



# 5 Things Savvy Travelers Should Know About Jacksonville, North Carolina

**1 Jacksonville NC is a scenic city**, located on the New River between Wilmington and New Bern, just 30 minutes from Swansboro, Hammocks Beach State Park and North Topsail Beach. We're also home to US Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

**Traveler Bonus:** You can stay in the City, drive to the beach, and save a bundle.



*A City on the River*

**2 Enjoy the outdoors year-round:**

- Our fishing guides book all seasons.
- Kayak with PaddleNC at Hammock's Beach State Park.
- Paddle board, boat, fish or jet ski from Jacksonville Landing.
- Bike or walk the 17 miles of trails and greenways in the City.
- Bayonet Cruises hosts breakfast, sunset, dinner and overnight cruises from Spring through mid-November.

**Romance Tip:** 2,500 get married in Jacksonville annually. Bayonet Cruises has hosted many successful engagement cruises.



*Bayonet Cruises on the New River*

**3 We celebrate heroes—Live, play, and feel like a hero when you join us!**

- Come stroll the azalea-lined paths of Lejeune Memorial Gardens.
- The USAA Grand Prix Series allows civilians to run competitive races alongside US Marines—in mud, through the woods, over training obstacles and more.
- We specialize in assisting families and military reunion groups.

**Bonus of dining in a military city:** Our ethnic restaurants are some of the best you'll find.



*A Hero's Welcome at the finish line*

**4 Public meeting and event space** is now available at the new state-of-the-art Sturgeon City Environmental Education Center. The center, set among the natural habitat of Wilson Bay and the New River with public boardwalks and nature trails, teaches environmental stewardship and civic leadership. [www.SturgeonCity.org](http://www.SturgeonCity.org)

**Looking for a great profile?** Consider Pat "The River Lady"—the scientist who came on board with NCSU during the river clean up and now continues her environmental work as a full-time employee with the City of Jacksonville.

**5 Our fall colors are Red, White, and Blue!**

**New this year:** We're shaping Veterans Day into a destination weekend with concerts, Marine balls, a parade, outdoor events, guided tours of Lejeune Memorial Gardens and more.



# Lejeune Memorial Gardens

## Honoring Our Heroes

Lejeune Memorial Gardens is located at the gateway to downtown Jacksonville on Montford Landing Road off of Lejeune Boulevard. This is where residents, military members and visitors come to honor those who serve our country and remember those who have given the greatest sacrifice for our freedom.

**Beirut Memorial** - This is the largest military memorial paid for from private funds and reflects the devastating loss suffered by the Marines and our community on October 23, 1983. The memorial honors those who lost their lives when a truck bomb destroyed the Marine barracks in Beirut Lebanon and the subsequent actions, now viewed as the opening salvo in the War on Terrorism. The words "They Came In Peace" reflects how the Marines were assigned as peacekeepers in this dangerous space.

**Vietnam Veterans Memorial** - The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is the second largest Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the nation and one of only a few that lists all the names of the fallen. The Memorial includes an entry wall with medallions for each branch of the military, a walkway and bridge with French design, a dome, a fountain, and a glass wall with etched names of those MIA, POW or dead.

**Montford Point Marine Memorial** - From 1942 to 1949, the first Black Marines, reluctantly admitted to the Marine Corps in a time of segregation, had to "fight for the right to fight" while serving in the segregated base now named Camp Johnson in honor of one of their own. While no official record exists of all the Marines who served during this time, the wall of more than 20,000 stars reflects each member of a group who became distinguished in their warfighting.

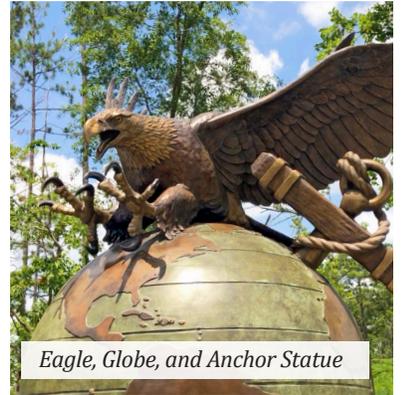
**9/11 Memorial Beam** - This World Trade Center beam was the first one out of New York City and the only one delivered to a Marine Base on the back of a New York City fire engine. From the leather helmets of the fire service to the leathernecks of the Marine Corps, it reflects the appreciation of the fire service for the Marines being the first in to Afghanistan after September 11, 2001 to seek out those who caused the attack on the Twin Towers.

**Eagle, Globe, and Anchor** - The statue is located at the entryway to the future Museum of the Marine and is the largest Eagle, Globe and Anchor statue in the world. Each star on the globe represents places where Marines have routinely deployed.

**Freedom Fountain** - The Freedom Fountain is a short walk away from the Gardens and flows proudly all year long to honor those who have passed through Onslow County while in service to their country. Most nights, the fountain is lit red, white and blue.



Freedom Fountain



Eagle, Globe, and Anchor Statue



9/11 Memorial Beam



Montford Point Marine Memorial



Beirut Memorial



Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall and dome



Learn more at [VisitJacksonvilleNC.com](http://VisitJacksonvilleNC.com)