling I-85 to or from Charlotte: Follow I-85 to Exit 45-A (East W.T. Harris Blvd.). Travel on East W.T. Harris Blvd. to the 4th stoplight and turn left onto Rocky River Rd. Follow Rocky River Rd. for approximately ½ mile, turn left at the stop light, and then just past the fire station turn right into Reedy Creek Park and Nature Preserve. Follow the main park road to a t-intersection and stop sign, then turn right and proceed to the Nature Center parking lot. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)
4. **Crowder's Mountain State Park** (704) 853-5375 About 15 miles of trails are available; some are easy to moderate, while others are strenuous in difficulty. Most of the parkland is made up of rolling hills, while steep cliffs with long range vistas characterize the peaks of Crowder's Mountain and King's Pinnacle. Backpack camping for individuals and groups is available. From Charlotte take I-85, to exit 13 (Edgewood Road). At the top of the ramp turn left onto Edgewood Road. At the first stoplight, turn right onto Franklin Boulevard/Highway 74 and drive approximately two miles. At the next stoplight, turn left onto Sparrow Springs Road. Continue on Sparrow Springs Road for approximately two miles, and turn right again on Sparrow Springs Road. The main entrance to the park will be on the right in less than one mile. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure; North Carolina State Parks – <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/ncparks.html>*)
5. **Lake Norman State Park** (704) 528-6350 About 7 miles of trails are available. All trails are easy to moderate in difficulty. Land is characterized by gently rolling hills, with lake views available along some sections of the trails. Campground is available, as well as walk-in sites for groups. From Charlotte take I-77 to exit 42 which leads to US 21 north. Travel north on US 21 to Troutman. In Troutman, turn left on Wagner Street. Then turn right on State Park Road, which leads into the state park. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure; North Carolina State Parks – <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/ncparks.html>*)
6. **Morrow Mountain State Park** (704) 982-4402 Over 30 miles of trails are available – most are easy to moderate in difficulty, but some sections are difficult. Land is characterized by gently rolling hills, with some steep sections. Some long-range views are common, particularly in winter. Campground, backpack camping, and group campsites are available. From Charlotte, take NC 24 east and veer right on NC 740. After about six miles, turn right on Morrow Mountain Road, which leads into the park. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure; North Carolina State Parks – <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/ncparks.html>*)

7. **Uwharrie National Forest** (910) 576-6391 Over 50 miles of trails are available – most are easy to moderate in difficulty, but some sections are difficult. Land is characterized by gently rolling hills, with some steep sections. Good views available in winter. Campgrounds, group campsites, and backpack camping are available. From Charlotte, take NC 24 east over Pee Dee River Bridge and turn left into Uwharrie Trail Parking area after about 2 miles. **Please note:** other sections of the National Forest, such as the Birkhead Mountains Wilderness Area and other sections of the National Forest, require more extensive driving – please get directions from Great Outdoor Provision Company staff, or inquire at the number above, which is the ranger station office phone number. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)
8. **Ann Springs Close Greenway** (803) 548-7252 Over 30 miles of trails are available – most are easy to moderate in difficulty. Land is gently rolling. **Please note:** unless you are a member of the ASC Greenway, there is a small fee for hiking the trails – please call the office for more information. Primitive camping is available. From Charlotte: I-77 south to exit 90. Turn left at the light at the bottom of ramp. Continue for 2.6 mi. on this road (road name switches from Carowinds Blvd. to US-21 Bypass.) Turn left into the main entrance to the Greenway. (Source: *Anne Springs Close Greenway* – <http://leroyssprings.com/greenway.html>)
9. **Kings Mountain State Park and National Military Park** (803) 222-3209 Almost 20 miles of trails are available – most is easy to moderate in difficulty. Land is gently rolling. A campground is available, as is backpack camping. From Charlotte, take I-85 South to Exit 104 (King’s Mountain National Military Park). Follow signs to the park. (Source: *South Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)
10. **Landsford Canal State Park** (803) 789-5800 Almost 2.5 miles of trails are available – trails are easy to follow and some sections offer excellent views of the Catawba River. From Charlotte, take I-77 South to U.S. 21 (Exit 77) South to State Road 327. Turn L and go 1.7 miles to State Road 690. Turn L and go 0.5 miles to the main park entrance. (Source: *South Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)
11. **Cane Creek Park** (704) 843-3919 About 15 miles of trails are available. Trails are easy to moderate in difficulty. Land is gently rolling. Campground, walk-in sites, and group camping is available. From Charlotte, take Providence road (Hwy. 16) south, where you will take a left in downtown Waxhaw. The road will fork and you will want to stay right. Then follow the Cane Creek sign on the right. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)

Between 1 and 2 Hours Away:

12. **South Mountains State Park** (828) 433-4772 Over 40 miles of trails are available, some are easy, but most are moderate to strenuous in difficulty. Most of the parkland is made up of steep slopes and ridge tops, while there are flatter areas along a number of cascading streams that run throughout the park. Some wonderful vistas are available from some of the trails, including long range vistas and waterfall views. Backpack camping and car camping are available. From Charlotte, travel south on I-85 to U.S. 321. Take U.S. 321 North until you get to highway 27. Take a left at the light onto 27 and travel through Lincolnton until you come to highway 18 (a T-intersection). Take a right and look for signs directing you to the park. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure; North Carolina State Parks* – <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/ncparks.html>)
13. **Stone Mountain State Park** (336) 957-8185 Over 20 miles of trails are available. A number are easy to moderate, but some are strenuous in difficulty. Many wonderful views of waterfalls and long range vistas from granite domes are available. Backpack camping is available, as is car camping. From Charlotte, take I-77 North and turn west onto US 21 around Elkin. Veer left onto Traphill Road (SR 1002), and follow it to the John P. Frank Parkway. Turn right and follow the parkway to the park. From the west, take NC 18 north and turn right onto Traphill Road (SR 1002). Follow the road to the John P. Frank Parkway and turn left, following the parkway to the park. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure; North Carolina State Parks* – <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/ncparks.html>)

14. **Weymouth Woods – Sandhills Nature Preserve** (910) 692-2167 About 4 miles of trails are available. All trails are easy to moderate in difficulty. These trails offer the chance to see one of the best examples of a long-leaf pine forest available in the state. No camping is available. From Charlotte, take Highway 24/27 east of town. Follow this road until you come to intersection with I-73/74. Take this road south until you come to Highway 211. Follow this road east until you reach Highway 2, which will take you into Southern Pines. Head one mile southeast from Southern Pines on US 1, turn east onto Saunders Boulevard (SR 2053), go 1.3 miles and turn left onto Bethesda Road (SR 2074). This road becomes Fort Bragg Road and the preserve entrance is located a few miles down the road on the left. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*; *North Carolina State Parks* – <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/ncparks.html>)

Between 2 and 3 Hours Away:

15. **Pisgah National Forest – Wilson Creek Area** (828) 652-2144 Over 75 miles of trails are available. Some are easy to moderate, while others are strenuous in difficulty. A wide variety of trails are available: some lead to spectacular views from cliffs while others follow streams to views of waterfalls. Backpack camping and car camping are available. From Charlotte, take I-85 west, to US. 321 North. Follow this to I-40 west. Take I-40 west until Exit 105 (Highway 18) in Morganton. Take a right and follow Highway 18 through town until you get to Highway 181 (you'll see signs). Follow 181 out of town about 10-15 miles until you reach Brown Mountain Beach Road. Take a right here (a white church on the right side of the road is a good landmark). Follow this road and look for signs directing you to Mortimer Recreation Area. Turn left onto a gravel road and follow to numerous access points for trails. **Please note:** the Wilson Creek Trail map is an extremely useful tool for finding trailheads from the road and planning routes. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)
16. **Pisgah National Forest – Linville Gorge Wilderness** (828) 652-2144 Almost 40 miles of trails are available. Some are moderate, but most are quite difficult. Views from almost any trail are wonderful. Please note that while this area is beautiful, it is difficult to negotiate, and is not recommended for beginning hikers. Backpack camping and roadside camping is available. **Please note** that a permit is required for backpack camping on weekends from May through October. **Also note** that Linville Gorge Wilderness map is a critical tool for finding routes and trailheads. From Charlotte, take I-85 west, to US. 321 North. Follow this to I-40 west. Take I-40 west until Exit 105 (Highway 18) in Morganton. Take a right and follow Highway 18 through town until you get to Highway 181 (you'll see signs). Follow 181 out of town until you reach 183. Take a left here. A mile and a half down the road turn left on the dirt Kistler Memorial Highway. Use your map to locate the marked trail heads of your hikes. Parking areas for trails along the Western rim are available along this road. Please use the map to locate other trailhead areas on the Eastern rim. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)
17. **Grandfather Mountain** (800) 468-7325 Over 15 miles of trails are available. Some are easy to moderate, but a number are strenuous in difficulty. Many trails have spectacular views. Backpacking camping is available. To get to the closest trailhead from Charlotte, Take I-85 west until U.S. 321. Follow this road past Blowing Rock until you reach the Blue Ridge Parkway. Follow the parkway south until you see the Boone Fork Parking Area on your right. If you reach the Linn Cove Viaduct, you've gone too far. Grandfather Mountain trails can be accessed from this parking lot. **Please note:** There is a fee for hiking the trails here – inquire at the number above. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)
18. **Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area/Grayson Highlands State Park** (Mt. Rogers NRA Phone # 540-783-5196. State Park Phone # 540-579-7092) Over 300 miles of trail are located in the greater Mt. Rogers area. A huge variety of trails are available, many are easy to moderate, while many others are strenuous. Spectacular views are available from many of the trails. Both backpack camping and car camping are available. From Charlotte, follow I-77 North to US 21 North. Follow US 21 North to US 58 West. Follow US 58 West until you see Grayson Highlands State Park on your right. A number of possible loop hikes are available from this

park into the greater Mt. Rogers area. The Mt. Rogers area map is very useful for this area. (Source: *Virginia – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)

19. **Mt. Mitchell/Black Mountains** (State Park Phone #: 828-675-4611, National Forest Phone # 828-682-6146) Over 40 miles of trails are available. Many are quite steep and strenuous, but some are more moderate. Spectacular views are available from some of the trails. Tent and backpack camping available. From Charlotte, take I-85 west until U.S. 321. Go north on U.S. 321 until I-40 west. From I-40, take exit 86, NC 226 to Marion/Shelby. NC 226 merges with US 221 and US 70 in Marion. Veer left on US 70. After about two miles, turn north on NC 80. Follow NC 80 north/northeast for 16 miles. Turn left onto the Blue Ridge Parkway. Follow the parkway to mile marker #355 and turn right onto NC 128, which leads to the park. A good map of trails in the state map is available at the state park office. The South Toe River Map is useful for areas outside of the state park. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*; *North Carolina State Parks* – <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/ncparks.html>)
20. **Cumberland Knob** (Main BRP Phone #828-271-4779) Recreation area on Blue Ridge Parkway. About 3 miles of trails are available. One trail is fairly moderate, while other is fairly strenuous. No camping available. From Charlotte, follow I-77 North to US 21 North. Follow US 21 North until the Blue Ridge Parkway. Follow the parkway north to Cumberland Knob. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)
21. **Doughton Park** (Main BRP Phone #828-271-4779) Recreation area on Blue Ridge Parkway. Over 30 miles of trails are available. Many are easy to moderate, but some are pretty difficult. Spectacular views are available from some of the trails. Backpack and car camping available. From Charlotte, follow I-77 North to US 421 West. From US 421 West, follow NC 18 North to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Go North on the Parkway until you reach Doughton Park. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)
22. **Julian Price Park** (Main BRP Phone #828-271-4779) Recreation area on Blue Ridge Parkway. Over 10 miles of trails are available. Most are easy to moderate in difficulty. Some nice views are available. Car camping and trailside camping along Mountains to Sea Trail available – inquire about this option at campground. From Charlotte, take I-85 South to US 321 North. Follow this road until you reach the Blue Ridge Parkway. Travel south on the parkway until you reach Julian Price Park. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)
23. **Moses Cone Park** (Main BRP Phone #828-271-4779) Recreation area on Blue Ridge Parkway. Over 25 miles of trails are available. Most are easy to moderate in difficulty. Some wonderful views are available from some of the trails. No camping available. From Charlotte, take I-85 South to US 321 North. Follow this road until you reach the Blue Ridge Parkway. Travel south on the parkway until you reach Moses Cone Park. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)
24. **Linville Falls** (Main BRP Phone #828-271-4779) Recreation area on Blue Ridge Parkway. About 3 miles of trails are available. Most are easy, but some are quite steep. A number of great views of Linville Falls are available. Car camping available. From Charlotte, take I-85 west, to US. 321 North. Follow this to I-40 west. Take I-40 west until Exit 105 (Highway 18) in Morganton. Take a right and follow Highway 18 through town until you get to Highway 181 (you'll see signs). Follow 181 out of town until you the Blue Ridge Parkway. Travel south on the parkway until you reach Linville Falls. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)
25. **Crabtree Meadows** (Main BRP Phone #828-271-4779) Recreation area on Blue Ridge Parkway. A nice 2.5 mile hike to Crabtree Falls is available. It is fairly challenging. Car camping available. From Charlotte, take I-85 west until U.S. 321. Go north on U.S. 321 until I-40 west. From I-40, take exit 86, NC 226 to Marion/Shelby. NC 226 merges with US 221 and US 70 in Marion. Veer left on US 70. After about two miles, turn north on NC 80. Follow NC 80 north/northeast for 16 miles. Turn left onto the Blue Ridge Parkway. Follow the parkway to Crabtree Meadows. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)

26. **Craggy Gardens** (Main BRP Phone #828-271-4779) Recreation area on Blue Ridge Parkway. A number of short trails leading to spectacular views are available here. Trails are moderate to strenuous. No camping available. From Charlotte, follow I-85 South to US 321. Go North on US 321 until I-40. Follow I-40 West to Asheville. Follow signs from I-40 to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Once on the parkway, go north until you reach Craggy Gardens. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)
27. **Pisgah National Forest – Shining Rock Wilderness/Middle Prong Wilderness/Black Balsam Knob Area** (828) 877-3265 Around 70 miles of trails are available. Difficulty varies widely – some trails are easy, others are steep and difficult to follow. Spectacular views are available from many of the trails. Car camping and backpack camping are available. From Charlotte, travel south on I-85, and west on NC 74 to I-26. Turn west on I-26, traveling toward Hendersonville. Take exit 18 to US 64 and travel west until you reach the intersection with US 276. Take US 276 North until you reach the Blue Ridge Parkway. Go South on the parkway until you see a sign for the Black Balsam Knob parking area. Take this road to the right and follow to the parking lot. Many of the trails begin here. A very useful trail map covering this entire area is available. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)
28. **Mt. Pisgah Area** (Main BRP Phone #828-271-4779) Recreation area on Blue Ridge Parkway A fairly large network of trails are available here. Some are easy, but many are moderate to strenuous, particularly the longer trails. Some wonderful views are available. Car camping available, as is backpacking camping, but only if one is willing to hike onto nearby National Forest -- not Blue Ridge Parkway -- land. From Charlotte, travel south on I-85, and west on NC 74 to I-26. Turn west on I-26, traveling toward Hendersonville. Take exit 18 to US 64 and travel west until you reach the intersection with US 276. Take US 276 North until you reach the Blue Ridge Parkway. Go North on the parkway until you reach the Mt. Pisgah area. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)
29. **Pisgah National Forest – Davidson River Area** (828) 877-3265 A large trail network of around 70 miles is available. Trail difficulty varies widely, and some wonderful views are available. Backpack and car camping available. From Charlotte, travel south on I-85, and west on NC 74 to I-26. Turn west on I-26, traveling toward Hendersonville. Take exit 18 to US 64 and travel west until you reach the intersection with US 276. Take US 276 North until you see Davidson River Campground on the left, where a number of trails begin. The Pisgah Ranger District Trail Map is very useful for this area. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure*)
30. **Gorges State Park** (828) 966-9099 A number of trails, are available some leading to spectacular views of waterfalls. Trails vary from easy to strenuous. Backpack camping available. From Charlotte, reach the park by traveling south on I-85, and west on NC 74 to I-26. Turn west on I-26, traveling toward Hendersonville. Take exit 18 to US 64 and travel west through Brevard toward Sapphire. To reach the Frozen Creek Access (east side of the park), turn left onto Frozen Creek Road, which is approximately two miles past US 178. The east entrance is three miles on the right. To reach the Grassy Ridge Access (west side of the park), turn south on NC 281 in Sapphire; the western park entrance is .7 miles on the left. (Source: *North Carolina State Parks – <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/ncparks.html>*)
30. **Mt. Jefferson State Natural Area** (336) 246-9653 About 2 miles of trails are available. Trails are moderate in difficulty. Spectacular views are available from the trails and on the drive to the top of the mountain to the parking lot. No camping available. From Charlotte, take I-77 North until U.S. 421. Take US 421 west past the Blue Ridge Parkway. Turn right on US 221 and travel north. After crossing the intersection with NC 163, follow the signs to the park by turning right on S.R. 1152, which leads into the park. (Source: *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure; North Carolina State Parks – <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/ncparks.html>*)

Sources:

- *North Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure.*
- *NC Hiking Trials*
- *North Carolina State Parks* – <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/ncparks.html>
- *Anne Springs Close Greenway* – <http://leroysprings.com/greenway.html>
- *South Carolina – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure.*
- *Virginia – A Guide to Backcountry Travel and Adventure.*