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WHEELSPIN

Auto Museums in the Land of Nascar

By MICHELLE KREBS
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AUTOMOTIVE museums are scattered throughout the South, where Nascar was born and still thrives. From antique cars to dragsters to Nascar racing exhibits, auto enthusiasts should have little trouble finding exactly what interests them.

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Lane Motor Museum

Giant insects escaping? No, three microcars at the Lane Motor Museum in Nashville.

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National Corvette Museum

Some of Chevy's proudest creations, at the National Corvette Museum in

Here is a list of museums in seven Southern states. An expanded list is at nytimes.com/autos.

Florida

ELLIOTT MUSEUM A collection of 25 vintage cars, some once owned by a businessman, Sterling Elliott, who invented a quadracycle that was the basis for the Stanley Steamer. Cars in the collection include Elliott's first car, a 1909 Hupmobile, and a 1903 Cadillac. Open daily. Admission fee. 825 NE Ocean Boulevard, Hutchinson Island, Stuart, Fla. 34996. (772) 225-1961. elliottmuseumfl.org

DON GARLITS MUSEUM OF DRAG RACING A visual history of drag racing, with Big Daddy Garlits's Swamp Rat dragsters, vintage cars, hot rods and muscle cars. Open daily. Admission fee. 13700 SW 16th Avenue, Ocala, Fla. 34473. (877) 271-3278. garlits.com

FORT LAUDERDALE ANTIQUE CAR MUSEUM

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BMW Zentrum Museum

A BMW Dixi at the Zentrum Museum.

Memorabilia and a collection of 22 Packards from 1900 to the 1940's – all intended to preserve the history of the Packard Motor Company. Open daily except Saturdays and Sundays. Admission fee. 1527 Packard Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33315. (954) 779-7300
antiquecarmuseum.org

SARASOTA CLASSIC CAR MUSEUM A collection of more than 100 automobiles from the last 100 years. It includes John Lennon's Mercedes-Benz roadster and Paul McCartney's Mini Cooper. Open daily. Admission fee. 5500 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, Fla. 34239. (941) 355-6228. sarasotacarmuseum.org

TALLAHASSEE ANTIQUE CAR MUSEUM A collection of about 80 vehicles, from a 1894 Duryea 2-cylinder prototype to a 1962 Amphicar to a 2001 Plymouth Prowler. Open daily. Admission fee. 3550A Mahan Drive, Tallahassee, Fla. 32308. (850) 942-0137.
tacm.com

TAMPA BAY AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM A collection of vehicles known for their role in history and engineering, like front-drive and rear-engine cars from the 1920's and 1930's. Cars from France, Czechoslovakia, Germany and the United States are displayed. Open daily. Admission fee. 3301 Gateway Centre Boulevard, Pinellas Park, Fla. 33782. (727) 579-8226. tbauto.org

Georgia

STONE MOUNTAIN ANTIQUE CAR AND TREASURE MUSEUM A private collection of vintage automobiles, including a Tucker. Call for hours. Admission fee. 2542 Young Road, Stone Mountain, Ga. 30088. (800) 401-2407 stonemountainpark.com

THE BRUCE WEINER MICROCAR MUSEUM One of the largest collections of microcars, from the late 1940's through 1964. 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; closed in June and July. Donation requested. 2950 Eatonton Road, Madison, Ga. 30650. (706) 343-9937. microcarmuseum.com

Kentucky

NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM The most comprehensive museum dedicated to a single automotive nameplate: the [Chevrolet Corvette](#). Tours of the neighboring Corvette

plant are also available. Open daily. Admission fees for museum and for plant tour. 350 Corvette Drive, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101. (800) 538-3883. corvettemuseum.com

North Carolina

HENDRICK MOTORSPORTS MUSEUM At this complex near Lowe's Motor Speedway, racecars and memorabilia related to Rick Hendrick motorsports teams, including the Winston Cup winners [Jeff Gordon](#) and Terry Labonte as well as Jack Sprague, the Nascar Craftsman Truck Series champion. Open daily except Saturdays and Sundays. Free. 4400 Papa Joe Hendrick Boulevard, Charlotte, N.C. 28262. (704) 455-3400. hendrickmotorsports.com

RICHARD CHILDRESS RACING MUSEUM A Nascar museum with 47 racing vehicles on display, including 22 black Chevrolets driven by Dale Earnhardt. Open daily except Sunday. Admission fee. 180 Industrial Drive, Welcome, N.C. 27374. (800) 476-3389 rcrracing.com

G. GRIER BEAM TRUCK MUSEUM In the original gas station where Carolina Freight trucking began, vintage trucking memorabilia from seven decades. Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Free, but donations are accepted. 111 North Mountain Street, Cherryville, N.C. 28021. (704) 435-3072. beamtruckmuseum.com

KELLY'S CLASSIC AUTO MUSEUM A collection of classic and muscle cars, including a Richard Petty racecar. Open daily except Sunday and Monday. Admission fee. 306 North Walnut Street, Pinebluff, N.C. 28373. (910) 281-0104. kellysclassicautos.com

WHEELS THROUGH TIME MUSEUM A collection of more than 250 antique motorcycles and cars. Open daily. Admission fee. 62 Vintage Drive, Waynesville, N.C. 28285. (828) 926-6266. wheelsthroughtime.com

South Carolina

BMW ZENTRUM A museum about the past, present and future of BMW at its only American plant. Exhibits include displays of BMW's work with hydrogen-powered cars as part of its CleanEnergy program and a tribute to the company's motorcycle heritage and a selection of successful BMW racecars. Open daily except Saturday and Sunday. Free; fee for factory tours restarting in November; reservations recommended. Exit 60, Interstate 85, Spartanburg, S. C. 29304. (888) 868-7269. bmwzentrum.com

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THE DARLINGTON RACEWAY STOCK CAR MUSEUM/ N.M.P.A. HALL OF FAME. On the grounds of the Darlington Raceway, old stock cars, trophies and racing engines and the National Motorsports Press Association's Hall of Fame. Open daily. Admission fee. 1301 Harry Byrd Highway, Darlington, S.C. 29532. (843) 395-8821. darlingtonraceway.com

Tennessee

FLOYD GARRETT'S MUSCLE CAR MUSEUM More than 90 muscle cars belonging to a businessman, Floyd Garrett. Open daily. Admission fee. 320 Winfield Dunn Parkway, Sevierville, Tenn. 37876. (865) 908-0882. musclecarmuseum.com

LANE MOTOR MUSEUM About 150 rare cars and motorcycles from all over the world. Highlights include microcars, motorcycles, prototypes, competition cars and amphibious and military vehicles. Open daily except Tuesday and Wednesday. Admission fee. 702 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville. 37210. (615) 742 7445. lanemotormuseum.org

SMOKY MOUNTAIN CAR MUSEUM A collection of cars owned by the famous and infamous, including Elvis Presley, Al Capone and Hank Williams. Open daily, July through Labor Day. Admission fee. 2970 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. 37861. (865) 453-3433.

Virginia

CAR & CARRIAGE CARAVAN MUSEUM AT LURAY CAVERNS Among 140 transportation exhibits are authentically restored vehicles like a Conestoga Wagon, an 1892 Benz, a 1908 Baker Electric, a 1913 Stanley Steamer and Rudolph Valentino's 1925 Rolls-Royce. Open daily. Admission fee. 970 U.S. Highway 211 West, Luray, Va. 22835. (540) 743-6551. luraycaverns.com.

ROARING TWENTIES ANTIQUE CAR MUSEUM A collection of cars mostly from the 1920's and 1930's. Call for appointment and directions. Admission fee. Route 1 Box 576 Hood, Va. 22723. (540) 948-6290. roaring-twenties.com

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION Focused on railroads, the collection includes some antique automobiles. Open daily. Admission fee. 303 Norfolk Avenue, Roanoke, Va. 24016. (540) 342-5670. vmt.org.

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