

# North Carolina Daniel Boone Heritage Trail

The North Carolina Daniel Boone Heritage Trail is a series of sites associated with where Daniel Boone lived, hunted, and explored. Boone lived in North Carolina 24 years, longer than in any other state. The landscape, artifacts, and monuments tell his story in the state in a vivid way that can't be experienced with a history book alone. Visit these sites and imagine Boone's life here between 1750 and 1779.

**1. Boone's Cave Park** in Davidson County is the site where Squire Boone (father of Daniel) and his extended family first lived when they moved to North Carolina in 1750. (3552 Boone's Cave Road, Lexington, 3.4 miles off NC Hwy 150)

**2. Davidson County Historical Museum** contains exhibits on the life of Daniel Boone. Located in the old courthouse on the square, 2 Main Street, Lexington. Across Main Street on Center Street is a 1918 plaque commemorating the Boone family in Davidson County.



**3.** Anyone wishing to travel or settle west of the Yadkin (as Boone's family did) had to cross the river at **Shallow Ford**. It is of major significance as a focal point in the area where the Boone family (& his in-laws the Bryans) settled. The state is developing the site, on the boundary of Yadkin and Forsyth Counties, as a public historic park in 2025.

Check the state's website [HistoricSites.nc.gov/shallow-ford](https://HistoricSites.nc.gov/shallow-ford) for updates and information about access



**4. Boone Tract on Bear Creek** - Daniel Boone bought this tract of land along Bear Creek in 1759 from his father, Squire Boone, who had purchased it in 1753. He lived at this location for a number of years. Historical marker located on Hwy 64 west of Mocksville. The original cabin was located a short distance to the north of this marker. Mocksville holds an annual Daniel Boone Festival the first Saturday in May.



**5. Fort Dobbs** State Historic Site- This reconstructed fort was originally built at the beginning of the French & Indian War (1754-1763), with a battle taking place there during the Anglo-Cherokee War (1758-1761). The Boones and their neighbors were familiar with this fort that protected the North Carolina backcountry. (438 Fort Dobbs Rd, near Statesville)



**6.** A Boone Trail Highway Marker (see # 23) is located in the Davie County community of Farmington. (intersection of Hwy 801 & Farmington Road) **Near this site, on Sugartree Creek, lived Daniel** and Rebecca after they moved from their first home on Bear Creek. He built a substantial cabin here as the young couple began to raise a family.

**7.** Boone visited the town of Salisbury frequently to trade deerskins, buy supplies, and participate in shooting matches. The **Rowan Museum** contains exhibits of the Boone era. (Council Street & N. Main Street)



**8.** The marked graves of **Squire and Sarah Boone**, Daniel's parents, can be seen in Joppa Cemetery in Mocksville. (Hwy 601)

**9. Great Wagon Road monument** in Lewisville. Marker commemorating the famous colonial thoroughfare from Pennsylvania to Georgia that Boone would have traveled on.



**10.** The **Wilkes Heritage Museum** contains an exhibit on Daniel Boone, including a foundation stone from his cabin in nearby Ferguson. (100 E. Main Street, Wilkesboro)

**11.** The Boone family lived for a period at **Holman's Ford** on the Yadkin River in Wilkes County. After construction of a dam on the Yadkin, the site was inundated by the waters of Kerr Scott Lake, but visitors can get a sense of the general area where the cabin was located at the Fort Hamby Recreation Area, off Hwy 421. Picnic facilities are available.



**12. Whippoorwill Village**, a collection of historic cabins and exhibits, contains original stones from Boone's cabin chimney, which was located nearby on Beaver Creek. A replica is on site. In addition, the village includes a reconstructed hunting cabin that

Boone used in the mountains. Check the site's Facebook page for times when the site is open or call 336-973-3237 for an appointment. Whippoorwill hosts a biennial Daniel Boone Festival in September in odd years. (11928 Hwy 268, Ferguson, Wilkes County)



**13.** Drive 1.3 miles east on Hwy 268 from Whippoorwill Village to a historical marker at the intersection of Foster Payne Road. Boone lived in two locations in this vicinity. The **cabin sites** are inaccessible but the panorama of distant foothills gives one an idea of what Boone saw while dwelling and hunting in this area.

**14.** In Watauga County, take Elk Creek Road from Old Hwy 421 to its intersection with Stewart Simmons Road. At this location, Elk Creek Road crosses **Boone Camp Branch**, evidence of Daniel Boone's route from the foothills into the mountains in this vicinity. Follow Elk Creek Road back to Old Hwy 421 to get a feel of Boone's experience as he ascended the Blue Ridge to his hunting grounds farther west.



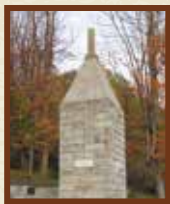
**15.** Boone **hunted in Ashe County** with a man named Thomas Calloway. Boone found an unusual, elongated stone in the area and gave it to Calloway after carving his initials "TC" on it. It was used as Calloway's gravestone after he died and still stands today in Calloway Cemetery beside Hwy 163, 6.6 miles from its intersection with Hwy 221 in West Jefferson.



**16.** Between mileposts 286 and 285 on the Blue Ridge Parkway (north of the Goshen Creek bridge & south of the Boone's Trace pulloff) lies **Cook's Gap**, traditionally identified as Boone's primary route across the Blue Ridge into the mountains.

**17. Grandview Overlook** at mile 281.4 on the Blue Ridge Parkway offers an expansive view of the upper Yadkin Valley, location of Boone's last home in North Carolina. Within this view is the territory where Boone hunted, explored, and made his way into the mountains.





### 18. Boone Cabin Monument

Originally located a half mile down Rivers Street, this 1912 monument was first built on the site of a cattle herder's cabin used by Boone as a base camp for his forays farther west. (corner of Rivers Street & Moretz Drive in Boone)



**19. Boone statue** - Bronze tableau of Daniel Boone in camp with his hunting dogs. Sculpture by the late Sherry Edwards. On Appalachian State University campus on Rivers Street in Boone. Located near the site of Boone's hunting cabin (see # 18).



**20. The mural in the downtown Boone Post Office** titled "Daniel Boone on a Hunting Trip to Watauga County" was completed in 1940 by artist Alan Tompkins. It was one of thousands of works of public art commissioned by government New Deal programs between 1933 and 1943. The mural is notable for portraying Boone accurately without a coonskin cap. (680 W. King Street)



**21. Hickory Ridge Living History Museum.** Adjacent to the Horn in the West amphitheater where Boone is a character in the outdoor drama, Hickory Ridge interprets life in the North Carolina mountains during the Daniel Boone era with historic cabins and reenactors. (Horn in the West Drive in Boone)

**22. Follow Hwy 194 to Meat Camp Road to Elk Knob State Park.** The park is located in the community of Meat Camp. Here Boone described the natural boundaries of a land tract for one of the first settlers in the area. The community is so named because Boone and other hunters established a primitive packing house to preserve their game meat and hides.

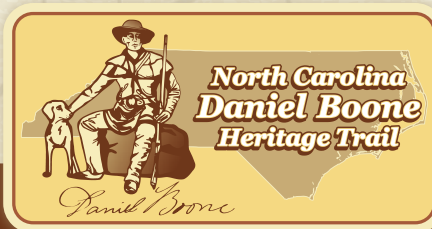
**23. J. Hampton Rich, a resident of Davie County, established the Boone Trail Highway Association for the purpose of erecting monuments to Daniel Boone. Between 1913 and 1938, he constructed 358 memorials from Virginia to California. The intent was not to mark locations associated with Boone (though some incidentally do) but rather to honor Boone without regard to where he lived and explored. Several monuments still exist and a few are located where Boone actually settled and traveled. Surviving markers can still be found at these locations in North Carolina:**

- Blowing Rock
- Boonville
- Chapel Hill
- Durham
- East Bend
- Farmington
- Hendersonville
- Hickory
- Hillsborough
- Lumberton
- Mocksville
- Montreat
- North Wilkesboro
- Old Fort
- Pfafftown
- Sanford
- Sparta
- Spencer
- Staley
- Fort Dobbs
- Sugar Grove
- Union Cross
- Winston-Salem

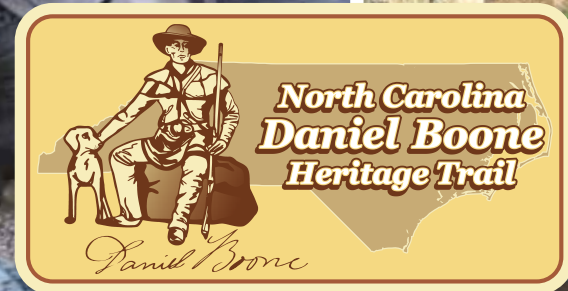
**24. Between 1912-1915 the Daughters of the American Revolution placed 45 markers along Daniel Boone's route from North Carolina to Kentucky. Extant markers in North Carolina are located at:**

- Shallowford
- Huntsville
- Yadkinville
- Wilkesboro
- Boone
- Zionville

**Sites in this travel guide are mapped on a separate document. The map can be viewed and downloaded from [NCDanielBooneTrail.org](http://NCDanielBooneTrail.org).**



**Visit our website**  
**[NCDanielBooneTrail.org](http://NCDanielBooneTrail.org)**  
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