

The Stars and Stripes Forever: American History on the I-95/I-40 Corridor

From an early Declaration of Independence to modern day Special Forces, the eastern half of North Carolina is overflowing with history, and all of it easily accessible from Interstates 95 and 40. Take this four-day tour and discover more than 230 years of our history and heritage!

4-Day Itinerary

Day 1

Discover a place where one of the first revolutionary declarations of independence was written and a place where one of the last Civil War battles was fought.

Day 2

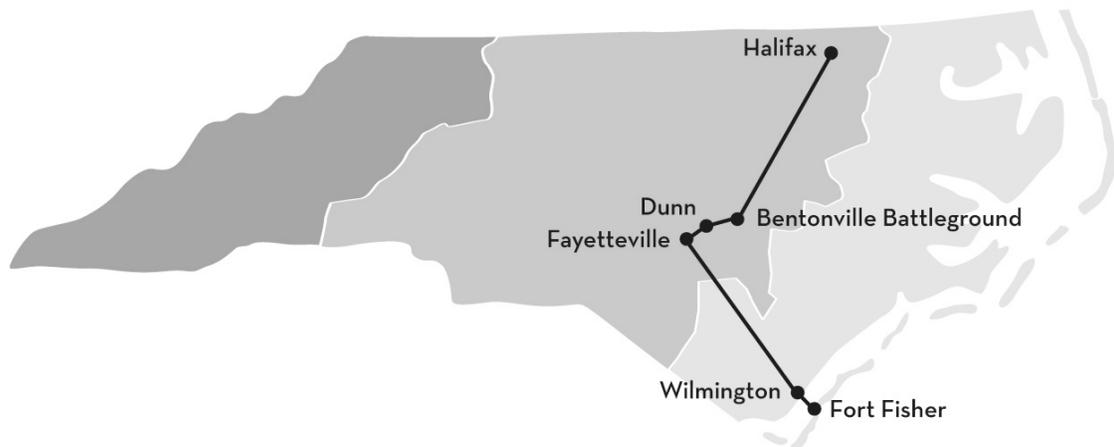
Experience a Special Forces mission, and learn about the culture and heritage of the Cape Fear River.

Day 3

Board a battleship that saw fierce fighting in World War II and explore a fort once called 'The Gibraltar of The South'.

Day 4

Explore a battlefield where patriotic colonists helped secure America's independence.



With so much to see and do in the area, we recommend the following 4-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

About 15 miles south of the Virginia border on I-95 is the town of **Halifax** and the **Historic Halifax State Historic Site**. **Halifax** was a commercial river port that became a revolutionary hotbed in 1776 when the "Halifax Resolves", recommending independence from England, were ratified by the colony of North Carolina. A free 60-minute guided tour includes several historic buildings, a cemetery, jail, and the clerk of courts office, and if you come in the summer months, you can catch a performance of "First For Freedom", an outdoor drama celebrating the events leading up to the signing of the Resolves.

Continue about 90 miles down I-95 past **Smithfield** and take US Highway 701 to the **Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site** near the town of **Four Oaks**. This site saw the largest land engagement in North Carolina and one of the last conflicts of the Civil War, fought March 19-21, 1865. The Harper House, used as a hospital by Union troops during the war, is furnished as a Civil War field hospital. The Visitor Center offers exhibits and an orientation film. Battle trenches, a cemetery, and history trails with exhibits are also on the grounds. If you come in mid-March during the battle's anniversary, you may be able to see a re-enactment.

Day Two

Get back on I-95 and over to the town of **Dunn** and the **Averasboro Civil War Battlefield Museum and Chicora Cemetery**. Historic markers outline the events of the tactical resistance leading up to the Battle of Bentonville. Also on the site is Lebanon, a plantation home used as a Confederate Hospital, and the Chicora Cemetery where the battle's casualties are buried.

Also in **Dunn** is the **General William C. Lee Airborne Museum**. This is the former house of General Lee, known as the "Father of the American Airborne". Lee was assigned by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to organize the development of Army airborne units.

A little further down I-95 is **Fayetteville, Fort Bragg**, and the **Airborne and Special Operations Museum**. This 59,000 square foot museum features life-size dioramas, rare aircraft, artifacts, and

interactive displays commemorating this special sector of the armed forces from its inception in 1940 to the present. Highlights include a large screen movie theater and a 24-seat motion simulator that places visitors in the midst of parachute jumps, helicopter gunship attacks and daring missions.

The Fayetteville Convention & Visitors Bureau can organize “**Soldier for the Day Tours**” at Fort Bragg with advance notice.

Fayetteville is also the home of the **Museum of the Cape Fear**, which traces the events that shaped the development of southern North Carolina. Highlights include pottery and exhibits about the early settlements of American Indians, the antebellum period, the Civil War and the textile industry. **Arsenal Park** reveals the history of a Federal arsenal.

Day Three:

Cut across State Route 24 and connect with I-40 East to **Wilmington**. Here, you can board the **Battleship NORTH CAROLINA**. Commissioned in 1941, the USS North Carolina served in every major naval offensive in the Pacific in World War II, earning 15 battle stars. A two-hour self-guided tour includes an orientation exhibit and portions of nine decks, including the crew’s quarters, the bridge, gun turrets, and radio and engine rooms.

Not to be confused with the Museum of the Cape Fear, **the Cape Fear Museum** in **Wilmington** has an extensive Civil War collection featuring the Wilmington waterfront as it was in 1863 and diorama of the 2nd Battle of Fort Fisher.

After you’ve seen the diorama, head south along the beach to see the real thing at the **Fort Fisher State Historic Site**. Fort Fisher was one of the largest Confederate earthen seacoast fortifications. Scene to the largest naval bombardment and amphibious operation of the Civil War, the fort protected blockade runners en route to Wilmington with supplies before its fall in January 1865.

Day Four:

Complete your tour with a visit to the **Moore’s Creek National Battlefield** 20 miles northwest of Wilmington near the town of **Currie**. This 87-acre site was the scene of a brief but decisive Revolutionary War battle on February 27, 1776. Victory by the Colonists prevented

the Loyalists from controlling North Carolina and helped block a British campaign to conquer the Southern Colonies.

For more information:

Johnston County/Smithfield Visitors Bureau

www.johnstoncountync.org

Halifax County Tourism Development Authority

www.visithalifax.com

Fayetteville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

www.visitfayettevillenc.com

Dunn Area Tourism Authority

www.dunntourism.org

Cape Fear Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau

www.cape-fear.nc.us

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