20 Exciting Places to Explore Around Greensboro, North Carolina

Greensboro, North Carolina, is a wonderful destination for travelers who enjoy history, outdoor adventures, family attractions, and cultural experiences. Located in the Piedmont region, the city offers a mix of fascinating museums, beautiful gardens, recreational parks, and entertainment venues. Visitors can discover important moments in American history, spend a relaxing afternoon surrounded by nature, or enjoy exciting activities with family and friends. The wider Greensboro area also provides opportunities for memorable day trips to nearby towns and natural attractions.

Whether you're planning a weekend getaway or a longer vacation, these 20 places offer a variety of ways to explore Greensboro and its surroundings.



1. Greensboro Science Center

The Greensboro Science Center is an excellent destination for families, science enthusiasts, and curious travelers. It combines a science museum, an aquarium, and an outdoor zoo in one location, giving visitors several experiences to enjoy throughout the day. Exhibits introduce visitors to wildlife, marine life, scientific discoveries, and the natural world.

Children can enjoy interactive learning activities, while adults can explore educational displays and observe animals from different habitats. It's an especially good choice for families looking for an attraction that combines entertainment with education.

2. International Civil Rights Center & Museum

History lovers should make time to visit the International Civil Rights Center & Museum in downtown Greensboro. Located in the former F. W. Woolworth building, the museum preserves the story of the February 1960 Greensboro sit-ins, when four North Carolina A&T State University students challenged racial segregation at a whites-only lunch counter.

Visitors can learn about the civil rights movement through historical artifacts, photographs, exhibits, and multimedia presentations. The preserved lunch counter makes the experience particularly meaningful, connecting visitors directly with an important moment in American history.

3. Guilford Courthouse National Military Park

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park offers an opportunity to explore one of the important battle sites of the American Revolutionary War. The Battle of Guilford Courthouse took place on March 15, 1781, and played a significant role in the Southern campaign.

Today, visitors can walk along the park's trails, view monuments, explore interpretive exhibits, and learn about the soldiers and events that shaped the battle. The peaceful wooded setting also makes the park a pleasant place for walking and outdoor exploration. It's an ideal destination for anyone interested in American history and the natural beauty of North Carolina.

4. Tanger Family Bicentennial Garden

For a relaxing outdoor experience, Tanger Family Bicentennial Garden is a lovely place to visit. This landscaped garden features colorful flower beds, ornamental plants, walking paths, and attractive garden displays that change with the seasons.

Visitors can enjoy a leisurely stroll, take photographs, or find a quiet spot to appreciate the surroundings. Spring and summer often bring vibrant floral displays, while other seasons offer different colors and textures across the grounds. The garden is suitable for couples, families, and anyone seeking a peaceful break from busy sightseeing.

5. Greensboro History Museum

The Greensboro History Museum is a valuable stop for visitors who want to understand the city's past. Its exhibits explore the people, communities, and events that have influenced Greensboro and Guilford County over the centuries.

The museum presents local history through artifacts, photographs, and displays covering topics such as community life, regional development, and important historical events. Because it is located downtown, it can easily be included in a walking itinerary alongside other cultural attractions. It's a rewarding destination for travelers who enjoy learning about the places they visit.

6. Greensboro Arboretum

The Greensboro Arboretum is another appealing destination for nature lovers. Its gardens showcase a variety of trees, shrubs, flowers, and ornamental plants, creating an inviting setting for a peaceful walk. Visitors can explore the different garden sections, observe seasonal blooms, and enjoy the landscape at their own pace.

The arboretum is particularly attractive to gardening enthusiasts and photographers who appreciate colorful plants and carefully maintained outdoor spaces. It also offers a pleasant opportunity to slow down and enjoy Greensboro's green spaces without leaving the city.

7. The Bog Garden at Benjamin Park

The Bog Garden at Benjamin Park provides a different kind of outdoor experience, with wetland habitats, wooden boardwalks, lush vegetation, and tranquil natural scenery. Its winding paths allow visitors to observe the local environment while enjoying a peaceful walk away from busy streets.

Nature enthusiasts may appreciate the area's distinctive wetland plants and opportunities to spot birds and other wildlife. The garden is also a great setting for nature photography. Before visiting, check the latest local notices for access conditions, as the garden may occasionally close temporarily.

8. LeBauer Park

Located in downtown Greensboro, LeBauer Park is a lively public space where visitors can relax, meet friends, and enjoy outdoor activities. The park features open green areas, public art, and family-friendly amenities that make it a convenient stop during a day of sightseeing.

Its central location makes it easy to combine a visit with nearby museums, cultural venues, restaurants, and downtown shops. Whether you want to take a short break, let children play, or simply enjoy the city atmosphere, LeBauer Park is a useful addition to your itinerary.

9. Country Park

Country Park is a great destination for visitors who enjoy spending time outdoors. Its wooded surroundings, fishing lakes, walking paths, and picnic areas provide opportunities to relax and enjoy the natural landscape.

The park works well for a morning walk, a family picnic, or a leisurely afternoon outdoors. Visitors can also explore other attractions in the nearby Battleground Parks District, making it possible to combine outdoor recreation with educational activities. If you're looking for a break from museums and indoor attractions, Country Park is worth considering.

10. Downtown Greensboro Greenway

The Downtown Greenway offers an enjoyable way to discover Greensboro on foot or by bicycle. This approximately four-mile paved route connects parts of downtown with parks, neighborhoods, and public art installations.

Along the way, visitors can appreciate the city's urban landscape while enjoying a little exercise. The greenway is particularly appealing to travelers who prefer exploring at their own pace instead of following a traditional sightseeing tour. Consider combining part of the route Great site with nearby restaurants, local attractions, or a stop at a downtown park.

11. Miriam P. Brenner Children's Museum

Families traveling with younger children may enjoy a visit to the Miriam P. Brenner Children's Museum. The museum emphasizes hands-on discovery, imaginative play, and interactive learning, giving children opportunities to explore new ideas through engaging activities.

Rather than simply looking at exhibits, young visitors can participate in experiences designed to encourage curiosity and creativity. This makes the museum a useful choice for families who want an educational activity that still feels fun. Check current opening times and exhibit information before planning your visit.

12. Wet 'n Wild Emerald Pointe

For a more energetic outing, Wet 'n Wild Emerald Pointe offers a water-park experience with attractions suited to visitors seeking summer fun. Water slides, splash areas, and pool attractions make it a popular option for families and groups looking to cool off during warmer weather.

The park is especially worth considering when planning a summer trip to Greensboro. Because water-park operations are seasonal and individual attractions may have different restrictions, check the official website for opening dates, ticket options, and ride requirements before setting out.

13. Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts

Visitors interested in live entertainment should consider the Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts. This downtown venue hosts performances that can include touring Broadway productions, concerts, comedy, and other live shows.

Attending a performance is an excellent way to add an evening activity to a sightseeing trip. The venue also sits within reach of downtown restaurants and other attractions, making it easy to plan dinner and a show. Since performances vary throughout the year, review the event calendar and purchase tickets in advance for popular productions.

14. Weatherspoon Art Museum

Art lovers can explore modern and contemporary works at the Weatherspoon Art Museum, located at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The museum is known for its art collection and changing exhibitions that introduce visitors to different artistic styles, ideas, and creative perspectives.

A visit offers a quieter cultural experience than many larger tourist attractions. It's an appealing choice for travelers who enjoy visual arts, university museums, and exhibitions that encourage reflection. Check the museum's current schedule to learn about exhibitions, admission details, and any special events.

15. Old Mill of Guilford

For a taste of regional history beyond central Greensboro, head to the Old Mill of Guilford in Oak Ridge. This historic grist mill offers visitors a glimpse into traditional milling and the area's agricultural heritage.

The mill's historic structure and scenic surroundings create a charming setting for a short excursion. Visitors interested in traditional craftsmanship, historic buildings, and rural North Carolina culture may find it particularly rewarding. Before traveling, check whether the mill and its shop are open and whether demonstrations or special activities are scheduled.

16. Haw River State Park

Located north of Greensboro, Haw River State Park is an appealing destination for travelers who want to explore the natural landscapes of the North Carolina Piedmont. The park features woodland trails, wetlands, and boardwalks that offer opportunities to observe local plants and wildlife.

Visitors can enjoy a peaceful hike, take nature photographs, or spend time appreciating the area's diverse habitats. Its quieter atmosphere makes it a good choice for people seeking a break from the city. Bring comfortable walking shoes and check trail conditions before your visit.

17. Hanging Rock State Park

If you're willing to travel farther from Greensboro, Hanging Rock State Park is worth considering for a day trip. Known for its rocky outcrops, scenic mountain views, waterfalls, and hiking trails, the park offers a striking change of scenery from the surrounding Piedmont landscape.

Outdoor enthusiasts can choose from different hiking routes depending on their experience and fitness levels. Some trails lead to impressive overlooks, while others offer opportunities to discover waterfalls and forest scenery. Allow extra time for the drive, and check trail conditions and park advisories before departure.

18. Old Salem Museums & Gardens

Old Salem Museums & Gardens in nearby Winston-Salem is an excellent destination for visitors interested in early American history and traditional craftsmanship. This historic district preserves important aspects of the Moravian community's heritage through historic buildings, gardens, demonstrations, and educational experiences.

Walking through the historic streets gives visitors an opportunity to learn how people lived and worked in earlier centuries. Depending on the day's schedule, visitors may also encounter demonstrations related to traditional trades and domestic life. Old Salem makes a rewarding day trip for history enthusiasts and families exploring the wider Greensboro region.

19. Körner's Folly

Körner's Folly in Kernersville is a distinctive historic house known for its unusual architecture and creatively designed interior spaces. Built in the nineteenth century, the property stands out for its varied room layouts, decorative details, and architectural character.

Visitors can explore the house to discover its history and learn about the people associated with the property. Its unusual design also makes it an interesting destination for architecture enthusiasts, photographers, and travelers who enjoy discovering places beyond the usual tourist circuit. Check tour availability and admission information before visiting.

20. North Carolina Zoo

Finish your exploration with a trip to the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro. This major wildlife attraction offers spacious naturalistic habitats and opportunities to learn about animals from different parts of the world. Visitors can discover wildlife exhibits, observe animal behavior, and learn about conservation.

Because the zoo covers a large area, it's worth setting aside much of the day to explore at a comfortable pace. Wear comfortable shoes, bring water, and review the zoo's current schedule before leaving Greensboro. It's a particularly good choice for families, animal lovers, and anyone looking to add an outdoor adventure to their North Carolina itinerary.

Tips for Planning Your Greensboro Adventure

To make the most of your trip, consider grouping attractions by location and interests rather than attempting to visit all 20 in one day.

- **For history enthusiasts:** Combine the International Civil Rights Center & Museum, Greensboro History Museum, and Guilford Courthouse National Military Park.
- **For nature lovers:** Explore the Greensboro Arboretum, Tanger Family Bicentennial Garden, Country Park, or the Bog Garden, subject to current access conditions.
- **For families:** Consider the Greensboro Science Center, Miriam P. Brenner Children's Museum, and Wet 'n Wild Emerald Pointe during its operating season.
- **For day trips:** Set aside additional time for Hanging Rock State Park, Old Salem, Körner's Folly, or the North Carolina Zoo.
- **For arts and entertainment:** Check the schedules at the Weatherspoon Art Museum and Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts.

Greensboro's official visitor resources provide additional information about attractions, outdoor activities, and trip ideas.

Final Thoughts

Greensboro and its surrounding communities offer a varied mix of history, culture, outdoor recreation, and family entertainment. From exploring significant civil rights landmarks to wandering through peaceful gardens and discovering historic destinations in nearby towns, there are plenty of ways to make your visit memorable.

Whether you're planning a short city break or a longer exploration of North Carolina's Piedmont region, these 20 destinations provide a useful starting point for building an itinerary that matches your interests. Plan ahead, confirm opening hours, and leave some room for unexpected discoveries along the way.