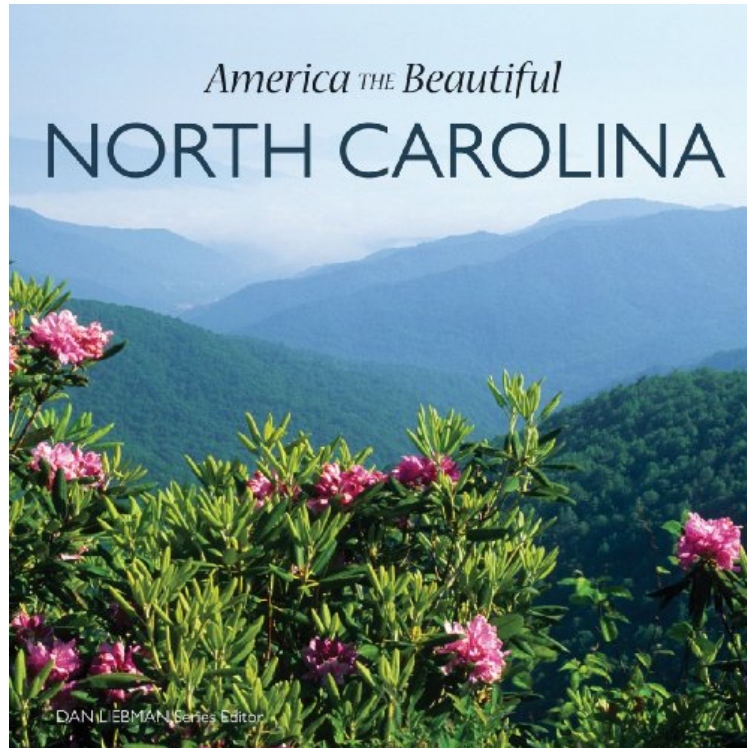


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Nora Campbell

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A lavishly illustrated tour of America's most compellingly beautiful places. The America the Beautiful series takes readers on a photographic tour of the country's most beautiful states and most vibrant cities. In North Carolina, dazzling images -- from cityscapes to quiet forests, from coastal settings to historic locations -- are by Jim Hargan. Clear and informative captions bring each scene to life. These handsomely designed books show the beauty of each destination, to be enjoyed by visitors and locals alike. Just like visitors to the state, readers of North Carolina will find beauty at every turn. In the northwest, the majestic Smoky Mountains offer stunning vistas of cascading waterfalls and carpets of fir trees. The coastal region is no less spectacular, with its endless miles of white sandy beaches. And in the

central region, towering skyscrapers mark the state's major metropolitan areas. North Carolina is the fourth fastest-growing state and the sixth most-visited. It offers everything from thriving cities and quaint villages to breathtaking landscapes and beautiful beaches, and it is all captured perfectly in this full-color book.

About the Author Nora Campbell is a librarian and professional researcher and speaker. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Excerpt LIKE A GEM with many facets, North Carolina offers a sparkling diversity of natural wonders and panoramas, dynamic cities, a celebrated history and a vast array of sport and cultural activities. The staggering beauty of this state surrounds travelers at every turn. In the northwest region are many scenic roads through the majestic Smoky Mountains. The roads are engineering feats in themselves, designed not only to allow the best vantage points for viewing, but also to protect the natural habitats and landscapes. North Carolina boasts four national forests, thick with more species of trees than there are in all of Europe. Many hiking and mountain biking trails wander through these vast protected areas that offer an amazing diversity of plant and animal life. But no less spectacular is the coastal region with its seemingly endless miles of white sandy beaches and undulating sand dunes. Protecting the coastline from the stormy Atlantic is the chain of barrier islands called the Outer Banks. Meanwhile, the central geographic region reflects the modern spirit of the state. Dazzling skyscrapers rise up from the major metropolitan areas, including Charlotte and Raleigh. Renowned museums, aquariums, zoos, and historic buildings are popular attractions. Superb examples of modern architecture illustrate the potential of North Carolina, while the many exquisite examples of colonial structures serve as reminders of its historic settlement and proud heritage. From the splendor of its thriving cities and the charm of its quaint villages to its magnificent natural wonders, the state offers an abundance of treasures. We hope you'll enjoy them as you travel the pages of America the Beautiful -- North Carolina.