

Halifax County Gone Fishin' Itinerary

Day One:

Your first stop - the South Boston – Halifax County Visitor Center at 1180 Bill Tuck Highway, South Boston, VA 24592 - to get your maps, directions, brochures, general information, fishing and/or hunting licenses.

Kerr Lake, locally known as Buggs Island Lake, is Virginia's largest lake, with more than 50,000 acres of fresh water and over 800 miles shoreline. It is one of the best largemouth bass fisheries in the country. The best fishing is on the upper end of the lake and the lower end creek arms. Anglers should be sure to fish the backs of coves and the points. Channel catfish have traditionally been the most sought after catfish here; however, flathead and blue catfish have become popular as well. The world record blue, a 143 pounder, was caught in Kerr Lake.



During spring, striped bass may be found in the upper end of the lake and in the river above the lake as fish travel upstream to spawn. During summer, striped bass can be found in the lower end, although striped and largemouth bass may be found throughout the lake.



Kerr Lake is also one of Virginia's best places to catch crappie; the world record black crappie was caught here. Fishing for crappie is typically best from February through April (pre-spawn and spawn); however, many anglers enjoy high catch rates year-round. Buffalo, Grassy, Bluestone, and Butcher Creeks are very productive for crappie. White perch are quickly becoming popular with anglers because they are abundant and can reach weights of nearly two pounds.

For catch of the day and fishing reports, check in with Kerr Lake Information website: <http://www.kerrlake.info/fishing/>

On your way to your fishing hole of choice, stop by O Sole Mio Pizzeria for some hearty Italian subs to enjoy on the spot or wrap up for later. Windmill Farm Bake Shop is also excellent, with soups, deli sandwiches and yummy traditional Mennonite treats and other baked goods.

Are you a beginner fisherman who needs to purchase your rod, reel and lures, or the type who carries your tried and true gear with you everywhere? Halifax County has you covered either way.

South Boston **Wal-Mart** has a great selection of everything you need to get started, and **Smiley's General Merchandise** carries tackle and bait and usually has inside information or at least great advice on what the fish are currently biting.

There is a large selection of fishing gear, and area tournament information at **Bobcat's Bait and Tackle** in nearby Clarksville.



River Traders, located near Staunton River State Park, offers tackle and bait for fishing as well as pontoon boats, canoes, kayaks and fishing boats for rent.

See our Frequently Asked Questions section of our website (http://gohalifaxva.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=163&Itemid=100079) for boat ramp and more boat rental information.

Virginia and North Carolina have a reciprocal license agreement for waters of Kerr Lake, with the exception of those waters above the Route 360 Bridge on the Staunton River arm. The tail waters of Kerr are also covered under this agreement.

Dry land casters will find plenty of places to fish from the shores of Kerr Lake as well as along the banks of the Dan, Banister, Hyco and Staunton (Roanoke) Rivers. Staunton River State Park is on the lake and has beautiful trails with plenty of fishing spots.



http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/sta.shtml

Or you could adventure out in your own canoe or kayak. Try this website for some great river fishing float trip ideas:

<http://www.oldhalifax.com/county/Paddling.htm>

You have many options for dining in Halifax County. Mexico Viejo Mexican Grill is a great way to wrap up your day. Or try Smokey River Tavern for anything from gator bites to ribs or fried catfish.

As far as where to stay, Halifax County has plenty to offer, with packages and accommodations ranging from the quaint to the luxurious. See our website:

http://gohalifaxva.com/index.php?option=com_sobi2&catid=36&Itemid=100010

Day Two:

Get up and do it again! Early risers will find breakfast fuel at Ollie's Southern Café, open Thursday through Sunday 5:00am – 11:30am with everything from grits & gravy to pancakes with corned beef hash. Common Grounds will help open your eyes with pastries, breakfast items and specialty coffees.

Head back to a favorite fishing spot, or explore and discover a new one. Be sure to stop by the Visitor Center before you head home; we'd love to hear your fish tales and help you plan your return trip!