



For visitors to northeastern North Carolina, there are endless opportunities to explore historic sites, experience vibrant southern culture and participate in abundant ecotourism activities. Whether you want to spend a day immersed in colonial history, exploring the coast or paddling a canoe through black-water marshes, you can find it here.

### **3-Day Northern Coast Region itinerary**

#### **Day - 1, Get back to nature**

Take Hwy 64 east towards **Williamston**, and get back to nature at the **Roanoke River Partners Paddle and Camping Trail**. This unique paddle/camping trail on the Roanoke River attracts hundreds of paddlers from around the country. The same waterways, along with beautiful farmland and forested countryside, are popular for birding and photography.

Then get in your car and drive an hour to Columbia. Pack a picnic lunch and cast your line into crystal-clear waters of Lake Phelps in the **Pettigrew State Park** where largemouth bass reign. Or examine dugout canoes as ancient as the pyramids. Take a trip back in time at the grave of a great Confederate general and hug a tree as wide as an elephant. Pettigrew exhibits its history among picturesque natural surroundings.

Drive another 40 minutes and end your day with dinner in Manteo. It hosts a diverse offering of culinary delights in unique settings. When night falls, sink into a quaint inn, historic lodge or cozy motel.

#### **Day - 2, You learn something new everyday**

Get an early start, take your coffee mug and breakfast to go and meet the “natives” at **Roanoke Island Festival Park**. This 27-acre island across from Manteo waterfront is home to the “Elizabeth II” a representative 16<sup>th</sup> century sailing ship, Roanoke Adventure Museum, and a variety of performing and visual arts. It commemorates the unique role Roanoke Island has played in our nation’s history during the past 400 years.

Have lunch and then drive a short distance (15 minutes) to **Kitty Hawk Kites** in Nags Head. It’s the World’s Oldest and Largest Hang Gliding School. Participants of all ages fly over the soft sand of Jockey's Ridge State Park. If hang gliding isn’t your thing you can learn to kite/wake-board, jet ski, surf, parasail or take a fishing and jet boat tour.

After leaving Kitty Hawk Kites, get on 158 and travel north 55 miles to **Currituck Outer Banks**. Satisfy those taste buds with a full spectrum of dining choices ranging from casual dining to full service restaurants that specialize in fresh seafood, eastern style BBQ, ethnic fare and more. Rest your head in a charming, rustic campsite, majestic hotel, or vacation home.

### **Day - 3, Lighthouses, carriage rides and historic sites**

Cross the sound and have breakfast at Big Mama's before setting off for the **Currituck Beach Lighthouse**. Climb the 214 steps to the top of the majestic, red brick lighthouse. First lit on December 1, 1875, the beacon filled the remaining "dark spot" on the North Carolina coast between Cape Henry and Bodie Island lighthouses.

If you have time travel further north to South Mills to the **Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center** and buy a few souvenirs or pick up some brochures before traveling to **Elizabeth City**.

Have lunch in **Elizabeth City**, sampling some of their cuisine in an old train station. After lunch slow down your speed to a clip-clop pace with a narrated horse-drawn carriage ride along the waterfront.

End your day in **Edenton**, only 40 minutes from Elizabeth City. Explore the **Historic Edenton State Historic Site** with magnificently restored 18th and 19th-century homes and buildings. Allow yourself time to browse through the many shops and boutiques in the area before heading home.