

NASCAR Fun in the Western Piedmont

From Concord to Mooresville to Salisbury to Gastonia, the Charlotte area is a racing fan's dream.

3-Day Itinerary

Day 1

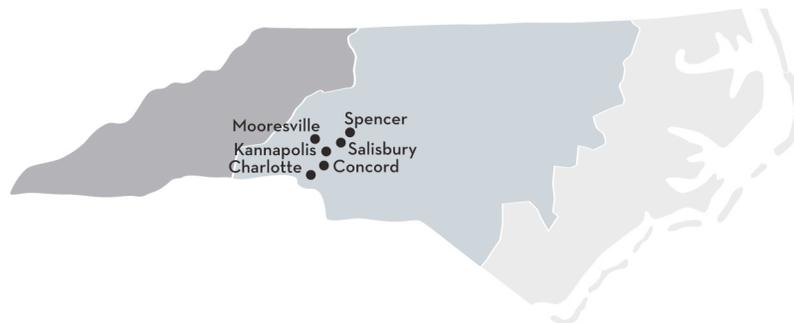
Kannapolis, Concord and Charlotte for racing shops, racing art, a tour of a speedway and much more

Day 2

Mooresville and Charlotte for racing greats and kart racing fun

Day 3

Sportscasting, sportswriting and the history of transportation in Salisbury and Spencer



With so much to see and do in the area, we recommend the following 3-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 1

Start the day in **Kannapolis**, where you can pay tribute to NASCAR legend Dale Earnhardt. This is the area where Dale Earnhardt learned to drive and race. Stop in at **Dale Earnhardt Inc.** to enjoy the showroom and retail store.

Just a few miles south of Kannapolis sits **Concord**, home of **Lowe's Motor Speedway**! Head to the gift shop to sign up for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Speedway, including a close-up look at areas that are usually off-limits during the battle for points and positions. Ride

down pit road and take a picture in Victory Circle. Even feel the effect of 24-degree banking on a ride around the track!

Under a lap away from the Speedway is **Sam Bass Illustration and Design Studio/Museum**, where you can peruse works by the first official licensed artist of NASCAR. View the hundreds of original pieces of artwork and limited edition prints. As you peruse the gallery, two things will become apparent. First, there is much more to Bass' work than painting scenes from the racetrack. Second, his sincere passion for the sport is evident in every piece. In addition to paintings you can view helmets, uniforms, coffee and lemonade cans, even cereal boxes that Bass has designed. And don't be surprised to see the artist himself.

Also near Lowe's Motor Speedway is **Hendrick Motorsports**, home of Jeff Gordon, Jimmie Johnson, Brian Vickers, Terry Labonte and Kyle Busch. Visitors are welcome to view the race shops of this sophisticated complex that provides Hendrick Motorsports with facilities to design, test and make cars and engines for all of their race teams. All HMS racecars are constructed start-to-finish at the 60-acre complex, and more than 700 engines are built on-site each year, with the organization leasing some of those engines to other NASCAR teams.

Day 2

Travel just north of Charlotte to **Mooresville** to start your day at the **North Carolina Auto Racing Hall of Fame and Museum**, featuring more than 35 cars, from vintage cars used in the transportation of moonshine and early racecars from the founding days of NASCAR to modern machines found in the sport today. The Hall of Fame also includes an extensive art collection relating to NASCAR and its history, featuring such artists as Sam Bass and Gary Hill.

You've seen the speedway, the shops, the art; now it's time to pay tribute to pit row. Take a free tour of **PIT Instruction & Training**. While there, you may even get a glimpse of your favorite team practicing for their next race. Race teams use the large indoor facility for pit crew practice. Whether you are a weekend warrior, armchair pit crewmember or race fanatic, the 5 OFF 5 ON facilities is a place for you to learn and to appreciate what it takes to be a Pit Team Athlete.

But why should the engineers, pit crews and drivers have all the fun? It's time to pull on a jumpsuit and helmet and get into the game at **Victory Lane** in **Charlotte**, featuring competition-style karts. Drivers

will have the opportunity to establish their best time around the track. Karts travel at speeds in excess of 35 mph, and a race report providing your time and ranking for each race makes this activity more than just a little addictive.

Day 3

Today, head north on I-85 to see a different side of sports. Ever wanted to try your hand at calling the big plays in basketball or baseball? This is your opportunity to be a sportswriter or broadcaster for a moment in the limelight at the **National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Hall of Fame** in **Salisbury**. There is no other Hall of Fame like it. Be transported back to those moments that helped form legends like Grantland Rice and Bob Costas.

Mosey through Historic Downtown Salisbury on a short trip to **Spencer** and the **North Carolina Transportation Museum**. This museum was once the Southern Railway's largest steam locomotive repair facility between Washington, DC, and Atlanta. Enjoy the massive locomotives, sleek engines and opulent private cars as you tour the restored 1924 Robert Julian Roundhouse, one of only a few authentic roundhouses remaining in the United States. Antique automobiles are displayed in vintage settings.

For more information:

Cabarrus County CVB

<http://www.visitcabarrus.com>

Visit Charlotte

www.visitcharlotte.org

Mooresville CVB

<http://www.racecityusa.org>

Rowan County CVB

<http://www.visitsalisburync.com>

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