

North Carolina Museums - a Mid-Atlantic state and home of NASCAR and quite a few drivers...these museums will touch on that sport or mode of transportation. It is just for testing vehicles, don't you know...

Wheels Through Time Transportation Museum: The museum is awesome and is something to see. They have a great collection of motorcycles and even a few cars. The history here is incredible. The staff is extremely passionate and knowledgeable about everything there. When visiting The Wheels Through Time museum, you will find it to be very interesting. Even if you are not a motorcycle person you will enjoy the displays and people. One of the employees may even start one of the bikes for you. Definitely worth a visit. You will need to allow at least a couple of hours to see everything. Found in Maggie Valley, N. Carolina!

Swain County Heritage Museum: This is a great opportunity to learn more about Bryson City, the Cherokee Nation, and it is free! Downstairs is the gift shop, one room school & bell, display cases and informative brochures and wall hangings. Upstairs is the actual museum and it is BIG! You can see a typical cabin - inside and out. One glass case features civil war documents & uniforms. In one corner is a 1905 old bank vault & a kid zone with animal photos, small chairs and a rocking chair. In the other corner, the theater features a short movie about Swain County. Photos on the wall recall days of old. Have your kids seen REAL old telephones? They are here! A pay phone is also here, above a switchboard telephone unit. The scavenger hunt is certainly challenging, and the gift shop has a nice variety of options, with proceeds benefitting the Great Smoky Mountains Association. There is so much to see in Bryson City.

Marbles Kids Museum: This is a hands-on, interactive destination that inspires children to be creative thinkers, active learners and confident individuals in today's world. With five galleries and two outdoor escapes, there is no shortage of activity for kids from 3 to 12 and their families. They have wonderful learning stations for every age group. Don't miss out on the spooky Halloween costume party. The Christmas party is magical for the whole family. Great place for grandparents to take their grandchildren. Be sure to look into the family pass for a great price. The campus also features the Wachovia IMAX Theatre Museum. This 267-seat giant-screen experience is the only 3D capable IMAX theatre in Raleigh.

Airborne and Special Operations Museum: The doors opened on August 16, 2000, the 60th anniversary of the original Test Platoon's first parachute jump. The museum offers free admission, a main exhibit gallery, temporary gallery, four-story tall theater, a gift shop, and a motion simulator ride that features two experiences. Admission is free, but they do accept donations in the gift shop and in donation boxes in the lobby. The main gallery is designed as a self-guided tour, in chronological order, through the history of the airborne and special operations soldiers from 1940 to the present. The temporary gallery changes periodically and displays a myriad of exhibits pertaining to the United States Army airborne and special operations units through their history and conflicts from World War II to the present. This museum is in Fayetteville.

Museum of Life + Science: This museum is one of North Carolina's top attractions. Situated on 84-acres, the interactive science park includes a science center, a butterfly conservatory which is one of the largest in the world and beautifully landscaped outdoor exhibits which are safe havens for rescued black bears, lemurs, and endangered red wolves. The Museum's Dinosaur Trail takes visitors on a journey through the Late Cretaceous period. Other areas include a Farmyard, Ellerbe Creek Railway, Contraptions, which is a hands-on exhibit for older children and adults, and a sailboat pond, The Lab in Investigate Health!, Play to Learn – an exhibit for children under six, more than 60 species of live animals and so much more. The train is worthwhile mainly for smaller kids under 8 years old. A great museum with good parking and delicious food; found In Durham.

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