

The Ultimate Nature Experience on Lake Norman

With picturesque Lake Norman, it's no surprise that there are many nature related attractions in the area. Visit Lake Norman and explore everything from a nature preserve, to kayaking, to farm-to-table dining.

2-Day Itinerary

Day 1

Experience the beauty of Lake Norman by exploring historic attractions and enjoying a day at the beach, followed by an outdoor shopping and dining excursion.

Day 2

Visit a nature preserve and conservation center, then take stand up paddleboard lessons and shop for local goods at a farm store before dinner.

With so much to see and do in the area, we recommend the following 2-day itinerary. Enjoy all the area has to offer by mixing and matching events to your particular interest. Be sure to check days and hours of operation for each venue.

Day 1

We suggest beginning your day with breakfast at [Café 100](#), one of the local favorites. With an extensive breakfast menu, you'll be sure to find something delicious that will leave you energized for the day ahead.

Spend your morning exploring the grounds of [Rural Hill](#). Now a county park, the land was once owned and farmed by several generations of the Davidson family, dating back to the mid-1700s. Its 265 acres include beautiful nature trails, Scottish cows, and an endless lineup of events year-round.

For lunch, grab some eastern NC style barbecue pork and brisket from [Lancaster's BBQ](#) before heading to your next stop.

Beat the heat at [Ramsey Creek Beach](#). Located at the point of Ramsey Creek Park, the beach is open to swimmers from May-September. With picnic shelters, a concession stand, and half an acre of clean, sandy beach, it's the perfect spot to enjoy the beauty of the lake.

To end your day, visit [Birkdale Village](#) and enjoy a great combination of shopping and dining. With bubbling fountains and colorful gardens, you are sure to enjoy strolling through the village to the various stores lining the main street. Then dine at one of its many mouthwatering restaurants such as [eeZ Fusion & Sushi](#), [Red Rocks Café](#), or [Dressler's Restaurant](#).

Day 2

After you grab the Slowberry Cobbler Deluxe Waffle at [Cast Iron Waffles](#), start the day off with a hike around the [Historic Latta Plantation Nature Preserve](#). Take in scenic views of the forest,

streams, and Mountain Island Lake on 16 miles of beautiful trails. The preserve also includes the [Carolina Raptor Center](#), a living museum dedicated to the conservation of birds of prey. Discover eagles, falcons, owls, hawks, and other raptors. You can walk on the nature trail, watch Bald Eagles nesting, and learn about raptor rehabilitation, research, and conservation.

Next, stop by [Bagel Bin & Deli](#) to pick up a fresh sandwich or salad perfect for a waterfront lunch at [Blythe Landing](#) or [Jetton Park](#). With playgrounds, sand volleyball courts, tennis courts, floating piers, and beautiful views, both are great places to stop and enjoy a pleasant picnic by the water.

You can't leave Lake Norman without checking out [My Aloha Paddle and Surf](#), one of Lake Norman's most loved paddleboard companies. Book an introductory stand up paddleboard lesson with one of their experienced staff members, or rent a kayak and admire plant and animal life as you paddle around the water's edge.

Make a quick stop at [The Bradford Store](#) to browse tons of organic products and local produce. A significant part of William Bradford's early 1900s farmstead, the store has provided members of the community with locally made goods since 1912. From bees wax candles to fresh flowers and homemade jam, you're sure to find something you'll love.

Finally, have an upscale dinner at [FORK!](#) This farm-to-table restaurant specializes in cuisine featuring fresh, local ingredients. The daily menu changes with the seasons and the year-round favorites won't disappoint.

For more information:

Visit Lake Norman
www.VisitLakeNorman.org
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