

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.



Rural Food Movement

The First Food Hall on a Major Interstate

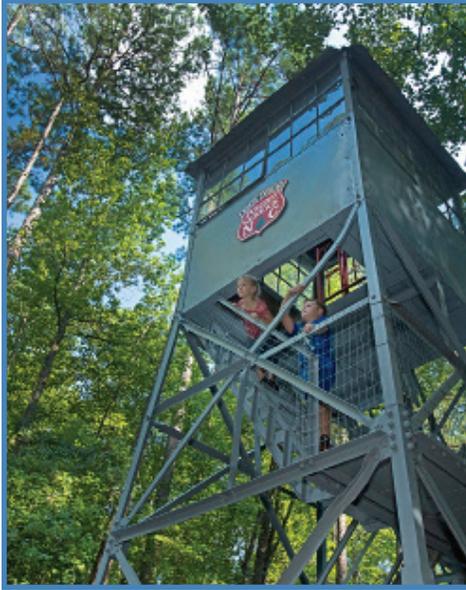
Though there was a momentary halt, remodeling continues on the old JR Outlet building in Selma (Exit 97 off I-95) converting it into the Old North State Food Hall, slated to open this year. Additional plans have been added to utilize technology to make the food hall as safe as possible for customers when it opens, including pick-up options and touchless transactions. 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! The food hall has already announced its first few vendors - local coffee house Boulevard West and a regional burger restaurant called Barley & Burger. The food hall will be announcing more vendors over the course of the next few months. The Old North State will be the nation's first roadside food hall, professionally curated and designed by two of the restaurant industry's best food hall consultants and designers, Phil Colicchio of Colicchio Consulting Group and Ed Eimer of Eimer Designs. Find more information at oldnorthstatefoodhall.com.

A Centennial to Celebrate

Ava Gardner Turns 100 in 2022

The Ava Gardner Museum in Downtown Smithfield, NC is already planning for Ava's Centennial year in 2022. This southern starlet will be celebrating her 100th birthday on Christmas Eve of 2022 and the museum dedicated to preserving her legacy plans to make the entire year all about marking the occasion. There are many long-term plans in place that will culminate in 2022 including new exhibits, new collection items, and even Ava products that the museum can't wait to announce. The Ava Gardner Museum is home to an incredible collection including original scripts, photos, costumes, and personal effects of screen legend Ava Gardner—a true Hollywood "Cinderella" story. Experience her rise to fame from a local country girl to one of Hollywood's film goddesses. Born near Smithfield, Ava's husbands included Mickey Rooney, Artie Shaw, and Frank Sinatra. She starred in movies with several film icons, such as Clark Gable, Grace Kelly and Gregory Peck. The museum features her relationships with other stars with artifacts from Sinatra, Kelly, Peck, John Huston and others. More information will be made available at avagardner.org.





Get Outside the City

Outdoor Adventure and More in JoCo

Camping, biking, hiking, fishing and so much more! Venture off the highway and find new paths and activities in JoCo. Stroll along the Smithfield or Clayton greenways to say you've hiked sections of NC's Mountains to Sea Trail. Venture to Clemmons State Forest in Clayton for hiking and forest education. Visit Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center in Four Oaks for hiking, biking, birding, camping, and even cabins to rent that will fit multiple families. Howell Woods also has activities for kids, a reptile exhibit, both a lake and a pond, as well as river activities like kayaking and canoeing. Stay at Raleigh Oaks Campground, a locally-owned RV oasis right off of I-95. It is a great stopping point on any east coast road trip with pull-in spots for all types of RVs as well as full cottage rentals. There are also 2 pools, a hot tub, a movie room, 3 dog parks, free wifi, a fitness center, 2 laundry facilities, and a putt-putt course. They offer short-term and long-term stay options. Find more information on johnstoncountync.org.

JoCo Social Distancing Trails

Geocaching Trail - If you like exploring the great outdoors and scavenger hunts then you're going to love geocaching. The official geocaching trail in Johnston County has 52 caches hidden throughout the county including some of Johnston County's most popular tourism stops encompassing history, culture, food, art, and more!

Bentonville Driving Trail - With over 18 driving pull-offs and wayside markers in the Bentonville Battlefield area and beyond to Smithfield, Selma, and Clayton, visitors can track troop positions, marches, and major battles that took place here, March 19-21, 1865.

Rural Bike Routes - These four routes span the four corners of the county and connect cyclists to several key visitor attractions as well as the Mountains to the Sea Trail in both Clayton and Smithfield. View JoCo's rural, back-road beauty from a bike seat.



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