

Exploring Furniture Making and Crafts in the Western Piedmont & Mountains of NC

North Carolina is the Furniture Capital of the World. This itinerary explores the craft of furniture making – and much more. Visit a furniture factory, explore the world of collectible toys and dolls, experience North Carolina history in a colonial town and capture the flavor of mountain cooking.

4-Day Itinerary

Day 1

Furniture, past and present, in High Point

Day 2

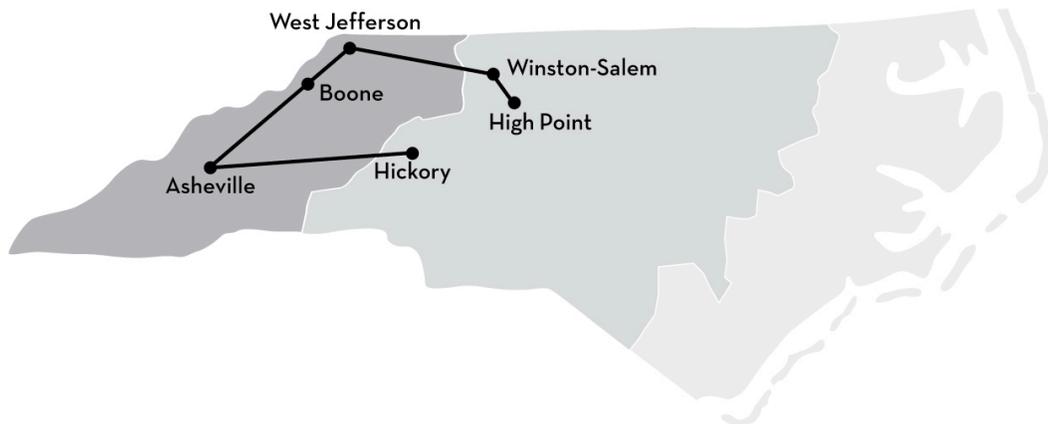
History and crafts in Winston-Salem

Day 3

Furniture in Hickory and on to the mountains for fine art, traditional crafts and down-home eats

Day 4

Asheville for crafts galore



With so much to see and do in the area, we recommend the following 4-day itinerary. Enjoy all the area has to offer by mixing and matching events to your particular interest. Be sure to check days and hours of operation for each venue.

Day One

High Point:

The itinerary begins in High Point, the heart of the “International Home Furnishings Capital of the World.” Begin at the free **High Point Museum**, which details the city’s rise from a backcountry outpost to a capital of the home furnishings industry. Then go to the **Doll & Miniature Museum of High Point**, which boasts more than 2,500 dolls, dollhouses and miniatures from around the world.

For lunch, stop in at **Carolina’s Diner** on Eastchester Drive. The popular Piedmont Triad eatery serves up home cooking in a 50’s era diner-style setting.

Finally, discover for yourself why High Point has such a lofty reputation in the furnishings world by exploring some of its many home furniture and decorating shops. You will find plenty of places to find something for your own home along **US Highway 311** or the **I-85 Business Loop**.

Day Two

Winston-Salem:

Twenty miles to the northwest, find **Old Salem** just outside the modern-day city of Winston-Salem. The Moravian town of Old Salem was founded in 1766 and has survived to become one of America’s most authentic and well-documented colonial sites. Today, it is a living-history town where costumed interpreters demonstrate the household activities and trades of the 18th and early 19th centuries. Visitors are welcomed into its homes, shops and gardens.

Be sure to visit the **Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA)**, the only museum dedicated to exhibiting and researching the original decorative arts of the early South. Housed in the same building as MESDA is the **Old Salem Toy Museum**. It’s regarded as one of the most prestigious antique toy collections in the world.

Next, stop in at the shop and gallery run by the **Piedmont Craftsmen, Inc.** (PCI). You may meet a weaver, potter or even a puppet maker. Operated by a nonprofit organization founded in 1963 by artists and art lovers, PCI enjoys a national reputation for excellence. Its mission is to foster an appreciation of fine traditional and contemporary crafts. Browse the jewelry, one-of-a-kind functional housewares, decorative objects and fine handmade garments.

Try real Southern cooking with all the fixings at **Hillbilly Hideaway Restaurant** in Walnut Cove, just 20 miles north of Winston-Salem. If you visit this restaurant on Saturday nights, you will enjoy live music with dinner.

Day Three

Hickory:

Start your day in another furniture mecca – Hickory. With the Blue Ridge Mountains as its backdrop, Hickory is located in the heart of the nation's furniture manufacturing industry. The famous **Hickory Furniture Mart** is one of North Carolina's top visitor destinations. Over 1,000 home-furnishing lines are displayed in the 1 million-square-foot complex. Have lunch in the Mart at the charming Jessica's Veranda Café to refresh for the rest of the day. Be sure to visit the **Furniture Museum**, located within the Mart, and learn about the rich heritage of furniture making.

West Jefferson:

Enjoy a short drive to the North Carolina mountains and visit **St. Mary's Episcopal Church** in West Jefferson to admire the frescoes painted by well-known artist Ben Long. Long, a North Carolina native, began his studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill before going north in search of other like-minded artists. In 1967, he went to Vietnam as a Marine Infantry Officer, and after a year as a regular soldier he became a military artist and head of a combat art team. After his military service, Long went to Florence, where he spent close to 15 years studying with a fresco master. In 1974, Long did his first fresco in Beaver Creek, NC, and now North Carolina is home to seven of Long's major true frescoes.

From West Jefferson, loop south on the **Blue Ridge Parkway**. Your first stop is at milepost 259, where the **Northwest Trading Post** is a shopper's delight with its wide range of crafts for sale. Then it's south along the Parkway to Glendale Springs, where the **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church** houses the largest of the Ben Long frescoes, *The Lord's Supper*.

Continue south to finish the day in Boone with dinner at the **Dan'l Boone Inn**, which has been serving Boone and the high country delicious home-cooked meals for decades. The family style meals begin with a salad in the summer and soup in the winter. Plates of steaming food are set in the middle of the table to be shared amongst your party, just like you would at the dinner table at home. Revel in biscuits, fried chicken, country ham, sweet tea and other down-home specialties. The meal wraps up with a hearty dessert, like cobbler (and a popped pants button or two).

Day Four Asheville:

This morning, make the drive to the **Southern Highland Craft Guild** in Asheville, offering the best crafts from a nine-state region, including weaving, basketry, pottery, woodcarving, glass and metalwork. Enjoy seasonal craft-making demonstrations, a gallery of fine crafts and the beautiful mountain views from the house and surrounding park.

Venture into downtown Asheville for a meal at one of the city's fine restaurants. You'll find cuisine to match any mood.

For more information:

Winston-Salem Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.visitwinstonsalem.com

High Point Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.highpoint.org

Boone Convention & Visitor Bureau
www.visitboone.com

Hickory Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.hickorymetro.com

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