

Smithfield Exit 95, I-95



We invite you to discover and explore our destinations along the I-95 and I-40 corridors in Johnston County, North Carolina.



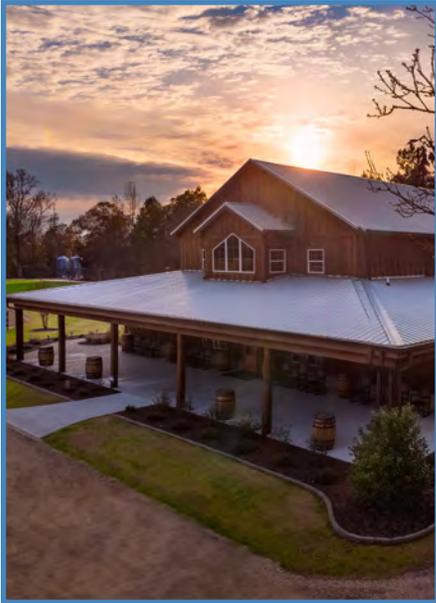
Bentonville 2020 Reenactment Stand in the Echo of Battles Fought

On March 21-22, 2020 at Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site in Four Oaks, NC more than 2,500 re-enactors are expected from around the country to participate in the reenactment of the Battle of Bentonville. This spectacle only happens every 5 years due to the immense amount of planning and logistics that go into the event. The public is invited to watch history in action over 2 days on the original spot where the last major battle, and the largest land battle fought on North Carolina soil, took place. During the 2015 reenactment 64,000 people traveled to experience this historical and educational event. In addition to the daily battles, the weekend will feature free lectures, 19th century medical displays, period music, and dozens of sutlers selling Civil War related items. More details on scheduling and tickets can be found at bentonvillereenactment.com.

Experience Art on a Plate Food Trails, Farm Apps, and More

There are many ways to let your foodie flag fly in JoCo, like our BBQ Trail Map - a compilation of all the local BBQ joints. The trail helps visitors explore the best that eastern-style NC BBQ has to offer! Looking for a way to explore beyond the table and to the farm? There are now over 70 Johnston County agribusinesses listed on the new Visit NC Farms App, an initiative from the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. Johnston County listings include farms, u-pick operations, farmers markets, restaurants sourcing from local farms, and even farms that double as wedding venues! Speaking of farms... local chef and farmer Blake Gotliffe started Under the Oak Farm in the spring of 2015 - small, sustainable, and tucked away behind his home in the charming town of Clayton. Gotliffe now uses his farm to source his recently-opened restaurant, Under the Oak Café, in Downtown Smithfield. Under the Oak is a quick counter service restaurant with a passion for local sourcing and scratch cooking; he recently added a more up-scale dinner service a few nights a week. For more information visit johnstoncountync.org/agritourism.





JoCo Grows Tourism

New Places to Stay, Eat, and Even Wed

The places to stay, things to do, and even places to say “I Do” keep multiplying in Johnston County. On the heels of a brand new, pet-friendly Hampton Inn & Suites in Benson (Exit 79 off I-95), another Hampton just broke ground in Smithfield (Exit 95 off I-95) adding more rooms for travelers to JoCo. In addition, remodeling is underway for the old JR Outlet building in Selma (Exit 97 off I-95) converting it into the Old North State Food Hall, slated to open in 2020. The food hall will include a full bar called the NC Craft House run by local brewery Double Barley and will feature NC craft beer, cider, wine, and spirits! Previous visitors to JoCo might recognize Double Barley as a stop along the Beer, Wine, and Shine Trail, which just added 2 more stops - Instill Disilling in Clayton and Fainting Goat Brewery in Benson. Also along the trail is Broadslab Distillery, opened by Jeremy Norris, a 5th generation moonshiner, in 2015. The Barn at Broadslab is a new wedding venue located next to the distillery and is a unique and beautiful place to have a country-chic wedding! For more information visit johnstoncountync.org/bwst.

3 Can't-Miss JoCo Trails

Ava Gardner Heritage Trail - See where this local star and Hollywood legend was born, where she grew up, attended dances, and key landmarks associated with her family in JoCo. And don't miss the museum dedicated to her life and career in Downtown Smithfield.

Antiques Shopping Trail - For a great weekend activity, why not travel along the JoCo Antiques Trail for collectibles, traditional southern antiques, and your next DIY project. You will also find several stores selling chalk paint and holding “how to” classes.

Clayton Sculpture Trail - Sculptures are showcased annually in this free, self-guided trail, aimed at enhancing the downtown. It's like a large outdoor art museum and many of the sculptures are centralized in the downtown area, within a half a mile radius, which makes the trail very walk-able.



Ashby Brame

Marketing & PR Manager

919.989.8687

abrame@johnstoncountync.org

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