

MUSEUM 1-Day Itinerary

8:00 AM

Take about fifteen minutes to start your historical tour of Rutherford 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

8:30 AM

Then drive a couple of blocks through downtown 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

9:00 AM

On the outskirts of downtown Rutherfordton, you will find the **Museum of Rutherford Hospital**, housed on the Rutherford Hospital campus. The museum was created to record and preserve the hospital's medicinal history – artifacts in the collection were actually used here. The design features vignettes that showcase several areas of hospital life, including the 1906 Surgical Room, Nursing School and patient rooms. A beautiful mural located in the museum, painted by Clive Hayes, depicts the different eras of the hospital's history.

Where: 288 S. Ridgecrest Avenue, Rutherfordton, NC 28139

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

Cost: Free, self-guided tour

Contact: (828) 286-5505 or www.rutherfordhosp.org

10:00 AM

Be careful! It may not be a museum proper, but with so much genealogical history – maybe yours – in the walls of the **Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, NC**, one of your first stops could end up keeping you all day. Home to North Carolina's largest collection of genealogical information east of Raleigh and a storehouse of information for more than 3,500 pioneer families who were here in the 1700's and 1800's, many visitors make the trek here solely to research their family roots.

Where is it: 319 Doggett Road, Forest City, NC 28043

Open: Wednesday - Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturdays 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: Free, staff assistance available

Contact: (828) 247-8700 or abrad959@aol.com

Noon

After an early lunch, drive a short way east again to **The Bostic Lincoln Center**. The small museum celebrates 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

Come for a 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

3:30 PM

Stay in Forest City and rev your mid-afternoon engines at the **Bennett Classic Cars Museum**. Bennett Classics is a gleaming chrome-and-motor museum capturing a love of automobiles and car history under one roof. The museum was started by brothers Buddy and Joe Bennett whose fascination with automobiles and flathead Ford V8's started in the early 60's. Restoring muscle cars to vintage autos, they have something to please everyone, including other antiques on display. The museum is here to assist tour groups or individual functions.

Where: 241 Vance Street, Forest City, NC 28043

Open: Monday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: Adults \$10, Children \$4, Senior rates available

Contact: (828) 247-1767 or www.bennettclassics.com

5:30 PM

Head West across the county to your final stop of the day: **The 1927 Lake Lure Inn and Spa lobby**. The Inn lobby also doubles as museum housing over a century of artwork. Experience the hundreds of antiquities and historical exhibits comprising the Inn's Art and Antiques Collection. The antique music box collection is coupled with historical hotel pieces such as the oak-cased annunciator at the front desk, early hotel registers, and mementos left behind by long-departed guests. While you're here, don't be surprised your daytrip becomes an overnight stay!

Where is it: 2771 Memorial Hwy., Lake Lure, NC 28746

Open: Daily 9:00 a.m. – until

Cost: Free, self-guided tour (Call in advance for a guided tour, including music box demonstration)

Contact: (888) 434-4970 or (828) 625-2525 or <http://www.lakelure.com/arts.php>

6:30 PM

End your day...but if you've decide to spend the night, get ready to enjoy a second day of history, including Washburn's General Store, and the Lake Lure Boat Tour For more on these sites, see the one-day History/Heritage Itinerary.
