



Holidays and Festivals

This area enjoys hosting festivals and celebrating holidays. Something here will be up your alley. You will find these events and more on the Passport.

Polar Plunge

February is a great time to go for a quick dip in the Ocean, right? Join hundreds of others for a day of activity leading up to a quick run to the water and support the Special Olympics.

Jazz Festival

Get in the swing of things with the North Carolina Jazz Festival every February. Legends of the genre highlight a three day event with set performances and even a nighttime cruise.

Azalea Festival

This is the granddaddy of all our festivals. Since 1947, Wilmington has hosted the Azalea festival celebrating the beautiful plant and the coming of spring. There's something for everybody from the crowning of the Azalea Queen to the glamorous balls to the garden shows the parade the street festival and more. See you the first weekend in April.

Historic Wilmington Home Tour

The Foundation has saved hundreds of historic homes and every spring it takes a weekend to showcase some of those homes. See these magnificent beauties in all their glory.

Chowder Cookoff

Have you ever seen a coastal community that wasn't inordinately proud of their chowder? Pleasure Island (Carolina Beach and Kure Beach) put its claim to the test each spring with a chowder cookoff. Taste the offerings and decide for yourself which is best.

Easter

This is a great time to be in southeastern North Carolina. If you have youngsters you will want to check out the Easter Egg Hunt offered at the Battleship North Carolina. You can find a few of our Houses of Worship listed under Services.

Mother's Day/Father's Day

What a great way to honor your mother and father with a visit on their special day.

Fourth of July

If you like fireworks, you'll love our Fourth of July celebrations. Most years you can find fireworks on the 3rd at Carolina Beach, on the 4th in downtown Wilmington, and on the 5th in Southport. Best to practice your 'oohs' and 'ahhs' ahead of time. Happy Birthday America!

Labor Day

For many, it's the end of the summer. But Cape Fear residents know it's the start of the winter season a time with all new ways to Enjoy Wilmington and the beaches.

Halloween

You haven't experienced Halloween until you've experienced Halloween in Wilmington. The 'parade' on Front St alone makes it special. Last year we had a group holding up cards rating the passing costumes. Special events are held on the USS NC Battleship, with Haunted Houses, and there's always the Haunted Pub Crawl.

Riverfest

Every October we celebrate the Cape Fear River, historic economic highway and now the beautiful backdrop for our area. Run the River 8K, enjoy the Great Wine Waiter's Race, watch sporting events, shop the street fair, experience the Invasion of the Pirates and more. Since 1979 this festival has brought attention to the river and raised scholarship money for Cape Fear Community College.

Back Door Kitchen Tour

Residents of Old Wilmington, a neighborhood group, opens about 10 homes each October for this spectacular insightful tour. See what the residents have done to turn their kitchens into modern marvels. This one day event is always held on the Saturday of Riverfest.

Pleasure Island Seafood, Blues & Jazz Festival

Pleasure Island loves to show off their seafood, and they have a lot to show off. October turns out to be a great time to do it and bring in some great musical talent. Enjoy this festival that's been around since the mid 1990s.

Cucalorus Film Festival

Films and creativity are big along the Cape Fear and every year the cinema is celebrated with the Cucalorus Film Festival.

Old Wilmington By Candlelight

Experience the beautiful homes of Wilmington by Candlelight tour. Every December the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society holds a tour of outstanding historic homes. You can imagine these home as they were in the 1800s.

Christmas

December is a great time here along the lower Cape Fear. Everyone wants to get into the holiday spirit. Our museums have specials, particularly those designed for the little ones, and everything is very festive. Wilmington, Wrightsville, Carolina Beach all have great tree lighting ceremonies and the beaches have flotillas of decorated boats...think parade on the water. Plus there is a certain jolly fellow in a red suit that likes to visit.



WHAT TO DO

New Year's Eve

Welcome the New Year in the historic port city. What better place to welcome the new than in one of the oldest. You can dine, you can sing, you can dance, and you will be with many others looking forward to the New Year.

And More...

This isn't everything, not by a long shot. Look for more special events on the Holidays' Passport Guide.

For these and more the Holiday and Celebration events go to:
events.enjoywilmington.com