

North Carolina's Climate

THE COCORAHS 'STATE CLIMATES' SERIES

North Carolina: You Name! It – We Got It!

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North Carolina has the most complex climate in the eastern United States.

With its nearly 7,000-foot range in elevation and 300-mile range from the ocean, North Carolina has one of the most varied climates of any eastern state. Latitude accounts for some climatic variations, as do soils, plant cover, inland bodies of water, and the warm Gulf Stream off the coast.

Severe weather comes in a variety of flavors, including tropical cyclones and severe thunderstorms with hail, tornadoes, and high winds, heat waves, drought, flooding from local or regional storms, winter weather including snow, sleet, and the dreaded freezing rain. Our coast is often the birthplace for Nor'easters, and on any given day in the winter, there can be 50-degree differences between the coastline and the northern mountains. What a wonderful place to enjoy weather!

For more information on the climate of North Carolina, please visit the State Climate Office of North Carolina Web page at: <http://www.nc-climate.ncsu.edu/>