



TRAVIS & SHAWN'S DAY TRIP QUEST

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An aerial photograph of New Bern, North Carolina, showing a mix of historic and modern architecture along the waterfront. The town is situated at the confluence of the Neuse and Trent rivers, with numerous boats docked in the harbor. The background shows a vast expanse of water under a clear blue sky.

DESTINATION I: NEW BERN, NC

History, Nature, Charm

Quick Stats:

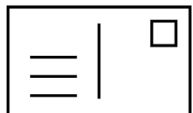
- 2-hour, 8-minute drive from Raleigh
- Located at the confluence of the Neuse & Trent rivers
- Riverfront offers easy access to kayaking, canoeing, boating, and fishing
- Walkable historic downtown

BIRTHPLACE OF PEPSICO!

"More bounce to the ounce"

- Pepsi slogan, 1950

In 1898, a local pharmacist and med school dropout named Caleb Bradham invented a tasty glass of Americana - Pepsi! What started as a quirky blend of sugar, water, caramel, lemon oil, kola nuts, nutmeg, and other natural flavors soon became the poisonous concoction of high-fructose corn syrup we know and love today. Let's stop by the historic downtown shop and sip some history!



TRYON PALACE

Tryon Palace is a faithful reconstruction of the original palace that served as the official residence of British governors of North Carolina from 1770 until the American Revolution. In 1775 the original building was seized by militia, and we kicked their sorry clown booties all the way back to Piccadilly Circus.



FOOD OPTION I: PERSIMMONS WATERFRONT RESTAURANT

Nestled on the shores of the Neuse River, this locally owned waterfront jewel is known for its modern yet accessible cuisine. Locally-sourced ingredients on their seasonal menu offer a variety of tasty options for adventurous and picky eaters alike. Pickles for the table?



FOOD OPTION 2: CONFLUENCE RIVERFRONT RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

Boats! Confluence is also a riverfront dining option with a touch more elegance. I would NOT order pickles for the table here as I would not want to embarrass you. But I would want them.



FRANKLIN'S ANTIQUES & VINTAGE

If we did nothing else the whole entire day, sipping an iced coffee and exploring this cavernous warehouse of bits and bobs would make me the happiest girl on planet earth. Also, this place is probably haunted.





FINAL THOUGHTS ON DESTINATION # 1

In conclusion, New Bern has a lot to offer. Though, I have a feeling the road trip and conversation will be just as enjoyable as the destination. Don't worry, I'm going to my first Cheeseballs Anonymous meeting tonight.



DESTINATION 2: PINEHURST, NC

“Cozy Pinehurst Village is for Lovers” - someone, probably

Quick Stats:

- 1-hour, 15-minute drive from Raleigh by car
- 1-hour, 43-minutes by train for a more scenic route
- Walkable Pinehurst Village with shops and restaurants
- USGA Headquarters and Golf World Hall of Fame

USGA HQ AND GOLF WORLD HALL OF FAME

"The Cradle of American Golf"

No tour guide needed in this free-flowing, choose-your-own adventure space full of championship history and over 50 artifacts from the USGA golf museum.

Check out the Science of Golf Gallery for an augmented reality exploring how the game works for golfers and golf course operators.



VILLAGE OF PINEHURST

Stroll winding streets through the Village of Pinehurst full of unique boutiques, restaurants, and galleries. The village is a replica of turn-of-the-century New England and just as charming.

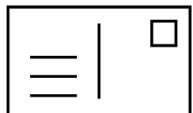


THE SPA AT PINEHURST

REST AND RELAXATION!

Whether it's a couples massage, a mani-pedi, or a visit to the sauna and hot tub, the Pinehurst Spa is an oasis of luxury (yes, I just typed the words *oasis of luxury*).

I fear this would simply be a must if we chose Pinehurst.



FOOD OPTION I: DRUM & QUILL

Storied local pub dedicated to the owner's father, famous golf writer Bob Drum. The building is a 130-year-old Magistrate Judge's chamber and is inspired by the Public House tradition of Ireland: a cozy place to connect with your nearest and dearest or chat with strangers over a pint. Menu is traditional pub fare! (Can confirm, delicious)



FOOD OPTION 2: THE DEUCE

Known as “the best 19th hole in golf,” the Deuce is found on the 18th hole of Pinehurst No. 2 and boasts stunning views of one of the most iconic holes in golf. Indoor or outdoor seating! Menu is elevated pub fare.

I’m certain they would have an iced-tee for you. TEE (get it? ;))



LAKE PINEHURST

If spa/shopping/lunching/golf history-ing (?) weren't enough, we can take a dip in Lake Pinehurst, a 200-acre lake for boating and swimming. Lake Pinehurst is also surrounded by 7 miles of scenic greenway trails if we're in the mood for more activity.





FINAL THOUGHTS ON DESTINATION #2

In conclusion, Pinehurst is a close
getaway and a North Carolina staple.
Small but mighty day-trip potential.

Two words for the final pitch: hot tub.

PROS AND CONS



New Bern

PROS:

- Honestly, Nicholas Sparks was onto something here. Romance oozes from this sleepy little waterfront town.
- Less snooty than Pinehurst.

CONS:

- Double the travel time.



Pinehurst

PROS:

- The train could kind of be a vibe. It adds an extra 45 minutes (maybe more if delayed), but we don't have to work at all.
- Spa is a big ++++

CONS:

- Being at Pinehurst and not golfing, idk is that weird?