

BICYCLING in BEAUFORT

The leisurely pace of life and the flat topography of the area make Beaufort an ideal place for getting around by bicycle. Businesses, schools, shopping areas and recreation facilities are all easily accessible by bike. The Beaufort Bicycle Route points the way with green and white bike route signs which mark a six-mile loop around town. Residents and visitors alike will enjoy riding along quiet neighborhood streets to their destinations, avoiding the bustle of the busy thoroughfares through town.

The map inside outlines the route, highlighting the locations of points of interest, schools and shopping areas. A short loop along the waterfront and through the historic district is shown as are spur routes to Freedom Park and Jaycee Park. Connectors between the main route and residential areas are also shown.

Give it a try. You'll soon find that riding a bicycle is the only way to go.

BEAUFORT SIGHTS

Founded in 1709, Beaufort is a town immersed in history. A bicycle ride along the quiet streets of the Historic District provides a glimpse into the past. Visits to the points of interest listed below paint a vivid picture of life in Beaufort during centuries past.

1 NC Maritime Museum

Bounded on three sides by water, Beaufort's history is inextricably tied to the sea. The museum is filled with lively exhibits which document this maritime history as well as the natural history of the coastal region. Hours are Monday-Friday 9-5, Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 2-5. Admission is free.

2 Historic District and Restoration Grounds

More than 100 historic homes line streets named for important figures of the day such as Queen Anne, the Earl of Craven and the Prince of Orange. In the heart of this area is the Restoration Grounds, where costumed hostesses guide visitors through a complex of period buildings. Tours are offered Monday-Saturday from 9:30-4:30. A modest fee is charged.

3 Beaufort Waterfront

Visions of stately 18th century schooners are evoked along the renovated waterfront where sailors once attended to their business at the ships chandlery, customs house and trading establishments.

4 Rachel Carson National Estuarine Sanctuary

Wild descendants of shipwrecked horses still graze on the marsh grasses of the islands across Taylor Creek. Established to protect the fragile ecology of the area, over 160 species of birds have been sighted here.

BICYCLE LAWS and SAFETY TIPS

The bicycle has been legally considered a vehicle in North Carolina since 1937. Thus bicyclists have full rights and responsibilities on the roadway and are subject to the regulations governing the operation of a motor vehicle, where applicable. North Carolina traffic laws require the rider of a bicycle to:

- ride on the right, in the same direction as other moving traffic;
- obey all traffic signs and signals;
- use signals to communicate intended movements;
- equip the bicycle with a front lamp visible from 300 feet and a rear reflector or lamp which is visible from a distance of 200 feet for riding at night.

Remember, the bicyclist always loses in a conflict with a motor vehicle. Ride defensively and in a predictable manner to avoid accidents. Be courteous to other drivers. To help enhance your safety, the following precautions are recommended:

- always wear a bicycle helmet;
- use a backpack or bicycle bag to carry goods;
- avoid biking at night;
- when riding with a group, ride single file;
- wear bright clothing to increase visibility;
- be sure your bicycle is the right size and keep it in good repair.



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Town of Beaufort
P.O. Drawer 390
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Beaufort, NC 28516

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