

Enjoy Historic Wilmington and the Cape Fear Coast

The Port City of Progress and Pleasure awaits you with gardens, shopping, great restaurants and plenty to do for the entire family.

5-Day Itinerary

Day 1

Stroll through lovely gardens; take a walking tour and take a step back in time at a history museum

Day 2

See historic Wilmington by horse-drawn carriage and by night

Day 3

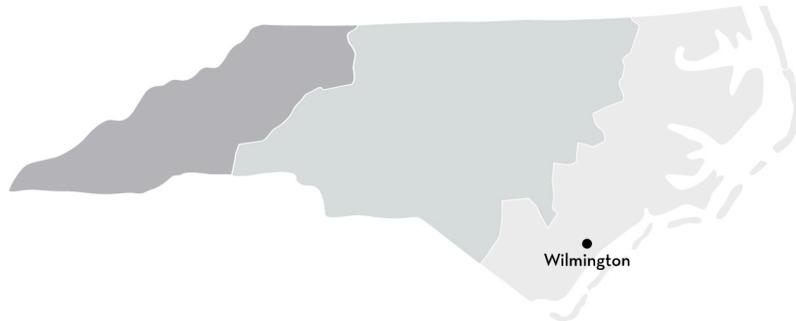
Outdoor activities in the Wilmington area

Day 4

Gardens of Wilmington

Day 5

Enjoy family entertainment for all ages



With so much to see and do in the area, we recommend the following 5-day itinerary. Enjoy all the area has to offer by mixing and matching events to your particular interest. Times are recommendations only. Feel free to spend as much or as little time as your schedule allows. Be sure to check days and hours of operation for each venue.

Day 1

Start the day at **Battleship North Carolina**. Walk the decks of the restored WWII battleship. Tour nine decks with crew quarters, engine rooms and museum.

1½ hours

Head to the **Burgwin Wright House and Gardens**. This beautifully restored Georgian style home is decorated with 18th and early 19th century furnishings and graced by lovely gardens. Demonstrations are held in a colonial kitchen building and you'll find re-enactments in the 18th century jail.

1 hour

Try lunch at a waterfront restaurant or one of many eateries in Downtown Wilmington and continue on the **Wilmington Adventure Walking Tour**. Explore Wilmington's historic district through the eyes of a long-time Wilmington resident.

2 hours

Next, stop in at the **Cape Fear Museum**, North Carolina's oldest history museum. The museum features a collection of more than 35,000 artifacts that showcase the history, science and culture of the southern Carolina coast.

1 hour

Day 2

Start the day with one of Wilmington's **Carriage and Horse Drawn Trolley Tours**. Narrated by a costumed driver, this is a ride that will take you back to a time when the pace of life was much slower.

1 hour

Head for Downtown Wilmington to browse antique and apparel shops as well as art galleries. Enjoy a cruise aboard the **Henrietta III Riverboat**, the largest and most elegant riverboat in North Carolina.

1½ hours

The **Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum** is a 42,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility that features North Carolina and American art from the 18th century to present. The 9.6 acre campus also features a restored Confederate mound (a burial place for soldiers), sculpture court and museum shop.

2 hours

This evening, sign on for the **Ghost Walk of Old Wilmington**, an enchanting 90-minute tour through the streets and alleyways of downtown Wilmington. A costumed guide will introduce you to a host of lost souls to who still haunt this charming city.

1½ hours

Day 3

At the **North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher**, journey from freshwater rivers and swamps to coastal waters and into the open ocean beyond. Walk through the half-acre glass-covered conservatory with alligators, catfish and more. Marvel at the quarter-million-gallon marine exhibit with views of sharks, eels and barracudas.

1 hour

Before its January 1865 fall, Fort Fisher protected blockade runners en route to Wilmington. It was the largest earthen fort in the South. Tour the trail at the **Fort Fisher State Historic Site and Civil War Museum** that includes a reproduction of a big Rifled and Banded 32 Pounder Heavy Seacoast Cannon.

1 hour

At the **Carolina Beach State Park**, wind your way through habitats along nature trails with more than 50 species of trees, shrubs and plants, including the Venus Flytrap – this is the only place in the world that the carnivorous Venus Flytrap plant can be found growing indigenously.

Day 4

Tour the Rice Plantation and spectacular gardens dating back to 1910 on the 20 acres of the **Orton Plantation and Gardens**. Relax among live oaks, lawns, ponds and many varieties of flowers.

1 hour

Revel in the scenery at **Greenfield Park & Gardens**. A five-mile scenic drive surrounds this 200-acre city park with a lake, 20 acres of gardens, nature trail and walking/biking loop through a dense cypress swamp. For a different perspective, try a canoe or paddleboat ride.

1-1½ hours

After lunch, head to **Airlie Gardens**, a historic area encompassing 67 acres of beautiful Gilded Age Gardens with 10 acres of freshwater lakes. Admire the azaleas, and hog the shade of the 450-year-old Airlie Oak. Then wander the **New Hanover County Extension Service Arboretum** with 4,000 species of native plants and a Japanese Tea House Gazebo.

Day 5

Ssssstart the day at the **Cape Fear Serpentarium**, a thrill for snake haters and snake lovers alike. Over 100 species of the world's most fascinating and dangerous reptiles live here in beautiful simulations of their natural habitats. See some reptiles so rare that they are not exhibited anywhere else.

1 hour

Then it's on to a complete family entertainment center, the **Jungle Rapids Family Fun Park**. The park offers everything from waterslides and a wave pool to Grand Prix go-carts, jungle miniature golf, a climbing wall, laser-tag arena, arcade and more. A restaurant is available for lunch.

3 hours

Afterwards, visit the **Tote-Em-Zoo**, eastern North Carolina's largest zoo. Over 100 varieties of animals live here, including Siberian tigers, camels, monkeys and more.

1 hour

For more information:

Cape Fear Coast CVB
www.cape-fear.nc.us

September 2006