



Historic Bath

North Carolina's First Incorporated Town

Historic Bath State Historic Site
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Hours of Operation:

Tuesday-Saturday: 9am-5pm

*Closed Sunday and Monday
and state recognized holidays*

Take time to enjoy some of North Carolina's earliest history. Settlement of the town of Bath began when English explorer John Lawson ended his 57-day journey from South Carolina on the high, grassy point overlooking Old Town and Adam's Creeks. With the incorporation on March 8, 1705, Bath became the first town in North Carolina. A number of "firsts" for North Carolina are also attributed to this quaint town including the first public library, first shipyard, first port of entry and first post road. Bath was also the home for several of the first leaders of the newly settled area, such as Governors Robert Daniel, Thomas Cary, Charles Eden, Edward Hyde and Matthew Rowan as well as Edward Moseley, speaker of the assembly, and Christopher Gale, the first Chief Justice. Local legend places the infamous pirate Blackbeard in the town in the months preceding his death in 1718. The General Assembly met in Bath in 1743, 1744, and 1752, even though the town was never officially named the capital of the colony.

To plan your visit to Bath, please call the Visitor Center. We can accommodate large groups and will do our best to tailor your visit to your needs and interests. We look forward to sharing Bath's history and treasures with you!

Visitors to Bath are welcomed to view a 15-minute orientation film at the Visitor Center and it is shown throughout the day at no charge. A walking tour map is also available if you choose to explore the town on your own.



Tickets can also be purchased for a guided tour of the

**1751 Palmer-Marsh House
and the
1830 Bonner House**

Tours are given on the hour and originate at the Visitor Center.



Located next to the Visitor Center, the Van Der Veer House was built in 1790 and is used today as an exhibit area. It is available at no charge during our operating hours.

St Thomas Episcopal Church, North Carolina's oldest remaining church, is just a short walk from the Visitor Center. It is still an active parish and always open to the public.



Bath Fest, an arts and crafts festival, is held at Bonner Point each May. It includes vendors, music and theatrical performances, and free admission to the Palmer-Marsh and Bonner Houses. In conjunction with Bath Fest, the Cut-Throat Croquet Tournament, sponsored by the Beaufort County Community College Foundation, is held on the lawn by the Bonner House.

To celebrate the Christmas season, the Historic Site offers free admission to the Palmer-Marsh and Bonner Houses decorated in period holiday fashion. This event is held on the second Sunday in December annually.

See you in Bath Town!

Historic Bath is part of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources and one of the many sites on the Historic Albemarle Tour, NC's oldest self-guided heritage trail.