

pleasantly
POSITIONED



Situated
at the national
crossroads of I-95
and I-40, halfway
between our North and
South Welcome Centers,
Johnston County offers convenient
access to a multitude of
attractions, provisions, and
accommodations for both
the road weary and
adventurous spirit.

**Johnston
County**
SMITHFIELD, NC

1-800-441-stay
johnstoncountync.org
#VisitJoCo

JCVB 07-21 15M

SMITHFIELD | SELMA | CLAYTON | I-40, EXIT 312 | BENSON | FOUR OAKS | KENLY

VISITORS GUIDE

OUTLETS



SHOPPES



MARKETS



**Johnston
County**
SMITHFIELD, NC

1-800-441-stay
johnstoncountync.org
#VisitJoCo

W E L C O M E

So many delightful discoveries and experiences await you in JoCo!



Things to Do 2

From the great outdoors, on-farm fun or a day-trip filled with history and museums, visitors will find interesting stories, local personalities and wide open spaces just off interstates 95 & 40. We invite you to Get Outside the City for a trip to JoCo!

Outlets and Local Shops 6

For national premium brands at 25-65% off retail every day, your top destination in NC is no doubt, Carolina Premium Outlets. Venture out to our downtown area for boutiques, antiques, and enjoy local shops.

BBQ & Dining Out 10

We can talk for days about BBQ -- eastern style with vinegar sauce or competition style pulled pork, ribs, or brisket. We know you will find a favorite in JoCo. We also invite you to discover new chef-driven restaurants in JoCo, sweet shops, brunch, and more!

Events & Festivals 16

While planning your visit to JoCo, be sure to check our calendar of events!

Places to Stay 18

If you are traveling through on business, visiting friends or family, or making JoCo your weekend destination for shopping and fun, we have accommodations to suit your tastes. National brand hotels, AirBnB stays, and RV and camping. Call or go online to make a reservation!

Throughout this inspirational travel guide, you will find things to do, places to shop and dine, and available accommodations. Not all listings in the county are found here, but links off to our website for listings, suggested itineraries, day trips and hotel packages are referenced. We encourage you to click through to find the curated materials we have developed to help in your travel planning and for booking a trip to Johnston County!

Our tourism partners are excited to welcome visitors to JoCo!



THINGS TO DO



On-Farm Fun

Agriculture is our heritage and we would love to share it with you! Download the NC Farms App for 80+ farms and events in the county. johnstoncountync.org/agritourism

Boyette Family Farms

Enjoy agritourism activities for family fun at the Clayton Fear Farm, and Lights on the Neuse holiday event.
1620 Loop Rd., Clayton 919-553-0016
boyettefamilyfarms.com

Creekside Farm

Growing top-quality blueberries and blackberries providing fun experiences for families to pick-your-own with playground and kid-sized rope course.
300 Pine Tree Rd., Selma 919-965-9969
creeksidefarmberries.com

Pace Family Farms

Visit for pick-your-own strawberries, movie nights, summer sunflowers fields, and fall pumpkin picking.
12701 Buffalo Rd., Clayton 919-398-2698
pacefamilyfarms.com

Smith's Nursery and Strawberry Farm

Open year-round with pick-your-own seasons bringing families and visitors to Smith's for fresh produce and fruits, fishing, and special events.
443 Sanders Rd., Benson 919-934-1700
smithsnurseryinc.com

Sonlight Farms

Enjoy a corn maze, hayride, giant slide, bounce house, playground, games, animal barn, special events, and more. Great for school groups. Open seasonally.
293 Bunn Rd., Kenly 252-205-5280
sonlightfarmsnc.com

Get Outside the City

If your ambitions while on vacation include getting close to the land and enjoying the great outdoors, Johnston County has many options to consider, visit johnstoncountync.org/recreation

Buffalo Creek Greenway

This 3-mile greenway is part of the Mountains to Sea Trail with a ten-foot wide path for hikers, runners, and bikers.
600 Booker Dairy Rd., Smithfield 919-934-2148
smithfield-nc.com/page/parks_neuse_riverwalk

Clayton River Walk on the Neuse

This 4-mile trail in Clayton is part of the Mountains to Sea Trail which also connects to Sam's Branch Greenway Trail and Wake County's trails.
2686 Covered Bridge Rd., Clayton 919-553-1550
townofclaytonnc.org/526/River-Walk-on-the-Neuse

Clemmons Educational State Forest

Enjoy trails, exhibits, and "talking trees" among a mix of pine and hardwood forests. This managed forest offers a pleasant rolling terrain perfect for hiking.
2256 Old US 70 W., Clayton 919-553-5651
ncesf.org/clemmons.html

Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center

This 2,800 acre park offers trails for horseback riding, mountain biking, bird watching, long-distance hiking, no-trace camping and fishing. Cabins on site for rent.
6601 Devils Racetrack Rd., Four Oaks 919-938-0115
johnstoncc.edu/howellwoods

Sam's Branch Greenway Trail

Trail head entrance to the Clayton Greenway located along the Neuse River is great for hiking and biking.
1358 N. O'Neil St., Clayton 919-553-1550
townofclaytonnc.org/facilities/facility/details/samsbranchgreenway-3



History and Heritage

Throughout the year our museums host special events and programs you will find educational and fun for the entire family. Visit johnstoncountync.org/museums

Ava Gardner Museum

Home to an amazing collection of costumes, photos, and personal effects of screen legend Ava Gardner.
325 E. Market St., Smithfield 919-934-5830
avagardner.org

Benson Museum of Local History

Exhibits on a variety of subjects including farming, home life, artists, merchants, and country doctors.
102 W. Main St., Benson 919-894-1266
townofbenson.com/2209/museum



Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site

The Battle of Bentonville, fought March 19-21, 1865, was the last full-scale action of the Civil War in which a Confederate army was able to mount a tactical offensive. Tour the nearby Harper House, which served as a makeshift hospital.

5466 Harper House Rd., Four Oaks
910-594-0789

historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/bentonville-battlefield

Johnston County Heritage Center

An extensive collection of genealogy materials to research the history and culture of Johnston County.
241 E. Market St., Smithfield 919-934-2836
jcheritagecenter.org

Tobacco Farm Life Museum

6,000 sq. ft. gallery displays artifacts from all aspects of farm life, with hands-on children's exhibit and a restored farmstead, main house, detached kitchen, smoke house, tobacco barn, 1890's one-room school house and reproduction pack house.

709 N. Church St., Kenly 919-284-3431
tobaccofarmlifemuseum.org



Performing Arts

Live@The Rudy Theatre

This Branson-style production entertains visitors and groups with musical delights from '50's rock 'n' roll to classic and contemporary country. The popular Christmas show starts early November and runs through the week of Christmas.
300 N. Raiford St., Selma toll free 877-843-7839
rudytheatre.com

Neuse Little Theatre

The theater has been a vital part of the cultural heritage in Smithfield since 1974, performing five diverse productions a year.
104 S. Front St., Smithfield 919-934-1873
neuselittletheatre.org

The Clayton Center

This 600-seat performing arts center has superb acoustic quality and provides an intimate environment for nationally touring artists.
111 E. Second St., Clayton 919-553-1737
theclaytoncenter.com

Check our calendar for concerts and plays,



Beer, Wine, and Shine Trail

Journey along this culinary trail at your leisure for a taste and tour at one of seven locations around the county. Meet the operators, learn their history, enjoy a sip or flight, and collect stamps for a FREE gift. Download the brochure on beerwineshinetrail.com

Broadslab Distillery

During tours and tastings visitors will learn about the all natural, handcrafted, premium products and how they are made.

4834 NC Hwy 50 S., Benson 919-207-1366
broadslabdistillery.com

Deep River Brewing Co.

Johnston County's first legal brewery opened in 2013 utilizing locally grown raw materials for their craft beer.

700 W. Main St., Clayton 919-585-2296
deepriverbrewing.com

Double Barley Brewing

Taste a vast variety of craft beers in the lounge area or the outdoor beer garden.

3174 Hwy 70 W., Smithfield 919-934-3433
doublebarleybrewing.com

Fainting Goat Brewing Co.

A small, independent, veteran and woman owned brewery offers a variety of handcrafted brews in a casual atmosphere.

102 W. Parrish Dr., Benson 919-701-1500
faintinggoatbeer.com

Gregory Vineyards

A great place to relax, taste some wine, or hold a wedding. Take a tour of the picturesque vineyards on this 135-acre working farm.

275 Bowling Spring Dr., Angier 919-894-7700
gregoryvineyards.com

Hinnant Family Vineyards

Take a tour of the vineyards or enjoy a wine tasting at the largest muscadine vineyard in the state with over 100 sprawling acres offering many award-winning wines.

826 Pine Level-Micro Rd., Pine Level 919-965-3350
hinnantvineyards.com

Instill Distilling Co.

This distillery specializes in creating fine craft rum spirits. Tours and tastings by appointment.

710 W. Main St., Clayton 904-233-3887
instilldistillingco.com

JoCo Brewing Company

JoCo Brewing Company offers six original taps and patrons will find this a great place to relax with trivia nights, entertainment, and food trucks!

463 Cleveland Crossing Dr. Ste.100, Garner 919-896-6435
jacobrewingcompany.com

Get details for each stop on the trail and
plan your trip at beerwineshinetrail.com



JoCo Experiences!

A great trip planning feature is available on the Visitors Bureau website. Find themed day trips, custom itineraries, and several culinary maps easy to use while in the county via Google Maps, or to download for planning your trip.

For more information and help planning your trip to Joco:

Day Trips

There are six custom day trips for an excursion in the county for enjoying history, art, sweets, recreation in JoCo, shopping and fashion inspiration by Hollywood legend, Ava Gardner, the Beer, Wine, Shine Trail, and exploring what our Country Stores have to offer. Find out more on johnstoncountync.org/daytrips

Trail Maps

There are several themed trails to navigate you around the county, maybe make it a weekend trip for the Bentonville Battlefield Driving Tour, Ava Gardner Heritage Trail, JoCo Golf Trail, Antiques Shopping Trail, Farmer's Markets and Produce Stands, or the JoCo BBQ Trail. For the full details, visit johnstoncountync.org/trails

Geocaching

The Johnston County Heritage GeoTrail has 50 caches hidden throughout the county and creates a thematic trail that includes some of the county's most popular tourism stops encompassing history, culture, food, art, and more! johnstoncountync.org/geocaching

Custom Itineraries

Do you have an hour or two to get off the interstate for lunch and some exploring, looking for a day trip with the family, or maybe you need a weekend trip to get away and try something new? We have developed several themed custom itineraries to help plan your visit! johnstoncountync.org/itineraries

Please contact businesses listed in the Johnston County Official Visitors Guide for additional information on times, travel safety guidelines, and to confirm any and all details before traveling to the county.

PLACES TO SHOP

Getting great deals, finding that special gift for a loved one, hunting for antiques, or visiting a local farm for fresh farm produce -- are just a few reasons to go shopping in Johnston County. May we suggest a girls weekend visit for outlet shopping, museums, and dining out? Just visit our website for hotel deals at johnstoncountync.org/girls-weekend.

Antiques & Flea Markets

Brightleaf Flea Market

2320 S. Bright Leaf Blvd., Smithfield 919-934-4111

Collected Treasures

5533 Hwy 42 W., Garner 919-803-8108

Country Boy Antiques & Bottle Shop

104 E. Anderson St., Selma 252-270-4728

Cousin's Antiques

14119 Buffalo Rd., Archer Lodge 919-669-9743

Farmhouse Vintage Treasures

208 E. Main St., Benson 919-894-6068

Harper's Flea Market Mall

1410 S. Bright Leaf Blvd., Smithfield 919-989-7280

Kelly's Antiques and Thrift Shop

508 S. 7th St., Smithfield 919-975-9810

Morgan's On Main

119 E. Main St., Benson 919-701-1240

Pink Flamingo Thrift & Gift

415 E. Second St., Clayton 919-550-0166

Selma Cotton Mill Antique Flea Market

1105 W. Anderson St., Selma 919-631-7138

Stanfield's General Store & Antiques

105 N. Main St., Four Oaks 919-963-9607

The General's Attic

Carolina Premium Outlets, 1025 Outlet Center Dr., Ste. 220, Smithfield 919-205-1122

The Southern Bostonian

202 N. Raiford St., Selma 919-300-1257

The Twisted Willow

119 S. 3rd St., Smithfield 919-817-0010

Trackside Antiques & Collectibles

107 E. Railroad St., Selma 919-202-4878

Treasury Antiques

100 S. Raiford St., Selma 919-965-5335



Home Decor & Variety

Auntie's Cottage

222 W. Main St., Clayton 919-630-6417

Bexley House

408 E. Main St., Clayton 919-926-9656

Oak City Collection

105 S. Third St., Smithfield 919-810-7472

Salvaged Heirlooms

103 W. Main St., Benson 919-437-0752

The Market at Three Little Birds

225 E Main St., Clayton 919-585-4648



For listings of antiques and collectibles,
johnstoncountync.org/antiques



Carolina Premium Outlets features 80 national brand stores like Kate Spade, Coach, Polo Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, and many others with savings of 25-65% off every day.

Outlets

Carolina Apparel & Sport

Home to Carhartt, Browning, Guy Harvey, Ducks Unlimited, Salt Life and big-man sizes up to 52.
49 JR Rd., Selma 919-202-0777
carolinaapparel.com

Carolina Premium Outlets

Located off I-95, Exit 95, the outlet center is the largest in Eastern North Carolina and is only 30 minutes east of Raleigh. Carolina Premium Outlets has a VIP Shopper Club with exclusive deals. Area hotels offer a Girls Weekend Package which includes coupon offers, hotel deals, and BOGO admission at the Ava Gardner Museum — along with free goodies and gift bag on check in.

1025 Outlet Center Dr., Ste. 905, Smithfield
919-989-8757

premiumoutlets.com/carolina

JR Cigar

The world's largest cigar store and the best place to buy premium cigars online.

67 JR Rd., Selma 919-965-5055
jrselma.com

Specialty Shopping

Carolina Bridal World

Planning for your big day is made easier when you find the perfect dress at Carolina Bridal World.

721 Venture Dr., Smithfield 919-989-8787
carolinabridalworld.com

DeWayne's

Family owned and operated in Selma, providing customers a unique shopping experience in over 40,000 sq. ft. of specialty retailing. It is a destination for shoppers to experience the gift shop, garden center, ladies boutique, Men's Shoppe, Pandora Jewelry, and Christmas Land. The Boutique features ladies clothing, footwear, jewelry, handbags and accessories.

1575 Outlet Center Dr., Selma 919-202-8471
dewaynes.com



Ogi Designs

Custom designed and built furniture, art, crafts, and decor.

204 N. Main St., Four Oaks 919-625-1988
ogifurniture.com

Springhill Outfitters

Sports enthusiasts will find a great variety of fishing, hunting, and archery equipment.

773 Seafood House Rd., Selma 919-351-0764
springhilloutfitters.com

VISIT OUR DOWNTOWNS

The road less taken may be the most rewarding - so we invite you to take the time to explore our downtown areas.

Benson - A Small Town with Big Charm! Stroll along Main Street while you enjoy shopping boutiques and antique shops, yummy waffles, real-deal Italian pizza, and treat yourself to tastings at **Broadslab Distillery**, or **Fainting Goat Brewing**. Dine at **Cornerstone**, stop in at **Royal Boutique** and drop in for a treat at **Sisters II Ice Cream**. Did we mention the **Hampton Inn** is dog friendly and next to the **Benson Dog Park**? Bring along your 4-legged family too! Get more itinerary ideas on visitbenison.org

Clayton - Take the time to stroll along the **Sculpture Trail** or along the **Clayton River Walk**. Build up your appetite for sweets and a coffee break at **BLVD West** or enjoy a local favorite, **Jones Cafe**. Clayton is a city celebrating the arts with concerts at **The Clayton Center** and nightlife options including **Corked & Untapped** or **Revival 1869**. Get some weekend trip ideas on visitclayton.org

Four Oaks - with an up and coming Main Street where **Stanfield's General Store and Coffee Shop** is a wonderful stop off the interstate. Grab a coffee and shop at **Cleo's Closet** or **Vine & Branch** and take home some local honey from **Shamrock Buzzy Bee** - another sweet treat in Four Oaks. Find our top 10 things to do in Four Oaks on visitfouroaks.org

Kenly - One downtown but three exits on I-95 for dining, shopping and visiting. For a family treat visit the **Kenly 95 Petro** food court so everyone gets their favorite, or try the new coffee shop, **2nd Street Coffee**. Take a break in Friendly Kenly, visitkenly.org

Smithfield - Yes, the home of **Carolina Premium Outlets** and **Ava Gardner**, but head downtown for some local favorites. It's an authentic New York deli experience at

Gotham's Deli, and the new restaurants are already very popular, try **The Gilded Pear**, and **Sami's Pizza** too. For a truly unique night out take in a movie at the historic **Howell Theatre**, built in 1935. For your shopping excursions **Evan's Jewelry** and **Jewel's Formals** are destination shops. Follow the **Buffalo Creek Greenway** to the **Smithfield Community Park** for some outside fun. Learn more about day trips and weekend trip ideas on visitsmithfield.org

Selma - A downtown on the rise with new shops like **Coffee on Raiford**, **Old Fashioned Ice Cream** and **Pixie Dust** and more shopping at **Selma Jewelry**. Enjoy the day shopping for antiques and take in a concert at **Live @ The Rudy Theatre**. Make your plans to stop in Selma with more info on visitselma.org

Need to Escape?

From an escape room that is! JoCo offers two unique rooms to choose from!

Amaze Room Escapes

Choose from three unique rooms to escape Experience physical adventure while using mental brain power!

138 S. Third St., Smithfield 919-588-1629
amazeroomnc.com

Conundrum Escapes

Work together to explore, find clues, and solve mysterious conundrums.

41-A Technology Dr., Garner 919-341-9352
conundrumescapes.com

Ready-Set-Escape

Explore our rooms & pick your experience! Great for a special occasion, group get together, birthday, and team building.

1304-D W. Market St., Smithfield 919-222-7840
ready-set-escape.com



PLACES TO EAT



Visitors to Johnston County are fans of our barbeque, and we are too!
Below find a selection of southern cooking and BBQ restaurants!

BBQ & Southern Style Dining

Cracker Barrel

5199 NC Hwy 42 W., Garner

919-661-4044

1109 Outlet Center Dr., Smithfield

919-989-2140

Four Oaks Restaurant & Grill

203 W. Wellons St., Four Oaks

919-963-2289

Golden Corral

100 Towne Centre Pl., Smithfield

919-989-1125

J-Top's BBQ Shop

8948 Cleveland Rd., Clayton

919-934-0093

Lowell Mill Restaurant

595 Bagley Rd., Kenly

919-284-5141

Low and Slow Smokehouse

3149B Swift Creek Rd., Smithfield

919-578-6479

Meadow Village Restaurant

7400 NC Hwy 50 S., Benson

919-894-5430

Parkside Café

2176-A US Hwy 70-A, Pine Level

919-965-4100

Robbins Nest

121 US Hwy 70-A, Selma

919-965-5522

Rockin' Comet Diner

11637 US Hwy 70 W., Clayton

919-550-6060

Smithfield's Chicken'N Bar-B-Q

1260 N. Bright Leaf Blvd., Smithfield

919-934-8721

10414 US Hwy 70 W., Clayton

919-553-4553

15 Publix Dr., Clayton

919-371-2722

5180 NC Hwy 42 W., Garner

919-773-0774

Southern Smokehouse BBQ

Carolina Premium Outlets

1025 Outlet Center Dr., Smithfield

919-300-1194

Stephenson's Bar-B-Q

11964 NC Hwy 50 N., Willow Springs

919-894-4530

Stormin' Norman's Barbecue

404 S. Church St., Kenly

919-284-0061

The Chicken Barn

703-B E. Market St., Smithfield

919-934-6866

The Diner

314 E. Market St., Smithfield

919-934-6644

White Swan Bar-B-Q

3198 US Hwy 301 S., Smithfield

919-934-8913

3655 Wilson's Mills Rd., Wilson's Mills

919-989-6500

Meet Jerry Stephenson, BBQ Competitor

Jerry Stephenson Jr. knows all about intense competition, he enters about 17 to 24 Kansas City Barbeque Society competitions a year. Jerry and his sister (and partner) grew up on a farm in eastern NC and Jerry says he learned his 'que skills from watching others cook whole hogs. He loves the simplicity of the whole hog approach to barbeque, "Low and slow cooking over coals that are burned down from logs. The coals are shoveled into precise places to cook the hog perfectly."

In 2017, Jerry opened Redneck BBQ Lab in the Benson area know as McGee's Crossroads, I-40, Exit 319 as his first dine-in venture – stop by and see what he's cooking! Get some "sawce" to take home...you'll be glad you did!

The Redneck BBQ Lab

12101-B NC Hwy 210, Benson **919-938-8334**
redneckbbqlab.com



Jerry is the real deal BBQ competitor bringing quality tasting BBQ, rubs, and sauces to the area. He operates three food trucks including a taco truck, and offers catering services.

Have a Sweet Tooth to Satisfy?

We love our culinary trails in Johnston County, like the **Sweet Tooth Trail** or the **Cuppa Joe Trail**...have some fun exploring local shops, restaurants, and more! Find out how at johnstoncountync.org/trails



Bakeries

Big Steve's Bagels

12330 NC Hwy 210, Benson
919-989-8006

Burney's Sweets & More

517 Outlet Center Dr., Smithfield
919-300-1691

Clayton Bakery & Café

8970 US Hwy 70 Bus. E., Clayton
919-550-5300

Fairytale Sweets

102 N. Main St., Four Oaks
919-628-1076

Jenny's Sweet Creations

221 E. Main St., Benson
919-207-0381

JP's Pastry Gluten Free Bakery

111 S. Railroad St., Benson
919-894-5000

Ms. B's Bake Shop

11760 NC Hwy 210,
Ste. 210, Benson
919-938-9006

Nancy Jo's Homemade

200 E. Main St. #103, Clayton
919-333-7895

Noe's Bakery

417 E. Second St., Clayton
919-243-0209

Outta the Box Cakes and Confections

108 S. Pine St., Princeton
919-617-8200

Patty Cake's Littlest Cupcake Shop

318 E. Second St., Clayton
919-243-0011

Pixie Dust Bakery Shoppe

107 N. Webb St., Selma
919-351-0255

The Yellow House

121 E. Main St., Clayton
919-243-0049

Ice Cream

Cold Stone Creamery

150-A S. Equity Dr., Smithfield
919-938-1300

Celtic Creamery

257 NC Hwy 210, Smithfield
919-205-1947

Crazy Daisy Frozen Yogurt

12524 NC Hwy 210, Benson
919-300-1712

Hills of Snow

110 S. Bright Leaf Blvd., Smithfield
919-795-7461

Old Fashioned Ice Cream

124 N. Raiford St., Selma
919-351-0505

Sisters II Ice Cream Shoppe

108 S. Market St., Benson
919-820-4076

Sweet Frog Frozen Yogurt

1261 N. Bright Leaf Blvd., Smithfield
919-938-9039



TABLE SERVICE DINING

For a taste of our dining options in Johnston County, the following list of restaurants represents a variety of flavors including Italian, Mexican, Asian and American. For a full list of restaurants in the county, visit johnstoncountync.org/restaurants.

Anthony's Italian Pizza & Pasta
12989 US 70 Bus. Hwy., Clayton
919-550-3204

Becky's Log Cabin
2491 US Hwy 70 Bus. E., Smithfield
919-934-3323

Carolina Bleu Grille
13049 US Hwy 70 W., Clayton
919-585-6903

Clayton Steakhouse
307 E. Main St., Clayton
919-553-2299

Cleveland Draft House
6101 NC Hwy 42 W., Garner
919-771-2337
461 Shotwell Rd., Clayton
919-550-3723

Clubhouse at Cleveland Square
51-A Technology Dr., Garner
919-662-2207

Crawford Cookshop
401 E. Main St., Clayton
919-585-6055

Don Beto's Tacos
10376 US 70 Bus Hwy W., Clayton
919-359-0095

36 Flowers Crossroads Way, Clayton
984-263-0983

720 Ricks Rd., Selma
919-202-4566

El Barzon Mexican
1691 S. Bright Leaf Blvd., Smithfield
919-205-1661

El Charro Mexican
709 S. Wall St., Benson
919-207-2806

Festejos-Mexican
905 E. Main St., Clayton
919-359-2755

Fiesta Mexicana
957 Town Center Blvd., Clayton
919-550-8888

5131 NC Hwy 42 W., Garner
919-772-5498

12524 NC Hwy 210, Benson
919-989-8001

702 E. Parrish Dr., Benson
919-207-5845

Heidi's Two-Wheel Café
1475 W. Market St., Smithfield
919-989-8389

Kobe Japanese Steakhouse
101 Venture Dr., Smithfield
919-938-3200

820 Gulley Dr., Clayton
919-359-9060

La Cocina Mexican
764 Shotwell Rd., Clayton
919-550-7323

1285 N. Bright Leaf Blvd., Smithfield
919-938-7002

La Piazza
7277 NC Hwy 42 W., Raleigh
919-662-5007

Lane's Seafood & Steak House
275 Bowling Spring Dr., Angier
919-894-7700

Manning's
406 E. Main St., Clayton
919-585-7005

McKinley's Restaurant & Pub
11751 US 70 Bus. Hwy W., Clayton
919-553-5534

Nina's Restaurant & Bar
312 E. Main St., Clayton
919-585-6589

San Marcos Mexican
275 N. Equity Dr., Smithfield
919-934-2424

Skylines Café

8878 US Hwy 70 Bus. W., Clayton

919-550-7619**SoDoSoPa**

146 S. Third St., Smithfield

919-205-1076**Sushi Iwa Asian Bistro**

11629 US Hwy 70 Bus.

W., Clayton

919-585-6140**Tavern 42**

119 Oleander Dr., Clayton

919-553-8888**Texas Steakhouse & Saloon**

235 Outlet Center Dr., Smithfield

919-938-3221**Venero's Pizzeria**

9973 US Hwy 70 Bus. W., Clayton

919-553-0761**Vero's Pizzeria**

519 Outlet Center Dr., Smithfield

919-938-9033**Vinson's Pub & Eatery**

800 E. Main St., Clayton

919-585-7191

Meet Nate and Colleen

"Brought on by a simple twist of fate" (Bob Dylan's words you'll find on the wall), describes a restaurant known for its creative farm to table food. It was a twist of fate when owners Nate and Colleen Roby opened their location in Downtown Smithfield in 2015.

Nate and Colleen have now opened another location in Clayton, and built a new modern restaurant in Garner. If you haven't been to Simple Twist to try lunch, dinner, or the weekend brunch, we recommend literally any of the burgers, or the shrimp and grits.

Simple Twist Locations

21 Technology Dr., Garner

919-661-5566

272 Pritchard Rd., Clayton

919-550-4909

227 E. Market St., Smithfield

919-938-0377**simpletwistnc.com**

Photography by Jessica Crawford

Crawford Cookshop**401 Main Street, Clayton**

Follow Chef Scott Crawford on

Instagram @Crawfordcookshop

Scott Crawford is the Chef/Owner of award-winning Crawford and Son, and Jolie in Raleigh, NC. A five-time James Beard Foundation semifinalist for "Best Chef: Southeast," Crawford earned the coveted Forbes Five-Star award at three properties prior to introducing Crawford Hospitality, and has earned accolades such as Esquire's "Best New Restaurant," Newsweek's "101 Best Places to Eat in the World," Triangle Business Journal's "CEO of the Year" and the News & Observer's "Restaurant of the Year."

Crawford Cookshop in Clayton will be Crawford's first casual concept project. He plans to bring his signature "superstar" style to an approachable menu, offering simple and delicious "Americana" style cooking from a wood fired grill.

FARM TO FORK DINING

Our agricultural heritage naturally lends itself to partnerships between our farmers and restaurant owners.



Shop and dine in Downtown Smithfield where several area restaurants source locally grown produce.

Chef and farmer, Blake Gotliffe along with his wife Megan, started **Under the Oak Farm** in the spring of 2015 in what is essentially their backyard. The 3,000 square foot (and growing) farm is located in a quiet neighborhood in the town of Clayton, NC. You only have to see Under the Oak farm, a large garden really, and eat just once at the restaurant of the same name to truly understand the magnitude of what the Gotliffe's are working to accomplish in Johnston County.

Relationships between farmers and restaurant owners and even our breweries, distilleries and locally produced products, is a unique endeavor that we the consumers benefit from even if we might not know. Visits to area restaurants include such treats as homegrown tomatoes on your pizzas at **Sami's** in Smithfield sourced from **Pace Family Farms** in Clayton.

Locally sourced fruits are in high demand from farms like **Smith's Strawberry & Produce Farm**, and for connecting to local farms in Johnston County, download the **NC Farms App** and buy direct. The **Clayton Farmer's Market** is open year round with a variety of local farms and products.

Several of our local farms and restaurants are also making

local products, like blueberry salsa from **Creekside Farms**, and a variety of food products from honey, jams, breads and more around the county.

Connect to our local farms via the NC Farms App, click to download and enjoy farm fresh and locally sourced dining. www.visitncfarmstoday.com



Photography by Javieka Ramnath



Atkinson Mill's products may be found at seafood and BBQ restaurants around the county and the state.

LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTS

If you want to take home locally produced products for a little taste of JoCo, we have provided a list below. For a detailed list including buying direct from local farms and markets, visit johnsoncountync.org/local-products

Atkinson Milling Company

Products include: hush puppy mix, biscuit mix, funnel cake mix, seafood breader, chicken breader and more. Buy online or at the mill office.

95 Atkinson Mill Rd., Selma **800-948-5707**
atkinsonmilling.com

Carolina Packers, Inc.

Home of the Brightleaf Hotdog, a tradition since 1941! Now offering country ham products, and spiral hams.

2999 S. Bright Leaf Blvd., Smithfield **919-934-2181**
carolinapackers.com

House-Autry Mills

Cornmeal products including seafood breader, chicken breader, hush puppies, biscuit mix and more. Available in area grocery stores and online.

7000 US Hwy 301 S., Four Oaks **800-849-0802**
house-autry.com

Lee's Fresh Market

Purchase fresh ground sausage, pork and beef products.

623 Benson-Hardee Rd., Benson
919-894-2587

Miss Debbie's Specialty Apples

Specialty gourmet caramel apples for any occasion. Online shopping only. **919-464-1502**
specialtyapples.com

Shamrock's Buzzy Bee

Locally produced honey, bee products, beekeeping supplies and honey bees.

200 W. Wellons St., Four Oaks **919-247-6852**
shamrocksbuzzybee.com

Stevens Sausage Company

Country hams, spiral sliced hams, hotdogs and sausage are available for retail and mail order.

3411 Stevens Sausage Rd., Smithfield
800-338-0561
stevens-sausage.com

ENJOY OUR FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Family fun can be had throughout the year and throughout the county for the young and young at heart, the historian, the sports fan, and the adventurous types. From a celebration of our agricultural heritage to 4th of July fireworks, holiday lights, music, and more, and for full listings of activities, festivals, concerts and more, visit our events calendar, johnstoncountync.org/events



Bentonville Battlefield Annual Events - Multiple dates

Events are held several times during the year, including guided tours, living history events and anniversary events. 5466 Harper House Rd., Four Oaks

910-594-0789 historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/bentonville-battlefield

Smithfield Ham & Yam Festival - May

Head to Smithfield for ham biscuits, barbecue pork, and sweet potatoes. There will be music, arts, crafts, and kid's activities.

200 Front St., Smithfield

919-934-0887 hamandyam.com

301 Endless Yard Sale - June

Shop for antiques, collectibles and more along a 100-mile stretch of highway.

US Hwy 301 Kenly to Benson

919-989-8687 301endlessyardsale.com

State Annual Singing Convention - June

Three days of gospel music competition including amateur duets, trios, quartets, choirs, and family groups.

Benson Singing Grove, Benson

919-894-4389 gospelsingingconvention.org

Benson Mule Days - September

For over 70 years, this four day family-fun festival has offered mule competition, rodeos, a carnival, dances and concerts. Downtown Benson and Chamber Park

919-894-3825 bensonmuledays.com

GALOT PDRA - Multiple Dates

Join the racing excitement of events at GALOT Motorsports Park held throughout the year.

555 Dragstrip Rd., Benson

919-894-1662 galotmotorsportspark.com

Sonlight Farms - September-October

Fall family fun for all ages, with corn mazes, hay rides, giant slides, pumpkins, sunflowers and more!

293 Bunn Rd., Kenly

252-205-5280 sonlightfarmsnc.com

Boyette Family Farms/Clayton Fear Farm - October

Daytime it's a fun place for young kids and nighttime the fear farm turns into a haunted attraction.

1620 Loop Rd., Clayton

919-553-0016 boyettefamilyfarms.com

Historical Ghost Walk - October

Guided walk where costumed re-enactors tell stories about Historical persons of Smithfield.

Riverside Cemetery, Smithfield

919-934-2836 johnstonnc.com/heritage

Railroad Days Festival - October

Celebrating rail heritage with a 5K run, parade, crafts, food, children's area, and entertainment.

Uptown Selma

919-975-1411

selma-nc.com/railroad-days-festival

St. Ann's Annual International Food Festival - October

This wonderful festival represents nineteen countries from around the world, with food, music and games.

St. Ann Catholic Church, 4057 US Hwy 70 Bus. W., Clayton

919-934-2084 internationalfoodfestival.net

Wilson's Mills Pumpkin Festival - October

A family friendly event with vendors, children's activities and costume contest, dunking booth, music, and food.

Downtown, Wilson's Mills.

919-938-3885 wilsonsmillsnc.org

For complete listings, visit
johnstoncountync.org/events



Clayton Harvest Festival - November

Enjoy five days of exciting events! Concerts, food for all taste buds, 200 craft vendors and Classic Car Show. Downtown Clayton

919-553-6352 claytonharvestfestival.com

Christmas Jubilee Live@The Rudy - November-December

Take a nostalgic trip back to an innocent age when anticipation of Santa's visit made the holidays magical. Enjoy gospel favorites and contemporary hits like "Christmas in Dixie". Matinees and evening shows.

Rudy Theatre, 300 N. Raiford St., Selma

919-202-9927 rudytheatre.com

Princeton Veterans Day Celebration - November

Join the celebration and support those in service to our country past and present with a parade, contests, entertainment, guest speakers and more!

Center & Edwards Streets, Princeton

919-936-8171 myprincetonnc.com

Lights on the Neuse - November-December

Come for family Christmas fun to view Christmas lights by hayride. Visit with Santa and see the 3D Christmas Barn. Stand by the fire to warm up and roast marshmallows to make s'mores.

Boyette Family Farms, 1620 Loop Rd., Clayton

919-553-0016 lightsontheneuse.com

Meadow Lights - November-December

The largest and oldest Christmas light display in eastern NC. Also features the largest candy store with over 300 varieties of candy.

4546 Godwin Lake Rd., Benson

919-669-5969 meadowlights.com



PLACES TO STAY

Hotels in Johnston County are located along the I-95 and I-40 corridors with affordable accommodations and several new hotels and brands to choose from.

Benson, I-95, Exit 79

Days Inn

This 103-room hotel is accessible directly from Exit 79 on I-95, with very affordable rates and is dog friendly.

202 N. Honeycutt St., Benson 27504

919-894-2031

wyndamhotels.com/hotels/06776



Hampton Inn

This 89-room hotel is located at Exit 79 on I-95, next to the 3-acre Dog Park in Benson, convenient to GALOT Motorsports Park, and Broadslab Distillery.

100 Water Place Landing, Benson 27504

919-701-8000

hampton.com



Clayton, US HWY 70

Comfort Suites

This all suite property is in the heart of Clayton and very convenient for corporate travelers to the area and events at The Clayton Center or enjoying dining and nightlife in downtown.

761 Enterprise Dr., Clayton 27520

919-553-1234

choicehotels.com/nc302



Four Oaks, I-95, Exit 90

Four Oaks Lodging

12 guest rooms motel is pet and rate friendly.

4606 US Hwy 301 S., Four Oaks 27524

919-963-3596

fouroakslodging.com



Travelers Inn

This 53 ground floor room motel is close to Bentonville Battlefield and Howell Woods.

97 NC Hwy 96 S., Four Oaks 27524

919-934-4194



Clayton/Garner, I-40, Exit 312

Comfort Inn

This 63-room hotel is conveniently located within 15 minutes to Clayton and Downtown Raleigh.

126 Cleveland Crossing Dr., Garner 27529

919-773-1110

choicehotels.com/nc366



Hampton Inn

This 72-room hotel is conveniently located only 7 miles from Clayton and 12 miles to Downtown Raleigh.

100 Hampton Dr., Garner 27529

919-773-1977

hampton.com



Holiday Inn Express

This 67-room hotel is conveniently just minutes from Clayton and Downtown Raleigh.

105 Leone Ct., Garner 27529

919-719-3415

hiexpress.com/claytonnc



Sleep Inn

This 87-room hotel is conveniently located only minutes from Clayton and Downtown Raleigh.

105 Commerce Pkwy., Garner 27529

919-772-7771

choicehotels.com/nc321



Super 8

This 40-room hotel is conveniently located only minutes from Clayton and Downtown Raleigh.

101 Leone Ct., Garner 27529

919-661-1991

wyndhamhotels.com/hotels/14212



Kenly, I-95 Exits 107 & 106

Budget Inn

This motel has 20 guest rooms and is pet friendly with a pet fee.

212 S. Church St., Kenly 27542

919-284-5588



Deluxe Inn

This 24-room motel is convenient to downtown Kenly and is pet friendly.

403 US Hwy 301 S., Kenly 27542

919-284-3655



Motel 6

For the mid-way overnight stop along I-95 in NC, choose this 77-room motel and bring your pet.

843 Johnston Pkwy., Kenly 27542

919-284-3800

motel6.com



Quality Inn

This 60-room hotel has a convenient location for an overnight stay in Kenly and is pet friendly.

405 S. Church St., Kenly 27542

919-284-1000

choicehotels.com/nc229



Red Roof Inn

This 64-room property is adjacent to the Kenly 95 Truckstop and their food court for the whole family to enjoy.

1139 Johnston Pkwy., Kenly 27542

919-284-1050

redroof.com/property/nc/kenly/RR1869



Hotel Symbols Key



pet friendly



100% smoke free



outdoor pool



indoor pool



WIFI available



indoor corridors



exercise facility



meeting facility



continental breakfast



ADA accessible

Selma, I-95, Exit 97

Days Inn

This 60-room hotel is conveniently located near JR Cigar, DeWaynes, and Hinnant Vineyards.

115 US Hwy 70-A, Selma 27576

919-965-4000

wyndamhotels.com/hotels/26253



Econo Lodge

This 71-room property is located near Carolina Premium Outlets and JR Cigar.

1780 Outlet Center Dr., Selma 27576

919-965-3716

choicehotels.com/nc760



Knights Inn

A 40-room exterior corridor property located close to JR Cigar and DeWaynes.

100 Graham St., Selma 27576

919-202-0000

redlion.com/knights-inn/nc/selma/knights-inn-selma



La Quinta Inn & Suites

This 75-room hotel was renovated in 2021, is 100% smoke free and located next to Carolina Premium Outlets.

1695 Outlet Center Dr., Selma 27576

919-965-6730

wyndamhotels.com/laquinta



Masters Inn

Conveniently located for travelers on I-95, this motel has exterior corridors and a courtyard pool.

318 US Hwy 70 E., Selma 27576

919-965-3771

mastersinn.net



Quality Inn

This 80-room hotel is located near Carolina Premium Outlets and DeWaynes.

1705 Outlet Center Dr., Selma 27576

919-965-5200

choicehotels.com/nc145



Smithfield, I-95, Exit 95

Americas Best Value Inn

This 60-room motel offers ideal accommodations, affordable rates, and a friendly 24-hour staff.

197 Mallard Rd., Smithfield 27577

919-934-7176

americasbestvalueinn.com



Baymont by Wyndham

Enjoy a home away from home at this 40-room hotel with prime access to area attractions and restaurants.

125 S. Equity Dr., Smithfield 27577

919-989-5901

wyndamhotels.com/hotels/46941



Becky's Log Cabin Motel & Restaurant

Becky's serves up the best that Johnston County has to offer with unique dining and restful lodging.

2491 US Hwy 70 Bus E., Smithfield 27577

919-934-1534

beckys-logcabin.com



Best Western Smithfield Inn

This 100% smoke-free, 57-room hotel is located just minutes from key attractions and outlet shopping.

145 S. Equity Dr., Smithfield 27577

919-989-4047

bestwesternnorthcarolina.com/hotels/best-western-smithfield-inn



Comfort Inn

This 72-room hotel offers easy access to many local attractions and points of interest.

170 S. Equity Dr., Smithfield 27577

919-938-4444

choicehotels.com/nc510



Country Inn & Suites

Take an overnight break at this 77-room hotel with many attractions and restaurants close by.

250 N. Equity Dr., Smithfield 27577

919-934-3411

countryinns.com/smithfieldnc



Smithfield, I-95, Exit 95

Fairfield Inn & Suites

This hotel is located next door to Carolina Premium Outlets, Outback Steakhouse, and Bob Evans. Complimentary hot breakfast is included!

809 Venture Dr., Smithfield 27577

919-938-0050

marriott.com/rdusf



Hampton Inn Smithfield

This 112-room hotel opened in 2020, with a modern design, digital key entry, indoor pool and is located near outlet shopping.

160 Towne Centre Place, Smithfield 27577

919-965-6151

hilton.com/en/hotels/rdusshx-hampton-smithfield-selma/



Holiday Inn Express & Suites

This hotel provides affordable, comfortable & friendly accommodations for both leisure & corporate travelers and outlet shoppers.

190 S. Equity Dr., Smithfield 27577

919-934-3350

hiexpress.com/smithfieldnc



Sleep Inn & Suites

Experience simply stylish décor of Designed to Dream at our Platinum Awarded Sleep Inn. You're invited to see why we're ranked "Top of the Brand!"

270 N. Equity Dr., Smithfield 27577

919-209-2360

choicehotels/nc466



Super 8

Sample Southern hospitality at our conveniently located hotel offering handy amenities, including a microwave and refrigerator. Kitchenette suites are available for added comfort.

735 Outlet Center Dr., Smithfield 27577

919-989-8988

wyndhamhotels.com/hotels/10444



Village Motor Lodge

This motel has 101 guest rooms on an expansive lawn facing I-95, and has welcomed travelers for over 60 years.

198 Mallard Rd., Smithfield 27577

919-934-7126



Hotel Packages

The **SIP and STAY Package** features all the stops along the Beer, Wine, and Shine Trail – hotel discounts with coupons for attractions, shopping, and dining! What a wonderful weekend itinerary for couples, girlfriends, craft beer & wine enthusiasts to enjoy spirits and local foods. For booking details, johnstoncountync.org/SIP

The **Girls Weekend Package** includes hotel discounts, museum admission coupons to the Ava Gardner Museum, chocolate treats, discounts on dining out, and all will be waiting for you in a gift bag when you check in! Shop, Relax, and Repeat! Come visit us often for deals, johnstoncountync.org/girlfriends

Alternative Lodging

If you are interested in off-grid accommodations on a local farm, guest house, or maybe an apartment above a horse stable, check what's available on **AirBnB**, by searching by town names or Johnston County, NC.

EXTENDED STAYS

Royal Extended Stay Hotel

Offering everything you need to make you feel at home - kitchens, laundry, and more; this 42-room hotel is located near Carolina Premium Outlets and JR Cigar. 1780 Outlet Center Dr., Selma 27576

919-965-3718 choicehotels.com/nc767



WoodSpring Suites

This extended stay property is a great choice for tourists looking for a hotel that offers the comforts of home while away.

142 Cleveland Crossing Dr., Garner 27529

919-779-5800 woodspring.com/wsraleighgarner



CAMPING & RV

Cooper's RV Park

Enjoy this quiet RV park located on Hwy 70 Bus. in Clayton, just four miles from Downtown Clayton. 13528 Bus US-70 W, Clayton, NC 27520, United States

919-359-8060 coopersrvparknc.com

Four Oaks RV Resort

This RV Park is conveniently located off of I-95, Exit 90 with 18 RV hook ups.

4596 US HWY 301 S., Four Oaks 27524

919-963-3596 fouroaksrvresort.com



Happy Trails Campground

This RV park is conveniently located off of I-95, Exit 90 with 21 RV hook ups.

406 US HWY 701 S., Four Oaks 27524

919-410-4124

Hidden Haven RV Park

162 RV hookups are available at this site with pull-thru lots, a picnic area, and bathhouse. 30 W. Kegan Ln., Pine Level, 27568

919-965-3131 hiddenhavenrvpark.com



Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center

Campsites and three cabins are available for rent. This "outdoor" classroom offers hiking, biking, horseback riding hunting, fishing and public educational resources.

6601 Devils Racetrack Rd., Four Oaks 27524

919-938-0115 johnstoncc.edu/howellwoods



Raleigh Oaks RV Resort & Cottages

A convenient "staycation" location for families or for contractors working nearby, the resort is ideal for short, long and weekend stays. 527 US HWY 701 S., Four Oaks 27524

919-934-3181 raleighoaksrvresort.com



North Point RV Resort

This campground has large, level, pull-thru sites so no need to worry if you will fit.

428 Campground Rd., Selma 27576

919-965-5923 northpointervresort.com



Tucker Lake

30 RV hook-up campground spaces available.

3025 Allen's Crossroads Rd., Benson 27504

919-820-9173 rvcampgroundandstorage.com



JOCO MAP

Traveling by exit numbers on I-95 and I-40 is easy in Johnston County! For overnight accommodations, remember I-95 **Exits 107, 106, 97, 95, 90** and **79**. If traveling on I-40 you will find hotels at **Exit 312** and **325**.



Have more fun and get connected to Johnston County via our social media channels, JoCoVisitorsBureau on Facebook and @VisitJoCo on Instagram. Feel free to use our hashtag - **#VisitJoCo**