



6 Reasons to Visit Greater Fayetteville (NC)



Airborne Museum Opens First Augmented Reality Experience

“D-Day: Freedom From Above,” an augmented reality interactive experience, opens at the **U.S. Army Airborne & Special Operations Museum** in downtown Fayetteville on October 19th. This is the second time this presentation has been offered in the United States. The exhibit will allow visitors to experience the invasion of Normandy through the eyes of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Division paratroopers using “HistoPad”, a tablet with innovative software technology. HistoPad provides immersive, interactive, augmented reality of the events surrounding D-Day by allowing visitors to manipulate a series of 3D virtual artifacts and view never before seen photos and extracts of exceptional archival films. It will allow interactions with animated maps and teach visitors the incredible destinies of some of our nation’s heroes. The exhibit closes late March 2022.



Be a Weekend Warrior

In the Fayetteville area, adrenaline junkies can experience once-in-a-lifetime thrills. From hiking, mountain-biking and running miles of trails throughout Fayetteville’s many parks, to climbing new heights at indoor facilities, including **The Climbing Place** and **Triangle Rock Club**. Thrill-seekers can also experience one of **USA TODAY’S 10 Great Zip Lines** at **ZipQuest Waterfall and Treetop Adventure**, soar to new heights at **Paraclete XP** or try your hand throwing hatchets at **Axes and Armor**.



Chow Down



The veteran-owned **Fayetteville Pie Company** won recognition as “The Best Pie in North Carolina” by *Tasting Table*. Each meal includes a sweet and savory pie. The restaurant is decorated with several generations of family photos and recipes. The couple chose to open their restaurant after retiring from the military. **Pharaoh’s Village**, a family-owned Mediterranean and Turkish restaurant, was ranked 46 out of the Top 100 places to eat in the United States in 2019. They serve scratch made items from secret family recipes. Fayetteville is also home to North Carolina’s best buffet. **2 Rim Khong** serves authentic Thai and Laos cuisine. Dishes made from scratch are cooked to perfection. The buffet is served daily at lunchtime.

This is just a small sampling of the 600+ restaurants in the community. Thanks to nearby Fort Bragg bringing people from around the world to Fayetteville, the community boasts an array of international restaurants. The **International Cuisine Trail** provides a map to these locally owned eateries.



Soak Up the Natural Beauty of the Carolinas

Showcasing the natural arts, nature lovers can take refuge in the Fayetteville area's breathtaking landscapes and environmental wonders. Filled with cultivated gardens, wildflowers, nature trails, numerous species of native plants and more, the **Cape Fear Botanical Garden** also showcases special exhibits and events. In nearby Spring Lake, **Carvers Creek State Park** offers acres of walking trails in the rare Longleaf pine ecosystem. The area is home to many endangered species. View the historic Long Valley Farm, the winter estate of **James Stillman Rockefeller**. The **Cape Fear River Trail**, a 5.3-mile trail that runs adjacent to the Cape Fear River, is part of the East Coast Greenway. This greenway is an urban alternative to the Appalachian Trail.



Honor the Military Past & Present

The only army museum not on an army base, the **Airborne & Special Operations Museum** is the only facility that tells the comprehensive history of the U.S. Army's elite forces from test platoon to present day. The museum includes real equipment, life size dioramas, multimedia exhibits, a memorial garden, Vista-scope large-screen theater and a motion simulator that puts you through the paces of Special Operations training.

On the grounds of the Airborne & Special Operations Museum, "**Constant Vigilance**" is the world's first memorial for Special Operations canines killed in the line of duty. Stones surrounding the statue bear the name, country of origin and year the Special Operations' dogs were killed. The monument reads: "*The bond between a SOF handler and his K9 is eternal. Trusting each other is a nameless language. Here we honor the SOF K9s that have paid the ultimate price.*"

Cumberland County created **Heroes Homecoming** as a way of showing all veterans that we remember and appreciate their courage and sacrifice in defense of our freedom – now and forever. In early Nov. 2021, **Heroes Homecoming IX** will honor all our medical military and first responders with a series of events, tributes and exhibits taking place across Cumberland County, NC. www.HeroesHomecoming.com



This summer, the National Indoor Soccer League announced that the Fayetteville Fury would begin play at the Crown Coliseum in late December 2021. The NISL is the first professional indoor soccer league to have both a men's and women's division. The owner was inspired by his daughters and the lack of opportunities to interact with professional female athletes.

Each NISL game night will include a double header, with fans being able to see both a women's and men's match. www.FayettevilleFury.com

