



North Carolina Estuarium: Where the Rivers Meet the Sea

The North Carolina Estuarium, located in historic downtown Washington, focuses on North Carolina's estuarine ecosystems, some of the threats facing these waters, and some ways humans have used the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary for thousands of years.

Features and Activities

- ▶ more than 200 scientific, historic and interactive exhibits
- ▶ aquariums and terrariums with live estuarine species
- ▶ historic artifacts
- ▶ River Roving boat trips on the Pamlico River
- ▶ videos about the estuarine environment and local history
- ▶ unique environmental artworks
- ▶ programs for schools and other groups
- ▶ Crab Pot Gift Shop

Fun Facts

- ▶ Estuaries are formed where salt and fresh water mix together.
- ▶ More than 90% of the seafood species caught by North Carolina fishermen spend part of their lives in estuaries.
- ▶ Washington marks the general area where salt and fresh water begin mixing in the Pamlico, though the interface changes constantly due to wind, rain, and other factors.
- ▶ The Albemarle-Pamlico sounds form the second largest estuarine system in the United States, ranked only behind Chesapeake Bay.
- ▶ Several river basins drain into the estuary, including Chowan, Tar-Pamlico, Neuse, Roanoke, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Little, Pungo, and Alligator rivers
- ▶ The area drained by the system of rivers and sounds includes over 30,000 square miles in northeastern North Carolina and southern Virginia





Hours of Operation

Tuesday - Saturday | 10 am - 4 pm; Sundays 1-5 pm in summer

Admission

\$3 adults, \$2 students (K-12), children 4 and under admitted free

Public Contact Information

Street Address | 223 East Water Street, Washington

Telephone | 252.948.0000

Web site | www.partnershipforthesounds.org

