

# VACATION IDEAS

## Lights, Camera, Action In “Hollywood East”



**Many a Hollywood blockbuster has been filmed on location in North Carolina—and visitors can check out the sets and scenery.**

(NAPSA)—Travelers looking for the Hollywood experience without heading to California can instead head down the East Coast to the Tarheel State.

With 30 sound stages in seven studios, North Carolina trails only California and New York as the most-often utilized locale for filmmaking in the U.S. Since the early days of silent movies, an extensive infrastructure of qualified set builders, electricians and other filmmaking professionals have settled there.

The long-established tradition of filmmaking in North Carolina is largely attributable to the state's breathtaking natural beauty, as well as its four-season climate. These same attributes draw more than 40 million vacationers each year.

Since 1980, more than 600 films have been shot on location in North Carolina, including *The Color Purple*, *Bull Durham*, *Nell*, *My Fellow Americans*, *He Got Game*, *Eddie* and *Days of Thunder*. Recent blockbusters filmed there include *Batman and Robin*, *Kiss the Girls*, *Forrest Gump*, *The*

*Green Mile*, *Hannibal* and *28 Days*.

Today, guides at Bob's Marina in Lake Lure offer a pontoon boat tour of the *Dirty Dancing* set. Visitors can also see where the eye-popping train wreck from *The Fugitive* was shot. In addition, die-hard film fans may be pleasantly surprised to learn that the beautiful scenery in *Last of the Mohicans* is in North Carolina and can be the backdrop for an exciting pleasure trip. *Patch Adams* was filmed in part on the campus of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and *Forces of Nature* utilized the Great Smoky Mountains Railway.

In fact, Kevin Williamson, creator of the popular TV series “Dawson's Creek” (as well as the *Scream* trilogy), grew up in the coastal town of Oriental, NC and based the setting for the series on that community. Now the show shoots exclusively at Screen Gems Studios in Wilmington.

To learn more about North Carolina, visit the web site at [www.visitnc.com](http://www.visitnc.com) or call 1-800-VISITNC to receive a complete tour package.