



## A Weekend in Wilmington

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Are you looking at your first trip here? Wilmington and the nearby beaches of Wrightsville Beach, Carolina Beach and Kure Beach offer something for everyone. A nice weekend might include some of the following items.

### **Friday evening...**

Check into one of Wilmington's beautiful bed and breakfasts. If a B&B isn't your style there are over 100 other places to stay ranging from full service hotels to beach cottages ("Where to Stay" on Passport).

First you need to get the road out of your hair and become acclimated to the Wilmington way of life. Ask your host for directions to Le Catalan, a charming French restaurant along the Riverwalk. Find an outdoor table and enjoy a glass of wine, some bread, watch the passing scene and begin to soak up the pace of life that makes this place special.

If you can pull yourself away you will find that the Port City is quite the restaurant town. From French to Pubs to places that look like the floor should be covered with sawdust, Wilmington has something for you. Front Street has the only brewery in the area. Circa offers small plates if you can't quite decide what you want. Dock Street Oyster Bar, Pilot House, the George and others offer different approaches to seafood. Just don't rush it.

Check out Fortunate Glass for that after dinner drink and opportunities to get the locals point of view.

If you don't want to walk home, look for Cartman. He's the one in the golf cart who operates on tips.

**A Full day...**

To really appreciate the area it helps to get a sense of its history. Stop by the Cape Fear Museum of History and Science. As a port city and once largest city in the state, it has witnessed and experienced every aspect of American history. If you want to dig deeper into that history you can find memorials to it throughout the area. Battleship NC is across the river, Fort Fisher is at the south end of Kure Beach, and the B&Bs sit amidst the beautifully restored grand homes of yesterday.

You'll want to spend most of your day exploring a beachtown. Head North on 3<sup>rd</sup> St to reach Wrightsville or South on Front St. to find Carolina and Kure beaches (Pleasure Island). Soak up some rays or enjoy the special charm of the off season beach walk. On Wrightsville, you'll find plenty of places to eat once you cross the bridge to Wrightsville and hit the North-South Rd., Lumina. On Pleasure Island (Carolina Beach and Kure Beach) you'll find plenty of places to eat and to hit the beach about two miles over the bridge.

If you want to get off the beach for a bit you might try the NC Aquarium at Kure Beach or the Wrightsville Beach History Museum.

As you cross the bridge from Wrightsville you'll be in the Lumina area. This area is great for shopping or finding even more options for dinner (Lumina & Mayfaire on the Passport search).

As you leave Pleasure Island you'll pass a number of restaurants close to the bridge and a couple of miles up the road, a large shopping area in "Monkey Junction" (Monkey Junction in the Passport search).

Wilmington abounds in music and theater. Enjoy a play, music, or maybe some comedy to wrap up your day ([events.enjoywilmington.com](http://events.enjoywilmington.com)).

**Last Day...**

Enjoy a special breakfast. Dixie Grill, often with a line, or Mixto are both very proud of their breakfasts. You can head up to Leon's in Ogden if you're looking for the "Working Man's Special."

If you call one of our photographers they will be happy to do a beach portrait for your special reminder of your visit. And a reminder that you'll want to return soon.