

Nearby Sites

9. Lake Waccamaw State Park One of the most unique bodies of water in the world also contains some of the worlds' most unique plants.. Located 40 miles west of Wilmington on US Highway 74/76, Lake Waccamaw State Park houses the native Venus flytrap, as well as pitcher plants and sundews. The best place to view the carnivorous plants is along the park's Sand Ridge Nature Trail. Free admission. Hours vary by season. Tours and nature programs available. Located at 1866 State Park Drive, Lake Waccamaw; 910-646-4748; www.ncsparks.net.

10. Green Swamp Preserve -The Nature Conservancy This 16,000-acre preserve in Brunswick County is a premiere location to view the Venus flytrap and other carnivorous plants. Primitive trails exist in the preserve and visitors are asked to not venture off the trails to prevent harming the fragile ecosystem. Free admission. Open year-round; daylight hours recommended. Located 5.5 miles north of Supply on NC Highway 211; 910-762-6277; www.nature.org.

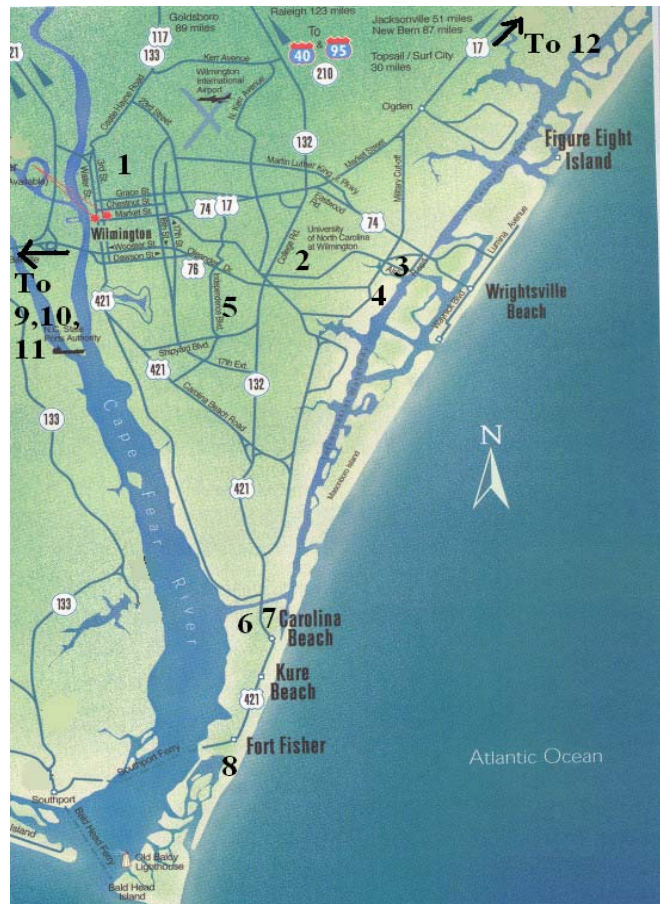
11. Flytrap Farms Located about 30 miles south of Wilmington off US Highway 17, Flytrap Farms grows a variety of carnivorous plants in a nursery setting. Tours available for small groups by appointment only. Located at 1930 Civietown Rd SW, Supply; 1-866-838-3276

12. N.C. Audubon Society Nature Trips

The N.C. Audubon Society offers guided nature tours through the Holly Shelter Game Land in Pender County. Highlights of the trip include the Venus flytrap, pitcher plants, and other carnivorous plants as well as small fish, birds, wildflowers, and more. Trips are on Thursdays and Saturdays; 9am-1pm. All ages welcome. Admission charge (\$30/person), advance reservations required. Other nature programs available. 910-798-8376.



The Wilmington/Cape Fear Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau will not be held responsible for the information contained herein. Inclusion in this brochure should not be construed as a recommendation, but merely as a guide.



New Hanover County Sites

- 1 Cape Fear Museum
- 2 Bluethenthal Wildflower Preserve
- 3 Airlie Gardens
- 4 Arboretum
- 5 Alderman School Trail
- 6 Carolina Beach State Park
- 7 Carolina Coastal Adventures
- 8 NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher

Nearby Sites

- 9 Lake Waccamaw
- 10 Green Swamp
- 11 Flytrap Farms
- 12 Audubon Society



Venus Flytrap Trail of the Cape Fear Coast



Did you know that the only place in the world where you can see the Venus flytrap in its native environment is in Wilmington and North Carolina's Cape Fear Coast?

Flytrap Facts

Charles Darwin once called the Venus flytrap “one of the most wonderful plants in the world.” It has long been glorified by Hollywood and is often portrayed as a “man-eating plant,” however, the Venus flytrap rarely grows to be more than eight inches tall. Four other carnivorous plants inhabit the Cape Fear region: pitcher plants, sundews, butterworts, and bladderworts.

These plants almost seem to defy nature by consuming animal protein. Carnivorous plants are forced to get their essential nitrogen and phosphorous from other sources including insects and tiny animals.



Wilmington and North Carolina's Cape Fear Coast offers ample opportunities to see the native Venus flytrap. Prime viewing time for the plants runs from the end of May through August. But a word of warning: It is against the law to remove or poach the Venus fly-trap plants from the wild and punishment is strictly enforced. Carnivorous plants are very fragile and should not be touched, no matter how tempting. The Venus flytrap must expend a great deal of energy for the trap to close and unnecessary closings may cause the plant to die. So look but don't touch as you enjoy the native carnivorous plants.

The following sites in and around the Cape Fear Coast region provide opportunities to get up close and personal with Venus flytraps and other carnivorous plants.

New Hanover

1. Cape Fear Museum of History & Science

A large Venus flytrap model, located in the Michael Jordan Discovery Gallery, provides children with an interactive view of how the flytrap works. North Carolina's oldest history museum also has thousands of artifacts that tell the story of the rich history, science, and culture of the southern North Carolina coast. Admission charge. Open Monday 9am-5pm (Memorial Day-Labor Day); and year-round Tuesday-Saturday 9am-5pm; Sunday 1pm-5pm. Free parking. Located at 814 Market Street, Wilmington; 910-341-4350; www.capefearmuseum.com.

2. Herbert Bluthenthal Memorial

Wildflower Preserve Marked trails lead visitors through plant communities in the preserve, including the “Insectivorous Plant Garden” where the Venus flytrap can be found. Pamphlets are available at the preserve entrance. Tours are self-guided but guided group tours may be arranged through the UNC-Wilmington Department of Biological Sciences. Free admission. Open daily during daylight hours. Free parking. Located on the UNCW campus at 601 South College Road, Wilmington.; 910-962-3107 or 910-962-3000; www.uncw.edu/arboretum/.

3. Airlie Gardens See indigenous Venus flytraps in Airlie's carnivorous plant garden on the Waterwise Trail, where you'll also find native pitcher plants, sundews, and bladderworts. Experience Airlie's other beautiful gardens. Admission charge. Open Tuesday-Saturday 9am-5pm and Sunday 11am-5pm. Free parking. Located at 300 Airlie Road, Wilmington; 910-798-7700; www.airliegarden.org.

4. The Arboretum at New Hanover County Cooperative Extension

Native carnivorous plants such as the Venus flytrap, pitcher plants, and sundews are in the Bog Garden, a recreation of Eastern NC's natural wetland community. It is one of several themed gardens at the 7-acre arboretum. Free admission. Open daylight hours daily. Group tour/educational programs scheduled by appointment. Located at 6206 Oleander Drive, Wilmington; 910-452-6393; www.arboretumnhc.org.



County Sites

5. Alderman School Trail Located behind Alderman Elementary School at the corner of Independence Boulevard and Canterbury Road, follow the signs from the parking lot on Canterbury Road to the “Nature Trail,” which includes hundreds of carnivorous plants including the Venus flytrap, pitcher plants, and sundews. Stepping stones lead visitors to these remarkable plants. Free admission. Open daily during daylight hours. Free parking. Located at 2025 Independence Boulevard, Wilmington.

6. Carolina Beach State

Park Venus flytraps, bladderworts, butterworts, pitcher plants, and sundews are waiting to be discovered on the Flytrap Trail at Carolina Beach State Park. The easy, half-mile loop trail showcases these native plants in their natural habitats. The Flytrap Trail will soon become Handicapped Accessible. Guided hikes are available on weekends (May through August, call for times). Meet in the Nature Trail parking lot. The park also has 5 other trails, campsites, a visitor center, marina, and educational programs. Fees for camping and marina. Open daily 8am-sunset (extended hours in spring/summer); closed Christmas Day. Free parking. Located at 1010 State Park Road, Carolina Beach; 910-458-8206; www.ncsparks.net.



7. Carolina Coastal Adventures Carolina Coastal Adventures offers guided walking tours that include opportunities to see native Venus flytraps in their natural setting. Other outdoor programs include kayak tours, fishing trips, rentals, and more. Free parking. Located at 1337 Bridge Barrier Road, Carolina Beach; 910-458-9111; www.carolinacoastaladventures.com.

8. North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher

Seven different carnivorous plants await visitors at the state's largest aquarium. Flytraps, pitcher plants, and others thrive in the half-acre Cape Fear Conservatory, alongside freshwater fish, alligators, and turtles. Admission charge. Open 9am-5pm daily except major holidays. Free parking. Located at 900 Loggerhead Road, Kure Beach; 910-458-8257; www.ncaquariums.com.