



The Central Region is proud of its traditions and place in history. From East to West you will find stately homes, beautiful beaches, dynamic art scenes, annual festivals, year-round outdoor recreation and incredible natural beauty just waiting to be discovered.

### **3-Day Central Coast Region Itinerary**

#### **Day - 1, Shops, barbeque and cliffs**

Take Hwy 70 East towards **Smithfield**

Begin your visit at the **Ava Gardner Museum** and learn about her life and career in Hollywood. Browse for boss baggies, sweet sunglasses and designer looks at **Carolina Premium Outlets**. Groups will receive coupon books for additional savings.

Continue 30 minutes east to **Goldsboro** and feast on some of the finest barbeque in North Carolina! Known as the “**Barbeque Capital of the World**”, Presidents have dined on this dish, and homesick North Carolinians have it shipped to them all over the country. Then walk off some of that lunch with a guided tour or hike, through the **Cliffs of the Neuse State Park**. The cliffs tower 90 feet above the Neuse River.

Travel an hour northeast to **Greenville** and bunk in for the night at any one of their affordable group friendly lodging properties.

#### **Day - 2, Arts, history and gardens**

Have breakfast with your group and then explore the **Greenville Museum of Art** featuring exhibits from its permanent collection of 19th and 20th Century American arts, as well as traveling regional and national exhibits. It also owns one of the largest public collections of NC Jugtown Pottery.

Drive 30 minutes south to **Kinston** and have a cheeseburger and fries at **Billy's Drive-in**. Meander through the **CSS Neuse State Site and Gov. Richard Caswell Museum** and hear the stories of one of only three remaining Civil War ironclads, the CSS Neuse. Or learn about the amazing contributions of Richard Caswell, a Revolutionary War hero and North Carolina's first elected governor.

Journey another 30 minutes east to **New Bern**, and visit the **Tryon Palace**. This 18th-century Georgian-style mansion served as both home of Royal Governor William Tryon and the capital of the Colony of North Carolina. Restored to its glory, Tryon Palace is furnished with an outstanding collection of antiques and art. The grounds are devoted to extensive gardens ranging from English formal gardens to a kitchen garden to wilderness garden areas.

Stay overnight at the **Bridgepointe Hotel**

### **Day -3, Fish, horses and forts**

Get up early and have breakfast at the hotel.

Depart for the **Crystal Coast**. Within an hour you will be in the Bogue Banks, where most beach communities are located. It is actually a continuous barrier island approximately 25.4 miles long. Your first stop should be the **NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores** featuring a 300,000-gallon ocean tank plus exhibits and animals from across North Carolina. Mountain waterfalls, Piedmont rivers, coastal swamps, and offshore shipwrecks are some of the new habitats.

Pack a picnic lunch and take a boat trip three miles off-shore to the islands of Cape Lookout National Seashore. Here you can enjoy remote beaches, watch the **Shackleford Banks wild horses** and other wildlife, or visit **Cape Lookout Lighthouse**. Camp overnight or cross the sound and wind your way through **Fort Macon State Park**, a five-sided fort that has seen service in many conflicts, including the Civil War and World War II.

Board the **NC Ferry System** and head home.