

HISTORY / HERITAGE 1-Day Itinerary

9:00 AM

Take about fifteen minutes to start your historical tour at the **Rutherford County Heritage Center** exhibit. A great overview of the most significant events in Rutherford County's history. This includes information and stories of the Bechtler Mint, Gilbert Town, Overmountain Men and the Revolutionary War, Civil War, textiles, historic photographs, artifacts and videos as well as information for other area heritage sites.

Where: 289 N. Main Street, Rutherford County Office Bldg., Rutherfordton, NC 28139

Open: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: Free, self-guided tour

Contact: (828) 287-6074

9:30 AM

Then drive a couple of blocks through downtown Rutherfordton to the **Rutherfordton Town Hall Heritage Display**. Take just a few minutes here too, to learn about hundreds of years in Rutherfordton – it's an historical primer for your day's trip. This exhibit depicts the history of Rutherfordton through murals on everything from Bechtler Mint to Tanner Clothing.

Where: 129 N. Main Street, Rutherfordton, NC 28139

Open: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: Free, self-guided tour

Contact: (828) 287-3520

10:00 AM

Once you've learned about the sites in the Town Hall Heritage Display, stay in downtown Rutherfordton a little longer to drive by or visit the "only remaining cluster" of **antebellum homes and public structures** in the foothills of North Carolina. Originally a plantation chapel, **St. Francis Episcopal Church** features gorgeous stone architecture, three rare Tiffany stained glass windows, a labyrinth, and the private burial grounds of the Coxe family who built it. **St. John's Church** was completed in 1849, and is considered to be the finest example of ecclesiastical Greek-Revival architecture in western North Carolina. Both churches are on Main Street. Adjacent to Main Street, you will find an incredible collection of **antebellum homes**, many of which are also listed and described on the rutherfordton.net website.

Where: Main and immediately surrounding streets, Rutherfordton

Open: Anytime

Cost: Free

Websites: stfrancischurch.org; rutherfordton.net/history.html

11:00 AM

Head to **Washburn's General Store**, across to the eastern side of the county. Step back into time and spend some time in an authentic working country store where your great-grandparents would feel at home. Churn jars, pottery, rocking chairs, wood cooking stoves, cast iron cookware, straw hats, overalls, etc. Here you can get a slab-bologna sandwich, moonpie and soda. Placed in the National Historical Register in February 2002.

Where: 2426 Bostic - Sunshine Hwy., Bostic, NC 28018

Open: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (CLOSED on Sunday & Wednesday)

Cost: Only for what you purchase!

Contact: (828) 245-4129

12:00 PM

Drive a short way east again to **The Bostic Lincoln Center**. Here is a small museum celebrating the substantial oral history and evidence that Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was born not in Kentucky, but on Puzzle Creek near Bostic, North Carolina, in Rutherford County. The mission of The Bostic Lincoln Center is to preserve, study, prepare and make visitor-friendly the traditional birthplace of the sixteenth President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, by collecting, documenting, researching and preserving the generational lore of our area.

Where: 112 Depot Street, Bostic, NC 28018

Open: Thursday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. .

Cost: Free, but donations accepted

Contact: (828) 245-9800 or www.bosticlincolncenter.com

1:30 PM

Take your time for a guided and hands-on tour of the **Rutherford County Farm Museum**. Here you will find hundreds of pieces of farming history, such as a left-handed plow, a livermush paddle, or a gas iron. This museum has many household items and other artifacts of rural life displayed in several rooms. Murals depict the cultivation of cotton and early textile mills in the county.

Where: 240 Depot Street, Forest City, NC 28043

Open: Wednesday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: Adults \$2, Children free!

Contact: (828) 248-1248

4:00 PM

End your day with a relaxing and **history-filled boat tour of Lake Lure**. Rest on a covered boat while your skipper guides you past local attractions and landmarks. Listen to legends and learn about the natural and cultural history of Hickory Nut Gorge, home to Lake Lure, North Carolina.

While you're resting, don't be surprised if you decide to stay the night in Lake Lure for a second day of history. That's when you can check out the 1927 Lake Lure Inn and Spa lobby (filled with antiques – including a large collection of music boxes), Bennett's Classic Auto Museum, and the Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, home to North Carolina's largest collection of genealogical information east of Raleigh. For more on these sites, see the one-day Museum Itinerary.

Where: 2930 Memorial Hwy., Lake Lure, NC 28746

Open: Seasonally – call for dates and departure times

Cost: Adults \$14, Seniors \$12, Youth, \$6, Children under four free

Contact: (877) 386-4255 or (828) 625-1373 or www.lakelure.com/tours.php
