

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.



## Count On Me NC

### Tourism Businesses Remain #JoCoStrong

The VisitJoCo Team has worked to compile listings of how our restaurants, shops, and attractions are working to continue to serve patrons while following all government mandates and maintaining as a top priority the health and safety of customers. This #JoCoStrong page will be updated as often as is possible with information as it is made available. In addition, we're working with the state to encourage business owners to take the Count On Me NC Pledge to help keep us all safe and healthy. But our businesses cannot do it alone. For locals and visitors ready to get back out into JoCo's restaurants, breweries, and retail stores, the Count On Me NC website also has a Guest Pledge section - [countonmenc.com](https://countonmenc.com). Johnston County is a heavily agrarian community; many family farms are offering produce pick-up during this time. In addition, there are many virtual and social distancing events happening around the county like flower arranging, yoga, history lectures, and more. Find more information at [johnstoncountync.org/joco-strong](https://johnstoncountync.org/joco-strong).

## Hometown Hero

### Local Musician Plays for Others' Tips

Local musician Nathan Wayne used his musical talents early on during the COVID-19 pandemic to help struggling food service workers who were staffing restaurants only allowed to offer take-out, thereby affecting their main source of income, tips. Nathan, a talented singer, drummer, and guitar player, took to Facebook to hold live concerts where he encouraged people to tip him so that he would pass on all proceeds to local service industry folks. Nathan held many concerts over the course of weeks and months, and each concert coincided with a take-out order he placed at a local restaurant in the Johnston County area. Upon picking up the order, Nathan would then leave the tips he'd made in cash for the server assisting him. Nathan sang enough to offer multiple \$200+ tips while restaurants in the area were only able to operate under take-out and delivery only; NC's executive orders eventually changed so that restaurants could offer limited service again. But all of Nathan's chosen recipients were grateful to him for using his talents to help them in a time of need, and to the people who donated so that he could do so.





## 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 Camp Ground, 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](http://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.



**Ashby Brame**

Director of Marketing

919.989.8687

[abrame@johnstoncountync.org](mailto:abrame@johnstoncountync.org)

### Connect With Us

@VisitJoCo on Instagram

@JoCoTourism on Twitter

@JoCoVisitorsBureau on Facebook

[johnstoncountync.org/media](http://johnstoncountync.org/media)

