

4 Weird Tourist Sites in North Carolina You Can Visit Right Now

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One of the best things about living in North Carolina is the proximity to relaxing getaways at the beach and [mountains](#). But what if you're looking for something a little different?

These weird tourist sites are perfect for anyone looking for something a little more out of the ordinary.

A Haunted Patch of Land

Located about halfway between Asheboro and Sanford, "The Devil's Tramping Ground" has been a subject of North Carolina folklore since at least the 1880s.



Courtesy of deviljazz.tripod.com

Local legend has it that nothing grows in this 15-foot diameter dusty circle and that animals don't dare cross it. People say they have witness red, glowing eyes in the center of the circle. A reporter who attempted to spend the night reported hearing ghostly noises.

An Ornate Miniature Stone Village

Off of Highway 86 between Hillsborough and Yanceyville, you'll find some peculiar construction. Between 1968 and 1977, Henry L. Warren spent the last nine years of his life constructing "Shangri-La."



Photo by Atlas Obscura User [KatieBush](#)

The retiree blasted rocks on his own property to construct the village which stands to this day. This weird tourist site has a gym, a theater, a hotel, and even a water tower. Warren also constructed a pathway made of countless arrowheads to help people tour the village.

An Abandoned Mill and Set of *The Hunger Games*

The Henry River Mill Village opened in 1905. It was briefly prosperous, with nearly the entire town working at its central mill. Even before the mill shut down in 1973, people had begun to leave.



Photo by Atlas Obscura user [Famorack](#)

While the last resident left in 1987, the ghost town popped back up on the map recently. Henry River Mill Village was chosen as the filming location for “District 12” in *The Hunger Games* film. Today, a company offers guided tours of the village.

A Mostly-abandoned Wizard of Oz Theme Park

Developers eager to attract people to Beech Mountain away from ski season opened “The Land of Oz” theme park in 1970. While the film is an everlasting icon of American cinema, the park barely lasted a decade.



Photo by Atlast Obscura user [SPARKFAN1965](#)

Today, this weird tourist site is only open to the public once a year for the “Autumn at Oz” festival. However, if you rent Dorothy’s House in the park, you’ll be able to visit any time of year.

Enjoying these off-the-beaten-path travel tips? Keep your eyes on our [Lifestyle section](#) for travel recommendations and more.

[Travel, weird tourist sites](#)

About author

David Straughan (David Straughan)

David Straughan is a writer, editor, and coffee nerd from Durham, North Carolina. Before coming back home, David served as Editor of two English-language magazines in Ningbo, China. Now, back in Durham, he is an obsessive investigator of local businesses, culture, and politics.



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