

Furnishing Family Fun in Guilford County

Located in the heart of North Carolina's northern piedmont, Guilford County is home to High Point and Greensboro, famous for furniture and full of family fun.

3-Day Itinerary

Day 1

Discover natural wonders at the Piedmont Environmental Center, tour a doll museum and get pictures of two very large pieces of furniture.

Day 2

Experience living history in Greensboro, from a Revolutionary War battle to the struggle for civil rights. Then, have fun with science at the Natural Science Center

Day 3

It's play day! Depending on the time of year, you can get wet and wild at a water park, get lost in a corn maze, or scare yourself silly.



With so much to see and do in the area, we recommend the following 3-day itinerary. Enjoy your visit by mixing and matching events to your particular interest. Be sure to check days and hours of operation for each venue.

Day One

Start your trip to this area by enjoying nature at the **Piedmont Environmental Center** in High Point. This facility was founded in 1972 by locals concerned about the environment as a place to teach children about the plants and animals that call the area home. The center has regular classes for kids on school field trips, but regular visitors will find plenty to explore on their own... including 11 miles of walking and hiking trails.

If it happens to be a “warm month” Saturday, you may also want to make plans to visit the **All-A-Flutter Butterfly Farm** for one of its “family days”. The farm is a great place to learn about and witness the beautiful monarch butterfly, and kids are encouraged to actually feed the butterflies by hand, which is a big thrill for a little nature-lover.

Now, we get to one of the things that **High Point** is known for: furniture. Every spring and fall, High Point becomes the capital of the home furnishings industry when it hosts a major international furniture exhibition. The public is not invited to those events, but because of High Point’s prominence in the home furnishings industry, you’ll notice many great furniture stores and outlets around town where you can find handcrafted furniture at remarkable prices, especially just before and just after the “market” exhibitions.

You’ll also find two very unique photo opportunities. First, there’s the **World’s Largest Chest of Drawers**, at the intersection of Westwood and Hamilton Streets. It is a 38-foot-tall Goddard-Townsend block front chest, with two gigantic socks hanging from the middle drawer to symbolize the area’s hosiery industry. Architects used a real chest as the building’s prototype, and you can even see that chest inside the lobby of the Visitor Information Center.

Then, over in Thomasville, there’s an eighteen foot steel and concrete **Duncan Phyfe chair** on a twelve foot pedestal, built in 1948 to symbolize that town’s furniture heritage. Here, you can snap a couple of pictures and revel in a little history as well: in 1960, vice-presidential hopeful Lyndon Johnson addressed supporters from the top of the chair during a campaign stop.

While you’re in Thomasville, be sure and stop for lunch at the **T’ville Diner** on West Main Street. The place is a classic old-timey diner, famous for its classic Southern comfort food, its friendly service, and

delectable desserts. The Turner South Network even named it one of the top five diners in NC!

Head back to High Point and check out the **Doll & Miniature Museum**. The facility has a fascinating display of dolls, dollhouses and miniatures from around the world, including more than 115 Shirley Temple dolls and a nativity scene with 50 rare crèche dolls. The museum is located on West Green Drive and is open every day except Monday.

Day Two

Take a short drive to Greensboro and the **Guilford Courthouse National Military Park**. The park is a quiet and peaceful place today, but on March 15, 1781 it was the scene of the largest, most hotly contested battle of the Revolutionary War's Southern Campaign.

On that day, Major General Nathaniel Greene, along with nearly 4,500 American militia and Continentals, was tactically defeated by Lord Charles Cornwallis and a smaller British army of about 1,900. It was the high water mark of the British during the Revolution, but it came at a steep price: Cornwallis lost more than 25% of his men, and was weakened as he moved back into Virginia. Seven months later, Cornwallis would surrender at Yorktown.

Today, you will find information and interactive exhibits on the battle at the visitors center, but you can also explore the battlefield by car, bicycle, or on foot... and view the 28 monuments in the park honoring Revolutionary soldiers, statesmen, heroes, and heroines.

Then, drive five miles and go 179 years further into history at the **International Civil Rights Center** in downtown Greensboro. This building used to be a F.W. Woolworth's store with a lunch counter, and here, on February 1, 1960, four African-American students from North Carolina A&T State University began a nonviolent protest against segregation that became a seminal moment in the struggle for Civil Rights.

Today, the Civil Rights Center is an exciting blend of period artifacts, high-tech media and scholarly research into the history of civil rights in America. The Woolworth's lunch counter is still here, as is a chair the Martin Luther King, Jr. sat in as he was arraigned on charges stemming from a civil rights protest, and a shard of glass from the

notorious KKK bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

Now, it's time for a little fun with science, so head to the **Natural Science Center of Greensboro**. This place has been entertaining and educating the people of Guilford County for 50 years now, and it has become an favorite institution of the Greensboro community. Roam through the Dinosaur Gallery and come face-to-face with a 36 foot Tyrannosaurus Rex model. Discover Earth's masterpieces in the Gem and Mineral Gallery. Enjoy touch labs featuring aquatic life. Visit live snakes, amphibians and sea creatures. Wander through Animal Discovery, the new outdoor zoological park, and come face to face with tigers, gibbons, wallabies, lemurs, howler monkeys and many, many others! There's also an "Explore Kids Alley" for ages 5 and under as well as the OmniSphere Theater and a solar observatory.

Day Three

Time to let loose a little, and if it's a hot summer day, the perfect place to do that is at the **Wet N' Wild Emerald Pointe** water park in Greensboro. Encompassing more than three million gallons of fun, the park has 36 different rides and attractions, ranging from *Dr. Von Dark's Tunnel of Terror* (a 40-foot-drop waterslide in total darkness) to more mild fun such as *Splash Island* and *Happy Harbor*.

Toward the end of August, another great place for some family fun is **Maize Adventure**, a cornfield maze facility in High Point. Here, the whole family can "get lost" together, or go on a gem dig or a fossil dig. As it gets closer to Halloween, families can find this year's Jack O'Lantern in the pumpkin patch, and brave souls can take on the **Kersey Valley Spookywoods**, a Triad tradition that's been scaring the daylight out of people for more than 25 years. It's even been featured on *America's Scariest Haunted Attractions* on the Travel Channel, so you've been warned.

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Where to eat:

T'ville Diner – Thomasville (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Bill's Pizza Pub – Greensboro (lunch, dinner)

Carter Brothers Barbecue, Chicken & Ribs – High Point (lunch, dinner)

Where to stay:

Courtyard by Marriott (High Point)

The Groome Inn (Greensboro)

The King's Inn at Sedgefield (Greensboro)

For more information:

High Point Convention & Visitors Bureau

www.highpoint.org

Greensboro Convention & Visitors Bureau

www.visitgreensboro.com