

NC National Parks 2nd in Visitors



The article below was excerpted from [Axios Raleigh](#).

North Carolina brought in \$1.7 billion from visitors to its national parks last year, the second most of any state, per new data from the National Park Service.

North Carolina has become a tourism powerhouse thanks to the natural beauty of its mountains and central location on the East Coast, with 21 million visits to its national parks and other sites managed by the NPS.

The state only trails California when it comes to visitor spending at national parks, according to the NPS.

North Carolina's strong tourism performance – up 30.8% from 2020 – is mainly due to two juggernauts of the National Parks System: the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The third most valuable national park site in the state is the Cape Hatteras National Seashore along the Outer Banks, which brought in \$226 million in visitor spending.

Green Light for 5 New Film/TV Projects

Five new television and film projects are approved to receive NC Film and Entertainment Grant funds, Governor Roy Cooper announced in July.

Combined, these projects are expected to produce direct in-state spending of \$107 million while creating more than 4,900 job opportunities in the state, including hospitality and tourism related jobs.

The titles of the projects include:

- *Providence*, an independent feature film
- *Hightown*, a Starz premium channel series
- *AGB and Her Monster*, a feature-length film
- *The Summer I Turned Pretty*, a Amazon Prime Video series
- *To Her with Love*, a Hallmark movie

“Following an amazing 2021, which saw productions spend more than \$416 million in North Carolina, we are excited to see the momentum continue with these projects in 2022,” said North Carolina Film Office Director Guy Gaster. “Our industry continues to grow and we expect 2022 to be another successful year, resulting in well-paying job opportunities for film professionals in our state as well as millions of dollars being spent with local businesses and suppliers.”

The NC Film and Entertainment Grant – administered by the NC Department of Commerce and promoted by the NC Film Office, part of VisitNC and EDPNC – provides financial assistance to attract feature film and television productions that will stimulate economic activity and create jobs in the state. NCTIA supports these investments by the General Assembly.

“These productions create ongoing tourism opportunities for our state for years – even decades,” said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena. “We are grateful to the General Assembly and Governor Cooper for bringing the film industry back to health in North Carolina.”

The above article was excerpted from a NC Department of Commerce press release.

This online publication will hit pause the week of August 8-12 to accommodate a weeklong vacation at Carolina Beach for its editor.

Any important news and/or information during that week can be found on [NCTIA's Twitter page](#) or in emails from the organization.

The newsletter returns August 19.