

## Trains, Trees, and Small Town Charm in Columbus County

Come explore the hidden treasures of Columbus County. History, festivals and natural wonders make this the perfect destination for a scenic tour of the southern part of the North Carolina Coast region. Founded nearly 200 years ago, it's a county rich in history, offering glimpses of life in a bygone era.

### 1-Day Itinerary

#### Day 1

Visit historic buildings and train depots around Columbus County in North Carolina's southern coastal area



*Enjoy all the area has to offer by mixing and matching events to your particular interest. Time indicators are recommendations only. Feel free to spend as much or as little time as your schedule allows. Be sure to check days and hours of operation for each venue.*

Begin your day with a walk through uptown **Whiteville**, the county seat, to see such sites as the **historic courthouse, courthouse square**. The land for the courthouse was given to the town by James B. White, for whom the town is named, following the Revolutionary War. Stroll down **Madison Street** with its downtown movie theater.

**Time: 1 hour**

Visit the **Reuben Brown House** at the corner of Columbus and Franklin Streets. This was the home of Reuben Harvey Brown, selected as the first principal of the Whiteville Academy in 1852. The simple life of a bachelor and schoolmaster are reflected in the design sensibilities of this historical home.

**Time: 30 minutes**

If you've worked up a thirst, **Guition's Drug Store** in downtown

Whiteville should be your next stop. Drop in and have an old fashioned lemon-aid or orange-aid.

Your next stop is the **North Carolina Forestry Museum**, where the natural history and cultural heritage of North Carolina's forests and forestry is celebrated through interpretive and interactive exhibits and educational programs.

**Time: 1 hour**

Lunch at one of Whiteville's famous **downtown lunch grills** will round out your morning here before heading out to other parts of the county. Sit at the counter to watch your burger and fries being prepared.

Head to **Lake Waccamaw**. During your drive, make a quick stop to see the gravesite of **Mille-Christine McCoy**, the world famous Siamese twins born in 1851 and **Bogue Chapel**, built in 1875 in Hallsboro.

**Time: 45 minutes**

Built in 1904, the **Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum** is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Lake Waccamaw Museum showcases the natural history of the area, Native American artifacts, local family history, the turpentine industry and railroad memorabilia.

**Time: 1 hour**

Opened in 1810 by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, the **Chadbourn Depot** is a must-see for railroad lovers. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the picturesque depot displays a variety of historical artifacts, including model railroads, period furnishings, Audubon prints, railroad memorabilia and even fashions from the 1900s.

**Time: 1 hour**

The **Old Trading Post** in Fair Bluff, probably the oldest building in Columbus County, stands on the banks of the Lumber River. Built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, people from Robeson, Bladen and Columbus counties brought farm produce and naval goods to be sold or exchanged for other products.

**Time: 30 minutes**

Originally built in 1897 as a combined Atlantic Coast Line passenger and freight depot, **Fair Bluff Depot** museum offers a step back into the past. Today it houses railroad memorabilia and equipment from the early 1900s until it's closing in the 1960s.

**Time: 1 hour**

Finish the day in Tabor City, starting with a visit to the **Mt. Tabor School**, built in 1870 using a floor plan and building technique which had been in use since 1820. It was not only the first school in Tabor City but also in 1905 served as the original meeting place for St. Paul United Methodist Church.

**Time: 30 minutes**

What better way to end your day than with dinner at the **Todd House**, serving tasty Southern food since Mary Todd opened her boarding house in 1928. Known throughout for its delightful old-fashioned home-style cooking, the Todd House is one of Tabor City's oldest businesses.

Enjoy an overnight stay at one of Columbus County's accommodations.

For more information contact:

Columbus County Tourism Bureau  
[www.discovercolumbus.org](http://www.discovercolumbus.org)

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