



This region has an incredibly diverse heritage. Numerous historic sites, festivals, arts and attractions offer cultural insights to the area, while our beaches, rivers and lakes combine with several fine golf courses to provide countless recreational opportunities. Explore and restore in Coast Host's Southern Region!

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

#### **Day - 1, Plantations, wineries and farms**

Travel East towards and get up close and personal at **Buckner Hill Plantation** in Faison. If it looks vaguely familiar, that's because you have seen it on the big screen. The handsome mansion constructed around 1855, stars in the hit movie, *Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood*.

Stop for lunch in **Warsaw** at the historic **Country Squire Restaurant and Winery**. After lunch visit **Liberty Hall Plantation** in **Kenansville**, a fine example of agrarian life during the 1800's.

After leaving Kenansville drive 24 miles to Beulaville and end the day with an early dinner at **Mike's Farm Strawberry Patch and Country Store**. It houses farm animals, and hosts hayrides, Easter egg hunts, and Christmas light shows. The farm fills restaurant tables with lush produce, prime meats, veggies, and homemade pies all served family style.

Stay overnight in **Jacksonville**.

#### **Day - 2, Wildlife preserves, military bases and golf courses**

Have breakfast in your hotel before departing for **Hammocks Beach State Park**, located just off the mainland near **Swansboro**, it has become nationally acclaimed as a coastal wildlife nature preserve. The 890-acre island, named "Bear Island," is listed in the registry of Natural Heritage areas and is home to maritime forests, broad salt marshes, impressive sand dunes and pristine beaches. Or make reservations to tour of **New River Air Station** or **Camp LeJeune**, home of east coast "expeditionary forces in readiness" and is the world's most complete amphibious training base.

Have lunch and depart for an afternoon of **golf** at one of four nearby area golf courses in **Hampstead** (within 54 miles south of Swansboro). Courses include **Castle Bay**, **Belvedere Plantation**, **Olde Point Golf Course**, and **Topsail Greens**.

Travel another 25 miles south and dine Oceanside in **Carolina Beach**, **Kure Beach** or **Wrightsville Beach**. Then watch the sunset from your hotel balcony at either the **Blockade Runner in Wrightsville Beach** or the **Courtyard by Marriott in Carolina Beach**.

### **Day – 3, Come & Play**

Ahoy, Mates! Begin the day with a visit to our awesome **Battleship NORTH CAROLINA**. She has been preserved almost exactly as she was during her active service. During WWII, she earned 15 battle stars for her distinguished service and was home to almost 2,000 men.

On your way to **Southport**, just 30 miles south of Wilmington, stop on state route 133 at **Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site**, a colonial site dating from 1726-1776, served as a Cape Fear River Port that was the major export of Naval stores and the location of the Stamp Act Rebellion. Fort Anderson was a Confederate fortification, which was part of the Cape Fear Defense System until the Civil War engagement of February 1865.

Or visit **Orton Plantation Gardens**, a historic landscape designed around the 1735 mansion and colonial rice fields overlooking the Cape Fear River. Currently there are 60 managed acres with 20 acres of self-guided walking trails surrounded by ponds, lakes and lagoons.

Stop for lunch at the **Provision Company in Holden Beach**. Spend time at **Ingram Planetarium**, where the stars always shine at **Sunset Beach**. The 40-foot domed theater with seating for 85 offers programs about astronomy, energy and space exploration. April – October visit **Shallotte's Farmer's Market** for locally grown produce and handmade crafts and baked goods.

Or end your day on a **fishing charter**, touring a lighthouse (i.e. the **Oak Island Lighthouse** or **Bald Head Island Lighthouse**) or viewing historic artifacts at a local museum.