

EDENTON-WINDSOR LOOP

The Edenton-Windsor Loop is a figure-eight loop that begins and ends in Edenton, the Chowan County seat.

Beginning at the intersection of N.C. 32 (North Broad Street) and U.S. 17 Business (West Queen Street), follow U.S. 17 Business South across Pembroke Creek, one of the two creeks that forms Edenton Bay.

Settled around 1685, Edenton was laid out in 1712 and incorporated in 1722. It was named for provincial Gov. Charles Eden. Visitors will notice numerous historical markers identifying the town's Revolutionary War leaders, as well as signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Edenton was one of the most prosperous ports on the trade route in the 18th and 19th centuries. The pirate Blackbeard made numerous stops here. Some of North Carolina's best public and private architecture also may be seen in town including the Cupola House, built in 1757 and considered the south's finest example of Jacobean architecture.

Boston was not the only Revolutionary War city to host a "tea party." Penelope Barker and several other ladies in town held their own such "party" in 1774. To

learn more about the history of the area, visit the Historic Edenton State Historic Site. Tours begin at the Barker House on the waterfront in Historic Edenton.

At the intersection of U.S. 17 and U.S. 17 Business, turn left onto U.S. 17 South and follow one mile to the Chowan River, named around 1657 for a local tribe of Algonquin Indians. The Chowan River is nearly two miles wide at this point.

While crossing the bridge, if the water is low enough, travelers may notice regularly placed poles in the water near the shoreline, which were used during the early seine fishing industry. **Just after the bridge, pass through Edenhouse.** This community was the home of governors Charles Eden and Gabriel Johnston and was founded around 1671. **Continue another five miles to the intersection with N.C. 45 and turn left.**

After three miles, turn right onto Sans Souci/Woodard Road (S.R. 1500). *Sans Souci* is French for "without care or worry" and was the name of a plantation located nearby. **After crossing N.C. 308, continue on Sans Souci/Woodard Road nearly two miles.** Automobiles



N.C. Travel & Tourism

Cupola House in Historic Edenton

may cross the Cashie River on the Sans Souci Cable Ferry, one of the last two-car, cable-operated ferries in the state. *NOTE: Since this ferry cannot accommodate larger vehicles, recreational vehicles should not follow this leg of the route. Instead, backtrack to N.C. 308, turn left and travel to Windsor.*

The community of Sans Souci is just across the Cashie River, which is one of the few rivers in the nation with its complete course in one county. **Travel nearly four miles to the community of Woodard, and then seven miles to the U.S. 13/17 intersection.**

Turn right onto U.S. 13/17 North and follow it for almost 1.5 miles before bearing right, then turning left onto U.S. 13 Business North (South Granville Street) into Windsor. Named for Windsor Castle in England, Windsor was settled in 1722 and is the Bertie County seat. It was the site of Gray's Landing, a colonial trading point. Prior to the Civil War, Windsor was a major U.S. port of entry and business center on the road to Halifax. The main streets in town are King, York and Queen, with the cross streets named for the Lords Proprietors. Northwest of town is Hope Plantation, the home of Gov. David Stone. Built circa 1800, it is an impressive example of federal architecture. Admission is charged to this privately owned home in the National Register of Historic Places.

South Granville Street becomes Granville Street at the intersection of U.S. 13 Business and N.C. 308. Turn right onto N.C. 308 (King Street).

While in town, enjoy views of some of North Carolina's finest 19th and early 20th

century residential architecture. **Cross the Cashie River and follow U.S. 17/N.C. 308 for the next 1.5 miles before turning right to stay on N.C. 308. Continue along N.C. 308 for the next 11 miles as the byway again parallels the Cashie River.**

At the stop sign, turn right and follow N.C. 45/308 across the Three Rivers Bridge, which is located at the mouth of Bachelor Bay at the confluence of the Cashie, Middle and Roanoke rivers. Bachelor Bay forms the head of the Albemarle Sound and was the site of a Civil War battle won by Confederate forces in 1864.

Continue on N.C. 308 another seven miles through Mackeys (known locally as Mackeys Ferry). This community was originally the southern terminal of the Albemarle Sound ferry, which once operated where the railroad now crosses the sound. The earliest recorded ferry at this location was known as T. Bell's Ferry in 1733. Settled in 1765, Mackeys was named for Col. William Mackey, a local landowner who bought the ferry from Bell in 1735.

Turn left onto N.C. 32, and pass Rehoboth Church built by slaves in 1853 and located near the Skinnersville community. This chapel is built on the site of an earlier colonial Anglican church and is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The byway then joins with N.C. 94 and crosses the Albemarle Sound. Europeans explored the Albemarle Sound as early as 1586, when it was called the Sea of Roanoke. Named for George Monck, the Duke of Albemarle, most of

