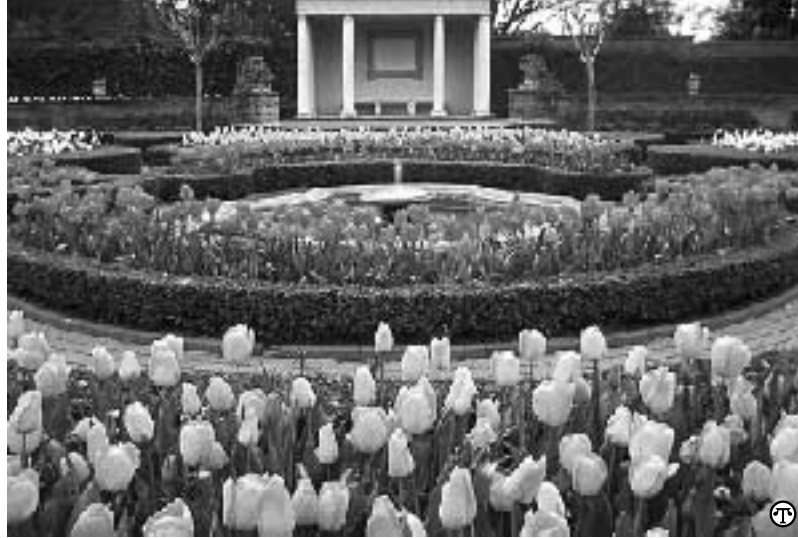


Great Vacation Ideas

A Bouquet Of Gardens To Visit And Enjoy



North Carolina has some of the most beautiful gardens in the nation.

(NAPSA)—From pre-colonial days, North Carolinians have tended the land, growing not only crops for food, but creating some of the most beautiful gardens in North America.

Today, North Carolina's gardens are a popular haven for travelers. A few of the notable gardens are:

- Biltmore Estate. George Vanderbilt's chateau, America's largest private home, boasts stunning grounds to match. Millions of flowers wind throughout a series of gardens.

- The North Carolina Arboretum. Nestled within the Bent Creek Experimental Forest and surrounded by Pisgah National Forest, this 426-acre arboretum includes a Stream Garden, Quilt Garden and Heritage Garden, which reflects Southern Appalachian culture.

- Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden. Broad expanses and intoxicating scents draw you near this garden created by Geoffrey Rausch. Four distinct gardens,

vine-laden pergolas and no fewer than a dozen fountains are nestled among forests and meadows.

- North Carolina Botanical Garden and Coker Arboretum. The arboretum features the state's native plants. There's a shade garden, fern collection, native perennial border with rare plants and an aquatic collection.

- Old Salem. The town of Old Salem was established in 1766 and many of the original gardens have been re-created on their original sites and are planted with the same varieties of vegetables, ornamentals and herbs noted in historic records.

- Reynolda Gardens of Wake Forest University is a four-acre formal garden that features perennials and roses, plus vegetables and fruits in a decorative design.

To learn more about North Carolina, visit the Web site, www.visitnc.com, or call 1-800-VISITNC for a North Carolina travel package.