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# Hidden Carolinas: Including Asheville, Great Smoky Mountains, Outer Banks, And Charleston (Hidden Travel)



## Synopsis

Reviewing famed attractions, this guide invites the reader to go further to explore hidden spots often overlooked by other guides. Includes information on small inns and recommended restaurants. Driving and walking tours. Maps & photos.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Catherine O'Neal lives in Key Largo, FL.

Here we have a new edition of Catherine O'Neal's *Hidden Carolinas*, one of Ulysses Press' Hidden travel series. Moving from western Carolina east, and then south, this book covers both North and South Carolina. This is a comprehensive travel guide, in that it covers lodging, attractions, restaurants, shopping, driving routes: a bit of everything that might concern the traveler. That said, the book focuses heavily on attractions. Indeed, this is a guide that is unapologetic about uneven coverage. There is more on North Carolina than South Carolina, and far more on the western portion of NC than the eastern. Unsurprisingly, I found the section on western NC to be the strongest. The guide also has a clear focus on outdoor activities, in keeping, on assumes, with the 'hidden' theme. The 'hidden' theme means coverage of essentially, what one might expect- hidden gems and attractions that don't draw huge crowds. These listings are included with more popular attractions. Clearly, this is a smart move, as most people are not looking to buy multiple travel guides for a particular region. Thus, coverage in this guide is good, though it clearly weighted

towards certain things. The one thing that might keep me from buying this guide is the fact that it's printed on newsprint-like paper, in black, white, and green. There are approximately fifteen pages of photos at the beginning of the book, but in travel books I prefer photos throughout, in the chapters that describe the places in question. Overall, this is a solid travel guide. I'm not sure that much distinguishes it from other guides, but it gets the job done.

As a born and bred North Carolinian with deep ties to the South Carolina Low Country as well, I would NOT recommend this travel guide. The only thing hidden is well-rounded information. The section on my native Raleigh listed restaurants that had been closed (for a while) when the edition I read was printed. She also was off the mark about several cultural aspects about the area, making an inaccurate point to mention that most tourists come to Raleigh with low culinary expectations. That's a ridiculous statement considering the city has always been home to top cuisine along with down-home cooking. Establishments such as the Angus Barn, listed as one of the best steak restaurants in the country, Cooper's NC BBQ, and a plethora of additional eateries have put Raleigh and the entire Carolina region on the map for good food. She makes comments about how Chapel Hill is devoid of native southerners and you'll be "hard-pressed to hear a southern accent" as the town is filled with northerners and westerners. Although many non-natives have moved to the area, Chapel Hill is a southern town; quintessential southern hospitality and laid back Carolina vibe. I went to school at the University of North Carolina and a majority of the students and staff are from North Carolina. AS for the accent? I don't have one and my family has lived in the Carolinas since 1670. Most of her information seems to be copied poorly from other sources, without offering insight about the attraction. Many key attractions are skimmed over or left out. A few attractions are well described, but it's not consistent throughout the book. The section on South Carolina was lacking, especially Charleston. I appreciate a simple travel guide with basic price and contact info, I also appreciate a detailed travel guide shedding light on the history and local culture of the area. I didn't think the author did either angle very well. I figured the "Hidden" title would offer more in the form of local culture and hidden gems for visitors not familiar to the area. Although certain "hidden" attractions were okay, it was nothing remarkable with outdated information in certain parts. I'd recommend another travel guide for a basic or more detailed guide to the Carolinas.

If you need a vacation, the Carolinas has it all. From beaches to mountains; big cities to quaint small towns; pro sports and college sports; history and the arts. If you want to explore the Carolinas, Hidden Carolinas by Catherine O'Neal is a great guide book for visitors and residents alike. Hidden

Carolinas starts with a description of the geology and history of the Carolinas. It includes a calendar of events and some gorgeous pictures. From there, it divides the states into ten regions. Each of the regions has your typical travel guide fare - sights, lodging, shopping, dining, parks, etc. What sets this book apart from the others is the "hidden" gems found in each section. I've lived in both North and South Carolina and have vacationed in South Carolina for over 20 years, so I thought I knew a lot about both states, but with this book, I've discovered lots of new places to explore. I was lucky enough to snag this Ulysses Press Publication through Mini Book Expo.

This book is worth getting if you are visiting for the first time and If you are a resident of North Carolina. It has a lot of great places to visit and things to do with the family. I have lived in North Carolina for 28 years and there are still things that were new to me. It has hidden places listed that are not usually visited by tourist. Dining, night life, parks, nature and amusement and lots more. I don't think the author left anything out. It covers the mountains, the coast and everything in between. Highly recommended for any traveler or vacationer.

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