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### Pitt County Brew & 'Cue Trail

In Eastern NC, we do it the traditional way: whole-hog, wood-cooked, and vinegar-based! The **North Carolina Barbecue Society's Historic Barbecue Trail** even begins right here in Pitt County! Starting at **Skylight Inn** in Ayden, this family owned restaurant founded by Pete Jones has been an Eastern NC staple since the early 1800's, and was proclaimed by **"Barbeque Capital of the World"** by National Geographic due to their world famous 'cue and replica of the US Capitol rotunda on top of the building. The next stop is **B's Barbecue** in Greenville, which closes up once they sell out, so it's best to get in line early because they don't mess around when it comes to their 'cue! Finally, on to **Jack Cobb & Son Barbecue** in Farmville. They are only open 3 days a week, but food this good deserves to be planned around! BBQ is a growing trend, and in addition to these three favorites, Pitt County also offers lots others and even several newly opened BBQ joints, all catering all your cue cravings! The craft beer scene is growing in Greenville-Pitt County! You can stop in Farmville and enjoy **The Duck Rabbit Craft Brewery's** range of award-winning dark beers, and then head to Greenville's **Trollingwood Taproom & Brewery** and the **Uptown Brewing Company** to sample their tasty selection of staple brews and rotating seasonals. The new **Pitt Street Brewing Company** is set to open up in **Uptown Greenville** in the summer of 2017, bringing our Pitt County brewery total to four! The growth our local beer and BBQ joints has prompted the creation of the **Pitt County 'Cue & Brew Trail** which guides residents and visitors along a culinary and craft journey through our area to sample all the amazing traditions, innovations, and delicious flavors we have to offer! **Find more info at [pittcountybrewandcue.com](http://pittcountybrewandcue.com).**



### 300th Anniv. Blackbeard's Queen Anne's Revenge

**AVAST!** 2018 is the **300th anniversary** of the notorious and feared pirate **Blackbeard's flagship the Queen Anne's Revenge** being purposefully careened in the sandy shoals off Beaufort Inlet to avoid capture. In a partnership with the **NC Department of Natural & Cultural Resources**, the **Queen Anne's Revenge Conservation Lab** is located on **East Carolina University's West Research Campus** and offers tours of all the extensive preservation work being done on the thousands of ship and personal artifacts that have been excavated from the shipwreck site in the last few years. From Greenville, the artifacts make their way back to Beaufort for display and interpretation at the **NC Maritime Museum**.



### Tar River Adventures

Explore the beautiful **Inner Banks of the Tar River** as it flows east through Pitt County to the **Pamlico Sound** and divert off into several thick cypress and tupelo swamps. Make stops at the **Town Common** to enjoy 20 acres of outdoor green space adjacent to **Uptown Greenville**, or paddle to **River Park North** with 324 acres of land and 1.2 miles along the river for camping, hiking, fishing, water activities, and educational programs at the on-site **Walter L. Stasavich Science and Nature Center**. River Park North also is listed on the **NC Birding Trail**, and you may see Bald Eagles and Osprey fly overhead, along with Yellowthroat, Indigo Bunting, and Blue Grosbeak throughout the park. Primitive and platform camping spots sprinkled throughout River Park North are perfect for relaxing with friends and family and getting away from it all!

## Festival Fun in 2018



### Farm to Fork Eats

Find lots of farm to fork foodie experiences in Greenville! The **Boutilier family's Starlight Café & Farm** is a truly exceptional fine-dining experience that you will not want to miss! Located in Uptown Greenville, Starlight Café's **Executive Chef Tobias Boutilier** serves deliciously eclectic, seasonally rotating menu made with local ingredients, the majority of which are fresh from the Boutilier's own 100 year old, 22 acre Starlight Farm! Finish off this divine food experience with an amazing cocktail crafted by master mixologist **Jimmy Ingenito** and you will certainly be seeing stars! The new **Dickinson Avenue Public House**, offers up modern Southern cuisine. Two local couples partnered to open DAP House, as it is affectionately known, which also features rotating seasonal menus with as many locally-sourced ingredients as possible in all dishes and cocktails. Enjoy the ambience in this historic, adaptive reuse building with 50 year old advertising signs painted on the exposed brick walls. In 2012, **Matt Scully** opened **The Scullery Coffee House & Creamery** with the help of a City of Greenville Small Business Development Award grant and it has now become a favorite with locals and visitors for breakfast and lunch. The Scullery menu features dishes made with local meats, produce, and many other products...including creative homemade ice cream flavors made with **Simply Natural Creamery & Jersey Farm** milk!



### Cow to Cone Treats

Treat yourself to a relaxing visit to the **Moye family's Simply Natural Creamery & Jersey Farm** in Ayden and enjoy a farm tour, visit with all the cute newborn calves, and a cone of deliciously fresh ice cream! More than 200 pedigreed Jersey cows call Simply Natural home and freely roam the lush, open pastures surrounding the ice cream shop, playground, and event barn. These lounging ladies produce ample amounts of high-quality, natural milk which is then packaged and resold to many Eastern NC area stores and restaurants, or made into ice cream, butter, and soon cheese which are sold on-site!

### Pirate Fest

**April 13 -14, 2018**

Pirate lovers of all ages parlay along the banks of the **Tar River** at Greenville's signature multi-day, family-friendly festival celebrating the traditions of the buccaneers that once roamed the **Inner Banks** waters of **Eastern NC** during pre-colonial times. This festival features lots of grub, grog, and great live music! Dance the night away at the **Buccaneer Bash at Five Points Plaza**, learn about pirate life and watch live powder demonstrations at the **Pirate Encampment on the Town Common**, and come dressed to swash buckle for the Pirate Costume Contest and walk in the Parade of Pirates. Shop for art, crafts, and jewelry from over 60 NC-based artists and vendors, while roving pirate re-enactors stroll the streets of **Uptown Greenville** singing sea chanteys, getting into sword fights, and flirting with the mermaids or explore the diversity of our area at the **International Ports o' Call** featuring food, music, and art from around the world!

### Farmville Dogwood Festival

**April 27-29, 2018**

Celebrate the coming of spring at the beautifully flowering town commons in **Downtown Farmville**! Honored as a **legacy festival by the Library of Congress**, this event promises great live music, an arts & crafts pavilion featuring local creations, amazing food, games, carnival rides, and much more!

### Uptown Greenville Umbrella Market

**May - August, Wednesdays, 5pm-8pm**

Soak up the summer vibes at this **open-air, evening farmers and makers market**! Enjoy live music and craft beer while you shop for local food, art, jewelry, and more in the heart **Uptown Greenville**!

### African American Music Series

**Second Fridays from 7pm-10pm**

Groove on Second Fridays at the **African American Music Series at Emerge Gallery & Art Center**! East Carolina University's renowned **Carroll V. Dashiell, Jr.** programs this series celebrating Eastern NC's rich African American cultural and music traditions. The May performance features Marcus Parker and presentation on Melvin Parker who played with the great James Brown and many others!

### Ayden Kings of Q BBQ Cook-Off & Festival

**May 2018**

Eat up at the 2nd **Kings of 'Cue Cook-Off & Festival** honoring the legendary Ayden BBQ pitmasters Latham "**Bum**" Dennis and the late **Pete Jones**. Enjoy the best whole-hog, wood-cooked Eastern NC style 'cue from the famed Skylight Inn and Bum's Restaurant, get samples from the **Kansas City Barbecue Society Competition**, and enjoy lots of festival fun and activities!

### Winterville Watermelon Festival

**August 2018**

Enjoy juicy vine-fresh melons, watermelon seed spitting contests, see the new Watermelon Queen, the parade, rides, vendors, and food. Don't miss free live music every night culminating in the Saturday night **Watermelon Jam** featuring nationally known music acts!

### Ayden Collard Festival

**September 2018**

Don't miss "**The Official Collard Festival of the State of NC**" in Downtown Ayden- the crossroads of 'cue and collards! Enjoy collards like grandma used to make and all kinds of festival fun!

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