

Family, Food, and Feathered Friends in Northeast NC

The Roanoke River runs through Halifax County, North Carolina, and that means the area is overflowing with rare wildlife, unique history, mouth-watering food, and first-rate entertainment. So head up I-95 toward the Virginia state line and get ready for three days of fun and exploration!

3-Day Itinerary

Day 1

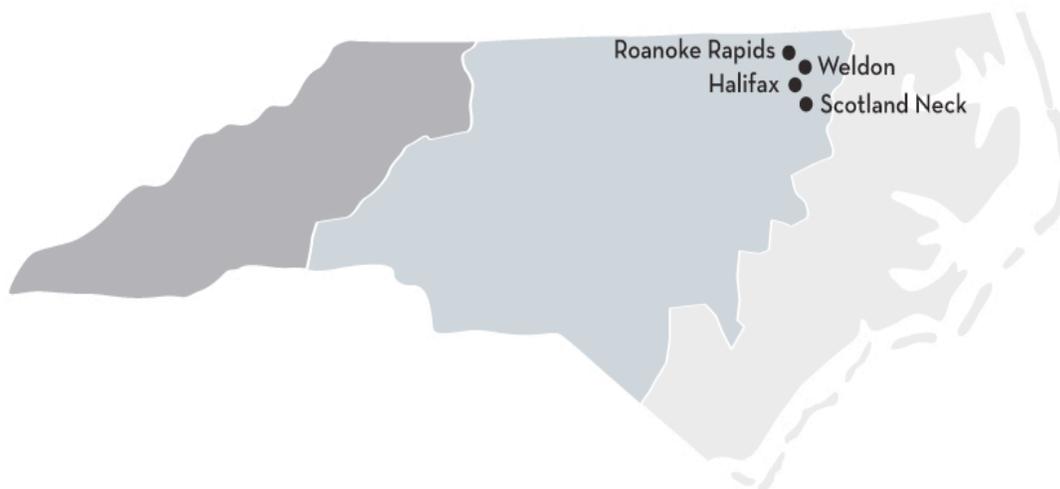
Quack yourself up with some fine feathered friends in **Scotland Neck**, and then declare your independence in historic **Halifax**.

Day 2

Spend a day enjoying the mighty **Roanoke River** in the Rockfish Capital Of The World – **Weldon, NC**.

Day 3

Take a hike in a beautiful state park, then return to the city (**Roanoke Rapids**) for high tea and a toe-tappin' good time!



With so much to see and do here, we recommend the following three day itinerary. Enjoy your visit by mixing and matching events to your particular interests. Be sure to check days and hours of operation for each venue.

Day One

Start your adventure in the town of **Scotland Neck** and stop at the **Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park**. Here, you will see more than 170 species of birds from every continent. You'll want to take your time and really listen to the calls of the wild from some of Sylvan's rowdier residents such as the Kookaburras, Argus Pheasants, Currassows, Macaws, Parrots, Trumpeter Swans, Whistling Ducks, and Cackling Geese.

You should start your visit in the multi-national aviary first, where you'll have a chance to feed the ducks, geese, and swans. From there, head to the flamingo exhibit, featuring Chilean & Lesser Flamingos, and then take a leisurely stroll around the park to see birds from six continents. There's a gift shop on the site as well.

Now that you've worked up an appetite, head back up Highway 258, which is **Scotland Neck's** main street, and be sure to notice the many beautiful historic homes along the way. Believe it or not, you can park in the middle of the street here! Locate **The Freeze** at 311 Main Street for famous "broaster" fried chicken, classic burgers or dogs, and a handmade milkshake for dessert.

Waddle out of The Freeze like a duck with a full stomach, and head north on Highway 125 to the historic **Town of Halifax**. Follow the brown signs to the **Halifax State Historic Site** at 25 Saint David Street. Enjoy a film about Halifax and its role in colonial and revolutionary history, especially the adoption of the Halifax Resolves, the precursor to the Declaration of Independence. Tour the museum site and learn more about life in a colonial NC town. View living history demonstrations, including such things as butter churning, quilting, tatting, colonial toys and games, and other daily activities from the 1700s. Then visit the many beautiful buildings on the site, including the Eagle Tavern, the Tap Room, the Burgess House, the Sally Billy House, and more.

Head back to **Roanoke Rapids** for dinner at one of the many restaurants along Highway 158, and rest up for your big day tomorrow.

Day Two

Take me to the river! The Roanoke River, that is, and there's no better place to explore all this mighty waterway has to offer than in the **Town of Weldon**.

Here, you can start on the observation deck at **River Falls Park** to get a panoramic view of the river. The **Roanoke River** is 410 miles long, stretching from the eastern edge of the Appalachian Mountains in Virginia through the Piedmont to the Albemarle Sound in North Carolina. Native Americans called the river Moratuc, or "River Of Death", because of deadly spring flooding. Today, however, the river is full of life, a hotspot of recreational opportunities.

Every year during the months of March, April, and May, thousands of fishermen flock to Weldon to try their luck at catching Striped Bass, otherwise known as a "Rockfish". During this period, it's not unheard of to have a party of fishermen catch a hundred fish in one day, earning Weldon the title of "Rockfish Capital Of The World".

For the more adventurous, the rapids in this section of the river are big attractions for kayakers, and for those wanting to stay dry, **River Falls Park** is at the eastern end of a 7.5 mile trail that connects to **Roanoke Rapids Lake**. You can walk or bike the trail as far as your legs will take you.

Of course, all this activity will require a hearty lunch or dinner, so stop in at **Ralph's Barbecue** for some of the most delicious eastern NC barbecue around, either diced or sliced with Ralph's signature vinegar-based sauce. Couple your 'cue with their fresh cole slaw, thick Brunswick stew, crispy and sweet hushpuppies, homemade banana pudding and a glass of cold sweet tea. You'll think you've died and gone to hog heaven!

Then work off those calories with some more outdoor activity along the river!

Day Three

Today, head south on Highway 48, then west on Highway 561 to **Medoc Mountain State Park**, one of Halifax County's best kept secrets. Spend the morning hiking any of seven trails with beautiful scenery including wildlife, an artisan well, granite outcroppings, and miniature rapids. Fish from the banks of Little Fishing Creek to catch sunfish, bluegill, Roanoke bass, largemouth bass, and chain pickerel.

Or, paddle your way down a 2.5 mile slow-flowing stretch of the creek in a canoe or kayak.

Then, it's back to **Roanoke Rapids** for a full afternoon tea at one of the locally owned eateries downtown – **Timeless Tea**. Here, you can enjoy a full afternoon tea with tea sandwiches, mini-quiches and pastries, or a more hearty lunch with soup, salad, sandwiches and other tasty treats.

Next, take in some of Roanoke Rapids' history and character. Make a stop at the **Roanoke Canal Museum**, and learn how the area's settlers used the river to improve navigation, trade, hydropower and industrial development. The museum also has a wonderful exhibit of area wildlife and the infamous Striped Bass.

Take a 'windshield tour' of the city. On Hamilton Street, check out the old passenger rail depot, the ornate **Roanoke Rapids High School**, and the log **Girl Scout Hut**. Roanoke Rapids also has an impressive collection of **Aladdin Kit Homes**, a popular mail-order home manufacturer between 1906 and 1981. Several blocks of these homes can be seen on Jackson, Monroe, Madison and Roanoke Avenues. Feel free to take a moment to relax in **Centennial Park**, where the summer concert series, **Fridays In The Park**, is held, or continue driving to search for bargains in the **Downtown Shopping District**.

Then, it's time for an elegant dinner at **David's restaurant** at 1011 Roanoke Avenue. David Watson is an amazing chef, and all his dishes are creative and delicious. Savor his renowned beef tips, accompanied by one of the restaurant's many wine selections, and finish with bananas foster.

Finally, no trip to Halifax County would be complete without an evening at **The Roanoke Rapids Theatre**, a 1,500 seat, state-of-the-art theatre that is the home of some hand-clapping, toe-tapping entertainment.

Whew! That's a lot to do in three days, but now you're headed home with a mind full of memories, ears full of music, and a camera full of photos!

Where To Eat:

The Freeze (Scotland Neck) – lunch, dinner
Ralph's Barbecue (Weldon) – lunch, dinner
Timeless Tea (Roanoke Rapids) – lunch
david's restaurant (Roanoke Rapids) - dinner

For more information:

Halifax County Convention and Visitor's Bureau
www.visithalifax.com

Updated December 2009