

Things to Do in New Bern

Ghosts of New Bern

The Ghosts of New Bern walking tour starts at 7:30 p.m. in front of Morgan's Tavern (more about the tavern below). Grab some dinner at Morgan's (or at Persimmons or MJ's, both of which are 1-3 blocks away) and then get set for a night of spooky tales about New Bern's dark underbelly.

Tryon Palace

Visit the colonial governor's mansion and gardens in downtown New Bern. Tryon Palace offers free garden access only on Sundays from March through October. Those attending the conference at Craven Community College may enhance their stay with a tour of the Tryon Palace and Gardens. Ticket information may be found on their website. A garden pass is available for \$6.00.

Bear Hunting

In celebration of New Bern's 300th anniversary, the town commissioned 50 bear statues to be painted by local artists and stationed in town. See how many you can find while enjoying a beautiful walk through downtown.

Union Point Park

Unwind with a good book by the river at Union Point Park. Or load up your kayak or boat from home and launch it at the park after the conference. The park, which sits where the Neuse and Trent rivers meet, has several benches by the river, lots of green space, a gorgeous riverside walking path, and two boat launches.

Things to Eat in New Bern

Persimmons

If you missed eating at Persimmons at the fall 2010 conference, make sure you go this time around for dinner! Persimmons is New Bern's only waterfront restaurant, and it serves local and organic food. If the weather is nice, ask to sit outside on one of their three decks. They offer two menus in the evening, and you and your tablemates can order from either (or both) of the menus. The dinner menu is the pricy side (\$15-28 for entrées), and the deckside menu is delicious and more affordable (\$8-11 for entrées).

Morgan's Tavern

Morgan's is a staple of downtown New Bern dining and can usually accommodate large groups without too much warning. Try one of the tavern's in-house beers. The back patio tends to stay open through

late fall, and the interior dining room is made up of several smaller, more intimate (and quieter) dining spaces. Entrées prices range from \$13-22.

[Thai Thai Seafood Palace](#)

Thai Thai is a local favorite with excellent service and a not-too-Americanized menu. Be forewarned: their three and four chili pepper dishes are not for the faint of stomach. Entrée prices range from \$10-15.

[MJ's Seafood and Raw Bar](#)

MJ's is located in downtown between the Tryon Palace and the Ghost Walk. Like the name says, they are a raw bar. But they also have wonderful burgers, pastas, and seafood dishes. Sit near the front windows for some good people watching while you wait for dinner. Prices start at \$11.