



5 Things That Surprise Visitors

Think you know Greater Fayetteville? Think again. Beyond its military roots lies a destination filled with outdoor adventure, scenic gardens, authentic international cuisine and one-of-a-kind attractions that continue to surprise first-time visitors.

Five Surprising Highlights

- ZipQuest Waterfall & Treetop Adventure - 9 zips in one adventure
- Cape Fear Botanical Garden - 77 acres of speciality gardens
- Authentic International Cuisine - shaped by our military community
- Indoor Skydiving at Paraclete XP
- Carver's Creek State Park, with a Rockefeller estate on its grounds



Service Beyond the Uniform

Military retirement marks the beginning of a new chapter for many veterans. Across Greater Fayetteville, they're turning their experience, craftsmanship and entrepreneurial spirit into businesses that strengthen the community. Featured Businesses:

Curate Essentials – Former Army photographer Leslie Person handcrafts herbal apothecary and wellness products using many of the herbs and botanicals grown in the garden surrounding her shop.

Bath Snob – Veteran Connie Rushing creates all-natural, handcrafted bath and body products in Hope Mills, offering gentle alternatives for customers with fragrance sensitivities.

Metal Worx, Inc. – This veteran-owned, family-operated metal fabrication shop is known for its handcrafted American flag art and custom metal creations.

Scented Wicks Candle Bar – After retiring from the Army, Shaylin and Kirk Bell transformed a candle-making hobby into an interactive candle bar where visitors create their own eco-friendly soy candles.



VETERAN RUN BREWERIES

Looking for another way veterans are shaping Greater Fayetteville? Raise a glass at one of our veteran-owned breweries, where military service meets craft brewing.

- Little Heathen's Brewery (Spring Lake)
- North South Brewing (Fayetteville)
- Heckler Brewing (Fayetteville)
- Dirtbag Ales (Hope Mills)
- Gaston's Brewing Company & Restaurant (Fayetteville)
- Gaston's Brewing Company Tap Room (Fayetteville)



Coming Soon

Cape Fear Regional Theater .. Renovations Underway!

A major expansion is transforming one of the Southeast's leading regional theatres, with new performance spaces, classrooms and visitor amenities designed to enhance the arts experience for residents and visitors alike.



N.C. History Center on the Civil War, Emancipation & Reconstruction

(Opening 2028) One of North Carolina's most anticipated new cultural attractions, this history center will offer visitors an immersive look at the Civil War era and its lasting impact on the state through powerful storytelling and interactive exhibits.



Global Flavors... Local Roots

Greater Fayetteville is home to one of North Carolina's most diverse dining scenes. Families from around the world have brought their traditions, recipes and cultures with them, creating an authentic culinary experience that spans continents. Below is a sampling of Greater Fayetteville's International options:

- **Shila Korean Restaurant** – Authentic Korean favorites, including bibimbap, bulgogi and house-made kimchi.
- **Grilled Ginger** – Traditional Vietnamese specialties representing the flavors of northern, central and southern Vietnam.
- **Afghan Kabob** – Family-owned restaurant serving authentic Afghan kabobs, naan and traditional dishes.
- **Germène's Home Kitchen & Bakery** – Authentic Haitian and Caribbean cuisine inspired by family recipes.
- **2 Rim Khong** – Authentic Thai and Laotian cuisine, featuring curries, noodle dishes and Lao specialties.
- **Taste of West Africa** – Authentic West African cuisine featuring traditional dishes that showcase the rich flavors and culinary traditions of the region.



A Natural Beauty Escape

The Fayetteville region offers an inviting mix of peaceful landscapes and outdoor adventure, making it an easy escape for travelers looking to slow down and reconnect with nature. **Cape Fear Botanical Garden** spans 77 acres of gardens and river trails, with native plants, wildflowers, a restored farmhouse, and a natural amphitheater designed for quiet exploration. In Spring Lake, **Carvers Creek State Park** protects a rare longleaf pine ecosystem and miles of trails ideal for hiking, biking, and reflective moments in nature. For a more elevated experience, **ZipQuest Waterfall & Treetop Adventure** offers a unique way to experience the landscape, blending treetop views, forest scenery, and the area's only waterfall. **Hope Mills Lake** rounds out the experience with calm waters for boating, fishing, and lakeside relaxation.



Media Contact



Melody Foote
Director of Marketing
mfoote@VisitFayNC.com
910-483-5311