

# Spend the Day in JoCo

## Option one: History and More!

Johnston County is a large and engaging county when it comes to history, follow along this suggested day-long itinerary in the county.

- 9:30am Start a history lesson at [Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site](#) then follow along the [driving pull offs](#) from Bentonville to Smithfield.
- 11:00am One stop on the drive takes you to [Howell Woods](#), where you can explore the walking trails around the learning center, stop by the reptile exhibit, and the birds of prey sanctuary.
- 12:30pm Get a bite to eat at local favorite, [The Redneck BBQ Lab](#), on Hwy 210. Shop in
- 1:30pm [Downtown Smithfield](#) for vintage treasures, and several specialty shops.
- 2:30pm Complete your day trip with a visit to the [Johnston County Heritage Center](#) or the [Ava Gardner Museum](#) for more history on the county or to learn more about the Hollywood legend that was born in Johnston County, just 7 mile east of Smithfield. Just up the road you will find the [Tobacco Farm Life Museum](#) in Kenly, an
- 4:00pm agritourism heritage museum on the farm life of 1900s Eastern farm families.

## Option two: It's All About our Downtowns

Getting off the interstate can sometimes be a real adventure and a treat for everyone to find unique shops, dining, attractions, and to meet some wonderful new people.

- 9:00am Start you day in Benson's charming downtown with coffee and a relaxing breakfast at [Cornerstone Cafe](#) -- get ready for a full day of exploring.
- 10:00am The stores are now open for shopping along Main Street -- antiques and collectibles at [Morgan's on Main](#), home decor and locally made candles at [Salvaged Heirlooms](#), and [Royal Boutique](#) for a new outfit.
- 12Noon Head to Four Oaks up US HWY 301 and stop in at [OGI Design](#) for custom gifts and furniture, and another coffee and shopping at [Stanfields Country Store](#) and Antiques.
- 1:30pm Continue up 301 on to Smithfield for shopping at Oak City Collection and you might want a snack at one of several restaurants in town like [Gotham's Deli](#), [SoDoSoPa](#) or [The Gilded Pear](#).
- 2:30pm Take a scenic walk along the Neuse River on the [Buffalo Creek Greenway](#), which is part of the NC [Mountains to the Sea Trail](#).
- 3:30pm Shop for more [antiques in Downtown Selma](#) along Raiford Street, and grab a coffee or ice cream as you shop. And if you love a music variety show, make plans to come back for the [Live @ The Rudy](#) shows held all year round.

Check our website [johnstoncountync.org](http://johnstoncountync.org) or call 1-800-441-7829 for more ideas.  
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