

Contact: Ryan Smith  
(919) 645-2676  
[rsmith@visitraleigh.com](mailto:rsmith@visitraleigh.com)

## **Writers Block – Raleigh, NC Story Ideas**

Satisfy your taste for the eclectic and cosmopolitan – arts, festivals, sports, hospitality and shopping – in Raleigh’s one-of-a-kind capital setting. Tap into the growing excitement that’s making Raleigh the emerging “can’t miss” cultural and entertainment destination of the Southeast.

### **Heritage and History**

In Raleigh, you’ll step back into the states storied past at sites including the **N.C. State Capitol** and **Historic Oakwood**, a 20-block Victorian-era neighborhood listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Step back in time and explore the many sites Downtown Raleigh has to offer like the **N.C. Executive Mansion** and the **N.C. State Capitol Building**. Put on your walking shoes and take a self guided tour where you can see more than 60 historic attractions and exhibits on North Carolina’s history including the **N.C. Museum of History** or **Mordecai Historic Park**, the antebellum home and birthplace of Andrew Jackson, the 17<sup>th</sup> president of the United States.

### **Family Fun**

The moniker of Smithsonian of the South, due to the unique concentration of museums, has helped foster Raleigh’s reputation a family getaway. Raleigh boasts more than **20 FREE attractions** making North Carolina’s Capital City an affordable and fun destination for weekend family getaways. In 2008, catch the highly anticipated exhibit *Dead Sea Scrolls* at the **N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences** or the expansive canvases of Julie Mehretu at the **N.C. Museum of Art**. Families preferring the outdoors can hop a ride on a rare **1912 Dentzel Carousel** or view nostalgia at the **Andy and Opie TVLand Statue** at Pullen Park. For outdoor enthusiasts Raleigh is home to more than **4,300 acres** of award winning parks and **41 miles of trails**.

### **Raleigh’s Renaissance**

Raleigh is undergoing a **\$3 billion renaissance**, the biggest redevelopment the city has experienced, with a number of projects set to transform the city skyline in the coming years. A new state-of-the-art convention center is in the works as North Carolina's State Capital boasts a burgeoning financial center, four new luxury hotels and a planned airport expansion.

Highlights include:

- *New Downtown Raleigh Convention Center*
- *Raleigh Marriott City Center*
- *Renaissance Raleigh North Hills*
- *The Westin Raleigh*
- *North Carolina Museum of Art Expansion*
- *Green Square Project at North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences*
- *New Terminal C at Raleigh-Durham International Airport*

- *New Contemporary Art Museum*

### **Tempt your Tastebuds**

Raleigh's dining scene has evolved quickly in the past few years and now boasts a surprising variety in talent, cuisine and dining experience. The savvy and entrepreneurial demographic is now enjoying a dining scene featuring multi-million dollar restaurants, chefs and restaurants with national appeal and ultimately, food worth traveling for. From the artisan breads of **La Farm Bakery**, upscale barbeque at **The Pit** in an urban downtown setting, and locally sourced french bistro fare at the landmark **Poole's Diner**, to the chic contemporary Italian restaurant **Vivace** and the elegant new world-class restaurant in the South's newest luxury hotel, **Hérons** in **The Umstead Hotel and Spa**... Raleigh has quickly become one of the South's newest food destinations, and a hot bed for rising chefs and artisans. Expect to discover locally made cheeses, breads, wines and superior chocolates, and the chefs and restaurants behind them, in one of the most progressive cities in the South.

### **Raleigh's Luxury Offering**

As a member of Leading Hotels of the World and Leading Spas of the World, **The Umstead Hotel and Spa** offers unparalleled luxury in an environment that expresses an appreciation for the arts and embraces the wonders of nature. The **2008 AAA "Five Diamond Award"** winning hotel is six minutes from RDU International Airport and centrally located to all area attractions in Downtown Raleigh. Enjoy our full service spa, collection of artwork, golf at Prestonwood Country Club, spacious guest rooms, Afternoon Tea service or dining in our 2008 "Four Diamond Award" winning signature restaurant, **Hérons**. Whether traveling on business or looking for a relaxing escape **The Umstead Hotel & Spa** is the hotel of choice for discerning guests.